

On The Road To Dakota Statehood

BY JIM SOYER

The first organized effort to separate Dakota Territory into parts occurred in 1871 when the territorial Legislature petitioned Congress for the creation of two territories with the division line being the 46th parallel.

It failed.

In 1877, a proposal to create a new territory called "Eldorado" or "Lincoln" from near the Missouri River to the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming also failed.

In 1879, General Williams Beadle began another effort to promote division and also statehood.

In 1882 and 1883, conventions were held in Canton, Huron and Sioux Falls. In spite of Territorial Gov. Nehemiah Ordway's objections, in November, 1883, the people ratified a state constitution that had been written at the Sioux Falls meeting.

Both Ordway and the statehood promoters went to Washington and lobbied Congress.

The southern faction also attempted to remove Ordway from office after the Territorial Capital was moved from Yankton to Bismarck in 1883. But, the push for statehood was stopped.

Events of the 1880s began to solidify the notion that any division of Dakota Territory should be north and south instead of east and west as some residents preferred. But, as late as 1886, Congress considered legislation that would have created an East Dakota and a West Dakota with the division being the Missouri River.

Separate railroad systems in the north and the south, economic ties to different major eastern cities and the growth of separate systems of public institutions moved public opinion to favoring a north/south division.

The question of statehood was a very partisan issue at the local and national levels. Some Democrats wanted the continuation of territorial status to retain the power and perks of appointive office from the national Democrat administration of President Grover Cleveland. If statehood was to be approved, national Democrats hoped the Dakota Territory would be admitted as one state because the population was perceived to be largely Republican. They preferred two new Republican senators coming to Washington, D.C., from one Dakota over four coming from two Dakotas.

The same logic existed at the local level. With territorial status, most official positions were appointive and in the hands of Democrats. With statehood, most offices would be elective and probably held by Republicans.

Even though another election in 1887 showed that the people favored two states, Cleveland's newly appointed territorial governor, Louis K. Church, continued to support statehood on the condition of admitting



Dakota as one state.

Votes for one-state admission were strongest in the northern areas because future North Dakotans feared permanent territorial status if a "southern" Dakota was admitted to the Union by itself.

In a flyer, pro-divisionists argued that two smaller states would be better for the country because "the larger the state and farther the people away from the seat of legislation, the more fraud, the greater the corruption, combinations and appropriations." They used 1880 census figures to show that larger states taxed their citizens at higher levels per capita than smaller states. They also argued that since Dakota Territory was already spending more money than the state of Wisconsin, statehood's time had come.

The Huronite newspaper editorialized that if division didn't occur, "future generations, eating the bitter fruits, would rise up on revolution and rebellion!" They also wrote that the possibility of Dakota being divided into four states should be explored.

Some extreme pro-divisionists argued that statehood was an immediate right that, if not granted, should be taken. They argued that the entity of Dakota was no longer a territory needing supervision from afar. They called territorial government a "miserable burden" and claimed that the territory was like a government mule with "no pride of ancestry nor hope of posterity."

They explained, "When a sufficient number of well disposed people, within proper boundaries, organize local self-government for themselves, in accord with the form and spirit of the general government of the United States, the necessity of Congressional control is gone and rightfully disregarded ... the organic act is fulfilled, not defied ... just a law of Congress for the erection of a building is fulfilled and falls into nullity when the building is finished."

One delegate to the 1888 Pro-Division Convention in Huron advocated that it would be entirely proper to "sit down" on the carpetbagging territorial government and establish immediately a government of the people and by the people.

But, the mainstream pro-divisionists argued against gaining admission by force and ridiculed extremists with rhetoric: "It is somewhat annoying to have men of acknowledged intelligence and patriotism put their noses down to the blood ... and come howling along ... but

the keen enemies of every good cause find their occasional dupes who are tenfold more serviceable to them than any intentional pal."

The rhetoric on both sides tended to be outrageous at times. For example, one chauvinistic argument claimed that the Dakota frontier women should support statehood because "pioneer life is even more grievous to women than to men, and especially to American women, bred to pleasant surroundings of the old homes in the states, and transferred to the treeless prairies and frequently flowerless gardens of the far northwest."

The assumption seemed to be that statehood would instantly change the Dakota environment. What they forgot was that most Dakota women had worked just as hard or harder than their men to clear the land, plant crops, fight droughts and contend with the difficulties of frequent pregnancies. Dakota females had proven themselves to be skillful, hard-working survivors, with or without statehood.

