



# The Carnegie Courier

Newsletter of

The Mitchell Area Historical

Volume III Number 2

www.mitchellcarnegie.org

December 2009

## Excursion to the Original Site of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Monday August 17, 2009

On August 17, 2009, we took a step back into Mitchell's history. A large group of MAHS members, St. Mary's Episcopal Church members, and guests carpoled to a point north on Highway 37 to the Loomis road. Then we rode by pickup and SUV across the prairie for nearly a mile to the actual first location of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, which is marked by a memorial monument. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed the adventure.

What follows are selected questions, comments and observations, made first from the low hill above the James River Valley and later from the memorial site near the river bank. Floyd Morrison, the landowner, offered most of the information.

**Lyle Swenson:** Why did they build a church here?

**Floyd:** Look at all the little churches around the country. Churches were built close to each other so people didn't have to spend too much time traveling to get there. When the original church was built here the people traveled by horse and buggy, and not many people wanted to travel all day to get to church and then drive all night to get back home. So they put them closer together, and this part of the river was a crossing place. The stagecoach ran along the river here. Once we get down to the riverbank you can see where the stagecoach ran. Across the river near those trees (pointing to a small grove of trees on the east side of the James River) is where the sandstone quarry is, where they got the sandstone that they used to build this church.

**Lyle Swenson:** Remember, there were a lot of sandstone mines around here. These farmers around here had sandstone mines and used it for building. At the CRC we have a map of all the locations of those mines throughout the county where they were mining that sandstone to use for building.

**Floyd:** The house over there is sandstone from this church (pointing across the river, slightly to the left).

**Question:** Do you know what year they tore down the church and moved the stone over there for the house?

**Floyd:** No

**Gordon Plowe:** Is there still someone living in that house?

**Floyd:** No, it's vacant right now. My daughter and her family lived there until a few years ago.

**Floyd:** From the records I have, in March 29, 1882, a full easement was granted to John White. He was going to put a mill in somewhere along here. Other records I have show that on March 22, 1888, Charles J. Morris got a patent for this land from President Grover Cleveland. On April 10, 1888, Morris sold the land to Casper Kerr. The records are somewhat confused, but the Kerr family owned the land from then until April 4, 1902, when it was sold to Nels and Anna Goodbla.

Continued on page 7

## Genealogy Corner

MAGS held elections in September and installed new officers in October. The new officers are Pam Range, president; Miriam Hegwood, vice president; Anna Marie Bosma, secretary; and Andie Sindt, treasurer.

The summer project of taking pictures of the tombstones in the area cemeteries is near completion, and the pictures are being indexed. The project has been a lot of work but will be worth it in the end.

October was family history month. As genealogists we try to remind everyone to take the time to preserve their family history for generations to come. Elderly family members should be interviewed for important family information and stories. It is important to label and preserve pictures as well as other family heirlooms. We have more family history than we realize in our homes; we just need to get the materials organized. Available genealogy software makes it really simple to do. Birth, wedding, graduation, and death announcements and business records are all important.

On October 10, 2009, the MAGS hosted the fall meeting of the South Dakota State Genealogical Society at the CRC. After the meeting, Phyllis Knutson with help from Verlyss Jacobson presented programs about genealogy charts and different ways of getting family members interested in genealogy. Jacque McDonnell, President of the South Dakota State Genealogical Society, sought help from MAGS members as she had encountered

Pam Range

**READER'S NOTE**— To conserve space and ink, throughout this newsletter these organizations are referred to by these abbreviations:

- CRC— Carnegie Resource Center
- MAGS— Mitchell Area Genealogical Society
- MAHS— Mitchell Area Historical Society

If you have a change in address or your email address, please contact us with the change.

## THE REST OF THE STORY

As Paul Harvey used to say - - "And now you know the rest of the story." In the June 2009 issue of the *Carnegie Courier*, on page 3, the last sentence of the article entitled "Where's Calhoun Street?" was inadvertently cut off when the 1953 Firestone ad was inserted. The error was not caught until the pages had been printed. So as to not leave the reader hanging in suspense, or you could say, "Now you'll know the rest of the story," here's the last paragraph as it was intended to be printed.

