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Quote of the week:

“The problem with newspapers is that most of them give a summary of things you’ve read online the day before.”
~Danny Mekic

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LOCAL MARINES CELEBRATE A YEAR OF SUCCESS



Dustin White photo

WHILE ONCE LARGELY DILAPITATED, LOCAL MARINES AND VOLUNTEERS HAVE PUT IN HUNDREDS OF HOURS TRANSFORMING THE FORMER MANDAN VFW BUILDING INTO THE MARINE HOUSE.

Dustin White
Editor

It was nearly three years ago that the Dakota Leathernecks Detachment no. 1419 began in the Bismarck-Mandan area. Over those years, they have experienced a great number of accomplishments, and 2016 was no exception.

For the Dakota Leathernecks, the year began by gaining exposure through a national contest. Pitting themselves against communities that had established themselves for much longer, and who had exceptionally larger followings, the Leathernecks made great strides.

The contest was sponsored through Bernzomatic, and was driven completely through Facebook. With only 300 followers on their Facebook page, the Leathernecks were at a disadvantage, as other groups topped out at over 13,000 followers. But that didn't hamper them.

For nearly a month, members and supporters of the Leathernecks took to Facebook on a daily basis to encourage the community to vote.

“We had a slow start,” Raymond Morrell, Detachment Commandant, said. “It was a hard fought contest for first place, only

to settle for second.”

While the Leathernecks would turn up a little short, they would still receive a \$10,000 grant which has went a long way to help restore the former Mandan VFW building so it can properly serve as the detachment's Marine House.

The daily voting was just one way that the community has come out to support the Leathernecks and their Marine House project over 2016.

“The Marine House project has been a big focus and much of its success is due in large part to the community's support,” Morrell said. The contributions and support that we receive are simply amazing.”

Work on the Marine House will continue in 2017, with additional support being sought. When completely finished, the Marine House will become not only the club house of the Dakota Leathernecks, but a unique venue in the area.

Developments

While the Marine House was one focus of the Leathernecks in 2016, they have also had their hands in many activities and programs in the community.

One new development for the

Leathernecks was at the request of the Mandan Braves Football program. They were called on to choreograph and host a Military Appreciation night at the Mandan Braves Football field.

“We had about one week from concept to execution,” Morrell said. “Its impact was well received by participants and spectators alike, and I'm proud to say that we did not exclude any branch of service from being recognized.”

Not all of the work that the Leathernecks undertook in 2016 was cheerful though. Looking to continue to serve the community, they have stood up to face a serious problem.

“We experienced firsthand an overwhelming problem within our veteran services, one of suicides,” Morrell said. “To think that our Detachment, much less North Dakota, is immune to this enigma is naive.”

Over the 2016 year, the Leathernecks were directly impacted by the attempted suicide of three North Dakota Marines, as well as three others who succeeded. Left behind were many who were unable to understand, as well as a crisis that needs to be addressed.

In response, members of the Leathernecks have taken up de-

veloping a seminar/presentation to help veterans understand not only who they are, but as veterans, see that they are different, in a good way.

Expansion

Even though 2016 had its ups and downs, one of the many things the Leathernecks can be proud of is the expansion they have seen throughout the year.

Leading an effort to share camaraderie with fellow Marines throughout the state, the Leathernecks have sought to help open detachments in Minot, Fargo and Dickinson.

At home, there has also been a great amount of growth. Starting the year with 61 members, 300 Facebook likes, and a building that looked quite rough, the year finished out with 72 members, 3,300 followers on Facebook, and a Marine House, that while some work is still needed on the interior, is a great addition to the community.

Coming together on Feb. 9, 2017, the Leathernecks celebrated this growth, and thanked those who had made 2016 such a success. Among those honored was this newspaper, who looks forward to seeing what the Leathernecks have planned for the new year.

REMEMBERING HISTORY: A FACELIFT FOR MAIN

A Past Restored
Dustin White

The early 1900s saw a major change in Mandan, and the surrounding community; the introduction of the automobile. As its popularity grew, the face of Mandan soon had a new look.

Already in the early years, the North Dakota Department of Transportation was reporting that 10,000 cars were crossing the river between Bismarck and Mandan a year. While the trip was relatively easy during the winter, when the river would freeze over, rest of the year, the use of a ferry was needed.

By 1917, ferries were no longer a viable option, and just a few years later, in 1922, the Liberty Memorial Bridge connected the twin cities. Along Main Street Mandan, changes had also been occurring.

In 1914, North Dakota had risen in the ranks, to become fifth in the nation, per capita, in automobile ownership. Each year, cars were becoming more common place.

The popularity of vehicles was beginning to force another change as well. While, as early as 1882, Main Street Mandan had been graded, and boardwalks added, the current state of the street was no longer acceptable for the increasing use of automobiles.



Having a need for change, in 1913, Main Street was paved for the first time. Travel became a bit smoother.

However, as is the case, the initial paving did not last forever, and by the late 1940s, Main Street was in need for a major face lift.

With vehicles continuing to become more popular, Main Street had taken its fair amount of abuse over the three decades.

Stripping Main Street of its first paving, Mandan would have the street completely redone. The outcome, a much smoother ride through town.

The work done in the late 1940s would eventually also be replaced, when, in 1996, Main Street saw its second major face lift.

For more photos from this series, and to learn about this on going project, go to www.MidwesternScout.com/saving-film

TOP: MAIN STREET, MANDAN, SHORTLY AFTER RE-PAVEMENT IN THE 1940S. OHMS CAFE, AN ICON IN MANDAN, CAN BE SEEN ON THE LEFT OF THE PHOTO. RIGHT: IN FRONT OF DAHNER'S STORE, AS RE-PAVEMENT PROCESS BEGINS ON MAIN STREET.



Looking back through the past: Origins of the Lenten Season

Dustin White
Editor

Each year, millions throughout the world observe Lent as a time of fasting and repentance. For many others, it signifies the time of the year in which their favorite fish items become available at a variety of restaurants. Regardless of the situation, Lent is a major event, with a far reaching impact. Here is a look back at the observance.

When did Lent first begin?

As with many historic events, it is difficult to put an exact beginning on the observance of Lent. As early as the

second century, the church father Irenaeus of Lyons (c.130-c.200) had made mention of a similar church season; however, it only last a few days compared to the 40 days Lent lasts today.

