



The Carnegie Courier

Newsletter of The Mitchell Area Historical & Genealogical Societies

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December 2010

MAHS Annual Meeting

On Monday, January 17, 2011, the MAHS annual meeting will be held at Wesley Acres, 1115 West Havens. Rod Evans, author of his recently published book Palaces on the Prairie will present a video featuring the many grain palaces, including Mitchell's three Corn Palaces.

A reservation form is included in this newsletter. We would like to receive no later than Monday, January 10, 2011. If necessary, e-mail kapooley@weisd.com or call Kathryn Crockett at 605-996-2723. Business at the meeting will be installation of officers for 2011. An annual report will be distributed.

Memberships – new and renewal – are due in January and can be paid when you attend the annual meeting or you may include the membership form and payment with your dinner reservation form and check.

Delicious menu choices are offered by Heath Dummer, manager of Whiskey Creek. As former manager of Ruby Tuesday, Mr. Dummer has catered the MAHS annual meeting for several years and is again doing so at a very reasonable price.

Liz Soladay, violist with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra and conductor of the Huron Symphony Strings, will present appealing music selections played by a strings ensemble which includes Beth Neitzert, concertmaster of the Huron orchestra. Many Mitchell area residents participate in the Huron Symphony Strings.

The CRC Windows Project

Scott Petersen, contractor engaged by the MAHS to repair and/or replace the 55 deteriorated CRC windows, is proceeding well on this major project to help weatherproof the 1903 quartzite structure.

Grants - \$10,000 from the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation, \$7,500 from Outside Historic Deadwood funds, and \$5,000 from the South Dakota State Historical Society - and many generous donations from friends and members of the MAHS and MAGS have funded this almost \$60,000 effort. As with any old building, surprises, such as a leak high on the exterior north wall, have been discovered and remedied.

A unique requirement in applying for Outside Historic Deadwood funds was the need to show links between Mitchell and Deadwood. At least two links were described: (1) The Reverend Charles Badger Clark, D.D., served in Methodist Episcopal churches in Mitchell and Deadwood in the late 1800s and early 1900s and (2) the wagon and stagecoach trail from Yankton north to connect with the trail across Dakota Territory to Deadwood.

The Reverend Charles Badger Clark, D.D., served as pastor in Mitchell of the Methodist Episcopal Church (a forerunner of
(continued on page 2)

Genealogical Society News

Another year is ending for MAGS and we look forward to 2011. New officers elected in September were installed in October: Pam Range, president; Lois Kline, vice-president; Anna Marie Bosma, secretary; Andie Sindt, treasurer. If anyone has a program to suggest, please notify Pam at 605-996-3209 or rangep@mitchellcarnegie.org. Members have provided interesting programs this year:

June: Jim Hunt instructed the group about genealogical resources available at the CRC and where to find them.

July: Earl Davis reported on his Swedish Family Reunion that was held in the United States this year and some of the events that were held during it.

August: Lois Kline demonstrated how Google Earth can be used in our genealogical research.

September: Lynette Higgins and Lois Kline talked about "Why to Use a Family Group Sheet?"

October: Mel and Karen Pooley gave tips on how to most efficiently use Google Search.

November: Roundtable on brick walls and help topics.

December: No meeting. Merry Christmas Everyone!!

All are invited to our monthly meeting on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Please contact us for assistance with your Mitchell Area research. Often overlooked sources are our school alumni yearbooks and wedding articles from the local papers, many of which contain great pictures.

Members have been indexing some of the resources available at the CRC. Andie Sindt has also been working on the doctors file trying to locate information about all of the doctors who practiced in Mitchell. We would appreciate receiving information about or pictures of doctors or any other Mitchell area business people or businesses.

MAGS is an affiliate of the South Dakota State Genealogical Society, which meets quarterly and has a booth at the South Dakota State Fair. We collect MAGS annual dues in January. A membership form is included in this newsletter.

