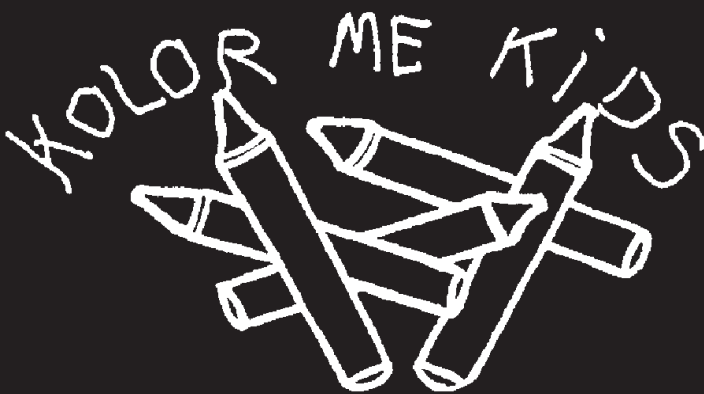




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In July 2011, Gov. Dennis Daugaard was on hand for the ribbon-cutting at Yankton's Dakota Trailer, which unveiled a 40,000-square-foot expansion.

Industry

From Page 3C

the name of Lawrence Welk was looking for a home.

Gurney himself said he fed the tired and dusty young musicians in the nursery company's cafeteria before putting them on the air; and the Lawrence Welk Novelty Orchestra was an immediate hit. For the next six years Welk would be a fixture on the station.

Over the years, a countless number of well known air personalities have called WNAX home at one time or another.

Many of the businesses that now exist today, were started during the first 50 years of the 20th century. Cimpr's Meats, Freeman Company, Mtron, Vishay/Dale, Applied Engineering, Muller Industries, Ehres-

mann Engineering and Dakota Trailer are just a few that were all started and developed into the companies they are now, because a Yankton resident had an idea that they developed into a thriving company.

For example, Kolberg Pioneer, Inc. was started in 1928 when Russell Grader Manufacturing Company sold part of its product line to Caterpillar and continued on as Pioneer Gravel Equipment Company. It was purchased and sold six times over the next 58 years until in 1997 it was purchased by current owners, Astec Company.

Even today that entrepreneurial spirit continues to expand within the community.

Dakota Trailer Manufacturing, which celebrated the completion of its 40,000-square-foot expansion this July, is a glowing example of what Yankton businesses and manufacturers are capable of. Dakota Trailer was estab-

lished at Yankton in 1968 as Hawkeye Eagle Grain Trailers. In 2005, the company was renamed Dakota Trailer Manufacturing. Since then, the firm has grown from an eight-person operation to a 140-employee company with a global client base.

The city of Yankton has been proactive helping businesses get their beginnings and expand. Using a new development, Fox Run, as well as spec buildings to attract new plants and local companies, the city lead businesses such as Lewis and Clark Hydraulic, Shurco and L&M Radiator to continue to grow and expand in the community.

Looking forward, manufacturing will continue to be a segment of our community that drives our economy, and that other communities will look to as the example of how to grow from within.

Discovery

From Page 6C

the historic event.

Cedar County (Neb.) Commissioner Frederick Pinkelman told the crowd he was optimistic construction of the new bridge would positively impact area residents.

"It is my hope that in the spirit of appreciation, and with God's help, we'd all be inspired to strive to make our communities on both sides of the river even better places to live now and for future generations," he said.

By January 2008, the piers for the bridge had been poured and luck was on the construction company's side.

"When you're drilling holes in the ground, you don't know what you'll find. You still have some risk there," Timmons said.

Ultimately, many of the drilled shafts for the bridge's piers didn't need to be as deep as originally thought. That cut about \$350,000 from the project's cost, Timmons explained.

Timmons estimated that 5.4 million pounds of steel would be hung on the bridge piers during the following 2 1/2 months.

On a Tuesday in mid-March, a crowd of onlookers was on hand as construction crews set the first steel girder to touch Yankton's shoreline and complete the Nebraska-South Dakota span.

By that time, the BYBC was already making tentative plans for an October ribbon-cutting for the bridge. Meanwhile, construction crews began building the forms for the deck of the bridge.

Although a 10-ton load limit on the Meridian Bridge for part of the summer put a kink in the plans for pouring concrete on the



An individual looks over at Meridian Bridge from its replacement, the Discovery Bridge, during the opening ceremonies for the new bridge in October 2008.

