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## Newman Honored With Patriotic Employer Award

A supervisor for Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc. (KPI-JCI and Astec Mobile Screens) has been honored with the Patriotic Employer Award for ongoing support of servicemen and women in the National Guard and Reserve Force.

Ryan Newman, director of parts for KPI-JCI and Astec Mobile Screens, was individually recognized for providing outstanding support to a member of the National Guard or Army Reserve by the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve (ESGR) organization. Newman was nominated by Kyle LaCroix, an outside parts sales representative and a sergeant in the 960th Quartermaster Company of the Army Reserves.

LaCroix, who has worked for the company since March 2014, says he appreciates

working for an employer that makes it easy for him to serve his country while finding success in a civilian job.

“It means so much to have a supportive employer, as well as a manager like Ryan Newman,” LaCroix said. “I know it can be difficult to allow an employee to take off two weeks in the summer with no replacement, but Kolberg-Pioneer has been completely understanding of my military obligation. I also understand that when I’m gone, it places a larger workload on my colleagues. Rather than complain, they show their support by texting me and asking how I am doing and how my training is going. I can honestly say a supportive employer is just as important to our nation as the soldier himself.”

### United Way

# Yankton Transit Is Essential To Local Life

**BY MARYANN BROWN**

Yankton Transit

Yankton Transit has been serving the residences of Yankton County for over ten years, providing door to door transportation services. Open to the general public, Monday through Friday, with rides starting at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m., last year Yankton Transit provided 118,754 rides for 1,133 community members. Yankton Transit has 13 buses and 3 vans that are accessible to all passengers.

Community members utilize Yankton Transit for a variety of reasons from employment to recreation.

Last year alone, Transit provided 28,179 rides to and from work. Currently, a recent high school graduate utilizes our services as a convenient and affordable way to get to work. She grew up riding Yankton Transit to and from school and continues to do so now that she is a working adult. Transit has become a safe, dependable, and convenient community resource for her.

Yankton Transit also provides safe and dependable



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transportation for students of Yankton. In homes where parents need to be at work early in the morning, we provide rides to school and in many cases in time to enjoy the Breakfast Program. After school, while many parents are at work, Transit transports students home, to daycare facilities, and to after school activities. Last year, 24,394 rides were given to students.

Yankton Transit also gave 3,730 rides to the Nutrition Program at The Center last year. For many of these riders,

Transit is their most reliable form of transportation. An 86 year old gentlemen's family wanted to ensure his ability to continue an independent lifestyle after losing his ability to drive. This gentleman, rides Transit daily to Hy-Vee for his morning coffee and time with friends, as well as to The Center for lunch. Yankton Transit provides him with a sense of independence and community involvement.

Last year, 33,150 rides were given to community members for social and rec-

reation reasons, including clients of Ability Building Services. For several of these individuals, Yankton Transit is the only transportation they depend on. Weekly rides to Bingo at The Center, rides to and from Special Olympic practice and tournaments, and social events such as going to The Dakota Theater for a play or to Pizza Ranch for a special dinner, are some of the most common transports.

Another important service offered to the community of Yankton, are dependable rides to and from medical appointments. Over 22,576 medical rides were provided last year alone.

The Yankton Transit headquarters is located at 901 East 7th Street. The building was built in cooperation with the City of Yankton and the State of South Dakota. Yankton Transit is a United Way and Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton Partner Agency and also receives funding from the City of Yankton.

For more information on Yankton Transit and our services, or to schedule a ride, call (605) 665-4610.

### From Our Readers

# Yankton History To Be Displayed In Mead Building

**BY ROBERT F. LYONS**

Kennebunkport, Maine

An added bonus to my recent trip from New England for the 60th anniversary reunion of my Yankton High School class was an invitation from Crystal Nelson, Director/Curator of the Dakota Territorial Museum to discuss some exciting exhibit possibilities for the future galleries at the rehabilitated Mead Building. Director Nelson shared her vision of developing a variety of interactive exhibits for children of all ages. She stated that the museum is planning to showcase the imprint of the many diverse ethnic immigrant people. The designated topic for our conversation was: the Irish contributions to Yankton County. In a lively two hour dialogue, drawing upon available documents and artifacts, we identified several significant phases where people of Irish heritage brought their skills to the building of Yankton. We also recommended the use of authentic and period music to tell the story of the Irish, and of all immigrant groups.

