

# Remember When

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Volume I, Issue IX

September 2015

## 125 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Courier*

Sept. 5, 1890

Thos. Pinches has taken charge of the Peavey elevator, opening on Monday. He ought to be a good man for the business, owing to his former experience in wheat.

Sept. 12, 1890

The Cornet Band played some of their finest pieces, at their practice in the opera house, on Wednesday night, and the Courier office got the benefit of it without charge. When they got on to those old army pieces, we just got up and danced. Come often—we're with you, nightly.

Sept. 19, 1890

Jerry McNerny on Saturday last, met with great loss the destruction of his separator by fire, which also consumed six stacks of grain belonging to John Scharf. Which is rough all around.

Sept. 26, 1890

Billy Marble at the Opera House three nights commencing Monday night Sept. 29.

## 125 Years Ago: From the *Scott County Argus*

Sept. 5, 1890

School in the Union district opened on Monday morning with an attendance of ninety. Miss Reid is principal, and Misses McLeod and Flaherty have the same departments they had last year.

Sept. 12, 1890

Miss Florence Burtis will organize a children's chorus class in vocal music in Shakopee this month, she will also continue her class in instrumental music.

Sept. 19, 1890

A team, wagon and set of harness belonging to A. S. Bailif, of Bloomington, were stolen early Sunday morning. The horses did not have shoes on and were tracked to within a short distance of the Shakopee bridge, on the north side of the river, where the tracks could not be followed. It is thought that the team did not cross here but went into Carver county.

Sept. 26, 1890

John Spielman has moved into town and is occupying Mr. Parker's tenement. Mr. Spielman's father has rented his farm and expects to move into town.

## 100 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Tribune*

Sept. 3, 1915

S. W. Pinches has received an appointment, under civil service rules, to the State Grain department, and will take up his new duties in a fortnight. "Sid's" host of friends rejoice with him in his preferment, and are only sorry that his new field of work will cause him to make his future home in Minneapolis. For twenty years past Mr. Pinches has been at work in this city, except for one short interval, buying grain, most of the time for L. Christian & Co., and his experience will make him a valuable man for the department.

Sept. 10, 1915

Chief of Police John J. Doody is collecting dog-tax again this year, by direction of the city authorities, and the Tribune will publish a list of the people who pay it when the job is completed. The last collection of dog-tax in town was two years ago, when some who objected to the double tax sought to make a test case for the decision of the Courts; but the matter was not presented and the extra tax "goes" still, and probably is a legitimate scheme of taxation. However, the poll tax, which had the merit of getting at least a little out of every male adult for the support of the government, was abandoned years ago; and the dog-tax may one day be regulated likewise to the things of the dim and distant past.

Sept. 17, 1915

### One More Unfortunate

The girls of the Senior class this year will get a credit for music. Modern ideas of what constitutes education have left the old days of the birch rod and the three R's way in the lurch.

### Interested in Shakopee's history?

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**Shakopee's Heritage**

Details at [shakopeeheritage.org/volunteers-membership.html](http://shakopeeheritage.org/volunteers-membership.html)

**Sept. 24, 1915**

A stranger by the name of John Fontaine, while intoxicated was creating a disturbance at the St. Paul hotel Wednesday morning. Chief of Police John Doody was called to end the trouble and while in the act of quieting Fontaine, the latter drew a knife inflicting a gash about two and one half inches deep in Doody's right side. In self defense Doody grabbed Fontaine's cane and struck him on the head causing a bad scalp wound. Dr. Fischer was called and attended both. Mr. Doody was a very sick man Wednesday, suffering severe pains but at this writing is slowly recovering. Fontaine was taken in charge and locked in the county jail to await further action.