So, you ask, where's Calhoun Street? Named in honor of one of Mitchell's early settlers, H.H. Calhoun, the street extends from East Second Avenue north to Bridle Drive, one block east of Wallace Street on Mitchell's eastside. Why wasn't it extended to First Avenue? It would have cut right through Mr. C.F. Bates' dairy farm.

Don Boyden

Note: The following letter to the editor was written by Susan Harbert, who lived in Mitchell until she died in 1965.

To the Editor:

I might add a bit of personal history of the early days of Firesteel and Mitchell as to my knowledge.

My father filed on his tree claim early in '79, coming from Iowa with team and covered wagon. Firesteel was the nearest post office at that time and many were the letters sent to and fro from loved ones all during the summer.

My mother, who had remained in Iowa to finish her school teaching, was in sort of a poetic turn of mind one day so she wrote the following rhyme on the envelope which contained the letter to her "best fellow":

"Carry me along at the rapid rate to Dakota Territory, through Iowa State.

In Firesteel Post Office there let me lay.  
Till Arthur E. Elliott takes me away."

This letter with its unusual address was delivered to the party for whom it was meant but not until the postmaster had written on the envelope: "Smart Alec."

I was born in 1881 a few miles from where Firesteel was located and I can truthfully say "I grew up with Mitchell."

When I was about five, I recall that each Saturday my father would load the family into the farm wagon, along with a few rolls of butter and a basket of eggs and off to town we would go.

The seven miles were a long, tedious trip with the old work team, and the cows were ready for milking when we got home.

My brother, a year younger than I, and I agreed that when we reached town we would each look at opposite sides of the road and count how many new buildings had been constructed "since last week." The one who had the smallest number got a little kick from the other one.

It is needless to add that the counting-kicking game didn't last long as the street was soon lined on both sides with new homes and business places.

Mrs. Susan J. Harbert  
905 W. Second  
Mitchell, S.D.



MR. AND MRS. A. E. ELLIOTT  
Wedding Picture of Mrs. Harbert's  
Parents



## Lyle's Corner

We have completed nearly 3 1/2 years in this beautiful building. Each day I believe we get a little more excited about our mission which is not only to seek out and preserve history but also to preserve today's history for the future. One of the big reasons for our excitement is your willingness to assist us by providing items from our past, something which makes our task much easier. Just tonight I received from a friend in Sioux Falls an offer of pictures. So the word is out that we want and will accept nearly everything about Mitchell's past. Our sincere thanks to each one who has helped in any way.

I would be remiss if I did not extend our thanks to our volunteers who put in many hours nearly every day to make it all happen. I am so very proud of you for all you have accomplished in a very short time. Keep up the great work! One last thought to keep in mind: We have no paid staff, we receive no financial assistance from the taxpayers, and our only means of income is from grants from various organizations and from you in the form of donations.

Speaking of volunteers, we recently lost one who really made a difference not only to our Society but also to the community. Garvin Bertsch was so dedicated to preserving the past that he researched and authored numerous publications on local history that have now become standard resources on Mitchell's past. Subject matter includes the histories of Hitchcock Park, drug stores, hotels, banks, and the local Rotary Club as well as several biographies. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Marge and their family as they deal with his loss.



Garvin Bertsch—December 4, 1927—October 13, 2009

If you have not been in lately, we invite you to stop down as the staff has been changing many of the displays. The Oscar Howe display, located in the dome area, is on loan from Dakota Discovery. It is beautiful! Also the Corn Palace exhibit keeps changing with new items received, so we are able to make it more interesting as well as educational.

Let me update you on our current building project. We are nearly three-quarters of the way to our goal of \$56,000, which will repair and/or replace all 55 windows in the building. Some are in very poor condition, so it is paramount that we get this job completed soon. Remember we are a 501 (c) (3) organization, and the end of the tax year is coming quickly. Should you have questions about the project feel free to contact us.

We have had lots of great comments about our last edition which included the centerfold picture of the 200 block of North Main Street and identified all of the businesses located there since 1850. This edition shows the 300 block with all of the memories associated with it. We thank the staff for a marvelous job of researching the history of the block. Their efforts certainly added to our enjoyment of the last *Courier*.

You are invited to our monthly meetings held on the third Monday of each month. We have had very interesting programs about our past and hope you can join us for the next one.