We were joined in the discussion by my wife, Dr. Nona Lyons, education researcher and consultant affiliated with University College Cork, Ireland, and my brother, Dr. Jack Lyons, a longtime civic contributor and academic musician.

Together, we reviewed evidence of the significant imprint made by Irish immigrants in the early days of Dakota Territory and later during the Great Dakota Boom 1878-1890 and into the 20th century. The proportion of Irish immigration to the Territory of Dakota from the earliest days of settlement was equal to that of other foreign nationalities, except the Scandinavians, up to the year 1872. Census records record that approximately 100 Irish born persons became naturalized citizens in Yankton County from 1846 to 1915. The Irish made up 10 percent of the population and ranked as the third major ancestry group after the Germans — 37 percent, and Norwegians — 12 percent (in George W. Kingsbury, “History of Dakota Territory,” 1915). About 6 percent of people living in Yankton County today can trace their primary heritage to Ireland according to John Andrews in *South Dakota Magazine* (March 11, 2014).

Most of the Irish immigrants became politically active in their new country. “Prior to the Civil War it was rarely one met an Irishman who was not a Democrat. They seemed to find a congenial political brotherhood in that party, and it was a general belief that this was largely due to the influence thrown around them in the city of New York upon their reaching this country from their native land” (Kingsbury, 1915.)

Some of the early Irish immigrants to Yankton were drawn in 1869 by John Pope Hodnett, a native Irishman from Cork who had been appointed assessor of internal revenue for Dakota Territory by President Ulysses S. Grant. Mr. Hodnett worked heartily to build up and develop Dakota Territory and to encourage the tide of immigration which was flowing out from the Eastern states. He entertained an unfulfilled dream to establish an Irish colony in Yankton about seven miles north of the city on a beautiful tract of prairie with a small body of water within its limits. He arrayed his proposed community to investors in the apparel of romance, clothing it with beautiful groves, waving grain fields, and brilliant gardens in his promotional pitch. There must have been a lot of rain in Dakota that year. His grand plan for the Irish colony failed to mature.

An Irish settlement did develop at Walshtown near Mission Hill a decade later. St. Brigid’s (also “Bridget”) parish in Walshtown was organized in 1880 by Irish born Father George Sheehan. This newly ordained priest, also organized parishes at Mayfield (St. Kyran’s later combined with St. Bridget into St. Columba’s Church of Mayfield in 1902), Lodi, Wakonda, Beresford, Clear Lake, White and Davis.

Our discussion highlighted another relatively unknown chapter in Yankton’s history: Father Sheehan organized so-called orphan trains to bring nearly a hundred Irish children from Boston to be placed with Catholic farm families in Yankton and southeastern Dakota Territory. A dispatch in the *Daily Press and Dakotian*, September 8, 1883 reported: “Rev. Father Sheehan arrived last evening from Chicago where he went to meet a delegation of orphan boys and girls sent out west by the Home for Destitute Catholic Children in Boston...forty boys and girls whose ages range from four to fourteen years, but dropped ten of them at Vermillion, the remainder being brought to Yankton.” A week earlier, the P&D reported that Sheehan was: “Bringing along twenty-seven boys and girls to Yankton...to be met by members of the reverend gentleman’s congregation [where] they will be distributed amongst those who have already applied for their adoption ....”

In 1872 the Irish of Yankton, Clay & Union counties convened an Immigration Convention at Vermillion, with John Stange of Yankton as chairman. It purpose was to develop “A Plan to Induce Irish Immigrants in the East to Make Their Homes in the New Northwest, Dakota”. George W. Kingsbury writes in his *History of Dakota Territory*: “The history of the residence of the Stange family in Dakota

is the history of the pioneer development of the state. John, the first white child born in Dakota Territory at Fort Pierre, was the son of John Stange, of County Cavin in the province of Ulster, Ireland. Kingsbury records that John, Sr. homesteaded on the James River in Yankton County and “took an active and helpful part and did everything in his power to further the welfare and upbuilding of the territory, serving as a member of the first territorial legislature.”

