

In 1999 Bob Karolevitz compiled all his weekly Press & Dakotan columns into a book, "Yankton: The Way It Was!". This book is now being reprinted with new additional columns. The new edition will arrive in August of 2011 and we are giving readers the chance to prepay and reserve a copy now.

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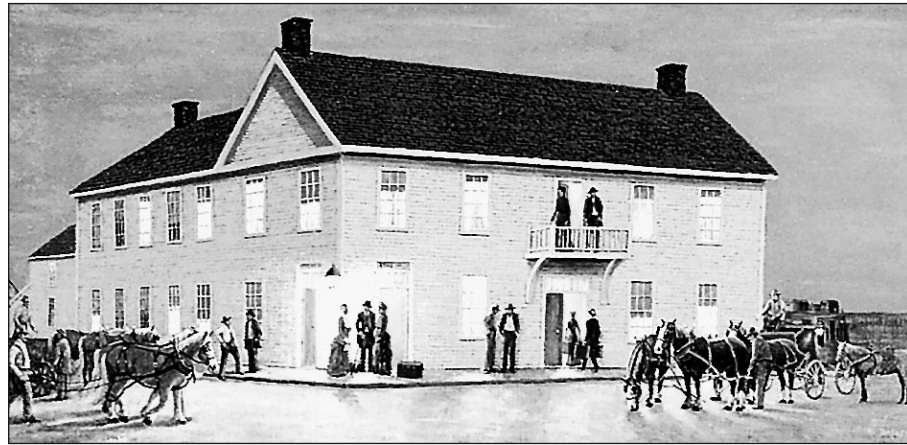
Yankton Honored For Incredible History History

Recently, U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) recognized the City of Yankton as the 150th year of its founding is celebrated. Johnson entered a statement in the Congressional Record highlighting the occasion.

"Yankton continues to be a vibrant community and a great asset to South Dakota," Johnson said. "I am pleased to recognize the achievements of Yankton and to offer my congratulations to the residents of the city on this historic milestone."
 Full text of the Congressional Record Statement from Johnson below:
 Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of one of South Dakota's great cities, Yankton. Located along the Missouri River, Yankton serves as the county seat of Yankton County and is a source of great history.
 Yankton, founded in 1861 and incorporated on May 8, 1862, was the original capitol of Dakota Territory. The founders of Yankton derived the city's name from the Sioux expression E-hank-ton-wan, which means "people of the end village." Yankton College, founded in 1881, was the first liberal arts college in Dakota Territory, providing the community with rich opportunities through higher education, continued today through Mount Marty College.
 Riverboat Days and the Summer Arts Festival are held every August in Yankton and bring visitors from all over the state to enjoy the scenic beauty and relaxing atmosphere the city has to offer. Yankton is an outdoor enthusiast's dream, offering access to hunting, fishing, golfing, parks, hiking trails, kayaking and canoeing, and other water recreation sports. The Gavins Point Dam makes the city's water recreation possible along with providing hydroelectric power. Yankton is home to the Dakota Territorial museum, which provides a glimpse of the rich history of the Dakota Territory and the events that shaped the Midwest itself. Yankton is also the hometown of perhaps South Dakota's most famous resident, Tom Brokaw, former anchor of the "NBC Nightly News," a graduate from Yankton High School.
 Yankton is celebrating its sesquicentennial with a variety of artists playing a diverse selection of music. This three day concert event will honor the people that have made Yankton their home, from the first rugged settlers to the children of today.
 Yankton continues to be a vibrant community and a great asset to South Dakota. Yankton boasts a thriving economy, various tourist destinations, and tremendous opportunities for outdoor recreation. I am pleased to recognize the achievements of Yankton and to offer my congratulations to the residents of the city on this historic milestone.