Finally, I need to ask for volunteers to assist us in many ways, such as staffing the Carnegie as your time allows, researching and writing about Mitchell's past, cleaning, and making minor repairs throughout the building so that we can better serve the public. We will try to accommodate your schedule. Helping in any way makes the load easier for the rest of us. We certainly appreciate any and all help.

Lyle Swenson

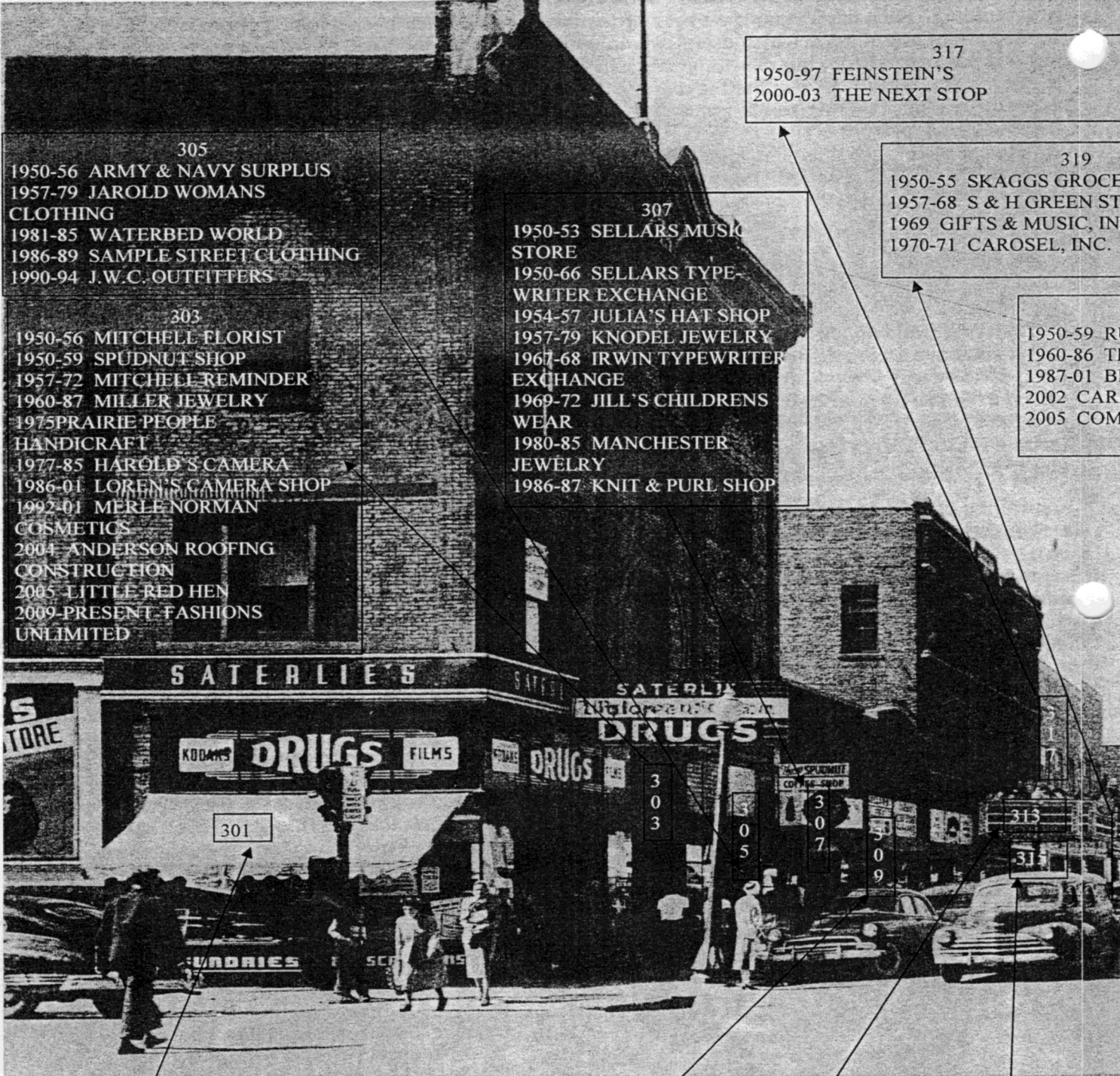
**P.S. STOP THE PRESSES!** Now that I have your attention there are two new collections just received that are worthy of immediate release so here goes. Jeff Logan and Larry Griffith just donated two outstanding Corn Palace collections some of which we have not seen before.

