



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA September 21, 2022

Tom Baker Meeting Room	3:00 p.m.	City-County Office Building
The City of Bismarck encourages citizens to provide their comments via email to planning@bismarcknd.gov. The comments will be sent to the Historic Preservation Commissioners prior to the meeting and included in the minutes of the meeting. To ensure that comments are compiled and forwarded to the Historic Preservation Commission with enough time to review all comments, please submit your comments no later than 12 noon the day of the meeting. Comments should also include which agenda item number or topic your comment references and your name (anonymous		comments will not be forwarded to the Historic Preservations Commissioners or included in the minutes of the meeting). If you would like to appear via video or audio link for a 3-5-minute comment on a public hearing item, please provide your e-mail address and contact information to whutchings@bismarcknd.gov at least one business day before the meeting. As always, live meeting coverage is available on Government Access Channels 2 & 602HD, Radio Access 102.5 FM Radio, or stream FreeTV.org and RadioAccess.org
Item No.		Page No.

MINUTES

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the July 20, 2022 meeting of the Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission
2. Consider approval of the minutes of the August 17, 2022 meeting of the Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

3. **Public Comment** (The public comment period is available for residents and other interested parties to address items on the agenda or any general public input for consideration by the Historic Preservation Commission.)



REGULAR AGENDA

4. **Process for Historic Preservation Commission's Involvement in Future City of Bismarck Owned Land Dispositions under NDCC 55-02-07**
5. **Timeline of Bismarck History**

OTHER BUSINESS

6. **Other Business**
 - a. **2022 North Dakota CLG Conference Update**
 - b. **Other**

ADJOURNMENT

7. **Adjourn:** The next regular meeting date is scheduled for October 19, 2022 at 3:00 PM in the Tom Baker Meeting Room.



MEMORANDUM

Process for Historic Preservation Commission's Involvement in Future City of Bismarck Owned Land Dispositions under NDCC 55-02-07

TO: Chair Sakariassen and Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Will Hutchings, AICP, Senior Planner
DATE: September 16, 2022

This memo aims to outline and identify a process the City of Bismarck may follow for future dispositions of land in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) 55-02-07 (*Protection of historical or archaeological artifacts or sites*). At your meeting on August 17, 2022 you provided direction to staff to identify a process that could be followed to ensure reviews are conducted prior to the City of Bismarck posting potential city owned land for sale or transfer.

Section 2-12-08 (7) of the City Code of Ordinances – Powers and Duties states that the Historic Preservation Commission has the authority *“To evaluate and comment upon plans, proposals, permits and applications which are developed or required by other public agencies — including those developed by other commissions, offices, and departments of the City — which may, in the opinion of the Historic Preservation Commission, either directly or indirectly affect any property or properties deemed by the Historic Preservation Commission to have historic value.”*

The City of Bismarck owns a variety of properties. Some of these are for public purposes, such as stormwater detention, some are for carrying out City functions such as administrative offices, public works, event center and public health, while others are lots created for future sale or returned to the City for unpaid taxes.

Option 1: Inventory and Survey all Existing City Owned Property

Section 2-12-08 (2) of the City Code of Ordinances – Powers and Duties identifies that the Historic Preservation Commission has the authority *“To prepare, or have prepared on its behalf, and to amend a comprehensive inventory of historically significant properties within the City.”*

Annually the City of Bismarck, as a Certified Local Government may apply for Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants which are passed through the State Historic Preservation Commission from the National Park Service. Inventory and Survey is an eligible expense these funds could be utilized for.



This option would be to use HPF grants to hire a consultant to inventory and survey all existing City of Bismarck owned property and have those results provided to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to reference during their determination. The City would initiate a review with SHPO prior to posting any potential land sales on the City website.

Future HPF grants could also be used to expand this to include other governmental entity owned properties.

Under this option, regular updates to re-evaluate any properties for architectural historic significance would be necessary as well as any new properties that become City of Bismarck property.

Option 2: Require an Inventory/Survey from Potential Buyers

Under this option the City would require that any potential buyers or transferees of property owned by the City, hire a qualified professional to conduct an Inventory/Survey prior to disposition. The results of this would be made available to the Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission for comment and to SHPO to reference during their Class 1 literature search and determination.

Option 3: City conduct an Inventory/Survey prior to listing

Under this option, the City, at their expense, would hire a qualified professional to conduct an Inventory/Survey prior to listing any property for sale. This option would cost the City approximately \$1500 to \$15,000 depending on the size of the property and amount of previous land disturbance

Option 4: Utilize the Historic Preservation Commission to determine need to Inventory/Survey prior to listing:

Under this option, the City, would consult with the Historic Preservation Commission to determine if additional Inventory/Survey is necessary prior to listing any property for sale. This option could help avoid unnecessary costs to either the City or buyer.

Option 5: No Change

Under this option the City would continue to post potential land sales and consult with SHPO prior to final disposition. SHPO would ask the Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission to provide comments for SHPO to consider when making a determination whether to approve or disapprove.

Staff Recommended Action

Review the proposed options and provide staff with further direction.



MEMORANDUM

Historic Preservation Plan Subcommittee Timeline

TO: Chair Sakariassen and Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Will Hutchings, AICP, Senior Planner
DATE: September 16, 2022

The Historic Preservation Commission Preservation Plan/Timeline subcommittee has finished the Timeline. The sub-committee's role was to develop a section of the Plan that identifies and defines historical eras and themes which would be presented in an info-graphic format and organized as a timeline.

The subcommittee met monthly from January 2021 to August 2021 and identified events, people and sites of historic significance that should be included on the plan, Subcommittee members provided information about each event including sources, narratives and suggested classification themes for each event. From September to present, a smaller group has worked to revise narratives to maintain a consistent voice and make each narrative length align with the historic significance of the event. The full subcommittee reconvened in August 2022 to review and make final edits.

The preservation plan will stand as a separate document but will reference the eras, themes, and events listed in the Timeline of Bismarck History as Bismarck's definition of Historic Character. The content in the final subcommittee timeline will be reproduced in a online viewable format and will also feature a submittal template for people to suggest future additions.

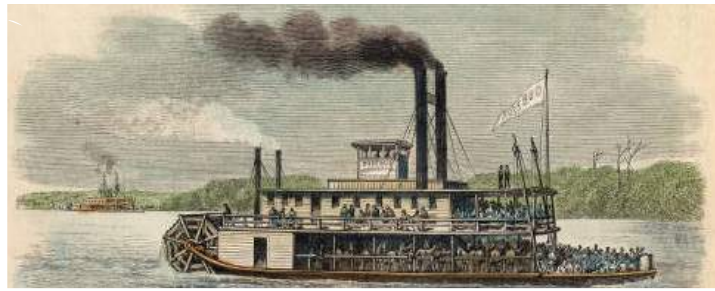
Staff is seeking further guidance and ideas on how to distribute the timeline for a greater audience.

Staff Recommended Action

Provide guidance on potential financing for printing, quantity of prints and channels for distribution.

Staff Note: Thank you to the all members of the Historic Preservation Commission, the Subcommittee and the countless others who assisted in this 20 month endeavor.

Attachments: Timeline of Bismarck History



TIMELINE OF BISMARCK HISTORY



DRAFT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Bismarck Board of City Commissioners

Mike Schmitz, Mayor
Steve Marquardt
Greg Zenker
Anne Cleary
Mark Splonskowski

Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission

Amy Sakariassen – Chair
Beth Nodland – Vice Chair
Walt Bailey
Mark Splonskowski
Blake Dinkins
Calvin Grinnell
Tory Jackson

Timeline Subcommittee

Tory Jackson - Chair
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Blake Dinkins
Jack Dura
Beth Nodland
Emily Sakariassen
Kate Waldera
Sarah Walker
Jason Tomanek

City of Bismarck Staff Assistance

Will Hutchings, Senior Planner
Daniel Nairn, Senior Planner
Jason Tomanek, Assistant City Administrator
Kim Lee, Planning Manager
Ben Ehreth, Community Development Director

Additional Thanks to:

State Historical Society of North Dakota
Northern Plains National Heritage Area
The Bismarck Tribune
Bismarck State College
University of Mary
United Tribes Technical College
And numerous other contributors!

ABOUT THIS TIMELINE

This timeline is the product of a 20-month long effort by a subcommittee formed by the Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission. The eras, themes, people, and events identified within the timeline establish a Bismarck-specific historic context which informs future preservation related efforts. The subcommittee recognizes that all history is incomplete. This timeline was meant to offer a concise overview of the history of Bismarck from very early human settlement to the present day. Despite best efforts, the subcommittee could not possibly include everything, and it should be understood that a number of notable and worthy themes, people and events are absent.

This printed timeline is not anticipated to be updated regularly, however the Historic Preservation Commission will maintain a dynamic version of the timeline on the City of Bismarck website. Suggested additions to the online timeline are welcome. The Historic Preservation Commission will review all submissions and determine if they should be included. We invite you to add to our town's ever-growing body of history. You can submit your ideas using the Timeline Suggestion Form. Please visit www.bismarcknd.gov for more information.

This timeline is organized into the following eight eras which. Each event is also tagged with one or more of the eight different themes identified on the following page.

NATIVE LANDSCAPE (12,000 BC – 1738 AD)

pg. 4

The Missouri River has been a hub of human activity for thousands of years. In the Archaic period (5,500-400 BC) early hunters camped on nearby bluffs, following herds of bison, elk, and deer. In the Late Plains Woodland period (AD 1000) people began to cultivate the resources of the Missouri River valley and the first permanent community in this area was established along Apple Creek. By the 14th century, the farming villages of the Mandan were the center of a trans-continental trade network that came to include the Hidatsa, Arikara, and nomadic tribes, eventually including the Lakota. By the end of this era, the population in the area around Bismarck, from the Mandan villages alone, was likely close to 20,000.

PRE-FOUNDING (1738 - 1871)

pg. 8

New groups enter the region. The Lakota emerge as a dominant power on the Northern Plains while European and American trappers, traders, and explorers follow the Missouri River and its tributaries further into the continent's interior. Euro-American disease decimates Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara villages. The Lewis & Clark Expedition (1804-1806) winters with the Mandan near present-day Washburn. Their reports usher in an age of westward expansion. The military establishes a strong presence along the Missouri to protect the nation's economic interests. Lakota resist white encroachment under legendary leaders including Tatanka Iyotanka (Sitting Bull), Pizi (Gall), and Crazy Horse.

BISMARCK EARLY YEARS (1872 - 1898)

pg. 14

Originally named Edwinton after the Northern Pacific's chief engineer, Bismarck is founded in 1872 at a location selected as an ideal crossing for the coming railroad. Early businesses support military forts and steam trade on the Upper Missouri. Custer and the 7th Cavalry ride from Ft. Lincoln to their defeat at the Little Bighorn by Lakota and Cheyenne. The Northern Pacific rail bridge is completed, and Bismarck becomes the territorial and, later, state capital. Institutions like the Bismarck Tribune, St. Alexius Hospital, and First National Bank emerge. The region experiences an economic boom as merchants, tradespeople, and other opportunists arrive.

GROWING CAPITAL CITY (1898 - 1930)

pg. 36

Bismarck prospers at the turn of the century as a regional economic center. European immigration swells, agricultural prices rise, and North Dakota becomes the number one wheat-producing state. The community re-builds after the Great Fire of 1898 with large stone and brick public buildings, churches, and commercial structures that replace wood-framed buildings of yesteryear. The Nonpartisan League dominates state politics as nationwide social movements take hold, including Women's Suffrage. When the U.S. enters the Great War in Europe, the men, women, and children of Bismarck answer the call of duty.

TUMULTUOUS YEARS (1930 - 1945)

pg. 50

A shifting social and political climate, coupled with extreme weather conditions affecting agriculture, challenge the people of Bismarck and of North Dakota. Federal relief programs to support the arts, architecture, engineering, farming, and conservation, create jobs and put men, women, and even young people to work. The new Art Deco style State Capitol building is completed and touted as the, “Skyscraper on the Prairie.” The Army National Guard establishes Fraine Barracks as a headquarters, on the campus of the former Bismarck Indian School, as local citizens are called once again to serve in a World War.

POST WORLD WAR II AND MID-CENTURY GROWTH (1945-1965)

pg. 58

Bismarck outgrows its core as veterans return from World War II and settle in urban areas in record numbers. Completion of the Interstate Highway system and the Grant Marsh Bridge draws commercial and residential development north. The Garrison Dam on the Missouri River is authorized under the Pick-Sloan Act and provides flood protection for farm and ranch lands to the south of Bismarck, while the Lake Sakakawea Reservoir inundates tribal communities to the north. The discovery of oil in western North Dakota stirs excitement, creates jobs and brings newfound wealth.

A MATURING CITY (1965 - 1999)

pg. 66

Bismarck becomes a regional leader in higher education, briefly attracting Job Corps training programs as Bismarck Junior College and University of Mary grow and United Tribes Technical College is founded. Residents embrace arts, culture, and recreation. The Heritage Center and State Museum opens its doors, the Bismarck Civic Center is built, Sleep Hollow Summer Theater and Arts Park is created, and Bismarck hosts the first of many Prairie Rose State Games and the state’s Centennial celebration.

BISMARCK TODAY (1999 ...)

pg. 76

Bismarck faces an unprecedented growth spurt, withstands disaster, and grapples with social, environmental, and political issues of the day. The Bakken Oil Boom brings an influx of people and new businesses to the Bismarck area, boosting the local economy. The community bands together to combat major floods on the Missouri River with a county-wide effort that fills over 11 million sandbags while the spillway gates at the Garrison Dam open to release floodwater for the first time ever. Tensions arise when Energy Transfer Partners’ Dakota Access Pipeline crosses under Lake Oahe southeast of Bismarck and the first case of COVID-19 is confirmed in Burleigh County in March, 2020. The City of Bismarck establishes a Historic Preservation Commission to promote awareness of local history and historic resources.

THEMES



Architecture



Business and Commerce



Civics and Culture



Geography, Landscape, and Nature



Government



Military



People



Transportation and Infrastructure

THE RIVER

The Missouri River
Photo by Blake Dinkins.

GEOLOGISTS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE MISSOURI RIVER WAS FORMED ABOUT 25,000 YEARS AGO



Over 2.5 million years ago, all the rivers of North Dakota, including the Missouri River, flowed northeast to the Hudson Bay. Glacial activity ultimately turned the Missouri River southward. Today, the Missouri River is the country's longest river, traveling 2,300 miles from its headwaters in the Rocky Mountains of Montana all the way to St. Louis, Missouri, where it empties into the Mississippi River.

The Mandan Indians say that the confluence of the Heart River and the Missouri River, just southwest of Bismarck, is the heart of their world. The Lakota call the Missouri River “Mnisose,” or “water a-stir.” When European trappers began to navigate the Missouri, they nicknamed it the “Big Muddy,” because of its high silt content. Still others call it the “Mighty Mo” because of its sheer size and the unpredictability of its depth and course. For millions of years, the Missouri River has provided habitat for plants and animals—creating an oasis on the Northern Plains and attracting human activity and settlement.



ca. 12,000 BC – 400 BC

EARLY INHABITANTS

12,000 BC – 400 BC



Archaeological evidence, such as projectile points from the Paleo-Indian Period (12000 BC to 7500 BC), suggests the earliest inhabitants of this area were nomadic hunters and gatherers. Within present-day Bismarck, archaeologists have found evidence that the site of Camp Hancock and another on the bluff next to Bismarck State College, were used as campsites for nomadic hunters and gatherers during the Archaic period (5,500 BC to 400 BC)..

MENOKEN VILLAGE

ca. 1000 AD



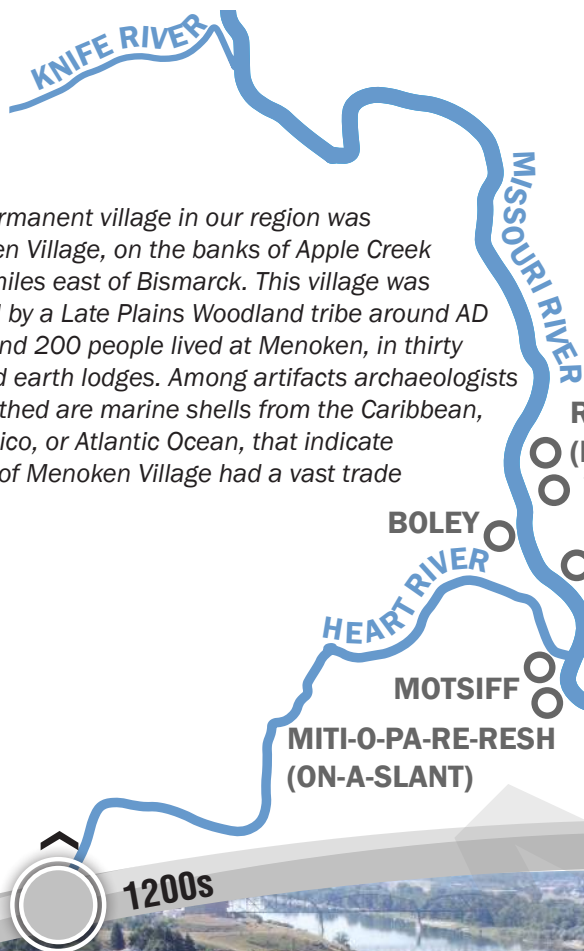
The first permanent village in our region was the Menoken Village, on the banks of Apple Creek about ten miles east of Bismarck. This village was established by a Late Plains Woodland tribe around AD 1000. Around 200 people lived at Menoken, in thirty oval-shaped earth lodges. Among artifacts archaeologists have unearthed are marine shells from the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, or Atlantic Ocean, that indicate the people of Menoken Village had a vast trade network.



ca. 1000 AD

Present-day aerial view of Menoken Village, located 15 miles east of Bismarck. Google Earth.





MANDAN HOMELAND

1200s



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The Bismarck area is the ancestral homeland of the Mandan Indians. The Mandan migrated north to this part of North Dakota as early as the 14th century and established agricultural communities along the Upper Missouri and its tributaries. By 1600, the Mandan villages had consolidated into the area between the Heart River, at its confluence with the Missouri River southwest of Bismarck, and Square Buttes northwest of Bismarck.



An aerial view of Chief Looking's Village in August 2022.
Photo by Jason Tomanek.

CHIEF LOOKING'S VILLAGE

1500s



Established by the Mandan in the mid-1500s, Chief Looking's Village is located on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River, in present-day Bismarck. This village is unique, as it was occupied during a period in which Mandan architectural style was shifting from long, rectangular lodges to the circular earth lodges—you can still see the size and shape of each house as a depression on the ground today. Remains of defensive fortifications are visible here, too. They consisted of a deep ditch backed by a log wall or palisade, with two bastions on the east side. These defense fortifications are typical of village sites throughout the area.

Chief Looking's Village was named for the Mandan leader who lived there in the 1500s. Little is known about his life, but a number of legends exist regarding how he got his name.

Some believe he had a supernatural sacred ability to scan the world and see what lay far beyond. Others think his name comes from a great loss he suffered. The following account was recorded by Col. A. B. Welsh in 1930:

Chief Looking had a son who was a bold, handsome brave. He was the idol of his heart, and the Chief seldom let him out of his sight. When the boy was grown, his father refused to let him go to war with the other men, fearful that he would be killed and never return. But one night, while Chief Looking slept, his son snuck away. When the old man awoke to find his son gone, he set out on the war path to follow him. He came to the spot where a great battle had taken place and found that his son had been killed. As he stood mourning at his dead son's side, he heard voices and, looking around, saw the spirit come and enter the body of his son. The young man got up and talked with his father, telling him about heaven and its wonders. He asked his father to fetch for him some rawhide, a cornball, and some moccasins for his journey back to heaven. Chief Looking did as he was told and from then on, [would] spend most of his time looking out over the valley where he had last seen his son.

HIDATSA AND ARIKARA

1600s 

While the immediate area around Bismarck was predominantly the homeland of the Mandan, the Hidatsa and Arikara also inhabited this area long before Europeans arrived. The main Hidatsa villages were located north of Bismarck near the confluence of the Knife and Missouri Rivers. The Arikara (Sahnish), who also inhabited this area, traditionally resided further south on the Missouri River in northern South Dakota and southern North Dakota. Unlike most plains Indians, the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara were agricultural tribes living in large, fortified villages of earth lodges. Over time, largely in response to inter-tribal conflict and disease brought by Europeans, the three tribes moved further north along the Missouri and consolidated, eventually becoming the MHA Nation.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1600s  

Like all tribes on the Northern Plains, the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara hunted and relied on buffalo. But they were also North Dakota's original farmers. The three tribes grew beans, squash, maize, and other crops and harvested seasonal fruits like chokecherries and buffalo berries. Women tended gardens with hoes and rakes fashioned from animal bones and antlers. Surplus crops were stored in large underground cache pits. The tribes also fished in the Missouri with bone fishhooks and fish traps woven from tree branches.

The "Three Sisters" crops of beans, corn, and squash. NPS.



1600s

1600s

1700s – 1800s

EARLY RIVER TRANSPORTATION

1700s – 1800s



The Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara used bull boats to travel on the Missouri River. A bull boat was constructed of a round, willow frame covered by buffalo hides, and could accommodate one or two passengers or a few hundred pounds of meat. The Europeans who arrived in the fur-trade era used canoes and pirogues for transportation on the Missouri River.



A Mandan Village by Karl Bodmer, 1843, depicting bull boats in use. NPS.

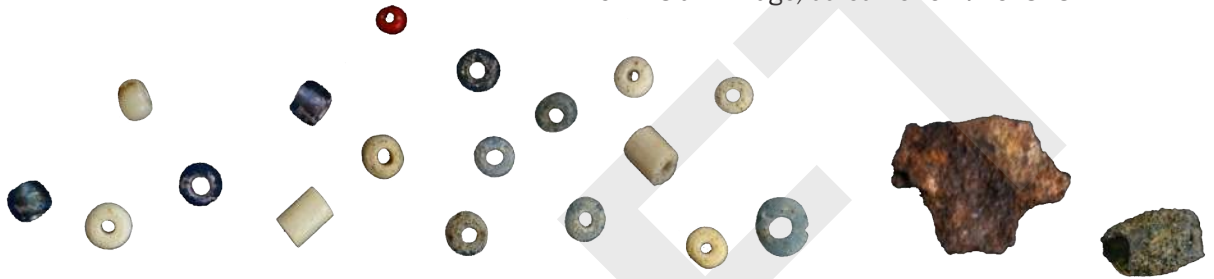
Lower left, detail of a bull boat. SDSHS.



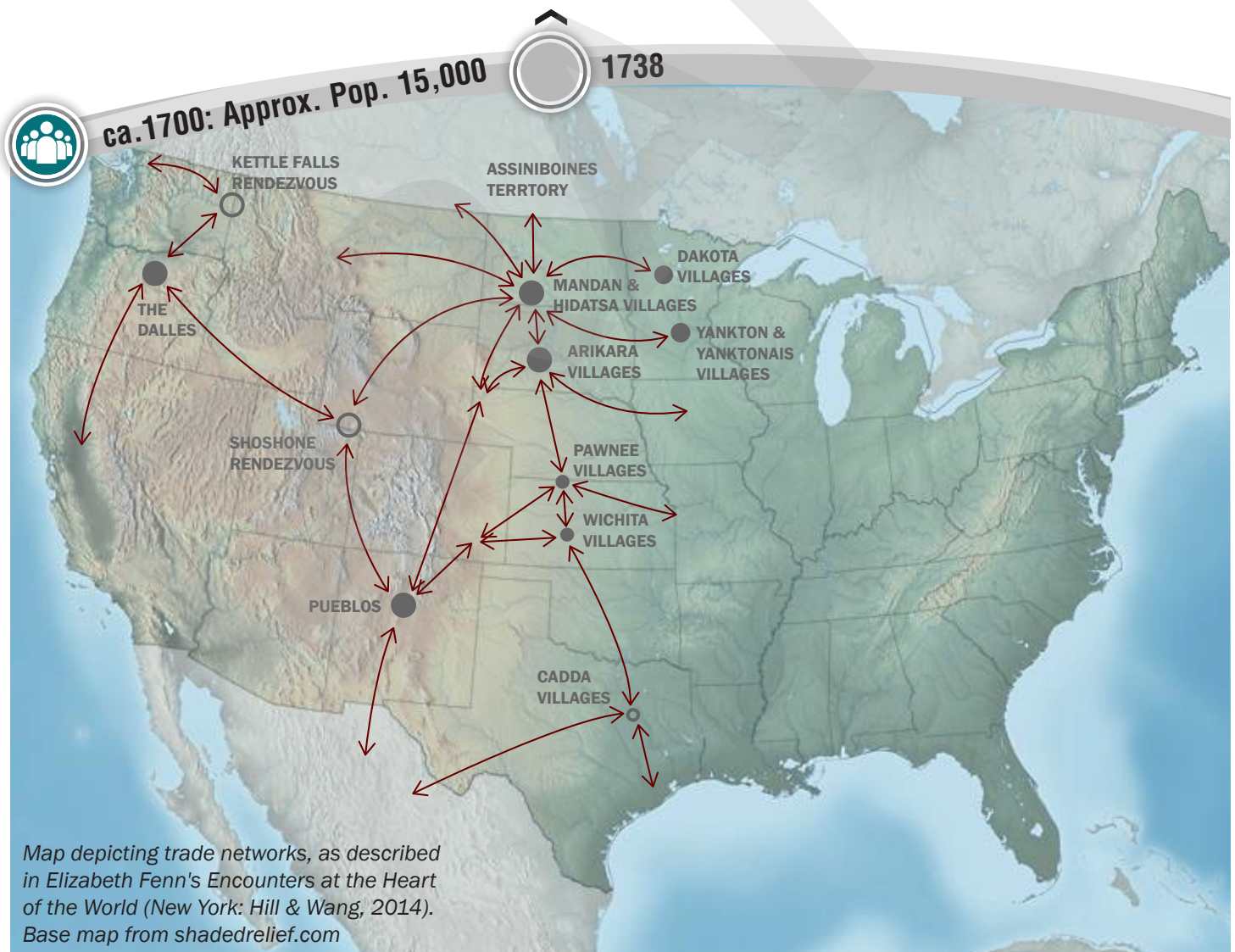
TRADING CENTER

c. 1738 

The Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara villages were the hub of a transcontinental trade network. Tribes of the Missouri River traded crops for goods brought by nomadic hunting tribes. As a result, European goods reached the area long before Europeans themselves. The first Europeans to visit the Mandan in 1738 noted that the tribe already possessed a few guns acquired through trade.



Trade good artifacts from the 1980 UND excavation of On-A-Slant Village, dated 1625-1725. SHSND AHP



ARRIVAL OF THE LAKOTA

1700s



Beginning in the 1700s, the Lakota tribes (Sioux) began to appear on the Northern Plains, having moved gradually westward from their traditional lands along the Minnesota River. The Lakota would soon dominate the Northern Plains, from the Heart River south to the Platte, and from the Missouri River west to the Big Horn Mountains. The area around present-day Bismarck was part of the vast hunting territory of the nomadic Lakota.

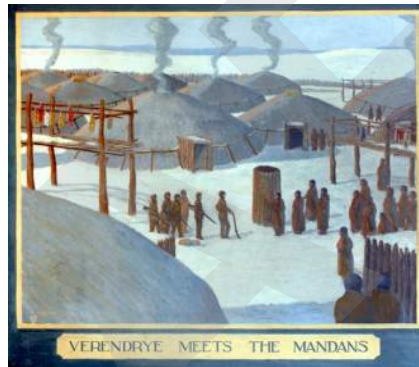
Right: Detail of a mural by Clell Gannon entitled "Verendrye Meets the Mandan," located in the entry vestibule of the Burleigh County Courthouse. Photo by Blake Dinkins.

VERENDRYE

1738



Often credited as the first known European to arrive in our area, French fur trader Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, Sieur de la Verendrye accompanied an Assiniboin trading party overland from Lake Winnipeg. They reached the Mandan villages near the mouth of the Heart River, southwest of present-day Bismarck, in 1738. Other fur traders would soon follow, forever altering the way of life of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara.



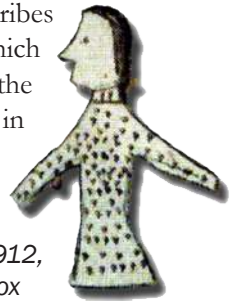
SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC

1781



While increased trade and contact with Europeans brought some benefits to the Upper Missouri tribes, it also came with deadly consequences. In 1781, smallpox devastated the Mandan people. Eighty percent of the population died within weeks; a population of 10,000 to 15,000 across seven villages was reduced to just 3,000 people. The Arikara lost an estimated 75 percent of their population and the Hidatsa suffered as well. The Lakota and other nomadic tribes fared much better, which helped them become the most dominant tribes in the region by 1800.

Detail from High Dog's Winter Count, 1798-1912, representing a smallpox epidemic. SHSND 791.



Map depicting the Louisiana Purchase in white. Wikimedia Commons.

LOUISIANA PURCHASE

1803



By the turn of the 19th century, the watershed of the Missouri River, including present-day Bismarck, was part of the Louisiana Territory controlled by France. In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson sent his protégé, James Monroe, to France to assist in negotiations over the Louisiana Territory. Ultimately, Jefferson purchased the entire 828,000 square mile area for approximately three cents per acre, doubling the country's size overnight.

THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

1804 - 1806



Even before negotiations with the French government over the Louisiana Territory, President Jefferson had persuaded Congress to fund a diplomatic, commercial, and scientific expedition of the Missouri River to its ultimate source, which many believed would lead to the Pacific Ocean. The Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806 spent more time in North Dakota than in any other future state during their journey, spending the winter of 1804-1805 approximately 45 miles north of Bismarck among the Mandan (who by that time had moved farther north from their traditional villages around the Bismarck area) and



Postage stamp commemorating the Lewis & Clark Expedition, 1954. National Postal Museum Collection, Smithsonian. 1980.2493.5147.

their Hidatsa neighbors. Captain Lewis' journal entry for October 20, 1804 notes that Pierre Cruzatte shot and wounded the first grizzly bear of the expedition just south of present-day Bismarck. That same day, Captain Clark's field notes describe numerous "old Mandan" village sites near the Heart River, one of which was On-a-Slant village southwest of Bismarck, which had been abandoned by the Mandan about a generation earlier after the 1781 smallpox epidemic.

"the Countrey thro which I passed this day is Delightfull, Timber in the bottoms, saw great nos. of Buffalow Elk Goats & Deer as we were in want of them I Killed 3 Deer, our hunters 10 Deer and wounded a white Bear, I saw several fresh tracks of that animal double the Sise of the largest track I ever Saw, great numbers of wolves, those animals follow the buffalo and devour, those that die or are killed, and those too fat or pore to keep up with the gangue."

William Clark, October 20, 1804, describing the area south of present day Bismarck, ND.

*** Spelling was not William Clark's best skill.**



Portrait of Sheheke by Charles Balthazar Julien Fevret de Saint Memin, 1806-1807. New York Historical Society. 1860.95

SHEHEKE (WHITE COYOTE)

1766 - 1812



Sheheke, or White Coyote, was born at On-a-Slant Village and became a leader among the Mandan. When the Lewis and Clark Expedition arrived in this area, Sheheke spent the winter of 1804-1805 getting to know members of the Corps of Discovery. In the summer of 1806, he joined them on their return journey and traveled all the way to Washington D.C. to meet with President Jefferson. After a failed attempt to travel back along the Missouri River escorted by U.S. soldiers, he finally returned home two years later with the Missouri Fur Company.