SEN. TIM JOHNSON

A CELEBRATION OF HISTORY



COURTESY IMAGE
 Historical artist Ron Backer of California is quite familiar with Yankton's history. In fact, he did the two pieces of artwork that were featured on the front and back covers of the 1999 Bob Karolevitz book "Yankton: The Way It Was." Backer has produced another image called "Change of Horses," which depicts a rest stop at the Ash Hotel, one of Yankton's earliest lodgings. Backer asked that this new print be published in the memory of Karolevitz, who died this summer at age 89. "Change Of Horses" will also be included on the cover of the updated version of "Yankton: The Way It Was!" which will be available for sale this month.

From Page 12C

tion of the land, John Todd for the Upper Missouri Land Company, and Slim Jim Witherspoon whose claim was questionable till patents were granted in 1868. In 1859, the first family, the Ash family, arrived in Yankton and they built an inn and cooked Christmas dinner for the whole town that year.

Yankton had a lot of growing pains, especially in those early years. March 13, 1861, marked the day that Dakota Territory was created by President Buchanan and through the efforts of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln and her cousin, John Blair Smith Todd, the first governor of this newly established Territory, Dr. William Jayne, selected Yankton as its capitol. All seemed to go very well in those earlier years aside from a few disagreements over legal details and personal differences.

The *Weekly Dakotian* newspaper was established that same year in 1861. Riverboat traffic was increasing from just a few boats a week to a few boats a day thanks to the help of Commodore Sanford B. Coulson and the establishment of his Missouri River Transportation Company headquarters in Yankton around 1873.

So many more firsts for Dakota Territory made their homes in Yankton during the upcoming years, such as the first telegraph line in 1870, first rail line completed in 1873, and the list goes on and on. Yankton was

on its way to being the St. Louis and Chicago of the upper Midwest until political corruption and the nasty side of Mother Nature came to town in the form of Gov. Ordway and the Great Flood of 1881.

Although Yankton recovered from the hardships and the dramatic changes of its early life, the rest as they say "is history." Well-documented history it is at that. The nearly unlimited stories that fill in the gaps of not only the early days of Yankton but also the century and half worth of days since, is sure to entertain and intrigue even the most amateur historian.

Again going back to the newspapers of the past, who can help but wonder what will they read about us in the future? Will we be as much of a focus of intense research as those who have come and gone before us? Researchers who come to the Dakota Territorial Museum look for any snippet of a person or a place that once existed in our much highlighted history.

One hundred years from now when Yankton is 250 years old, what will they read about us? What will they want to know about our daily lives? Will they study with intensity our newspaper columns or scribbles on a piece of paper or a napkin? With our advancements in technology, will history research being easier in the future or harder?

None of us reading the paper today will know the answers to these questions but we can do our part in making sure that our stories are told, documented, and preserved for the education of our future generations.

Sports

From Page 11C

After making a name for himself as a boys' basketball coach at Yankton, going 143-63 and taking the Bucks to the 1974 state title, Bob Winter became one of the first premier girls' basketball coaches in South Dakota, taking YHS to eight state titles. The Gazelles won 86 percent of their games (319-53) under his mentorship. Also a national coach of the year selection (1987), he went on to serve as the mentor for the entire YHS athletic program until his retirement in 2010. Doug Pesicka took over that program after Winter stepped into the AD role, and has continued its winning tradition.

Rich Greeno is credited with kick-starting Yankton's track and field programs, coaching the Bucks from 1954-68 before moving on to even more success at Sioux Falls Lincoln. Jim Miner and Hawk kept the running programs rolling into the 1990s. In the 2000s, Dan Fitzsimons turned YHS cross country into a national power before he moved on to coach cross country at the University of South Dakota.

Mount Marty has had its own share of great coaches.

Jim Thorson, who was men's basketball coach and athletic director at YC when it closed in 1984, took over the MMC men's basketball program in 1995

and has become the program's all-time winningest coach. One of his former YC assistants, Chuck Iverson, took over the women's program in 1991 and became that program's winningest coach before handing the reins to Tom Schlingens and taking over athletic director duties full time.