Jeff's donation includes many Corn Palace photos from the 1920s along with some history by the then decorator William Kearney. Too much to describe here but believe me when I tell you it is a wonderful gift and one that will be put to immediate use.

Secondly Larry Griffith has just sold his Country Kitchen restaurant and as he had promised earlier, he has now donated all 62 of the framed Corn Palace photos from years past. It was such a beautiful collection in his restaurant and now likewise will be a great addition to our Corn Palace collection.

Our sincere "THANK YOU" to both Jeff and Larry for their outstanding donations and support, we truly appreciate their assistance. Come see the new additions soon.

Lyle



305  
1950-56 ARMY & NAVY SURPLUS  
1957-79 JAROLD WOMANS  
CLOTHING  
1981-85 WATERBED WORLD  
1986-89 SAMPLE STREET CLOTHING  
1990-94 J.W.C. OUTFITTERS

303  
1950-56 MITCHELL FLORIST  
1950-59 SPUDNUT SHOP  
1957-72 MITCHELL REMINDER  
1960-87 MILLER JEWELRY  
1975 PRAIRIE PEOPLE  
HANDICRAFT  
1977-85 HAROLD'S CAMERA  
1986-01 LOREN'S CAMERA SHOP  
1992-01 MERLE NORMAN  
COSMETICS  
2004 ANDERSON ROOFING  
CONSTRUCTION  
2005 LITTLE RED HEN  
2009 PRESENT FASHIONS  
UNLIMITED

307  
1950-53 SELLARS MUSIC  
STORE  
1950-66 SELLARS TYPE-  
WRITER EXCHANGE  
1954-57 JULIA'S HAT SHOP  
1957-79 KNODEL JEWELRY  
1967-68 IRWIN TYPEWRITER  
EXCHANGE  
1969-72 JILL'S CHILDRENS  
WEAR  
1980-85 MANCHESTER  
JEWELRY  
1986-87 KNIT & PURL SHOP

317  
1950-97 FEINSTEIN'S  
2000-03 THE NEXT STOP

319  
1950-55 SKAGGS GROCE  
1957-68 S & H GREEN ST  
1969 GIFTS & MUSIC, IN  
1970-71 CAROSEL, INC.

