



The Carnegie Courier

Newsletter of

The Mitchell Area Historical Society (MAHS)
& The Mitchell Area Genealogical Society (MAGS)

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Summer 2021

Recognizing our leaders: Swenson, Hunt



Jim Hunt

The MAHS and the MAGS are recognizing and thanking our Forefathers, (now that sounds old!) Lyle Swenson and Jim Hunt for leading us home, to our home, the Carnegie Resource Center.

It all began with two coffee buddies, Clyde Goin, local historian, photographer and collector of Corn Palace memorabilia and Lyle Swenson, local sheriff. They would discuss the need for the Mitchell Community to preserve the history and artifacts of the Mitchell area and particularly the Corn Palace.

Clyde was able to save some of the historical information at City Hall from the dumpster and Lyle was saving information from other sources like the DAR. It was suggested that Jim Hunt be contacted because he had worked on the Lower James RC&D Council which had completed historical information for the seven-county area including cities and towns

such as Mitchell. The goal was to make the area a better place to live, work and play. A project proposal was made and accepted.

Jim Hunt and the council suggested that a nonprofit organization be set up, and a place to house historical information and collections should be found. An organizational meeting was held on November 14, 1988, led by Clyde, Lyle, Jim and also Dorothy Malde (the granddaughter of Israel Green, who helped settle the town of Firesteel).

The society began holding monthly and annual meetings at several locations including the Courthouse, Countryside Living and Wesley Acres. It was agreed, with the help of Hazel Smith and society members, that articles of incorporation be set up for the society, and nonprofit status obtained from the IRS. This action would allow



Clyde Goin

historical contributions to be accepted as a federal tax deduction. The Mitchell Area Historical Society became a corporation on November 4, 1988, and acquired nonprofit status on December 22, 1997. All this time they were still looking for a home.

The Society was very grateful to the Mitchell Public Library who let them store articles and records in their new basement while they looked for a permanent home. Many vacated buildings in Mitchell were looked at including bank buildings, railroad facilities, and stores to find a permanent location, even occupied buildings like the courthouse and city hall or even a room in the Corn Palace.

The YWCA had moved out of the city-owned Carnegie Library building in June 2005. What to do with the 1903 Carnegie building? Because of the expenses (heating alone was averaging over \$1,500 monthly) and there were repairs to be made on the boiler, the roof and tuck-pointing the stone, the city council decided to declare the Carnegie Library surplus property and put it up for sale to the highest bidder.

MAHS along with MAGS and the Mitchell Area Art Center created a campaign, "Save the Carnegie". Leila Guilbert, a MAHS member, stood before the council and presented the plan that the City sell the Carnegie Library to MAHS for \$1.00 then the city would have no further expense.

The city council, led by Mayor Alice Claggett, unanimously agreed to just let the group



Lyle Swenson

have it for one dollar. Mayor Claggett, said "I think it is absolutely the best way we can go. It's the best dollar I've ever gotten." The Carnegie Library was renamed Carnegie Resource Center on May 16, 2006, and now there is a place for all our collected items.

We have files and files and boxes and boxes of old documents and newspaper clippings of our past and citizens far and wide continue to donate items to us. We have added to our Oscar Howe collection with original paintings. We appreciate our members and supporters, it is how we exist.

Lyle said one of the prized items in the collection is the tool box and tools A.J. Kings used when he built the first Corn Palace. In 1992, Bob McMahan was selling his house at 902 East Second Avenue; it had belonged to his grandfather, A. J. Kings.

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Genealogy Corner

By **Beth Vlasman Walz**
MAGS President

Hello Everyone!!

It has been a while since Mitchell Area Genealogical Society (MAGS) met because of COVID. We would like to begin meeting again in June. The normal MAGS meetings will be on the 4th Monday of each month. The business meeting will be at 6 pm and the program time will be at 7 pm. The first few months, we would like to meet to discuss topics of interest to the group, review our resources, possibly help with a bit of reorganization, and generally get to know each other. I am currently reviewing some short videos that we would use for general information or discussion starters. Genealogy is about people, especially family and the who, what, when, where of each of their lives. Each person interested in genealogy starts with different goals and objectives. The MAGS members would love to help you achieve those goals and objectives.