Many Yankton settlers of Irish ancestry were noted for their entrepreneurial and civic contribution to Yankton, an area of special interest to Director Nelson. Kingsbury’s monumental history describes two brothers’ contributions: “Frank J. Keating is one of Yankton’s successful business men, who in 1913 established and has since been active in the conduct of the Keating Creamery Company, in which his brother, John L., is his partner.” The brothers are of Irish ancestry and “possesses the spirit of enterprise and progress which has ever been characteristic of this part of the country.”

Another son of an Irish immigrant settler created a dairyman’s co-op in Yankton called the Sanitary Dairy Co. which eventually merged with the Keating Creamery Company. That civic minded entrepreneur was my grandfather, James A. Donohoe, whose father, Michael had migrated from County West Meath, Ireland to Iowa where he established a very successful farm operation. James Donohoe was a progressive state-of-the-art farmer who rapidly determined that Yankton did not have an adequate milk supply. He installed automatic milking machines in a new milk processing building which was such a novelty that the townspeople drove out on Sunday afternoons — on Douglas Ave., near the airport — to witness this progressive apparatus in action. He developed a dairy business with a herd of 50 Holstein cows and door-to-door horse and wagon delivery. He was well known and respected in the business community as his obituary notes, “Another of Yankton’s respected old citizens passed from the scene today ... Mr. Donohoe, besides maintaining an active interest in his home surroundings, also made regular trips downtown and was often seen visiting with old friends in the business district” (Yankton P&D, August 21, 1946). Frank Yaggie, lifelong businessman, artist, and citizen of Yankton told me some years ago: “your grandfather Donohoe was known as Mr. Catholic because of his strong involvement and interest in the church and community.”

And then there was Happy Jack O’Malley, an old time fiddler full of merry sunshine and as Irish as Murphy’s pig. This long-time

favorite on WNAX beginning in 1927 and continuing for the next 20 years with his live radio program was celebrated in a recent book as “by far the best known-musician on the station to people in the Yankton area. He has, in fact assumed the proportions of a legend [and is] by common consensus, a very good fiddler, if probably not a great one with a wide repertoire of old-time hillbilly, and Scotch-Irish fiddle tunes.” (“Exploring Roots Music: Twenty Years of the JEMF Quarterly” by Nolan Porterfield, 2004.)

In the afternoon, our visiting party enjoyed an hour and one half tour of what will become the new Dakota Territorial Museum at the Mead Building on the Human Services Campus. We were guided through the restoration project by a man of boundless knowledge and passion for his task: Stan Hoffart, vice-president of the Dakota Territorial Museum. We marveled at the many beautiful features and arches of this 1909 Neo-Renaissance architectural gem, rescued from the wrecker’s ball by the Yankton County Historical Society. The re-creation of the original stencil artwork on the walls and archways throughout is worthy of the finest galleries. We stood in awe of the craftsmanship displayed by Ben Brunick, window restoration manger as he displayed some of the 234 windows he is restoring or fabricating to their original condition, all out of native Northern White Pine. He utilizes the same type of joinery — through mortise and tenon joint — that was used in the original windows and said that “the Mead building, in another hundred years, will be one of the few buildings that’s 200 years old and still has its original windows in working condition.”

When we departed at the end of a most interesting day, we were all left with the clear impression that the progressive and innovative vision of Dr. Leonard Mead, who created such a positive and healing environment for people in the early part of the 20th century at this campus, is now being matched by the vision and creativity of Crystal Nelson and her Board of Directors at the Dakota Territorial Museum. We are already planning our next visit to Yankton to celebrate the opening of the new museum at the Mead in 2018.

