

SHERMAN

SOUTH DAKOTA



THEN & NOW
1888 - 1988

Memories are made of these!

*Memories, memories!
Dreams of things we knew.
In the sea of memory
We're drifting back to you!*

Sherman Centennial Committee

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COVER PHOTO—Sherman Town Band

Back row: Mrs. A. C. Berg, A. C. Berg, Oscar Henjum (son of E. O. Henjum), Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Roseland, C. A. Estensen, and Herman Holling.
Front row: J. C. Berg, L. J. Gordon, Gerhard Arne, John Olson, Charlie Olson and August Johnson. About 1899-1900.

Sherman Centennial Steering Committee

Box 83
Sherman, South Dakota 57060

PLANNED AGENDA FOR THE SHERMAN CENTENNIAL JULY 15 - 17, 1988

FRIDAY, JULY 15:	Evening—	5 PM	Wagon Train		
		6 PM	Wagon Train Meal		
		9 PM-1 AM	Centennial Kick-Off Dance (Myron Lee and the Caddies)		
SATURDAY, JULY 16:	Morning—	8 AM	Fun Run Road Race (1 mile & 5K)		
		9 AM	Flea Market (all day)		
		10 AM	Parade (with Youth Parade)		
SATURDAY, JULY 16:	Afternoon—	1:30 - 5:30 PM	Noon Antique Tractor Pull Stage Show Style Show Baltic Kitchen Band Beard Judging Costume Judging Mandskor Singers 4-H Group Players Luverne Brass Choir Youth Talent Show		
		Evening—	7 PM	Jesse James Players (Play)	
			8 PM	Bingo (Garretson Legion)	
		SUNDAY, JULY 17:	Morning—	10 AM	Community Outdoor Worship
				Afternoon—	Noon Community and All School Dinner (catered by Blue Mound Inn)
			Afternoon—	2 PM	Jessie James Players (Play)
				3 PM	Rolle Bolle / Horse Shoe
				3 PM	Youth Fun Events

FOOD AVAILABLE DURING CENTENNIAL:

Mini-Donots
Cotton Candy
Church Women Food Stand (Saturday)
Sherman Centennial Food Stand (Friday - Saturday)
Firemen Food Stand (Tractor Pull)

ATTRACTIONS:

Merry-go-round
Centennial Play

Introduction

We have met as an independent group and in this centennial book have tried to record some of the thoughts; some of the stories (believable and unbelievable), which have been brought to our attention. It has been great fun gathering these pictures and stories, renewing old acquaintances and reminiscing to our hearts content. We hope that each of you will enjoy browsing through these pages as much as we have enjoyed working on them. We were not here in 1888 (although we sometimes feel old enough to have been a part of it). We have used many facts taken from a book written many years ago by J. L. Cooley. We have included a short paper regarding him. We shall try to recount as many of these stories and facts as we possibly can. We shall also try to give you some of the humorous things which happened.

Sherman had many business places in the early days. At one time, 350 loving, caring individuals called it "home." A large number of social activities were enjoyed. Sports occupied a very important place. There were many joys and many great sorrows and even tragedies. Every town has its share of these blessings. There were **no** individual "support groups," but the entire town and community rallied around to express their support.

Sherman today has few business places. The economy, the changes in times, and transportation have all taken their toll. Today there is a beautiful United States Post Office, Jensen's station, the Silver Bullet, an antique shop, (The Whistle Stop), and the Sherman Elevator, a component of the Farmer's Co-op Elevator in Garretson. The schoolhouse has been converted to a "Bee Hive," where they gather honey, which is sold in different states. The little Lutheran Church has always played a big part in life at Sherman. It is still very active and perhaps has been, and still is the foundation for the city.

This lovely little city has the distinction of being one of very few places of its size to be fully incorporated. They regularly hold council meetings and take care of all business.

Regarding the editor of the pamphlet, "Sherman, SD, A Promising Little City on the Great Northern Railroad"—his name was J. L. Cooley.

We could not help but admire the glowing descriptions which Mr. Cooley used in his book. So many years ago, he certainly must have been a very intelligent and a well read man with a wonderful attitude! He never cut the town or its people down in anyway. Since his day, many of the people (sometimes including ourselves) have nurtured the feeling that **we are very** important and in some way are commissioned to be judge and jury of our surroundings and, yes, even of our fellow man. Hats off to Mr. Cooley! Long

may his spirit live! This small booklet was a very well written one and really carried a lot of very good information. It reflects the pride those people felt in their city and their friends. It renewed our dedication to a really great town and its inhabitants now and all through these 100 years.

Another thing which we have learned during this time spent in gathering the information and reminiscing about the simple pleasures which we so much enjoyed, is to really appreciate those roots, even while very thoroughly enjoying today's pleasures. Do we ask too much today? Do we appreciate what we have today? Do we fester greed and jealousy?

Another thing which we admire about Sherman is their respect for each other. There are people of every age residing there. They get along well and as far as we know, they show no jealousy, hatred, or disregard, but each maintain his own privacy, do for each other, and enjoy life to its greatest depths!

Profile

We dedicate this book to the memory of our forefathers, who left us with a legacy far more valuable than acres of gold. The Sherman Community was settled by a group of Lutherans, Scandinavian nationalities, predominantly Norwegians. There were a few Irish people, a smattering of strong-hearted and industrious Germans, and a few Belgian people. However, most of the Belgians settled closer to Jasper, as many Belgian people lived there.

This group of people set out to live a happy life and to build a strong community. They taught the generations which followed them a number of very precious lessons. Some of these were honor, dignity, loyalty to the rest of the community, valor, respect, appreciation and thankfulness for what we have. They taught all to make do with what they had. They buried things such as prejudice, jealousy, and hate. Their motto was "all for one and one for all." It had many similarities to old fashioned bread making; each person, each family, added their bit to the big mixing bowl and stirred and kneaded the dough until it was the proper consistency. This dough was kept warm with loving care. They found that re-kneading after the first rising and letting it rise again, it was soon ready to carefully mold into individual well prepared pans to rise again. These loaves were placed into a hot oven and baked to a golden brown. This bread culminated a great deal of work, but its rewards were great. So it was with the community, careful preparation, planning, tender loving care and all came out just right. The aroma of fresh bread encouraged many people, settled many discussions, and built the community. May the generations to follow carry on in these high ideals and strong traditions.

In gathering this information, some things came out loud and clear to our group. This community has some very strong qualities which do not happen in every town. In reality these things do not **just happen** in Sherman. There were Norwegians, Swedes, Danes, Germans, Irish, and Belgians who migrated to this community because they wanted to leave the territory where they had been living, for one reason or another. In this community each carried his own belief, but strongly worked together to mold into the community. This spirit has lived and flourished until this very day. Long may it reign as it is today. Once a Shermanite always a Shermanite!

Although the people who came here, came from different places, a large number of them came from Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. We really **were** the Western front of civilization.

The town was built near the river. The river water was essential to the people's existence. Who had **heard** of a faucet? The railroad followed the river and this coming of the railroad really built the town of Sherman.

Weather

The weather in this part of the country is the very best that anyone could offer. If there is a cold spell, it is darned good and cold, and if it is hot, it is dang-ed hot! When it blows, it really blows with all its might, but when it is quiet, who could ask for a more pleasant, more beautiful day in our lives? Each season produces some of each and so enables us to live up to the name "Land of Infinite Variety." We have had blizzards, tornados, hail storms, droughts, excessive rainfall, mist, fog, and just plain cold, and plain hot. Possibly our years have mellowed us and have enabled us to roll with the punches, but we are sure that we would not be happy in any other area or any other climate. It would seem that in the last few years, our weather pattern may have moderated. Last winter (1986 - 1987), was lovely. The crispness of the air, the gentle breezes, the intense beauty of the sun, the beautiful rainbows, and the moonlight nights are all exhilarating. They just have had to contribute to the lives of so many of our people. We have many people living to the wondrous ages of 90, 95, yes even to 100 and 105 years. And we feel like kids again! In the dead of winter, we may feel that we can only grow older and colder, but looking back in the spring, we realize that in our growth we have experienced and added a great deal of depth to our lives.

Business Places United States Post Office



New Post Office

In 1988, we really do look forward to our mail arriving regularly. Back in the early days of the town, the mail was even more important to the people who lived here. Prior to the telephone, it was practically the only means of communication. The first post office was part of a store operated by E. A. Umphrey. The next post office was located in the Berg and Estensen store. August Johnson was the postmaster. This was 1900 to 1918. Stamps were probably two and three cents and the name penny postcard designated one cent for a postal card. Now the stamps are 22 cents each, and the "penny postal cards" are 14 cents each. What a price raise! Please stop to think of what this price raise has purchased for us. We have modern electronic equipment, large well equipped postal installations, very highly trained technicians, really super control over the delivery of incoming and outgoing mail; huge trucks to carry it, devoted employees to sort and dispatch it, as well as a large number of other highly specialized services. My goodness, we are really getting a bargain.