Pam Range, President, MAGS

To the reader: To conserve space and ink, throughout this newsletter these abbreviations are used:

CRC– Carnegie Resource Center

MAGS– Mitchell Area Genealogical Society

MAHS– Mitchell Area Historical Society

SDSHS–South Dakota Historical Society

If you change your postal or email address, do let us know.

605.996.3209 or rangep@mitchellcarnegie.org

Look for the Carnegie Resource Center on Facebook.

(Windows Project continued)

the First United Methodist Church at 310 North Rowley Street) in 1885 and 1886 and as a presiding elder of the Mitchell District from 1886 to 1893. After serving as pastor in Huron from 1893 to 1898, he became the minister in Deadwood 1898 to 1900 and continued in Deadwood from 1900 to 1907 as superintendent of the Black Hills Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was much respected for his leadership, kindness, and compassion.

In 1903, during the Reverend Clark's time in Deadwood, Calamity Jane (real name Martha Jane Canary) returned to die. According to the August 1959 issue of "Together," a Methodist publication, some old-timers asked the Reverend Clark if he would "make a few remarks over the coffin of Calamity Jane at the city hall." He responded "Harrumph! The city hall is no place for anybody to be buried from – not even a sinner like Calamity Jane. Bring her to the Methodist Church and we'll give her a real funeral." The funeral was reputedly one of the best attended up to that time.

Charles Badger Clark, Jr., son of the Reverend Clark and poet laureate of South Dakota from 1937 until his death in 1957, often commented that "My father's deeds of mercy are unnumbered, but such is the irony of human nature, he'll be remembered longest, I suppose, because he buried Calamity Jane!" The article on page 56 of "Together" was titled "How Calamity Jane Finally Got to Church."

A photograph of the Reverend Clark was provided by Mike Runge, archivist, from the City of Deadwood, Preacher Smith Heritage Center Collection, and was published on December 28, 2009, on page 6 of The Mitchell Daily Republic in the weekly "Back in Time" feature which uses information and photographs submitted by the Mitchell Area Historical Society.

The Reverend Charles Badger Clark could have traced his ancestry to the Reverend Peter Clark (March 12, 1694/1693 to June 10, 1768). Peter was a graduate of Harvard College. The father of the Reverend Charles Badger Clark was Henry Clark (September 27, 1815, to after 1889 – date not certain) who homesteaded near Plankinton, Aurora County, Dakota Territory, in 1883, after leaving Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. The Reverend C. B. Clark apparently moved to this Aurora County area at the same time and began his term as pastor of Mitchell's Methodist Episcopal Church in 1885. Charles Badger Clark, Jr., the future poet laureate of South Dakota, was born on January 1, 1883. Henry Clark married Harriet D. Badger on March 22, 1838. She lived from March 15, 1817, to date unknown. In 1862, Henry Clark served in Company B, Iowa 125th Regiment, in the Civil War. Apparently the Reverend C. B. Clark was living in Albia, Iowa, in 1883 since his son, Charles Badger Clark, Jr., the future poet laureate of South Dakota, was born on January 1, 1883, in Albia, Iowa.

The son of Henry and Harriet (Badger) Clark was Charles Badger Clark who became the Reverend Charles Badger Clark, D.D. He is buried at Mitchell's Graceland Cemetery with his first and second wife and Fred H. Clark, son of C. B. and M. E. Clark. Their life spans were: C. B. Clark (1839 to 1921), first wife Mary E. (Cleaver) Clark (1844 to 1898), second wife Anna (Morris) Clark (1883 to 1937), and Fred H. Clark (1873 to 1894).

The Yankton to Deadwood stage and wagon trail

The second major link of Mitchell to Deadwood was the trail on the west side of the James River from Yankton.

With the discovery of gold in the Black Hills in 1876, prospectors and settlers were drawn to the Black Hills. Israel Greene, the Civil War veteran who apprehended John Brown at Harper's Ferry, had settled at Firesteel on the James River and was a leader of the tiny community. The Territorial legislature engaged him to survey a route to Fort Thompson where the trail met the Pierre to Deadwood overland trail to Deadwood. In 2008 the Pierre to Deadwood Trail was used by present-day "pioneers," some from the Mitchell area, to travel from Pierre to Deadwood on that historic route.