The anti-divisionists claimed that the call for two states was the idea of rabble-rousing Republicans who wanted to get their hands on the public tax money. To counteract the argument, pro-divisionists invited lawyers, ministers, farmers, businessmen and newspapermen to hold mini-conventions in conjunction with the 1888 Huron pro-division meeting. But, one anti-division newspaper responded that doctors should have also been invited to the meeting as well so that they could "proceed at once to hold an inquisition of lunacy" on the supporters of division. The anti's also attacked pro-divisionist Hugh Campbell, saying that statehood was as "comic" as Campbell's plan to build a canal between Winnipeg and Big Stone along the Red River that would connect with the Minnesota River and provide navigable waters from Winnipeg to Saint Paul.

The paper characterized Campbell as "quite ferocious in appearance and speech ... but entirely harmless."

In the summer of 1888, territorial Democrats and Republicans both met in Jamestown. Democrats endorsed one state. Republicans passed a resolution calling for division and two states. Nationally, the Democrats re-nominated President Cleveland and endorsed the one-state position with the added feature that the residents of Dakota could divide into two states at a later date if they so desired. Texas has a similar provision in their admission to the Union which allows them to divide into as many as five states.

Republicans nominated Ohio Senator Benjamin Harrison for President and endorsed the two-state idea. For several years in Congress, Harrison had championed the idea of two states. The question of division was one of the major issues debated in the presidential elections of 1888 and Harrison's victory at the polls assured statehood for two Dakotas.

SD Senate

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OBITUARIES

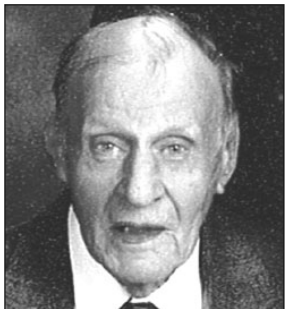
Joseph Heisinger

Funeral Mass for Joseph Herman Heisinger, age 80, of Tyndall will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Parkston, with Father Gerald Thury officiating. Pallbearers will be Matthew Hirsch, Garrett Hirsch, Jayson Heisinger, James Heinemann, Michael Heinemann and Ben Heisinger. Music will be provided by Bonna McGreger as organist.

Burial will follow in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Parkston with Military Gravesite Rites provided by Parkston American Legion Post #194, Parkston VFW Post #3298 and the US Navy Funeral Honors.

Visitation will be on Friday from 3:00 pm until 6:30 pm, with a rosary and wake service to follow at St. Leo Catholic Church in Tyndall, SD. Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com/.

Joseph Herman Heisinger was born on Monday, March 19, 1934 to Herman and Maglena (Thury) Heisinger in Parkston. He attended school in Parkston until 1954 when he left to serve in the United States Navy until 1956. After his service to his country, Joseph returned to South Dakota and purchased a farm near Delmont. Joseph married Margie Marie Stluka on June 16, 1959 at St. Leo Catholic Church in Tyndall. Joseph enjoyed playing his accordion and dancing, especially to polka music. He also liked playing bingo, gardening and attending church activities. His greatest joy was his family and his farming, both field work and his livestock. Joseph died on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at St.



Joseph Heisinger

Michael's Hospital in Tyndall. He had attained the age of 80 years, 6 months and 20 days.

Joseph will be remembered by his wife Margie, Tyndall, SD; his five children: Joseph Jr (Laurie) Heisinger, Kerrville, Texas; Jolene (Eugene) Heinemann, Dakota City, Nebraska; Dennis Heisinger, Delmont; Diane Heisinger and significant other, Tony Caylor, Tyndall; Lori (Kent) Hirsch, Gayville; his kitty Chatter; fourteen grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and five sisters: Margaret Hopper, Aberdeen; Phyllis Bacon, California; Mary Forney, Ames, Iowa; Regina Bissonette, Denver, Colorado; Patty (Jim) Behr, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Joseph was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Maglena Heisinger, and three brothers: Lawrence, Leo and Paul.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
October 10, 2014

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www.goglinfh.com

To post an online sympathy message, visit wintzray-funeralhome.com.

Gene Haberer

Gene Haberer, 58, of Hartington, Nebraska, died Thursday, Oct. 9, 2014, at his residence after a short battle with cancer.

Funeral services are pending at the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington.

BLOOD DRIVES

The Blood Center will have a mobile unit at the following dates, locations and times:

- Tuesday, Oct. 14 — Yankton, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital/Benedictine Center, 501 Summit, 8:45 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 20 — Yankton Mall, 3-6:30 p.m.