START OF THE STEAMBOAT ERA

1825



Paddlewheel boats first traveled up the Missouri in 1825, carrying a U.S. military delegation charged with signing treaties with various tribes. These boats were faster than keelboats and canoes, but they still relied on raw manpower, or in some cases, horses. Steam powered boats had been used on the lower Missouri and the Mississippi since 1819, but the

upper Missouri was more unpredictable, shallow, and dangerous.

In 1831, the Yellowstone became the first steamboat on the upper Missouri River, en route from St. Louis to Ft. Union. It was commissioned by Kenneth McKenzie, who worked for John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company. McKenzie knew faster travel along the Missouri would mean increased profits. The steamboat remained the dominant form of transportation to and from this area until the arrival of the railroad in the early 1870s.

TATANKA IYOTANKA (SITTING BULL)

ca. 1831 - 1890



Tatanka Iyotanka, or Sitting Bull, was a leader and holy man of the Lakota. He was born along the Grand River in South Dakota around 1831, and is best known for his role in the Lakota resistance against white encroachment on the Northern Plains. His famous vision of soldiers falling upside down into the Lakota camp was fulfilled in the victory at Little Bighorn in 1876.

After four years of exile in Canada, Sitting Bull and his remaining followers surrendered at Fort Buford in 1881. In his later years, Sitting Bull worked as a performer with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and lived on Standing Rock reservation. He participated in the parade and other festivities in Bismarck during the laying of the cornerstone

of the capitol building in 1883.

In 1890, James McLaughlin, agent at Standing Rock, ordered Sitting Bull's arrest. The Ghost Dance movement had spread across the Plains and, amidst extreme suffering on reservation lands, the Lakota adopted its religious message as a call to arms to restore the way of life that had existed prior to European contact. McLaughlin feared Sitting Bull and his followers would become hostile. On December 15, 1890, Sitting Bull was shot to death by agency police as they tried to arrest him. Weeks later, members of the 7th Cavalry killed at least 145 Native Americans, eliminating most leaders known to be opposed to U.S. Indian policy at what would become known as the Wounded Knee Massacre.

Detail from studio portrait of Tatanka Iyotanka (Sitting Bull) by D.F. Barry in Bismarck, ca. 1885. SHSND 00051-0007



ca. 1831 - 1890

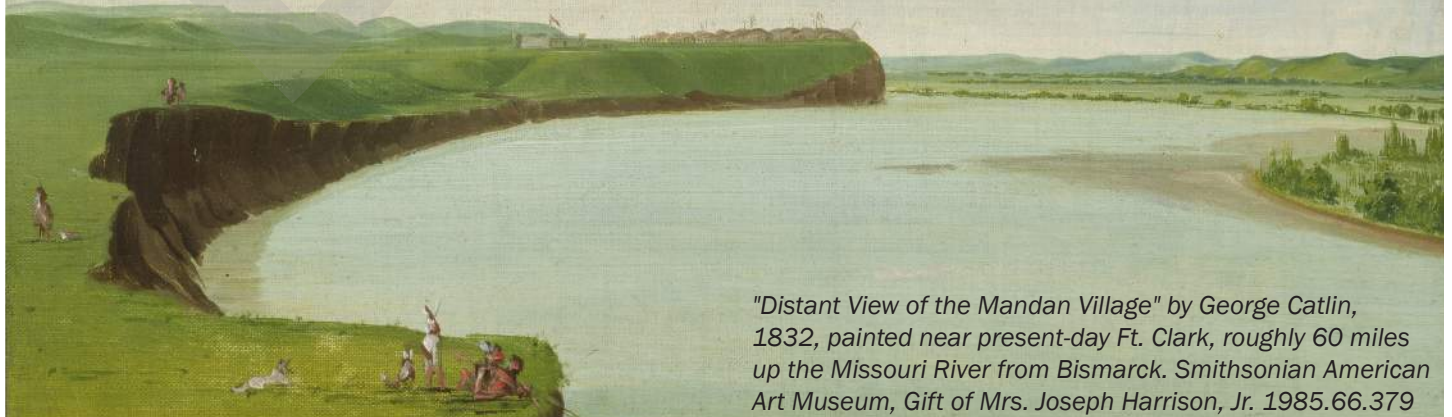
1832

GEORGE CATLIN

1832



The steamboat helped spur the growth and development of the upper Missouri country, in particular the fur trade. But it also brought non-commercial visitors. Aboard the *Yellowstone* on its first trip to Ft. Union was artist and ethnologist George Catlin. Catlin spent time at Ft. Union and Ft. Clark, about 50 miles northeast of Bismarck, painting and writing about the Mandan and Hidatsa and their way of life.



"Distant View of the Mandan Village" by George Catlin, 1832, painted near present-day Ft. Clark, roughly 60 miles up the Missouri River from Bismarck. Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of Mrs. Joseph Harrison, Jr. 1985.66.379

PRINCE MAXIMILIAN AND KARL BODMER

1832 - 1834



German ethnologist Prince Alexander Philipp Maximilian, ruler of Neuwied, Prussia (now in Germany), naturalist, explorer and Swiss artist Karl Bodmer arrived at Ft. Clark and wintered with the Mandan and Hidatsa on the Knife River, 50 miles northwest of Bismarck. Bodmer produced detailed and realistic paintings of numerous tribal members and the surrounding landscape.

"Interior of a Mandan Earthlodge"
by Karl Bodmer, 1833-1834.
Joslyn Art Museum.



1832 - 1834

1837

1840 - 1895

SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC

1837



In 1837, the steamboat *St. Peters* departed from St. Louis on a journey to Ft. Clark. The first signs of smallpox on the boat appeared just days after departing St. Louis, as one of the workers on board became ill. After the boat reached Ft. Clark, smallpox swept through the nearby Knife River Villages. More than 80 percent of the Mandan died, including the renowned chief Mato-Tope (Four Bears). Of all the Mandan living at the start of the 1837, only one in ten was alive a year later. The Arikara lost 30 percent of their population and the Hidatsa about 50 percent.

The three tribes began to consolidate after the 1837 epidemic and have lived together ever since.

PIZI (GALL)

1840 - 1895



Pizi, or Gall, was born around 1849. He was a leader of the Húnkpapha Lakota as they defended their homelands between the Missouri and the Bighorn Mountains against white encroachment in the 1860s and 1870s. He was one of the most important leaders at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where two of his wives and several of his children were killed. After the Little Bighorn, Gall, Sitting Bull, and their followers sought refuge in Canada before eventually surrendering in 1881. Gall became a farmer and continued as a prominent leader of his people at Standing Rock, serving as a judge of the Court of Indian Affairs in 1889. He died in 1895.



Right: Detail from studio portrait of Pizi (Gall), by D.F. Barry, ca. 1880. SHSND 00631-4.

APPLE CREEK BATTLE

July 30 - August 1, 1863



In summer 1862, the U.S. government had failed to provide goods and money owed by treaty to bands of the Dakota experiencing severe hardship in Minnesota. In response, a group of Santee Sioux attacked and killed hundreds of white settlers along the Minnesota River. The U.S. military put down the uprising in Minnesota and launched an expedition into the Dakotas in 1863-1864, led by Gen. Henry Sibley and Gen. Alfred Sully, purportedly to punish the Sioux who had fled west. Numerous battles unfolded in what is now North Dakota. Two legendary Lakota leaders, Sitting Bull and Gall, fought in many of them.

A lesser-known engagement, the Battle of Apple Creek, took place from July 30 to August 1, 1863 just south of Bismarck on the bluff where the University of Mary is now. Native people knew the hill as “The Bluff Where They Dig for Paint” because sediments found there provided certain pigments. Around 500 Dakota and Lakota warriors fought and defended the hill against 3,000 soldiers under General Sibley’s command. The event marked the culmination of a two-week running battle that started at Big Mound (near present-day Tappen). The outnumbered Dakota and Lakota managed to hold off Sibley and his men, who retreated east. During the fighting, many Dakota and Lakota women and children managed to escape west across the Missouri River, making the crossing at various points between Apple Creek and the site where the Northern Pacific Railway Bridge would be built two decades later.

Detail of the 1898 Missouri River Commission map showing the Apple Creek and Painted Bluffs area where the conflict occurred. USGS.



Aerial photo Burnt Boat Road looking southeast.
Photo by Jason Tomanek.

BURNT BOAT INCIDENT

1863



Burnt (Boat) Creek and Burnt Boat Drive were said to have been named for an incident on a sandbar on the Missouri near present-day Bismarck, although the details vary depending on the source.

When gold was discovered in Alder Gulch, Montana in 1863, the Missouri River was a natural route to and from the gold fields. A group of miners was heading downstream in a keelboat and either stopped or were hung up on a sandbar, where a Lakota woman

was bathing her baby. One of the miners shot and killed the woman and her baby (other sources simply say the miner killed “an Indian”). Lakota warriors returned fire. A small canon on the keelboat was accidentally fired into the floor of the boat, which caught fire. All of the men were killed and their gold was lost, although some claimed the gold was later found.

Other sources say Burnt Creek was named after a prairie fire left charred stumps along its banks. But if so, where does the name Burnt Boat Drive come from? We likely will never know the true story.

WOODCUTTERS ON THE UPPER MISSOURI RIVER

ca. 1870



Woodcutters, or “woodhawks” as they were popularly known, were a necessity for the steamboats that traveled the Missouri River. Woodhawks either plied their trade as independent businessmen or were part of the crew whose responsibility was to cut wood when the boat docked along the riverbank. Cottonwood trees, deadfall, and driftwood were the primary fuel sources though they proved very inefficient, burning quickly. A vessel could consume on average nearly one cord of wood per hour (a “cord” was a stack 4 feet high, 4 feet wide, and 8 feet long). Captains had to stop several times per day to collect the wood needed to maintain top speed when headed upriver. It was hard and dangerous work. The practice ultimately changed the landscape, depleting nearly all of the cottonwood stands along the banks of the Missouri. Today, Smith Grove in Morton County is the area’s best preserved river bottom woodlands and gives visitors a sense of how the valley once looked.

The “woodhawks” along the river are getting out a large quantity of fuel for the steamboat trade. Every timbered point, our informant assures us, is occupied by a wood yard. The “hawks” have been industrious during the winter. They have been working for a stake, and the result of their industry will be flush times on the Upper Missouri.

Clipping from The Bismarck Tribune, March 10, 1882.



Photo of the area where Burleigh City / Burleightown / Carleton City / Whiskey Point was located, as seen across the Missouri River. North Dakota Tourism.

BURLEIGH CITY / BURLEIGHTOWN / CARLETON CITY / WHISKEY POINT

1870 - 1874



In 1870, a settlement formed near present-day Fox Island, across the Missouri River from Ft. Abraham Lincoln. The village consisted of small stores, livery stables, and, most notably, saloons and houses of ill repute.

Though it was officially called Carlton City, it was known by many other names including “Whiskey Point.”

Another early settlement along the Missouri River was Burleigh City or Burleightown, approximately two miles south of present-day Bismarck, near the site of the current municipal airport. Burleigh City was named by and for its developer, Dr. Walter Burleigh, who firmly believed the railroad would eventually cross the Missouri River at that location. When the Northern Pacific chose instead to build further north, the little town failed. Burleightown has the distinction of being the area’s first ghost town.

CAMP HANCOCK

1872



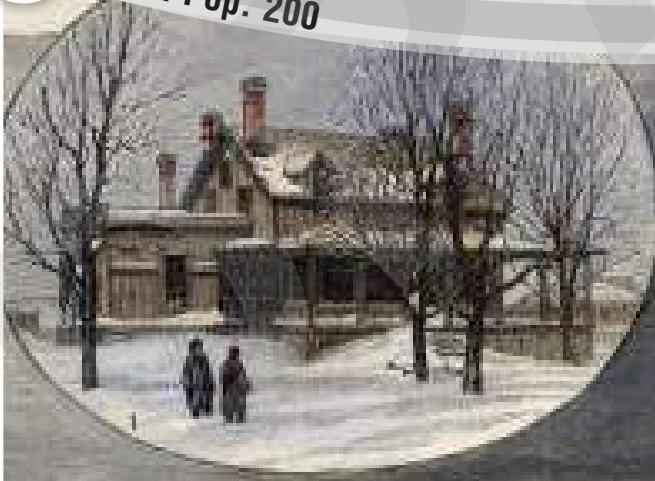
In 1872, a year before the railroad arrived, the U.S. Army established Camp Greeley at the site of present-day Bismarck to protect the railroad construction crews and serve as a supply depot for other forts along the Missouri. The camp was originally named in honor of Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune and Liberal Republican candidate for president at the time. It was renamed Camp Hancock in 1873, after Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, commander of the Department of Dakota.

The U.S. Army Signal Corps established a “reporting station” at Camp Hancock in 1874 to transmit military messages and maintain weather records. Military troops were withdrawn from the camp in 1877, but it continued to serve as a quartermaster’s depot and signal station. The camp was decommissioned in 1894, after which the site was used as a Weather Bureau Station until 1940 and as offices for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service until 1949, when fire damaged the main building. The site was given to the State Historical Society in 1951. A headquarters building—now the oldest structure in Bismarck—still stands on the site, and serves as an interpretive museum for artifacts and information about local history.

Detail from a postcard of Camp Hancock, ca. 1910. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library.



1870: Pop. 200



Detail from a lithograph entitled *Dakota: View of Fort Abraham Lincoln*, 1887 from Frank Leslie's *Illustrated Newspaper*. Institute for Regional Studies, NDSU, Fargo (Folio 102.Mi#67.1)

1872

1872

FORT McKEEN
AND FORT LINCOLN

1872



The same year Camp Hancock was established, the U.S. Army established Fort McKeen across the Missouri River to the southwest of Bismarck, named in honor of Colonel H. Boyd McKeen, who died at the Battle of Cold Harbor in 1864. The fort was enlarged and renamed Fort Abraham Lincoln in 1873. As with Camp Hancock, the main purpose of the fort was to protect the survey and construction crews of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

FOUNDING OF BISMARCK

1872



Northern Pacific engineers selected the site of Bismarck as a crossing point for the railroad in 1872, and squatters had been living in the area in anticipation of the coming of the railroad since 1871. The city was originally named Edwinton, in honor of the railroad's chief engineer, Edwin F. Johnson, but was renamed Bismarck in 1873, in honor of the German Chancellor, in hopes of attracting German capital for the railroad (prior to the name change, the settlement was also known as The Crossing, Carlton and Burleigh). The City of Bismarck was officially incorporated on January 14, 1875, with Edmund Hackett appointed as the first mayor until John McLean won the city's first mayoral election in April, 1875.



Photograph of Main Avenue in Bismarck, 1873. SHSND 0529-00001.

1872

1872

JOHN YEGEN AND YEGEN'S GROCERY

1872



John Yegen came to Bismarck in 1872 and opened a grocery and bakery on Main Avenue between Fourth and Fifth Streets. The original building burned, but Yegen rebuilt. The Yegen Grocery was moved to 810 East Main Avenue, ca. 1910, but the business closed in the early 1980s. In 1992, the historic building was relocated to Buckstop Junction where it stands today.



Yegen Grocery on Main Avenue, ca. 1900. SHSND A5682.

LINDA WARFEL SLAUGHTER

1872



Linda Warfel Slaughter is among Bismarck's most accomplished pioneers. Born, raised, and educated in Ohio, she came to Dakota Territory with her husband Benjamin Franklin Slaughter, who was a surgeon for troops stationed at Fort Rice. Together, they settled in what would become Bismarck in 1872. Linda became very involved in the community. Among other accomplishments, she organized the first Sunday School, served as the first postmistress of Bismarck, served as the first superintendent of Burleigh County Schools, was the deputy superintendent of schools for Dakota Territory, organized the Ladies Historical Society of Bismarck and North Dakota which would later become the State Historical Society of North Dakota, and published articles, pamphlets, and books about her life in Dakota Territory.

Studio portrait of Linda Warfel Slaughter, 1879.
SHSND 10003-00093



1872

1872

LOUISA THOMPSON

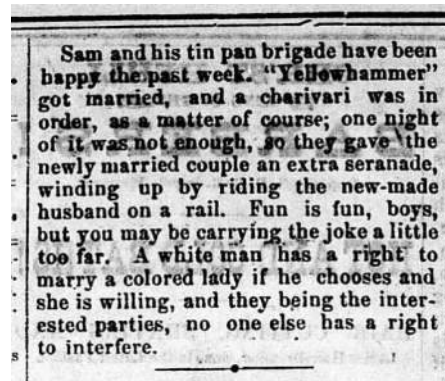
1872



Though often overlooked, black Americans were integral in the founding of Bismarck and are counted among the area's first pioneers. According to the Dakota Territorial Census of 1885, Burleigh County had a population of 5,253, of which 79 were recorded as Black residents. More than 70 of those residents lived in Bismarck and worked as cooks, carpenters, plasterers, laborers, barbers, servants, porters, washerwomen, and homemakers. Approximately half were women.

Louisa Thompson, a Black woman with Mexican heritage, came to Bismarck in 1872 with Doctor Slaughter's family to work as a housekeeper. After causing an accidental fire that burned the Slaughter's home to the ground, Louisa left their employ and built a log house behind the Merchants Hotel at the corner of Third Street and Main. Soon after, in 1874, she married

William Robinson, a white soldier from Fort Lincoln. On their wedding night, a disapproving brigade of locals ran the groom out of town on the rail. Louisa remained in Bismarck and became well-known as "Yellowhammer," arrested a number of times for keeping a bawdy house.



Newspaper clipping about Louisa Thompson from the July 29, 1874 edition of The Bismarck Tribune.

MARK KELLOGG

May 1873



Mark Kellogg was a newspaper reporter who arrived in Bismarck in May 1873 around the same time Col. Clement A. Lounsberry established The Bismarck Tribune. Lounsberry hired Kellogg part-time to work as an editor and printer. When it became known that Lt. Col. Custer and the 7th Cavalry stationed at Fort Lincoln were to depart for Montana Territory, Lounsberry arranged for Kellogg to accompany the Dakota column as a correspondent on the expedition that would culminate in the Battle of Little Bighorn.

Kellogg provided the only press coverage of the expedition, sending back three dispatches as the Dakota column marched west in May and June of 1876. In one of his final dispatches, Kellogg wrote, "I go with Custer and will be at the death." Kellogg was killed at the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876. His diary documenting the expedition was retrieved and is housed at the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Today, Kellogg is honored with a plaque and tree in Custer Park.



The first page of Mark Kellogg's 1876 diary. SHSND MSS 20017.



ARRIVAL OF THE RAILROAD

June 3, 1873



A train crossing the Missouri River on ice, 1879. Train crossings by ice only occurred for a few winters. SHSND 10190-02951.

The Northern Pacific railroad reached the site of present-day Bismarck on June 3, 1873. The first train arrived at Bismarck two days later and carried the printing press for The Bismarck Tribune. The Panic of 1873 caused severe financial problems for the railroad, stalling completion of the railroad bridge over the Missouri River for an entire decade. Track continued to be laid west of the Missouri, however, and rail cars were ferried across the river on steamboats or, in the winter, traveled across on temporary tracks on the ice. It was the first transcontinental railroad to span the northern part of the United States.

The Bismarck Tribune.

BISMARCK, D. T., FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1873.

\$2.50 Per Annum

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MANITOBA.

In the Fange of the British Lion.

American Citizens Arrested and Insulted.

Outrageous Conduct of British Officers.

The Notorious Gordon Still More Noted.

Special Telegram to Bismarck Tribune.
THE KIDNAPED.

PENRINA, July 11.—The history of the famous Gordon kidnapping case is as follows: Armed with what they supposed full and competent authority, the Minneapolis authorities attempted to arrest Gordon and bring him to the tribunal from which he had fled.

THE MANITOBA AUTHORITIES regarding this attempt as a violation of their sovereignty not only released the prisoner but in turn arrested and held not only the American officers who made the arrest but several other well known and

HIGHLY RESPECTED CITIZENS of Minneapolis, who happened at Fort Garry at the time, on the charge of kidnapping. Such briefly are the facts in the case. The attorneys who came up to act for the prisoners were refused that privilege by Manitoba authorities and prosecuting officers. The authorities are pushing the case against the American prisoners with bitterness and their outside friends in the most

YANKTON.

Burleigh County Organized.

Emmons, Mercer and Daily Commissioners.

Special Telegram to Bismarck Tribune.
YANKTON, D. T. July 10.—Burleigh county was organized yesterday, the Governor having appointed Jas. A. Emmons, William Mercer and Daily Commissioners. Commissions will be forwarded at once.

THE PEOPLE.

Result of the Special Meeting Called to Nominate Commissioners.

A petition having been forwarded to the Governor praying for the organization of Burleigh county and the appointment of certain persons commissioners, others not satisfied with the action called a meeting for Monday evening in order to obtain a fair expression of the people, to consider the general interests of the county, and to nominate three persons to be recommended to the Governor for appointment.

Hon. E. A. Williams was elected Chairman and C. A. Lounsberry Secretary.

Mr. John White moved that persons having candidates present them after which a ballot be had; those receiving the highest number of votes to be declared the nominees.

The motion prevailed and Messrs. John White, John P. Dunn, Asa Fisher, John S. Wain, H. N. Ross and Jas. A. Emmons were nominated.

Mr. Emmons on being nominated declared himself a candidate before the

THE YELLOWSTONE EXPEDITION.

Starting—Order of March—Jackets—Breaking Camp—The Band—Order to Buckle—The Country—Diagnosis—Stops—The Scientific Corps—Delayed—Onwards to the Yellowstone.

Special Correspondence Bismarck Tribune:
CAMP OF YELLOWSTONE EXPEDITION, MOUNT CASSIN, JULY 9, 1873.

EDITOR BISMARCK TRIBUNE: The Yellowstone Expedition started from Fort Rice June 20th, at 6 A. M., and by easy marches pursued its course across the country to Heart River, where it was expected to meet the engineering party from the crossing at Fort A. Lincoln, escorted by a detachment of the 8th infantry, which was supposed to be moving up the valley of that river, surveying the route of the N. P. R. R. To that point no particular incident of unusual note occurred. All engaged with the expedition were

ANXIOUS TO START, as the short encampment at Fort Rice on the dusty plain had become to be monotonous and a little irksome.

THE ORDER OF MARCH has been first the Indian scouts, mounted on native ponies, uniformed and armed as our cavalry, the commander of the expedition and staff, pioneers, battalion of infantry, section of artillery, scientific corps, baggage train in two, three, or four lines as the state of the country and circumstances allow, and in the rear the remaining infantry. On either flank march the cavalry at a distance of one-fourth or one-half mile. Beyond all, scouring and observing the country for some miles in advance and on all sides, are Indian and cavalry scouts. Thus every precaution is taken on the march, and in camp to

GUARD AGAINST INDIAN attacks. The orders are that Indians shall not be fired upon unless they show unmistakable signs of hostility. Few

relations were asked for and the main body is on the march to them for that purpose. Custer, with cavalry, went in advance and probably reached them yesterday afternoon. When we reach them the expedition will probably again divide the main body, going directly to the Yellowstone and leaving a sufficient force of infantry and cavalry to protect the survey.

LATER.
CAMP OF THE RECONNOITER, July 1st, 1873.
5 Miles North of Muddy Creek.

I left the camp of the main expedition at Muddy Creek yesterday and came up here to meet a friend. When I left they were just building a pontoon bridge; the whole force being

DELAYED over Sunday and Monday by the rapid rise of the creek, carrying away the bridge built by Custer. It is a great disappointment to Stanley and all, as the delay, especially in this good marching weather is very irksome. Custer is 9 or 10 miles beyond us and will remain until joined by the whole force, including this detachment. We are looking for the main body hourly; probably the crossing of the Muddy are quite difficult.

THE ENGINEERS are far beyond Custer, escorted by a squadron of cavalry. So we shall march fast to overtake them. At that time a part of the expedition will hurry forward to the Yellowstone. The rains of the past week have been a great drawback and prevented the union of the different parties of the expedition and its forward march as a whole.

THE HAIL STORM which struck this detachment (8th regiment infantry,) and engineers a week ago was fearful, and the reports would be incredible did I not see evidence of its effects. Antelopes and a dog were killed.

THE COLONY SYSTEM.

To the Northern Pacific Railroad belongs the honor of giving form and impetus to the Colony system of immigration, by which more than half the difficulties of the hardy pioneer life are swept away.

Messrs. L. H. Tenney & Co., of Duluth and Chicago, gentlemen every way reliable, are carrying out the humane ideas of the Northern Pacific Company, in their Red River Colony, in Clay county, Minnesota, occupying some sixteen townships, and whatever can be devised to smooth the rugged path of pioneer life, they are devising. As a result, Glyndon, one of the Colony towns now numbers several hundred inhabitants. The colony city boasts an ably conducted newspaper, a church and school, and a number of business houses, all the growth of less than a year. Here the Northern Pacific road crosses its main branch, the St. Paul and Pacific road, which runs from St. Paul to Pembina. And there has been built a passenger depot, and an immense freight depot, with a round house, and machine shop, and an immigrant house similar to those at Brainerd and Duluth. Few places are more favorably located than Glyndon. Situated on the banks of the Red River, eight miles east of Mankato, and twelve miles east of Yvillon, still another town of the same Red River Colony. This latter town has been selected for the home of a band of English colonists, numbering nearly one thousand in all, of whom 150 have already arrived. It may be doubted whether there is any richer soil on the continent than can be found in the valley of the Red River. Mr. Lewiston, Receiver of the United States Land Office at Duluth, assures us that here, in a field of 32 acres, he raised 72 bushels of oats per acre, weighing 35 pounds to the bushel. Frequently yields of wheat from thirty to fifty bushels per acre have been secured. If there be any virtue in fertility of soil, in healthfulness of climate, in energy and morality of inhabitants, in wise and conscientious management, Clay cannot fail to become one of the most prosperous counties in the State. Our advantage is especially its superiority of location, being situated by two great railroads affording excellent markets, so there is no danger of its farmers ever being called on to follow the example of their brethren in Iowa and Kansas—burning their grain for fuel.

The particular section of this Colony system, as carried out in their enterprise, is to develop the agricultural resources of the country—and not to build up towns. At the same time the managers are working extensively to advance and build up the social, educational and religious interests of the colony.

J. C. Walters

WHOLESALE DEALER IN

WINES, LIQUORS, & CIGARS

Long experience in the business enables me to give you a call before purchasing elsewhere.

For Cash Only

Merchants and others will benefit themselves by giving me a call before purchasing elsewhere.

For family use I have constantly on hand pure

BOURBONS, BRANDIES, GINS AND WINES,

AT WHOLESALE PRICES

No matter how small the quantity purchased.

CALL AT THE

RED STORE

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Special attention paid to orders by mail or telegraph on the line of the N. P. R. Minnesota and Dakota Divisions.

115 J. C. WALTERS.

DULUTH ADVERTISEMENTS.

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DULUTH.

Agents for Real Estate in all parts of Minnesota.

Front page of the first issue of
The Bismarck Tribune, July 11, 1873.

THE BISMARCK TRIBUNE IS FOUNDED

July 11, 1873



The Bismarck Tribune was founded in 1873 and is the longest continuously published newspaper in Dakota Territory. Its founder, Col. Clement A. Lounsberry, came from Minnesota following the progression of the railroad and decided to name his publication after the Minneapolis Tribune where he had worked as editor. "[The publishers] make no special promises except to publish a live paper and give at all times their best efforts toward building up the town," Lounsberry once wrote.

In 1876, Mark Kellogg, arguably The Bismarck Tribune's most famous reporter, accompanied Lt. Col. Custer and the 7th Cavalry to the Little Bighorn to serve as a correspondent. Kellogg died on the battlefield. When the Far West steamboat, carrying wounded soldiers back from the Little Bighorn to Fort Lincoln, docked at Bismarck, The Bismarck Tribune published

the first official account of Custer's defeat to the world. Lounsberry wrote lengthy and detailed dispatches about the battle that were telegraphed to the New York Herald, costing about \$3,000. Lounsberry's effort to publish news of the Little Bighorn is memorialized on a plaque along Fifth Street, just east of the Northern Pacific train depot.

The Tribune became a daily publication in April 1881 and, in 1883, Lounsberry sold his interest in the business to his partner Marshall H. Jewell. The Tribune won the 1938 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for news reports and editorials titled "Self Help in the Dust Bowl."

The Tribune has remained a steady source for area news, though it has changed buildings and locations numerous times—several times due to fire. In 1920, the Tribune moved to 222 North Fourth Street which is, to-date, its longest-serving home. The current Tribune building at 707 East Front Avenue, was completed in 1980 with a significant building addition in 2005 to accommodate a new printing machine.

LT. COL. GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER

July 11, 1873



Few have left their mark on the history of this area like Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer. A Civil War hero who achieved the rank of brevet major general, Custer continued to serve in the military after the war, with posts in Texas and Kansas. His knack for self-promotion and controversy made him a household name by the time he assumed command at Fort Abraham Lincoln in 1873. But it was while stationed near present-day Bismarck that Custer became one of the most famous and controversial figures in American history.

Portrait of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, ca. 1870. SHSND 00075-245.



1873

YELLOWSTONE EXPEDITION

1873



In the summer of 1873, Lt. Col. Custer was second-in-command to Colonel David Stanley on the Yellowstone Expedition, accompanying a survey crew for the Northern Pacific Railroad to the Yellowstone River in southeastern Montana. On June 20, 1873, Stanley's column of 1,530 infantry and cavalry soldiers, 353 civilians, and 27 Indian scouts departed from Fort Rice, 30 miles south of present-day Mandan. The expedition engaged in two minor battles with Lakota warriors led by Sitting Bull, Gall, Crazy Horse and Rain in the Face. The expedition's casualties numbered 11 killed, one wounded. Native American casualties are estimated to have been around 5 killed, but numerous wounded.