Gratitude is extended to Dakota Wesleyan University Professor Emeritus James McLaird for the Badger Clark link, to Laurie Langland, archivist for DWU and the United Methodist conference, for information from those collections, and to MAGS genealogist Andie Sindt who traced the ancestry of the Reverend Badger Clark and also photographed the gravesite at Mitchell's Graceland Cemetery. James Hunt, a founding member of MAHS, aided in research about the trail.

Kathryn Crockett



Scott Petersen, windows project contractor, at work on a Carnegie window. *September 2010 photo by Lynette Higgins, CRC volunteer.*

City Improvement Award

The CRC has again been honored by a Community Improvement Award from the Mitchell Chamber of Commerce City Beatification Committee. We are grateful for recognition of our windows project which not only helps make the building energy efficient but also greatly improves the exterior appearance of this 1903 structure.

Thank you to the Committee and to our generous benefactors who have made this project possible.

MAHS Events

From June through November members and friends enjoyed many special events. December 9 (after this Carnegie Courier goes to press), the **Mitchell Barbershop Chorus** will again entrance us with their harmonies reverberating from the dome gallery, and **Wanema Wiczorek** will play Christmas music on the Knabe grand piano. The Carnegie will be decorated for Christmas, and **Chris Festvog** will again be **Santa Christof**.

These events took place:

July 11: Dr Adrien Hannus, professor of archeology and director of the Anthropology Laboratory at Augustana College, and **Dr. Alan Outram**, archeologist and faculty member of the University of Exeter, hosted a visit to the **Thomsen Center Archeodome**. They described the archeological work in this magnificent facility which provides a site to learn about the prehistoric Native Americans who lived on the banks of Firesteel Creek.

July 19: Michael Fosha, archeologist of the SDSHS and lead researcher of the site of **Fort James**, led visitors around remains of the only stone fort in the Dakota Territory. The site is on land of the Rockport Hutterite Colony on the west side of the James River. In 2009 PBS featured Dr. Fosha and Dr. Hannus on the Time Team America episode about historic Fort James. Afterward, the group heard an informative PowerPoint presentation by Dr. Fosha at the CRC.

August 16: (Rain delayed our visit to the Van Overschelde "Rock House" site.) Instead, MAHS President Lyle Swenson spoke about the famed band leader and march composer **John Philip Sousa** who played in Mitchell for several days each in 1904 and 1907.

September 23: A talk by **Margaret Quintal**, an early executive director of the Oscar Howe Art Center which was located in the Carnegie, was cancelled for September 20 because of her ill health. Instead, the previously scheduled tour of the "**Rock House**" took place on this rainy, cold day. Those who braved the inclement conditions spoke highly of owner **David Van Overschelde** who hosted the interesting visit to this site which served as a beautiful home and a stop for stages and wagons which traveled the trail between Yankton and Fort Thompson along the west side of the James River.

October 18: James McLaird, Dakota Wesleyan University professor emeritus of history, read excerpts from and spoke about writing of his recently published book **The Dakota Wesleyan Memory Book, 1885-2010**. Dr. McLaird used the DWU campus newspaper to present the students' views throughout the years.

November 15: Chris Festvog, MAHS secretary, spoke about his uncle Christian Festvog. Soon after his entering the U.S. Army in World War I, Festvog was sent to Europe. While enroute across the Atlantic to France, Festvog contracted the Spanish flu. Within three days after landing in France, he died. His nephew, MAHS Chris Festvog, had correspondence and artifacts from his ancestors who settled in North Dakota. His talk was an especially insightful view of the early Dakota pioneers.

Kathryn Crockett

Lyle's Corner

It's another great day at the Carnegie! Folks are still donating items, sometimes faster than we can get the paperwork done and get items located where we can find them. None the less, we are having fun showing off our great facility to one and all. Visitors from the four corners of the country have been in to see our beautiful building and the displays. Four and a half years ago when we took over this building, we had no idea just how far we could go, but we are fast running out of room. That's a good problem to have. Thank you to each and everyone who has donated in any way.

