

Remember When

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125 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Courier*

April 4, 1890

The penalty which has been paid as gopher bounty in Scott county was revoked by the board of commissioners at their session last week.

April 11, 1890

Complaint is made of a lot of boys who run through the court house hall, slamming doors and otherwise creating a disturbance in the evening. Boys, be careful!

April 18, 1890

Quite a noise was made in the breaking out of Wm. Kauth's coal shed last Friday afternoon, whereby about 75 tons was thrown on the sidetrack. The building is considerably damaged in consequence.

April 25, 1890

George Reis started for home last Sunday, having sold the Reis block property to Theodore Weiland. It will hereafter be known as "Weilands Opera House."

125 Years Ago: From the *Scott County Argus*

April 4, 1890

The Industrial Union should see that a franchise is given to some corporation to run ferry boats across the streets of Shakopee.

April 11, 1890

The unusual spectacle of a large flock of wild ducks swimming about in the river below and above the bridge, was witnessed all day Wednesday.

A number of persons stood on the bridge within a stones throw of the dock of seventy five or a hundred ducks and watched them disporting in the water with apparent unconcern. The state game law has made this scene possible and it will go hard with anyone near Shakopee found with a duck in his possession. The Gun club is interested in enforcing the law, and anyone who violates it in this vicinity will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

April 18, 1890

Mr. Robert Smiley sat up last Friday night to "sugar off" a kettle full of maple syrup but Morpheus took possession of him to the utter ruin of fifteen gallons of extract of maple.

April 25, 1890

The steamer P. Swain came up yesterday afternoon at one o'clock, and after a delay of fifty minutes the draw of the bridge was swung by means of a rope attached to one end of the draw and pulled by men at the other end on the river bank. The owner of the P. Swain, Capt. Richland, has a fleet of eighteen barges and he is on a trip up as far as Carver to see if he can procure enough business to pay to put a fleet on the Minnesota during the boating season. Mr. Jacob Schank is a friend of the captain and it was on his recommendation that the Swain was steamed up the cloudy waters of the Minnesota.

The steamer stopped at the packing house to give the crew the opportunity of inspecting it after which she steamed up to Chaska.

100 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Tribune*

April 2, 1915

The Sanitarium is about as much inconvenienced by the high water as anybody, for there is no way for patients to get to the place from the railroads here except by boat, and some homeward bound have had to cross on the boat ferry. The bakery ships the bread over the Milwaukee to Chaska, and the other supplies have to go around that way, also. Let us hope that the water will recede in a few days, for every day we are cut off from that side of the river creates a very appreciable loss in trade and traffic.

April 9, 1915

The river which was at flood stage the past two weeks is falling rapidly and if a rainy period does not put in its appearance, travel on the Eden Prairie and mile road will again be resumed.

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April 16, 1915

The Royal Neighbors, auxiliary of the M. W. A., have engaged the opera house for the New Years ball, and appointed Misses Lena Wagner and Anna Kreuser and Mrs. Wm. Duede the committee on arrangements. At the meeting of the Camp next Wednesday night four new members will be initiated into the mysteries and benefits of the order.

April 23, 1915

An accident which might have proved more serious happened at the Hentz home last Tuesday afternoon. Several boys of the neighborhood were shooting with a 22 calibre rifle when a stray bullet struck Mrs. Hentz while out in her yard. The bullet passed through her right foot. Although suffering much pain, the wound is not thought to be serious. Dr. Reiter is the attending physician.

April 30, 1915

Brick and Lime Kilns at Work

Thirty-five men started in last Friday on the season's work at the Schroeder Brick and Lime Manufacturing company's plant, and fresh lime is already on hand and many thousands of brick are on the pallets in the drying process. The first kiln of a quarter million brick will be burned in another week. All of last year's product was sold, and Mr. Schroeder states that he could have sold many more brick had he had them on hand. The coming year will be one of the biggest in point of output in the history of the brick industry in Shakopee, all of which is good news for the City of Progress.

100 Years Ago: From the Scott County Argus

April 2, 1915

Flaherty & Lies' Easter show window is exceedingly attractive in its artistic arrangement and coloring and elicits many complimentary comments from admiring passersby. W. F. Davy, the efficient manager of the firm, is the decorator, and achieves some very handsome effects in window trimming and display of goods.