Mr. Umphrey was followed by W. O. Brennan, or Bill, as he was affectionately known by all. His first office was in a small white building on the east side of main street, across from Berg's store. One had to climb three or four steps to go into the office. Then he moved across the street to the small brick building. It was nice and seemed to be just made for a post office. In the back part of the building, he bought chickens and cream. Imagine that as a part of any of our modern post offices. Bill moved to California and Margaret (Mrs. Earl Larson) became postmaster. Then Marjorie Wick took over. In 1985 they moved to a lovely new installation on the corner—a block east of the church. Marjorie was clerk in 1973, officer in charge in 1977, postmaster in 1982. In olden days, the mail was carried in what was called a "mail cart." It was a box like structure pulled by a horse and pretty well

enclosed. The early carriers were John Brennan, Lyder Larson, Martin Graves, and Lou Locke. Later carriers used cars. Some of them were Oscar "Swede" Peterson, Perry Ellefson, Glen Gibson, Ernest Johnson, Gibbons, and presently Dana Jensen.

When A.J. Stromme was postmaster in Garretson, and perhaps when W. O. Brennan was postmaster in Sherman, and even as late as Margaret Larson, the position required that all of the expenses (heat, rent, building, etc.), were taken care of by the postmaster. A straight salary was paid to him. Margaret owned some of the equipment, having purchased it from W. O. Brennan. A large safe still stands in the building with W. O. Brennan's name on it.

Occasionally, a letter gets delayed, misplaced and sometimes not even written, but on the whole, we really do have a terrific postal system. Margie Wick is just a lovely lady, highly dedicated, and the carrier's are also very dedicated (I could hardly say that they are lovely, could I)? We do appreciate our mail service. Margaret Larson was a very lovely gracious postmaster. Her service there personified the image which one should project in serving in this public profession. Will Brennan also gave this devoted service. The people have been very fortunate to have always had such dedicated professional people in these positions.



Margie Wick—present postmistress of Sherman in the new building.



Lyder Larson with first mail cart.

The Sherman Elevators



Dick Winkel and John Pedersen



The Great Northern Railroad played a very important part in the growth of Sherman, in its beginning for it was conspicuously built on the southern point of town. It was an ideal location for shipping the farmer's produce, where boxcars could be available at all times, and a depot, water tower for the trains engines, and the railroad transacted all the freight and express business for the town and countryside.

Passenger trains went twice a day with a train going twice each direction morning and evening. It was

a wonderful means of transportation in those days compared to the horse and buggy.

It also maintained the Great Northern Express Company and the Western Union Telegraph Office along with the other businesses. A few years ago it became known as the Burlington Northern and freight trains passed through here several times a day. Grain is still shipped from here, but most is hauled in the large semi-trucks.

Several fellows from Garretson, Jasper and Sherman

are employed by this railroad at the present time.

Was it any wonder that because of this railroad, Sherman had five elevators at that time. There were immense grain elevators. The largest of these important establishments was the **Farmer's Elevator Company**, owned and operated by local farmers of the locality. It had, like all, a good volume of business. Interesting to know, the officers of the company were: L. A. Vadheim, Tim Bergin, G. A. Grant, O. O. Graves, and I. W. Beach was the manager. The Board of Directors were: Adolph Axelsen, E. E. Ellefson, Gust Olson, Conrad Kornmann, and A. O. Lerdahl. These names are familiar and relatives of some of them are living in this area.

The **Duluth Elevator Company** was a branch of the Peavy Organization. It, too, was large having a capacity of 45,000 bushels of grain and handled over 100,000 bushels a year. It also sold soft and hard coal and flour, always being well supplied. It was managed by W. S. Hanson, a young farm boy who moved here from Minnesota.

The **New London Milling Company** of New London, MN, had a large plant here. They bought a lot of grain and engaged in a full line of flours. Their milling plant was equipped to manufacture all kinds of coarse feed for livestock. This business was managed by Charles Norgren.

Managed by Chris Scott, the **Northwestern Elevator Company** was one of the largest companies in the Dakotas and Minnesota, and had business that equalled the rest of the elevators.

The **Thorpe Elevator** was managed by P. Vanderberg. It had offices in Minneapolis and Duluth, MN, and was involved in the Board of Trade. Mr. Vanderberg had eighteen years of experience in the grain business and was known as one of the best grain buyers on the Great Northern Railroad.

As the depression approached this area in the "dirty thirties", and before that time, banks closed, farmers lost their farms, and businesses declined. The elevators were closed and deserted. Then fires took their toll, and the town had only the locally owned Farmers Elevator Company remaining. It was managed by Dick Winkel. Somehow it survived the crisis of that era. At one time this elevator burned from a fire started when section men were burning grass along the tracks, but it was rebuilt and still in business. A few years ago, it merged with Garretson and is now known as the Farmer's Cooperative Company. Many different people worked with Mr. Winkel. He always gave the young fellows in town a chance to earn a little money when he needed extra help.

Among those who we remember worked there are John Pederson, his son Clarence, Joe Kampa, LeRoy Holling, Jerry Weets, who was a manager for a short while, Paul Brennan and Neil Henjum. We are sure

many more fellows contributed to being on the working force, too, so probably we missed someone.

After the merger, some of the above worked there until retirement. The latest to do this was Charles Bonte of Garretson, who worked there for a number of years and retired in 1987. At the present time, Bill McKenna of Garretson is the manager here at Sherman.

The elevator continues to have a favorable business and ships some grain by rail, but most of it is sold and transported by semitrucks. Commercial feeds are sold at the elevator, too.

West of the elevator at a date when the five elevators were here, there was a stock yards. This was used for shipping of livestock, mostly to Chicago for slaughter.



Bill McKenna—
elevator manager in Sherman, SD.

A Trip to Market in 1875

Written by G. A. Grant

"It was in the month of November, 1875, that Iver Shjegstad, O.H. Tofte and I went to Worthington, Minnesota with our first load of wheat. All preparations were made the previous day, as it was important that we start early in the morning. We filled the sacks with wheat. Provisions were made of food for us and hay for the oxen. Before daybreak we were on our way.

Somewhere east of Luverne we spent the night, with the wagonbox as roof and the wheels for walls. After the nights rest we had our breakfast, we cooked coffee and ate some of the lunch that we had brought along.

Late that evening we arrived at Worthington. As it would cost too much to stay at the hotel, we waited until the restaurant owner was closing for the day, and we were permitted to sleep on the floor of the restaurant.

Early the next morning we had to be in line to unload our wheat. We received sixty-two cents per bushel. The buyer asked how many sacks of wheat I had and I told him, sixteen sacks, and he quickly replied thirty-two bushels.

On our return trip we came to a house between Worthington and Luverne, that was known as "half-way house" where we thought that it would be a place to spend the night, sleeping on the floor. Others had the same idea, so the house was packed when we arrived. It was cloudy and cold but again we had to sleep under the wagon as we did previously.

The next morning it was snowing, and as we crawled out from beneath the wagon, we were stiff from the cold. We did not even stop to cook coffee. Later, we stopped at a farm house to get warm. The fifth day we returned home, happy and thankful that the journey was over."

Bill Benson's Body Shop

Bill has operated a body shop at his father's farm for the last six years. He and his wife, Yvette, live in Sherman. If your car gets banged up, just take it to Bill Benson, and he will fix it up and it will be in tip top shape again.

Hillcrest Farms

Do you remember that little old hen called a setting hen, who hatched a few little yellow chickens out in the old barn? She also pecked your arm if you disturbed her. Would you believe that this has evolved into a chicken and egg deal in Sherman which has 120,000 laying hens! They sell the layers when they are no longer capable of producing eggs. My, my what a lot of soup! These hens lay 80,000 eggs per day, and at the present time no one can buy an egg there. The eggs are taken to a small town in Iowa where they are broken out of the shell, and are called liquid eggs. In good restaurants they are used for scrambled eggs and for omelets. Rumor has it that the cholesterol is less than if it is left in the shell. So, I don't know, but I have heard it repeatedly. A fried egg or a boiled egg still requires the shell. You are never too old to learn and we have learned a lot. Where we came from an egg was an egg and you used it to fry, scramble, boil or in baking. Here we have all this and only one half mile from Sherman!

I cannot help but wonder how all this has affected that poor little old setting hen. Her feelings were very upset when she was replaced by the incubator and

the brooder stove. An operation such as this must have blown her mind. Well, so it goes with all of mankind. The things we did with such painstaking care and were so particular about and devoted so much time to each task, are now done in the flick of an eye, by pushing a button. Well, I take some satisfaction in knowing that it still takes the hen to lay the egg!

P.S. I just turned the radio on and heard that the electronic industry is working on a special light which will be so real, that the hens will think it is daylight and will lay three eggs per day. Glory be, I do hope that is a rumor.