Our window replacement and repair project is coming along. Soon we will be tightly enclosed with thermal pane windows. Such a project is never simple, and this one required rebuilding some frames, repairing sills and other woodwork, and painting the window trim. We knew we had problems in the north wall with moisture and now believe that the problem area has been repaired. Our sincere thanks to all who donated so that this could be accomplished and the damage stopped.

Along with nearly everyone else in the Mitchell area, the Carnegie had water in the basement this past summer. It started in June when we received huge amounts of rain and the sump pump quit. A day later the new replacement quit. We were faced with taking up wet carpet, mopping and vacuuming water, running fans twenty-four/seven, etc. You know the routine because most likely you were doing the same thing. The water in the basement mandated that we get everything raised up in case it happens again. We were very lucky that nothing was ruined and don't want to take any chances.

We were able to assist the Mitchell Main Street & Beyond group this summer as they arranged visits to several older buildings on Main Street. Many are looking forward to more visits next summer. We learned a great deal about these buildings and shared the information we have.

I can't go further without thanking all our very dedicated volunteers. Without them we could not maintain or sustain our Society. The best part is that they keep coming back to do more and more! Researching, making building repairs, filing, and "manning the fort" are just a few of their duties. Again, my sincere THANK YOU!

Earlier this year at the Corn Palace, with the Corn Palace and the Convention and Visitors Bureau, we co-hosted Rod Evans of Aberdeen, South Dakota, who wrote Palaces on the Prairie, which contains information on 34 different palaces located in eight different states, the Corn Palace being one of the palaces. There were grain, corn, coal, and alfalfa palaces to name a few. All faced the same challenges—to get people to move to or visit their towns. Since Evans' book went to press, another 20 palaces have been found, and those are the ones we know about. Think about this: Of the 54 known palaces, our Corn Palace is the only one still going strong. This makes our Corn Palace history collection all the more important. Come see it.

We are looking forward to the Mitchell Barbershop Chorus performing for Christmas at the Carnegie. Part of the performance will take place on the rotunda balcony where the acoustics are outstanding. Come and hear it all happen on Thursday, December 9. The admission fee is a donation of non-perishable food or cash to the Mitchell Area Food Pantry.

Again, our sincere thanks to everyone. Come see us soon.

Lyle Swenson, President, MAHS

1950-1952 BASEMENT-JACK'S BARBERSHOP, VANITY BEAUTY SHOPPE
 1ST FLOOR-FINLEY INSURANCE AGENCY, Wm COMSTOCK REAL ESTATE
 1953-1957 BASEMENT-TED EBEL BARBERSHOP, VANITY BEAUTY SHOPPE
 1ST FLOOR-BALDWIN FINANCE CO., COMSTOCK REAL ESTATE
 1958-1959 BASEMENT-TED EBEL BARBERSHOP, VANITY BEAUTY SHOPPE
 1ST FLOOR-IRWIN ASMUSSEN REAL ESTATE
 1960-1965 BASEMENT-TED EBEL BARBERSHOP, VANITY BEAUTY SHOPPE
 1ST FLOOR-J.R. ROSS ACCOUNTING, ASMUSSEN REAL ESTATE
 1966-1969 BASEMENT-TED EBEL BARBERSHOP, VANITY BEAUTY SHOPPE
 1ST FLOOR-ASMUSSEN REAL ESTATE & INSURANCE
 1970-1973 1ST FLOOR-ASMUSSEN REAL ESTATE & INSURANCE
 1974 BASEMENT-WAGNER BARBERSHOP
 1ST FLOOR-ASMUSSEN REAL ESTATE & INSURANCE
 1975 VACANT
 1976 1ST FLOOR-KIRBY LAW OFFICE
 1977 1ST FLOOR-KIRBY & OLSEN LAW OFFICE
 1978-1980 1ST FLOOR-KIRBY & KINER LAW OFFICE
 1981 1ST FLOOR-KIRBY LAW OFFICE
 1982-1994 VACANT
 1995-2010 1ST FLOOR-L.L. JIRSA ARCHITECTS