1873

DR. HENRY PORTER

1873 - 1906



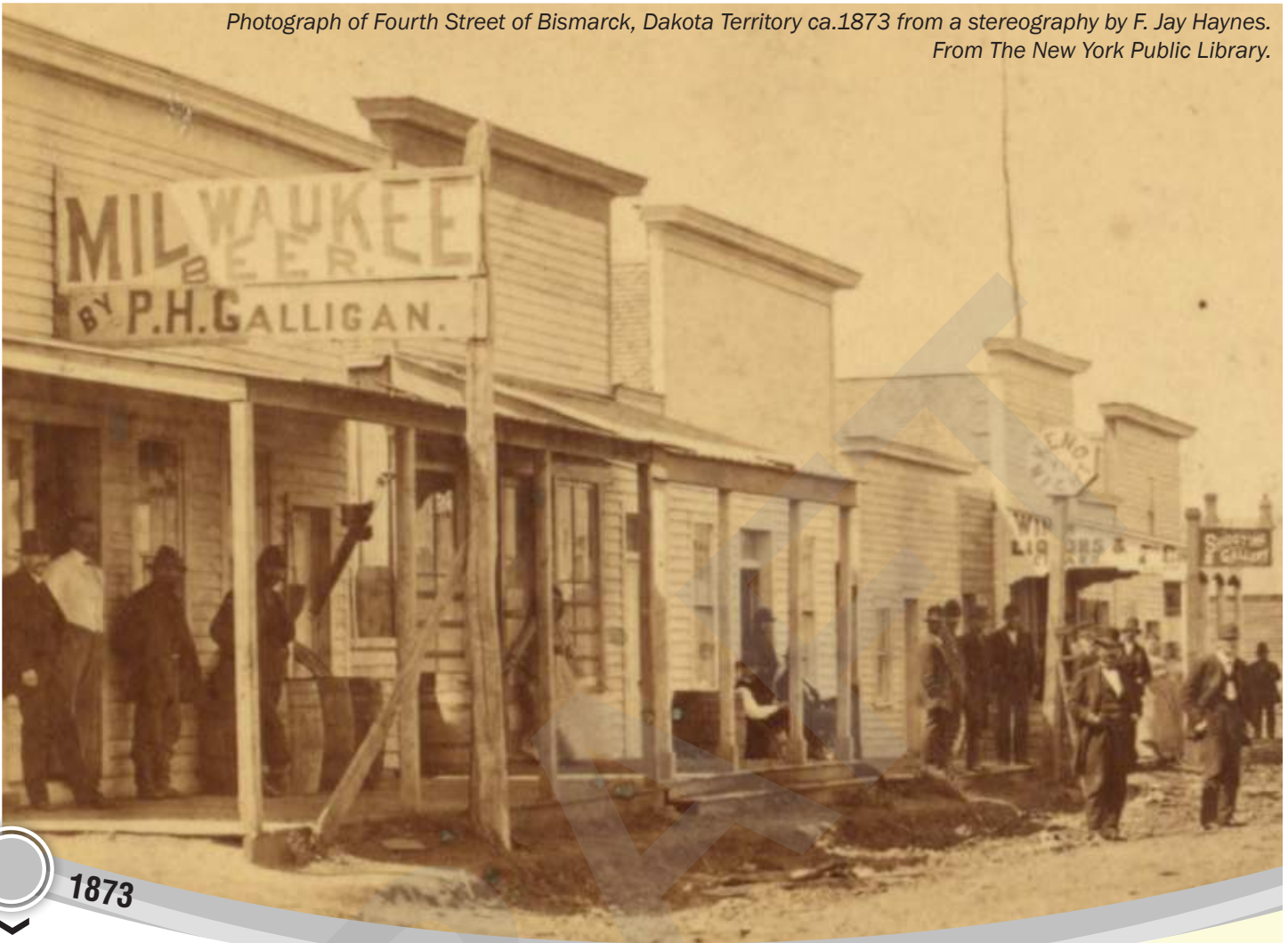
Dr. Henry Rinaldo Porter was a contract surgeon for the U.S. Army, arriving at Camp Hancock in October 1873. Of the three doctors who accompanied the 7th Cavalry to the Little Bighorn, Dr. Porter was the only one who survived. As the companies under Major Reno and Captain Benteen desperately established a defensive position on Reno Hill, Dr. Porter tended to the wounded and established a makeshift field hospital protected by boxes, saddles and horse and mule carcasses. Porter and two orderlies had to make do without sufficient water or clean dressings, working under sniper fire, dust and blistering heat.

After the battle, Porter continued to live in Bismarck, where he established a medical practice and served as county doctor for Burleigh County and the physician for the state penitentiary. He was active in the community and a founder of First National Bank of Bismarck. He died in Agra, India in 1903 during a trip around the world.



Studio portrait of Dr. Porter by O.S. Goff, ca. 1875. SHSND 00264-008.

Photograph of Fourth Street of Bismarck, Dakota Territory ca.1873 from a stereography by F. Jay Haynes.
From The New York Public Library.



1873

BLOODY FOURTH

1873 - 1875



Bismarck evolved from an end-of-the-line encampment that sprouted up where it was determined the railroad would eventually cross the Missouri River. Before it was renamed Bismarck, the townsite of Edwinton was platted here. By July of 1873, it boasted roughly 150 structures—mostly tents, log huts, and false-fronted wood-framed shacks. Nearly one-quarter of these were saloons, brothels, dance halls, and casinos catering to the earliest residents who were predominantly soldiers, railroad workers, and gold prospectors.

For a brief but wild period from 1873-1875, the stretch of Fourth Street between Main and Broadway Avenues was known as the

most lawless place on the face of the earth, the wickedest street in the wickedest town in the West. Robberies and deaths were so frequent the neighborhood was nicknamed Bloody Fourth and Murderer's Gulch. Two of the worst ruffians, Dave Mullen and Jack O'Neil, owned the Concert Saloon and Dance Hall on the southwest corner of Fourth Street and Broadway Avenue. In 1873, at the door of the saloon, their gang of gamblers got into a shootout with soldiers from nearby Fort Lincoln that resulted in Mullen's own death. His partner O'Neil lost his life in another gunfight on Fourth Street a year later. Most of the gamblers skipped town on the next train, and the lawlessness began to fade.

More Shooting.

John Dart was shot in Bannigan's establishment, on Fourth St., Monday evening, one ball entering his left breast, passing along the ribs and coming out at the back, another ball entering the wrist and coming out near the elbow. Dart refuses to tell who shot him, and little could be learned of the circumstances. Indeed he declares he shot himself, but the location of the wounds are such that this seems impossible. The ladies of the house were arrested but refuse to give information as to how the affair occurred. Dart will recover without permanent injury.

Bob Costello shot at John McMahon during a row yesterday, the ball grazing McMahon's head. McMahon thought he was badly wounded and felt like surrendering, but when a bystander remarked something about its being a good thing, he jumped up and knocked the bystander about two rods, more or less. A shooting scrape also occurred at the lower brewery, yesterday. This morning Joe Reagan was prancing around town with a light cane, remarking about every fourth step, "I am the black eyed chief of Bismarck, I am," and suggesting that he wanted some one to whip him. Joe is capable of better things, and if some one would knock the whiskey clean out of him and give his upper story a chance to recuperate, he might again become worthy of the respect of those who would be glad to be his friends.

Clipping from The Bismarck Tribune, May 30 1877.

WILLIAM H.W. COMER

1829 - 1888



One of Bismarck's first barbers was William H.W. Comer, an African American man better known as "Professor" Comer. He had come west to serve as the Post Barber at Fort Sully and arrived in Bismarck in 1873 to open his first stand, "the Occidental Shaving, Hairdressing and Bathing Rooms." Comer took part in many "firsts" in Bismarck. He later moved his shops to Main Street, and renamed his business "Comer's Tonsorial Parlor and Excelsior Bath Rooms." In 1874, he served on the first grand jury appointed in Burleigh County. He was known to employ other Black Americans in his barber shop and he became prosperous and well respected in the city. His wife, Virginia Comer, owned properties in downtown and developed a number of commercial lots, including a building at the corner of Third Street and Broadway that became known as the Comer Block.

Studio portrait of Professor Comer by L.D. Judkins, 1880. SHSND 0256-00001.

Loyalty card from Professor Comer's Shaving Emporium, 1880. SHSND 0256-00001.



1874

1874

BLACK HILLS EXPEDITION

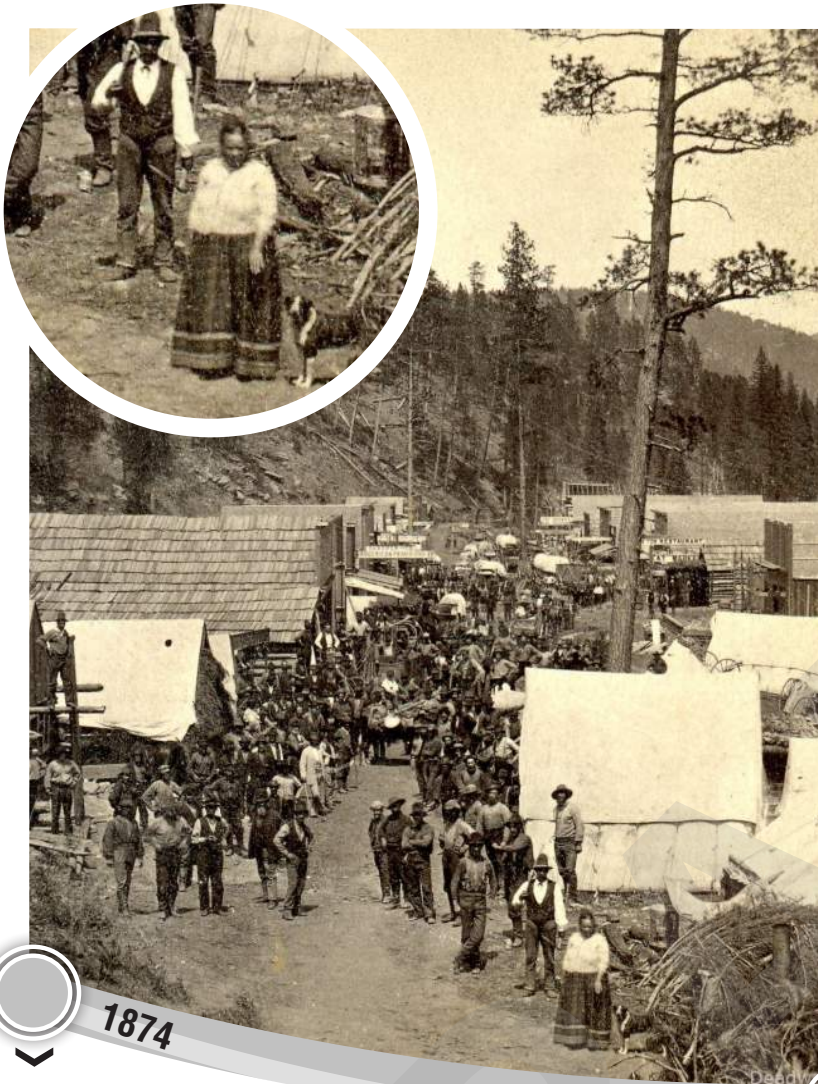
1874



In 1874, Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer led an expedition from Fort Abraham Lincoln to the Black Hills. The Black Hills belonged to the Lakota under the terms of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, but rumors of gold attracted interest from prospectors and other settlers. It was a major expedition, consisting of more than 1,000 men. Unlike the Yellowstone Expedition, Custer and his men did not encounter any resistance from the Lakota. They did, however, confirm the presence of gold in the Black Hills, and Custer ensured the news was widely publicized. Within a year, 15,000 miners descended on the Black Hills. Some of Custer's own men deserted and joined the prospectors. The Lakota would refer to Custer's route from Fort Abraham Lincoln to the Black Hills as the "thieves' trail" and Custer himself as the "chief of the thieves."



The Black Hills Expedition, 1874 near the Heart River Valley photograph by William H. Illingworth. SDSHS-34.



1874

SARAH “SALLY” CAMPBELL

1874



Sarah “Sally” Campbell was born enslaved in 1823 and was brought to the Dakotas at age 11 to work as a cook on Missouri River steamboats. Sally gained her freedom when she was 14 and two years later, married a fellow steamboat worker from Illinois. Following his death in 1873, Sally settled in Bismarck where she purchased several lots on the west side of town and opened a boarding house and laundry.

In 1874, Sally accompanied the Black Hills Expedition led by Lt. Col. Custer as the camp cook. While there, Sally caught “gold rush fever.” She and 20 other Bismarck residents soon formed the Custer Park Mining Company, staking placer claims on French Creek in South Dakota. It was the first mining company formed in the Black Hills and newspaper accounts at the time noted Sally as the first non-native woman in the area and certainly the first woman to file a mining claim there. Following the gold bust, she turned to cattle ranching and settled near Galena, South Dakota, where she remained until her death in 1888.

*Sarah Campbell stands in the foreground of a street scene, Deadwood, South Dakota, 1876 .
South Dakota Historical Society.*

1874

MISSOURI RIVER FERRY COMPANIES

1874



In Bismarck’s early years, the Missouri River was an impediment to most east-west travel as it was too dangerous to cross by means other than steamboat or rope ferry. Bismarck’s first steam-ferry, the *Union*, began transporting people back and forth to Fort Lincoln in 1874. Finally, eight years later, the Northern Pacific’s railroad bridge—the linchpin in the northern transcontinental railroad—was completed, providing a reliable means to transport goods and people by rail. But local travel continued to rely on the ferries for many years.

Bismarck’s earliest ferries included the *Union*, the *Denver*, and the *Dr. Burleigh*, all three of which sank in 1880. For nearly a decade, the small steamboat *Undine* was the only to cross at Bismarck. Notable ferries of the 1890s included the *Bull Dog*, the *Marion*, and the *Deapolis*. In 1922, the new Liberty Memorial Bridge was completed and eliminated the need for the ferries across the river.



A colorized photograph Missouri River Steamboat Undine on August 21 1885 after taking aboard a Methodist Sunday School Excursion party. The excursion was from the Bismarck landing to Fort Abraham Lincoln, where a picnic was held, and back. SHSND 0176-00001.



Portrait of Alexander McKenzie
by D. F. Barry, ca. 1885.
SHSND 00022-H-0140

ALEXANDER McKENZIE

1874 - 1922



Alexander McKenzie was a pioneer, Burleigh County sheriff, and a political boss who engineered North Dakota's early Republican political machine. He also was a railroad agent and a key player in moving the Dakota territorial capitol from Yankton to Bismarck. He worked to make North Dakota's laws friendly for corporations. He died in 1922 and was buried in Bismarck. Two towns and a county in North Dakota are named for him.

At left: The Paterson Building located in downtown Bismarck, was originally named the McKenzie after Alexander McKenzie. Photo by Daan Meens.



1876

1876

MERCHANTS HOTEL

1876



The wooden Merchants Hotel in 1876 stood on the northeast corner of Third Street and Main Avenue. Reconstructed as a store building, it was destroyed in the August 1898 fire.



Merchant's Hotel, 1876. SHSND C0791.

FIRST ACCOUNT OF THE CUSTER MASSACRE

TRIBUNE EXTRA.

Price 25 Cents.

BISMARCK, D. T., JULY 6, 1876.

MASSACRED

GEN. CUSTER AND 261 MEN
THE VICTIMS.

NO OFFICER OR MAN OF 5
COMPANIES LEFT TO
TELL THE TALE.

3 Days Desperate Fighting
by Maj. Reno and the
Remainder of the
Seventh.

Full Details of the Battle.

LIST OF KILLED AND WOUNDED.

THE BISMARCK TRIBUNE'S SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT SLAIN.

1876

Sioux, emptying several chambers of his revolver, each time bringing a red-skin before he was brought down—shot through the heart. It was here Bloody Knife surrendered his spirit to the one who gave it, fighting the natural and hereditary foes of his tribe, as well as the foes of the whites.

The Sioux dashed up beside the soldiers in some instances knocking them from their horses and killing them at their pleasure. This was the case with Lt. McIntosh, who was unarmed except with a saber. He was pulled from his horse, tortured and finally murdered at the pleasure of the red devils. It was here that Fred Girard was separated from the command and lay all night with the screaming fiends dealing death and destruction to his comrades within a few feet of him, and, but time will not permit us to relate the story, through some means succeeded in saving his fine black stallion in which he took so much pride. The ford was crossed and the summit of the bluffs, having, Col. Smith says, the steepest sides that he ever saw ascended by a horse or mule, reached, though the ascent was made under a galling fire.

The companies engaged in this affair were those of Captain Boylan, French and McIntosh. Col. Reno had gone ahead with these companies in obedience to the order of Gen. Custer, fighting most gallantly, driving back repeatedly the Indians who charged in their front, but the fire from the bluff behind so galling, forced the movement heretofore alluded to.

Signals were given and soon Benton, with the four companies in reserve came up in time to save Reno from the fate with which Custer about this time met. The Indians charged the hill time and again but were each time repulsed with heavy slaughter by its gallant defenders. Soon, however, they reached bluffs higher than those occupied by Reno; and opened a destructive fire from points beyond the range of our carbines. Nothing

was terribly mutilated. The squaws seem to have passed over the field and crushed the skulls of the wounded and dying with stones and clubs. The hands of some were severed from the body, the privates of some were cut off, while others bore traces of torture, arrows having been shot into their private parts while yet living, or other means of torture adopted. The officers who fell were as follows: Gen. G. A. Custer, Col. Geo. Yates, Miles Keogh, James Calhoun, W. W. Cook, Capt. McIntosh, A. E. Smith, Lieutenants Riley, Crittenden, Sturgis, Harrington, and Lord, and Porter, Asst. Surgeon De Wolf. The only citizen killed was Fred Girard, Mr. Reed, Charles Reynolds, Isiah, the interpreter from Ft. Rice and Mark Kellogg, the latter the Tribune correspondent. The body of Kellogg alone remained unstripped of its clothing, and was not mutilated. Perhaps as they had learned to respect the Great Chief, Custer, and for that reason did not mutilate his remains they had in like manner learned to respect this humble soldier of the lead pencil and to that fact may be attributed this result. The wounded were sent to the rear some fourteen miles on horse litters striking the Far West sixty odd miles up the Big Horn which point they left on Monday at noon reaching Bismarck nine hundred miles distant at 10 p. m.

The burial of the dead was sad work but they were all decently interred. Many could not be recognized; among the latter class were some of the officers. This work being done the wounded were sent back to the base where Gen. Terry, awaits supplies and approval of his plans for the future campaign.

The men are worn out with marching and fighting, and are almost wholly destitute of clothing.

The Indians numbered at least eighteen hundred lodges in their permanent camp, while those who fought Crook seems to have joined them, making their effective fighting force nearly four thousand. These were

Gen. Custer, Col. Calhoun, Yates, Capt. Smith, and Lt. Porter. The unhappy Mrs. Calhoun, loses a husband, three brothers and a nephew. Lt. Harrington also had a family, but no trace of his remains was found. We are indebted to Col. Smith for the following full list of the dead; to Dr. Porter for the list of wounded, which is also full:

KILLED.

Field and staff, George A. Custer, Brevt. Major General.
W. W. Cook, Brevt. Lt-Colonel.
Lord, Asst. Surgeon, J. M. DeWolf, Acting Asst. Surgeon.
N. C. Blair, W. W. Sharrow, Surg Major.
Henry Voss, Chief Insptr.
A. Henry Dallans, 1st Corp.
G. K. King, 1st Privt
J. E. Armstrong, 1st Privt
James Dripaw, 1st Privt
Wm. Moody, 1st Privt
R. Rowlands, 1st Privt
James McDonald, 1st Privt
John Sullivan, 1st Privt
Thos. P. Switzer, 1st Privt
B. Benj. Hodgson, 2d Lieut
Richard Doran, 1st Privt
George Mask, 1st Privt
C. T. W. Custer, 2d Lt
H. M. Harrington, 1st Lt
The body of Lt. Harrington was not found, but it is reasonably certain that he was killed.
Edwin Baba, 1st Sergt
Finley, 1st Sergt
Finkle, 1st Corp
French, 1st Corp
Foley, 1st Corp
Ragan, 1st Privt
Allen, 1st Privt
Cridle, 1st Privt
King, 1st Privt
Bucknell, 1st Privt
Eisman, 1st Privt
Engle, 1st Privt
Brightfield, 1st Privt
Fennand, 1st Privt
Griffin, 1st Privt
Hamel, 1st Privt
Hattisoll, 1st Privt
Kingsoutz, 1st Privt

H. A. Bailey, Blacksmith
J. E. Broadhurst, 1st Privt
J. Barry, 1st Privt
J. Conners, 1st Privt
T. P. Downing, 1st Privt
Mason, 1st Privt
Blum, 1st Privt
Meyer, 1st Privt
McElroy, 1st Privt
Moon, 1st Privt
Baker, 1st Privt
Boyle, 1st Privt
Bouth, 1st Privt
Conner, 1st Privt
Darling, 1st Privt
Davis, 1st Privt
Hiley, 1st Privt
Huber, 1st Privt
Hince, 1st Privt
Henderson, 1st Privt
Henderson, 1st Privt
Leddison, 1st Privt
O'Conner, 1st Privt
Rood, 1st Privt
Reese, 1st Privt
Smith 1st, 1st Privt
Smith 2nd, 1st Privt
Smith 3rd, 1st Privt
Stella, 1st Privt
Stafford, 1st Privt
Schoole, 1st Privt
Smallwood, 1st Privt
Tarr, 1st Privt
Vangant, 1st Privt
Walker, 1st Privt
Wagner, 1st Privt
Knight, 1st Privt
G. W. Yates, Capt
W. Van Rieley, 2d Lt
Kenney, 1st Sergt
Nurse, 1st Sergt
Wilkinson, 1st Privt
Coleman, 1st Privt
Feeman, 1st Privt
Bridy, 1st Privt
Brandon, 1st Privt
Manning, 1st Privt
Atchison, 1st Privt
Brown 1st, 1st Privt
Brown 2nd, 1st Privt
Reese, 1st Privt

THE BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BIGHORN

June 25, 1876



On December 6, 1875, President Ulysses S. Grant issued an order that all Sioux and Cheyenne were to report to established reservations by January 31, 1876, or be declared "hostiles" at war with the United States. The Lakota under Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, in particular, had made clear that they would not submit to federal control. They would defend their homelands and their way of life.

In response, the U.S. Army planned a three-pronged attack in the vicinity of the Yellowstone River in southeastern Montana. Early in the morning on May 17, 1876, the Dakota column, led by Gen. Alfred Terry but spearheaded by Custer's 7th Cavalry, departed Fort Abraham Lincoln. The column stretched for nearly two miles. The plan was for the Dakota column to meet up with a column from Fort Ellis near Bozeman, and one from Wyoming Territory. The three columns never did rendezvous as planned.

Above: Front page of *The Bismarck Tribune* extra providing an early account of the Battle of Little Bighorn, July 6, 1876.

On June 25, 1876, Custer's 7th Cavalry, consisting of roughly 700 soldiers and scouts, met as many as 2,500 Lakota, Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho along the banks of the Little Bighorn River. The battle was an overwhelming victory for the Native Americans led by Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Gall, Lone White Man, and Two Moon. In all, 268 members of the 7th Cavalry lost their lives at the Battle of Greasy Grass, as it is known to the Lakota. Seven companies under Maj. Marcus Reno and Capt. Frederick Benteen managed to hold a defensive position for two days, and were eventually rescued by General Terry.

News of Custer's defeat shocked the nation during its centennial year. For the Lakota and their allies, it was the zenith of their resistance to white encroachment into their traditional lands.



Portrait of Capt. Grant Marsh by William H. DeGraff, c. 1900.
SHSND 4455-00001

CAPT. GRANT MARSH

1834 - 1916



Grant Marsh is the most famous of the 19th century riverboat captains on the Missouri. He piloted the steamboat that transported the great Lakota leader Sitting Bull and his followers to Fort Yates in 1881, following their surrendered at Fort Buford. But he is best-known for captaining the *Far West*, which followed the Army's 1876 expedition to the confluence of the Yellowstone and Big Horn rivers. When word of Custer's defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn reached the *Far West*, Marsh prepared to transport the wounded, covering the deck with prairie grass and canvas. Forty-two injured men were brought back to Fort Abraham Lincoln, traveling 710 miles in

a mere 54 hours—a record time that was never matched. Marsh then headed back upriver, along with Dr. Porter, to continue providing service to the soldiers still in the field.

Later in his career, in 1905, Marsh saved Bismarck's water intake system, using the paddlewheel of the steamboat *Weston* to break up a sandbar south of the railroad bridge. He is buried in Bismarck's St. Mary's Cemetery and the I-94 bridge is named for him.

1876

1877

BISMARCK-DEADWOOD STAGECOACH LINE

1877 - 1880

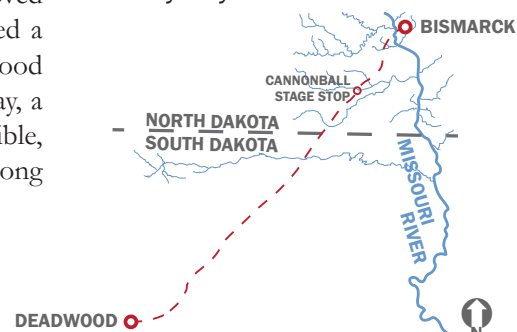


After Lt. Col. Custer's expedition to the Black Hills in 1874 confirmed the presence of gold, many Bismarck merchants wanted a reliable route to ship goods to the miners and other new inhabitants of the Black Hills. In 1877 the Northern Pacific Railway and the Minnesota State Company formed a joint venture, the Northwest Express and Transportation Company, to establish a stagecoach and supply line from Bismarck to Deadwood. The first stagecoach departed Bismarck on April 11, 1877, with 68 passengers aboard. Business thrived for the next three years, first with tri-weekly stages and eventually daily service. Many of those who sought their fortunes in the Black Hills took the train to Bismarck (the western terminus of the railroad until

1882) and then hopped on a stagecoach to Deadwood. The Northwest Express and Transportation Company was headquartered at the corner of Main and Ninth Street in Bismarck, employed 175 men, and operated 26 coaches and wagons and 200 teams of horses. The brisk business between Bismarck and Deadwood lasted only until 1880, when the railroad reached Pierre, South Dakota. The company moved its headquarters there and established a new route, and the Bismarck-Deadwood line was abandoned soon after. Today, a few of the wagon ruts are still visible, including near a historical marker along Highway 21 just east of Flasher.



State Historic Site marker along the Bismarck to Deadwood Stage Trail.
Photo by Tory Jackson.



Sheridan House located along the Northern Pacific Railroad tracks, 1874. SHSND D0482.

SHERIDAN HOUSE

1877



The Sheridan House was a railroad hotel built in 1877 by Eber H. Bly, an entrepreneur who came west to dabble in coal mining as well as operated the hotel until the 1890s. The hotel was the largest building in the Dakota Territory upon its completion. It featured a large lobby which doubled as the railroad's waiting room and ticket office. It was the gathering place of many notables, including the Nez Perce leader, Chief Joseph. From 1885 to 1899 it was also the center of political maneuverings during the biennial legislative sessions.

To make way for construction of the Northern Pacific's new depot, in 1900 the Sheridan House was cut in two, jacked up and moved to the southeast corner of Fifth Street and Main Avenue. Re-assembled and veneered with brick, it became the Northwest Hotel, which housed the first legislators of the Nonpartisan League in 1917 and eventually succumbed to fire in 1921.



1877

1880: Pop. 1,758

1877

1881

LOGAN'S GROCERY

1877



Austin Logan established Logan's Grocery in 1877. He had arrived in Bismarck from Connecticut a year earlier at the age of 21 and with only \$200 in his pocket. He was a successful business man and, in 1881, he built a new store building at the same location on Third Street and Broadway Avenue. Logan's son, Roy, bought the business in 1915 and constructed the present-day Logan Building in 1917. The Logan Grocery closed in 1941. The brick building survived a damaging fire in 1984 and is still in use today.



Logan Grocery on Third Street, 1910. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library (Bismarck: Capital City Memories 1d-231)

CITY OF MANDAN

1881



The City of Mandan was incorporated on February 24, 1881 following the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad through central North Dakota in 1879. The Railroad staked out the original townsite, which had been informally known as Morton, then Lincoln, before it was officially named "Mandan" in honor of the Mandan people.



1881

OSCAR H. WILL & CO.

1881



Oscar H. Will came to Bismarck in 1881 to work at Fuller's Greenhouse and Nursery. Initially, the focus of Fuller's Greenhouse was supplying young seedling trees to early European settlers. Soon, Will became the greenhouse operator and renamed it Oscar H. Will & Co.. Will began to experiment with different varieties of corn and beans that the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara had been growing in this region for centuries. Because of their hardiness and durable shelf life, the varieties were well suited to the commercial market. The Great Northern Bean, for instance, was developed by Will and is one of the predominant bean species grown today.

The Oscar H. Will & Co. warehouse on Fourth Street, ca. 1908. SHSND 0029-017.

The Oscar H. Will & Co. business became very successful, and its owner a prominent individual in the Bismarck community. A school was dedicated to him, which later merged with another to become the present-day Will-Moore Elementary School.

Oscar H. Will died in 1917. His son, George Will – avocational anthropologist, archaeologist, and botanist– continued the business renaming it The Pioneer Seed House, which remained in operation until 1959



Oscar H. Will & Co. seed catalog covers from 1908 and 1912. SHSND 10190-14-1908 and 10190-14-1912.

BREAD OF LIFE CHURCH

1881



The Bread of Life Church is Bismarck's oldest church building, completed in 1881. It was renamed St. George's in 1887 and has been relocated several times. In 1965, the building was donated to the state and moved again—this time to Camp Hancock State Historic Site where it remains today.



The Bread of Life Church.
Photo by Johnathan Campbell.

1881

1882

BANKING AND THE UNION / ANDERSON BLOCK

1882

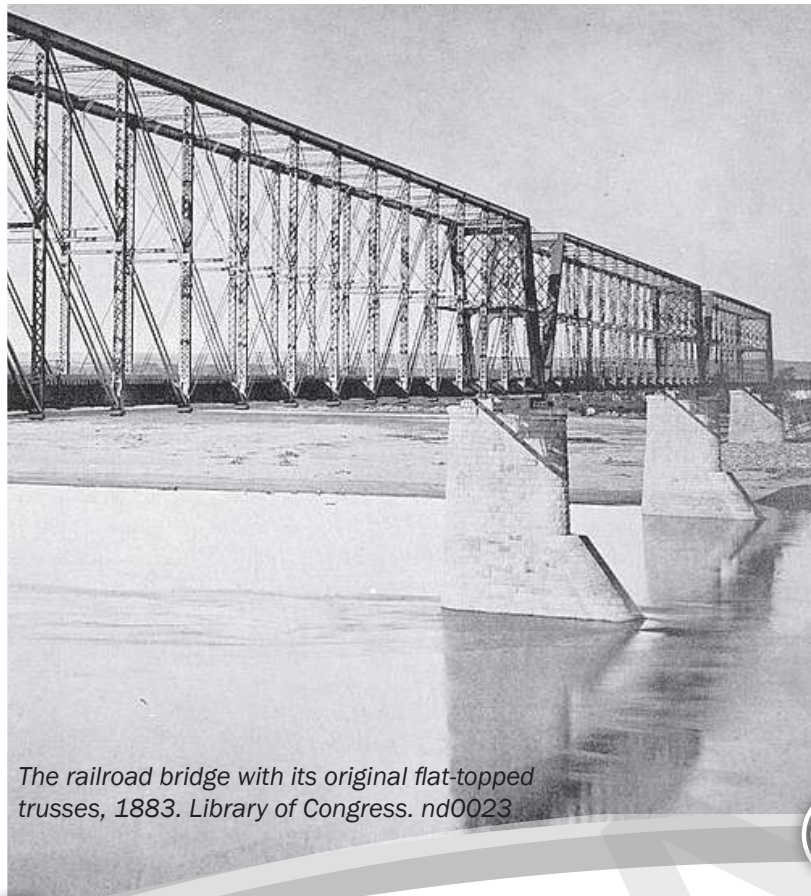


Along with the railroad and business entrepreneurs, Bismarck's banking community historically has been a primary partner in the growth of the downtown area and the city as a whole. The Union, or Anderson Block, was built at the northwest corner of Third Street and Main Avenue in 1882. It was home to the Bismarck National Bank and then the Bismarck Bank, which failed in 1922. Later home to First American Bank, the structure burned to the ground on January 9, 1973.

Today, downtown Bismarck continues to serve as the financial hub of the community and for a trade area that extends many miles beyond the city limits.



The Union Block. SHSND A3745.



The railroad bridge with its original flat-topped trusses, 1883. Library of Congress. nd0023

RAILROAD BRIDGE

1883



A decade after the Northern Pacific Railroad reached Bismarck, a new rail bridge was completed at Bismarck in 1883 at a cost of \$1 million (roughly \$25 million in today's dollars). Bridging the untamed Missouri was no easy task. The strong and shifting current and ice jams up to 20 feet thick presented serious engineering and construction challenges. Northern Pacific selected George Shattuck Morison, the preeminent bridge builder of the era, to lead the project. A crew of more than 500 men supplied the skill and muscle, including a brave few who descended below the water in pneumatic caissons to remove sand and lay foundations for each pier. Their incredible efforts resulted in the first bridge to span the upper Missouri, which still stands today as one of the most iconic structures on the Northern Plains.

