

CCHS Heritage Notes for 10-22-13

Vermillion, South Dakota City Halls

- #1 – Main & Church Streets** - Completed 1886, Bond issue \$7,500, Demolished 1908, 22 years
- #2- Main & Church Streets** - Completed 1910, Bond issue \$20,000, City moved out 1920, 10 years (Demolished 1957)
- #3 – Center & National Streets** - Completed 1920, Bond issue \$60,000, Demolished 2007, 87 years
- #4 - Center, National & Elm Streets** - Completed 2009, Bond issue \$4,475,000, total cost \$5,284,904.

City Hall Number Two

The new building was completed in January 1910 by Eric Nysten, a long time contractor. It was first called City Hall and later changed to City Theatre, with a seating capacity of 650, and built to handle large stage productions. Live theatrical performances, operas and vaudeville type shows were routinely booked and managed by the City.

A Grand Opening was scheduled for February 4, 1910. Henry L. Ferry, a Civil War veteran was Mayor and Alderman Chas. Line was chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements. Geo. M. Cohan's "Little Johnny Jones", a tuneful musical comedy was touring at the time, and after some negotiation it was secured for the occasion.

A.H. "Bucky" Whittemore was elected to the City Council in April 1910 and was appointed by the Mayor to look after the management of City Hall. There were numerous worthwhile productions on the road in those days, and many of them booked for Vermillion.

Among the musical comedies were Flower of the Ranch, The Time, The Place and the Girl, Golden Girl, The Cat and the Fiddle, and the Lyman Twins. Dramas given included The Man of the Hour, Bought and Paid For, The Climax, The Wolf, Jim the Penman, and Romeo and Juliet.

*Friday December 6, 2013- 4:30 to 8:00pm; CCHS "Joyful Traditions" Tour of Homes.

*Saturday Dec. 14- 10:00am to 1:00pm; Sweets & Treats Exchange at A-W House.