Do you know a person interested in genealogy or family history? This would be a great time to invite a friend or relative to our meetings and/or program time. Some of our discussions will be about basics, however, I never fail to learn something new. We all have different skills and knowledge that could benefit others. I must make a note here as someone asked if this meant making a speech --- ABSOLUTELY NOT! We are just a group of people that enjoy learning and helping each other. Personally, I am still finding it somewhat hard to research in Germany as different areas have different records. I have found a great Dutch website. I also need to learn more about the French and French Canadians. Being interested in genealogy has taught me - You are never done learning!

We have also heard that both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have merit badges for family history/genealogy. We would like to verify this information with the leaders of these groups and possibly help the kids get started. If you know of someone in these groups, please let me know so I can contact them.

Thanks so much for your patience and understanding during COVID. We kept busy with the repair work, moving everything, setting up displays and cleaning at the Carnegie Resource Center. Stop by and see the changes! I hope to see you at our meetings!

Thanks, Beth

Recognizing our leaders ... cont. from front page

He found a lot of history and memorabilia which he passed on to the MAHS, including the tool box and tools. Because the society had no home, it was stored in Clyde Goin's garage, later it was stored in Lyle Swenson's garage, but eventually it made its way to the Carnegie Resource Center.

Another item of great pride is the replica of the first Corn Palace created by Sam Kings, great-grandson of A. J. Kings and it sits in

our Corn Palace room for visitors and tourists to see. We have received boxes and boxes of historical documents and artifacts, which we record and catalog.

We have done much to preserve and restore the building in our 15 years.

We tuck-pointed, replaced the roof and air-conditioning, removed knob and tube wiring, added a new ceiling in the gallery and a projection system, we've added new computers, led lighting

and occupancy controls.

We have replaced 55 windows, added air-conditioning and humidity control in the lower level, corrected the drainage on the east and west sides, added new east and south doors, and sand-blasted and painted the wrought iron fence, replaced and repaired Kasota stone and tuck-pointed, and repaired the lintel on the west window on the north wall.

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Left to right: Jeffrey Beuchler-President of the Board of Trustees of the SD State Historical Society, Lyle Swenson, Jay D.Vogt – Director of SD State Historical Society.



Fireman's Banner



Dedication of Fireman's Banner 2019

Elsa Hertel

An artist who saw beauty wherever she went

*By Laurie Langland,
archivist for Dakota
Wesleyan University and the
Dakotas Conference of The
United Methodist Church*

The Carnegie Resource Center holds paintings that appear to have been painted by Elsa Hertel, who taught art at Dakota Wesleyan University in the mid-1930s. But who was Elsa?

DWU Archives records show that Dr. Elsa Hertel came to DWU to teach art, beginning with the second quarter in late 1934. Her husband, Dr. Leo Hertel, was hired to teach German, in the Department of Modern Languages, at DWU.

Further research provides an incomplete but fascinating portrait of a Midwestern girl who pursued education in Europe, finding beauty, writing stories, and painting what she saw. This is her life story, as told by archives, genealogical records, and newspapers.

Hertha Elsa Alletzhauer was born on May 8, 1904, in Duluth, Minnesota, to Max Eugene and Elise (Braun) Alletzhauer. She attended Central High School in Duluth, participating in Art Club and Glee Club. The 1921 yearbook describes her this way: "Elsa is clever – one of our future poets and artists."

After graduating from Central High School, Elsa attended Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1924. Further studies took her to Europe.

The 1935-1936 DWU catalog noted that Elsa had been an art pupil of Professor Alfred Pisa, of Florence, Italy, in 1926; the Heymann Art School, in Munich, Germany, 1926-1928; the Art School on Kaiser Square (Professor Pellon) in Berlin, Germany, 1929; and the Danowsky Studio for Watercolor and Portrait, in Danzig, Ger-



Elsa Hertel - 1936
From the 1936 Dakota Wesleyan yearbook



Elsa 1934



Elsa Alletzhauer's High School Picture - 1921
Central High School in Duluth, Minnesota

many (Gdansk, Poland), 1932-1933.

Elsa earned her Ph.D. from the University of Munich in 1931. On July 5, 1932, Elsa married Leo August Hertel at Danzig (Gdansk).

Leo Hertel was born April 7, 1902, in Germany, to Robert and Agnes (Lorke) Hertel. His academic credentials included the University of Breslau in 1924, the University of Munich in 1925, the University of Cologne in 1926, the University of Berlin in 1927, and the University of Munich, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1928.