1883

CAPITOL CORNERSTONE

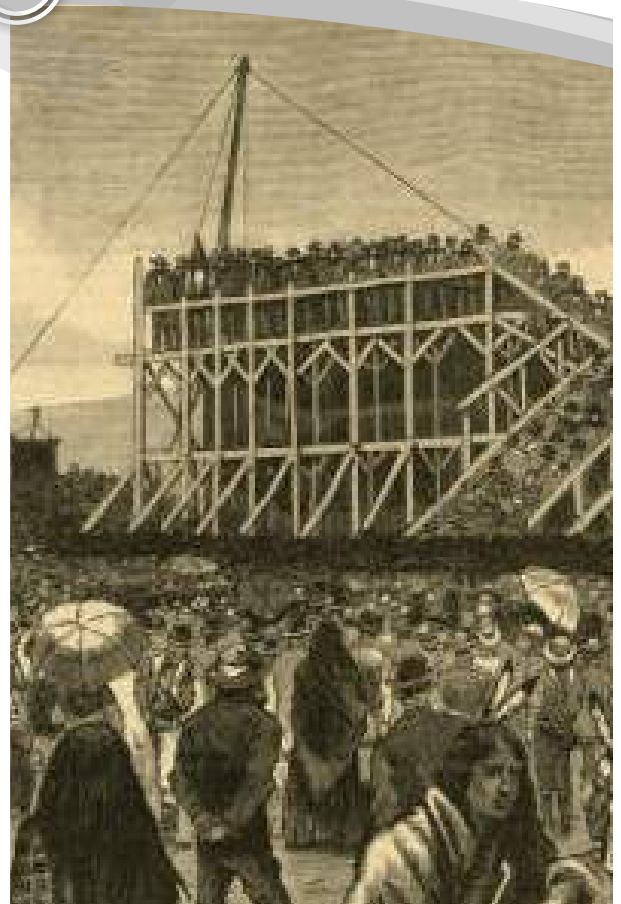
1883



When Dakota Territory was created in 1861, the capital was at Yankton—in present-day South Dakota. Arguing that the capital should be located along the Northern Pacific Railroad line, a group of legislators successfully maneuvered its relocation to Bismarck which was, at the time, considered by many to be a small city far away from any meaningful economic activity in the Territory.

As part of the agreement to move the capital, Bismarck had offered \$100,000 in cash and 160 acres of land, which could be used as the site of the capitol building and as a source of additional revenue through the sale of residential building lots. On June 2, 1883, the Capitol Commission located the territory's new capitol building at Bismarck.

The ceremonial laying of the cornerstone for the new capitol building in Bismarck was held on September 5, 1883. Among the large crowd in attendance were dignitaries such as former President Ulysses S. Grant, the German Minister to the United States Baron von Eisendecker, Henry Villard, Frederick Billings, and Sitting Bull. Festivities included speeches, band music, and a 17-gun salute.



Detail of the laying of the corner-stone of the new capitol at Bismarck, September 5, 1883 from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper. Institute for Regional Studies, NDSU, Fargo (Folio 102.CiB57.2a)

Composite photographs of the State Penitentiary buildings, work areas, and Warden's house by A.B. Gilbert, 1917. SHSND 00004.



1883

1883

FOUNDING OF STATE PENITENTIARY

1883



The Territorial Legislature established the State Penitentiary in Bismarck in 1883. The prison opened in 1885. Many may have heard the story that Bismarck chose to have the State Penitentiary instead of the State University; however, that story is likely a myth. Similar apocryphal stories are told about the penitentiaries in Sioux Falls, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and elsewhere.

The State Penitentiary has sponsored various prison industries including the Twine and Cordage Plant from 1899 to 1970. In 1975, the state legislature established Rough Rider Industries as the industrial division of the State Penitentiary,

consisting of six small factories: a sign factory; plastics products factory; hardwood factory; upholstered products factory; janitorial products factory; and metal products fabrication factory.

The North Dakota State Farm, now known as the Missouri River Correctional Center, was established in 1943 along the bank of the Missouri River just south of Bismarck.

The State Penitentiary has been remodeled and expanded over the years, and many of the old buildings, including the warden's house, have been demolished.

ELECTRICITY COMES TO BISMARCK

1883



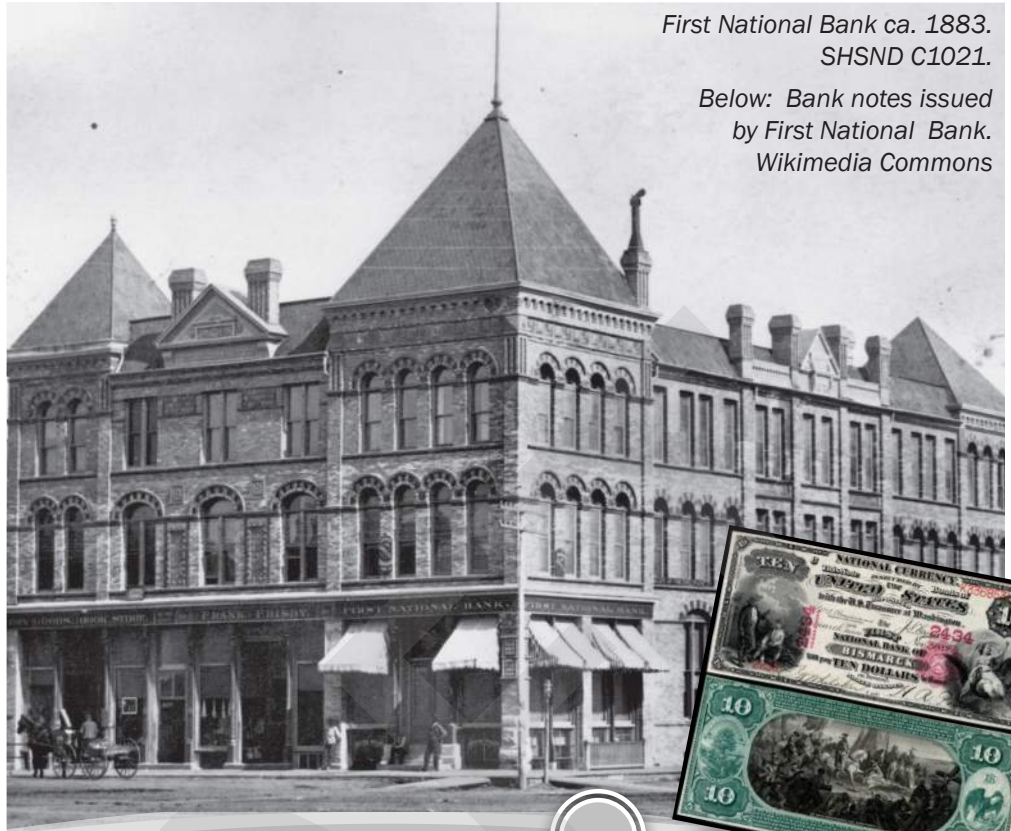
Electricity was first used in Bismarck when local contractor Charles W. Thompson purchased an 8-light power engine in September of 1883 and used it to illuminate the construction of the state capitol building at night.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

1883



The First National Bank was one of Bismarck's earliest banking houses, established in 1879. Among its founding members were Dr. Henry Porter, Asa Fisher, John Yegen, and the infamous madam, Elizabeth McClellan—better known as “Little Casino.” For nearly a century, the bank occupied the northwest corner of Fourth Street and Main Avenue. The bank building, completed in 1883, was destroyed by fire August 1898. It was soon replaced by another building at the same location, was remodeled in the 1950s, and now houses BNC National Bank.



First National Bank ca. 1883.
SHSND C1021.

Below: Bank notes issued
by First National Bank.
Wikimedia Commons

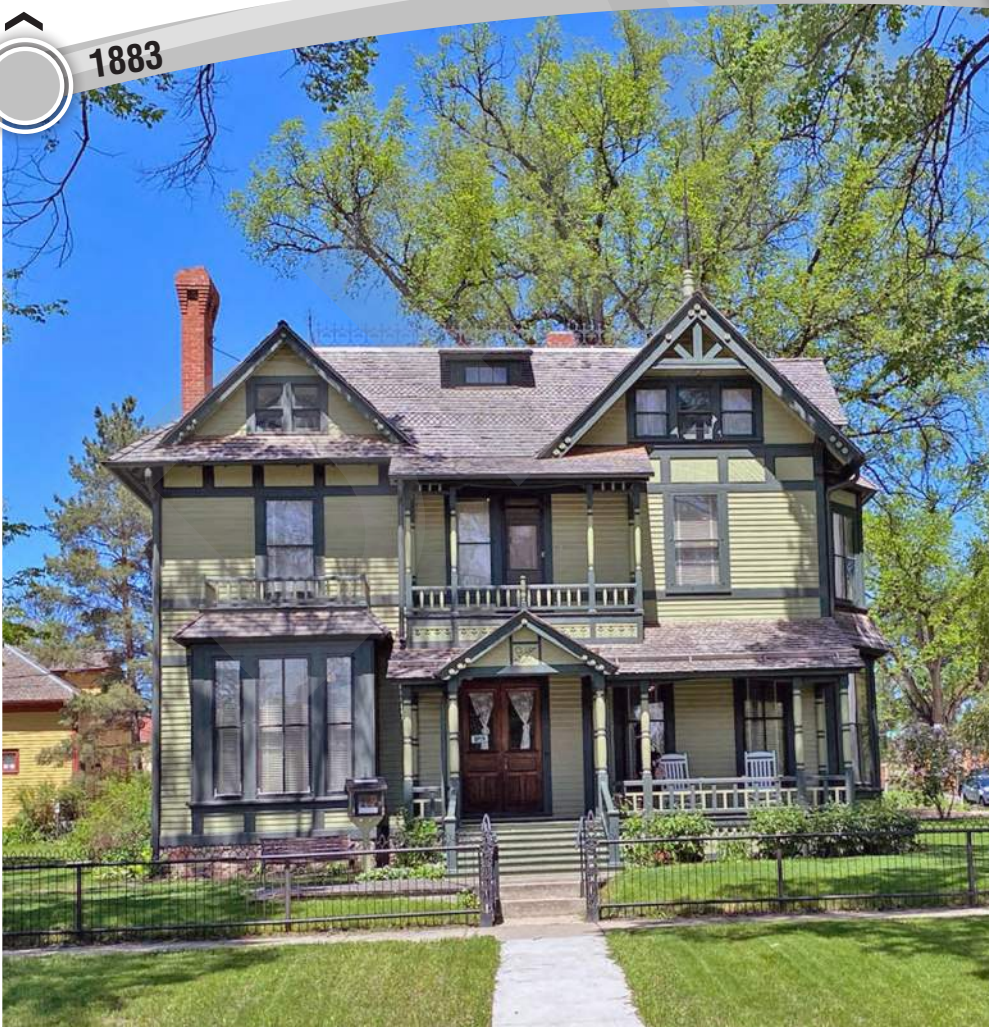


1883

1884

GOVERNORS' MANSION

1884



The former Governors' Mansion, at Fourth Street and West Avenue B, is a two-story Stick-Style Victorian house built in 1884 by banker and liquor dealer Asa Fisher. Fisher sold the property to the state in 1893 to serve as a governors' residence. Between 1893 and 1960, it housed 22 governors and their families. In 1975, the house was given to the State Historical Society which operates the home as a State Historic Site, open to the public. The 1903 carriage house was restored in 2003 and now houses additional exhibits.

Former Governors' Mansion.
Photo by Blake Dinkins.

Detail of a postcard of St. Alexis Hospital at the Lamborn Hotel. Courtesy of Jason Tomanek.



1884

THE LAMBORN HOTEL AND THE FOUNDING OF ST. ALEXIUS HOSPITAL

1884



The Lamborn Hotel was built by Alexander McKenzie and Richard Mellon in 1884-1885, and was named for a Northern Pacific Railroad official. However, the Lamborn never opened as a hotel.

In April 1885, the three-story brick structure was sold to the Benedictine Sisters of St. Joseph, Minnesota, who recognized a need for healthcare in Bismarck's early days. The Sisters established what would become St. Alexis – the first hospital in Dakota Territory. The building was without the conveniences of running water, heat, or elevators for the sick and injured, but the Sisters managed to serve anyone in need. Theodore

Roosevelt, who took ill with pneumonia, was an early patient, and whenever he returned to Bismarck, he made a point of visiting the St. Alexis Hospital.

St. Alexis Hospital moved to a new building in 1914, after which the Lamborn was used as a business college, offices, and living quarters. The Lamborn Hotel building was demolished in 1972 as part of an urban renewal project, leaving a large and embarrassing “Big Hole,” which was not filled until the Sheraton Galleria Hotel opened in 1983. Today the Radisson Hotel and a mixed use residential-commercial building will occupy separate portions the site.

Studio portrait of Frank Plummer
by Arthur A. Bentley, 1885. SHSND
00638-00004.



FRANK PLUMMER

ca. 1854 - 1931



Frank Plummer, born enslaved in Nashville, Tennessee, came to Bismarck as a deckhand on a Coulson steamboat line. He served for more than a decade as the private secretary to the superintendent of the Coulson line in Bismarck, and then to the U.S. Marshall of Dakota Territory.

While living in Bismarck, Plummer proved up two homestead claims in Driscoll, despite being challenged over the residency requirement.

In 1885 Plummer became a bailiff in the Federal Court, based out of Fargo, but

often returned for extended court terms to Bismarck. An entrepreneur himself, Frank built and operated concession stands at the State Fairgrounds, and for the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, Frank was appointed to the highly desirable position of custodian of the North Dakota building.

In 1906, at his retirement he was recognized in state newspapers as the longest serving U.S. Court employee, 33 years, in fact, since the Federal Court's first session. In retirement, Frank volunteered, traveled, and sold fishing licenses and led popular fishing expeditions to Minnesota lakes.

1884

1886

LUM HING

1862 - 1955



Bismarck had a sizable Chinese population in its early days, many of whom had initially arrived as railroad workers. Others arrived as cooks for the steamboats or private families, or as day laborers. When, in 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, immigration of Chinese laborers was suspended, and restrictions were placed on Chinese persons already living and working in the U.S. Chinese women had already been banned from entering the U.S. with the passage of the Page Act of 1875.

Lum Hing was an entrepreneur who came to the U.S. in 1882, on the eve of the new immigration laws. He arrived in Bismarck soon after and opened

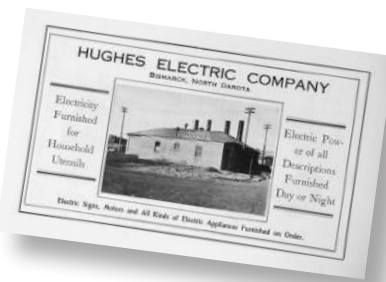
a laundry and Chinese bazaar on Fourth Street. On October 1, 1886, he began his Naturalization paperwork in Burleigh County and became the first Chinese American to vote in the state of North Dakota in 1889. Newspapers in Bismarck, Fargo, and Minneapolis carried the news of Lum Hing and the vote he cast for the Republican ticket.

Lum Hing was a popular and well-regarded member of the Bismarck community. He moved away from here after fire destroyed his downtown business, but Lum Hing's whereabouts continued to interest the friends he left behind in Bismarck and accounts of his life were often noted in the local newspaper.

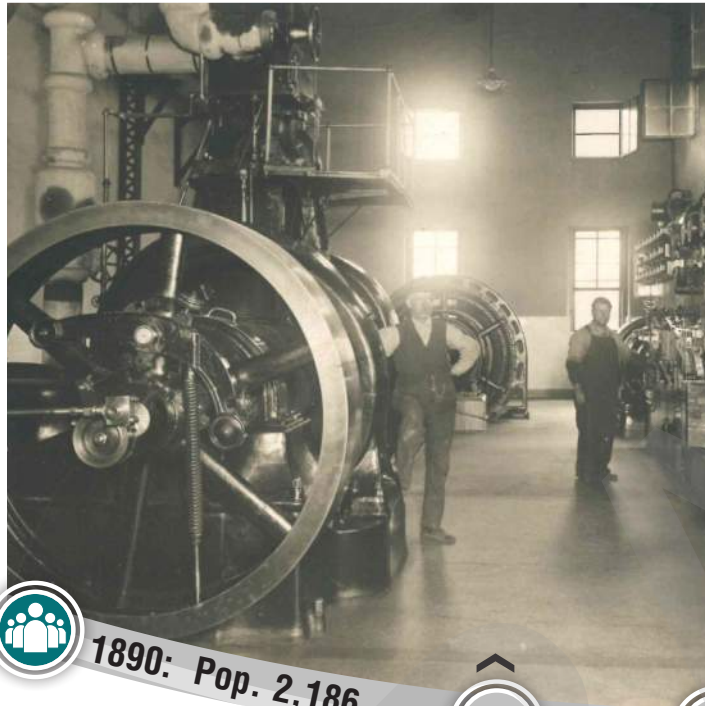


Studio portrait of Lum Hing
by L.D. Judkins, 1887. SHSND 00091-
0006-00181.

Right: Hughes Electric Company advertisement from the Bismarck Commercial Club's Bismarck: The Commercial Center of Western North Dakota and State Capital, 1906. North Dakota Histories Collection, ND State Library. 978.477 B542g Burleigh.



Below: Interior of the Hughes Electric Plant. Courtesy of MDU Resources Group, Inc.



EDMOND HUGHES AND HUGHES ELECTRIC COMPANY

1886



Entrepreneur Edmond A. Hughes was one of the state's most influential figures at the turn of the century. Along with his father and brother, he pioneered the use of lignite coal for electricity and established the Hughes Electric Company. His brother George invented the nation's first electric stove and served on the board of General Electric, and as President of Edison Electric.

In 1894, Hughes Electric Company was awarded a contract with the City to begin producing electricity for street lights, electric machines, a phone system, and a steam heating system. In addition to Hughes Electric Company, Edmond Hughes owned several lignite coal mines, telephone exchanges, served in the State Legislature, and commissioned construction of many of downtown's hotels and apartment buildings in the 1910s and 1930s. His wife Edith Wakeman Hughes was a socialite and philanthropist, known for her work on behalf of the Braille Institute of America.



1890: Pop. 2,186



1886



1898

FIRE OF BISMARCK

1898



On the evening of August 8, 1898, North Dakota Gov. Frank A. Briggs was dying of tuberculosis. As he spent his final hours on the porch of the Governors' Mansion, he had a clear view of what was transpiring a few blocks to the south. A little before 9:00 PM, a fire started in the Northern Pacific freight depot and burned portions of 13 blocks in downtown Bismarck. It was not controlled until 3:00 AM the following day and, adding to the gloom, Governor Briggs died at 9:30 AM. He was the youngest person elected governor in the state and the first to die in office.

Some credit the fire as the impetus for modernization of the downtown through the enactment of fire codes and construction of safe and more permanent structures.

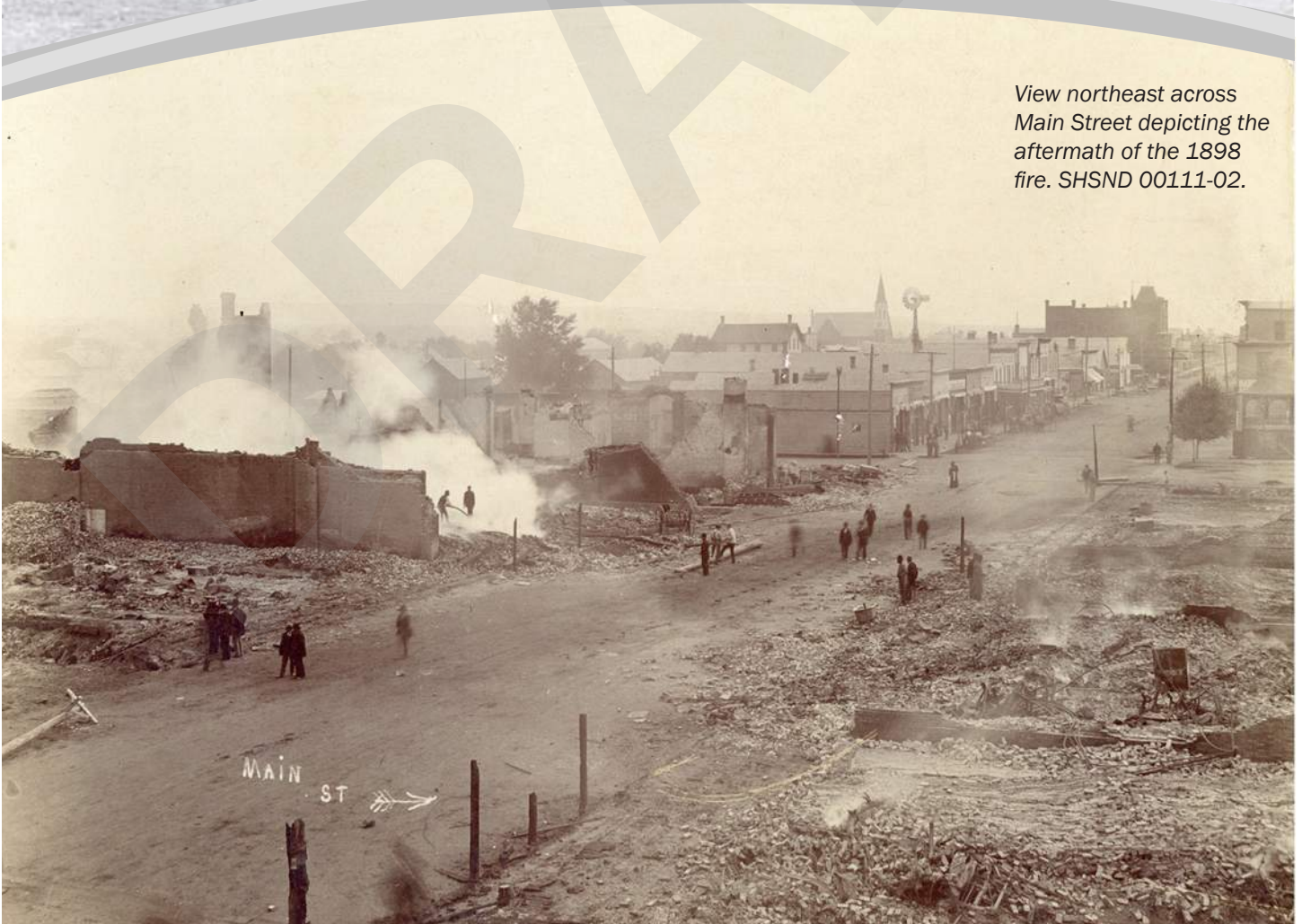


Maps produced by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company show the main burn area from the fire, but sparks carried by a southeasterly wind ignited separate fires on the 700 Block of Fourth Street and even prairie land north of the State Capitol.

Man stands in the rubble of downtown buildings destroyed by the fire, 1898. Note the fire hydrant is still standing. SHSND 00009.



View northeast across Main Street depicting the aftermath of the 1898 fire. SHSND 00111-02.

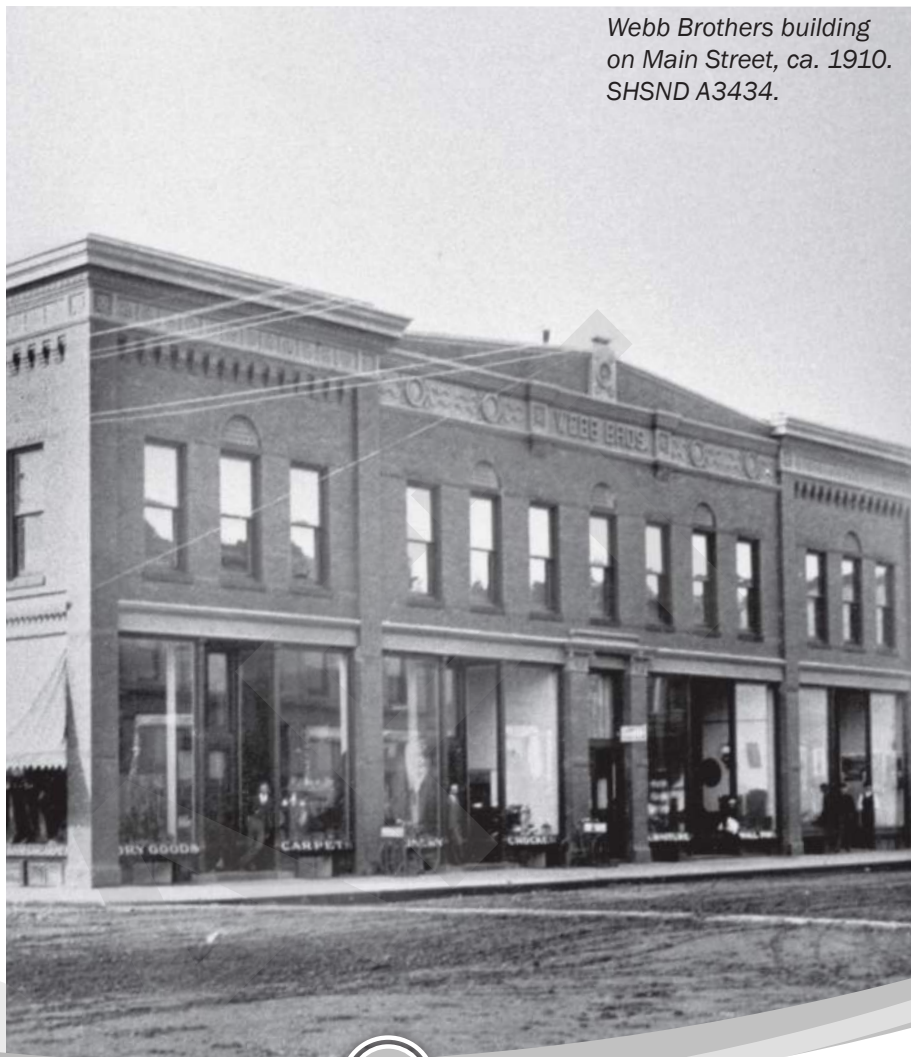


WEBB BLOCK CONSTRUCTION

1898



Brothers Philip R. and William H. Webb opened a furniture store in Bismarck in 1884. As was common at the time, the furniture makers also built coffins and served as undertakers in the community. Following the great fire that destroyed much of Bismarck's early downtown, Alexander McKenzie built a two-story brick building on the 300 block of East Main Avenue, where the Webb brothers opened a new department store in 1898. It eventually closed in 1945 and the space was leased to Sears Roebuck. Today, the building houses Zimmerman's Furniture.



Webb Brothers building on Main Street, ca. 1910. SHSND A3434.

1898

PATTERSON MOVING SHERIDAN HOUSE



1898

SHERIDAN HOUSE MOVED

1898



The Sheridan House was one of Bismarck's first hotels. It was first built in 1877 and was owned and operated by Edward G. Patterson. The original Sheridan House was the stopping point for thousands of immigrants who came here during the "Great Dakota Boom" of the late 19th Century. It was partially dismantled and moved in 1900 to make way for the Northern Pacific depot. It was rebuilt as the Northwest Hotel, at the southeast corner of Fifth Street and Main Avenue where it stood until a fire destroyed it in 1921.

The Sheridan House partially dismantled for relocation, 1891-1893. SHSND 10989-09-05.

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD DEPOT CONSTRUCTED

1901



The NP Railroad depot was completed in 1901 and was designed in the Spanish Mission style by Reed and Stem of St. Paul. The style was unique on the Northern Plains and was certainly evocative of western travel. Its tower domes were removed in 1954, but it remains one of downtown's most iconic structures. Curiously, four porcelain Kewpie dolls can be seen, incorporated in the marble-embedded stucco walls. Local lore holds that a group of workmen purchased the dolls from the five-and-dime store across the street and hid them throughout the building during construction.



Photograph of a train approaching the Northern Pacific Railroad depot by Frank Fiske, ca, 1910. SHSND 1952-0101.

1900: Pop. 3,319



1901

1902

QUAIN & RAMSTAD CLINIC

1902



Doctors from the Q&R Clinic with Niles O. Ramstad and Eric Quain seated behind a table, 1927. SHSND 5673-00001.

In 1902, Eric Quain and Niles Ramstad organized a medical partnership in Bismarck that is now the second-oldest medical clinic in the country (behind Mayo Clinic). The Quain & Ramstad Clinic, commonly known as the "Q&R Clinic", brought many new physicians and medical staff to the community and is closely linked to the growth and character of Bismarck.

Quain first arrived in Bismarck in 1898 and quickly discovered the local medical community had not yet accepted the germ theory of disease or adopted the practice of sterilization of surgical facilities and equipment. In 1900, he and his former med-school classmate Dr. Niles Ramstad founded the Q&R Clinic at the corner of Fifth Street and Thayer Avenue, in what is now the City/County Building. Of note: in 1903, Dr. Eric Quain married another well-known Bismarck doctor, Dr. Fannie Dunn Quain, who was the state's first licensed female physician. While she did not practice medicine with Quain & Ramstad, she did become a prominent leader in the medical community, organizing the North Dakota Tuberculosis Association.

FIRST STREETCAR IN BISMARCK

1904



North Dakota's first electric streetcar was tested in Bismarck on February 15, 1904. The trolley launched into regularly scheduled service between downtown and the capitol building by the end of March. In 1906 the electric line and the trolley were leased to the Hughes Electric Company to run. The trolley had one standard streetcar that accommodated 36 passengers. The trolley made its last run on February 28, 1931.



*The Capitol Streetcar, 1917.
SHSND 00071.*

1904

1906



*Crowd disposes of confiscated liquor behind the State Capitol, 1907.
SHSND 00006.*

"CLEANING UP" THE CITY OF BISMARCK

1906



North Dakota entered the United States as a dry state in 1889, but the various saloons and other businesses of ill repute in the downtown area did not quit running, despite multiple efforts to "clean up" the city. In late 1906, about thirty local businessmen met and decided that a new year meant a new start. The mayor, with their support, sent the sheriff and chief of police to shut down all of these businesses, which included places with card games, sale of alcohol at hotels, and blind pigs—also known as "speakeasies."

THE CATHEDRAL AREA HISTORIC DISTRICT A.K.A “THE HILL”

1906



In 1906 Clarence B. Little, an attorney, First National Bank president, and founder of the Provident Life Insurance Co., purchased property on the hill overlooking Bismarck’s early commercial core and built a stately home for himself. His Queen Anne and Shingle Style turreted mansion at 304 West Avenue A set the trend for other well-to-do Bismarck residents, who quickly bought up lots along Avenues A and B. The neighborhood became home to Bismarck’s most prominent figures, including politicians like Governor John Burke and Governor “Wild Bill” Langer; physicians like Dr. Lloyd A. Schipfer and Dr. Reuben Waldschmidt; businessmen like A. W. Mundy, owner of Bismarck’s A.W. Lucas and Co., and auto dealer Neil O. Churchill; and a myriad of other community leaders like George Mann, publisher of The Bismarck Tribune. Many of the homes built in this neighborhood were designed by regionally and even nationally renowned architects like

Arthur Van Horn, Frederick W. Keith, W.F. Kurke, Ashelman and Gage, and Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie, adding not only to the historic significance of the area, but to its eclectic aesthetic and charm.

The neighborhood, now known as the Cathedral Area because it includes the 1945 Art Moderne Cathedral of the Holy Spirit (520 North Raymond Street.), has retained much of its historic character. Some streets, like Avenue C, are still lined with American Elms that form a lush green canopy. A handful of curved steel rods, known as “buggy guards” are visible in the curbs at some intersections and remind us of the horse-and-buggy days when the earliest houses were built. Even Washington Street., the major thoroughfare that transects the neighborhood, was thoughtfully re-designed in recent years to move traffic efficiently while simultaneously preserving the integrity of Cathedral Area. The area was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and is Bismarck’s first historic district. Its boundaries capture a variety of architectural styles, from modestly-sized Storybook and Tudor Revival bungalows to handsome Craftsman homes and Regal Colonial Revivals. The district tells the story of Bismarck’s prosperity in the first half of the 20th century.



