

Clay County News
Heritage Notes
for 9-24-13

1896- City Council passes ordinance officially creating Vermillion Fire Department.

1900- Herman Malby built a ferry boat in just four weeks. It has a first class cabin and will be taking excursion parties up the river.

1903- Committee to select site for the new library. Two sites considered: lots East of Baptist Church on Main Street and lots South of Baptist Church on Church Street. Purchase of Church Street site was made for \$100.

1905- Vermillion's first automobile accident. Dr. Collins and L. Rustad were in Collins new car and turned to avoid a pedestrian. They ran into Judge Runyan and the machine was not stopped until they were a half block down the street.

1906- The first entry is made in the Waldorf Hotel register, four years after the hotel opened for business.

1911- J.R Dunlap, who farms 12 acres known as the "Island" near Vermillion is watermelon king of South Dakota, raising 30,000 melons this year.

1912- Lee & Prentis Ranch just West of Vermillion sold to D.J. Stafford of Sioux City. Ranch contains 3,060 acres and consideration was over \$250,000.

1918- N.W. Telephone & Exchange sells out to S.D. State Telephone Co. The local exchange is concerned since N.W. stills holds the two long distance lines out of Vermillion.

1925- Masons buy site west of Trinity Lutheran Church (Main & Harvard) for future building. Later this location was site of new Congregational Church building.

1936- Work started in re-laying water mains in Vermillion. A crew of 50 WPA workers started digging ditches.

1940- Four new rooms are planned for the sub-basement in the Clay County Court House to provide a winter WPA project.

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Join us this Thursday evening September 26 at 7:00 pm at the A-W House for our Antiques Road Show. Local antique dealer Joe Hoffman will appraise and discuss any item you wish to bring. Refreshments served. All welcome!