The Hertels moved to Mitchell in 1934 to work at DWU. In the Winter 1934 quarter, Elsa taught two college art courses, along with a class in creative art for children. She wrote in the Nov. 20, 1934, issue of the DWU student newspaper, The Phreno Cosmian, that "Art... is a part of us, that abstract something which relates us with the world we live in."

The Dec. 4, 1934, Phreno Cosmian told of Elsa and Leo meeting with students on Thursday evenings for meals in the private dining room at Graham Hall, while they conversed in

German. On Friday afternoons, two students from the advanced German class were invited to tea at the Hertels' home at 709 South Sanborn in Mitchell, to chat in German.

The March 3, 1936, Phreno Cosmian reported that Elsa participated in the WNAX School of the Air program on Feb. 24, 1936, reading a paper on the "History of Sculpture." She stated in part, "Throughout history, sculpture has offered two kinds of beauty – the purely self-expressive and the decorative." Of sculptors, she said "It is they who show best that even today, the art of sculpture is by no means a dead art, but one which seeks new ways, pertaining to our times and our ideals and ideas."

Elsa's creative expressions also included writing. The April 21, 1936, Phreno Cosmian reported that Elsa's short story "Strawberries from Memel" had been accepted for publication by Story Magazine.

Her story, which told of a vacation spent on the shores of the Baltic several years prior, was published in the July 1936 issue of Story Magazine. Earlier articles had been published in

German periodicals, including the Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung of Berlin. Her first article printed for pay appeared in the Tennessee Instructor many years prior and was titled "How to Play the Ukulele in High School."

On May 28-29, 1936, the DWU Art Department sponsored its first annual art exhibit of the year at the Mitchell Junior High auditorium. Student art in a variety of formats was accompanied by Elsa's watercolors of Mitchell scenes.

Nothing states that the Hertels left Mitchell in 1936. But the Sept. 29, 1936, Phreno Cosmian listed new faculty, and there was a new person teaching German, and another who was the art instructor.

By 1940, Elsa, Leo, and their daughter Margaret were living in Franklin, Indiana, where Leo was chairman of the modern language department at Franklin College. The Feb. 12, 1948, Franklin Evening Star reported that Elsa would be teaching German language courses at Franklin College, thus releasing her husband to assist in the Philosophy Department.

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ELSA HERTEL: An artist who saw beauty ...

In describing Elsa's credentials and experience, the newspaper went on to say that Elsa was an extremely versatile person who had studied art at Munich, the Free City of Danzig, Florence, Italy, and at John Herron Art Institute in Indianapolis; that she had a picture hung in the current Hoosier Salon and exhibited at the recent L.S. Ayres Gallery; that she had several shows in Franklin; that her work and talent were well known; and that she writes and has had stories published in leading magazines. ⁴

In addition to her cultural and artistic pursuits, the article said that Mrs. Hertel kept her own home and, with Dr. Hertel, was rearing two charming little daughters.

In September 1952, the Hertels were in Fargo, where Leo was starting a position teaching philosophy at North Dakota State College. The Spectrum, the NDSC student newspaper, reported that Dr. Leo Hertel was born in Germany and came to the United States as a German refugee in 1934. In addition to teaching philosophy, he would be editor of the North Dakota Institute of Regional Studies. He had been editor of two German newspapers and was a staff writer for the Daily Republic, of Mitchell, South Dakota.

In December 1952, Elsa displayed eight paintings at the Little Country Theatre in Old Main at NDSC. The Spectrum quoted Elsa as saying "The media used depends upon the mood expressed by the subject; for example, the airy lightness of the Minnesota fall day in 'The Road to Tamarack' calls for watercolor, while the threatening, dark heaviness of the day on the Minnesota Border Lake is expressed best by the dry [solidity] of gouache. 'Fargo Back Yards,' a recent watercolor, shows again that one finds beauty in color and composition almost anywhere."