1950-1952 F
 1953-1957 S
 1958-1965 P
 1966-2010 P

121
 1950-2010 AMERICAN LEGION CLUB

119
 1950-1963 TP NAVIN BAR
 1964-1974 LES' BAR
 1975 CIRCUS BAR
 1976 VACANT
 1977-2010 NOT LISTED

1950-1976 FF
 1977-2010 CI

111
 1950-1968 MITCHELL JEWELERS
 1969 NORTHWEST SALES & SERVICE
 1970-1972 VACANT
 1973 SHOELAND DISCOUNT CENTER
 1974-1976 MITCHELL ADVISOR
 1977 VACANT
 1978-2010 NOT LISTED

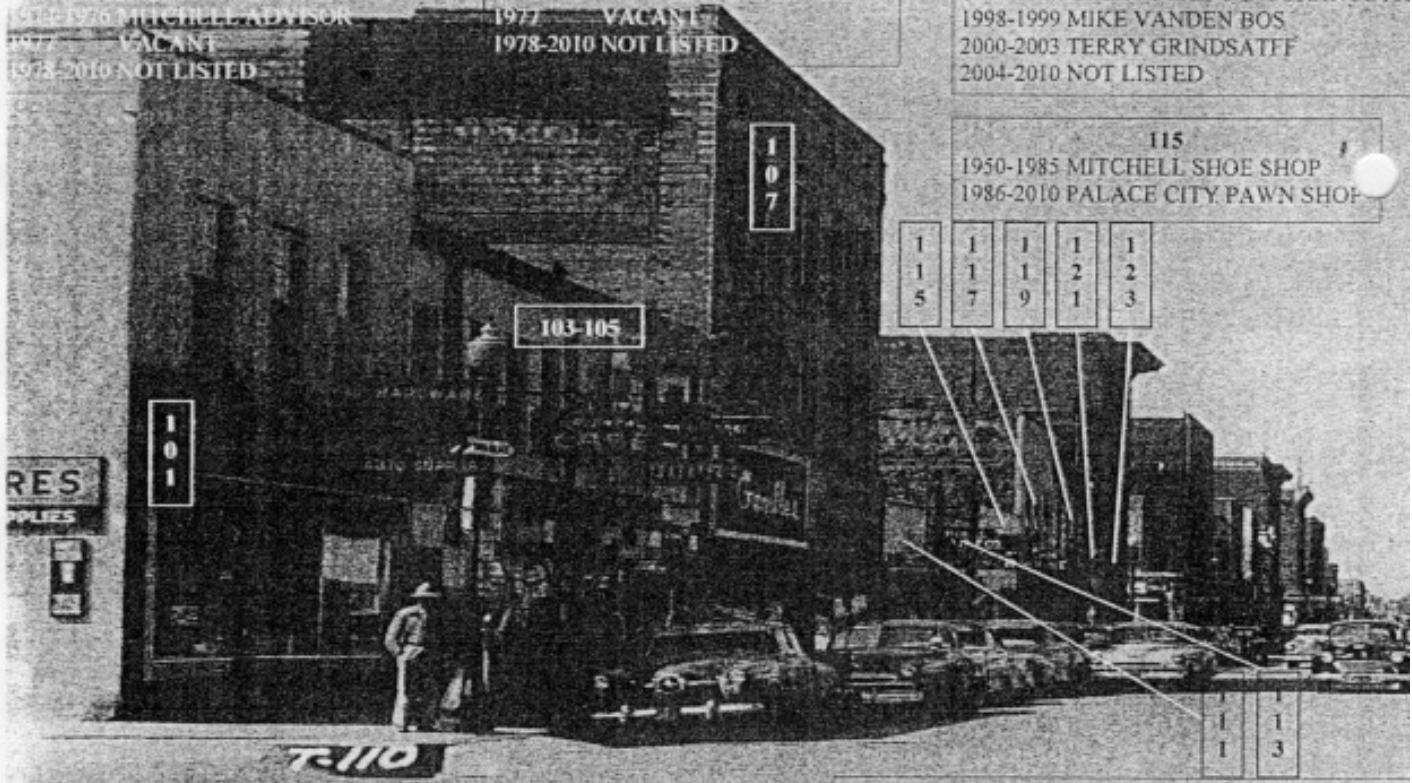
113
 1950-1959 LEGION LUNCH
 1960-1974 ANDERST LUNCH
 1975 JO'S THRIFT SHOP
 1976 CHARLIE'S SHOE REPAIR
 1977 VACANT
 1978-2010 NOT LISTED