1950-59 R  
1960-86 T  
1987-01 B  
2002 CAR  
2005 COM

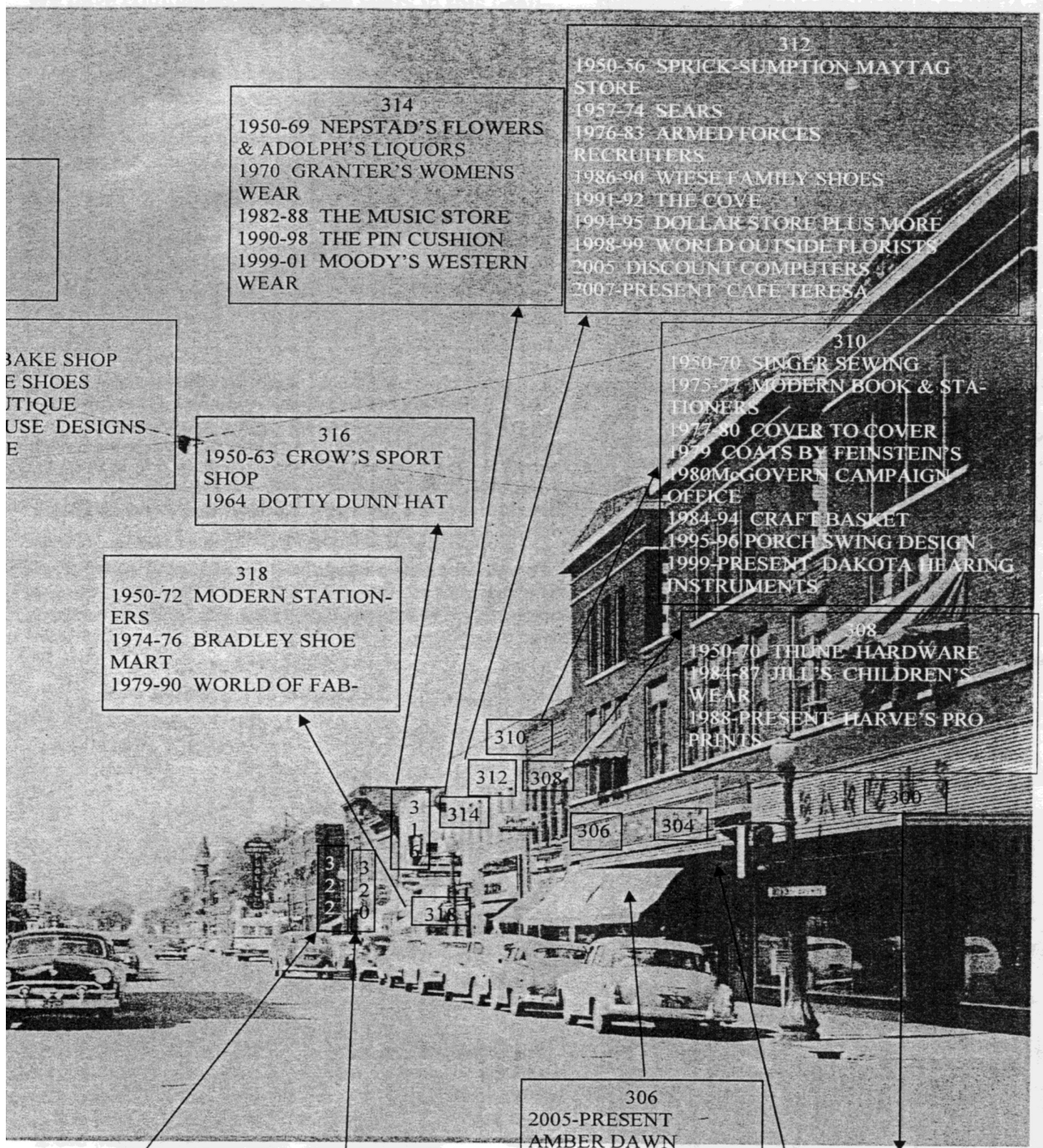
301  
1950-74 SATERLIE DRUG  
1977-80 DAYLIGHT DONUTS  
1981-91 JOHN G. KINARD  
INVESTMENTS  
1998-04 MIDWEST  
ORTHOPEDIC CENTER  
2005-07 ABACO, INC.

309  
1950-56 JAROLD WOMAN'S  
SHOP  
1957-91 DETHLEF'S FLOWERS  
1994-97 NEOGRAPHICS  
FRAMING  
1998-02 ANTIQUE STUDIO

313  
1950-52 PARAMOUNT  
THEATER  
1952-94 STATE THEATER

3  
1950-05 SCORE





314  
1950-69 NEPSTAD'S FLOWERS & ADOLPH'S LIQUORS  
1970 GRANTER'S WOMENS WEAR  
1982-88 THE MUSIC STORE  
1990-98 THE PIN CUSHION  
1999-01 MOODY'S WESTERN WEAR

312  
1950-56 SPRICK-SUMPTION MAYTAG STORE  
1957-74 SEARS  
1976-83 ARMED FORCES RECRUITERS  
1986-90 WIESE FAMILY SHOES  
1991-92 THE COVE  
1991-95 DOLLAR STORE PLUS MORE  
1998-99 WORLD OUTSIDE FLORISTS  
2005 DISCOUNT COMPUTERS  
2007-PRESENT CAFE TERESA

BAKE SHOP  
E SHOES  
TIQUE  
USE DESIGNS  
E

316  
1950-63 CROW'S SPORT SHOP  
1964 DOTTY DUNN HAT

310  
1950-70 SINGER SEWING  
1975-77 MODERN BOOK & STATIONERS  
1977-80 COVER TO COVER  
1979 COATS BY FEINSTEIN'S  
1980 McGOVERN CAMPAIGN OFFICE  
1984-94 CRAFT BASKET  
1995-96 PORCH SWING DESIGN  
1999-PRESENT DAKOTA HEARING INSTRUMENTS