The Spectrum went on to report that Elsa had studied art



Leo Hertel - 1936
Dakota Wesleyan University Yearbook



Dr. Leo Hertel
From The Spectrum, Fargo, ND
September 26, 1952



One of five paintings by Elsa Hertel on display at the Carnegie Resource Center. All of the paintings are scenes around Mitchell, SD. Painted in 1936 this scene is the *Cattle Shipping Station* that sat on South Foster Street straight south of Hitchcock Park. The area was rebuilt eliminating the underpass. Please come down and enjoy Elsa's other paintings.

with Elliot O'Hara in Indianapolis, and that her art had been displayed in shows and exhibits at Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois; Franklin, Indiana; Indiana Artists Club, the Hoosier Salon annuals, and the Indiana Artists exhibit at the John Herron Museum, all in Indianapolis; Chicago; the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C.; the Duluth Art Center and the Minneapolis Centennial; and Bismarck, during the National Art Week show.

Later displays of Elsa's art in-

cluded the Berg Art Center at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, in 1958, and the NDSC library in 1959.

Newspaper columnist Floss Ronald wrote of her friendship with the Hertels in her column in the May 13, 1961, Mitchell Daily Republic, describing a recent visit to the Tjomsland farm north of Mt. Vernon. Ben and Lillie Tjomsland, owners of the farm, invited Floss, along with Gertrude Patton, to join them and Elsa and Leo, during the Hertels' visit to Mitchell.

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"Elsa had found a spot and was busy painting a wonderful red barn with piles of not so red corn cobs stacked nearby. All of us but Lillie lolled in the grass, watching the picture progress. We talked of farming, of politics, of history, of friendships, of books while the picture grew. And just as Elsa had reached the point where Leo said to her, 'That is enough, Elsa. Any more is too much,' Lillie called us for coffee and cake."

After refreshments, Elsa painted a second scene, of the Firesteel making a sweeping curve under the bluff. As she painted, Elsa told of her earlier years living in Germany, Lillie talked of her profession as a speech therapist, and Gertrude talked of her enthusiasm for ceramics. At the end of their day together, Floss begged the two paintings from Elsa, and wrote that she had them framed and hanging where she could enjoy the memories of that lovely day.

Leo died April 10, 1979, at the age of 77, in Ramsey County, Minnesota. Elsa died Nov. 4, 1996, at the age of 92, at White Bear Lake, Minnesota. She was survived by two daughters: Margaret Morgan of Freeport, Illinois, and Karin McGinnis of White Bear Lake; and four grandchildren. Elsa's obituary in the Franklin, Indiana, newspaper said this:

"She was a former resident of Franklin, where she was a former instructor of German and painting at Franklin College. ... She also was a professor at North Dakota State University, Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., and Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, S.D. She was a teacher at Duluth Junior College, Duluth Central High School, Alma High School, Nelson's Art Colony and Rourke Art Gallery in Moorhead, Minn. She was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Bismarck (N.D.) Art Association. She also was recipient of the Indiana Artists Honor Award and a Story Magazine's Best Short Story winner."

WHY THAT NAME?

Have you ever wondered how a place got its name? Sometimes we come across towns, lakes, counties etc. that we wonder why that name. Here are a few county names.