Discovery's deck — a supplier on the Nebraska side of the river had to be used briefly — the final segment of the deck was poured in August.

At that point, crews began stripping the wooden forms from the deck and installing the bridge's 50-foot spires, which had started arriving around that time in the form of five-foot pre-cast sections.

"All we do is set one down on top of the other," said Bob Wiebelhaus, a project manager with the NDOR. "Then there's some metal plates inside that get welded to hold them together."

Weeks before the Oct. 11, 2008, dedication ceremony, the spires had been erected and workers continued to ready the bridge for traffic.

Although the sky was overcast during that Saturday morning's Discovery Bridge dedication ceremony, spirits were high as South Dakotans and Nebraskans celebrated their joint accomplishment.

Walking across the new bridge from Yankton toward the stage set up on its southern end, one small

boy encapsulated the youthful exuberance the new structure has inspired in children and adults alike: "This is awesome!" he told his grandparents as he ran and looked over the railing at the river below. "This is so awesome!"

Hundreds of people, including dignitaries from both Nebraska and South Dakota, took part in a 90-minute program of music and reflection on what the project means to the region.

"This project is important to the economic vitality of northeast Nebraska and southeast South Dakota, and it is the perfect example of how we can work together," Neb. Gov. Dave Heineman said.

After two decades promoting the project, it was literally a dream come true for area residents.

"We here today dreamt the dream of a new bridge," South Dakota Transportation Commission Chairman Ralph Marquardt told the crowd at the dedication ceremony. "We here today are happy to have the new bridge. Thanks for the courage to make that come true."

Top 5

From Page 1C

But finally, the school was done in by the bottom line.

YC began developing money problems, the scope of which was not widely known to the public. That's why it came as a shock to many people when it was announced in December 1984 that the college was closing its doors at the end of that semester.

Almost immediately, efforts to revive the college with new ownership began. There were several entities that looked promising, and there were always rumors about new possibilities. But nothing came of these prospects.

In 1987, a radically new option came forth: The federal government became interested in purchasing the campus and converting it into a minimum-security prison. This prospect turned into a divisive issue for some, particularly with residents who lived literally in the shadow of the old college. Eventually, however, the idea prevailed, with voters overwhelmingly approving the sale of the land in the fall of 1987. The Yankton

Federal Prison Camp opened in 1988.

Today, the prison still maintains and preserves the old buildings. Meanwhile, Yankton College still exists as a non-profit entity that is assisting students and aiding other programs. The spirit of the Greyhound lives in the 21st century.

3. THE DEPARTURE OF GURNEY'S

For many gardeners around the country, Yankton was synonymous with their passion, known far and wide as the home of Gurney's Seed and Nursery, a (primarily) mail-order seed business. One of the staples of winter life was receiving the Gurney's catalog in the mail, serving as a sure sign of spring and the new growing season. For area residents, Gurney's was also a reliable source of employment, and the locally-owned business was one of the true dynamos in the area business universe.

But changing times are occasionally dictated by changing economics. The local stake in Gurney's was eventually sold, and in 2000, it was announced that Gurney's Seed and Nursery was closing its doors in Yankton. A year after the closure, Foster and Gallagher, the firm that owned the seed company, went out of business, leaving Gurney's in limbo.

Today, Gurney's Seed and Nursery is still in business and is based in Green-

dale, Ind. As for Yankton, it is left with the old, massive Gurney's complex — now a development called Gurney's Landing — and a special zip code that is still on the books.

4. OFF TO WAR — AGAIN

It's a sad truth in our culture that nations go to war, and when they do, soldiers are summoned to duty and sometimes make the ultimate sacrifice. Yankton's 1/147th Company C — Charlie Battery — faced this grim reality during the community's third 50-year era. Although there were no world wars during this period, there was still conflicts to be met, enemies to be faced and tears to be shed.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait in the summer of 1990, President George H.W. Bush put together a coalition of nations to stand up to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and drive his forces back home. This operation, called Desert Shield, ultimately led to Charlie Battery being mobilized late in 1990 and sent to Saudi Arabia to await what would happen next.

Desert Shield became Desert Storm in January 1991, and the Persian Gulf War was on. Six weeks of crippling aerial bombardment led to a short ground war that drove the Iraqi troops out of

Kuwait. Charlie Battery troops returned home several weeks later.