117
 1950-1973 KRALL OPTICAL SERVICE
 1974 VACANT
 1975 BURROUGHS WALLPAPER & P
 1976 VACANT
 1977-1997 GREAT PLAINS INSURANCE AC
 1998-1999 MIKE VANDEN BOS
 2000-2003 TERRY GRINDSATFF
 2004-2010 NOT LISTED

115
 1950-1985 MITCHELL SHOE SHOP
 1986-2010 PALACE CITY PAWN SHOP

1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	2	2
5	7	9	1	3

1	1
1	3



101
 1950-1963 COAST-TO-COAST
 1964-1966 VACANT
 1967-1974 MERCHANDISE OUTLET
 1975-2010 LONGHORN BAR

103-105
 1950-1954 ORIENTAL CAFE
 1955-1956 GEORGE'S CAFE
 1957-2000 TOWN HOUSE CAFE
 2001-2010 V.F.W. CLUB

107
 1950-1968 GAMBLES SHOPPING CENTER
 1969-1970 FRIEST FURNITURE & CARPET CENTER
 1971 KLEINSASSER FURNITURE & CARPET
 1972-1973 VACANT
 1974-1975 GAMBLES
 1976-1987 VACANT
 1988-1996 MAJESTIC HALL
 1997 NOT LISTED
 1998-2009 BETTY'S CAFE
 2010 AMERICAN LEGION/BETTY'S CAFE

122
 SKIN FOOD MARKET
 SAN'S KLADEZEE SHOP
 ERCHANDISE OUTLET
 OT LISTED

116
 1950-1954 BON TON LIQUOR STORE
 1955-1959 MIDWEST CHURCH SUPPLY
 1960-1967 HARRY'S RADIO & TV REPAIR
 1968-1972 VACANT
 1973-1980 MITCHELL MUSIC STUDIO
 1981-1985 PALACE CITY PAWN SHOP
 1986 VACANT
 1987-1995 ADVISOR SHOPPING GUIDE
 1996-1997 VACANT
 1998-2000 ELECTRIC BUCK
 2001-2010 OUTNEDOSE BEAUTY SALON

110
 1950-1953 RYBERG CAFE
 1954-1964 KINER CAFE
 1965-1968 VACANT
 1969 PIZZA PALACE
 1970-1975 VACANT
 1976 ROCK 22
 1977-1979 RUBES BEER GARDEN
 1980-1984 VACANT

118
 SCO LUNCH
 ARLLIE'S SHOE REPAIR

114
 1950-1955 CON BAKERY
 1956-1959 PALACE BAKERY
 1960-1980 MITCHELL MUSIC
 1981 MOLLET MUSIC
 1987-1984 VACANT
 1985-2002 DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
 2003-2008 NOT LISTED
 2009-2010 FABULOUS FASHIONS

108
 1950-1952 SCHARNWEBER RECREATION PARLOR
 1953-1954 NELSON RECREATION PARLOR
 1955-1970 SEBASTIAN RECREATION PARLOR
 1971 VACANT
 1972-1974 USHERS RECREATION
 1975 SH ARCADE
 1976-1977 VACANT
 1978 SONNY & DEBS
 1979-1981 JERKS CAFE
 1982-1990 DICKS CAFE
 1991-1995 DAKOTA FARM KITCHEN & CASINO
 1996-2005 MOONERS BAR & LOUNGE
 2006-2010 NOT LISTED