It was not until after the Council of Nicaea that a 40 day Lenten season appeared. What occurred during those intervening years is not fully certain, and highly debated by scholars. What is clear is that by the fourth century, Lent had started taking form, even though it was observed in different fashions based on location.

When did Ash Wednesday begin?

While Lent had been cele-

brated for a few centuries, it was not until the seventh century that Ash Wednesday got its name. Previously, Lent had begun on a Sunday, but Gregory the Great (c.540-604) made the decision to move the start date to Wednesday.

The reason for the move was to secure exactly 40 days for Lent. Sundays were not counted as they were considered feast days.

Gregory also began the practice that is still associated with this day. As an individual would enter the church, Gregory would mark their foreheads with ash, to remind them of their repentance and mortality.

Why fish?

One question many have about Lent is why can fish still be eaten? What is special about fish that it is singled out?

A simple answer is that technically, what is ruled out is the flesh of warm-blooded animals. If one wanted, they could also eat reptiles, but in the west, that is something that did not catch on.

While the English word for meat includes fish, the Latin word did not. The problem that one sees then is due to a translation problem.

A secondary reason why fish became a popular exemption was for political reasons.

When Henry VIII took pow-

er in 1509, fish was the dominant food on the menu for most of the year. After Henry broke off from the Catholic Church, eating fish became political.

This act caused a serious strain on the fishing community, so much so that Henry's son, Edward VI, who took power in 1547, reinstated the eating of fish on fast days by law. The result was that fishing once again become influential in global economics.

So while the exact origins of Lent are murky, and the observance has been somewhat fluid, it still has a major effect on us, if for no other reason than making the fish industry a bit more influential.

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Exploring These Days in History: Feb. 28-March 7

February 28:

1905: The house passes the state fair bill. The state fair would be removed from Mandan, N.D., and instead be alternated between Fargo and Grand Forks.

1919: Townley Bill, which established one official newspaper in each county, passed the State Senate. At least 200 county newspapers were expected to be forced out of business by the bill.

1923: North Dakotans won't be made to wash their feet. While a rider to a bill would have made it mandatory for state citizens to wash their feet on a weekly basis, the state legislature refused to push it through.

1936: After a devastating drought over the past three years, state farmers were finally looking forward to an optimistic crop season.

1953: North Dakotans allowed to dance in the dark. A bill that would have outlawed dancing in the dark was struck down. Those who were for the law said that dimly lit dance places allowed people to drink on the floor, without being seen.

March 1:

1897: In order to "purify" North Dakota, the house passed a bill that would extend the period of residence, in the state, from three months to a year because divorce could be sought. Some believed the state was being scandalized "by the conduct of those who come to this state for divorce purposes only."

1898: A package, containing \$1,000 in currency and checks, consigned by the county treasurer of Emmons county to the First National Bank of Bismarck, had been stolen. Walter Bouteillier, a mail carrier who was just 18 years old, was arrested on charges with stealing the package.

1902: Haynes Palace Studio car, famous in Bismarck, arrived in the city, and was to stay for three days. It was said that no finer photos were made than by Mr. F. Jay Haynes and his artists, who were celebrated around the world.

1917: An interesting court case was sent to the Morton County circuit court. George Smith, who was accused of killing Horace Ball, had committed the crime in an interesting fashion. Playing dynamite under Ball's house, Smith was accused of "blowing him (Ball) to death."

1931: Speed limits on the highway were increased 15 miles per hour, to 50 mph. Governor George F. Schafer signed the bill into law, along with another bill that increased the gas tax to four cents.

March 3:

1901: Edward Patterson fires

back at the Bismarck Tribune. Having been accused, along with the police force, of violating and protecting violators of the prohibition laws, Patterson fired back by claiming his innocence, as well as suggesting that the Tribune had been working with individuals who were willing to do "dirty work."

1913: A man who had disappeared in December had returned home. Max Thiel, of Judson, had been in Mandan in the middle of December, when he traveled to Bismarck with a stranger. He was not seen since then. As Thiel was carrying a large amount of money, foul play was suspected. When he returned, he was largely silent of where he had gone, except mentioning that he spent a bit of time in Montana.

1920: A woman is placed on the ballot for the preferential primary, after the state supreme court unanimously rendered their opinion on the subject.

1933: Governor William Langer made a proclamation prohibiting the forced sale of real estate, that was occupied by owners, and of personal property, used for farming.

1936: Following a strike by more than 200 workers, protesting extra working hours which were meant to make up for time lost during cold weather, forced all WPA projects in the state to close.

March 4:

1880: Dennis "Boss" Hannifin, who had been elected as chairman of the democratic central committee for ninety-nine years, was set to visit Washington, to witness the inauguration of General Hancock. However, Hancock would lose the presidential race to James Garfield.

1884: Acquitted. In the case of the United States vs. John A. McLean, of Bismarck, a jury had brought in a verdict of not guilty. McLean had been charged with cutting and removing wood from the Fort Lincoln military reservation. The jury ruled that the prosecution, pushed by U.S. district attorney Campbell, was approaching a personal vindictiveness "towards a Bismarck man on general principal."

1887: John Werkner, who was herding cattle west of the Missouri, in the Little Heart valley, wandered away "from the range." After roaming for fifty hours, Werkner was taken in by a family on the Cannon Ball river, and later taken to Fort Lincoln, to be treated. Having frozen his feet so badly, Werkner had to have both feet amputated. After his surgery, he returned home to Ohio.

1915: Two men from Flasher, Al Lange and Carl Brown, were arrested for "peddling liquor contrary to the prohibition statutes."

1933: Governor William Langer, by executive order, declared a moratorium on farm foreclosures.

1966: The "Storm of the Century" ends. Raging through the area from March 2-4, a late spring blizzard had struck North Dakota. Over 22 inches of snow fell on that area.

March 5:

1884: The Marquis De Moraes contracted with Altman, of the Fulton market, for three car loads of beef per day. Along with the beef, the Marquis had also contracted with E.G. Blackford for one car load of salmon per week.

1903: A bill, for a bounty of \$2.50 for each wolf or coyote killed, passed the house. The law had previously been repealed in 1897, after the state had over \$20,000 in unpaid warrants.

