

HISTORIC HOMES OF YANKTON

A Look At The White House

Yankton's Territorial Homes, Revisited — A Sesquicentennial Series

"The sesquicentennial series titled "Historic Homes of Yankton" prepared by members of Yankton Questers Dakota Territory Chapter No. 794 continues this week with its next selection."

The White House
417 Maple Street

Dakota Territory Chapter No. 794

The stately brick house at 417 Maple was built in 1870 on "Artesian Hill" by Arthur Linn (for whom Linn Street is named). In April of 1870 Linn became part of the *Dakota Union* newspaper (which had merged with the 1861-established *Dakotaian* in 1864). He headed the paper until November, 1873 when the *Union and Dakotaian* and the *Yankton Press* (begun in August of 1870) merged. Linn was also involved in Canton's *Sioux Valley News* which began in August, 1872 with printing equipment from Linn's *Union and Dakotaian* in Yankton. In 1874 Linn became publisher of the *News*, selling it three years later to Newman C. Nash; Linn then took over the rival *Farmer's Leader*, and, according to Robert Karolevitz's "With a Shirt Tail Full of Type," the two Civil War veterans carried on a constant newspaper battle.

The house was sold in 1875 to Edwin Terry White and his wife Mary. Both White and his wife were natives of Vermont. White studied law and was admitted to the bar at Woodstock, Vermont in June of 1870 and almost immediately left for the west, arriving in Yankton, Dakota Territory, in July of 1870. That White was public-spirited is evidenced by his record—justice of the peace, city clerk, police justice, county judge and circuit court commissioner. White served as Yankton's mayor from 1909-1914. Fraternal organizations were very popular during this period. Yankton's St. John's Masonic Lodge was organized in Yankton in 1862 (though the first Mason in the area had been Captain Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition). The Yankton Masons received a certificate of incorporation for the Scottish Rite Temple Association and on September 11, 1901, Worshipful Master E.T. White drove the corner stake for the building at 4th and Cedar. He also served as Noble Grand of the Yankton Odd

Fellows whose lodge was chartered in 1870.

In September, 1880, The Yankton Artesian Well and Mining Company was organized with E.T. White as secretary. In December, 1880, the contract for boring an artesian well was let to a Chicago company and work began in the summer of 1881 with the intention of supplying water for the city. This well was possibly the first artesian well in the state and probably the reason for naming the hill on which the house stands as "Artesian Hill" as there is no evidence of an actual artesian well on the property.

The house is in Italianate style with unusual metal trim over the tall, narrow windows and a unique two-story bay window on the south. There is a staircase leading to the second floor as one enters the front door and hall. Though the house was built as a single family dwelling, the second floor has housed two apartments for many years: Marilyn Poulsen, daughter-in-law of long-time owners Sam and Karen Poulsen, says she and her husband lived on the first floor in 1957-58 and remembers there were apartments on the second floor at that time.

The present owners, Judy and Dean Clark, moved to Yankton from Vermillion and purchased the White house in 2008. Dean grew up in Bison, SD, Judy in Baltimore, MD. They met in Washington, DC where Dean worked in the Department of Energy and Judy was actively involved in politics, fundraising and volunteerism. Dean retired from his career and they moved to Vermillion in 1996 when their son was ready for high school. The Clarks have always been interested in historic homes: their home in Vermillion was built in 1902 and their Maryland homes were early 20th century. The Clarks are in the process of restoring the house and hope at some time to return it to its original status as a one-family dwelling. They have done extensive research on the history of the house and its owners; this article owes much to their work. The east-facing side of the house shows evidence of a porch, but the Clarks have found no pictures of the house from that time. The Clarks would be so grateful if someone could provide a picture of the house with porch.

WEED PATCH

Planting Spirit Survives Cold, Wet Conditions

BY LINDA WUEBBEN
P&D Correspondent

With all the moisture we've had, the corn will barely be knee-high by the fourth of July. But we haven't had the sun we need.

I saw it in my garden until a couple weeks ago. Nothing looked like it wanted to be there. Think about it, would you? You are sitting on the ground with your feet buried beneath you; and the ground is cold and wet; water seeps down your roots; and the sun can barely break through the clouds. You would run for cover, too!

I had someone tell me this spring he had a friend who told him she didn't plant a garden until she could sit on the ground and her seat didn't get cold. That's about right now I bet!

All in all, I'm pleased we have been eating radishes, lettuce and onions. At least, we are when I can get in the garden to pluck them and not sink to China. I may not have tomatoes for the Becker Reunion in July but my cousin Shirley probably will. She was ambitious this spring and used a few of those walls of water to get her tomatoes in the ground early so all the Becker cousins could have some home-grown Nebraska tomatoes at the reunion evening meal.