Above: Photo montage of house at the intersection of Washington Street and Avenue B, located in the Cathedral District. Photo at left by Emily Sakariassen. Photo at right from the National Register of Historic Places. Montage by Will Hutchings. Upper right: Bismarck Cathedral District logo.

BISMARCK INDIAN SCHOOL

1907 - 1937



The Bismarck Indian School was founded in 1907 at the site of present-day Fraine Barracks. It was one of about 30 off-reservation schools for Indian children operated by the federal government nationwide in an era when federal policy toward Indian tribes focused on assimilation. Students were forced to abandon traditional clothing and hair styles and were subjected to harsh punishment for speaking their native languages. Aside from academic studies, Indian schools focused on developing farming skills for boys and domestic skills for girls.

Congress first approved construction of a non-reservation boarding school between the Fort Berthold and Standing Rock reservations in 1901. Originally, Mandan was the intended location. But the federal government instead accepted a donation of 160 acres overlooking the Missouri River from the City of Bismarck.

Congress appropriated \$50,000 for construction of the Bismarck Indian School, and the funds were released in 1906.

The main buildings were completed in late 1907 and the first classes were held on December 11, 1908.

W.R. Davis was the first superintendent of the Bismarck Indian School, having previously overseen Indian schools in Minnesota and South Dakota. On his first visit to Standing Rock, he found that most parents, aware of the harsh treatment at other Indian Schools, refused to send their children to the new school at Bismarck. Only 19 boys and girls returned to Bismarck with Davis, but enrollment increased by the end of the first year.

In 1937, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced plans to close the Bismarck Indian School and focus instead on day schools on or close to the reservations. On June 19, 1937, the school's last graduating class received their diplomas, and the school was officially closed on June 30.

Postcard depicting the Bismarck Indian School, ca. 1920. SHSND 00125-01.

1907



Classroom of students at the Bismarck Indian School, 1933. SHSND 2018-P-062-00022.



EDWARD G. PATTERSON

1866 - 1922



Edward G. Patterson arrived in Bismarck, Dakota Territory in 1882 at age 16. He would spend the rest of his life in Bismarck, involved in politics and commerce. He served as Bismarck's Mayor and as a Councilman and/or County Commissioner for nearly three decades, from 1896 to 1926. He was a close friend and confidant of political boss Alexander McKenzie, even naming the McKenzie Hotel (later the Patterson Hotel) after his friend. Patterson (and McKenzie) had a hand in the selection and election of numerous state and local politicians and judges, as well as governors, senators and congressmen.

The McKenzie Hotel opened on New Year's Day, 1911. At 7 stories, it was the tallest building in the state for many years. It was also the social and political epicenter of Bismarck. It's guest list included Theodore Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, Lyndon Johnson, John F. Kennedy, Joe Louis, Jack Dempsey and many other notables. Ed Patterson's political interests waned after McKenzie's death in 1922, but he continued to play host to the traveling public until his death in his hotel apartment, Suite 300, in 1945.



Clockwise from upper left: Postcards of the Patterson Hotel on Main Avenue, Federal Building on Broadway Avenue, the former Methodist Church on North Fifth Street and Thayer Avenue, and the former Public Library on Thayer Avenue. Courtesy of Jason Tomanek.

BUILDING BOOM

1900s - 1930s



Bismarck prospered at the turn of the century. European immigration swelled, agricultural prices rose, and North Dakota became the number one wheat-producing state. Bismarck was a regional distribution center and this "Second Dakota Boom" ushered growth and new construction. Large stone and brick public buildings, churches, and commercial structures replaced wood-framed buildings of yesteryear. Some of the most notable are no longer standing, like the beloved Carnegie Public Library destroyed in the 1980s. Others are considered anchors of the downtown business district to this day, like the Belle Mehus Auditorium and the Patterson Building.



1910: Pop. 5,443



1911



1915

THE ARVANITIS BROTHERS

1915



In 1915, the state census reported 1,083 Greek-American residents in the state. That same year, brothers George and Sam Arvanitis arrived in Bismarck. The two were natives of Trivolis, Greece, who had first settled in Montana before joining their cousin Charles Pappas in Bismarck. Together, they opened the Eagle Shoe Shining parlor located in a one-story brick addition on the back of the A.W. Lucas department store on Broadway Avenue, between Third and Fourth Streets.

Like many of Bismarck's Greek immigrants, though considered "aliens," the Arvanitis brothers enthusiastically supported America's efforts in the Great War. They enlisted in Bismarck and served on the frontlines in Europe. Charles Pappas was unable to serve in the military but became one of the many prominent Burleigh County residents who financially fostered orphaned French children for a year or more after the war. He remained in Bismarck and continued to operate the Eagle Shoe Shining parlor, as well as several other Greek businesses including the Eagle Hat Factory and, along with business partner William Kontos, the Olympic Candy Store and ice cream parlor on Third Street.

RISE OF THE NONPARTISAN LEAGUE

1915 - 1921



The Nonpartisan League (NPL) dominated ND politics in the era during and after World War I, promising to stand up for farmers against the power of railroads, Minneapolis grain mills, and other out-of-state corporate interests. The NPL's heyday was relatively short lived, but the party enacted sweeping reforms and continued to influence state politics for decades. The NPL eventually merged with the state Democratic Party in 1956, forming the Democratic-Nonpartisan League Party.

Four of the most influential leaders of the NPL were Arthur C. Townley, the party's primary founder and chief spokesman; Lynn Frazier, the first NPL governor; William "Wild Bill" Langer, attorney general and an eventual governor; and William Lemke, the second NPL attorney general.

The party's Capital City headquarters was located in the Northwest Hotel and then the Patterson Hotel, both owned by influential NPL member, Ed Patterson.

Shortly after its founding in 1915, the NPL began to dominate state government.

Frazier was elected governor in 1916 with 79% of the vote, Langer served as attorney general from 1917 to 1920, and Lemke succeeded him as attorney general in 1921. The NPL took control of both houses of the state legislature in 1918, and quickly moved forward with a reform agenda, including establishing the Bank of North Dakota, the North Dakota State Mill and Elevator, a state-owned hail insurance agency, and the Industrial Commission.

Ironically, one of the reforms established by the NPL – a state constitutional amendment giving citizens the power to recall public officials – was used against Frazier and Lemke. Mismanagement of the Bank of North Dakota and other scandals involving favoritism and sweetheart deals for NPL leaders led to a recall election in 1921. Lemke survived, but Frazier was removed from office by about 4,000 votes, making him the first governor in America to be removed from office by recall election. Frazier would go on to represent North Dakota in the U.S. Senate from 1923 to 1940, and Lemke represented North Dakota in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1943 to 1950.



Left to right:
The Nonpartisan
League goat mascot
and pennant
displayed at the
North Dakota
Heritage Center.
Photos by Blake
Dinkins. Cover of
the Nonpartisan.
Wikimedia Commons.

U.S. HIGHWAY 10 / "THE RED TRAIL"

1915

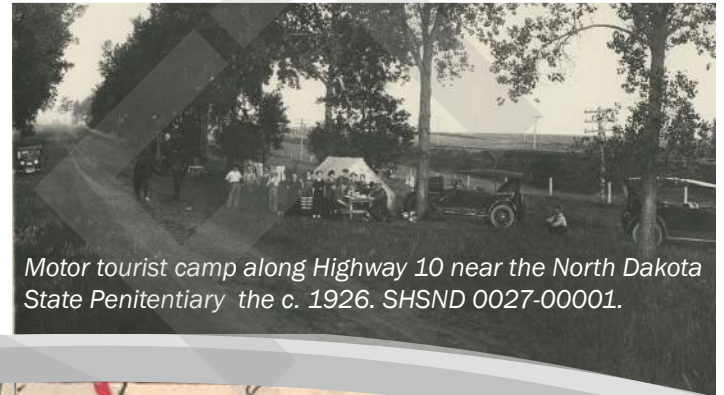


In 1915, Bismarck's Good Roads boosters and its Commercial Club met frequently to organize road building and to promote auto tourism. Bismarck had recently emerged as a waypoint along the transcontinental transportation corridor known as the "Red Trail" that stretched from Chicago to Spokane, linking metropolitan areas and national parks. The stretch through North Dakota was advertised as "the Smooth Road Through the Summer Playground."

The Red Trail was informally marked and Bismarck's hotels, auto repair garages, and gas stations began to advertise as "official" establishments of the Red Trail. Local auto promoters put Red Trail emblems on their cars. The Corwin Motor Company at 122 Main Avenue put its gas pump in a bright red sentry house with Red Trail markings on three sides and an electric light on top. Because Memorial Bridge had not yet been built, businessmen organized to improve the ferry system across the river.

By 1921, with tourist traffic growing, Bismarck established its first auto camp on the east end of the City, near the penitentiary. The Bismarck tourist camp grew to be a well-equipped, free camp that could accommodate 25 cars per night. The camp was used by Red Trail travelers from every state in the union and generated enough profit to entirely pay for itself and all its improvements.

In 1923, the Red Trail was paved from the east end of Bismarck, through town and west to the Memorial bridge, becoming Burleigh County's first and longest paved concrete highway. In 1927, a national highway numbering system was implemented, and the road was designated U.S. Highway 10.



Motor tourist camp along Highway 10 near the North Dakota State Penitentiary the c. 1926. SHSND 0027-00001.



Top to bottom: Detail of a North Dakota State Highway Department road map depicting the Old Red Trail, 1928. SHSND 388.1 N864n; Top to bottom: Detail of a North Dakota State Highway Department road map depicting the Old Red Trail, 1928. SHSND 388.1 N864n; Old road signs of Highway 10: www.usends.com/10.html; Clipping from the Bismarck Tribune, May 20, 1915; Clipping from the Bismarck Tribune, May 20, 1915.

SUFFRAGE IN BISMARCK

1917



When the Constitutional Convention met in Bismarck in July 1889, delegates bandied around the idea of including suffrage as part of North Dakota's constitution. Although this was not to be, women were granted the right to vote in school elections and hold school offices, as they had in the Dakota Territory. Moreover, the delegates ensured that future voters in the state could enact suffrage in the state by a vote. Thereafter, the topic of suffrage arose frequently at legislative sessions, and several times went before the voters.

By 1917, women in the state had received partial suffrage. North Dakota became the 20th state to ratify the 19th Amendment

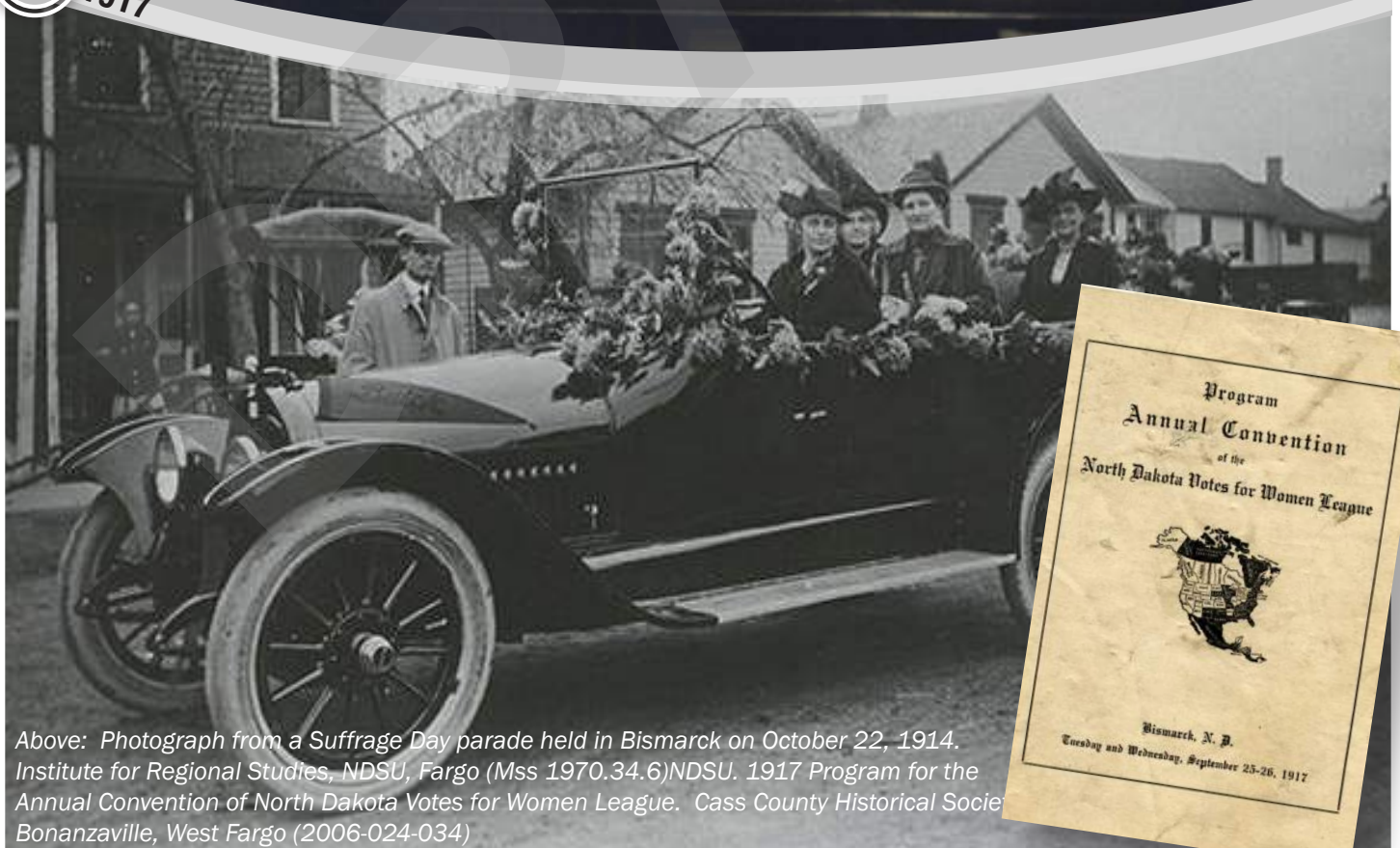
at a legislative special session held in Bismarck in December 1919. Women in the state were able to vote in their first presidential primary in March 1920, but numbers were down due to a blizzard in the area. Decent fall weather, however, was predicted in November 1920, for the first presidential election open to women voters, and many were expected to turn out for this historic election. In Bismarck, women eagerly gathered outside polls before they opened.

The Bismarck Tribune reported that twenty-five nuns from St. Alexius and twelve from St. Mary's marched to the polls, with three nuns the first to vote at one poll. Multiple women of advanced age voted, including Mrs. Joanna Brennan and Mrs. E.S. Pierce, who were "among the oldest." Men and women mixed in line at the polls, which The Bismarck Tribune noted, "was a strange sight to an old-time politician."



Governor Frazier signing women suffrage bill in 1917. Institute for Regional Studies, NDSU, Fargo (1942.2.3).

1917



Above: Photograph from a Suffrage Day parade held in Bismarck on October 22, 1914. Institute for Regional Studies, NDSU, Fargo (Mss 1970.34.6) NDSU. 1917 Program for the Annual Convention of North Dakota Votes for Women League. Cass County Historical Society, Bonanzaville, West Fargo (2006-024-034)



1917

"THE GREAT WAR"

1917 - 1919



When war erupted in Europe in 1914, the United States had pledged neutrality. But following Germany's announcement that their U-boats would target any and all ships in the vicinity of the British Isles—neutral or not—Congress voted to declare war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

Some North Dakotans were hesitant to break diplomatic ties with Germany. But once the United States entered the war, despite North Dakota's strong German roots, patriotism took over and an anti-German fever swept through the state as it did across the nation. Men and women alike scrambled to join up. A total of 28,000 North Dakotans served in World War I. The first called to service were the men of the Second Battalion of the North Dakota National Guard—companies from Bismarck, Mandan, Jamestown, Dickinson, and Lisbon. Their duty was to guard the NP Railroad Bridge over the Missouri River at Bismarck, and other bridges across the state. They were then sent to Fort Lincoln, south of Bismarck, for mobilization and sent to training for overseas duties, where they were renamed the 164th Infantry.

Many men enlisted or were drafted. Others such as Dr. Eric Quain, founder of the Q&R Clinic in Bismarck, served in the Red Cross. Former Governor Louis B. Hanna served as the chairman of the Liberty Loan drives in 1917 and 1918 and went overseas with the Red Cross. Youth of all ages participated however they could. One program that encouraged conservation of resources on the home front, encouraged youth to "tag" coal shovels with a note: "Save that Shovelful of Coal a Day for Uncle Sam." One of the first shovels to be tagged in Bismarck was Governor Lynn Frazier's, by his twin daughters, Unie and Versie.

But not everyone backed the war. John H. Wishek, of McIntosh County, was charged with sedition for proliferating pro German propaganda and discouraging the sale of war bonds in Bismarck. His trial kicked up more anti-German sentiment. Authorities in Bismarck even received letters demanding that the City of Bismarck change its name.

Germany surrendered to the Allied Nations (the United States, Britain, France, Italy, and Russia) on November 11, 1918—originally commemorated as Armistice Day and now, Veterans Day. In March 1919, Bismarck celebrated the return of its brave soldiers with meals and dances to honor the boys who had been so long "over there."

FLU PANDEMIC

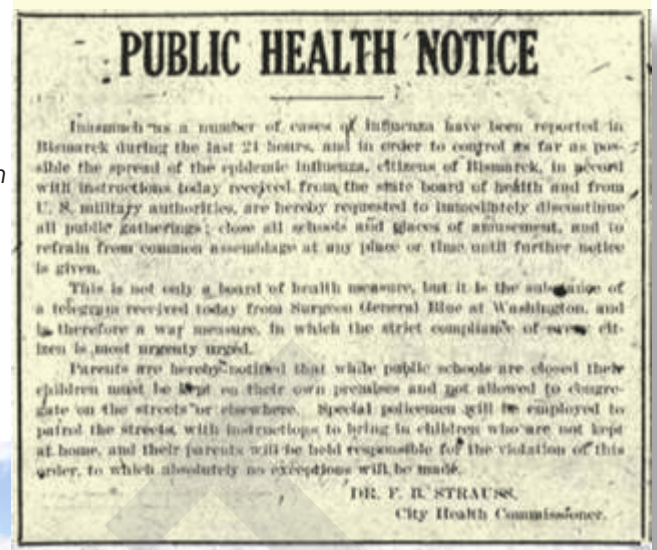
1918 - 1920



The Great Influenza pandemic (often referred to as the “Spanish Flu” pandemic) arrived in North Dakota in the fall of 1918 and struck Bismarck in early October that year. Schools, churches and theaters closed, and meetings and gatherings were canceled. Bismarck had a mask mandate for waitresses and others handling food. People found loitering or congregating on Bismarck streets were subject to arrest. The 1919 Legislature met amid the pandemic, with some lawmakers leaving their hospital beds to vote on major bills. The flu waned in early 1919, but resurfaced a year later in 1920.

Right: Clipping from the Bismarck Tribune, October 9, 1918.

Below: The grave of Henry and Meta Eigell, who died days apart in December 1918 from pneumonia, which was a common, fatal complication of Spanish flu. A double funeral was held for the couple. Photo taken in St. Mary's Cemetery. Photo by Jack Dura.



1918

1920

1920: Pop. 7,122

ELKS MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL

1920



Bismarck's first municipal swimming pool, the Elks Pool, opened on July 30, 1920, after a citywide fundraising campaign led by the local Elks Lodge B.P.O.E. 1199. Children of the city helped the drive by “selling” sacks of cement, door to door, until the equivalent of 3,000 sacks had been sold, plus enough for 10 tons of steel and other material.

The original pool was 100 feet by 125 feet, with white sand lining the shallow end. A bathing house was built, with dressing rooms where swimmers stashed their street clothing.

There was no shade or shelter to be had around the perimeter of the pool, where sun-bathers and swimmers laid their towels on the hot concrete. Teenage lifeguards, wearing white zinc oxide on their noses sat on raised chairs at the pool's edge and, during breaks, patrolled the edges of the pool twirling their whistles on lanyards.

The Elks Pool was the center of summer life for generations of Bismarck children. In 2005, the pool had mechanical issues and the 72-year old Elks Municipal Swimming Pool and bathhouse were demolished. A new swimming pool for all ages was built, smaller in size but including a waterslide and other familiar amenities.



Swimmers enjoy the Bismarck Elks Municipal Pool, 1921. SHSND 00043.

LIBERTY MEMORIAL BRIDGE

1920 

The first automobile bridge across the Missouri River in North Dakota was the Liberty Memorial Bridge, built in 1920. Prior to its completion, drivers relied on the local ferries, but they were slow, unreliable, and seasonal.

When the bridge was dedicated, it was christened “The Liberty Memorial Bridge,” in memory of the North Dakota men and women who had served in the Great War. Inscribed boulders were placed at both ends of the bridge by the North Dakota Chapter of the American War Mothers.

The Liberty Memorial Bridge sparked a major increase in traffic to the area. Until completion of the I-94 Grant Marsh Bridge in 1965, it remained the main travel corridor between Bismarck and Mandan and provided a vital east-west link for transcontinental travelers.

Many remember when the deck of the bridge had no asphalt, only metal grating, and the bridge hummed when driven over. The river was visible through the grate when looking straight down from above.

By the early 2000s, the stone piers had begun to deteriorate and bridge needed significant repair. It had been designed to have a 50-70 year life span, but was 84 years old when construction on its replacement began in June 2006. A new bridge was formally dedicated on November 11, 2008. The old humming Liberty Memorial Bridge was demolished with explosive charges and removed in pieces from the riverbed.



Above: Detail of dedication plaque of the Liberty Memorial Bridge. Historic American Engineering Record HAER ND,8-BISMA,2- (Library of Congress). Below: Postcard of the Liberty Memorial Bridge. Courtesy of Jason Tomanek.



VAN HORN AND RITTERBUSH ARCHITECTS

1920



Van Horn and Ritterbush Architects, later Ritterbush Associates, P.C. is one of the state's oldest practicing architecture firms. It began in 1920 when established Bismarck Architect Arthur Van Horn (known for works like the Bismarck Civic Auditorium/Belle Mehus and the Prince Hotel, formerly known as the "Van Horn Hotel") joined forces with brothers Clarence and Robert A. Ritterbush. Van Horn and the Ritterbush brothers had all been introduced to design and construction by way of family business. Van Horn sought formal training at the Cooper Institute in New York City prior to moving to Bismarck in 1883. The younger Ritterbush brothers attended the Ohio Mechanics Institute in Cincinnati and received additional training in carpentry as part of their

service in the aviation section of the Navy during World War I.

From 1920 to 1929, Van Horn and Ritterbush Architects completed over 80 projects throughout the state, the majority of which were located in the Bismarck-Mandan area. The Mason Apartments on the corner of Second Street and Broadway Avenue in Bismarck, the Youth Correctional Center west of Mandan, and public works like the Logan and Hettinger County courthouses and Valley City Municipal Auditorium illustrate their reach. The Ritterbush brothers continued to practice after the death of Arthur Van Horn in 1931, and though it has evolved through the generations, a variant of the firm still operates in Bismarck.



Arthur Van Horn and John Philbrick at their Seventh Street office. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library (Bismarck: Capital City Memories RB-39).

Below, left to right: Postcard of the City Auditorium, now the Belle Mehus, on North Sixth Street. and the former High School. Courtesy of Jason Tomanek.



1920

1927

RIVERSIDE SERTOMA PARK

1927



Bismarck's Sertoma Park was initially known as Riverside Park. The land was purchased by the Park Board in 1927, and for its first years the park was home to Bismarck's official Highway 10 Tourist Camp. The camp included 22 cabins, a caretaker's house, a shower house, modern lavatories, a kitchen, picnic areas, swing sets, a bandstand, and a backstop for baseball.

In 1934, the park became the headquarter for Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). A company of 30 CCC men began improvements to the park grounds, cutting thistles and poison ivy, and trimming dead timber, pouring footings for new picnic shelters, building foot bridges over dry beds, and building trails.

In 1959, the Sertoma Club took over maintenance of Riverside Park and it soon became known as Sertoma Riverside Park.

By 1972, Sertoma Riverside Park had a total acreage of 584.8 acres and included the 18-hole Riverwood Golf course, an amusement park, a zoo, four baseball diamonds, a tiny tot play area, and six tennis courts.



Sertoma-Riverside Park is a popular spot in the summer. Newspaper clipping from *The Bismarck Tribune*, Sunday February 24, 1985.

Hearty citizens braved the cold to pull a fire truck up an icy hill to reach the blaze. Secretary of State Robert Byrne climbed a ladder to his office and handed important documents out the window, the last being the original state constitution.

EXTRA THE BISMARCK TRIBUNE EXTRA

ESTABLISHED 1875

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1900

PRICE FIVE CENTS

FIRE DESTROYS STATE CAPITOL

Explosion Held Cause of Blaze Which Brings Loss Totaling Millions

Fire today destroyed the state capital building within a few hours after the blaze was discovered at 7:55 o'clock this morning.

Cause of fire was undetermined as the flames finished the work of licking through the huge frame structure but Joseph Winkel, 65, janitor and night watchman, said he heard an explosion in or near the office of the state engineer and immediately after that sound as of something falling downstairs.

He rushed to investigate, saw the flames and called the fire department. Streams of water were playing on the building within a few minutes but it burned the faster. With the blaze well under way there never was a chance of halting it with the fire-fighting equipment available.

Although officials would say nothing this morning because they appeared too startled to talk, it is regarded as certain that a searching investigation will be made into the blaze.

LOSS TO RUN, INTO MILLIONS

The loss had not been officially estimated this morning but it will run into the millions.

An official list, compiled after brief conversations with officials or employees of various departments, follows:

State Land Department—Records of investments totaling \$55,000,000.

State Treasurer's Office—Records of investments totaling more than \$40,000,000.

State Highway Department—Profiles and plans for work valued at between \$200,000 and \$500,000.

State Railroad Board—Records which cost the department hundreds of thousands of dollars in copies.

State Auditor Office—Records and documents of policies described but "worth a great deal" according to John Long and Henry Sullivan.

Many Department Records Lost

Board of Administration—The records and accounts of all state institutions.

SECRETARY OF STATE CUTS HAND SAVING ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION

Secretary of State Robert Brown was the only member of the fire which destroyed the capital building.

GOES UP IN SMOKE

LEADING FINANCIER OF ENGLAND, LORD MELCHETT, IS DEAD

Former Sir Alfred Melchett, Bart.

London, Dec. 23.—Lord Melchett, the famous English financier, died at his residence in London today.

He was 70 years of age and had been a member of the House of Lords since 1885.

Lord Melchett was a member of the House of Commons from 1875 to 1885.

He was a member of the House of Lords since 1885.

He was a member of the House of Commons from 1875 to 1885.

He was a member of the House of Lords since 1885.

He was a member of the House of Commons from 1875 to 1885.

Blaze on two sides of the state capital building which the fire destroyed in Minneapolis morning.

At the top is a view from the east and the other from the west.

The fire started in the morning and spread rapidly.

The fire started in the morning and spread rapidly.

DEMOCRATS FAIL TO INDUCE BROOKHART TO VOTE WITH THEM

Irona Senator Continues Party "Far Right" Movement

A Program

Washington, Dec. 23.—Senator Brookhart today announced a program and declared Brookhart, Republican, today, when asked to indicate his vote after this in response to the call.

Brookhart had refused to vote with the Democrats in the House of Representatives.

The other side was the Democrats.

The other side was the Democrats.

The other side was the Democrats.

The other side was the Democrats.

Minneapolis Dispatch

WILLIAM H. TAYLOR, INDIAN SCOUT.



THE GREAT DEPRESSION

1930s



October 28, 1929 is remembered in history as “Black Monday”—the day the stock market crashed, launching the country into the Great Depression. But times were already hard on the Great Plains and, in North Dakota, a shifting social and political climate intermingled with extreme weather conditions affecting agriculture to create a particularly challenging set of circumstances.

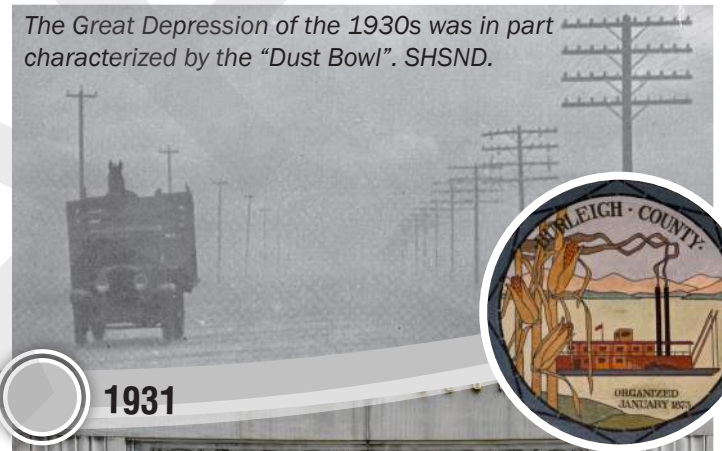
Bismarck, despite being an urban center, experienced many of the setbacks and losses felt elsewhere in the state during the Dust Bowl era. In November 1933, 64-mile per hour winds caused severe damage, cutting electricity and communication lines, breaking windows, upending trees, and injuring at least one person. A plane at the Municipal airport was even moved from its moorings! In March of 1935, The Bismarck Tribune reported on one of many dust storms that

plagued the state. The dust came blowing in from Montana and, inevitably, the winds dried out the area’s topsoil.

Difficulties residents faced here and across the country necessitated the establishment of government-sponsored relief efforts. Federal projects provided employment for out-of-work North Dakotans. One example is the Historical Data Project, through which historical and personal data of residents of North Dakota was collected as part of the Federal Writers’ Project. Today, that collection is housed and accessible at the North Dakota State Archives.

By July in 1934, E. A. Willson, North Dakota’s Federal Emergency Relief Administration chief, reported that nearly one-third of the population of the state, or more than 200,000 people, were receiving some form of relief. By 1938, the federal government had granted more than \$350,000,000 in aid to the state.

The Great Depression of the 1930s was in part characterized by the “Dust Bowl”. SHSND.



1930: Pop. 11,090



1930

1931

BURLEIGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

1931



Bismarck has been the county seat of Burleigh County since 1873, when the county was formed. The current county courthouse at 514 East Thayer Avenue, was designed by Ira Rush and built by Redlinger & Hansen in 1931 to replace the 1881 brick structure. It is an excellent example of the Art Deco style and contains numerous regionally and historically-inspired murals, including several painted by local artist, Clell Gannon.



Left: Aluminum panels with Art Deco motifs on the exterior of the Burleigh County Courthouse. Photo by Blake Dinkins. Upper right: Detail of the Seal of Burleigh County. Above: Entrance of Burleigh County Courthouse. Photo by Justine Thompson.

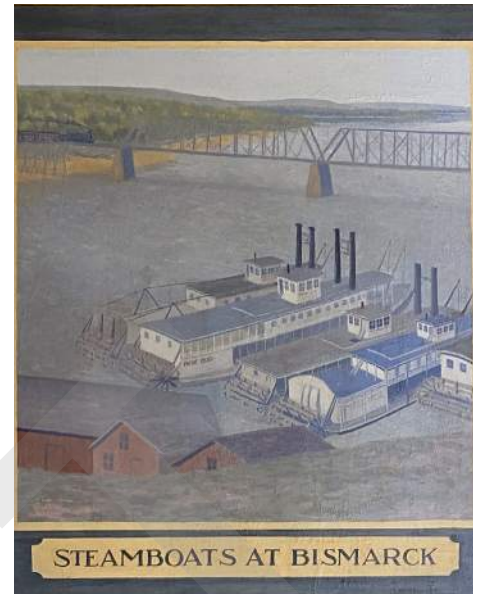
CLELL GANNON

1900 - 1962



Clell Gannon was a Bismarck painter and poet, trained at the Art Institute of Chicago. Raised on a farm near Underwood, ND, his art was inspired by the landscape, wildlife, and history of the Great Plains. He is best-known for his murals in the vestibule of the 1931 Burleigh County Courthouse and bound poetry collection *Songs of the Bunch Grass Acres*. Gannon is also remembered for his commercial art—he designed catalog covers and product labels for the Oscar H. Will & Co. seed company. Upon Gannon's death in 1962, *The Bismarck Tribune* touted him as “one of North Dakota's leading artists.”