April 9, 1915

Shakopee Chapter O. E. S. will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its organization April 30th with a Homecoming, dinner and entertainment at Masonic hall.

April 16, 1915

The sanitarium cars were able to travel over the trestle for the first time Wednesday since the river overflowed.

April 23, 1915

Farmers, report your cattle and hogs for shipment, to J. H. Doyle, manager of the Farmers' Livestock Shipping Association at Shakopee. Tel. 102-B.

April 30, 1915

J. H. Kennedy has purchased a house and two lots from John Wampach, the property lying directly east of St. Mary's church. The consideration was \$1685 and Mr. Kennedy will begin improvements on the place at once. He will take possession next week.

75 Years Ago: From the Shakopee Argus-Tribune

April 4, 1940

Act to Preserve Faribault Springs

Shakopee Civic Groups and County Commissioners Petition State.

Believing that the construction of State Highway No. 101 according to the present plans for the project at Shakopee's east city limits will impair and to a great extent destroy the beauty and tradition of the historic Faribault Spring, a committee representing the city's civic organizations has taken steps to have the highway commission alter its plan.

As now scheduled for construction the highway will pass through the pond near the spring. The plans call for a 14-foot fill to be dumped in the pond over a culvert 118 feet in length. The fill, it is believed, will obliterate the beauty of the site; and it is with a view to preserving the spot as it has been for centuries that the action has been undertaken.

The civic delegation, representing the city government, the Shakopee Civic and Commerce association and the Shakopee Exchange club appeared before the board of county commissioners in session Tuesday morning requesting the adoption of a resolution requesting the highway department to alter its plans.

Concurring, the board adopted a resolution which will be presented to the highway commission in St. Paul this afternoon.

The delegation appearing before the highway commission and representing the county board and Shakopee groups is composed of Commissioner Peter Ploumen, Mayor J. J. Cavanaugh, J. A. Coller II, Harold E. Flynn and W. F. Duffy.

April 11, 1940

20 Entered In Beauty Contest

Merchants Sponsor Meet Booked at Shakopee Theatre May 3.

The beauty contest, sponsored by Shakopee business firms and featuring 20 young ladies of Shakopee and vicinity, is to be held at the Shakopee Theatre Friday, May 3.

At the contest, which will be judged by out-of-town judges, "Miss Shakopee" will be selected from the group of entrants. The winner is to be presented with a silver loving cup offered by the First National bank. Special prizes are to be awarded to the runnersup, sponsors said.

J. J. Harrington, St. Paul, is directing the contest. Business firms sponsoring the contest are:

R. C. Kline Grocery Co., Gamble Store Agency, Shakopee Jewelers, Pullman Cafe, Valley Bakery, Miladys Beauty Shop, Marge's Beauty Shoppe, Shakopee Bakery, Modern Beauty Shop, Stein Plumbing and Heating, Burshek Hardware, Weber's Corner Cafe, Rademacher Plumbing and Heating, Hennen's Purol Service Station, Fox's Tavern, Scherkenbach's Electric Appliance Store, Johnson Motor Sales, St. Paul House, First National Bank, Al's Cafe, Argus-Tribune, George Allen Garage, Savage, and Bowden Studio, St. Paul.

April 18, 1940

St. Mark's School Entertainment Matinee Prices

St. Mark's school entertainment matinee admission prices Sunday afternoon, will be as follows:

High school pupils—15 cents.

Grade school pupils—10 cents.

April 25, 1940

Judge Senn Authorizes Sale American Range

Following a hearing in the court house in Shakopee on Saturday morning, April 20, before Judge Fred W. Senn, Judge of the Fifth judicial district of Minnesota, to whom the matter on petition to sell the plant and assets of the American Range Corp. was referred, made an order authorizing the receivers to sell said property subject, however, to the further review and confirmation of the court.

50 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Valley News*

April 1, 1965

Research Project of Scott Probation Dept.

A research project, initiated by the Scott-Carver county probation department, has been accepted by the State Department of Corrections division of research. The state agency will assist in the compilation of data through use of IBM computer cards.