Peter Rabbit!

Have you ever heard the story of Peter Rabbit? Peter and many, many, of his relatives live at the Clarence Fiegen farm west of town. Clarence has gone to raising rabbits as a farming enterprise. He now has over 800 (maybe over 1,000 by the time the book is published). This enterprise requires a great deal of study, hard work, ingenuity, intelligence, and investment to be successful. In fact it took the old term, plain guts!

It is the only rabbit farm I know about. They are raised for their fur, for meat, and hopefully for a profit for the Fiegens. Clarence said that some of the meat is sold locally, but most of it is sold to fine restaurants in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Los Angeles, CA, and served as a delicacy. The pelts are purchased and sold to furriers. The Fiegen family enjoys the meat and it will be served with dressing for their Thanksgiving meal.

Clarence has developed special feed for them, No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 formulas. His own feed is taken to a company in South Dakota where it is made into pellets for these three formulas. One is a growth formula, one is a finishing formula, and one is to make the fur more shiny and beautiful.

Now, you will no longer marvel at the story of the Three Bears, or that of the Three Pigs. Just tell them about Peter Rabbit!



One of Sherman's earliest trucking lines—Drag Line owned by L. B. Locke. Pictured are "Tell" Rush, Bruno Kormmann and Dick Burns.

Sherman Honey Farms



Honey Warehouse



Ed and Dan Powell

Sherman Honey Farms were started in 1973 with about fifty beehives. Due to expansion the Sherman Schoolhouse was purchased in 1976 and converted into the present day honey warehouse.

Being a family type operation, Ed Powell and Dan Powell handle the majority of work from about 1,000 beehives. Seasonal part-time workers inside the extracting plant are Jean Powell, Linda Carnicle, and Della Bakke. The combs of honey are fed into an uncapping machine which removes the beeswax. Then it is placed in the extractor where the honey is spun out by centrifugal force. This honey is then put into 50 gallon drums for sale to a commercial packer.

After the fall harvest is completed, the bees are moved to a warmer climate for wintering and returned in the spring about the time the dandelions start blooming.

During the winter months all necessary repairs of machines and bee equipment is done at the warehouse. Everything is put in working order for a new season.

The Sherman Service Station (Jensen's Service)

The station, now operated by Gaylen and Dana Jensen, was built by the Deep Rock Oil Company sometime in the 1920's. A bulk station in the south part of town east of the elevators was operated by Carl N. Johnson, who also drove an oil truck for deliveries. LeRoy E. Holling and Harvey Koch also drove delivery trucks. There were others who were employed and we think perhaps Joe Sande was an employee, but we're not sure. We suppose others did too.

At the opening of the station, Lester Larson worked there. After a time he left for other work. Earle Larson and Bill Brennan, Jr. were to take over when school was out and worked there for the summer months. Clarence (Pete) Pederson filled in for that time. William McDowell took over the station in 1928 or 1929 with Orville and Elmer assisting. Marvin and Lou Winterfeldt followed working there for the Oil Company.

It was then sold to Lloyd and Edythe Nelsen who were there for a long time. They purchased the Wilman Walvatne home, moved it to the land joining the station on the south side. They had two children Lou Ann and Merle.

As time went on, they sold it to Alma and Lester Froseth, who had been farming in this area and they came to live here. The Nelson's moved to Garretson to have the Gamble Store.

When the Froseths retired they, too, moved to Garretson where they now live.



Jensen's Service Station



Dana Jensen

Mr. Alvin Jensen purchased the property and had the station until his death a few years ago. His two sons took over the station. Mrs. Eunice Jensen still lives

here in the family home.

The station also has the "off sale" liquor store and sells beer, cigarettes, pop, candy, tires, car items, etc.

It is at this corner where in the "olden days" the trees grew abundantly on both sides of the road to the west. The trees were so large they practically enclosed the road as one proceeded for a short distance to the west. It was a lovely place for a walk and acquired the name "Lover's Lane." We are sure some of the folks still remember this lovely scenic spot. When the highway came through, all of this was destroyed to make our new road.

Silver Bullet



The Silver Bullet is Sherman's newest business, with an addition built in 1987.



John Nussbaum—manager.

Whistle Stop



The Whistle Stop opened on June 18, 1978 in the building commonly known as the Berg and Estensen Store.

Mel and Marjorie Lamp, proprietors, remodeled the building and started an antique shop and a second hand store in the north half of the building. The remainder of the store housed their apartment, and served as a grocery, and a place to stop for coffee. Many very good conversations were held there and many very lasting friendships developed there. The people of the area felt that it was a great loss when the Whistle Stop was no longer open. Marjorie plans to be open for the celebration.

Sherman Saloon

This picture was taken about 1910. These were the good old days when every surrounding neighborhood town was dry. No age restrictions on sales at that time.



Bartender Chris Scott and owner Bruno Kormmann, customers are thought to be - L. to R. - Dick Burns, Ed Erickson, Chris Viken, ? Teskey, ?, Ed DeBates.



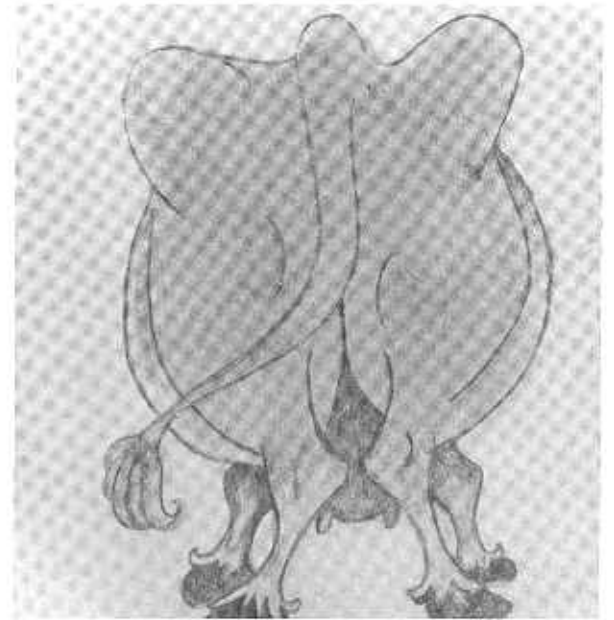
Richard Koch and Helmer Steffe.

Barber Shops

The Barber Shops were mainly for men in those days. Some children were fortunate enough to go there; but some of us were lucky or unlucky enough to have our own barber shop in our own home with our mother and father using the scissor.

Fenn McMurrin was a good barber and operated his shop for several years. Another barber was Floyd Pugh. Floyd and Martha Pugh lived in a part of the barber shop for a long time and were definitely a very integral part of the Sherman community. Floyd gave each kid his or her first haircut as a gift. Wasn't that a nice thing to do? He also gave the kids each a nickel when they came to his shop. Martha often had a cookie or similar treat for them. Many good friendships came out of the door of their shop, and to this day, Martha can tell you the story of the different patrons of their shop. Martha still lives in Garretson and knows everything about Sherman.

One of the first barbers was Otto Mork, Tommy Tvedt, then Claude Vickerman, Frank Arrowsmith, Carl Ronning—were all barbers.



This is the only part of the cow that I ever saw as my job was to drive the cows home from the pasture—Loretta Halversen. (Sound familiar SD girls?)

Date March 19, 1910
 Patron's No. 13
 No. lbs. cream 387
 Average test 25
 Pounds butter fat 96 1/2
 Price per lb. 28 cents
 Value butter fat, \$ 27 02
 Sink. Fund 27
 Dr. to _____
 at _____ cents per lb. butter
 Balance by check, \$ 26 20

Phone 16 **JONS OIL CO.** Phone 16
 Garrison, S. Dak. Cenece Products

Sold to 2/11 1916 No. 18328
 Address Richard Koch
 Place of Delivery Sherman, S. Dak.
 Business General

Original Invoice	Consumer	Dealer
400 Gallons Heating Oil	75 60	
100 Heating Fuel No. 1	09	09 900
Motor Oil		
Sales Tax		18
Total		84 78

Received the Above Goods Richard Koch
 Received by Richard Koch
 Jons Oil Co.
 Sherman, S. Dak.

April 5th 1897 Dr.
 Dear and Co. Moline I. Co.
 Dear Sir Please send
 me 3 free string plows
 one harrow and three
 boxes Amelia, Richardson



Adolph and Amelia Koch and Ralphie Feddersen on our new McCormick Deering tractor—September, 1929.



The Estensens—L. to R. Stanley, Mabel, Helen, Mrs. Estensen (mother), Ernest (driver), Guy and C. A. Estensen (father).