March 6:

1886: Justus Bragg, Mayor of Bismarck, issued an order that removed Mr. John O'Donnell from the police force. O'Donnell had shot Len Stewart, reportedly because of an old feud. After a brief meeting inside Griffin's saloon, on Fourth Street, the feud rekindled as the two got into an

argument, which led to a street brawl. O'Donnell, having been on the losing end before, eventually pulled out his revolver and fired three times. While Stewart was shot in the right shoulder, the brawl quickly came to an end as Mr. Griffin, the saloon's owner, threw O'Donnell to the ground, and Dr. Corson, who was on hand, carried Stewart to a private room, and attended his wounds.

1879: A telegraph line from Bismarck, via Fort Lincoln, was completed, giving the city the ability to contact with "the outside world."

1897: With heavy storms raging through the state, no trains were able to reach Bismarck from the east, shutting the state off from the outside world.

1911: Impeachment proceedings were brought against District Judge John F. Cowan. He would survive the impeachment attempt, and continued to serve until 1912.

1915: Joseph Milo, who was condemned to die by hanging on August 13, was saved as the state legislature passed a measure to abolish capitol punishment.

1946: The last detainees

leave Fort Lincoln Interment Camp

March 7:

1895: A search for Mary Miller was put into place as her aunt, Lizzie Miller, arrived in Bismarck after a treacherous journey. Lizzie, 82 years old, had arrived in Bismarck after she left Parkersburg, West Virginia. Being misled, she had purchased a ticket to Portland, Oregon. However, at Ogden, Lizzie was stricken with paralysis, and laid there unconscious for six days, after which she lost her directions, and money.

1919: The State of North Dakota gets ready to start into business. With laws permitting the state to go into business, plans were created to enter into the banking, home building and flour milling industry.

1925: North Dakota repeals the statute prohibiting the sale of cigarettes, allowing cigarettes to go on sale after April 1.

1947: Representative Kenneth Fitch, of Cass County, made an apologetic speech to the state house of representatives, after having passed around a box of dog food, which he had thought was candy.



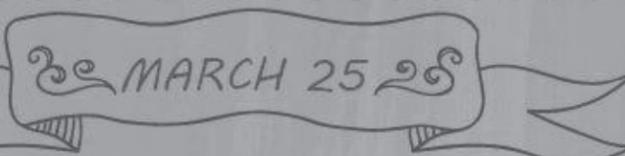
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A NEW PROJECT: DOCUMENTING MANDAN

Dustin White
Editor

Over the last year, I've worked hard to get the Midwestern Scout off the ground. It has been a thrill to create such a publication, and get back to serving the community as a local newspaper.

It has been more of a thrill though to see the amount of community support that has been given to this endeavor. I believe that is because this paper is offering something that people want, yet aren't getting elsewhere.

That support has come in a big way this month. It began with a generous donor who offered to match donations and funds from subscriptions. He made the offer on behalf of his mother, who had been a long time resident of Mandan, and enjoyed the work that I did.

His support of the paper is now going one step further, as he has extended his offer throughout the rest of February and into March. The offer comes with a few conditions though, which will have a positive effect on this publication.

The first, which I'm quite excited about, is a new project which will seek to document Mandan, both through video and photographs, as it stands today. Mandan is continually changing, and the purpose of this project is to allow future generations to look back over the city's history and see what it once looked like.

This project to document



Dustin White photo

ONCE A LANDMARK OF MANDAN, THE FORMER CASS-CLAY BUILDING, WHICH BEGAN AS THE PURITY DAIRY BUILDING, HAS NOW VANISHED FROM THE FACE OF MANDAN. BUILDINGS LIKE THESE ARE A FOCUS OF OUR NEW PROJECT, SO THAT THEIR MEMORIES CONTINUE ON.

Mandan will be an ongoing project. The results of the work will be published in the Midwestern Scout, and will be featured on a new website that I'm creating. In order to help preserve the results of this project, both the film negatives in which the photos are captured on, and the printed material will eventually be turned over to the public.

The second condition will be leveraged into a new branch of

the Midwestern Scout. Specifically, it will be focused on historical research. To begin with, this research will be focused on compiling of history of Bismarck and Mandan, which has been one of our main goals for this year. It also means that we will soon be taking research requests and commissions.

Because of this offer, and conditions, Midwestern Scout will have to slightly restructure,

which will cause a bit of inconvenience. There will be a slight disruption in distribution, but I will work hard to clear that up.

What does that mean for our subscribers? Not much as our subscriptions are based on issues. All subscribers will still be getting every issue for their subscription rate, as well as a couple of special issues throughout the year.

I appreciate all the sup-

port this endeavor has been given, and I look forward to moving forward with this publication.

If you would like to help with this new project, you can go to www.gofundme.com/documenting-mandan-nd or subscribe to the Midwestern Scout at www.Midwestern-Scout.com/subscribe.

AFTER LONG WAIT, FAMILY WELLNESS CENTER OPENS ITS DOORS

Dustin White
Editor

It's been over half a decade since talks began about bringing a YMCA to the city of Mandan. At times, it seemed as if the recreational center would never come to fruit; however, with a number of entities moving forward, the plan continued to maintain some life. Now, that plan has become a reality.

Announcing a \$12.3 million recreation center, a partnership between Sanford Health and the Missouri Valley Family YMCA called Family Wellness, allowed for the facility to be opened in January, 2017.

Getting to this point has not been an easy task though.

"This hasn't been without its hurdles and barriers, and it's taken both parties to see it through," Bill Bauman, Bismarck YMCA Executive Director, said in a 2013 interview. "We're being creative in what we are doing. But the end goal is to bring a YMCA to the community of Mandan. This is a great location, and I think we'll be great neighbors," he told the park board.

Those hurdles began from the beginning of the planning. Dealing with who would own the land and how it was to be paid for posed a couple of difficulties. However, one of the largest

hurdles was finding a location for the center.

Having found what appeared to be an ideal location, an unused portion of land immediately south of Raging Rivers, initial offers to purchase it were rejected. With an out of town private buyer having already offered to buy the land, the project became slow moving. However, it wasn't dead.

Not wanting to let go of that location, as it provided a central destination for the center, the Park Board worked with the buyers to come to a deal.