The U.S. went after Iraq again in 2003, this time striking directly at Saddam and Baghdad. Charlie Battery soldiers were activated and sent to Oklahoma for training. But with the fall of Baghdad a few weeks later, the local soldiers were ordered to stand down and were sent home.

They were summoned again in 2005 and this time were sent to Iraq. In December of that year, two members of Charlie Battery died in a landmine explosion. Another soldier wounded in the attack died two months later. A fourth soldier was killed the following spring. Also, Sgt. Corey Brist suffered severe head wounds in the attack; his case caught national attention, and he has since come to be the face of the wounded soldier for the 21st century local hometown.

Charlie Battery returned home in September 2006 and was welcomed by a huge parade that saw approximately 30,000 lining the streets in one of the biggest displays of appreciation seen in the community in decades.

Charlie Battery was mobilized again in 2009 and sent to Kuwait. The unit completed its one-year mission and returned home in spring 2010 without incident.

In 2011, the unit was activated for a

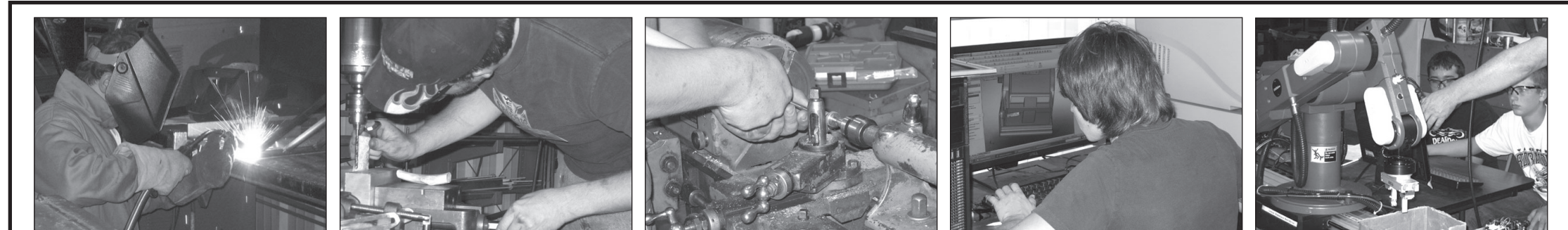
more conventional National Guard mission: assisting in regional flood relief during the Missouri River flooding.

5. RIVERBOAT DAYS MAKES PORT

The river has always been part of the life blood of Yankton; so, too, have festivals and celebrations. An effort to combine these two elements evolved into one of the most popular draws the community has ever known.

In the early 1980s, local officials wanted to host a festival that celebrated Yankton's river heritage. With that, Riverboat Days was born. The first event was held in 1984 in the bare-bones fields of Riverside Park. The inaugural Riverboat Days drew a decent crowd, encouraging organizers to keep the idea going.

Riverboat Days evolved quickly into a staple of late-summer life in the Yankton area. Situated far enough away from other local festivals and just far enough ahead of the Labor Day holiday, Riverboat Days now draws about 130,000 visitors annually, making it one of the biggest economic boosts the community sees each year. And as of this writing, the three-day festival shows no signs of slowing down.



RTEC - Home Growing Yankton's Workforce Since 2004

Things have changed since Yankton was founded. Businesses and industries have come and gone and technology has continually advanced. While that has created many opportunities, it has also brought its share of new challenges - especially to the local workforce.

That's where RTEC, the Regional Technical Education Center, has played an integral role. Since the non-profit education and training center was incorporated in October of 2004, we have promoted the

importance of home growing Yankton's workforce by increasing awareness about the wealth of career opportunities that are available right in our own backyard.

In our short history, we have partnered with Southeast Job Link, Black Hills State University, Mitchell Technical Institute and other entities to sponsor job fairs and offer training programs so residents can develop the skills they must have to meet the local workforce needs.

We have created hands-on learning experiences

for youth during our annual Career Expos and Manufacturing Academies and plan to do more. That way we can show our children the types of jobs that exist here and help them discover where they can acquire the specific skills they'll need so they can fill them.

We're proud to be a part of the Yankton community and we can't wait to see what the future holds. We know businesses and technologies will continue to advance and we want to continue doing our part to home grow Yankton's workforce.

Contact us today!

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