Berg and Estensen

Andrew Berg and his brother-in-law, C. A. Estensen were the owners of this very successful business. The store was a real mercantile which housed everything from soup to nuts! Well, that was all in the grocery department! They carried a full line of groceries, all good top quality. The center part had a very large supply of shoes. These were on shelves which lined the center wall. There was a ladder which reached the very top shoes and was attached to a track with wheels! This was such a joy to ride on! Many, many times the temptation was stronger than our ability to use discretion. Such fun! Such naughty, naughty kids!

The grocery was all in the south part of the store. The north part was taken up by many things. There were yard goods, needles, threads, notions of all kinds, stockings for men, ladies and children. Also, overalls, skirts, underwear, (mens or ladies), and children's caps, coats, handkerchiefs, well whatever you might desire.

The upstairs held many pieces of men's wool clothing, suits, coats, etc. It also had a large number of lovely black Stetson hats for men. In the last years, the store was in operation, many men in Sherman purchased these lovely hats at a price of \$1.00 each and became well known in the area for their beautiful derby hats. Alma Johnson and Mabel Docken operated this section of the store, and August Johnson seemed to manage the grocery. Several other people worked there too. Eugene "Skinny" Haley, Marie Haley, Matilda Kringen, Clara Elverson, are some names that we remember. August's favorite greeting was "How are you today, Boss?" or "What can I do for you, Boss?" We always bought candy from August, because we got more candy from him than from the others. Smart, weren't we? Also a sack of candy always accompanied every grocery order.

On Wednesday and Saturday nights, the farmers and their families came to town. The men played cards

at a card room further south on the street and the women and children gathered at Berg's store. Alma and Mabel had a long wooden seat which held several ladies and they also provided a few chairs for the convenience of the women. These two lovely ladies always provided coffee and cookies for their guests. Was it any wonder that these nights were a must in every one's language. Part of the time, the city provided free shows for all (outdoor movies). Those were the days, my friend! Friendships were deep and lasting in fact, the forever kind. Religious differences were there, but no one seemed to ever hold their counter parts in anything but full respect. The way that we grew up was really one of our greatest memories and helped us to form a basis for a Christian life.

Everyone loved these families, but even so, we laughed about many little tricks of the trade. The store had been robbed a couple of times and these ladies were especially wary of the cash register. When the cash bills accumulated there, she figured out a simple little bank of her own! She would put a stack of bills in her stockings (which were quite heavy cotton), and then fastened the stockings securely to a heavy garter on her corset. No self respecting burglar would ever find that, or would even look for it. Do you suppose that is where the expression "put it in your sock," originated?

Mabel had the honor of being the first baby born in Sherman.



Mabel Docken—
first baby born in Sherman.

The Estensen Hardware

C. A. Estensen was the proprietor of this well equipped hardware store. Its humble beginning was in a small building south of the grocery store. Then a part of it was moved to the street across and a little north. When it became too small for the hardware store, it became Floyd Pugh's barber shop.

The hardware built the large new cement block, two story building on the corner cater corner from the store. They had everything which any fine hardware should have and did a very good business for the total area. Later as the old store building deteriorated, the grocery store also moved into the large building with the hardware.

A couple of names come to mind about people who worked in the hardware, those of Ole Lomen and Frank Holling. Helmer Docken also worked at the hardware store. He died at an early age.

The grocery and the hardware were sort of a joint venture by the Bergs and the Estensens, but it seemed to fall to the lot of the Bergs to operate the store and for the Estensens to operate the hardware. Both did an excellent job. They were both classic examples of an aristocratic bloodline. They had dignity, self esteem, the ability to work with others. They both lived in elegant homes and could be classed as "aristocrats." You know that with what is known in our circles as "class", well you either had it or you didn't. These families both had it. In Mabel's home, there was even a "dumb waiter." No, we are not referring to an employee. It was a set of shelves which pulled up and down on a set of ropes, and put your things which you wished to keep cool in a deep sort of well in the basement.

These people left their mark on the life and happiness of many people.

Helmey's Drug Store

This was a fine drug store housed in a little wooden building just north of the Wilson Implement building. They carried a full line of supplies to dispense for prescriptions. They carried some gifts, some jewelry, candy, and a generous supply of friendship. Violet Gould, a daughter became well known in the operatic circles of the Twin Cities.

At one time, there was a small switchboard or telephone office in the upstairs of the building. Clara Tjelde Johnson worked there as an operator.

Later, a family lived in those rooms, and had to be evacuated at the time of the big fire in the Wilson Building.

Locke Hotel and Boarding House

The hotel provided meals and rooms for people traveling and making an over night stop in Sherman, a place for shoppers who came to have patterned hats made and other shopping. Minnie Mork served meals there. This was located on the corner just north of Berg's store and was torn down to make way for the Wilson Implement building. There was also a boarding house. It is the house now owned by Mark Liesters. The Braa family lived there, and also Harvey Kochs lived there. The numbers on the rooms were still there when Harvey and Martha lived there. They said that their family was large and continued to grow while they lived there, so they found the numbers on the bedroom doors were very helpful.



Loonan Lumber Company

In the early days, Nick Brennan operated it for many years. It was associated with Loonan Lumber Company of Sioux Falls, but history says that Nick owned it. He was the father of Will Brennan, Lavinia Syverson, and Bertha Engebretson. Other managers or owners or whatever in later years, were Melvin Johnson, Bill Flitz, and Roger Wick.

Nick was known to all as "Grandpa Brennan." In talking to Elmo Grange recently, he referred very fondly to "Grandpa Brennan."

Meat Markets

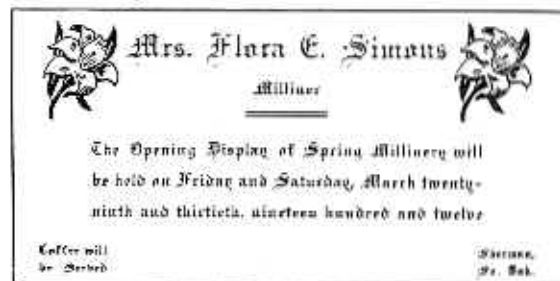
The meat market carried all fresh meat. Now from where did that fresh meat come? The butcher slaughtered and hung it and cared for it in a back room or building called the "slaughter house." Then it was carefully cut up, trimmed, and put in the meat case for the customers. Hopefully, the meat and the customers came out evenly.

These people were some that we remembered as butchers. Ack Godbey, Sy Syverson, Martine Marth, Bergeson, Alfred Benson, A. B. Holm, and perhaps others.

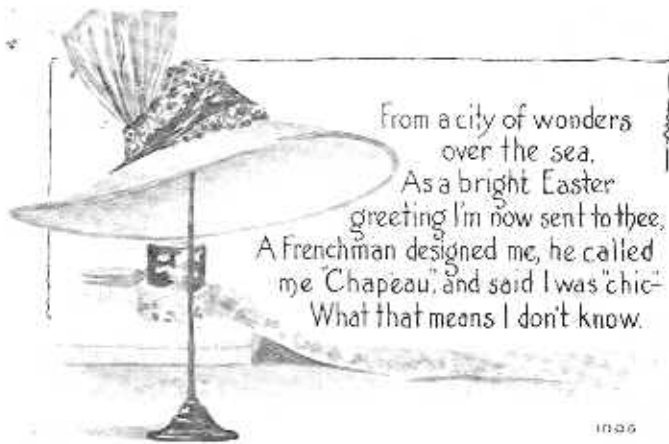
In those days, we always accused the butchers of weighing their thumb.

Millinery Shop

Mr. Walt Simons' mother operated a millinery shop. She **made** the hats, generally to order, but had some that she stocked. Often the fine ladies from Garretson and other towns came to Sherman to have their Easter bonnets made by Mrs. Simons. They generally stayed over night in the hotel.



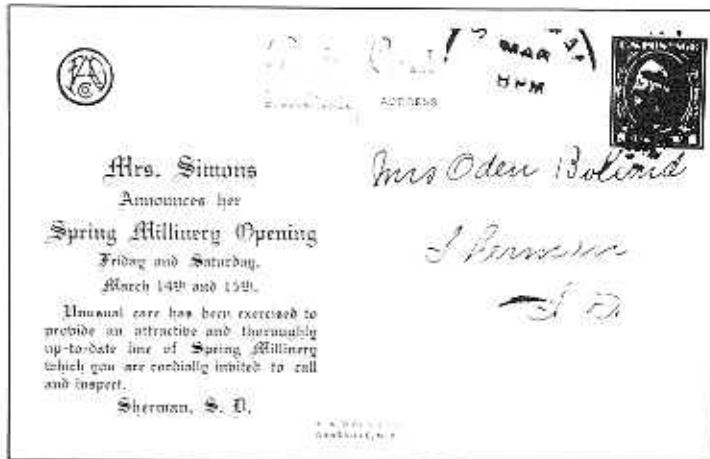
Post Card sent in 1912.



From a city of wonders
over the sea,
As a bright Easter
greeting I'm now sent to thee,
A Frenchman designed me, he called
me "Chapeau," and said I was "chic"
What that means I don't know.