318  
1950-72 MODERN STATIONERS  
1974-76 BRADLEY SHOE MART  
1979-90 WORLD OF FAB-

308  
1950-70 THUNE HARDWARE  
1984-87 JILL'S CHILDREN'S WEAR  
1988-PRESENT HARVE'S PRO PRINTS

310

312

308

314

316

320

322

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318

306

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300

306  
2005-PRESENT AMBER DAWN

322  
1950-65 BLYNN SHOES  
1966-PRESENT BROWN SHOE FIT

320  
1950-61 NATIONAL LIFE OF AMERICA INS.  
1967-96 LINDA'S HALLMARK  
1999-PRESENT THE PIN CUSSION

304  
1998-2003 CEMETARIES AGLOW

300-306  
1950-59 BARON BROS.  
1960-90 WOOLWORTH'S



## A LIFT INTO TOWN

Dr. LeRoy P. Krause, a Mitchell orthodontist, was a lover of antique, vintage automobiles. He would find, buy and completely restore, to pristine condition, cars from the early 1900's. He exhibited his collection at the Friends of the Middle Border Museum and would drive them in parades when the opportunity arose. One of his prize possessions was a 1929 Plymouth Popcorn Wagon. He and his wife Janet would make and sell popcorn from this vehicle at the city band concerts held in the summer on the Davison County Courthouse lawn. Whether selling popcorn or driving the cars in parades, the Krauses were always dressed in period attire. Their appearance truly brought back nostalgic memories for a lot of folks.

One of the automobiles Dr. Krause restored became the focus of attention when Jack Benny was signed as the headliner for the Corn Palace Show. The year was 1967 and the car was a Maxwell. Those of us who are old enough to remember listening to Jack Benny on the radio will remember how he was always portrayed as a penny-pincher and would squeeze a nickel until it squealed. In the same light he would refer to his 1908 Maxwell, as a perfectly good car so why buy a newer one?

When Mr. Benny's plane landed at the Mitchell Municipal Airport, guess who was waiting to give him "a lift into town"? You guessed it! Dr. Krause, decked out in a driving coat, cap and goggles was sitting astride his 1911 Maxwell. Jack Benny was totally delighted. He stated that even though he had always referred to his 1908 Maxwell, he had never ever seen one, let alone ridden in one. Well this was to be quite a momentous occasion for both him and Dr. Krause.

So, into the city they rode with all the fanfare Mitchell could bestow upon a visiting celebrity. I'm sure Mr. Benny long remembered that ride and Dr. Krause continued restoring his prize automobiles, knowing that he had made a friend for life.

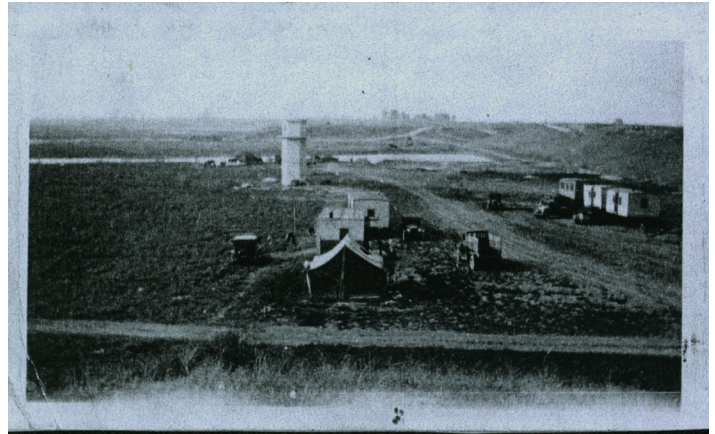
Don Boyden D.D.S.



At the airport Saturday as Jack Benny and the troupe for the Corn Palace show arrived by jet, Dr. LeRoy Krause was ready to drive him to the city in a 1911 Maxwell. In spite of many jokes about the brand of car, Benny took a seat in the auto but said, "I wouldn't drive this thing if you paid me."

(Republic Photo by Roberts)

## LAKE MITCHELL WATER INTAKE TOWER



The picture above shows the completed water intake tower, resembling an airport control tower, standing in the middle of a field in 1927. Actually it's standing where it is today, on the floor of Lake Mitchell. The trailers shown in the picture were dormitories for the construction workers. The dam is to the right of the trailers and Firesteel Creek can be seen in the background.

