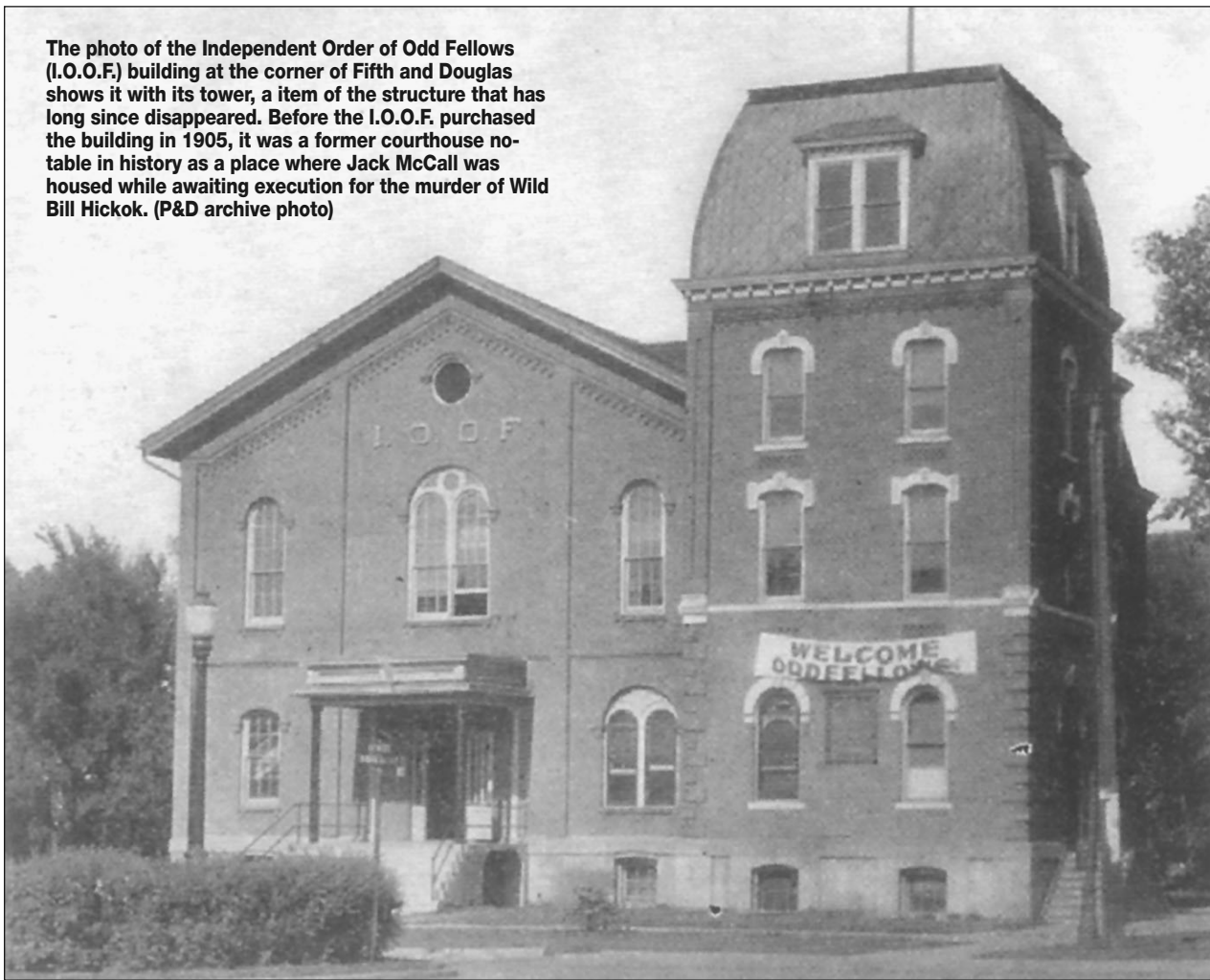


Yankton's Historic Places

The photo of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) building at the corner of Fifth and Douglas shows it with its tower, a item of the structure that has long since disappeared. Before the I.O.O.F. purchased the building in 1905, it was a former courthouse notable in history as a place where Jack McCall was housed while awaiting execution for the murder of Wild Bill Hickok. (P&D archive photo)



Yankton's I.O.O.F.