1000

Post Cards from the Millinery Store. Front—



Back—



North Grocery Store

This was managed by Ben Warren. It was in conjunction with the Wangness store in Garretson. The two grocery stores both did a fine business. Both often gave dishes of one kind or another with trade. Some of these have become very valuable in antique circles. Much of it was the very popular carnival glass.

Let's go to the free show in Sherman

One of the highlights of entertainment in Sherman was the showing of free outdoor movies. People from the town, the rural areas, as well as residents from neighboring towns came every week. Movies were shown on a large screen raised up on posts, so that the pictures were clearly visible to all. At about half time, (not football) there would be an intermission. At this time the kids would all scatter to the store or the restaurant for an ice cream cone or candy. Gee, what a nickel would buy back in those days!

Some people sat in their cars, some on benches, some on blankets on the ground. These movies were really good shows. (No R rated stuff in those days). Both children and adults enjoyed them. Sometimes they were serials and we had to wait until the following week to see the end.

Ed Paul, who lives in Sioux Falls, showed the movies in different towns and we believe the cost was twelve dollars per show. This was paid by contributions from various towns people and businesses. The contributions varied from twenty-five cents to one dollar.

At one time the shows were held in the Opera House. A small admittance fee was charged for those. They were accompanied by music from the old player piano, with the old roll which had little cuts and marks for the music. Not bad for our day but what a far cry from modern electronics. A young, strong person would pump this player piano in exchange for his ticket.

Many social activities were held in the Opera House. It had a stage where plays and shows were presented. We presume that some operas and operettas were given also.

Restaurants

Minnie Mork operated the Locke Hotel and served lovely lunches and meals to the weary traveler. Mrs. Ed Christianson also rented rooms and prepared meals for people who came on the train. A lady named Mrs. Swatman also had a restaurant. Johnny Pool operated a pool hall. (What a coincidence). Bruno Kornmann had the beer joint and saloon. Mrs. Fenn McMurrin (Verona), had a restaurant. Mrs. Lammert Schlop Kohl had a coffee shop catering to high school kids with a steaming bowl of soup for a dime. What a welcome relief from the old syrup pail which carried sandwiches smelling like bananas or apples. Bob Megard had a lunchroom. Edith Rae followed that. Mrs. Fodness was well known for her luscious rolls and coffee in her coffee shop.

All these restaurants speak to the fact that Sherman people have always enjoyed their coffee, and were great to get together in friendship. A group of farmers sometimes played cards all through the night. One patient and loving wife was up preparing breakfast at five a.m. for her family when her husband came home. She greeted him with these words: "Oh my, you are just like the dog, he just came home too." That is known as the patience of a saint.

The only lunches available in Sherman, after this string of restaurants, were what could be gotten at the Whistle Stop or coffee at the elevator, or at a friends.

Train Episodes

The passenger train played a very important part in the lives of Shermanites young and old! We could get on the train at 6:30 p.m., and go to Garretson to the basketball game and return to Sherman at 10:00 p.m. Ten cents each way! Even many adults took advantage of this and many fun things happened. Fenn McMurrin, a barber, would pay his way down, but get on to go home without a ticket. The conductor would ask for his ticket to no avail, and then would say, "You will have to get off at the next station." This is where Fenn was going. After a while, either the fun wore off or the conductor wised up and this didn't go on any more.

We could go on the passenger train to Sioux Falls leaving at 5:00 a.m., and come back at 5:30 p.m. for a quarter.

Well as you know, the cars replaced the passenger trains.

One gathering place was the depot. People often went there to watch the trains come in.

The depot, Great Northern no longer stands. It has been replaced by the Elevator - Wyman, Hazen, Tucker, Roy Ankrum, Joe Larson, Hubert Dickey, and Clyde Jones were agents at one time or another.

Walvatne's Harness Shop and Variety Store

Another little frame building just north of the Drug Store was Walvatne's Harness Shop and Variety Store. Wilman Walvatne was the proprietor. He had lots of business fixing harnesses for the farmers of the area and fixing shoes by resoling, sewing, and putting new heels on them. The other part of the store was devoted to a variety store. Many items could be found there. Wasn't this a strong combination of grads?

It really points out that when one has a family to raise, you make it where you can.

Walt Simons Blacksmith Shop



Walt Simons had a blacksmith shop which stood where the Fire Hall now reigns supreme! As the poem goes, "A Mighty Man Was He." He fixed machinery and made wagons. He would rent out spots to house cars to protect them from the weather. An old car seat or two graced the sidewalk in front of the shop. Here friends gathered to spin stories of the day or of the week.

The Simons were a fine family consisting of mother, father, Eva, and Kenneth. These two young people were well educated and were rated high in their fields. The Simons deserve a shining light in the annuals of Sherman.

Radio and television have replaced these visiting sessions, but we wonder if they really bettered anything.

Dances in the Area

You young kids are all filled with music, plenty of rhythm, have good sound eardrums, very moveable joints and we would say that you are all very good dancers. Still, we wonder if you really have the fun which we had as young people. There were dances at Sherman (in the Wilson building), Jasper in the Memorial Hall, Hardwick, Lester, Iowa, in the pavillion at Dell Rapids and in the Japanese Gardens at Flandreau. These were a MUST and we were very upset if we did not get to go to those dances. There was never a charge for a girl or a lady to go to the big affair. The men's tickets varied from twenty-five cents to one dollar. The orchestra started to play their heavenly music about fifteen minutes to nine. They played until midnight and then had an intermission and danced until one o'clock AM.

Everyone danced with everyone, there were no tables and chairs. We would have eight and ten dances ahead! Can't you see what you have missed? Those were the good old days. Lawrence Welk played for our dancing pleasure many times. These dances were sort of family affairs. The older ladies were always guests of the management, and sort of chaperoned the young guys and gals. If someone sneaked a kiss on the dance floor, we were sure that we got by with murder.

The Big 1933 Fire

A number of us were steady customers, and some of us were so young that we could not get in if our mothers were not on the sidelines with those eagle eyes. Yes, we are blushing!

Then there were the "barn dances." Emmett Bergins, Christine Bergins, and Klungness to name a few. They were the grand old hoe downs. The older people always went to them. Again, everyone danced with everyone. When it was time for intermission, the owners of the barn would sally forth with two or three big cakes and tubs of coffee. This was all included in the price of the ticket.

One night, a couple tried to unlock the car door, when he just could not get it open. There perhaps was a reason for this, but we won't talk about that. His wife asked for the key, "Is it bent?" He immediately answered her saying, "The key is ok, but the damned door won't hold still." There were dance halls, barn dances, basket socials, square dances, butterfly dances, polkas, waltzes, sock socials, fox trots (did you ever trot with a fox)? We did. Well, we know that you enjoy your dance styles, but really and truly, we think that we had more fun. Oh, yes, we can still shake a pretty wicked leg. Just try us!

Wilson Implement

The old Locke Hotel was moved to make way for the big cement block building which was to house the Implement Company. It was a beautiful large structure and a credit to the owner and to the town. The second story had a beautiful hard wood floor and was used for dances. Many of the big name bands played there. Those dances were not like the dances of today. We did not have a steady partner, but always had eight or ten dances spoken for ahead of time.

It was also used for roller skating. This, too, drew big crowds from all over the area. These two activities sparked many romances.

Down on the main floor there was new equipment, and new cars for sale. At one time, we can remember the Lutheran Church having a big supper there. This floor also contained the offices.

Later on Carl Sievert either joined Mr. Wilson or bought him out. Anyway, Carl Sievert's garage was added to their business.

This was all destroyed by a big fire in 1933. Perhaps it was never known how this fire got started, but it was apparently started in the tire room. The building collapsed letting the contents just drop into the basement and all was covered with rubble. This was a severe loss to the city of Sherman.

The firemen from all the surrounding towns came, but it was useless as the fire had advanced so much before it was discovered.



The Interesting Minnesota and Dakota Store

Merlyn and Harriet Larson have established a business in Jasper. They commute to this business daily and live in Sherman in their lovely home. This is really an interesting store, carrying a variety of lovely pieces of merchandise for sale, a relaxing place to browse and an answer to many gift choices. He has made a large selection of hand made miniature doll furniture for his store.

First Lutheran Church History

In 1891, Mrs. A. C. Berg, Mrs. John Berg, and Mrs. C. A. Estensen met to organize a Mission Society in Sherman. These three families and the Henjum's constituted Sherman's original population. They were joined by Mrs. Charles Reynolds and Betsy Johnson who resided on what was later known as the Boettcher Farm. These women started to work for a church. Membership was so limited, each one was honored with an office.

Rev. A. O. Mortvedt, Dell Rapids, preached occasionally in Sherman at the hotel and the Great Northern Depot.