The picture below shows the water intake tower in 1928 as water started filling Lake Mitchell. Filling the lake took approximately two years. On May 12, 1929, water went over the spillway for the first time.



Use of the water intake tower was discontinued in 1984 when the new water filtration plant was built. However, the tower, a symbol of the lake's beginning, still stands today, albeit slightly tilted due to movement by ice over the years.

Don Boyden, D.D.S.

"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave."

Calvin Coolidge

"Be Curious always! For knowledge will not acquire you; you must acquire it."

Sudie Back

## MITCHELL STREET RAILWAY

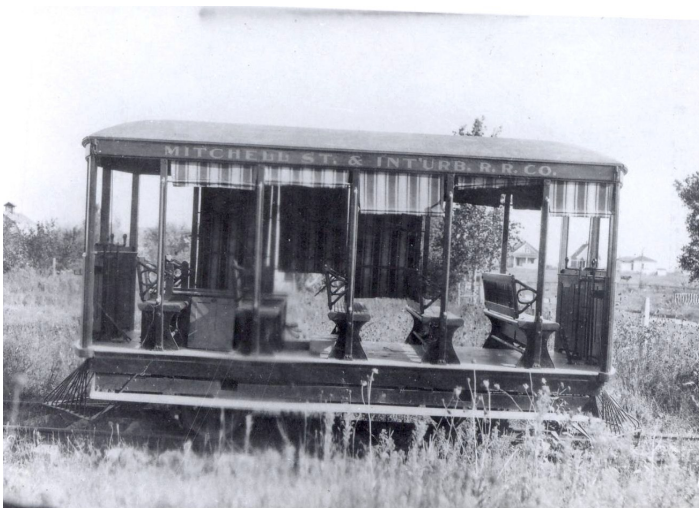
As the song says: "Clang, Clang, Clang went the trolley, Ding, Ding, Ding went the bell" -- and indeed it did in Mitchell. The Mitchell Street and Interurban Railroad Company had its beginning on August 25, 1915 when Mayor Tom Ball drove the first spike in the street railway system.

The trolley line was constructed by Oscar E. Cassem and his construction company. The line ran on Rowley Street from First to Twelfth avenues, connecting the Milwaukee and Omaha depots. The extension north to Twelfth Avenue was built with the hope that commerce would develop in that area, an area owned by Cassem.

The trolley was electrically driven with power coming from an overhead wire. The picture shows the trolley car used during the early days of the street railway. The fare ranged from two to five cents.

It is believed the trolley ceased to operate as automobiles became more plentiful and affordable. Remnants of the old trolley line were unearthed at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Rowley in 2002 when that intersection was rebuilt. A two foot section of rail has been preserved by the Mitchell Area Historical Society.

Don Boyden D.D.S.



One of the streetcars used for the trolley.

## Excursion to Original Site of St. Mary's Episcopal Church (continued)

In 1908 it was sold to W. D. Waterman. In 1914 Waterman sold it to Phillip E. Tobin, and in 1916 Tobin sold it to Sevarin Laufenberg. In 1917 Laufenberg sold it to John Pitts from Ethan, and in 1925 he sold it to the Morrisons, and it's belonged to the Morrison family ever since.

**Jim Hunt:** Before we move on, the dedication was what, 1975?

**Audience member:** That was the 100-year anniversary of the church.

**Jim Hunt:** OK, the question I have is that according to the data we have (at the MAHS) there was a time capsule. Is that still in there?

**Myrna Stone:** The time capsule was put in and the (granite) cross was put up in 1975, when Gordon (Plowe) and Sam (Weller) (were leading that effort).

**Floyd:** The time capsule is right behind this marble on the concrete pedestal

**Lyle Swenson:** What about where the building originally sat..., over by those trees (pointing part way up the hill)?

**Floyd:** I think it sat right where that tree fell down. If you look, there's a basement there.

**Jim Hunt:** Filled in with the plum thicket.

**Myrna Stone:** This church was wood though, wasn't it?

**Floyd:** No, the first cross that was dedicated was made of wood. It was just like two parts (indicates the form of a cross with his arms).

**Myrna Stone:** And we all have crosses from (the dedication in) 1975 that were made from that wood. I have mine yet, on the kitchen wall.