This article is part of a series developed by the Questers Dakota Territory Chapter No. 794 in an attempt to commemorate the 125th anniversary of statehood through discovery of those historic locations and edifices which contributed to or were the site of the move to statehood.

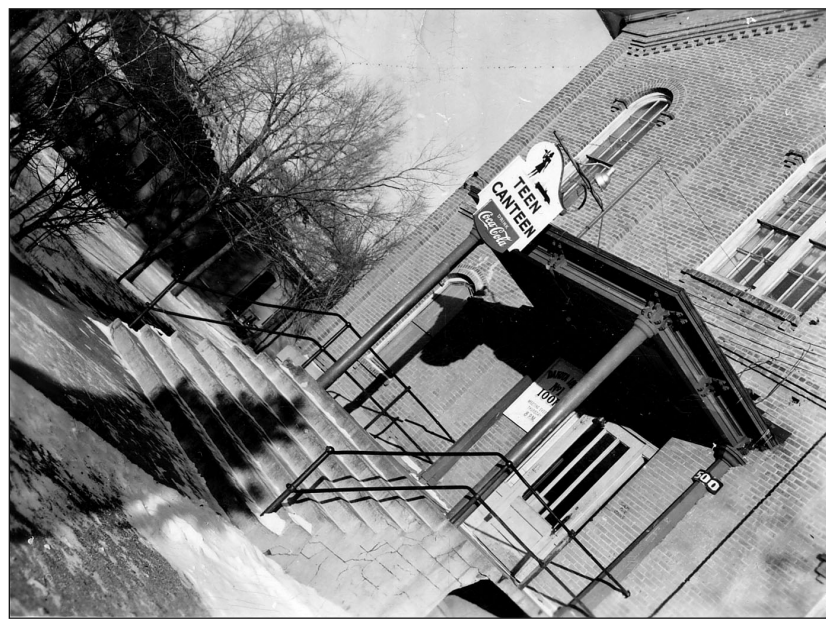
If you were a believer in ghosts, you might hesitate renting a certain apartment in the venerable building at 5th and Douglas. One of its 11 apartments includes the jail cell where the infamous Jack McCall spent the two months between his conviction of murder Dec. 6, 1876, and his hanging north of Yankton on March 1, 1877.

This building began its life as Yankton's first courthouse, built in 1874. Agitation to build a new courthouse was noted by author Bob Karolevitz in his book "Yankton: The Way it Was!" includes quotes from a *Press & Dakotan* editorial in 1902:

Yankton County, as the fourth richest county in the state, had "the poorest excuse for a courthouse" except for Gregory and Stanley, which had none. The building at Fifth and Douglas was described as "a mausoleum and a temptation to the goddess of conflagration." Because it had no fireproof vaults, proponents of a new building argued that county records were in serious jeopardy. The jail in the basement was a "disgrace, without water or water closets."

When Yankton's new courthouse was built in 1905, the building was purchased for \$5,100 by Yankton's branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) and served as the Lodge's home for 74 years. The I.O.O.F.'s women's counterpart, Fountain Rebekah Lodge No. 12, shared the building. In addition, the Yankton Business Institute, also known as "The People's College," called the building home. The institute offered 16 courses including bookkeeping, shorthand, typing, penmanship, spelling and letter-writing.