In 1894, the Mission Society had \$102.94 in the treasury. The collection from lunch varied from 25¢ to 55¢ and the annual dues were 25¢. In 1897, men were permitted to be honorary members upon payment of annual dues. Fund raisers were making name quilts, ice cream and necktie socials. Quilts sold from \$3.50 to \$5.00.

January 16, 1899, the citizens of Sherman and vicinity met at the depot to plan for a church, which became known as Independent English Lutheran Church. It was decided the church should be twenty-four by thirty-two feet with an entrance and rostrum.

October 3, 1899, bids for lumber and construction were submitted. S. H. Bowman's \$540.00 lumber and Gust Swenson's \$210.00 construction bids were accepted. Work on the church began November 1st, on the lot given by M. J. Zelfiff. The total cost of the church was \$1,118.78. It was built and owned with the Methodist and Congregational Societies. September 28, 1901 under the chairmanship of Pastor M. O. Wee, they voted to become a Norwegian Lutheran Congregation.

In 1903 due to denominational differences the interests of the Methodists were bought. They were paid one third or \$372.93. The remaining members then became Salem Lutheran Church.

Lunch money increased at this time sometimes being as high as \$1.50 to \$2.00.

In 1904, Rev. O. A. Anderson came and served until his death in December 1906. Rev. G. M. Bruce came in 1907 and served until 1910 when Rev. O. F. Johnson was called and served until 1918. Rev. A. J. Evenson was called in 1919 and the parsonage was built in 1920 with cement blocks made in Sherman.

In 1922 the congregation decided to build a basement and a chancel. The Ladies Aid had been planning for this purpose and gave the building committee \$1,304.84. The total building cost was \$2,876.84.

In May, 1929, South Highland Lutheran was struck by lightning and burned, with a baptized membership of 33, they decided to unite with the Salem Congregation and thus became First Lutheran Church.



First Lutheran Church—1987.



Rev. Wayne Meidinger—
present pastor of First Lutheran Church.

Combined membership climbed to 110 in 1934 and reaching 147 in the 1940's. On September 3, 1943, Rosendahl Lutheran Church burned and several members joined First Lutheran.

Rev. Evenson retired in 1944 and Stanley Olson, Augustana, served as interim pastor for St. Paul and First until June 1951. C. Markus Svaren, a senior seminary student, began serving the parish. Upon his graduation in June of 1952 he was called by First Lutheran and St. Paul Congregations. In 1953 it became a 3 point parish with North Highland joining the parish.

In 1955 the need for enlarging the church became a reality with remodeling and an edition to the south. September 8, 1957, Wendell Stangeland was installed and served until 1962. At that time Charles Solberg was called and during his ministry, St. Paul closed in 1963 with several members joining First Lutheran. Norway and First Lutheran Churches merged in 1965, bringing membership to 305. On June 12, 1966 Rev. G. E. Udem was installed and served until 1972, when Pastor Roland Brandt came from the New Guinea Mission Field as his successor. In 1978, Pastor Mark Neuhaus was installed. As a two point parish again and a decline in Sunday School size, it was decided to have joint Sunday School and joint services, alternating between the two churches. In 1984, Wayne Meidinger was called and is presently serving as Pastor of First Lutheran Church.

The Helping Hand Society

This was an organized society of the church under the caring supervision of Mrs. C. A. Estensen. She had two daughters, Mabel and Helen, and along with them a group of girls, whom she taught much in showing kindness and being helpful to the town.

Meetings were held regularly, always with a worthy lesson to the group. They were to be helpful to any one who needed someone to carry groceries, sweep the walks, scrub the porches, watch and play with the children of a busy mother, or just be good and kind to everyone especially their mothers.

At the next meeting, reports were given of their good deeds and merits were earned on the girls' honor. It taught them that people do appreciate a lending hand without having to be paid in money.

At one time she taught the girls to embroider. They each embroidered their name on a block of material and she made it into a quilt. It was to be sold at an auction sale. Guess who bought the quilt, Mrs. Estensen, I'm sure it was a keepsake for her to remember all of those girls. Well, we remember her loving friendship and patience, too. Really a lovely lady to us all.

North Highland Lutheran Church

Written by Theresa Johnson

The early settlers came to take up land in the northeast part of Minnehaha County in 1874. Most of these were from Norway and also of the Lutheran faith. They represented several different branches of the Lutheran church. Because of this, several congregations were begun in a very small locality. A congregation, Rosendahl, was organized in 1874, but by 1888 it was divided because of differences, and the Pontoppidan congregation was organized. In 1891, Pontoppidan joined the United Lutheran Synod. The Lanstads congregation also joined the United Lutheran Synod in 1891. Both were served by the same pastor, the Rev. S. J. Nummedahl, so they decided to become one congregation in 1893. Their name was Highland Norwegian Evangelical Congregation. The congregation numbered 116 at that time. In 1894, they formed a 3-point parish with the Bethania and Eden churches.

The congregation did not have a church home. The organization meeting was held in Granaas School, near the Torres Braa farm. More frequently used was the Benson School where a pulpit had been built. A desire for a church home was constantly growing. A two-acre tract of land in the northwest corner of section 17 was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. David Anderson. A church was begun and a cemetery plotted on this tract in 1895. It took a number of years before the church building was finished. The corner stone was laid and the church was dedicated in the

fall of 1899.

Highland now became part of a 4-point parish, adding the church in Jasper. Rev. Nummedahl resigned in 1903 and was replaced by Rev. J. D. Swalestue who stayed until 1921. Rev. Edward Hegland accepted the call in July of 1921 and served until his death in 1941. On December 29, 1921 an insane person set the church on fire. It was a total loss. The present structure was built in the summer of 1922, and on October 15, the dedication service was held and the cornerstone was laid.

The altar, pulpit and baptismal font were built by Johan Halvorson in 1922. He died in 1949. He was the father of Mrs. Ernest Mortvedt of Dell Rapids and an uncle of the late Mrs. Gilbert Braa. Johan immigrated from Norway in 1888 and brought with him the carpenter tools which he used in making the church furnishings.

The Norwegian language was used exclusively until the early twenties. In 1925 a resolution carried to have half of the services in English. In 1940 only one or 3 Norwegian services were held. Soon, all services were in English and the word Norwegian was dropped from the church name. Highland Church is the only church building left of the 5 that have been built in Highland Township. Voting rights were given to the women in 1962.

The names of the pioneer families were S. J. Megard, S. J. Rislov, Ingebrit Megard, P. A. Fjellange, E. O. Elverson, Ole Oihus, L. C. Benson, Ole Rasmussen Sr., Ole Knutson, Ole Shellum, Andrew Braa, Torres Braa, Nels Sather, S. Buskerud, John Monger, M. E. Monger, Iver Ellefson, Esten Ronning, Ole Graves, John Handberg, A. Gaustad, E. Fallen, Senert Braa, Jacob Foss, peder Benson, Ole Boland, Joe Ellingson and Johan Halvorson.

Pastors who served after Pastor Hegland were Rev. A. C. Anderson, 1941-1947, and Rev. C.O. Gisselquist 1947-1953. At that time Highland dissolved with the



Highland Lutheran Church—1987.

Jasper parish and formed a parish with First Lutheran in Sherman and St. Paul. The latter church soon dissolved, and that left a 2-point parish. Rev. Markus Svaren, 1953-1957, was already in Sherman and took over the work at Highland. These pastors served after Rev. Svaren: Rev. Wendell Stangeland, 1957-1962; Rev. Charles Solberg, 1962-1966; Rev. G. E. Udem, 1966-1972; Rev. Roland Brandt, 1972-1978; and Rev. Mark Neuhaus, 1978-1984. The present pastor Rev. Wayne Meidinger came in 1984. The membership of Highland now stands at 70.



Catholic Church

There were a number of Catholic people who lived in the area. They did not have a parish of their own in Sherman, but attended services in one of the surrounding towns of Luverne, Jasper, Dell Rapids or Garretson. Their choice more or less was determined by the location of their land. The members of the Catholic Church were greatly outnumbered by the numbers in the other congregations. Note that we said "outnumbered", and did not say "outclassed." Everyone needs a few Irish, a few Belgians and a few German friends don't you think?

A Word From The Irish!

Just as no celebration is complete without a bit of spice from the Irish, so no book is complete without an Irish tale or two.

It seems that St. Patrick's Day has become a celebration for all races and nationalities—not just the Irish. Perhaps it's the gaiety and exuberance of the parades and parties. We think it goes deeper than that. St. Patrick's Day symbolizes the deliverance of the people. Because of his zeal, commitment and love of Christ, this great Saint brought Christianity to a pagan land. Every generation of Irish since then are grateful and celebrate this event.

This poem was written by Carol Flanagan who always took part in the festivities, but in some way missed the 1985 and 1986 celebrations. This poem

tells of the dream she had.

I had a dream the other night, and this is how it went.

A couple of friends from heaven were directly sent. . .