Gannon was closely associated with two other prominent Bismarck men—George Will and Russell Reid, both of whom served terms as the director of the State Historical Society. The three made early strides in documenting North Dakota's history through their overlapping interests in archaeology, ethnography, photography, literature, and art.



Above: Detail of mural by Clell Gannon of steamboats along the Missouri River located at the Burleigh County Courthouse. Photo by Blake Dinkins. Left: Clell Gannon, 1925. SHSND 00402.

1930s



The spire on the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit exhibits strong vertical lines and abstract geometric imagery typical of the Art Deco and Moderne styles. Photo by Blake Dinkins.

ART DECO AND ART MODERNE ARCHITECTURE IN BISMARCK

1930s - 1940s



Bismarck has a wealth of Art Deco architecture, characterized by a “streamlined” look with stylized abstract and geometric decoration. During the late 1920s through the 1930s Art Deco became increasingly popular in the U.S. Arguably the finest example is the Chrysler Building in New York City, completed in 1930. The style was often used in skyscrapers, but was also a popular choice for civic buildings, but in less luxuriant forms. Building materials such as decorated reinforced concrete or stone, and embossed metal panels offered an economic balance between practicality and ornament necessary for public projects. Use of these materials and the Art Deco style came to symbolize modernity and progress, moving forward from the Neo-Classical

1930s - 1940s

and Federalist styles often used for institutional buildings.

Bismarck's most notable example of Art Deco architecture is the North Dakota State Capitol, completed in 1934. A unique feature of the 19-story “Skyscraper of the Prairie” is the absence of a Neo-Classical dome – a rare choice for a capitol building. Due to the economic challenges of the Great Depression, many Art Deco features were eliminated from the capitol design, but several remain.

Other excellent examples of Art Deco style in Bismarck include the Burleigh County Courthouse (1931), with its embossed aluminum panels, bronze doors, and decorative cut stone, and the World War Memorial Building. The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit (1945), with its dramatic verticality, bas-relief panels, and stark white exterior, exemplifies the Art Moderne architectural style, which takes the sleek and stream-lined principles of Art Deco even further.



Portrait of William Langer, ca. 1925. NDSU.

WILLIAM "WILD BILL" LANGER

1886 - 1939



William "Wild Bill" Langer is one of the most famous names in North Dakota political history. Langer was born near Casselton in 1886 and studied law at the University of North Dakota and Columbia University before starting his legal practice in Mandan. An early leader of the Nonpartisan League (NPL), Langer was elected state attorney general in 1916. He eventually clashed with NPL founder Arthur C. Townley, who he accused of Bolshevism, and unsuccessfully challenged incumbent NPL governor Lynn Frazier in 1920.

Langer was first elected governor in 1932. As governor, Langer required all state employees to donate part of their salaries to the NPL and its weekly newspaper, the Leader. While not technically illegal under state law at the time, the U.S. Attorney for North Dakota deemed those "donations" as defrauding the federal government, as most highway department employees were paid through federal relief programs. Langer was found guilty and sentenced to eighteen months in prison. On July 17, 1934, the North Dakota Supreme Court ordered that Langer be removed from office and replaced by Lieutenant Governor Ole Olson. Langer initially refused to leave office and declared martial law, but eventually agreed to step down.

After a retrial, Langer was acquitted on all charges and was reelected governor in 1936. He went on to serve as U.S. Senator from North Dakota from 1941 until his death on November 8, 1959.

1932

1934

NEW STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

1934



The State Capitol building was completed in 1934, replacing the 1884 brick structure that burned in December 1930. The new Art Deco style, 19-story Capitol was designed by the renowned Chicago firm of Holabird & Root, in collaboration with architects Joseph Bell DeRemer of Grand Forks and W.F. Kurke of Fargo. It is unique among statehouses for not featuring a dome. The State Capitol, often referred to as the "Skyscraper on the Prairie", stands about 242 feet high and one of the tallest buildings in the state.

The Capitol was constructed amid the Great Depression at a cost of about \$2 million. In the spring of 1933, unskilled laborers working on its construction went on strike, demanding a raise from 30 cents to 50 cents an hour. Several days into the strike, a fight broke out and five picketers were jailed. Negotiations with the strikers took a break over Memorial Day, but Gov. Langer declared martial law in Bismarck, calling in the National Guard. The strikers and contractors reached a deal with the governor the next day for a raise to 40 cents an hour. The strike set construction back 12 days.

The Bismarck Tribune commemorated the new Capitol in a 40-page special edition in 1934.



Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library (Bismarck: Capital City Memories 1c-87)

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT AND THE FEDERAL RELIEF ERA

1936

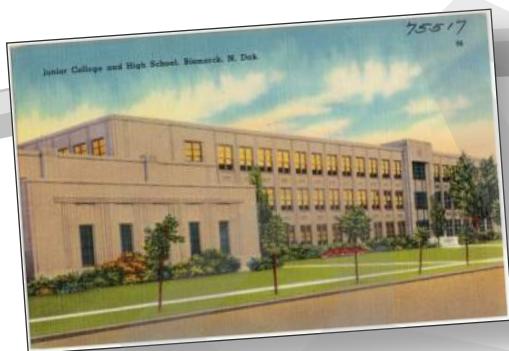


In August 1936, president Franklin Delano Roosevelt arrived in Bismarck on his tour of nine drought-stricken states in the west, observing conditions firsthand. Roosevelt had been elected in 1933 and within the first 100 days of his term, created a host of agencies and programs aimed at stemming the Great Depression through development of national infrastructure. Among his administration's "alphabet soup" of relief agencies were the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), Public Works Administration (PWA), Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA). Federal Relief programs created jobs and put men, women, and even youth to work. The Works Progress/Projects Administration (WPA), for example, employed 61,000 North Dakotans by the mid-1930s and left a particularly lasting legacy in public architecture and engineering.



Left: WPA promotional poster by Vera Bock, 1936. Library of Congress LC-DIG-ds-04632

Below: President Franklin D. Roosevelt speaks to a crowd from a train car stopped at the Bismarck Depot, 1936. SHSND.



1936

Postcard of Bismarck High School. Courtesy of Jason Tomanek.

1936

1930s - 1940s



Floyd N. Boutrous in front of his parents' store, Corner Grocery, circa 1935. Mark Erickson ©2022. Used with Permission

A NEW BISMARCK HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

1936



The current Bismarck High School building was built in the 1930s to replace the 1912 high school building, already deemed insufficient to meet the needs of Bismarck's rapidly growing student body. The Ritterbush Brothers Architects designed the new school in the Art Deco style and the original marble and brass finishes are still found throughout the interior. Maurice Schumacher, general contractor, began work on the new school September 7, 1934, and the new building was able to be occupied on September 9, 1935, though the building wasn't officially finished until 1936. Numerous additions have been made over the years to accommodate more students and activities—the most recent of which was the north auditorium built in 2018.

SYRIAN-LEBANESE IMMIGRANTS

1930s - 1940s



Beginning in the late 1920s and early 1930s, a number of Syrian-Lebanese immigrant families operated grocery stores and other businesses in Bismarck. Many of them started humbly as "Prairie Peddlers," selling dry goods, rugs and other wares throughout the region. Attas and Della Boutrous owned Corner Grocery on the northwest corner of Avenue A and 3rd Street, not far from Bashara's grocery store on Third Street, owned and operated by Helen Bashara Schermister. Mahfouz "George" Saba owned George's Food Market at 311 Seventh Street. The Nicola family owned a restaurant and bowling alley on Broadway.

Carry Bismarck's Hopes in National Tournament at Wichita



1930s

BISMARCK BASEBALL AND SACHEL PAIGE

1930s



The first record of a baseball game in Bismarck is August 10, 1873 when the “Bismarck and Camp Hancock Baseball Club” defeated the “D Company, 20th Infantry Baseball Club” from Fort Lincoln. The final score has been lost to history, but baseball has been played in Bismarck ever since.

In the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s, Bismarck was home to one of the great stories in baseball history. Neil Churchill assembled a racially integrated semi-pro team, drawing talented players from the Negro Leagues, including one of the greatest pitchers of all time, Leroy “Satchel” Paige.

Led by Paige, the Bismarck team won a national championship at the First National Baseball Congress in Wichita in 1935. It was the first time a racially integrated team won a national championship—more than a decade before Jackie Robinson became the first black player in the majors in 1947. Paige later made it to the majors in 1948 at the age of 42, and became the first Negro League player enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame.



Top: The Bismarck team photo, Satchel Paige stands fourth from left, 1935. SHSND 2103-00003.

Above: Satchel Paige baseball card for the Cleveland Indians, 1949. Bowman Gum.

BISMARCK AIRPORT

1936



The Bismarck Airport had modest beginnings in a pasture located on South Washington Street in the 1920s. By 1930 the airport moved to its present location and had grown to 80 acres. The 1930s and 40s saw many projects, including a large Art Deco-style hangar (Hangar 5, ca. 1936), a terminal building, and paved runways (ca. 1940), all built under federal relief programs.

From 1943 to 1964, Hangar 5 was home to the 7th Ferry Command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Airplanes housed in the hangar over the decades are representative of World War II history, including the B17, Curtiss P-40 Warhawk, Douglas B25A and the North American P-51 Mustang. Dozens of different general aviation aircraft ranging from the venerable DC3 to the tiny Taylor Cub to the modern Cirrus have also graced Hangar 5.

Airport improvements over the years have culminated in the current 70,000-square-foot terminal building, which was completed in 2005. By 2016 the airport encompassed a total of 2,400 acres and was handling nearly 300,000 passengers per year.



Left: Northwest Airlines logo, 1934. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library (Bismarck: Capital City Memories Vyzralek_4)
Below: Bismarck Airport terminal, 1942. SHSND 7204-00001.



1936

1937



Aerial photo of Fraine Barracks, ca. 1950. SHSND P-07537.

FRAINE BARRACKS

1937 -



Fraine Barracks, the headquarters of the North Dakota National Guard, was built on the site of former brewery founded in 1885. As North Dakota entered the Union as a dry state on November 2, 1889, the brewery did not last long. In 1907, the site was redeveloped and used as the Bismarck Indian School. When the school closed in 1937, its 24 building-campus attracted a number of government entities. The federal Department of Agriculture considered acquiring the site for an experimental station. The Civilian Conservation Corps was

also interested, and temporarily leased several of the buildings in the summer of 1937.

The North Dakota National Guard, however, waged an aggressive and ultimately successful campaign to acquire the Bismarck Indian School site for its state headquarters. In September of 1937, The National Guard was granted a one-year temporary use permit from the federal government, which it extended until 1944, when the site was transferred to the state for permanent use as a National Guard headquarters. The site was re-named Fraine Barracks in honor of the late Brigadier General John. A. Fraine, a long-time member of the North Dakota National Guard.

THE BISMARCK TRIBUNE'S PULITZER PRIZE

1938



Stirred to action by the struggles of area residents through the “Dirty Thirties”, The Bismarck Tribune editor Kenneth Simons and his primary reporter Gordon MacGregor published a series of articles, editorials, and images in an attempt to help improve conditions for farmers and their

land. The newspaper staff sought “to restore the inner fires which must burn in the breasts of men if they are to formulate and achieve worthy goals. They are an effort to maintain the economy of two generations of American folk, with such changes as are necessary to make this land of harsh winds, cold winters, hot summers, drouth and dust storms not only habitable and self supporting but also a worthwhile unit of the American commonwealth.” Through their tireless work, The Bismarck Tribune earned a Pulitzer Prize in May 1938.



Right: Tile frieze above the entrance to The Bismarck Tribune building. Photo by Will Hutchings. Above: Pulitzer Prize Medals. The Bismarck Tribune.



1938



1940: Pop. 15,496

1941

WORLD WAR II

1941 - 1945



On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked and the United States' neutrality in World War II ended. Several local men lost their lives at Pearl Harbor. Lieutenant Paul J. Register of Bismarck and Petty Officer Second Class Claire Brier of Mandan both died; Naval Aviator Joseph Schwahn, survived.

By the end of December 1941, approximately 4,185 men from North Dakota had enlisted. By March 1944, there were about 46,000. Among those in service were Helen Jeanne Kraft, the first Bismarck enrollee in the Women's Army Corps, and Jean Brandenburg, the first North Dakotan to enter the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, or WAVES. In all, Bismarck and Burleigh County suffered a total of 61 service deaths by the end of the war.

Right: Front page of The Bismarck Tribune, December 7, 1941.



INTERMENT CAMP AT FORT LINCOLN

1941 - 1946



Beginning in 1941, Fort Lincoln (now United Tribes Technical College) served as an internment camp for enemy aliens arrested under the auspices of the Enemy Alien Act. The Immigration and Nationalization Service (INS) was the agency responsible for constructing camps to detain these “dangerous” aliens for the duration of World War II. They established a total of eight INS internment camps, of which Ft. Lincoln was one of the largest.

Initially, those brought here were not soldiers; rather German or Japanese citizens caught in the wrong place and the wrong time, or even Americans of German or Japanese ancestry whose loyalty was called to question. The first to arrive

were German seamen on December 20, 1941. One month later, they were joined by Japanese aliens who were housed in wooden barracks, separated from the others.

Daily life in the camp was described as filled with “loneliness and boredom...and bitter cold.” Men engaged in athletic activities like soccer and baseball. Others worked garden plots or practiced skilled trades. But these were mere distractions from a harsh reality of wartime. Their lives had been interrupted, their businesses and property forfeited, and families torn apart.

By 1946, the last of the internees at Ft. Lincoln were discharged. In total, nearly 3,900 men spent the war years in what became known as “Snow Country Prison”. They are counted among the 31,275 individuals imprisoned nationwide by the Justice Department during World War II.

View of the guard tower along the north fence.
Courtesy of UTTC.



1942

1941

VICTORY GARDENS

1942 - 1958



At the start of World War II, Americans were encouraged to grow vegetables and fruits and to preserve and can them to supplement domestic food supplies. Any vegetable grown in a family garden plot was considered a contribution to national defense. Bismarck citizens established a community “Victory Garden” on a large tract of vacant federal land between Riverside Park Road and South Washington Street, south of Bowen Avenue. Works Progress Administration funding and WPA workers dug a long irrigation ditch between the riverbank and the garden. An irrigation pump system installed within the first year dramatically increased the productivity of the sandy soil in the garden.

Long after the war was won, Bismarck’s irrigated gardens were used and, even, expanded. Ultimately, 200-300 Bismarck families, businesses, and institutions were supplementing their groceries with fresh and canned vegetables and fruits from the garden plots. New varieties and unusual vegetables were sometimes tried, such as okra, cotton, and peanuts, and most were found successful. Approximately 8,000 trees and shrubs were planted in and around the perimeter of the garden to prevent wind erosion.



Above: Oscar H. Will & Co. Catalog back cover promoting Victory Gardens, 1944. SHSND 0033.002.
Below: The Bismarck Community Gardens. SHSND.

HIGHLAND ACRES

1946



The Highland Acres neighborhood in west Bismarck was developed beginning in 1946 by a housing cooperative formed by returning World War II veterans in response to a shortage of affordable, comfortable family housing.

The earliest homes constructed were modest and affordable for returning veterans. Over time, the cooperative dissolved. As the remaining lots were developed, many were designed and built by prominent builders and architects in a variety of mid-century styles.

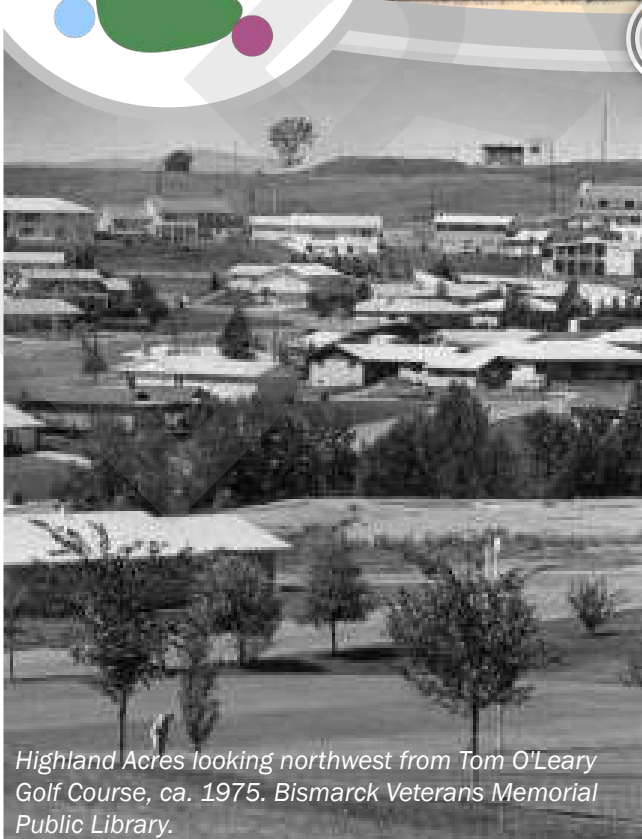
The development exemplifies post-World War II land development patterns and was the first of its kind in North Dakota. It was platted as a subdivision in 1947 with curvilinear streets, cul-de-sacs, and lots that follow the natural topography of the area. This development pattern is common now, but at the time was a departure from the gridded streets that were typical throughout Bismarck and North Dakota.

Left: Advertisement depicting a veteran and his wife planning their dream home, Oregon State Archive.

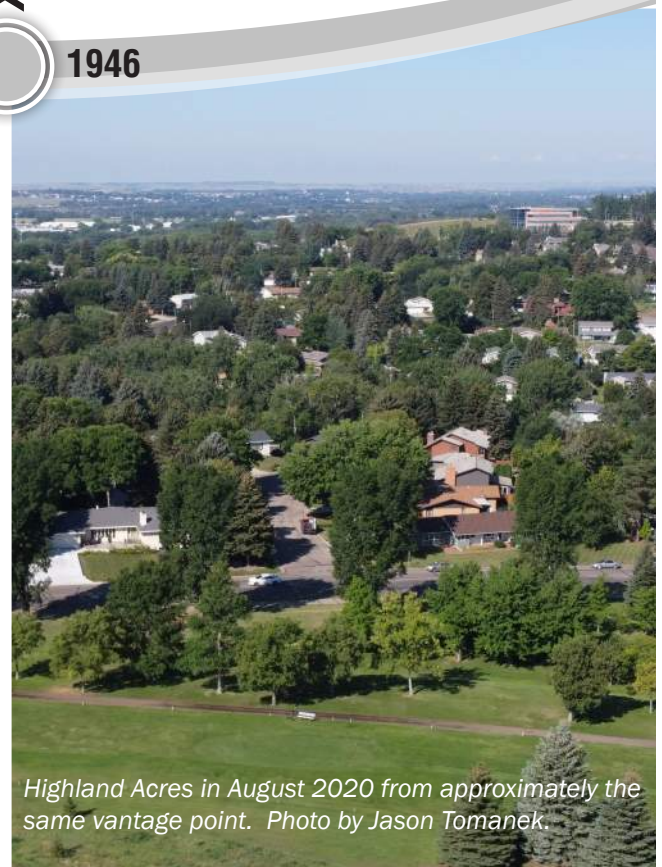
Inset: Highland Acres Historic District logo. Design by Will Hutchings.



1946



Highland Acres looking northwest from Tom O'Leary Golf Course, ca. 1975. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library.



Highland Acres in August 2020 from approximately the same vantage point. Photo by Jason Tomanek.

ERA BELL THOMPSON

1906 - 1986



Era Bell Thompson, born August 10, 1906, moved with her family from Iowa to Driscoll, ND, where her father, Stewart C. Thompson, and mother Mary, farmed. Stewart also served as a private messenger for Governor Lynn Frazier during Legislative Sessions from 1917 to 1921. After the death of Era Bell's mother, she and her father moved to Bismarck in 1920, where he owned a few businesses. Era Bell Thompson graduated from Bismarck High School, where she was one of few black students. She participated in track and enjoyed writing. She later went on to become a writer. Her autobiography, *American Daughter*, was published in 1946. As an African-American female, she was a pioneer in the field of journalism and became associate editor of *Negro Digest* in 1947, and served as co-managing editor of *Ebony* magazine from 1951 to 1964. She received the Theodore Roosevelt Roughrider Award from the state of North Dakota in 1976, and died at her home in Chicago in 1986.



Above: Portrait of Era Bell Thompson by Vern Skaug displayed in the North Dakota Theodore Roosevelt Roughrider Hall of Fame. North Dakota Office of the Governor.

Overlay: Book cover of Era Bell Thompson's autobiography *American Daughter*.

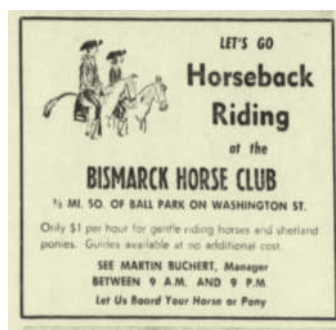
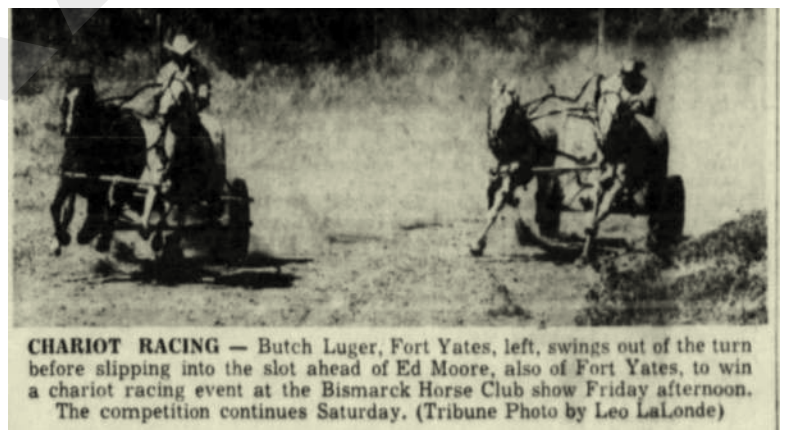
BISMARCK HORSE CLUB ARENA

1947 - 1967



In 1947 the Bismarck Horse and Barn Association, which was primarily a social club, leased 40 acres of land at South Washington Street and Riverwood Drive for the erection of a horse stable for use by the newly formed Bismarck Horse Club. Over the years, the Horse Club hosted countless social events for the city including balls, movie showings, barn dances, basket socials, and hayrides. The Horse Club's horses were part of most parades in Bismarck. In the outdoor arena there were spectacular annual horse shows, rodeos, barrel races, horse-and-chariot races, and horse quadrillions and square dances. The races in the late 1950s were so popular they would draw a thousand spectators.

Eventually, the city's Park District acquired the land and, in 1963 began planning for the Riverwood Golf Course, and the Horse Club relocated to their current location, south of the golf course. The Walter Neuens Memorial Horse Arena is named in memory of the Club's first manager.



Above: Clipping from April 8, 1964 edition of *The Bismarck Tribune* about horse chariot racing at the Bismarck Horse Club. Left: Advertisement for *The Bismarck Horse Club* from the July 28, 1964 edition of *The Bismarck Tribune*.

NORTHWARD DEVELOPMENT

1947 - 1967



Bismarck expanded beyond its core for the first time during the post-World War II boom, and did so mostly to its north—pushing ahead of Boulevard Avenue to Divide Avenue, immediately north of the Capitol. To the east, building activity mostly ended at Sixteenth Street, barring some exceptions – mostly south of Hillside Park. It was during this time that the first planned housing developments took root in the city, including Highland Acres, the Casey Additions, Homan Acres, and the Fisher Addition.

During the 1960s, development slowly crept north of Divide Avenue. At the start of the decade, only about seventy homes had been built north of Divide Avenue.

A pivotal event in Bismarck's growth occurred in 1965 when the \$1.2-million Grant Marsh Bridge opened on December 9th, completing Interstate 94 through Bismarck-Mandan. When the interstate opened, Bismarck Junior College, Northbrook Shopping Center, and a small handful of homes were all that existed within a half-mile of the highway, but its opening sparked a construction boom along the corridor and significantly altered traffic patterns in the area. As a result, businesses located along Highway 10 that were reliant on traffic – notably hotels, restaurants, and gas stations – suffered greatly while a new influx of such businesses sprouted where the interstate intersected with U.S. Highway 83.

An aerial image of Bismarck from 1957 showing development north and east of the State Capitol Building. USGS.

OIL BOOM EFFECTS ON BISMARCK

1951



Economically producible oil was officially discovered in North Dakota on April 4, 1951—an event that stirred excitement not only in North Dakota, but across the country. In Burleigh County, oil companies had drilled exploratory wells in 1949, but abandoned them. After 1951, the western part of the state was booming, and companies from all over began opening offices in Bismarck, which quickly became a hub for the industry. Throughout subsequent oil booms in the 1970s, 1980s, 2000s and 2010s, the capitol city has been home to regulatory officials and boards that oversee the oil and gas industry in the state, including the Oil and Gas Division, Industrial Commission, Board of University and School Lands and the Public Service Commission.



Arrowhead Plaza, 1960. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library.

ARROWHEAD PLAZA

1953



Arrowhead Plaza, at Third Street and Boulevard Avenue, opened in 1953 and was not only Bismarck's first shopping center, but is believed to be the oldest shopping mall in the state. It was built by T. Clem Casey, to complement his ongoing residential development on lands to the west of the state capitol and north of Boulevard Avenue. The mall got its name as the result of a city-wide naming contest in which the winning entry

was submitted by a young Bismarck woman named Veronica Robinson.

Dan's Supervalu, Bing's Furniture, and Deluxe Cleaners, along with a few other small shops were among the first stores at Arrowhead Plaza. The Arrowhead Plaza Barbershop was in business for over 60 years. At various times throughout its 70-year history, the mall has included a drug store, a shoe shop, a hardware store, a dry cleaner, a beauty shop, a bank, a liquor store, and many other shops. The shopping center was expanded in 1959 and had a full-service gas station for many years.

GARRISON DAM

1953



In 1953, the Garrison Dam was completed on the Missouri River, approximately 80 miles upstream from Bismarck. It was one of a series of dams on the Northern Plains authorized by the United States Congress under the Pick-Sloan Act. The new dam allowed for regulation and stabilization of water levels and had a profound impact on the natural and cultural landscape of Bismarck and the surrounding region. For the first time, farm and ranch land south of Bismarck was no longer susceptible to seasonal flooding and could be developed for residential and commercial purposes.

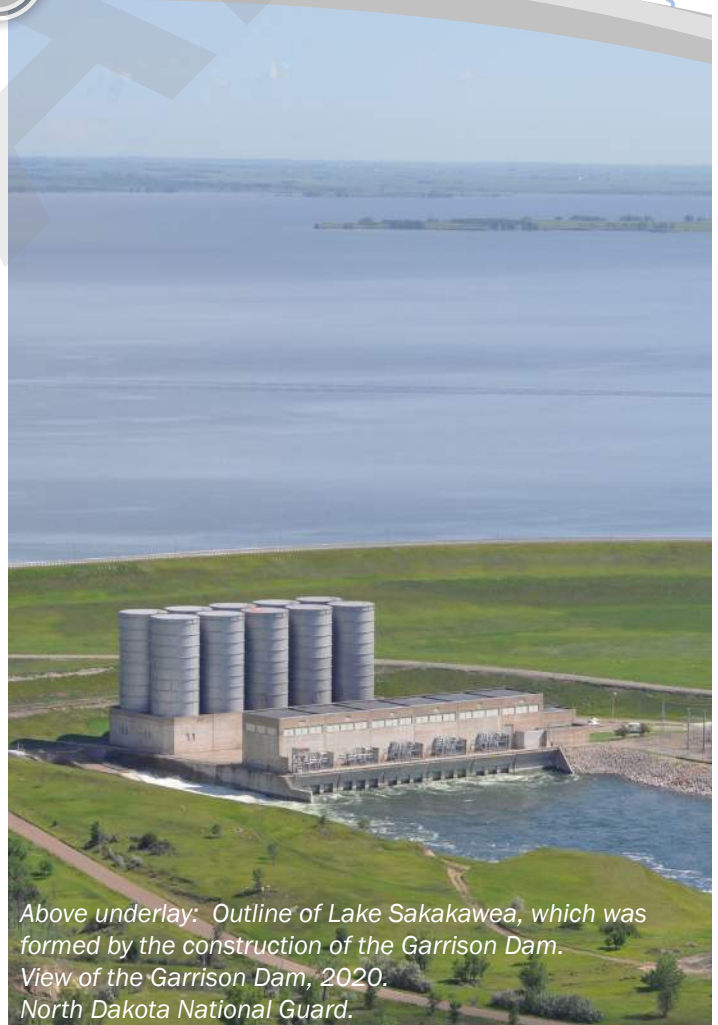
This opportunity came at great cost, however, to the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, as the Garrison Dam created the Lake Sakakawea reservoir, flooding nearly all of the Missouri River bottomlands they had inhabited for countless generations. The Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara had to leave their homes and communities and form new ones, such as New Town on the Fort Berthold Reservation, greatly affecting their traditional way of life. Many immigrant settlers also experienced flooding of their homesteads.

The Garrison Dam also had unintended consequences for the ecology and biodiversity of the region. Without the seasonal flooding necessary for germinating young seedlings, cottonwoods along the riverbanks were not replenished as quickly. The change in the river channel and water level affected many aquatic species such as the pallid sturgeon. Lake Oahe, a reservoir located south of Bismarck, which extends into South Dakota was similarly formed by another dam from the Pick-Sloan Program, the Oahe Dam near Pierre, SD.

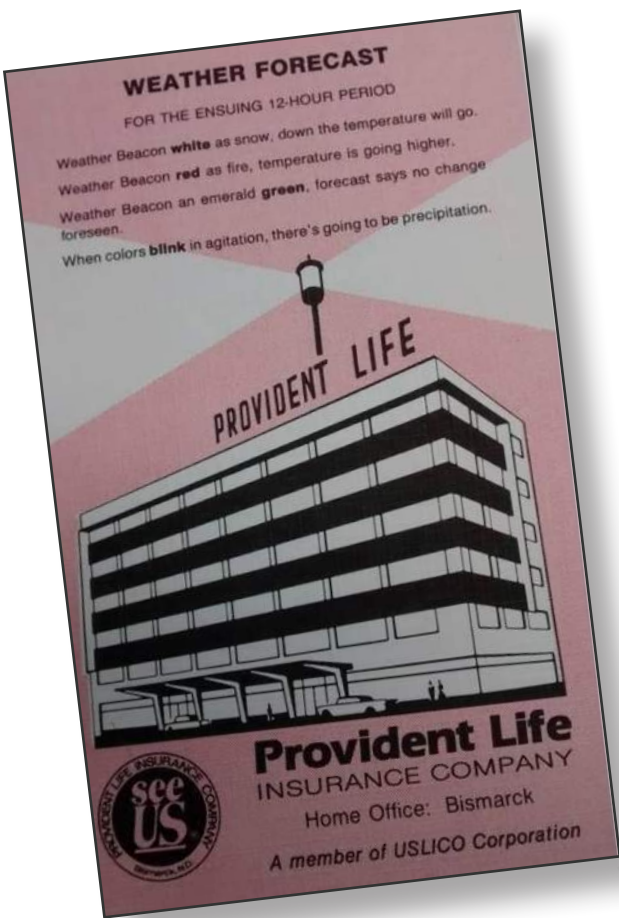
1953



Tribal chairman George Gillette weeps in response to the forced sale of MHA lands, 1940. Library of Congress.