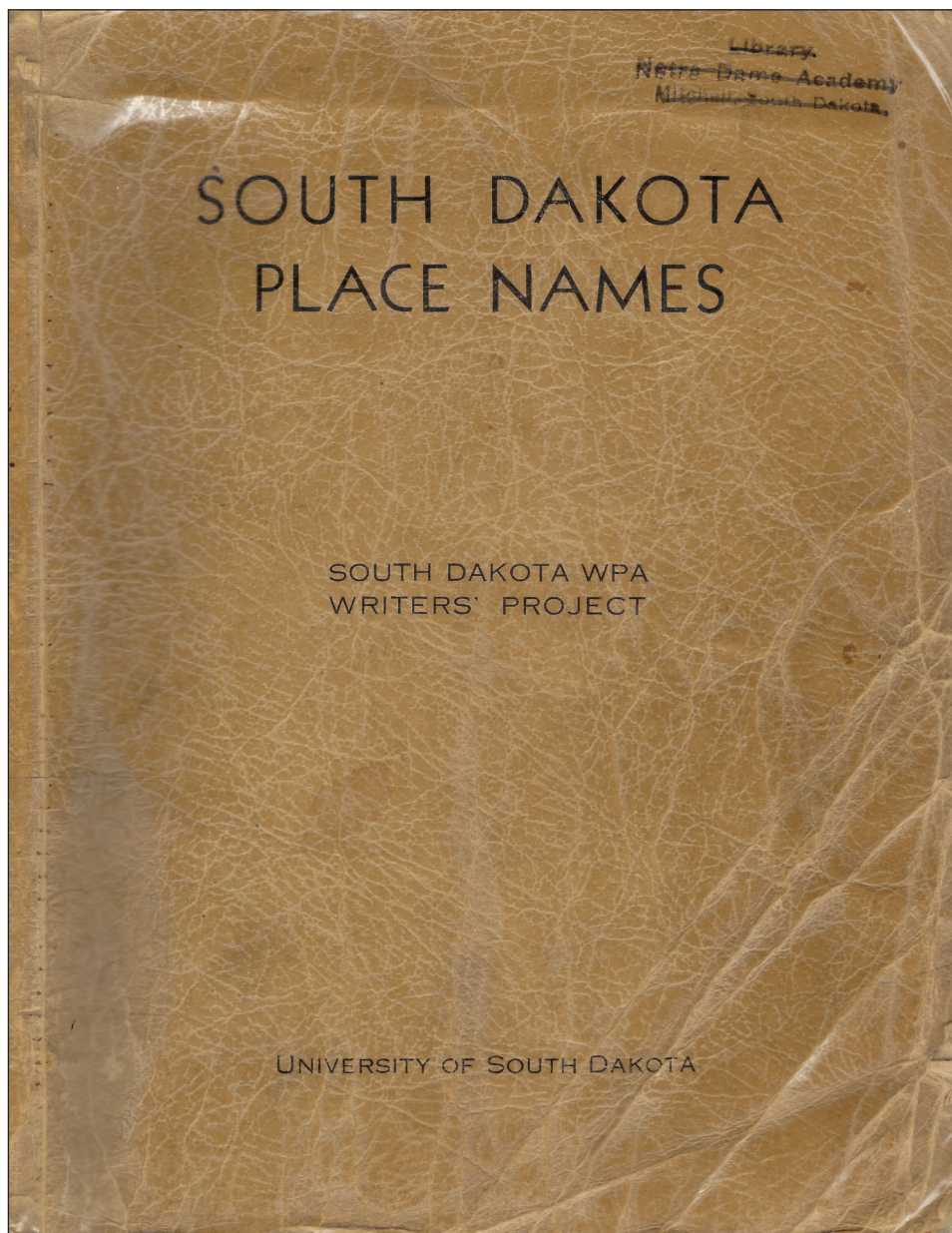
Davison County – Davison County was named for Henry C. Davison. Henry was a prominent merchant and politician of Bon Homme and Davison Counties. He was born in Augusta, Maine, moved to Illinois, and then moved to Dakota Territory. He first settled in Bon Homme County in 1869 and moved to Davison County in 1872. Henry Davison became one of the first homesteaders when he filed a claim at Riverside.

Sanborn County – Sanborn County was created in 1883 and was named for George W. Sanborn. George was the division superintendent of the Milwaukee Railroad at the time the line was built through the county.

Hanson County – Hanson County was named for Major Joseph R. Hanson. Major Hanson was born in New Hampshire in 1837 and came to Dakota Territory in 1858. He was one of the first settlers in Yankton and was a member of the first and second Territorial Legislatures. He was a Sioux Indian Agent from 1865 to 1870.

Hutchinson County – Hutchinson County was named for John S. Hutchinson. He was appointed the first secretary of the Dakota Territory in 1861 and served until 1865. During much of Governor Jayne's term from 1861 to 1863, he served as acting governor. John was also a member of the renowned Hutchinson family singers and bell ringers.

Douglas County – Douglas county was named for Stephan A. Douglas of Illinois. He was a figure of national importance as a lawyer, judge, senator, and Lincoln's opponent in the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates. He as also a



candidate for the Presidency in 1860.

Aurora County – Aurora County was named for Aurora, the Roman goddess of the dawn. Six women, wives of the first settlers, meeting in a sod shanty to organize a literary club, considered names for the proposed new county. One woman suggested Aurora because

it was their hope that this free homestead land would bring the dawn of a new era for them.

Wondering about other counties, towns, etc. in SD?

Come take a look at the book "South Dakota Place Names". This book was a WPA writer's project and was originally published in 1941.

Recognizing our leaders ... cont. from page 2

Since the pandemic, we have had the water damaged interior walls repaired and painted and are currently looking at installing a small commercial elevator for the handicapped. Under the leadership of Lyle and Jim, we have a home restored with a large collection of historical items.