St. Peter and St. Patrick stepped inside my very door

They placed their chairs beside my bed.

Oh, forever more!!!

It was very plain to see that they bore an urgent message for me.

I was extremely curious, but waited patiently.

Could it be they wanted a million dollars in cash, (as with that other man) by March the thirty-first?

Or could it be they were looking for me?

That would be even worse!

I found that it was neither of these, neither this nor that.

Well, what could it be? So patiently, I sat.

I wondered about the parade I had missed.

Oh, gee, I'm scared as I can be.

Those four eyes were glaring and staring right at me.

St. Peter spoke so calmly. "These last two parades,

in honor of St. Pat, I've checked the list, I've checked the cars, I've checked on this and that, I opened doors, so very wide, so carefully, I checked inside.

Such a fun thing to do and you didn't do.

We are very disappointed in you.

It wasn't cold, you are not that old, now where in the h— were you?

We gave to you, your heritage, your Irish wit and blood!

What have you done for us, my dear, you turned into a DUD.

Me and Pat are mad at you.

Ye'd better be comin' around.

Shake your head, bat your eyes.

Set your feet on the ground.

"I lost my banner, I lost my flag"

I cried in a plaintive voice.

Your Irish charm has stood you well, but those excuses ring no bell.

The truth is this, My Irish Miss, you skipped those parades twice, this was done by your own choice.

I woke with a start and wondered, were they really there?

The chairs were there, the Saints were gone!

How serious could they be? I can't take any chances.

At this parade I'll be.

Then when I join that great parade that ends up in the sky,

St. Peter and St. Pat will open the gate so wide
With a twinkle in their eye, they will say to me,
"My lady, you've redeemed yourself,
You did what you had to do!
You dressed in green, your smile was seen,
happy and laughing were you!
Me and Pat are right down proud of you!
In fact we are elated!
Many grand and glorious things are what we have
all slated.
Come right in and join the fun.
Your happiness up here has just begun.

South Highland

A small group of people came to the western part of Logan Township in 1874. Their first meeting toward organizing a congregation was held September 27 of that year.

Early settlers in Highland Township were S. J. Risloy, Ole Graves, Christopher Benson, Gilbert Lee and many others settled there in the year 1874. In the year 1875, J. J. Simenson settled on the north-west quarter of section 30. That location would be just north of where Helen and Serene Grant are now living. A Post Office was established there by the name of "Highland", and Mr. Simenson was appointed postmaster. In 1874, Albert Stromme was appointed postmaster. In 1876, L. A. Grant was appointed postmaster. Highland Township was given that name by a vote of the people. There were thirty-three votes cast in favor of that name and one vote was cast against it. There was a hotel located near the Post Office.

Highland Newspaper Clippings

At a subsequent commission meeting, the mayor gave a report on an 1876 cloudburst that occurred in Highland Township.

It was taken from the late D. R. Bailey's History of Minnehaha County.

Ole Graves, an early settler, recalled that a wall of water eight to twelve feet deep rushed along upper Split Rock Creek and its bottomland.

The movement of the churning, foaming mass confused one neighbor. At a distance it looked like an immense flock of geese. The neighbor took his gun and headed in that direction.

The water was so swift that a pair of oxen, tied to picket stakes, were forced off their feet. They remained afloat attached to the stakes.

A man was toppled from his horse as he attempted to rescue the oxen. Unable to swim, the man grabbed the horse's tail. The steed took him to shore.

The stakes came free after the ground became saturated with moisture. The oxen saved themselves by swimming ashore.

'Lost Girl', Rescuer Finally Meet Again

It was harvest time in South Dakota in the early 1900s.

Threshing was in full swing in Moody County when early one morning a 7-year-old girl left her home to go to a neighbor a mile and half away to seek threshing help.

She had not gone very far when a thick fog overtook the entire country. She soon realized she might be going in the wrong direction. Not being able to see any more than a foot ahead of her, she became distraught, crying and running as fast as she could.

Hope loomed right ahead of her. When she saw the outline of a house, she rushed up to it, looked in the window and to her dismay she saw that it was full of oats. This frightened her more than ever as she now had no idea where she might be. Hysterically she ran here and there, hardly realizing she was falling into a stream. She sank until only her head remained above water.

With the help of tall cattails nearby, she pulled herself safely out of the water. With her clothing all wet she walked slowly toward what she recognized as the sound of a threshing machine. Tired and completely exhausted, she neared a grove of trees and stopped there when she heard a grain wagon coming toward her. A 12-year old boy, driving the grain to the granary, saw her, took her by the hand and led her to his home where she received dry clothing and food.

Last Sunday, through the courtesy of relatives and friends, that girl and boy met again for the first time since the "lost" incident. The participants of the reunion were Mrs. Bill Peterson of Jasper, MN and James Heeren of Dell Rapids.

In 'Just Remembering' by Zip. . . reference is made to "Highland, the village that used to sit upon a hill about 6 miles north of Garretson . . . They had prospects of the railroad, a post office and more markets besides the general store and blacksmith shop already established . . . But the railroad chose a different route and Highland faded from the maps of Dakota Territory."

Palisades also changed its destiny by the railroad. The junction of the Sioux City and Northern Railroad in 1889 brought the establishment of Garretson. The old timers tried to save Palisades which had a newspaper, hotel, several stores, blacksmith's shop and Pattons mill.

Reference is made to twisting hay to burn in the stoves. Old timers could twist it so tight it burned almost as long as wood.

Another old timer trick was to make a passable "coffee" of parched barley and chicory.

The Methodist Church

The Methodist Society was organized with the great help of Ms. Carrie Zeliff who with her father encouraged places of worship for the town of Sherman and those who lived here. When they first organized they held their church services and Sunday School in the school house. Rev. Lewis Scott of Garretson was their pastor.

It seemed the Society enjoyed a substantial growth and a few years later they built a small church on Main St. (Zeliff Ave.) across from the new Post Office to the south. At this time it was the most influential Methodist Society in this part of the state. As other towns in the area had built churches of the Methodist faith the membership declined and the board found it was too small a congregation to survive.

In 1907 they joined with the Congregational Society and under the chairman of Pastor Wes they voted to become the Congregational Lutheran Church. As the Congregational (Norwegian) had just built a new church, they accepted them as members.

A few years later because of denominational differences, the new church bought the interests of the Methodist Society and it became known as the Salem Lutheran Church.

The small Methodist Church had been sold and was being used and had been converted into living quarters. The Kuechenmeisters lived there for sometime. Later it was sold to Carl Johnson and is now the home of Helen Yusella.

Sherman Cemetery

The Sherman Cemetery Association was organized in 1889. A site could be obtained southwest of town. For a number of years the cemetery was used. The last burial was made in 1932. After that the cemetery was not kept up or taken care of.

On Saturday, October 22, 1983 the Sherman Town Cemetery was rededicated at a special ceremony at the site. Old monuments that were damaged were repaired and reset. The south half which had not been plotted was sold.

The cemetery was transferred to the State Historical Society at that time and is now under their supervision.

Sherman School

After the town of Sherman was progressing so well and more people moved here, it wasn't long until it needed a school within the limits of the town.

In the vicinity there were two country schools where students had been attending. One was a mile south, the other a mile north and a quarter of a mile west of Sherman. With a mutual agreement the two schools were moved into town and became a two-



Sherman School Building—1936.



Edward N. Fuglesby—Teacher.

room school. Mrs. A. K. Hanson (Nettie) was one of the teachers. Another one was Edward N. Fuglesby. Records were not available for further information.

Around 1911, a wooden framed building replaced the old school and two years of high school was added to the system. After graduation, from there the students went either to Jasper, Washington High (Sioux Falls), or Garretson to complete their twelve years. It wasn't long until they realized the need for space and a gymnasium, as some students did not get to finish the twelve years either. So in 1925 the brick addition was added to the frame building, and in 1926 the first graduating class with the twelve year plan became a reality. There were seven graduates. Many happy memories are centered around the school. It was the center of activity as it still is in small towns. There was basketball (girls and boys), football, baseball, which were very competitive. Then there were debate teams, Glee Clubs, Band, Class Plays, Parties, PTA (which was very active), Jr./Sr. Banquets and Proms. This was the highlight of the year. We had our dance in the town Wilson building and enjoyed dancing to Lawrence Welk or Tiny Little Bands for the occasion.

It should be mentioned the excitement of the surprise fire alarms! What a thrill to go flying down that fire escape. No one will ever forget those experiences.

After the school consolidated with Garretson it left us with grades 1-8, but still had a good school. The kids enjoyed sports, especially basketball and baseball and were competitive with other towns and rural schools.

In 1954, the boy's basketball team took part in the Sioux Falls Y.M.C.A. Regional Division 2. Their teacher and coach was Donn Pattison and his team ended up winning first place in that tournament held

in Sioux Falls. What a thrill for those kids and their coach. Each player was presented with an individual trophy inscribed, 1954 Y.M.C.A., Tri State Champs, FR Indians Division 2.