I told Bob I would not plant 50 tomato plants like I did last year. Between canning our own tomatoes and those for our daughters, and the tomatoes we gave away to family and friends, we came close to 300 quarts of various tomato products. Wow!

But when I got finished planting my garden this spring, I had 60 plants. Holy Smokes! I did manage to tell Bob as I was heading out the door to a meeting one evening. He just shook his head—he was still shaking his head when I got home two hours later.

I can't help myself. Going into a greenhouse for me is like a candy store for others. This variety sounds interesting and I need to check if these tomatoes really get that big and on and on.

I didn't loose one plant.

Both Bob and I have to admit tomatoes are the one vegetable we can't wait to have on the table. Bob never complained one bit this last winter when there was a never-ending supply of tomato juice in the basement. Kohlrabi comes in a close second as a favorite vegetable. Oh wait,



Linda
WUEBBEN

sweet corn is at the top of the list also. Ain't summer is great?

I did squeeze a few more flowers in the garden also this spring. I have two rows of glad-olias and was happy

to see even the glad bulbs I purchased at the dollar chain spurt up just as fast as the other bulbs. I only planted one row of four-o'clocks on the west end of the garden and decided after they came up, they were a little thin. So I rummaged in the basement for some more of last year's seed and planted a second planting just to the left of the first row. Bob was shaking his head again.

I planted some sunflower seeds last year which had red blossoms and harvested several heads last fall for this year's crop. They grow very well—just like in the cornfield but I love their size and color for the east end of the garden. They will make a nice border along with the zinnias, marigolds and cosmos plants. My harvest colored corn seed came up quickly when my grandson finally had a chance to plant it. We peeled it off the ears this spring and love watching it grow over the summer months together. It has been our tradition for several years now and it's about time to get his little brother involved, too.

I did manage to purchase more flowering plants than I had pots to put them in but I added a couple glazed pots this year for my front deck. They are all growing very nicely and have had several butterflies and hummingbirds stopping by to sample my collection. I hope I feel the same way come July when I'm trucking gallons of water around my deck dousing all the pots every morning.

And tomorrow morning, I'm going to make a stop at my perennial lady who let me know she has an overflow again. What did I need? Another acre of ground probably but don't tell Bob or my son Craig.

Crofton Garden Tour Showcases Variety, Creativity

BY LINDA WUEBBEN
P&D Correspondent

Gardening is a favorite pastime in Crofton and the Crofton Senior Citizens Board never has a hard time finding willing participants for their annual Tour of Lawn & Gardens this past weekend.

The Tour is in its fifth year and the creativity of the participants serves for making great lawns and gardens in and outside of Crofton which are easy on the eye.

First stop was the Dave and Lorna Arens' home on the north edge of Crofton. "I do the grunt work and my wife comes up with the ideas," said Dave with a big smile as he sips coffee while tour visitors enjoy the couple's pond and landscape accents in their backyard. Lorna had to agree. She tries to add two or three new perennials a year while keeping the quiet and serene atmosphere the pond gives to the yard.

"My most favorite area is the pond," said Lorna. "We sit out here around the firepit in the dark, listen to the running water in the pond and it is so relaxing." Dave redid the pond this past spring because the water lilies had overtaken the area. When he first built the pond, he started with a piece of rubber roofing from the old Benet Hall building on the Avera campus. He was part of the crew and thought it would be a good liner for a pond. Recycling items is a favorite problem for him; thinking what he can use or what can something be used for in his projects adds a challenge for him.

The rocks came from the farms of family and friends. He admits it can be an expensive hobby but also a very enjoyable one. The Koi fish in the pond right now are very active at night and they add another dimension to the evening time spent in the backyard.

Lorna added a Japanese pigmy lilac bush in one of her rock gardens over the years and has found them to be very con-

centrated in smell; much more than the lilac bushes traditionally grown. It wasn't long after planting her new variety, she noticed her neighbor, Gail Peterson, had one, too.

"I love the gardening now; not when my kids were growing up but now I do," said Lorna. She's been perfecting her accent areas for 15 years now.

The next Crofton stop was the home of the Tim and Lisa Allen. The Allens described their property as 'Heaven on the Hill' although five children and two dogs running around make for a lot of chaos sometimes.

While living in Colorado and working, the couple often eyed the property west of Crofton when visiting family. Tim finally transferred from the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Colorado to Yankton and their dream home came up for sale.