It would only be about four months later, in July of 2013, that an agreement was made. For \$1.7 million, the park district had acquired the 5.25 acres from Gas U UP LLC. In order to help this cost, the Mandan City Commission had previously approved to set aside money to be disbursed to help with the purchase.

However, there was still a major hurdle to overcome: funding. Being able to tap into a number of resources, the money did begin to come in. With at least \$2 million of the project coming from public fundraising, the community has been brought together to see this facility come to light.

The entire process has largely been about community building, and bringing together a



Dustin White photo

BREAKING GROUND ON JUNE 12, 2015, LOCAL CHILDREN, DONNING HARD HATS, HELPED TURN THE FIRST SHOVEL FULLS OF DIRT.

variety of partners.

"Sanford is committed to being a strong community partner," Craig Lambrecht, MD, Sanford Bismarck president, said. "This project is bringing together the region's most recognized family fitness organization and the region's largest health care system. We will undoubtedly be able to best serve our growing community's wellness needs by working together."

With most of the moving parts in place, it still would be nearly another year before a more concrete plan was officially announced on Aug. 11, 2014.

Just a year later, ground was broken for the Family Wellness facility, on June 12, 2015.

Representing future generations that would benefit from the facility, children in hardhats were at the front of the event. Participating in the ceremonies,

they were eager to remove dirt in the area where they will have the chance to improve their health.

Originally scheduled for completion in the fall of 2016, a few set backs occurred. But work carried on, allowing the facility to officially open in January.

For more information about Family Wellness, visit www.Familywellnessbismarck.com

THE TALE OF CLOVERDALE: AN ICON IS BORN

Dustin White
Editor

Just half a decade after a tiny community became the city of Mandan, a child was born in the eastern part of Dakota Territory. Unknown to most of the county's residents for nearly 30 years, this child would eventually grow up to be a man who would reach recognition throughout the country, and found one of the iconic businesses of the city he eventually called home: he would give birth to Cloverdale Foods Co.

Having been born on May 9, 1886, Russell would find his path leading him away from his birth home in Grand Forks and towards Dickinson. While he would eventually leave the city to finish his schooling at the North Dakota Agricultural College (now North Dakota State University) in Fargo, it was in Dickinson that a new chapter of his life was set to begin.

Meeting Cora Walton, who was a daughter of western pioneers, Russell would find a wife and partner. Married on June 22, 1909, the two would move out of state for a short time, but ended up finding their way back to the state. Settling in Glen Ullin in 1913, Russell was introduced to the dairy business, having been employed by the Hess Creamery Company.

Believing that North Dakota would become a principal area for the developing dairy industry, Russell began looking for a suitable area to establish his own dairy and produce business. Seeing that Mandan was a growing town, and a division point for the North Pacific Railroad, the choice was simple.

Finding a location would prove to be the easier portion of the process. Gaining the necessary funding for the venture was what Russell would have to focus on.

Taking a trip to Mandan in 1914, Russell would begin the discussions with the Mandan Commercial Club (a forerunner to the Chamber of Commerce). Gaining the attention and interest of W.A. Lanternman, a local banker, as well as Theodore Cummins, financial backing was secured.

Beginning the work on organizing the corporation, Lanternman would be established as the president, while Russell became the secretary-treasurer and appointed manager. Henry Schulte, a friend of Russell, would also move his family from Glen Ullin to Mandan, having been named buttermaker and creamery manager.

Cloverdale, at that time known as the Mandan Creamery and Produce Company, would capitalize with \$50,000. Another \$12,000 in stock would be purchased before the companies formal organization on Feb. 4, 1915. Just 11 days later, on Feb. 15, the Mandan Creamery would begin operation in the two-story Ronco building, on the corner of West Main Street and Fourth Ave. N.W.

By March 20, the first cream



THE MANDAN CREAMERY AND PRODUCE COMPANY BUILDING AT 101 4TH AVE. N.W., MANDAN, FROM THE 1950S. OPERATIONS AT THE FACILITY ENDED IN 1988, AND THE BUILDINGS WERE LATER RAZED.

and eggs were purchased there. Business would become brisk in that first week, with 1,000 pounds of butter churned on March 22, and 24,000 dozen eggs bought during that time.

During those first years, the concentration of Mandan Creamery was on butter and eggs. Farmers would bring their cream cans in by wagon. It wasn't uncommon in those early years to see rows of empty cans along the east side of the building.

One aspect that allowed the company to quickly expand was the use of the railroad.

"We persuaded the farmers to use the railroad. There was no middleman. That's what helped to build up the business. Cream came in from as far away as Livingston, Mont.," Walton Russell said in an interview with the Bismarck Tribune in 1988.

For the first 15 years, a 30- by 50-foot storage house, that was built behind the main building, provided ice for the coolers, while shipping the butter on the railroad. The ice was harvested from the Missouri River. Mechanical refrigeration would replace that process in 1930.

Expansion and change

After five years of working the business together, Schulte purchased the ice cream department, starting the Purity Dairy Company. At the same time, Mandan Creamery began extending its operations.

While Mandan Creamery had already begun with poultry, the 1920s saw a huge growth in that arena, and established a new industry in North Dakota.

By 1921, the Mandan Creamery would take over the entire Ronco building. Offices were moved into the center section, while the west section was used for poultry dressing. On the

second floor, live poultry was fed in cages.

However, one building was no longer able to contain the entire operation. In 1922, a Dickinson plant, was converted to process Grade A milk as well as produce ice cream. It was here that the Cloverdale name was born. There was now a Cloverdale Foods Co., a division of Mandan Creamery.

It was back in Mandan that a massive expansion was being worked on though. Starting a new industry in North Dakota, Mandan Creamery began a large scale turkey operation in 1926. While being seasonal, starting around Nov. 1 of each year, and extending through Christmas, between three to four million pounds of turkey would be marketed as "Mandan Turkey."

While Maryland and Virginia were considered to be the producing areas of turkeys and other large birds, North Dakota, with its "Mandan Turkey," would make a great impression on those in the east. What started as one freight carload of dressed turkeys being transported to the larger cities a year would boom into 100 cars a year. Mandan Creamery would end up leasing 25 freight cars, each painted yellow with a running turkey painted in black on the side, to carry their product.