Above underlay: Outline of Lake Sakakawea, which was formed by the construction of the Garrison Dam. View of the Garrison Dam, 2020. North Dakota National Guard.



PROVIDENT LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING

1954



The Provident Life Insurance Building, located on the southwest corner of Rosser Avenue and Fifth Street, was constructed in 1954. The building was purchased by Burleigh County in 1995 and today houses Burleigh County Social Services and various professional offices.

The 60-foot weather beacon attached to the roof of the building is one of the most recognizable landmarks in downtown Bismarck. The weather beacon is operated by KFYZ and uses simple colors to show the weather forecast for the upcoming twelve hours. Just follow this rhyme!

Weather Beacon white as snow, down the temperature will go.

Weather Beacon red as fire, temperature is going higher.

Weather Beacon an emerald green, forecast says no change foreseen.

When colors blink in agitation, there's going to be precipitation.

Left: Advertisement for the Provident Life Insurance Company featuring the Provident Life building, beacon, and rhyme. Burleigh County.

Below left: Marc Christianson with Angie the monkey. Courtesy of the Christianson Family. Postcards of the zoo train and Clyde the Bear. Courtesy of Jason Tomanek.

1954



1950: Pop. 27,670

1960

DAKOTA ZOO

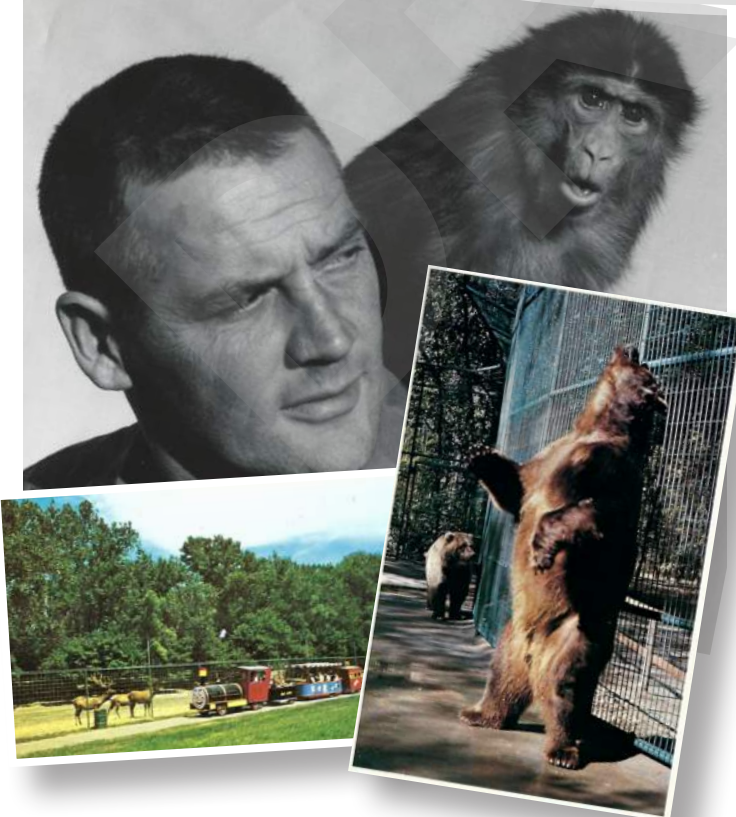
1960 -



The Dakota Zoo first opened its gates on June 3, 1961. It was started by Bismarck veteran Marc Christianson who was born in Bismarck in 1918, the son of ND Supreme Court Justice A.M. and Edith Christianson. He graduated from Bismarck High in 1936, pursued flying (he was Chief Pilot and Instructor at Bismarck Flying Service before World War II) and, following the War, came home to raise a family, and lots of animals.

Marc and his wife, Betty Barnes, loved animals of all sorts and raised a variety on their hobby farm in northwest Bismarck, near the present-day I-94 interchange. By 1960 their menagerie of "critters" had grown to the point that they decided Bismarck needed a zoo.

Today, Dakota Zoo is home to over 600 animals representing 125 different species and hosts more than 150,000 visitors each year.



A NEW GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

1960 - 2018



In 1960, the State completed a new Governors' Residence at the northeast corner of Fourth Street and Boulevard Avenue. Over the next six decades, it would house eight governors and their families. The first First Family to live here was Governor John Davis and First Lady Pauline Davis. They moved out of the old governors' mansion at Fourth Street and East Avenue B into the new residence for the remaining nine months of his term on March 18, 1960.

In May 2018, the 1960 house was demolished. Governor Doug Burgum and First Lady Kathryn Burgum were the last First family to occupy the mid-century residence, moving into the third and current Governors' Residence just north of the 1960s house, on March 14, 2018.



Postcard of the North Dakota Governor's Mansion, constructed in 1960. Courtesy of Jason Tomanek.



Basin Electric Power Cooperative headquarters. BismarckCafe.com

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

1961



Basin Electric was founded in 1961 to provide power to a consortium of rural electric cooperatives. It is customer owned by over 100 member cooperatives and serves 3 million electric customers in nine states. Its power sources include coal and natural gas power plants, hydroelectric facilities, wind farms and nuclear plants, and it also owns and operates approximately 2,500 miles of high-voltage transmission lines. Basin Electric is headquartered on Interstate Avenue in east Bismarck and is one of the largest employers in the city.

1961

1961

BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE

1961



Bismarck voters authorized the creation of a junior college in a special election on June 5, 1939. Bismarck Junior College (BJC) held its first classes on September 4, 1939 on the third floor of the Bismarck High School building. In 1951, the state legislature approved the transfer of 15 acres of land in the southeast corner of the state Capitol grounds for a dedicated campus. BJC moved into the new facility in 1955 but had already outgrown the space by 1959.

Bismarck businessman Harold Schafer donated 70 acres of land on Meadowlark Hill overlooking the Missouri River in northwest Bismarck, where the campus remains today.

Schafer Hall was the first building constructed on the new campus, completed in 1961.

BJC was administered by Bismarck Public Schools from its founding until 1984, when it became part of the state university system. The school was briefly renamed Bismarck State Community College until the legislature adopted the current name, Bismarck State College (BSC), in 1987. The BSC campus has expanded in recent years with the addition of the National Energy Center of Excellence, the Aquatic and Wellness Center, new classroom and library buildings, and new residence halls.

BSC is the third-largest school in the state university system, with annual enrollment of approximately 4,000.



Aerial view of Bismarck State College viewed from south. Courtesy of Bismarck State College.

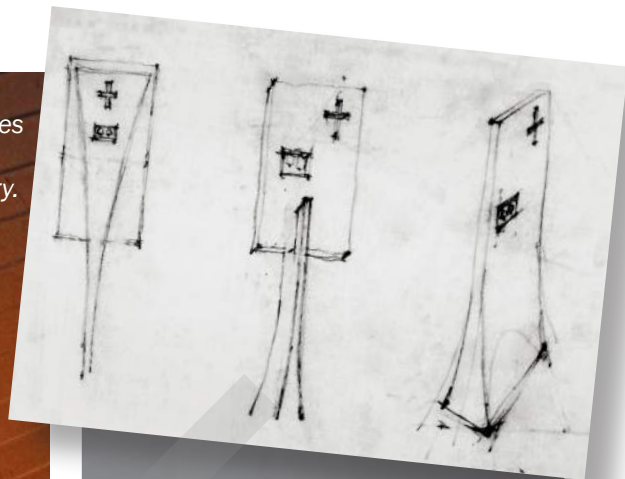
UNIVERSITY OF MARY AND THE ARCHITECTURE OF MARCEL BREUER

1962



In the 1950s, the Benedictine Sisters of the Annunciation in Bismarck began planning to establish Mary College. They asked Marcel Breuer, renowned 20th Century modernist architect, to create designs for their building. He created his “jewel on the prairie,” a building that encompassed the Chapel, Convent Wing, Community Halls, and a School Wing. This was part of an original four-part Master plan, and played with elements of light and dark, and ended up being one of his favorite creations. Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel was dedicated on May 13, 1963.

Below: Interior of the chapel. Upper right: Marcel Breuer's concept sketches for the banner. Lower right: The banner. Courtesy of University of Mary.



1962

1963

NORTHBROOK MALL

1963



The Northbrook Shopping Center was Bismarck's first fully-enclosed and second overall shopping center (after Arrowhead Plaza). The grand opening took place in 1963 with anchor stores Tempo and Red Owl grocery. Today the mall is a mix of office, retail, restaurants, and service uses.

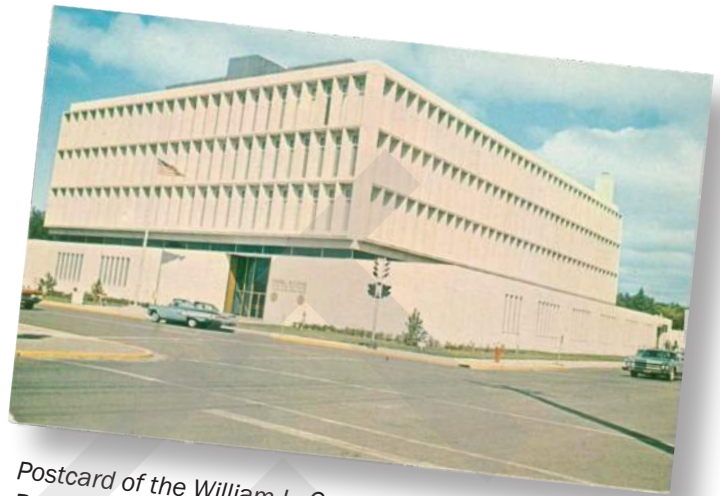


Northbrook Shopping Center, 1959. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library (Bismarck: Capital City Memories 1d-195)

WILLIAM L. GUY FEDERAL BUILDING



The William L. Guy Federal Building was completed in 1964 and is a notable example of the Modernist movement in architecture. It was designed in adherence with guidelines set by the General Services Administration who was responsible for construction of all federal buildings, and who had codified a new construction philosophy for government buildings only a decade before. The two overarching principles of this philosophy were for architectural designs to “provide efficient and economical facilities for the use of Government agencies” while providing “visual testimony to the dignity, enterprise, vigor, and stability of the American Government.” Moreover, designs should “take advantage of the increasingly fruitful collaboration between architecture and the fine arts.” While some may not consider Leonhard & Askew’s design as “fine art”, the GSA embraced post-war second-wave modernism in a big way—transforming federal building designs across the country. And this is a very strong example of that aesthetic.



Postcard of the William L. Guy Federal Building at 220 East Rosser Avenue c.1964. Courtesy of Jason Tomanek.



STATE STREET AND INTERSTATE 94



In 1964, the road that would become known as State Street was graded and asphalted to present-day Calgary Avenue. That same year, interchange ramps were built for Interstate 94, which opened the following year. With the exception of I-94, it is the region’s most traveled road, with some stretches topping more than 40,000 vehicles per day, as of 2016.

In December 1965, state officials formally opened a 15.3-mile segment of Interstate 94 through Bismarck and Mandan. About 200 people attended the dedication, which featured Gov. Bill Guy and ND State Highway Commissioner Walt Hjelle. Earlier that day, the Bismarck Chamber of Commerce presented Hjelle with a trophy for the Transportation Department’s “highway building excellence.”

Mandan and Morton County officials held a dedication ceremony the same day at the northwest Mandan interchange.



Group gathers for dedication of I-94, 1965. NDDOT.



Left: Interstate 94 emblem. Wikimedia.
Grant Marsh Bridge. NDDOT.

THE BLIZZARD OF 1966

March 2, 1966



A blizzard hit the Bismarck-Mandan area on March 2, 1966 and lasted until March 4. A total of 22.4 inches of snow fell. Wind velocity was 52 miles an hour. All businesses closed Thursday and Friday, and city streets were impassable.



Bismarck State Street at Boulevard Avenue, looking west during the Blizzard of 1966. SHSND 00032.

1966



Peace Corps volunteers pose for group photo at Fort Lincoln, 1968. Courtesy of David Goldenberg.

JOB CORPS AT FORT LINCOLN

1966 - 1968



From 1966 to 1968, the Job Corps operated the Lewis and Clark Job Corps training center at the former 1895 Fort Lincoln military post south of Bismarck. The center provided educational and vocational programs for corpsmen.

Below: Job Corps trainees, 1965. Courtesy of UTTC.



1966

1968

PEACE CORPS AT FORT LINCOLN

July - October 1968



In 1968, the Peace Corps negotiated with the Office of Economic Opportunity to use the former 1895 Fort Lincoln as a training grounds for volunteers preparing for work in Kenya. Trainees came from across the United States to learn skills in land development and agriculture at the Peace Corps' Camp Lewis and Clark.

MDU General Office at Fourth Street and Rosser Avenue ca. 1968.
Courtesy of MDU Resources.

MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC.

1968  

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) was founded in 1924 as a small electric utility that served small towns and farms on the border between North Dakota and Montana. MDU was originally based in Minnesota, but in 1968 relocated to the 5-story building on the northwest corner of Fourth Street and Rosser Avenue in downtown Bismarck. In 2004, MDU moved to its current corporate campus on Century Avenue in northwest Bismarck. MDU is a multi-billion dollar publicly traded company and the only Fortune 500 company headquartered in North Dakota. It is one of the largest employers in Bismarck and operates several subsidiaries including WBI Energy, Montana-Dakota Utilities, Co., and Knife River Corporation. Its utility companies provide electric and natural gas service to 1.16 million customers in eight states.

1969



UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND THE INTERNATIONAL POW WOW

1969  

In 1969 an intertribal nonprofit organization made up of five North Dakota tribes established a unique vocational training center to provide technical education to students from 36 reservations. The original United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) campus, at old Fort Lincoln south of Bismarck, included dormitories, classrooms, family housing, as well as Bismarck's first indoor YMCA pool.

Since UTTC's founding, an annual International Pow Wow, known as the "Home of the Champions," has been held every September. The event has become one of North Dakota's premier cultural events and has grown to be one of the largest pow wows in the country, often with more than 1,500 dancers and 50 drum groups from 75 tribes from across the U.S., inviting guests from around the world, competing in 25 categories for prize money. In addition to the dancing, the weeklong gathering, which is open to the public and draws thousands of spectators, includes youth events, golf and softball tournaments, a tribal leaders summit, the Miss Indian Nations pageant, arts and crafts expos, a free buffalo feed, and 70 vendors.



Top to Bottom: Aerial view of the The Lonestar Veterans Arena at UTTC. North Dakota Commerce and Tourism. A dancer in regalia. North Dakota Tourism. Students at UTTC. Courtesy of UTTC.

BISMARCK EVENT CENTER

1969   

In 1964, Bismarck voters narrowly approved \$1.8 million in spending to construct the Civic Center, which was completed and officially opened in 1969. The total cost was \$2.5 million, about one-fourth of which came from private donations. The first event held at the Civic Center was the 24th Annual Holiday on Ice show on September 5-9, 1969. The first concert held in the Civic Center was North Dakota's native-born Lawrence Welk and his Orchestra on September 20, 1969.

Renamed the Bismarck Event Center in 2014, the building has for decades hosted numerous concerts, community events, conferences, high school basketball tournaments and other sporting events. Major expansions to the building occurred in 1990, 1999 and 2015.



Newspaper clippings and event program covers. Courtesy of Bismarck Event Center.



1969  1970: Pop. 34,703  1970



Robert Kirkwood stands in front of Kirkwood Plaza, 1971. Courtesy of Chad Wachter.

KIRKWOOD MALL AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH BISMARCK

1970    

South Bismarck is located on the floodplain of the Missouri River and was relatively undeveloped until the late 1960s. The Oscar Will seed company maintained a nursery there, and others like the Wachter family who owned a Dray and Transfer Company, used the land as horse pasture. But the completion of Garrison Dam in 1953 created new opportunities for growth south of the city center. In 1968, Paul Wachter announced plans to build a major shopping center along

South Washington Street. Kirkwood Plaza, now known as the Kirkwood Mall, officially opened in 1970 and was named for Robert Kirkwood, Executive Director of the F.W. Woolworth Company. With its anchor stores—Woolworth's, Montgomery Ward, and Kirkwood Supervalu—Kirkwood Plaza drew shoppers to south Bismarck.

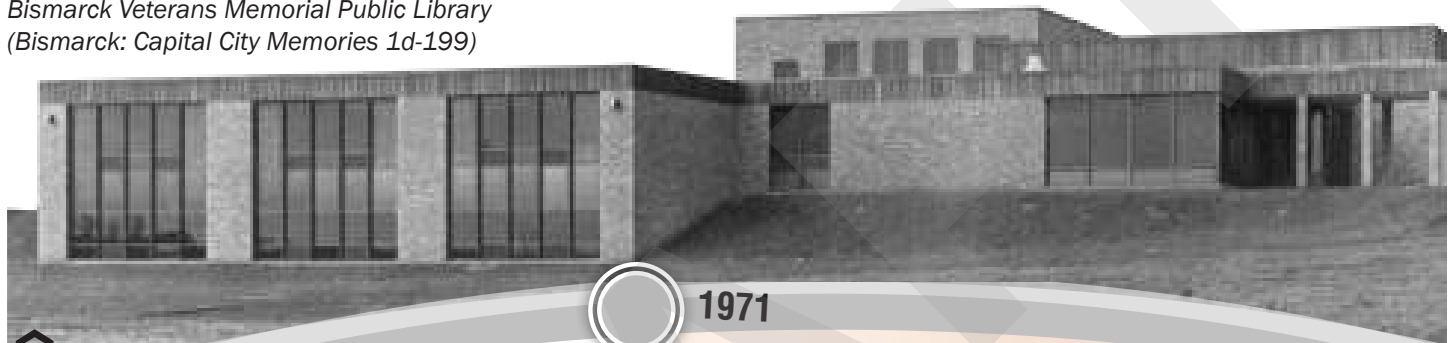
The Wachter family remained at the forefront of south Bismarck development with projects such as the Kirkwood Motor Inn (now the Bismarck Hotel), Kirkwood Office Tower, Wachter Middle School, Wachter Aquatic Center, Schaumburg Arena and Wachter Arena, Dorothy Moses School, Cottonwood Lake Estates, and numerous residential subdivisions.

MISSOURI VALLEY YMCA

1971   

The Missouri Valley YMCA opened at 1609 North Washington Street on December 15, 1971. The 37,000-square-foot building cost an estimated \$655,000 to construct. It boasted a swimming pool, lounge, all-purpose room, kitchenette, teen lounge, and unfinished basement. By 1973, efforts were underway to expand and groundbreaking on an expansion occurred in 1975, doubling the original size, adding a gymnasium, health clubs, craft centers, and meeting rooms.

*The new YMCA facility on N Washington Street, ca. 1971.
Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library
(Bismarck: Capital City Memories 1d-199)*



1971

WICA KPE IS NALA (DR. DAVID GIPP)

1946 - 2020   

Dr. David Gipp was an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe who was instrumental in the development of the United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck—of which he was president for over 35 years. In fact, as a founding member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Gipp led the movement to establish and fund tribal colleges across the state and the nation. His Lakota name, Wica Kpe Is Nala, translates as Lone Star. A UND graduate, he served in the National Guard and was the youngest delegate and the only Native American to serve in North Dakota's second constitutional convention of 1971. Dr. Gipp earned a national reputation as a master organizational thinker. His lifetime of public service was broad and helped many organizations provide higher education to Native Americans. He was inducted into the North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor at the State Heritage Center in 2017.



Wica Kpe Is Nala (Dr. David Gipp) Courtesy of UTTC.

BISMARCK CENTENNIAL

1972 

To mark 100 years since the founding of Bismarck, the City held a 10-day celebration in July 1972. The “Cent-or-rama”—as some playfully referred to the fanfare—was complete with parades, picnics, an essay contest for highschool students, a special production of a historical play, and even a beard-growing contest judged by local barbers.

But perhaps the most lasting reminder of the occasion is the Centennial Forest, located northeast of the intersection of East Main Avenue and East Bismarck Expressway. Jim Dybdal spearheaded the effort to commemorate both the City’s centennial and the 100th anniversary of Arbor Day with a living sign, consisting of 394 Ponderosa Pines planted in letters 36-feet wide spelling out “BISMARCK.” The project was initially sponsored by businesses, service clubs, and organizations like the Flickertail Wood Carvers and Bismarck Lions Club. Later, individuals and families were invited to subscribe, purchase, and plant a tree at the July 22, 1972 event. The name of each participant is listed on a plaque at the forest, which the City continues to maintain.



MAKHPIYA TO WIN (DR. HARRIET SKYE)

1931 - 2018 

Harriet Skye was a multimedia journalist who worked in print, radio, television, and film. She was the first Native American woman to have her own television show. “Indian Country Today”, which first aired in 1972, was a public-affairs show that ran for 11 years on KFYR-TV in Bismarck and was televised across five states.

Skye’s Lakota name, Makhpiya To Win, translates as Blue Skye Woman. She was a Húŋkpaŋa Lakota and member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. In addition to her television program, Skye had a career in print media, editing the Standing Rock and UTTC newspapers. She frequently served in key leadership positions on city, state, and national boards that promoted the advancement of Native American people. She was a graduate of the New York University film school in her 60s and earned a Ph.D. from UC-Berkeley in her 70s.

Dr. Skye was inducted into the North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor in 2016 in recognition of her educational leadership.



Makhpiya To Win (Dr. Harriet Skye) on the set of Indian Country Today, ca. 1972. Courtesy of UTTC.

CHANCELLOR SQUARE

1976



Chancellor Square is an area of downtown Bismarck bounded by Fourth and Sixth Streets and Broadway and Thayer Avenues. It was formally dedicated in 1976 as an urban renewal project—part of a nationwide trend in the 1960s and 1970s toward revitalizing urban areas.

The original concept for Chancellor Square included a mini-mall with green space, diagonal on-street parking, climate-controlled skyways linking downtown buildings, a public park surrounding the Northern Pacific Depot, and double-decker buses running between downtown and the new Kirkwood Mall.

The final project was less ambitious, with the main change being the conversion of parts of Fourth and Sixth Streets and Broadway and Thayer Avenues to one-ways (a change which was reversed in 2017, bringing back two-way traffic to the area). Diagonal parking was added to the streets, along with new lighting, built-in benches, bumped out curbs and numerous trees and shrubs. Chancellor Square today is home to various events including Urban Harvest and the Annual Downtowners Street Fair.

Below: Demolition of the Grand Pacific Hotel. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library (Bismarck: Capital City Memories 155_12292006) Bottom: Urban Renewal Plan showing Design for area later known as Chancellor Square created by The Hodne/Stageberg Partners Inc. 1973. City of Bismarck.



1976

1976

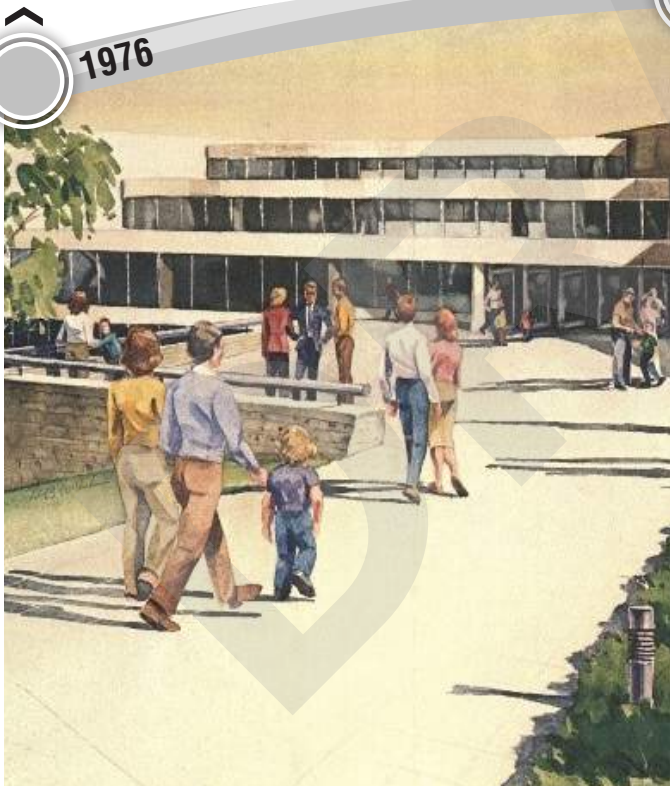


Illustration from grand opening of the North Dakota Heritage Center program, 1981. SHSND SA 32435.

HERITAGE CENTER

1976



On October 9, 1976, ground was broken for construction of a new building to house the State Historical Society and the State Museum. The Society started out in 1889 as the Ladies Historical Society, founded by a group of local women including Linda Slaughter, who became its first president. In December 1894, the name was changed to the North Dakota Historical Society in an attempt to form a statewide organization.

Initially, the Historical Society was housed in the basement of the capitol building. It later moved into the Liberty Memorial Building, which was built in 1924. But as the organization and its mission grew, more space was needed to house a multitude of incoming donations and records.

Governor Guy had begun to build momentum to construct a new building for the State Historical Society. During his administration, Governor Link continued this movement. In 1973, the first funding for the new building was appropriated; more came in 1975. Finally, the new building—known as the Heritage Center—was opened to the public in 1981. This building underwent an expansion for the Archives in 2007, and a second expansion in 2014 that doubled the museum's gallery space.

McQUADE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

1976  

The first-annual McQuade Softball Tournament was held in summer 1976. The annual charity event is the largest non-profit tournament in the country. It provides a major economic boost to the region, donating its proceeds to local groups and organizations. In 1986, the softball diamonds adjacent to the VFW Sports Center and YMCA was renamed to honor Sam McQuade Senior, founder of McQuade Distributing & Bottling – the company that organizes the tournament.



North Dakota Military All Stars Softball Team playing their first McQuade's tournament, 2012. USAF.

1976

GATEWAY MALL

1979 

Gateway Mall opened in 1979 as an enclosed regional shopping center anchored by stores like Sears, A.W. Lucas, and White Mart. Osco Drug – a junior anchor – was the first store to open. As many of the mall's original tenants had been previously located downtown, Gateway, along with the larger Kirkwood Plaza, contributed to what is considered the downtown commercial exodus.

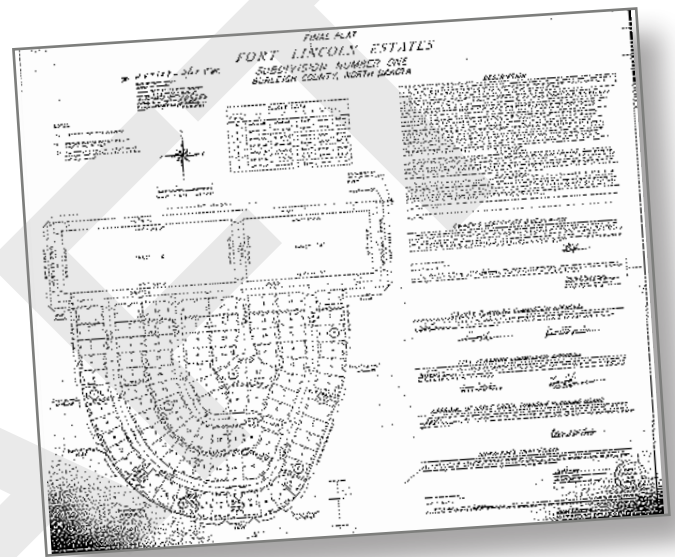
Plans for a shopping center near the U.S. Highway 83/I-94 interchange were first unveiled in 1968. Century Mall, as it was originally going to be called, was developed by Denver-based Century 21 Corp on land owned by the Kavaney family. Gateway Mall and the nearby Kmart, which preceded it by eight years, established a new commercial district along the State Street Corridor, near the U.S. Highway 83/Interstate 94 interchange.

Sears, the mall's last surviving original anchor, closed in April 2018 and its movie theater—once the city's largest—closed in 2020.

CITY OF LINCOLN

1977  

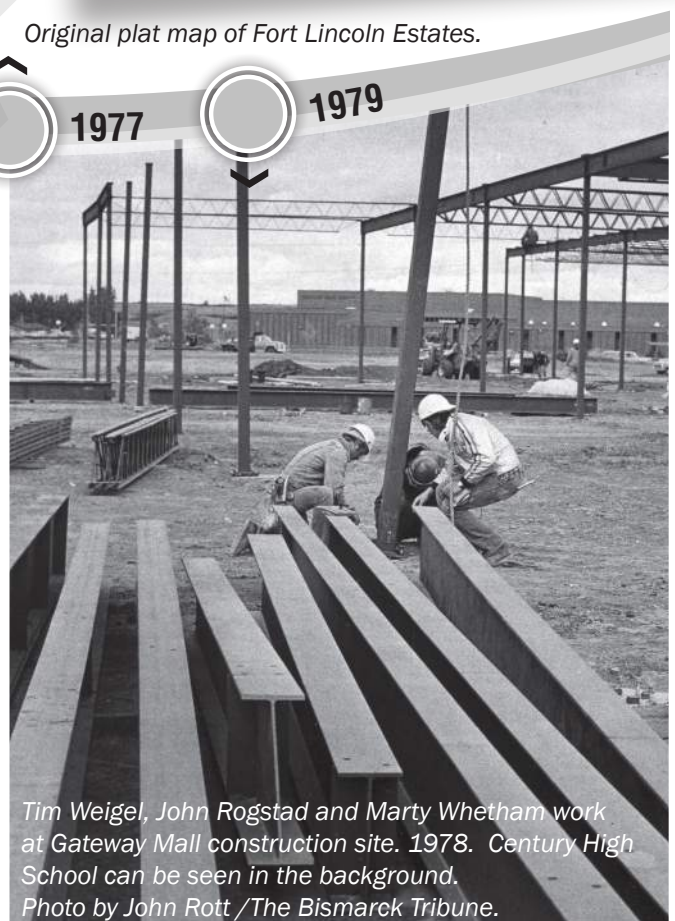
Originally called Fort Lincoln Estates, the City of Lincoln incorporated in 1977 through the federal Farmers Home Administration program. The subdivision of Imperial Valley, located east of South Twelfth Street and south of Burleigh Avenue was developed with a similar character through the same program.



Original plat map of Fort Lincoln Estates.

1977

1979



Tim Weigel, John Rogstad and Marty Whetham work at Gateway Mall construction site. 1978. Century High School can be seen in the background. Photo by John Rott /The Bismarck Tribune.



Above: Portrait of Harold Schafer by Vern Skaug displayed in the North Dakota Theodore Roosevelt Roughrider Hall of Fame. North Dakota Office of the Governor.

Lower left: A package of Mr. Bubble bubble bath, arguably the best known Gold Seal Co. brand.

HAROLD SCHAFER AND THE GOLD SEAL CO.

1981



From his humble roots on a small farm near Stanton, North Dakota, to his days as a friend to U.S. Presidents and movie stars, Harold Schafer was always known for his work ethic and his love of North Dakota. His highly successful Gold Seal Co. grew out of a business he started in his basement apartment in Bismarck during World War II. His top-selling products Glass Wax, Snowy Bleach, and Mr. Bubble became household names, while Gold Seal employed hundreds of people across the country.

In spring 1981, Schafer announced plans to build a new headquarters for his company at 918 East Divide Avenue with Al Kosir as the building's architect. The structure was and is still recognizable for its reflective gold-colored window glass.