NT
 NCY

112
 1950-1960 SAM SAXE CLOTHING STORE
 1961-1969 BAUER CLOTHING, INC.
 1970-1972 VACANT
 1973-1981 MAXWELL HOTEL SUPPLY COMPANY
 1982-1985 VACANT
 1986-1989 BRIDAL NOOK & FLOWERS
 1990-1991 VACANT
 1992-2000 THE PEDALER
 2001-2004 NOT LISTED
 2005-2009 A & B BUSINESS EQUIPMENT
 2009-2010 BIG DUMMYS BAR

106
 1950-1968 EAGLE BAR
 1969-1975 THE GALLERY TAVERN
 1976 CHAPARRAL CLUB TAVERN
 1977 VACANT
 1978 INTRA STATE INSULATION
 1979-1983 VACANT
 1984-1986 MUSIC MANAGEMENT, INC.
 1987-2010 JERRY CARLY TRAVEL



AVENUE, MITCHELL, S.D., DAK.

104
 1950-1959 S.D. STATE
 EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
 1960-1988 SWAP SHOP
 1989-2000 VACANT
 2000-2010 NO LONGER LISTED

102
 1950-1955 J & P FURNITURE CO.
 1956-1958 VACANT
 1958-2008 CACTUS BAR

100
 1950-1968 KRESS DRUG
 1969-1981 MITCHELL MEDICAL
 LABORATORY
 1982-1986 LABORATORY OF
 CLINICAL MEDICINE
 1987-2010 SINGER SEWING
 MACHINE COMPANY

Bricks and Blocks

Brick manufacturing in Mitchell began shortly after the founding of the city. The first account was noted in the 1880 edition of Industries of Mitchell under Brick Manufactory. A gentleman by the name of Spears found clay "equal to the best in the East." He located his brick factory one and one-half miles east of Mitchell near the Jim River. He built six kilns which could produce 100,000 to 150,000 bricks each. His bricks were used to build the Hitchcock Block, Bourne Block, Lecher Building and many other prominent structures of the day.

By 1898 the Isaac Spears Brickyard was located at 909 N. Main St. Mr. Spears was also involved in the ice business and later that of moving houses and grain elevators. By 1902, James Spears, Isaac's brother, was listed as the brick manufacturer located at 905 N. Main St. By 1911, there was no longer a listing for the Spears Brickyard and James Spears had retired.

The 1898 Mitchell City Directory lists Gottlieb Scheurenbrand as a cement contractor. His company constructed many of the sidewalks in Mitchell. A few sidewalks still have his company's "brand" imprinted in the cement. The MAHS has one of these sidewalk "brand" squares outside of the CRC. By 1911, Gottlieb Scheurenbrand is listed in the city directory under Cement Block Manufacturers as G. Scheurenbrand and Sons, 622 E. 3rd Ave.

In 1923, the business is listed as being located at 622 E. Railroad St. Also in 1923, Frank Havlarko, a mason, is listed as a cement block manufacturer. This is the only mention of his having been in the cement block manufacturing business.

Today, bricks are no longer manufactured in Mitchell.

Don Boyden, DDS



Spears Brickyard



Scheurenbrand Brickyard

Visits to Mitchell's Historic Buildings

MAHS joined with Mitchell Main Street and Beyond to visit four historic buildings.

- The Mitchell National Bank at 217-219 North Main Street. Joe Claggett, owner, hosted the tour. Following the Mitchell National Bank tour, Lyle Swenson presented at the CRC an account of the history of Mitchell's banks.
- The United Methodist Church at 310 North Rowley Street. Lyle Swenson, church member, presented a PowerPoint collection of historic photos.
- The Mitchell Corn Palace at 604 North Main Street. Mark Schilling, director of the Corn Palace, described its unique history. After the Corn Palace tour, Rod Evans, author of Palaces on the Prairie, spoke at the CRC about the history of such structures.
- The Elks Club at 420 North Main is occupied by the Word of Life Church. Bill Molumby, past Exalted Ruler of the Elks, hosted the visitors.