Schedule a blood donation appointment online at www.siouxland-bloodbank.org or call 800-798-4208.

Eligible blood donors must be at least 16 years old, should weigh at least 120 pounds and should be in general good health and have not donated whole blood in the past 56 days. For more information about blood donation or to schedule an appointment to donate blood, call 800-287-4903 or visit www.lifesservebloodcenter.org. A photo I.D. is required at the time of registration.

FENSEL'S OCTOBERFEST

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Fire

From Page 1A

both from the school perspective and from the fire department's on what would happen if they had to respond to a fire with the parking lot full and a full-scale evacuation taking place."

Beeman noted that part of the drill included the fire department putting on full gear, hooking up hoses and making their way through the school.

"We found some good and some bad when it comes to terms of results," he said. "We discovered we have a lot of good staff and our fire department has a lot of great volunteers. We did learn a lot about what we need to be communicating back and forth. We will be working on that as we go forward and look at the subtle changes we need to make."

He said the drill helped identify the need to make some changes to the parking lot. They also looked at the logistics of what do with students if there would be a fire and it was very cold outside, testing the walk to the community center as a staging location for students in that situation.

"It just all worked very well and made it as real as possible," Beeman said. "Some of the issues we ran into — like getting the department access to all the rooms and where they needed to be — is being addressed. It just led to a very good discussion for us."

That discussion is something that Yankton's assistant fire chief, Larry Nickles,

Fire Facts

- In 2011, U.S. fire departments responded to 370,000 home structure fires. These fires caused 13,910 civilian injuries, 2,520 civilian deaths, \$6.9 billion in direct damage.

- On average, seven people died in U.S. home fires per day from 2007 to 2011.

- Cooking is the leading cause home fires and home fire injuries, followed heating equipment.

- Smoking is a leading cause of civilian home fire deaths.

- Most fatal fires kill one or two people. In 2012, 8 home fires killed five or more people resulting in a total of 44 deaths.

SMOKE ALARMS

- Almost three of five (60 percent) of reported home fire deaths in 2007 to 2011 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.

- In fires considered large enough to activate the smoke alarm, hardwired alarms operated 93 percent of the time, while battery powered alarms operated only 79 percent of the time.

- When smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected, or dead.

- An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, or where extra time is needed, to awaken or assist others, both types of alarms, or combination ionization and photoelectric alarms are recommended.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

said is very important on another level.

"We use Fire Prevention Week as an opportunity to visit with the students and emphasize fire safety to the students from pre-kindergarten through third grade," he said. "By the time they get to third grade, they should have gotten all of the different programs."

Nickles said he feels that Yankton's fire department has done a great job of educating the community.

"We had more than 700 people come to the open house (Wednesday) night," he said. "We didn't have the (mobile) fire house there because it was in Vermillion, and I think that actually helped us get our message out to people because they weren't distracted by it."

He added that throughout the week five of the volun-

teer fire department firefighters were in each of the community's schools and that the fire house will be in nine different communities.

"It is just very important because it gives our students the right information on what to do in a fire," said Webster Elementary Principal Melanie Ryken. "Our second graders were able to go through the 'smoke house' on Tuesday. What a great opportunity to learn about what to do in a real situation with fake smoke. It's good to have practice so that if they were in that situation for real they wouldn't be so apprehensive in what to do."

Nickles added that the programs include information on stop-drop-and-roll, crawl under smoke, match/lighter danger, the fire safety trailer, a video and workbook.

"We just feel the program is working very well," he said. "The kids bring home the information and share it with their parents. Because the theme this year is on smoke detectors, we were able to share some of that information, as well."

Nickles reminded the public that when people adjust their clocks for Daylight Savings Time next month, people need to change the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

"We have had three calls already this fall for carbon monoxide, so people need to remember it is furnace inspection time," he said. "Get their furnaces ready to go, get the filters changed and make sure their detectors are working."

He added that if a smoke detector is more than 10 years old or a carbon monoxide detector more than five years old, they need to be replaced.

"When you push the button to test a smoke detector and it buzzes, all that means is that your battery is working," Nickles said. "I just tested all the smoke detectors in my house and had to replace two because when I lit a stick and put it out blowing the smoke to the detector they didn't go off."

He also said if people in the community need a smoke detector, the fire department has a program where they will give one to each home. Nickles just asks that anyone coming to collect one to call before going to the department.

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4:00 PM, Prayer Service, Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton

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