Scott-Carver Probation Officer Richard T. Mulcrone explained this week that the research project was initiated in order to determine the effect of probation in regard to how aware the individuals become of their own personal problems that led to their delinquency and how much is learned about one's self during the probation period...

April 8, 1965

Says Surgery Saturday Proves Medical First

Herman Abeln of Shakopee reports this week that medical history has been made.

He explained that in 1964, his sister, Miss Helen Abeln, also of Shakopee, had three pins placed in her hip in 1964 when she experienced an infection.

Last Saturday, April 3, Miss Abeln underwent surgery at St. Francis hospital with one of these pins, discovered to be missing from her hip, removed from the wall of the stomach.

The patient, who is in Room 107 at St. Francis, is making

good recovery and expects to be confined for two to three weeks.

Abeln in discussing what he considers to be a medical first, said, "you can say that the St. Francis is one of the best hospitals in the Northwest."

April 15, 1965

Unleashed Minnesota Exceeds 1952 Record By 5.6 Feet

At the Shakopee Holmes Street Bridge the rampaging Minnesota River reached the highest level in recorded history yesterday morning as waters of the flood-swollen stream inundated hundreds of thousands of acres of land in the valley, resulting in millions of dollars in damage and forced scores of families in other communities and rural areas to flee from their homes.

Hardest hit of all the valley communities was the neighboring City of Chaska where it was reported that more than one-third of the city including part of the business district was under water as the inundation moved in over the weekend to as far as five blocks north from the river...

With the National Guardsmen ordered in by Governor Karl Rolvaag the first of the week, volunteer workers continued efforts to protect the city's year-old sewage plant and brand new Carver County courthouse. It is estimated that about one thousand residents were evacuated.

Gauge reading at the Holmes street bridge in Shakopee yesterday showed that the river held steady for a 24-hour period of 721.86 feet above mean sea level. With flood stage considered at 710.06, this gave the river a total rise over flood stage of 11.80 feet, 5.66 feet more than the record 716.20 level on April 16, 1952...

April 22, 1965

Resigns Following 40 Years' Teaching

Mrs. Grace Sweeney, Shakopee Public high school teacher and former principal, will retire at the end of the current school year, after a teaching career that has a span of more than 40 years.

April 29, 1965

100 Attend Mother-Daughter Event Honoring Gold Star Mothers

Approximately 100 were in attendance at the annual Mother-Daughter banquet sponsored by the Shakopee American Legion Auxiliary last Saturday, April 24, in the American Legion clubrooms.

Gold Star Mothers were honored at this event. They were presented with gifts by auxiliary members.

The program included a welcome extended to daughters by Mrs. Tom Adcox, and to mothers by Miss Christine Adcox.

Both last year's Girl Stater, Linda Dellwo, and the present Girl Stater, Betty Van Eps, were present. They spoke on what being a Girl Stater had meant to them.

Jeffrey Spielman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Spielman, performed two dance routines. Judy Effertz gave a reading. Six girls from St. Mary's fourth grade sang.

25 Years Ago: From the Shakopee Valley News

April 5, 1990

Pizza maker wins 500 pounds of cheese

Shakopee's Pizza 'n' Pasta won't have to buy mozzarella cheese for a week or so.

The Shakopee restaurant was one of three in the state to win 500 pounds of the cheese in a contest sponsored by the American Dairy Association (ADA) of Minnesota. The winners were selected in a drawing involving about 120 entries. Only certified users of real cheese were eligible, according to the state ADA.

Dan Pecha, who operates the Shakopee restaurant, said pizza sales make up between 70 and 80 percent of his business, which he owns with his parents. The family owns a total of seven franchise restaurants, which Pecha said use about 4,000 pounds of mozzarella cheese each week. The 500 pounds of cheese represents about a week's worth at the Shakopee restaurant, he said.

April 12, 1990

Shakopee showcased Monday

It's that time of year again when local organizations are on display at the Shakopee Showcase.

The Showcase will take place Monday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Canterbury Downs. The event will feature more than 80 booths displaying the community's many non-profit organizations, service groups and governmental agencies. Local children and adults will provide continuous entertainment and participants will have the opportunity to meet with members of local organizations and learn about the services they provide.