Continued boom

With a poultry operation having tremendous success, the core of the business was not forgotten. Butter production had continued to steadily climb. By 1930, three million pounds was being produced per year. Continuing to climb over the decades, production would reach to 12 million pounds in the 1960s. Mandan Creamery would become known as the world's largest sweet-cream manufacturing plant under one roof.

The 1930s also saw a great deal more of expansion from Mandan Creamery. Having already established a plant in Dickinson, the company sought to add another one. Minot was the chosen location, and Mandan Creamery had a new plant in 1930.

At home, additions were being built onto their original building. In 1934, an expansion was added to the west side, which housed the growing butter and egg operations. Three years later, in 1937, an extra addition was added to the north side of the building.

However, the major expansion, that would end up having a great impact on the company as a whole, occurred in 1936. They began distributing their products by truck.

"Our drivers notices that the small towns were getting very little meat. Farmers' herds had been decimated by the drought and Depression. We talked to Fred Kist Sr. (well known Mandan meat market operator) and ask him if he'd make sausage and provide fresh meat for us to distribute. We also started to buy from Hormel. That's how we got started in the meat business," Walton Russell said in an interview with the Bismarck Tribune in 1988.

Pitfalls

While business was expanding rapidly, the Mandan Creamery took the opportunity to set up plants in a variety of areas. With the increase in both dairy and poultry on the rise, the Mandan Creamery established plants not just in Dickinson and Minot, but also in Hettinger, Garrison, Bismarck and Miles City, Mont.

Farmers from across North Dakota, as well as into Montana and South Dakota, were shipping their cream to Mandan Creamery. Because of the success, Russell

became nationally recognized as a leader in not only the fields of butter and poultry, but also in egg production.

At home, the progress, while respected, also caused a good deal of annoyance as well. After a buttermilk dryer was added to the operation, Mandan residents would be assaulted by the sickening sweetish odor that wafted through the town. None complained though, as those were the days of the draught and depression, and the payments for cream were something the farmers desperately needed. Much of that money would be spent on Main Street.

However, times were beginning to change, which would have great impacts on Mandan Creamery. With years of good rain, the drought that had choked the nation was beginning to recede. Farmers began focusing once again on planting more grain, and the poultry flocks, which never were large, shrunk even more. In 1946, the Mandan Creamery would finally shut its doors on the turkey business.

Dairy production was also beginning to fall after World War II. While Mandan Creamery would still churn out millions of pounds of butter a year, it was clear to Russell that the company would have to diversify once again. This time, he decided to focus on premium pork products.

Just a year after the turkey operation was closed, Russell would install a meat processing plant in the east section of the building, which eventually expanded to occupy the entire front. Mandan Creamery was beginning the change to the Cloverdale we know today.

In the next few issues, we will explore the later history of Cloverdale, as well as the various individuals who helped make the company possible.

REDISCOVERING THE TOWNS AND TIMES

Dustin White
Editor

Located just 10 miles north of Mandan, a small community flourished in the early decades of 1900. While only short lived, the memory of Harmon continues on, with a new community.

Sited by Willis T. McConnell, of Werington Springs, S.D., on July 23, 1913, the small town had great promise.

Getting its name from two brothers, both of which were bachelors, George and H.H. Harmon, the city took on the Harmon name, a name that was important in the area. Later, H.H. Harmon would become the Morton County Auditor.

The city started out quite modest, with just three families first occupying the area. While Harmon would experience a bit of growth, it never amounted to much. A decade and a half after it was founded, the population was only 21, which composed five families.

For a small community, it didn't lack. With the initial three families, a blacksmith shop, elevator and store had been set up.

The store would serve nearly all of the needs of the community, allowing individuals to buy clothing and groceries. It would

also serve as the post office.

Harmon's store also served another purpose. While locals could buy the supplies they needed, it was also a place where individuals could sell their goods. Purchasing cream from the area, as well as hides and furs, goods from Harmon would eventually be shipped out east.

Throughout the years, Harmon would expand slightly. While the population remained low, they city would boast a gas pump, livery stable, garage, lumberyard and dance hall. For a short while, one was also able to buy vehicles from the garage.

Bright future

A bright future seemed in store for the tiny community. With a number of forward thinkers, the town continued to serve the needs of not only the residents of Harmon, but also the local farmers.

While an initial elevator was built in 1910, a new one would be built on higher ground, to avoid the spring flooding.

The spring flooding would also pose problems to the railway, and on occasion, flood waters would cause the trains to derail.

Even with such problems,

the railroad was important to the citizens of Harmon. Serving as a way for local ranchers and farmers to sell livestock and other goods, it also brought mail, groceries and clothing to town.

Eventually, Harmon would have enough of a population to justify a school, and the community seemed as if it was whole.

With the foundations of a great town planted, Harmon could focus on other areas. One of those areas was baseball.

Attracting young men from around the area, Harmon would be able to boast that they had the best team in the county. Going up against larger teams, such as Mandan, the boys from Harmon excelled.

Downfall

As with many of the small local towns, Harmon eventually was hit hard by the great depression and "dirty thirties." Farmers began to lose their land, unable to pay their taxes.

The rise in the use of cars



and trucks took away the little business that remained in Harmon, as it was just as easy to conduct business in Mandan, or larger cities. Gradually, Harmon disappeared.

Because of the difficulties during the 1930s, Harmon's store was forced to close in the 1940s, followed by the Elevator. Soon, all of the businesses would leave, and the buildings would be dismantled. Harmon was no more.

Tragedy was not over for the area though. On Jan. 15, 1951, two Northern Pacific freight trains collided just half a mile south of town.

Loaded with coal and sup-

plies, the disaster made a large impact on the area.

Today

Today, nearly nothing remains of the tiny town. While a cemetery continues to be used, which was one fourth mile east of Harmon, all other signs have long vanished.

But out of the ruins of the small town, a new community, taking the Harmon name, has risen. While the automobile helped with the downfall of the town of Harmon, it is partially responsible for the opening of this new community.

Dustin White
Editor

As the railroad pushed further into North Dakota, with it reaching Edwinton, what would later be called Bismarck, in 1873, excitement was building in the state. With General Alfred Sully having established Fort Rice just about a decade earlier in 1864, the area south of what would be Mandan was beginning to bustle.