**Second female audience member:** I do too.

**Floyd:** How did you get them?

**Myrna and other female audience members:** Because we belonged to the church. Toy Coury made all of those.

**Floyd (laughing):** Because the cross was always up to our place, right back of my garage... the wooden cross.

**Female audience members:** I don't know. We got them at the centennial...

**Male audience member:** You got the (wooden) cross now?

**Floyd:** I don't know if it is. Do you know if it's up there yet, Butch (Darwin Morrison)?

**Butch Morrison:** Part of it's the gate.

General audience laughter and discussion about the origin of the wood for the small crosses that were made for the dedication in 1975, how the base of the cross had rotted away and that part of it was used to build a gate on the Morrisons' farm.

The questions and discussions continued. The topics ranged from the geology of the area, the stone quarries that existed in Davison County, the prevalence of sharks' teeth in the James River and Firesteel Creek, the stagecoach road that passed through the area from Yankton, South Dakota, to Bismarck or Jamestown, North Dakota, and the impact of roads and the Corps of Engineers on the James River during the last 100 years.

A complete transcript from the trip is available at the CRC.

Christian Festvog

We would like to express our deep appreciation to everyone who has donated time, money, services or historical items to the CRC in the past year. Our mission is to preserve history of the Mitchell Area and to make it available to the public. Please take time to come into the Carnegie and see the displays and to share in the history, that belongs to us all. **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

# The Carnegie Courier

Newsletter of the Mitchell Area Historical  
& Genealogical Societies  
119 West Third Avenue  
PO Box 263  
Mitchell, SD 57301

**Return Service Requested**

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## December 2009 Newsletter

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### Upcoming Events at the CRC

January 25, 2010—MAHS Annual Meeting at Wesley  
Acres Dining Room, speaker, Jeff  
Hazard

February—Boyscout Display Celebrating 100 years of  
Boyscouts

April 30-May 14— Fallen Heroes Banners

April and May— Military Displays

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Episcopal Church (continued)

**Carnegie Resource Center is open-  
Monday—Saturday, 1:00— 5:00  
p.m.**

**Call 605-996-3209 for additional  
times**



**Memorial/Honor Gifts to the Carnegie Resource Center  
January, 2008-December, 2009  
We apologize for any errors or omissions**

**IN HONOR OF:**

Arden Browers Birthday  
Beverly Frey  
Clyde Goin Birthday

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Donald Dahl  
Michael Ackerman  
Bill Hanks  
Maxine Richardson  
Ted England  
John and Sylvia Carr  
Herb and Mary Tornow  
Edna Weller  
Norman Fuegen  
DeWayne Gurney  
Albert C and Priscilla E Cohrt  
D. W. "Bud" Stenson  
Dick Barnhart  
Ida Mae Unzicker  
Jean Whitney Anderson Stoner  
June and Dustin Durst  
La Rue Hetland  
Sharon Economos  
Lyle Frey  
Dean and Viola Lowrie  
Martin Lesser  
George, Freda, Glen and Dwight Deter  
Raymond E. and Helen A. Thompson  
Robert Busk  
Robert L. Gregg  
Sheree Davis  
William Reid and Blanche G. Danforth  
Garvin Bertsch  
Garvin Bertsch  
Garvin Bertsch  
Garvin Bertsch

**BY:**

Mike Johnson  
Glen Lowrie  
Stephen and Stephanie Gullings

**BY:**

Robert and Marion Dahl  
Shirley Tanner  
Bob, Pam and Gregory Thomas  
Dorene Palizzolo  
Ted England Family  
Pat Bellinghiere  
John Tornow  
Sandra Long  
Gordon Williamson  
Gordon Williamson  
Kathryn Crockett  
La Dawn Dykhouse  
Susan Horner  
Kathryn Crockett  
Christine Moehring  
Larry and Pamela Durst  
Gordon Williamson  
Gordon Williamson  
Glen Lowrie  
Glen Lowrie  
Paul Lesser  
Charles Deter  
Sharon Clunk  
Lou Ora Houk  
Reva Gregg  
Trudy Kirchhevel  
June Downs  
Jon Arend  
Ronald Gates  
Harlan and Jan Quenzer  
20<sup>th</sup> Century Club