The team members were Dennis DeBates, Donald DeBates, Warren DeBates, Robert Dubbelde, Patrick Haley, David Henjum, La Mayne Peterson, Douglas Uecker and LeRoy Uecker.

The cheerleaders also received honorable recognition. The parents were very proud and thankful to the Pattisons for all that they did for our children. Angie Pattison, Donn's wife, taught the lower grades and was very helpful, too.

In baseball they all played, both boys and girls, Mary Lou Olson Hoiness hit many home runs and really helped them be a winner.

The Pattison's also had square dancing for those kids. They performed many places, among them a Square Dancing Jubilee in Sioux Falls. They didn't have to take the "back seat" to any of the adult groups that were there, and the callers and square dance groups enjoyed seeing them dance. Some of them are still square dancing in various square-dance clubs.

Yes, we always had a great school and many great teachers!



1927—This was the front of a postcard.

Teacher in back was Ida Docken Locke. Back row - L. to R. - Eleanor Hansen, Genevieve Kopren Heinessan, Elaine Holling Heiser, Myrtle Boland ?, Joyce Docken ?, Maxine Kopren Peterson, Alice Walvatne ?, Lois Egge ?, Alice Johnson ?, Rosella Winkel Erickson, Rose Green ?. Middle Row - L. to R. - Raymond Nettiberg, Lester Boland, Melvin Olson, Billy Syverson, Paul Renning, Earle DeBates, Chet Nelsen, Clarence (Red) Lee, Clarence Lammert, Albert Hanson, Leland Olson. Front Row - L. to R. - Sherman Walvatne, Larry Lomen, Harvey Ridpath, Ralph Dunlap, Spencer Olson, Rodney Everson, Edward Everson, Leonard Boland, Kenny Olson, Woodrow Grange.



1928



1926—Girl's Basketball Team, Georgia Peters (Coach).



1926—Boy's Basketball Team. They went to the state tournament.



1936—Girl's Glee Club.



1936—High School Band, K. E. Sheimo (Director).

The Sherman Park



Just south of the Whistle Stop, there is a very nice little park. The trees shade the nice green grass, and it looks so cool and inviting and is such a nice place for the kids to play. Different groups have donated playground equipment to the park. An extra lot will enlarge the park and is being donated by Lennert Strom. This is appreciated by the entire community.

The 4-H Clubs, the Jesse James 4-er's, led by Sharon and Grant Kringen, the Merry Mollies, led by DeVona Engebretson, and the Springdell's led by Ruth Gerke, are using the park as their project this year. They are putting a fence between the park and Lennert Stroms property and planting flowers, etc. A group of FFA boys are building five picnic tables for the park.

Profile

Name: Sherman Fire Department
Date of Birth: June 5, 1931
Occupation: Fire Suppression
Address: Sherman, SD
Family: Volunteers

The organization of the Sherman Fire Department was June 5, 1931. At that time, twenty-two members filled the roster. The first fire chief was Carl Sievert. Equipment consisted of two chemical carts which the men had to pull, two hose carts, and one ladder truck.

By 1932, the Department acquired two trucks, a pumper and plenty of hose to fight any fire. A major fire at the elevator put the new equipment to use, but the fire was so big many neighboring departments were called to help fight the fire.

Over the years, the fire department was called to many fires including the elevator fires and the tragic fire that burned the Wilson building, and most of the block which was never replaced. The present elevator was built on the same site where another elevator burned.

The first fire house was located at the work shop



Sherman Town Hall

now owned by Lennert Strom. In 1962, the city purchased the present Town Hall on Main Street from Harvey Koch. The present fire department is housed in the Town Hall. The old building was sold to Lennert Strom.

For many years, the fire department raised funds by having dances, the first one to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the fire department. For the past eleven years they have held antique tractor pulls to raise money.

Their equipment now includes a 1957 Dodge 500 gallon pumper, 1964 Ford 1700 gallon tanker, two portable pumps, and a 1927 antique Chevy pumper.

Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month. Chiefs and Vice Chiefs are elected every two years.

In January of each year, the department hosts an oyster feed for members and their spouses and those in the community who assisted the department in anyway.

Burton Risty became fire chief in 1986. Jim Sakry is Assistant Chief; Arnold Pierret is Treasurer and Yvette Benson is Secretary.

The present members are: Burton Risty, Barb Risty, Yvette Benson, Bill Benson, Pat Camicle, Dick Dubbelde, Cathy Dubbelde, Selmer Johnson, Dorothy Johnson, Gary Hanson, Dean Karli, Ruth Hoiland, Bill Koch, Paul Koch, Harvey Koch, Mark Leister, Arnold Pierret, Jeannie Pierret, Jim Sakry, Bobbi Jo Sakry, Lennert Strom, Roger Wick, Helen Yusella, Ed Powell and Dan Powell.

There are four members still living from the group of volunteers of that first organized department, namely, Ben Wangsness, Clarence Pederson, Earl Larson and Andy Nelson.

Our volunteer fire department has the support of the entire community. We are very proud of them. We felt that they would not sing their own praises, but when something needs to be done, they are most cooperative. Three cheers for the Sherman Fire Department!

The phone rang loud and clear in Fire Chief Risty's home and a lady told Burton to "Hurry my house is on fire!" Burton said, "Ok, tell me how to get there." After a moments hesitation she said, "Don't you have your little red truck anymore?"

Norman and Della Bakke

Norm and Della raised their family, which consisted of two boys and two girls. They farmed there for thirty-five years. They are very proud of their seven grandchildren.

Some of the greatest memories include the dances held in the Berg store building (the cement block building), and sponsored by the firemen. They always attended and often took part in the tractor pulls. They also remember Floyd Pugh's Barber Shop and the fact that the haircuts were 25¢, and Floyd always gave a nickel back to the kids for an ice cream cone or a bottle of pop.

The Bergin Families

Mike and Tim (known to all as Uncle Mike and Uncle Tim)

The original Bergin Families settled in Springwater Township in Rock County, MN. Maggie and Tim had a large family. Several of their direct descendants are still a very integral part of life in these areas.

Mike Bergin married Nellie Noonan. Their children were Russell, Mary, Lucille and Lois. Lois is married to Merle Bly. Emmitt married Mabel Bakke. They also had a large family and some are still living in this area.

Lizzie married Loyd Larson. Julia married Norm Lock. Their family was a pair of twins, Bernard and Vinc dear to the hearts of all who knew them. John Bergin married Barbara Gilfoy. Their family consisted of Evlyn, Esther, and Barbara Marie. James and Dorothy were the parents of DeVona, Clemmy, and lovable "little Dorothy." After James's death, Dorothy married Charlie Nelson. Her family then added a son, Lloyd and then gave us Garnold, Phyllis and Chuckie. It was a family who really knew only terms, sisters and brothers, all for one and one for a

Tom and Will were bachelor brothers for a long time and then Tom married Martha, but Will never really found anyone exactly to his liking, but he never really gave up looking. Maggie married Bob Mitchell and they had a son, Merle. Maggie is still living and in a nursing home in Pierre, near her son's wife and their families. Mike also had a daughter, Mary Elle who passed away at an early age.

The original Mike Bergin family, (Uncle Mike), and Mrs. Mike Bergin had John E. (there were not enough names to go around in those days and the Irish all liked the name John, so initials were used for identification). They also had Julia, then the twins Mary and Irene, and Jim. Jim's family consisted of his wife, Christine, three daughters, Maxine, Hazel and Bernice, and a son named Jimmy. It seems very tragic to realize that the entire family is all dead.

John E. Bergin and Margaret family consisted of Leroy, Joy and Joyce (twins), Edward, Veronica and Vernon (twins), Gertrude and Catherine. When little Dorothy was told that Aunt Margaret had a new baby at the hospital, her reaction was, "Is this a single or a double?" It was always one, then twins, then one, then twins, then one, but when it came to Gertrude and Catherine, the chain was broken.

An interesting story in connection with the Mike Bergin family is concerning the Larson family. Loyd Larson came to the Bergin place as a painter and wanted to do quite a bit of painting. He was twenty-one and Lizzie was eight years younger or thirteen. Loyd really liked Lizzie, but Mother Bergin said, "she will have to be twenty-one before you can date her. You will have to paint elsewhere." So Loyd painted elsewhere, but returned when Lizzie was twenty-one and married her and they lived happily ever after. Dorothy came to visit her brother, Loyd, and married James Bergin. She was Loyd's sister. Then Christine came to help Dorothy when DeVona was born, and she married Jim. Three Larsons and three Bergins. There must have been a strong family attraction, don't you think?

Poor Chris Larson could not find another Bergin so he stayed single and later brought his parents to live with him. Vinnie, another sister, never tackled coming here until she was safely married in Nebraska.