With the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railway to the banks of the Missouri, a new fort, Fort Abraham Lincoln, would also be built in 1872. Soon, Fort Rice would no longer be needed, and in 1878, the same year that Fort Yates would be founded, it would be demilitarized. In its place, a new town would spring up.

Taking the name of the previous fort, Fort Rice would soon see an increasing number of settlers coming to the area. One of those individuals was a man by the name of John Huff.

Arriving in Fort Rice in 1888, Huff had filed a claim for a 160 acres of land eight miles north of the town, with the want to homestead that area.

Unlike many other settlers though, Huff's primary interest wasn't in farming. Instead, seeing what seemed to be a great opportunity, Huff had learned that the Northern Pacific was planning on building a branch line to Fort Rice.

It wouldn't be for another two decades that the branch would begin to materialize. Facing both financial problems, as well as set backs in laying track, the progress of the Northern Pacific was often hampered.

For Huff, the postponements would get the better of him. Having built a saloon on his land, he held out hope, but would pass away before it came to realization.

Building of a town

Pushing south, under Edward Fogerty, the branch line would begin to form in 1910. Soon, the line would move to the area where Huff had lived, 19 miles southeast of Mandan. The stop that would be created there would be called the 19th siding.

With more individuals settling in the area, a post office was established the next year, on May 12, 1911. Emmeth Dobson would be installed as the Postmaster there, and he would name the place Huff, in honor of the early homesteader.

The town would take off. A large railroad depot was built, and with the town growing rapidly, a school house was also established.

As immigrants continued to pour into the area, Huff would experience a short golden age. Soon buildings were sprouting from the prairie. Huff was no longer just a railroad town.

Serving the community, two elevators, two stores, two cafes, a church, hardware store, lumberyard and blacksmith were constructed. By 1915, when Huff was at its height, the area seemed to be promising. However, the town would never reach a population greater than 60.

Slowly, those who had helped build up the town began passing away, or moving from the area, closing up shop as they did.

In 1920, a landmark of the



area would see its final patrons. Built by George Markham in 1902, the first store and cafe would close their doors when Markham moved away. Others would follow.

Remaining a town

With drought and a depression striking not just North Dakota, but the entire country, many were forced to give up their homesteads and find work elsewhere.

For many, that came in the form of the Works Progress Administration. The area would see some much needed improvements, as well as other areas being preserved for history.

While the WPA was busy helping preserve the Huff Indian Historical Site, workers were also building roads and ditches. It was also at this time that the town of Huff would get a welcomed addition; a new dance hall.

This hall would also serve an important purpose in the com-

ing years. In 1940, St. Martin's Catholic church was struck by lightning, causing it to burn down. Over the next seven years, the hall would become a place of worship for those who suddenly found themselves without a spiritual home.

As often was the case though, the town came together, gathering field stones, and in 1947, the newly built church opened its doors. It was the church on the hill. Yet, for those in Huff, it was much more.

With the Rev. Lotter as priest, the church grounds soon began to bloom. Grottos and birdbaths were added. With Lotter being a lover of animals, soon Huff residents would find that they had quite a Zoo for themselves.

Beginning of the decline

Decline continued to follow Huff though. While the WPA found locals work, it also helped spell the doom. With roads

beginning to link Huff with Mandan, and the automobile rising in popularity, area residents found themselves shopping in Mandan much more frequently.

Shop owners in Huff eventually had to close their doors, seeing that business was moving elsewhere.

By the 1960s, the decline had really set in. On April 30, 1960, the post office at Huff would become a rural branch of Mandan. Six years later, in October of 1966, the last train would pass through town. What had once allowed the town to feel a boom was now gone.

The decline would also eventually find the school in Huff having to close up as well. By 1976, children from Huff were being bused from their town, north to Mandan.

Finally, on Dec. 28, 1985, the post office in Huff also saw its doors being closed.

What seemed as a final blow didn't knock out the town though. The town continued to survive.

THROUGHOUT MORTON COUNTY'S PAST

Dustin White
Editor

Once known as one of Morton County's liveliest towns, Timmer had a promising future. Today, nearly only the memories remain.

As Morton County was being settled, the area in the south-east soon seen settlers taking up homesteads on nearly every quarter of land. Having come from many different countries, these pioneers had one thing in common; the desire to make a new life.

The early years would prove to be quite trying for these early settlers. While trees could be found along the river bottoms, the closest lumber market was in Mandan. Since transportation in the area was still only beginning to develop, a great amount of effort was required in building the first homestead shacks and log cabins.

Once shelter was built, the early pioneer families still had many hardships to overcome. With a near constant threat of prairie fires and floods, as well as the perceived threat of American Indians in the area, life was difficult.

Adding to the problems, rattlesnakes were a persistent danger, with many snake dens in the area, a threat ranchers in the area continue to face.

Eventually, a community would begin to form. Finding a need for a Post Office, school, churches, as well as other necessities, a town would find its foundation.

An initial Post Office would be opened four miles southwest of Timmer, named "Stevenson," as it was on Don Stevenson's homestead.

Foundations of a town

In 1907, a new Post Office was opened, known as Finch, named after Bert Finch, whose home housed the Post Office.

Finch would open a small store. The fledgling community was beginning to take shape.

A large boost for the future town occurred in 1910, when the Northern Pacific Railroad finally reached the area. Along the tracks, dozens of little villages would sprout up; Timmer would be put on the map.

Lots quickly were laid out, and Timmer was mapped. Soon, a bustling town began to prosper.

On July 21, 1910, Timmer would become official, when the Post Office was established. Continuing his work from previous years, Finch was appointed postmaster.

Named after C.L. Timmerman, who was a pioneer rancher, Sims merchant and Mandan banker, Timmer soon began expanding. In just a short time, businesses sprouted out of the prairie.

Having been spurred on by the N.P. Railroad, a depot would be built, along with the Timmer Bank, a branch of the First National Bank of Mandan, the Potter Hotel, the Bingenheimer Lumber Company, a pool hall and a livery barn.

With the new businesses, and the opportunity provided by them, the town grew quickly. Fast settling into Timmer, residential homes spread across the land. The future of Timmer appeared promising.