We recognize their years of service and dedication to the Mitchell community and its citizens. As they step aside, may the rest of the volunteers step up and continue what Clyde and Lyle began.

On June 19, 2021, help us recognize the accomplishments of Lyle and Jim from 2-4 p.m. at the Carnegie Resource Center. Stop by, say hi and have some refreshments.

Interviews with Lyle Swenson and Jim Hunt have contributed to this article.



Lyle Swenson and Gov. Mellette



Jim Hunt at the Carnegie Resource Center computer.



At Israel Greene's tombstone (early settler in Mitchell). Israel was a Confederate officer who was at the capture of John Brown. Each year MAHS decorates his grave with the two flags that he served.

left to right: Clyde Goin, Floy Brown, Hazel Smith, Clayton Barry, Donna Giese, James Hunt, The MONUMENT Dorothy Maulde, Hazel Jordan, Irvin Test, Hazel Dowling, Couple on end unidentified

From the Archives

THE SITE WAS ACCEPTED.

Library Building Located at Special Session of the Council Wednesday Evening

The question that has agitated the public mind for several weeks as to where the Carnegie Library building would be located has at last been settled. It will occupy the northwest corner of the block on Rowley and Third streets, fronting on the latter thoroughfare.

This article appeared in "The Mitchell Capital" newspaper dated Friday, March 28, 1902 on page 8. This decision marks where we are located today.

Lyle's Humor



No newspaper is safe!

Defining a term overheard in the library: 'Daughtering Out'

By Andie Sindt

Q: I overheard a couple of people at the library talking about a family "daughtering out." Could someone explain what that means? -- Terry

A: One of the comments I hear the most often is how many different terms there seem to be in this hobby. One newcomer to genealogy jokingly said that she thought she needed a Genealogy-English dictionary to understand what some of the terms mean.

Of course, some of the terms are directly related to the types of records

that we find ourselves looking in, such as land records and probate records. Terms like grantor and grantee or guardian and testator are legal terms that can be found in any law dictionary or in a good genealogical dictionary.

Sometimes you feel like you need a Genealogy-English dictionary to understand the terms bandied about in genealogy circles.

Definition One

When a line is said to "daughter out," it means that the last male descendant had only daughters. When this happens the surname is gen-

erally at an end as far as that line is concerned.

While in today's society when females marry they do not always take the surname of their husband, but this was generally not the case in past centuries. When a daughter married she took the surname of her husband. That meant that when a man had only daughters, there was no way for his surname to be carried on.

In some cases, I have seen where the male offspring of the daughters were given their mother's maiden surname as either a first or middle name to at least carry on

a connection.

Definition Two

Another way that I have heard the term "daughter out" used is when an individual descends from a daughter in a line. It is usually at that point that the researcher ceases to research the descendants of a given individual, because they no longer carry on that surname in their own research.

Again, in researching the daughters' lineages, I have often found that they have carried on their maiden name in some way by using it in the name of one or more of their own children.

Upcoming events

June 1 - June 30	Elsa Hertel Art Show Fireside Room
June 10 - 12	Notre Dame School Reunion
June 19, 2-4 p.m.	Recognition of Service Lyle Swenson & Jim Hunt Mitchell Barbershop Harmony Chorus
June 21, 7 p.m.	MAHS Business Meeting
June 28, 6 p.m.	MAGS Business Meeting
7 p.m.	MAGS Program
July 17, 7 p.m.	MAHS Business Meeting
July 26, 6 p.m.	MAGS Business Meeting
7 p.m.	MAGS Program
Aug 16 7 p.m.	MAHS Business Meeting
Aug 23, 6 p.m.	MAGS Business Meeting
7 p.m.	MAGS Program

MISSING YEARBOOKS

Yearbooks are valuable resources and Mitchell Area Historical has a collection to help those who are researching. We are missing many years of the Mitchell High School Warblers.

If you have any you would like to donate, please drop them off at the Carnegie Resource Center, 119 West 3rd. Thanks in advance.

The missing years are: 1918, 1920, 1922-1926, 1944, 1945, 1956, 1986, 1989,1991,1996-2019.

*Carnegie Resource
Center
119 West Third Avenue
Mitchell, S.D. 57301*