**100 Years Ago: From the *Scott County Argus*****Sept. 3, 1915****Notice To Farmers**

Donald Childs, Scott County's highway engineer, has requested us to urge the farmers the importance of putting their roads in the best condition possible, under the circumstances, this week and the fore part of next by the liberal use of the road drag so that the many people who will no doubt pass through Scott county on their way to the State Fair next week may be more favorably impressed and more generally apprised of the good road spirit that prevails among our people.

**Sept. 10, 1915**

Thomas H. Notermans, proprietor of the building occupied by the postoffice, has generously had installed new fixtures, new desks, new letter and newspaper cases, everything new and of steel construction, for the benefit and convenience of both Postmaster Hirscher and the patrons of the office. The case itself is about seven feet high with a top railing that reaches to the ceiling. It is of convenient design and consists of 320 call boxes, 243 combination lock boxes and 20 double capacity combination lock boxes, a general call window, information window and a large money order, registry, parcel post and postal saving window, the whole making a very handsome and useful fixture, and with the convenient arrangement of it Shakopee has the finest little postoffice in the valley.

**Sept. 17, 1915****Board of Control Visits Our City**

Last Tuesday morning the Minnesota State Board of Control consisting of C. J. Swendsen, Charles E. Vasaly and R. W. Wheelock and three members of the State Board of Visitors including Mrs. Stewart of St. Cloud, Mrs. Kinney of Minneapolis and Mrs. Moore of St. Paul came to Shakopee for the purpose of looking over the various sites upon which options had

previously been secured by the local committee, suitable for the location of the State Reformatory for women to which the *Argus* in several former issues has referred.

Arriving here on the 10:58 Omaha the two visiting boards and the local committee composed of the following ladies and gentlemen, Mrs. E. Southworth and Mrs. W. F. Duffy and Julius A. Coller, J. B. Ries, Henry Mergens, Col. G. L. Nye, C. T. Buchanan, Theo. Weiland, M. A. Deutsch, Dr. H. P. Fischer, J. C. Linhoff, Mayor J. J. Moriarty, H. P. Marx, C. G. Bowdish, J. J. Lehnertz, H. C. Schroeder and W. F. Duffy boarded six automobiles generously furnished by Miss Elizabeth K. Ries, Messrs. Weiland, Linhoff, Schroeder, Nye and Dr. H. P. Fischer for the occasion and the party started on its mission.

The first viewed was the Aug. Koeper site, then the Heller and Wampach site, the Pond site, the T. J. Condon site. By that time the dinner hour had arrived and the visitors repaired to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Julius A. Coller where a sumptuous dinner was served.

Starting out again after dinner, the party was joined by Mrs. Julius A. Coller and son Jack and A. M. Strunk and the following sites were viewed in order named: James Condon's, Muches', Vierling's, Linhoff and O'Dowd's and Rielander's, nine sites in all among which were some of the finest to be found anywhere, and we are of the opinion that the visitors were very much impressed with them and the many advantages that Shakopee has to offer in connection with them.

When all the sites had been seen the visitors were shown where the famous Coral stoves and ranges are being made, the Jacob Ries Bottling Works where some of the products for which that institution is famed were sampled, and then over to Mudcura Sanitarium, the institution that is doing so much for those suffering with rheumatism and kindred diseases. The party was then driven back to the depot in time to catch the 6:45 Omaha for St. Paul.

**Sept. 24, 1915**

The W. R. C. will hold a thimble bee next Tuesday afternoon, September 28, at the home of the president, Mrs. E. Southworth. The guests will include the corps members and their invited friends.

**75 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Argus-Tribune*****Sept. 5, 1940****Vierling Bros. of Eagle Creek, to Quit Farming**

The Vierling Brothers, who are among the most prosperous farmers of Eagle Creek township, this county, have rented their farms and will retire from further active farm duties. Therefore, they will hold a closing out sale in order to dispose of a lot of farm equipment which they will not longer need. They have posters out advertising the sale for next Thursday,

September 12, and they have had inserted a quarter page ad on page seven, of this issue. Argus-Tribune readers who may be interested will doubtless turn to it before they lay the paper away.