Additional business would open. Soon Timmer boasted a store, meat market and elevators, which served farmers from miles around. A restaurant would also be built, as the need to feed the carpenters who were building up the town was needed.

However, Timmer was still lacking. While education has been deemed important from the early years of the area, a formal school building had yet to be built. Instead, local families would open their homes up in order to allow area children to be taught.

In 1914, community members came together to rectify this issue, and Timmer's first school began to take shape. By the fall of 1915, classes had begun.

Continued expansion

By 1914, North Dakota was ranked fifth in the nation in automobile ownership. As more individuals in the county began to purchase vehicles, Timmer saw another boost to its population.

Soon, it became necessary to expand their school into a two-room building, with a full basement. Other business would also open, as they were deemed necessary.

The first Chevrolet Agency in the area was opened, along with a garage and service station. Automobiles had begun to change the face of the booming community.

With the additional ease in which individuals could travel, Timmer continued to be considered a prime destination. As the population continued to boom, expansion in the city grew.

In 1917, the St. George Catholic Church was built. Later on, a second bar and pool hall were built.

Eventually, as with many growing communities, there was a need to share information, and a small weekly paper was born. A photo shop would also open in the community.

Life leaving

Timmer would become known as one of the liveliest



towns in Morton County, a title they truly earned. For those in the area, it was the destination, offering both luxury and entertainment.

Twice a day, the "Galloping Goose," a small mail and passenger train, would pass through Timmer. Those stepping off at the depot had a whole assortment of activities to choose from.

While one could converse at one of the pool halls or bars, hand-cranked movie shows and bowery dances would also draw large audiences. As baseball season came, Timmer's own team would be energetically cheered on.

Every year, Timmer would also host a large rodeo on or around the Fourth of July. Coming from miles around, the town would burst at the seams. Setting up camp, local American Indians would come days ahead of the event, and call Timmer home.

However, the golden age of Timmer would soon come crashing down. With the 1930s, drought overtook the land.

Rural farmers and ranchers, unable to support themselves, began to lose their land. With money scarce, they joined countless others who moved out of the

area, searching for any available opportunity.

Business in Timmer began to slow, and as the population declined, hope was fading away. Slowly, businesses were closed, and the building torn down.

As the businesses left, so did the residents. The Great Depression would wipe out Timmer.

By the early 1950s, the N.P. Railroad would remove their depot from what was left of Timmer, and before long, the tracks were removed. Timmer was no more.

Over the years, signs of Timmer would vanish. The many buildings that once stood in the area either moved, or were torn down. Landmarks were dismantled, and nature took back the land. While a few farms continue to stand in the area, nearly all signs of the lively town are gone.

Only two landmarks remain; two cemeteries that had lied outside of town. Marking the northeast edge of town, the unmarked St. Georges' Catholic Cemetery still remains, as well as the Fairview Cemetery, located two miles southeast of Timmer.

Today, Timmer continues to live on in memory; a reminder of a bygone time.

Dustin White
Editor

Unlike many of the other entries in this series, the town of Breien is a community that has continued to survive. While, now only a fragment of what it once was, Breien was a pearl on the prairie.

Beginning its life as Parkin, the small community first began to sprout up as a mail station on the run from Fort Yates to Bismarck.

Working to protect their interests in southwestern North Dakota, the Northern Pacific Railroad had built their Mandan to Mott Branch. The branch would also serve as a way to better service the early homesteaders in that area.

The new branch would help these early pioneers change from open range ranching to farming, which soon began to take off.

As the farming community was spreading in southwest North Dakota, a grain commis-

sion company in Minneapolis, Minn., began to take notice. Looking for new business, Benson, Newhouse, Stabach eyed the area, and eventually made the decision to build elevators at Parkin, Heil and Elgin.

By 1915, the grain elevator was up and running, and the new community was beginning to take shape. Relying heavily on their neighbor town of Timmer, residents of Breien were able to more easily settle in.

However, progress was slow. While the elevator was open, only small loads of grain could be hauled to it, as the roads were too bad to manage much else.

Yet, interest in the area continued to expand. By the end of that first year, a Mr. Albrecht of Albrecht and Johnson Lumber Company made their way from Flasher to Breien.

After making a bit of exploration of the area, Albrecht made the decision to set up shop in Breien. On March 21, 1916, the first three car loads of lumber

were unloaded in town.

Eventually, the tiny town would grow. A school, post office, cafe, livery barn, pool hall and dance hall were built.

Living near Standing Rock Reservation, the residents of Breien would quickly form a relationship with the Lakota Indians. Surviving peacefully, unlike many other settlers in the area, residents of Breien had little worries of violence from their friends from the south.

As the community continued to grow, a name change was ordered. Operating under the name of Parkin, new names would have to be submitted, as Parkin was already being used by another post office in the state.

A total of 12 names would

be submitted, with the name Breien, which was derived from early resident and grain elevator operator, Edward Jacobson's father, Martin Jacobson Breien, chosen.

However, as Breien was still just in its infancy, the "Dirty Thirties" hit North Dakota, and the small towns in southwestern North Dakota began to disappear.

Moving away from the area, residents sought for opportunities wherever they could find them. Yet, a few did stay, allowing the town to continue on.

Today, the population is 15. While the conveniences of the past are gone, with the businesses that once operated out of Breien having vanished, the community still continues on.



ON THE EXPLORATION OF FILM: WHY?

Photographer's Journey Dustin White

It was in 1853 that the first photo in North Dakota was taken. The photo was shot by John Mix Stanley, a well known artist and painter, whose speciality was American Indians and Indian scenes.

Stanley had ventured to Dakota Territory during an expedition led by Isaac I. Stevens, who was the newly-appointed Governor of Washington Territory. The expedition had set out from St. Paul, Minn., to try to discover the best possible route to the Pacific for the railroad.

While Stanley would carry his daguerreotype camera, the daguerreotype process being the first successful system for producing photography, there were only a few mentions of his use of it. However, on Aug. 7, 1853, as the crew stopped at Fort Union, Stanley was said to be occupied with taking photos of American Indians, who were "greatly pleased with their daguerreotypes."

Whatever may have happened to Stanley's final photographs is not known; however, he did pave the way for more than a century and a half of later photographers in the state of North Dakota.