"This will be our second year at Canterbury," said George Muenchow, director of Shakopee Community Recreation, which organizes the event. "At the high school where it's been held for many years, we simply ran out of space. It became an unpleasant experience for people because of the overcrowdedness."

At Canterbury Downs, however, people will have the opportunity to browse leisurely among the booths, which are spread throughout the building to give people room to move, said Muenchow.

One of the improvements this year, Muenchow said, is the expanded food booths. People attending the Showcase will be tempted with the smell of pizza, popcorn, hot dogs, coffee, hamburgers, corn dogs, french fries, and more. Showcase organizers are hoping the tempting smells pay off – proceeds from the food stands go to the Shakopee Dollars for

Scholars program, which provides post-high school scholarships for Shakopee students...

April 19, 1990

Education endowment fund planned here

A group of local residents has formed the Shakopee Educational Endowment Foundation to assist the Shakopee School District in maintaining, improving and further enriching the quality of education it now provides, in an effort to counteract the effects of decreasing state and federal funding.

The foundation board, which includes Jan Adams, Pat Adams, Melanie Kahleck, Phil Kanning, Mary Keen and Gloria Vierling, is planning a fund-raising campaign later this month. The board hopes to make the drive an annual event. All money collected will be placed in an endowment fund. When interest and funds begin to accumulate, the foundation will accept grant requests from teachers of the Shakopee school system, and will award grant money throughout the school year. Only the interest on the funds will be paid out, board members said, thus allowing an ever-increasing fund as the years pass.

The foundation will encourage creative use of the money by teachers, and hopes to fund such things as microscopes, grand pianos, computers and seminars. It is the intention of the foundation to work closely with the School Board to provide opportunity and enrichment for the children of Shakopee, according to board members.

April 26, 1990

Comp plan offers look into future

About 35 people attended a public hearing conducted by the Shakopee Planning Commission last Thursday on a proposed comprehensive plan for the city.

Planning Commission Chairperson Melanie Kahleck said that although the public hearing testimony would only be taken last week, the commission will continue to seek written comments and suggestions, which she strongly urged. She said that the city is under no timetable for completing the plan.

A task force appointed by the City Council has met over the past 18 months to develop the plan, which will serve as a development guide for the city for at least 10 years.

After a formal presentation of plan highlights by Bill Weber, of the Minneapolis consulting firm BRW Inc., several audience members spoke.

Weber said that the city in many ways is like a business, in competition with nearby communities for jobs, housing and business development.

He called this a "critical time in the history of modern Shakopee," as suburbia moves southward from Minneapolis and St. Paul.

“It’s Shakopee’s turn to accept a wave of residential growth” as Eagan and Eden Prairie have before it, said Weber.

Unlike the Metropolitan Council, which has projected only moderate growth for the city over the next two decades, Weber foresees a population of 20,000 by the year 2010, from its current 12,000. With that, there will be 150 new households in the city, he predicted.

Comprehensive plans are developed by cities to provide a framework for development, covering such things as housing, transportation, and industrial and commercial development. With it, the city is able to foresee what Shakopee will look like in coming years. It also provides a glimpse of some decisions that will have to be made.

For example, a major cost for the city in the 1990s will be the extension of city sewer lines south of the future Shakopee Bypass, said Weber.

And the bypass itself will play an important part in the city’s developments. For example, Marschall Road will become a major retail corridor near its connection to the bypass, according to the plan.

The report also suggests that a city hall be built near the downtown, where it would serve as a “civic center” for the community, said Weber. (A city task force is now studying possible sites for a recommendation to the city council.)

Audience members offered a wide range of comments and suggestions. There was concern that County Road 18 not be made into a major highway connection to County Road 42. A group of senior citizens asked that more housing and services be made available for the elderly. Some talked about the need for biking and hiking trails. And former Planning Commission chairman John Schmidt offered a lengthy presentation outlining his concerns, ranging from providing enough acreage for retail growth to the design of parking areas at school athletic fields.



The Two Bens baseball team in 1915. The Two Bens represented Ben Gellenbeck’s Auto Lunch Parlor and Ben Mertz’s Sanitary Barbershop.