Another coach with YC ties, Bob Tereshinski, took over the baseball program in 1987 and made it one of the most feared teams in the Upper Midwest for over a decade. The program slid back after Tereshinski retired, but current coach Andy Bernatow has brought the team back to prominence in recent years.

South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame coach Doug Martin coached at Mount Marty before finishing his stellar men's basketball career at Dakota Wesleyan. Bob Burns, Bill Carberry and Stephenson (mentioned earlier) also spent time in Yankton during their Hall of Fame coaching careers.

A CATEGORY OF HER OWN

While Indy Titterington did not move to Yankton until the age of 32 and didn't play in a state golf tournament until the age of 40, she left an impressive resume in her brief career.

From 1955 to 1968, she played in 10 state women's amateur tournaments, winning five, placing second in four more and third in the other. She also played in two senior tournaments, winning one and finishing second in the other.

South Dakota's Independent Athlete

of the Year in 1962, she was the daughter of a former club pro and club maker at St. Andrews and Royal St. George's in Scotland. She went into the South Dakota Golf Association Hall of Fame in 1982.

A HOST OF CHAMPIONS

Yankton has not only produced some of the greats in the state and the region, it has hosted them as well.

Yankton has been a host for state baseball tournaments at the amateur, American Legion and VFW Teener levels over the years. In recent years, Yankton has also played host to some of the top younger baseball players in the nation, hosting three Cal Ripken Baseball national regionals in the past eight years.

The Mother City of the Dakotas has also been a host for championship events in track and field, including the 1966 South Dakota State Track Meet and the first-ever state girls' track meet in 1969. More recently, with the completion of Williams Field, Yankton has hosted outdoor conference meets for both the Great West Conference, a NCAA Division I conference involving the University of South Dakota, and the Great Plains Athletic Conference, one of the premier NAA leagues in the nation.

Yankton's golf courses have also been host to major events, including several South Dakota Golf Association and South Dakota High School Activities Association championships. The Dakotas Tour, an independent golf tour that has sprouted several PGA careers, calls



Nielsen

Archery Association headquarters now located in Yankton, several national and international events have come here in recent years, including the national championships and the Pan Am Games qualifiers here in 2011.

Yankton has also played host to several state swim meets, both at the Memorial Park Pool and at the Summit Activities Center.

BRINGING YOU THE ACTION

While this, and many other newspapers, did not have consistent sports coverage in the early days, the *Press & Dakotan* has had a legacy of some of the best individuals coverage local sports that the region has to offer.

One of those greats held the post of sports editor for nearly 25 years, Don Bierle. He started his career at the *Press & Dakotan* as a teletype operator and worked his way to become the anchor of the paper's sports coverage. At the same time, he worked his way through college and law school, married his high school sweetheart and had a family.

Besides his work in print, he was also

a proponent of youth sports, helping start the Yankton Junior High Relays and kick-start the baseball program in Yankton. His efforts in the state legislature after his newspaper days were done also helped push through the state football playoff system.

Also a supporter of the arts, Bierle was a charter member of the YHS Fine Arts Hall of Fame.

Howard "Hod" Nielsen also left an indelible mark. From 1950 until his retirement just a few years ago, Hod brought the stories to Yankton, not only through his "Play by Play" column and his stories in the *Press & Dakotan*, but also on the air for KYNT. He has received the National High School Coaches Association's Distinguished Service Award, and is a four-time winner of the South Dakota High School Coaches Association's SportsCaster of the Year award.

I have been here for 19 years, and have been the steward of our sports coverage for the past 15, just a drop in the bucket compared to the long and outstanding history this paper has had. But in that time, I've seen plenty of change, from the way we put together the paper and take the photos (all with computers now), to how we present the stories. We don't just share Yankton's stories with paper and ink, but with websites, tweets, online chats, blogs and video.

My staff and I only hope that we can continue to build on that legacy into the next 150 years.

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