The landscaping was nicely completed by the time the Allens accepted ownership but over the years they have added their own personal touches. Tim loves hardwood trees like maples and tries to add two-four trees every spring.

"I'm big on planting trees and Lisa is big on shrubs so we balance out," said Tim. "We have been experimenting with some new landscaping ideas and recently added a couple mounds to add a little height and diversity because it is so flat." Secretly the couple wanted to cut down on mowing. Tim laughed as he added now they have other kinds of upkeep like weeding and trimming to keep the shrubs an attractive appearance.

Daughter Breanne was the tour guide and answered questions like a pro. But then she does help with the weeding and upkeep as do all the Allen children which also include Alex, Sammie, Cassie and Trevor. Those tomatoes from the family garden taste just a little better that way when everyone helps to make them grow. The vegetable garden was surrounded with fencing because sometimes deer

"Coming here is a chance to get away from the hustle and bustle we deal with every day. Anything I do here is fun, including the work."

DOYLE STEVENS

come through the trees but its use is needed more to keep out the bunnies.

Doyle and Joyce Stevens didn't find it hard to move to their lakeside cabin in Hideaway Acres three years ago. They purchased the property from Ken Jones and immediately began fixing from their dislikes to likes.

Doyle had a vision for that deep ravine to the east of the cabin and assigned one of his summer workers, Irene-Wakonda principal David Hutchinson the job of hauling in fill dirt—130 loads.

Every load of dirt was worth it. A grassy play area for the grandchildren was created and Doyle added every weed imaginable grew there at first. Their "front yard" borders Lewis & Clark Lake and even in the dead of winter, the couple loves the spectacular view.

"We sat on the deck one night last evening and watched this dark clump of silt stuff silently move along the Lake until it drifted right into the boat ramp area," said Joyce. Doyle added that a southeast wind the next day might push the trash back into the Lake. Large logs and tree

limbs litter the beach area. Doyle said they haven't taken the boat out because he has heard the dirt and debris in the Lake plugs the engines.

The Walker Valley dock area normally has a line of buoys out around the cove because they have an area along the shore line where residents do some swimming. The buoys were finally pulled in because so much trash accumulated around the lines.

This past year the couple did a renovation of the Carriage House on their property. They added a second level and created a place for family to sleep when the cabin overflows. It also has a canopy to house a boat and Doyle's dad's old International tractor which Doyle overhauled and painted.

"Coming here is a chance to get away from the hustle and bustle we deal with every day. Anything I do here is fun, including the work," Doyle said. He added they have had two bobcat sightings—one so bold as to walk up on their front yard during the early evening hours in daylight and another along the driveway out of Walker Valley as Doyle left for work one morning.

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Gene Baker's love of Japanese gardens compliments the outstanding view of the lake he enjoys day after day. He purchased his hideaway property in 1993 and after hiring a carpenter to set up the framework for his house, he promptly finished it himself. His sister Jane answered questions on the bottom level and Gene worked the visitors on the top all the while enjoying the Lake in the distance.

"I'm a do-it-myselfer and worked from the bottom up doing electrical, plumbing, sheetrock and lastly the decks," said Gene. "I love to create." He also likes to keep busy and has lots of hobbies.

On the bottom level, Gene enjoys a Zen garden which is part of the Japanese gardening practices. Japanese gardening, which is Gene's passion, imitates nature with miniature versions; smaller varieties of shrubs and trees. Of all his hobbies, he calls the Zen garden the relaxing hobby. The garden uses a large rock which represents a mountain surrounded by smaller rocks

and sand. This area is the ocean and a special sawtooth tool made of wood creates waves in the sand around the rock-mountains. It is believed when you sit in this area, the waves take away your worries and Gene's sister Jane agrees with it.

A Koi pond without the Koi occupies a corner of the bottom level and welcomes visitors to sit and enjoy. Gene quit stocking it with Koi because the expensive fish had become a favorite mid-night snack of his neighboring raccoons.

The Crofton Baseball Park was the other featured spot around town. If you haven't visited the park lately, take in a baseball game and check out the improvements and landscaping. Don't forget the upcoming July weekend and be sure to catch the firework display. The excellent landscaping of the home for a beloved summer pastime is a testament to the dedication of Crofton residents for keeping our town a lovely place to call home.

YANKTON MALL
2101 Broadway
Yankton

Farmer's Market

Every Saturday
8am - Noon

Every Wednesday
1pm - 6pm
(Through October)

Farmer's Market located on northeast corner of the mall lot.