While Harold Schafer was a legendary salesman and promoter, he was also a great philanthropist. He anonymously put hundreds, if not thousands, of kids through college, paid hospital bills and mortgages of those who could not afford them, and happily donated land for what would become Bismarck State College. When Gold Seal Co. was sold in the 1980s, he devoted his full attention to developing historic Medora which today, along with the adjacent Theodore Roosevelt National Park, is the most-visited attraction in the state.

1980: Pop. 44,485

1981

1982

1983

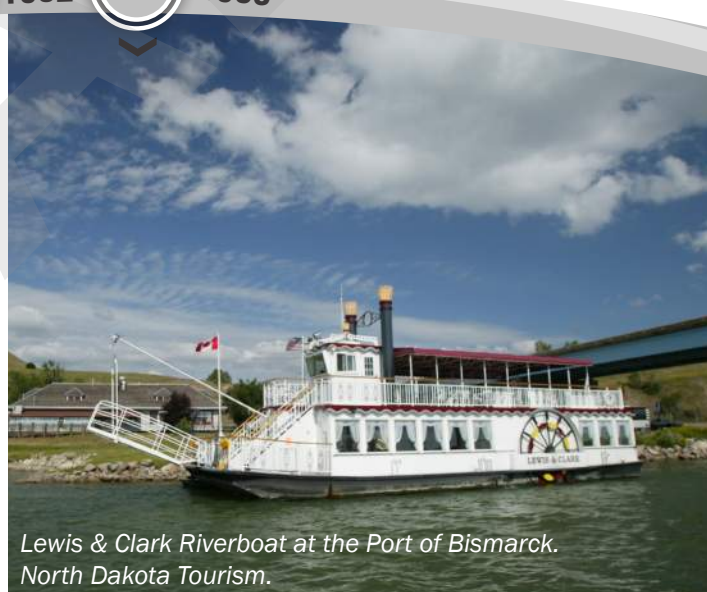


BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY

1982



In 1982, following conversion of Bismarck Avenue to a major four-lane roadway, the Bismarck City Commission changed its name to Bismarck Expressway. "Expressway" was a more fitting title, the city-county planner told the commission.



Lewis & Clark Riverboat at the Port of Bismarck. North Dakota Tourism.

RIVERBOAT ON THE MISSOURI RIVER

1983



In 1983, the Far West Riverboat began offering heritage tours of the Missouri River Valley. The boat, owned by Missouri Riverboat Co. of Chamberlain, SD, was a replica 19th Century paddlewheeler named for the historic steamboat piloted by Grant Marsh. The Far West Riverboat replica was replaced in 1990 with the current Lewis & Clark Riverboat, also a major tourist attraction.

GITCHEE GUMI RACES

1983 - 1999



For 16 years the grand finale of Bismarck's fall Folkfest was a popular river race called the Gitchee Gumi. The human-powered boats raced 5.2 miles from the Grant Marsh bridge to Fox Island. The main rule was the crafts had to be constructed of 80 percent inflatable innertubes. The race was always held in mid to late September, come rain, wind, snow, or sunshine. The grand prize the first year, 1983, was roundtrip airfare for the winning team to take part in the world championship Gumi Races in Wagga Wagga, Australia. The original winning team of Rolf Sletten and Bob Thompson traveled to Australia to race, where they took second place! At the height of the Gitchee Gumi's popularity dozens of crafts raced and thousands of people watched from the riverbanks and on boats on the Missouri River. The themes of the Gumi boats were both serious and humorous, with teams vying for cash, trophies, or prizes for both speed and creativity. Interest and participation in the race slowly declined, and after 1999, with less than a handful of entrants signing up, the Gitchee Gumi had run its course.

*Examples of entries in the Gitchee Gumi Races.
The Bismarck Tribune.*



1983

1987

1989

PRAIRIE ROSE STATE GAMES

1987 - 2011



For 25 years, Bismarck played a leading role in the Prairie Rose State Games, an Olympics-style festival that celebrated North Dakota's amateur athletes. The multi-sport festival, for athletes ages 5 to 95, began in Bismarck in 1987 and ended in Bismarck in 2011, on the Game's 25th anniversary. During its height, the games attracted more than 7,000 athletes, participating in up to fifty different sporting events. The festival also included a parade of athletes, athletes' oath taking, a torch lighting, family events, and fireworks.

Effects of the 2011 flood in Bismarck on many of the city's sports venues, along with the financial challenges, persuaded the board to discontinue the Prairie Rose Games.

Above: The Prairie Rose State Games logo.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1989



Promoted as the "Party of the Century," the main celebration of the North Dakota State Centennial occurred in 1989 at the State Capitol Grounds. The festivities included a concert, banquet, and an evening laser light show. The gathering was said to have been the largest assembly in state history.



*Commemorative 1989 North Dakota State Centennial pins.
Photo by Blake Dinkins.*

Entry gate to Sleepy Hollow Arts Park.
July 2022. Photo by Will Hutchings.

SLEEPY HOLLOW THEATER AND ARTS PARK

1990



July 26, 1990 was opening night for a local performance of the Broadway musical “Annie Get Your Gun”—the first of many seasonal plays at Sleepy Hollow Park in northeast Bismarck. By casting children ages six to eighteen, the educational summer program was aimed at providing new opportunities for youth to build self-esteem and learn visual, vocal, and performance arts skills. Sleepy Hollow Theater and Arts Park programming has grown over the past 30 years, “fanning the spark of creativity” throughout the community and spanning generations. The non-profit organization boasts numerous students, teachers, orchestra members, and volunteers to-date, entertaining countless audience members over the years.



1990

1995

1997

1990: Pop. 49,256



Logos of Bismarck semi-pro sports teams.

SEMI-PRO SPORTS TEAMS

1995 -



Bismarck has been home to a number of semi-pro sports teams through its history. Current teams include the Bismarck Larks baseball team, part of the Northwoods League, the Bismarck Bobcats, a Tier II junior ice hockey team of the North American Hockey League, and the Bismarck Bucks, part of the Indoor Football League.

Bismarck was home to the Dakota Wizards basketball team from 1995 to 2012. The Wizards were part of the International Basketball Association,

then the Continental Basketball Association, and finally the NBA Development League. The team relocated to Santa Cruz in 2012.

A number of semi-pro baseball teams have called Bismarck home. The Bismarck Barons played in the Man-Dak League from 1955 to 1957, with teams composed of former major and minor league stars, college players, and a handful of local players. The Pards were organized in 1962 as a minor league team, first as an affiliate of the Minnesota Twins from 1962 to 1964 and then as an affiliate of the Houston Astros in 1966. The Dakota Rattlers of the Prairie League played briefly in Bismarck from 1995-1996.



Cars buried in snow drifts at the Kirkwood Mall parking lot near the Herberger's store, 1997. SHSND.

BLIZZARD HANNAH

April 1997



Blizzard Hannah was one of eight separate blizzards that hit North Dakota in April 1997. Classified as a Level 5 blizzard, the storm dropped tons of snow and eventually lead to devastating flooding events in the eastern portion of the state later that spring.



PINEHURST SQUARE

2004



Pinehurst Square is an outdoor “power mall” located in northwest Bismarck anchored by several national big box stores that also contains many restaurants and smaller retailers. Constructed in several phases, beginning in 2004, Pinehurst Square officially opened in 2006. It was the largest single development since Kirkwood Mall 35 years earlier, and reflected Bismarck’s expansion into the northwestern portion of the city.

Underlay: Aerial view of Pinehurst Square. Photo by Vern Whitten.



2000: Pop. 55,532

2004

2004



BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA BUILDING

2004



Bismarck is home to the Bank of North Dakota, the nation’s only state-owned bank. The bank was established by the legislature in 1919 when the Non-Partisan League dominated state politics and advanced a Progressive Era agenda. For many years, the Bank of North Dakota was located in the former Missouri Valley Motors building on the northeast corner of Main Avenue and Seventh Street. In 2008, the Bank of North Dakota relocated to a new building on Memorial Highway, featuring a bowed west front facing the river, meant to resemble the keel of a boat.

The Bank of North Dakota Building located on west Main Avenue was constructed in 2004. Courtesy of The Bank of North Dakota.

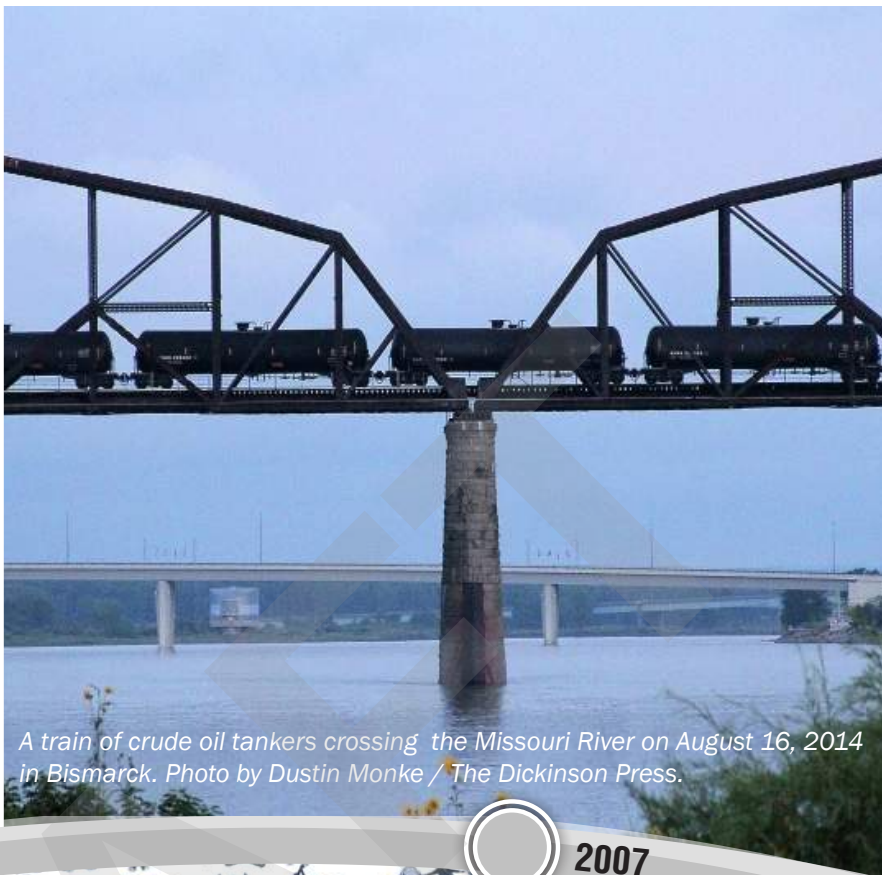
BAKKEN OIL BOOM

2006 -



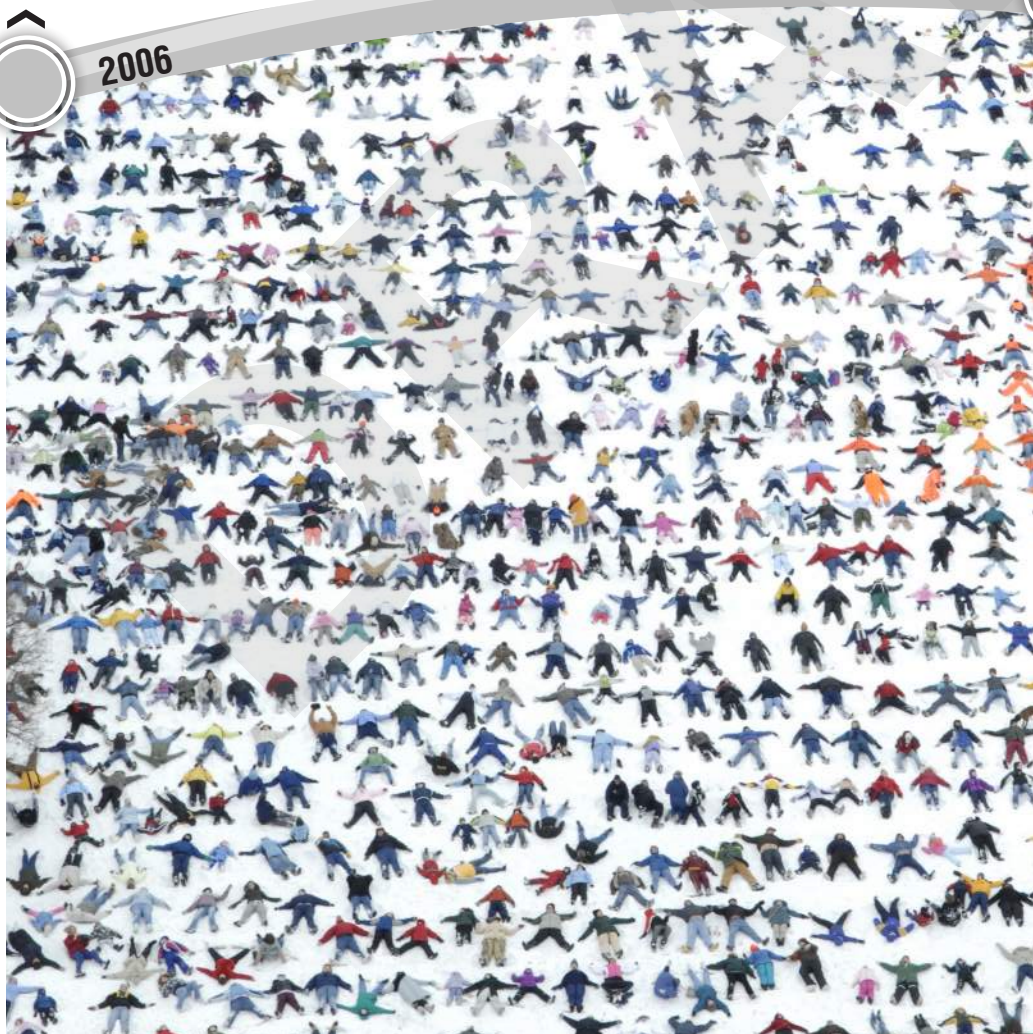
The most profound effects of the Bakken oil boom that began in 2006 and peaked in 2012 were felt in western North Dakota. However, Bismarck was also changed by the boom. As oil tax revenue poured into state coffers and then sharply declined in later years, politicians at the State Capitol wrestled with budgetary decisions. Regulators in Bismarck have overseen the rapid expansion of drilling and related infrastructure in western North Dakota.

Bismarck has also enjoyed a growing economy and increased population as a result of the oil boom. While not all effects of the oil boom have been positive, there's no question that the city and state have been forever changed, even as activity in the Bakken has plateaued into a more "mature" oil play.



A train of crude oil tankers crossing the Missouri River on August 16, 2014 in Bismarck. Photo by Dustin Monke / The Dickinson Press.

2006



2007

GUINNESS WORLD RECORD FOR SNOW ANGELS

February 17, 2007



On February 17, 2007, North Dakota made the Guinness Book of World Records for the most snow angels made simultaneously in one place, with 8,962 participants making snow angels on the Capitol Mall. The record held for four years until 2011, when Nova Scotia residents beat Bismarck's record with 22,022 snow angels.

Photo by Will Kincaid.

DEDICATION OF A NEW LIBERTY MEMORIAL BRIDGE

2008



In 2006, construction began on a new Liberty Memorial Bridge, which was completed and dedicated on November 11, 2008. The structure replaced the original Liberty Memorial Bridge which had been completed in 1922 and was dedicated in honor of North Dakota's World War I veterans. It was the first

vehicular bridge between Bismarck and Mandan and carried traffic between the two cities until it was demolished in 2008.

The pedestrian walkway on the south side of the new bridge includes five overlooks as a tribute to each branch of the military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. Public plazas and parks were constructed on each side of the river, which include parts of the truss of the old bridge and interpretive panels detailing the history of the original bridge.



NORTHERN PLAINS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

March 30, 2009



On March 30, 2009, Congress designated the Northern Plains National Heritage Area, headquartered in Bismarck, to promote heritage tourism and economic development. The designation recognizes the region's unique history, culture, and natural beauty that flows from the Missouri River.

Left: The Liberty Memorial Bridge over the Missouri River, looking west. Photo by Poppy Mills. NDDOT.



Right: Logo of the Northern Plains Heritage Area. Courtesy of NHPA.

2008

2009



2010: Pop. 61,272

2011

FLOODING ON THE MISSOURI RIVER

2009 and 2011



Once the Garrison Dam was completed, the Bismarck-Mandan area seemed to be protected from flooding from the Missouri River. That changed in March 2009, when an ice jam formed, water backed up the river, and flooded riverfront neighborhoods in south Bismarck.

Above average precipitation in the upper Missouri Basin in 2010-2011 led to soil saturation and major runoff, causing flooding along the Missouri River. For the first time in history, on June 1, 2011, the spillway gates at the Garrison Dam were opened to release floodwater. On July 1, the Missouri River peaked at 19.23 feet in Bismarck. The Missouri River was above flood stage for 78 days. Levee construction efforts in Bismarck began May 23. An estimated 11 million sandbags were filled and placed in Bismarck and Burleigh County. About three million were placed in Mandan and rural Morton County.

Fargo, Cass County, and Grand Forks donated sandbag-filling spider machines. Cavalier County and North Dakota's Department of Emergency Services donated Mega Baggers. Filled sandbags were also sent to Bismarck-Mandan via truck.

Most houses within the city limits of Bismarck or Mandan managed to escape damage from floodwater, but many homes in the floodplain outside city limits were impacted.



The Missouri River and Fox Island as seen from the air in May 2011. Photo by Will Kincaid / The Bismarck Tribune.



Above: An aerial view of the Bismarck Municipal Ballpark. Courtesy of Bismarck Parks and Recreation. Left: Logo of the Bismarck Larks baseball team. Courtesy of the Bismarck Larks.

MUNICIPAL BALLPARK

2014

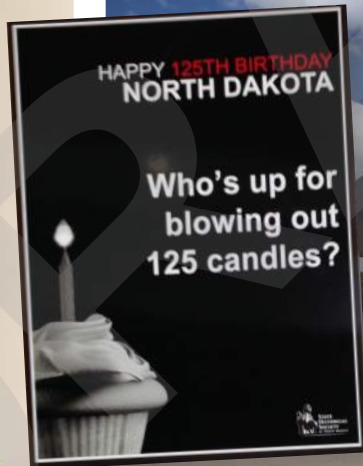
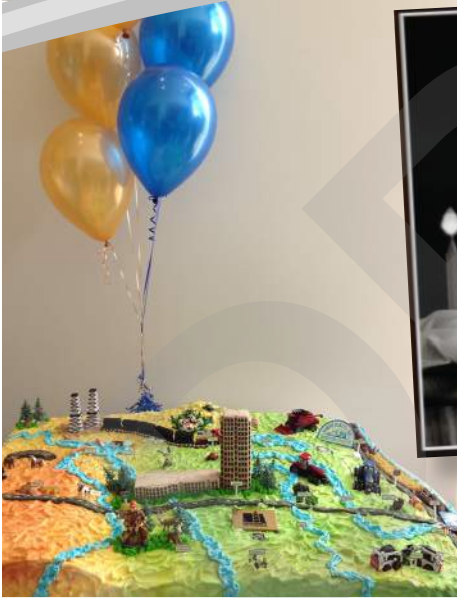


Baseball has been played at what is now the intersection of Washington Street and Front Avenue for at least 100 years. The original municipal ballpark was built on that site in 1921. When Front Avenue and Washington Street were realigned in 1992, the original ballpark was destroyed and a new ballpark was built on the site.

In 2014, the Municipal Ballpark underwent major renovations, mostly funded through private donations. A grandstand with stadium seats was built behind home plate, along with a new press box, concessions area, restrooms, dugouts, and practice/warm-up facilities. The ballpark includes interpretive signs that tell the rich history of baseball in Bismarck. The ballpark now holds about 1,900 fans, and is regularly home to Bismarck high school teams, Bismarck Legion baseball team, and the Bismarck Larks, a collegiate-level team that is part of the Northwoods League.

2014

2014



Left to right: North Dakota depicted as a birthday cake and a poster for the North Dakota quasiquicentennial celebration at the North Dakota Heritage Center. Photos by Blake Dinkins. The addition to the North Dakota Heritage Center. NDDOT.

NORTH DAKOTA QUASQUICENTENNIAL (125 YEAR) CELEBRATION

2014



The year 2014 marked 125 years of statehood for North Dakota. An early celebration was held in April, which included various speeches and musical talent on the capitol grounds. On the anniversary date, the newly-expanded Heritage Center opened its doors and hosted a celebration.

DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE PROTESTS

2016 - 2017



During the winter of 2016-2017, thousands of people gathered to protest Energy Transfer Partners' Dakota Access Pipeline, which runs from the Bakken oilfields in western North Dakota to Illinois, and crosses under part of Lake Oahe on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation southeast of Bismarck.

On November 14, 2016, hundreds of protestors demonstrated against the Dakota Access Pipeline outside the William L. Guy Federal Building after marching from the North Dakota State Capitol. Photo by Mike McCleary / The Bismarck Tribune.



2016



2020: Pop. 73,622

2020



Right: Button provided upon receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Photo by Blake Dinkins.



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2020 -



Above: Throughout 2020, drive through COVID-19 testing and vaccination sessions were held at the Bismarck Events Center. Courtesy of BBPH.

In early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic reached Bismarck, and as of 2022 it is an ongoing public health issue. The first case in Burleigh County was confirmed on March 17, 2020, and the tally of case counts and fatalities became a part of everyday life. Like the rest of the nation (and the world), residents of Bismarck dealt with business and school closures, the cancellation of numerous events, wearing masks in public, and the uncertainty of when it would all end. Local hospitals were often overwhelmed by various waves of infections. Like so many things in American society, reactions to the pandemic became politicized, with some decrying government overreach and others believing the government did not do enough.

BISMARCK'S SESQUICENTENNIAL (150 YEAR) CELEBRATION

2022



Since 1872, the pioneering city of Bismarck has been a community of tradition and innovation. Bismarck's 150th anniversary, or "sesquicentennial," is being celebrated throughout 2022. The city's year-long celebration highlights Bismarck's fascinating history and includes summer activities, public events, publications and exhibits, historic walking tours and scavenger hunts, and novelty banners and commemorative coins. As this timeline illustrates, there are thousands of local stories worth telling!

The official City of Bismarck Sesquicentennial logo. Designed by Nancy Schneider, The Printers.



A fluttering flag commemorating the Bismarck Sesquicentennial at the flagpole outside the City-County Building in downtown Bismarck. Photo by Blake Dinkins.

2022



A nighttime view of the North Dakota State Capitol displaying 150 in illuminated windows. Photo by Jason Tomanek.

DRAFT

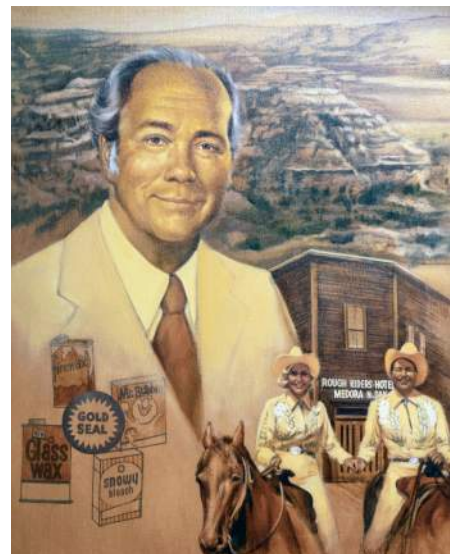
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**BISMARCK HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2022**

The Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission met on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in the Tom Baker Meeting Room in the City-County Office Building, 221 North 5th Street. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom. Chair Sakariassen presided.

Commissioners present were Blake Dinkins, Calvin Grinnell, Tory Jackson, Beth Nodland, Amy Sakariassen and Mark Splonskowski.

Commissioner Walt Bailey was not present.

Staff members present were Sandra Bogaczyk – Office Assistant II, Ben Ehreth – Community Development Director, Jannelle Combs – City Attorney, Will Hutchings – Senior Planner and Jason Tomanek – Assistant City Administrator.

MINUTES

Chair Sakariassen called for consideration of the minutes of the July 20, 2022 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission as there was no June meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Nodland to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2022 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dinkins and with Commissioners Dinkins, Grinnell, Jackson, Nodland, Splonskowski and Chair Sakariassen voting in favor of the motion, the motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Sakariassen asked if there were any public comments.

There being no public input Chair Sakariassen resumed the meeting.

**2022 HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND GRANT ACTIVITIES
2022 CLG CONFERENCE**

Mr. Hutchings stated that the Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission have been chosen to host the 2022 Annual North Dakota Certified Local Government (CLG) Conference, reviewed the draft agenda and requested Commissioners' comments and approval of expenses.

Chair Sakariassen stated that it sounded fun and useful and mentioned that the mobile tour transportation will be accommodating for those who might need assistance.

There was discussion about interests and possible guest speakers.

Mr. Hutchings stated that he will update Commissioners as programs and speakers are booked.

HISTORIC BANNERS

Mr. Hutchings announced that the City of Bismarck has been awarded Historic Preservation Fund grant funding to install streetlight banners as requested in the Historic Preservation Commission's grant application, featuring historic imagery and/or content along with the Bismarck 150th commemorative logo to help promote the City's 150th anniversary. He described the material and its durability. He also presented a logo design for Highland Acres.

There was discussion about various designs and possible content.

Chair Sakariassen stated that she liked the immediately recognizable symbolism.

Mr. Splonskowski stated that historical images comparing the past with the present would be interesting for the public.

Mr. Hutchings stated that he would research pricing for various ideas.

Ms. Nodland was concerned that the scope of the signs would be too limited to one neighborhood instead of a celebration for the entire city.

Mr. Hutchings stated that he will continue the discussion and appreciated the feedback.

TRAVELING HISTORY EXHIBIT

Mr. Hutchings stated that the City of Bismarck has been awarded Historic Preservation Fund grant funding to create a Bismarck-specific historic traveling exhibit as requested in the Historic Preservation Commission's grant application to promote the City's 150th Anniversary while promoting the city's heritage. He stated that staff is seeking more information and discussion on the content and scope of this project from Commission members.

There was discussion of how the Traveling History Exhibit would be created and easily transported and located. Cost was also discussed.

Chair Sakariassen stated that the timeline is not a static project but rather an educational tool which will be developed in many ways.

Mr. Jackson reminded Commissioners and the public that the timeline will be online and gather suggestions from the public.

Mr. Hutchings mentioned that the previously created historic district walking tour maps have been distributed in City offices and has become a popular item for citizens and tourists to request.

SESQUICENTENNIAL TIME CAPSULE PROJECT

Chair Sakariassen indicated that the diversity in the Bismarck community now should be reflected in the items presented in the time capsule project.

Mr. Splonskowski noted that there is a great opportunity to gather items from many groups which might be a source of identity for that group.

Mr. Tomanek stated that this discussion could be placed onto the August agenda of the Human Relations Committee and Global Neighbors. He stated that specifics are not yet known.

There was discussion about what could be added to the time capsule.

OTHER BUSINESS

NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING – HIGHLAND ACRES HISTORIC DISTRICT

Mr. Hutchings stated that Highland Acres was officially accepted by the National Register of Historic Places on July 6, 2022 and stated that several news releases are scheduled.

Chair Sakariassen expressed pride in being a part of making it happen.

Ms. Nodland said it was a nice job.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY LETTER NOTICE

Mr. Hutchings reiterated as a general reminder to the public that digging for artifacts cannot be done by laymen and could constitute a felony.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Sakariassen declared the meeting of the Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 4:08 p.m. to meet again on August 17, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in the Tom Baker Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Bogaczyk
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

Amy Sakariassen, Chair

**BISMARCK HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
August 17, 2022**

The Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission met on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in the Tom Baker Meeting Room in the City-County Office Building, 221 North 5th Street. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom. Chair Sakariassen presided.

Commissioners present were Walt Bailey, Blake Dinkins, Tory Jackson, Beth Nodland, Amy Sakariassen and Mark Splonskowski.

Commissioner Calvin Grinnell was not present.

Staff members present were Sandra Bogaczyk – Office Assistant II, Ben Ehreth – Director of Community Development, Will Hutchings – Senior Planner, Kim Lee – Planning Manager and Stephanie Pretzer – Assistant City Attorney

MINUTES

Secretary's note: Minutes of the July 20, 2022 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be made available for approval at the September 21, 2022 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hutchings stated that there were no attendees in person, nor online.

There being no public input Chair Sakariassen resumed the meeting.

NDCC 55-02-07 REVIEW REQUESTS: CITY OF BISMARCK PROPOSED DISPOSITION OF LAND TO BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE (BSC) AND OTHER PROPOSED DISPOSITION OF LAND.

Mr. Hutchings gave an overview of the proposed disposition of land to Bismarck State College and noted the City has been notified that this transfer of land has known archeological site identified. A map of the location has been provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Hutchings stated that staff asks Commissioners to review the proposed disposition and provide any advisory comments to be shared with the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Mr. Bailey asked if staff invited any of the stakeholders' comments.

There was discussion about the location of proposed buildings, the relocation of buildings and the timeline of development.

Chair Sakariassen asked how often transfers go from the City to a private entity.

Mr. Hutchings named two new properties that came to mind and stated that there are a few more he could think of.

There was discussion about the definition of cultural resources, Century Code regulations and a consensus that the City develop a method to bring in the Historic Preservation Commission at an earlier part of the process.

Mr. Bailey added that adequate surveys should be completed if they have not already done so and asked why archeological objects, which he is aware of, have not been identified. He stated that there is significance to knowing about these objects.

Chair Sakariassen stated her preference that the Historic Preservation Commission encourage an inventory occur before the sale of the land due to there being no responsibility for the proposed owners to do so. There was consensus for this action and Ms. Nodland added examples of possible findings at this site.

Ms. Nodland added that a survey does not create a problem for development but stated that it simply needs to be done. Chair Sakariassen agreed that the process is not meant to impede development but only create a more informed project and that this location is a likely place to find artifacts.

Mr. Hutchings stated that staff welcome the creation of a defined process.

Mr. Hutchings provided an overview of the other property and stated that there is a pending sale of two new lots going to the same owner and a zoning change request for this location and that the Planned Unit Development is written to maintain the current vegetative state and yet to be presented to Planning and Zoning Commission and then scheduled to be presented to City Commission.

Ms. Nodland asked how the public is notified of sales of City property. Mr. Hutchings stated that properties are advertised on the City website for 90 days prior to any sale.

There was discussion about the sale of City property and notification of various entities.

Mr. Jackson stated his deep concern that no one currently has the obligation to do an inventory but stated that the city is supposed to retain lands or easements with certain historical significance and therefore should perform an inventory before land is sold.

Chair Sakariassen stated that the cost of doing an inventory is not prohibitive.

There were renewed statements that Historic Preservation Commission agree that the City is responsible for taking an inventory of artifacts before any sale of City land occur.

Ms. Nodland stated that the map provided does not reveal that any other archeological features might be affected.

There was discussion about the timeline of the BSC project and the timeline of city commission meetings.

Chair Sakariassen asked if Historic Preservation Commission comments were wanted and if so, in what format. Mr. Hutchings stated that the State Director must sign-off and stated that they welcome comments from the Historic Preservation Commission.

There was discussion about the boundaries of the proposed sale and land use.

Mr. Hutchings offered that the city does not regulate land requests.

Ms. Nodland suggested that Historic Preservation Commission might speak to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and City Commission.

Mr. Hutchings stated that defining steps would be an efficient manner in which to address future issues.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Sakariassen asked members to sign up for the 2022 North Dakota Certified Local Government (CLG) Conference and thanked staff for their time and efforts in planning the event.

Mr. Hutchings stated that the event is September 30, 2022 all day in-person and that one-week prior to that members can listen to hear what other CLGs are doing in an online meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Sakariassen declared the meeting of the Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 4:03 p.m. to meet again on September 21, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in the Tom Baker Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Bogaczyk
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

Amy Sakariassen, Chair