Throughout most of that time period, the format of choice had been film. It was also generally the only format available,

so there wasn't necessarily that much of a choice. Today, the situation is a bit different, with digital photography having largely taken over, but film still holds a special place for many in the community.

Film has also experienced somewhat of a resurgence in the last few years, with 2017 even signaling the resurrection of a few iconic films, including Ektachrome, which has been a favorite of many photographers.

With the ease of digital photography, and the instantaneous results that one can get, film may seem somewhat counterproductive for many. Using film myself, a question that I have often gotten is why?

Why Film

It was just a little over a year ago that I first began to use film. Before that, I had no interest. Digital photography was perfect for what I did, and I couldn't see a reason to change.

But that eventually did change. It didn't cause me to turn my back completely on digital, but there are some great benefits to film.

One of the greatest benefits of film is that it requires the photographer to slow down. Unlike digital, which allows for the capture of thousands of images in rapid fire, with film, it is much more limited.

With just 24-36 shots in a regular roll of 35mm film, about

12 for medium format, and one or two for large format, each image means a bit more. For many, that limit means that each shot is thought about a bit more, which slows down the photographer. That is one of the main reasons given for many photographers continuing with film photography.

Film also allows for a photographer to get into larger formats. To get into a digital medium format set-up, one can expect to pay around \$10,000. To do the same thing with film, it can be as low as a few hundred dollars, if not much less.

The quality of film is also largely comparable to digital, especially as films reformulate. While film doesn't breakdown to pixels, as it is a bit more organic, 35mm film is often equated to around 24 megapixels. That also happens to be the quality of my current digital camera.

Film is also much more archival. With film, there is a physical object, that one can hold and touch. Besides fire, or other catastrophes, film negatives can survive for hundreds of years. Digital media doesn't quite give such a security.

Is Film Better

The benefits of film don't necessarily mean that it's better though. Instead, it's different. Personally, I wouldn't give up my digital cameras, as they serve their purpose. My photographer



friends who use film, I believe feel the same way.

But film does offer a nice alternative, or an appreciated change. And for a few of my more special projects, it's the format that I have personally chosen to use, largely because of the archivability of film. Film is also what I grab for when I want to slow down and really capture a scene.

Yet, film can also demand more dedication. While one could send their film off for processing and scanning (so it can be shared online), many photographers today have made the decision to process their film

at home.

Home processing reduces costs, but it does take time, and it takes dedication. It's much easier to just take a photo with the camera on a phone, or some other digital camera, but the whole process of film can often give something back as well. In a way, it can be therapeutic.

In the end though, it comes down to personal preferences. After shooting film for over a year, I can't see myself giving it up. But it's not for everyone. And if one gets the results they are looking for, and enjoys the process, then that should be enough.

THE FIGHT BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE

Observations Dustin White

Separation of church and state. It is a hot button issue; one that gets thrown around quite a bit, while not fully being understood.

Recently, while reading through various news stories, I came across a comment that made me think about this topic. I don't recall what the story I was reading was about, but this individual's comment stuck in my head never the less.

The claim that was made was that, because of separation of church and state, they were unable to bring a Bible into school. While there certainly could have been an incidence in which an individual is not allowed to bring a Bible into a school, such an event would not have anything to do with the separation of church and state, and is highly unlikely.

Now, it has been over a decade since I went to high school. At the time, and little has changed, I loved studying religion. With that being so, it wasn't uncommon for me to openly bring some sort of religious book to school, including the Bible, Quran or a part of the Vedas.

For me, there was never a problem. And why should there be, as the school library contained copies of various Bibles. Even more, in the World Lit-

erature course I took, we read passages from various religious books, including the Bible. These passages were printed in approved text books.

Going to a public college, Bismarck State, it became clear as to why it was perfectly fine to read the Bible in school; as long as one didn't cross boundary lines.

In an introductory religion course, those enrolled were taught what the First Amendment protects, and more so, what it allows.

Because of the First Amendment, religious works, including the Bible, are able to be taught, and read openly in a school. In the same regards, prayer can also be openly done in school, without problem.

However, there is a boundary that can't be crossed, and it consists of not favoring one religion over another, or imposing a religion on another.

That is wherein lies a major problem. While one can teach the Bible in school, it must be done in a manner as to not infringe on the rights of others, or as to favor one religion over another.

The task is not all that difficult, but it does require an individual who will not force their personal views on another.

Thus, studying religious works equally, as literature and not holy scripture, is perfectly fine in a school setting. Going a step further, in the case

of students, holding a public prayer session, or Bible study on school grounds, as long as it isn't disruptive or intent on forcing others into such events, are protected acts.

This doesn't mean that all holy scriptures, or all views must be taught. Such a task is virtually impossible. It doesn't have to be all or nothing. Favoring simply can't take place.

The idea of separation of church and state largely play into this same idea. It was not

intended to punish those individuals who are religious, or to strip away their freedoms, but instead, serve to protect all.

While it is true that separation of church and state was partially meant to keep religion out of the government, it also served to keep the government out of religion.

Instead of being able to impose a state religion, a religion supported by the government, the intention of the First Amendment and the idea of separation

of church and state was to allow for religious freedom. Not just freedom for those in the religion of those who ruled, but for all.

Navigating through such a state of things has become quite difficult, as religion is often inherently tied into a person's ideas and beliefs. However, it does become necessary to make the separation, so that all of us can have that freedom of religion, or in some cases, freedom from religion.

Bismarck-Mandan area Photographers

Upcoming Events

March 11 — @ 10:00 am **Camp Hancock- W. Main, Bismarck**
Photo walk at Camp Hancock and Bread of Life Church

March 25 — @ 4:30 pm **Composition Basics Discussion- Former Governors Mansion, Bismarck**
Discussion on the basics of composition and improving photography.
(Pending Date Approval)

April 8 — @ 3 pm **Cameras & Coffee – Classic Rock Coffee- Mandan, ND**
Meet @ Classic Rock Coffee for some conversation about cameras

April 22 — @ 3 pm **Sleepy Hollow Park – Bismarck**
Photo walk at Sleepy Hollow Park in Bismarck

To Learn more about the Bismarck-Mandan area Photographers group, go to
www.Facebook.com/groups/MandanPhotographers/