An interesting detail pointed out by present owners, Jerry and Annette Kohoutek, is the building's construction on a cinder foundation. Though very little remains of the original courthouse fittings, some of the wide plank floors are original, as well as a stairway with turned balustrades and a long, one-piece curved banister, which, though now painted, appears to be of oak. One of the apartments on the first floor boasts a sturdy, concrete closet — the



ABOVE: This 1950 photo shows the entry to the Teen Canteen, which offered a social headquarters for kids for two decades. BELOW: This curved banister is still in use in the old I.O.O.F. building, which now houses apartments.

original court house vault. This vault is visible from the outside as a small extension on the southeast corner. It is also obvious from early photos, that a tower topped the flat-roofed portion on the south. The brick building was covered in stucco in the early 1950s. Local master plasterer Roger Huntley, who was in high school at the time, remembers helping his father with the job by building scaffolding and mixing stucco.

No story of this building can omit its time as Yankton's Teen Canteen which existed from about 1943 to the '60s. The Yankton High School class of 1945 — whose members Don Boyd, Pal Christensen and Wally Boyles remember originating the idea of a place for teens. They cleaned and refurbished the areas that would be used and found a "house mother" in Viva "Mom" Mondini. The city paid Mrs. Mondini a small salary and she was provided a one-room apartment on the third floor. Joan Neubauer recalls dancing (10 cents to play the juke box), ping pong and pool in the basement, and snacks including taverns, chips and Nehi or Coca Cola. The food was prepared by Mrs. Mondini from mostly donated supplies. "Mom" Mondini chaperoned, mentored and disciplined the teens for 22 years. She is remembered as a large, authoritarian woman who presided from a desk inside the front (Douglas) entrance with a broom kept handy. A number of rowdy



teens — including Roger Huntley and Tom Brokaw — were escorted out the door by her broom.

In 1985 Gary Johnson purchased the building from the Oddfellows Lodge and remodeled the building which now has eleven very comfortable apartments. The Kohouteks purchased the building in 1990 and have continued to care for this historic building and its surroundings.

United Way



SUBMITTED PHOTO

United Way

Habitat For Humanity Shines A Light On Affordable Housing

BY JULIE DYKSTRA

Habitat for Humanity Executive Director

Habitat for Humanity's vision is to increase community awareness and support to ensure that adequate housing and neighborhood revitalization are a priority for the residents of Yankton County. Adequate housing is a critical foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty. And equate housing is vitally important to the health of the communities economy. Good housing attracts economic investment and development. Decent shelter contributes to thriving schools systems, community organizations and civic activism. And finally, safe homes and neighborhoods help to build social stability and security.

Through our partnership with United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton in 2014, Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County was able to increase the number of families served. Three families have been served through our core affordable housing program impacting the lives of four children currently attending school in Yankton. In addition, the affiliate has served an additional family, a single mother and son, by temporarily relocating them to an adequate, safe, affordable place to live until their home will be built in 2015. In October, Habitat will complete two home repair projects, thus, serving two additional adults and one child. Total impact: Six adults and six children will have the opportunity grow and prosper in safe, affordable housing.

Habitat for Humanity offers individuals the opportunity to better their current living conditions through a hand-up approach. Partner families make a monthly mortgage payment to Habitat to purchase their home or a small payment to pay for home renovations completed by Habitat and our community. The loan is at a 0 percent interest rate for the term of the loan. The partners are required to work on their home so that they can experience a sense of pride in their home. Education is a key factor in the success of the Habitat program. Partner families attend two in-house homeownership classes and a financial money management and homeownership class offered by LSS Center for Financial Resources, another United Way Partner Agency. It is our philosophy that these classes help the partner learn about self-sufficiency and helps lay a good financial foundation for them to work on and continue to improve upon. Another key component of our success is that we partner our families providing a family advocate to assist them throughout the build process and beyond until at least a year of homeownership has been established.

Together with United Way and our community, Habitat for Humanity is making a difference in the lives of families, helping to break the cycle of poverty and laying a firm foundation for improved health, through educational opportunities and providing financial information for which the family can learn and grow from.