Caramel Apple Fundraiser

From August 25 to 29 during Corn Palace Week CRC volunteers joined with Main Street and Beyond members to raise money for their organizations and Mitchell's Hospice. Caramel coatings on crunchy Braeburn apples, walking tacos, and foot-long chili dogs were the main items which earned a net total of \$5,400.38 for the CRC.

Much appreciation is due Brenda Oleson and Dan Hauser for the use of air-conditioned Einstein's and to the many volunteer workers, notably Connie Henning who stood every day, all day, to cook and stir the special Woolworth caramel sauce.

Endowment Fund Planned

MAHS has reached the point that to assure annual operating costs are met - even with an all-volunteer staff - an endowment fund must be established. We will inform you when the fund has been established. In the meantime, please keep us in your gift plans. We have an incredible document collection about the Mitchell area history that is worth preserving in this very special 107-year old restored building.



Looking north from the 200 block of Mitchell's Main Street.

Date? See below.

The MAHS "Detective Agency"

Chief of Detectives, Lyle "SGT. Joe Friday" Swenson, came into the squad room (the east wing of the Carnegie Resource Center) carrying yet another mystery picture. The other detectives in the room—Pam Range, Jim Hunt, Ron Fuchs, and Don Boyden—gathered around to view the picture. The reader must realize that methodical steps must be taken when starting to unravel the mystery of a picture.

First, all present agreed it was a picture of the 200 block of N. Main Street in Mitchell, SD. But when was it taken? At this point, the real art of detective work comes into play. The picture shows vintage automobiles, but none present were knowledgeable about such cars. We were aware that in the olden days one could purchase a car in any color as long as it was black.

The detectives next turned to the buildings in the picture. It was noted that the Mitchell National Bank building is in the picture, so we knew the picture had to have been taken during or after 1906, the year the bank building was built. Next, it was noted that the Gale Theater was located at 214 N. Main Street. It had previously been located at 311 N. Main Street, but that building burned down on March 20, 1914. At this point, the detectives turned to our theater forensics expert, Jeff Logan, to find out when the Gale Theater was moved to the 214 N. Main Street location. Jeff informed the detectives that the Gale Theater moved to the new location on April 16, 1914, and was there until the fall of 1923.

The detectives next noted that the Alexander Mitchell Hotel was not in the picture, but neither was the Realty Building, which was built on the hotel site after the hotel burned down on November 3, 1913. Records show that the Realty Building was built in 1914. So now the time frame is that the picture was taken sometime between November 3, 1913, and 1914.

The final piece of the puzzle came to light when one of the detectives suggested we look in the file of Corn Palace pictures to see if we could identify the murals on the Corn Palace in the mystery picture. Sure enough, the Corn Palace in the mystery picture was that of the 1914 Corn Palace. Knowing the Corn Palace murals were completed in time for the Corn Palace Festival, which occurred the last week of September, and observing the clothing being worn by the people in the picture, the consensus was that the picture was taken in late September or early October 1914. Mystery solved! The End.

Don Boyden, DDS

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MAHS Annual Meeting form
Membership form

MAHS 2011 Coming Events

Programs, except for January and June, are at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday at the CRC.

Jan. 17 (Monday) 6:00 p.m., Wesley Acres, 1115 West Havens: MAHS Annual meeting, **Rod Evans**, author of *Palaces on the Prairie*, Speaker. Music by **Liz Soladay's strings ensemble**.

Feb. 21: Dr. Adrien Hannus, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Anthropology Laboratory of Augustana College, re the early history of the Mitchell Area.

Mar. 21: Mike Kuchera, Mitchell hunting guide and environmentalist, on "Hunting Wild Pheasants in South Dakota."

April 18: Jim Wilson, engineer involved with designation of the Carnegie Library on the National Register of Historic Places.

May 16: Dr. Wayne Knutson, professor emeritus of fine arts, USD, will speak about "The One Room School in South Dakota."

June 20 (Monday) 5:00 p.m.: Gather at the CRC to carpool to the "**Rock House**" site on the James River. Host will be **David Van Overschelde**, owner. (Rescheduled to meet popular demand.)

**The Carnegie Resource Center is open
Monday through Saturday, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Call 605.996.3209 for additional times.**