*Robert F. Lyons, is a native of Yankton, the son of William and Mary Donohoe Lyons. He lives in New England where he teaches Irish Short Stories, Irish Film Classics, and Irish Readers Theatre in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Southern Maine, Portland. He has also taught Irish Studies at Tufts University in Boston, Dartmouth College, and while living in Ireland, at University College Cork.*

### MEETINGS

#### INTERCHANGE

This week there were 19 members in attendance at the Aug. 24 meeting. The new feature to each weekly meeting will be a Member Spotlight. This is a benefit to all members, but especially the newer ones to get to know their fellow members better. As our new President, Sherri Rodgers-Conti was featured for the first “Member Spotlight”.

Jill Paulsen with Mount Marty College was the hostess. She introduced Mark Long, President of Mount Marty College as the speaker. Mark spoke about how Mount Marty College came to find him and how he came to find Mount Marty College. He comes from a family primarily in teaching professions and he will be completing his PhD in

Education this year. He was excited to find Mount Marty College as one of the final six entries for Onward Yankton. They’ve set a goal to have a 50% increase in enrollment. The Yankton campus currently has an annual average of approximately 425 students, Watertown has just over 100 and they also have approximately 100 graduate students. They’d like to see over 600 students in Yankton, however the question becomes where to house them. There are a couple of options, one being to add more dorms on campus. Mark has also spoken to Amy Nelson with the City of Yankton to talk about housing and the need for more apartments. He was proud to share that Mount Marty College experiences a higher than average graduation rate compared to similar col-

leges, the faculty provides a very supportive atmosphere to the students and they are seeing the level of activity increase quickly for the start of classes. Many student athletes have begun training and are already on campus.

UPCOMING HOSTESSES/PROGRAMS MINERVAS BANQUET ROOM A, NOON:

- August 31: Member Spotlight: Rita Wentworth
- Hostess: Nancy Sternhagen. United Way of Greater Yankton Executive Director, Lauren Hanson, alongside United Way Board Member and this year’s Community Campaign Chair, Marc Bies, will be talking about United Way’s upcoming #LIVE UNITED week, kicking off the 2016 Community Campaign! They will also be sharing a new Campaign Video and updating us on new programs and initiatives United Way

has been working with in the past year, including Girls on the Run, The Big Red Bookshelf, and LINC, a young leaders volunteer program. Please join us!

- Sept. 7: No Meeting due to the Labor Day holiday.
- Sept. 14: Hostess Deb Overseth. Deb will be telling us all about Ruby Ribbon!
- Sept. 21: Hostess Linda Stephenson.

Upcoming Hostesses: Joyce Stevens, Susan Schavee, and Paula Tacke. If you are not yet a friend on Facebook, please send a request to become one by searching FB for Interchange.Yankton!

#### CLUB 6217 MINUTES

Jesse Bailey, Yankton, called the meeting of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Toastmasters to order August

20th, 2015, at the Pavilion Room 2. His General Evaluator was Chelsi Hames, Crofton, NE, and the invocation was presented by Muriel Stach.

Table Topics questions were asked by Eric Taylor with a “fall activities” theme. He quizzed Stan Sudbeck, Hartington, NE, on Sudbeck’s favorite fall food, which was “homegrown sweet corn”. Hames knew it was fall because of the excitement when the “kids head back in school”. DJ Knodel remembers being excited to go to kindergarten in a “country school” and “playing with the stapler”. Stach recalls the fun of a “harvesting crew” with lots of cooking for the men. Jennifer Wubben’s fall fun is “camping with family” and attending Riverboat Days.

Jan Schiferl, Crofton,

NE, spoke about “Getting Comfortable” for “it’s all about balance”. Holding 4 bouncing balls at once, she related her personal experiences with horseback riding and a broken leg to demonstrate the balancing she does in her daily life between her physical, mental, spiritual and emotional phases. Schiferl’s evaluator was Steve Anderson. He complimented Schiferl not only on an analogy that everyone could relate to and learn from, but Anderson also liked her use of visual props.

“Chutzpah” was the word of the day presented by grammarian Greg Stach, who was part of the evaluation team along with timer Jeff May and “er” counter Knodel.