To learn more about Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County, go to www.habitatyanktoncounty.org or call (605) 260-4224

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Historical Society Seeks Public Input

PIERRE — The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre is preparing for its federal fiscal year 2015 grant application and invites public comment through Oct. 31 on the state's preservation needs and projects.

The SHPO manages the National Register of Historic Places program of the National Park Service in South Dakota. The office relates historic preservation to economic, social and educational state objectives. It surveys, inventories and registers historical properties; and it promotes public awareness and provides technical assistance on their preservation.

Among the questions to consider are:

- What properties or areas need to be inventoried?
- What properties should be considered for nomination to the national register of historic places?
- What properties are at-risk or endangered? and
- What kinds of technical preservation assistance are beneficial?

"Public input or responses to these questions will help the program in preparing its annual work plan," said Jay D. Vogt, director of the State Historical Society. "And preservation promotes economic development and cultural tourism."

The SHPO Annual Work Plan Suggestion Form may be obtained online at history.sd.gov/Preservation in the right column under "In the Spotlight" or by contacting the SHPO office at (605) 773-2907 or shpo@state.sd.us.

Yankton Resident To Receive Alumni Achievement Award From St. John's University

Mike Healy from Yankton will be a recipient of an Alumni Achievement Award from Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota on Saturday, Oct. 4, during Homecoming festivities.

Healy, a 1964 alumnus of Saint John's, is retired chief financial officer at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital.

Healy returned to his hometown of Yankton to pursue a financial career at the Benedictine-sponsored Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in 1968. Healy led the hospital through a long-range financial plan and helped them establish a robust financial position over his 40-year career there. In 1995, he was awarded the Outstanding Healthcare Officer in the U.S. from *Modern Healthcare* magazine. Before retiring in 2009, the South Dakota governor proclaimed a Michael T. Healy Day in South Dakota to honor his contributions to health care and finance in the state.

Launched in 1983, the Alumni Achievement Awards recognize alumni who have been successful in their careers and/or active in church and community service. The awards are presented annually by the SJU Alumni Association Board of Directors and the university during Homecoming weekend. Each 20 through 50-year reunion class recognizes an individual classmate for his accomplishments. An awards presentation is part of each class reunion dinner.

Gov. Dugaard Proclaims Sept. 28 As 'Gold Star Mother's And Family Day'

PIERRE — Gov. Dennis Dugaard has signed an Executive Proclamation proclaiming Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014, as "Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day" in South Dakota. In his proclamation, the governor encourages South Dakotans to become aware of the South Dakota's Gold Star Mothers and their efforts to continue to honor our sons and daughters who paid the ultimate sacrifice for all our freedoms.

Since 1936, the last Sunday in September has been designated by Congress as Gold Star Mother's Day. During World War I, military families would hang a flag in the window of their home — a red bordered banner with one blue star for each family member fighting in the armed forces. They would replace the blue star with a gold star if a family member died in the

line of duty.

South Dakota joins in this annual tribute to honor the Gold Star Mothers and Families and will uphold the tradition of displaying the flag of the United States over government buildings on this special day. Gov. Dugaard encourages South Dakotans to display the flag as a public expression of sympathy, gratitude and respect for South Dakota's Gold Star Mothers and Families.

The Gold Star mothers instilled the values that led these brave men and women to service. These families have sacrificed more that most can ever imagine, and

yet they still find the courage and strength to comfort other families and support our veterans.

"Families are the support for all of our service members," said Larry Zimmerman, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "The Gold Star Families have given their all and fill a special place in all of our hearts. Their sacrifice is incomprehensible to us, and their dedication and allegiance is unfailing."

"We are honored that the Honor and Remember Flag will be flying at the Soldiers and Sailors Building in Pierre on Sept. 28," said Zimmer-

man. "It serves as a reminder of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to America."

KYNT

AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Friday, September 26

7:40 am Vermillion Chamber (Nathan Welch)

8:20 am Press & Dakotan (Rob Nielsen)

More Hometown News On Page 8B