**Sept. 12, 1940**

#### **Newly Finished Hangar at NYA To Be Dedicated**

Tomorrow evening, Friday, September 13, the newly completed airplane hangar at the NYA Camp will be dedicated with ceremonies appropriate to the occasion. The boys at the camp are proud of their hangar, and we believe justly so. It contains one plane, which the NYA boys have been working on. This will be on exhibition for those visitors who may be interested.

The boys have informed the Argus-Tribune that as a climax to the occasion a dance will be staged in the hangar. For this the services of The Showboat Entertainers have been secured, and a good time is promised all who may enjoy tripping the light fantastic. The boys have sponsored several successful dance programs previous to this one and there is no reason to believe that the one they are preparing for tomorrow evening will be other than successful. There will be no admission charge, and cordial welcome is extended to all.

**Sept. 19, 1940**

#### **"That Water Tank Is Plenty High," Painter Says.**

Down from a lettering job on the ball of Shakopee's new 250,000-gallon water tank, Ed Fonnier, Shakopee sign painter, remarked "That tank is plenty high."

After painters had finished the aluminum coat Fonnier lettered the word SHAKOPEE on the ball. The letters, he said, are four feet, eight inches in height and combine to make a sign 28 ½-feet long.

The new tank was put into service Tuesday after an all-night pumping job. Increased pressure throughout the city's water system resulted in minor breaks in house water pipes and one major one at the Rock Spring bottling plant where a 6-inch gate valve let go, flooding a tunnel under the street.

Cutting over from the old tank to the new was accomplished with a minimum of difficulty despite the fact the job entailed many knotty problems.

**Sept. 26, 1940**

#### **Warren Stemmer, 19 Gets Chance at "Big Time"**

Warren Stemmer, 19, Shakopee high school graduate this spring, stole the show in the Eden Prairie-Shakopee clash in first round tourney play Wednesday afternoon, when he tallied a homerun on a lusty clout over the right-field fence.

The homer climaxed a brilliant season for young Stemmer who, it is generally conceded, has the possibility of a more luminous future in "big time" ahead.

That he is a "natural" is not only the belief of Shakopee fans but his prowess in the field and at bat has attracted the attention of big league scouts who were here during the tournament when they contacted the boy.

The Minneapolis Millers, the St. Louis Cardinals and the Detroit Tigers, the latter through Walter Kopp, offered contracts to Warren in the hope of securing him for their respective "farms." Because of his absorbing love of the game it was hard for the boy to say no to the scouts, but "no" it is for the present because he is entering St. Thomas college as a freshman. He said "It seems like a dream."

#### **50 Years Ago: From the Shakopee Valley News**

**Sept. 2, 1965**

#### **Now Reigns As TV Show Queen**

Miss Mary Jo Philipp of Shakopee was selected as Queen of the Late Don Dahl show on WCCO-TV last Saturday night, August 28.

She received an attractive trophy and will be appearing on the Late Don Dahl show every Saturday night until her reign is over.

Chosen from a field of five finalists, with the original group of 30 entering the competition a couple of weeks ago, Miss Philipp was selected by the judges as well, as receiving the most number of votes from listeners to acquire the title.

The television viewing audience was requested to send in their votes when the five finalists remained in the contest. Beginning last Saturday, she acquired the title and now reigns as Queen of the Late Don Dahl show on WCCO-TV channel four.

**Sept. 9, 1965**

#### **Special Election Next Tuesday On Changes In City's Charter**

Voters in Shakopee will go to the polls next Tuesday, September 14, to vote on the proposition of sanctioning changes in the Charter for the City of Shakopee.

This special election was unanimously authorized by the Common Council of the City of Shakopee at its August 10 regular meeting to culminate several months' preparation and study of modernization of municipal functions to gain more efficiency in administration and fiscal accounting.

Unchanged for the past 95 years, the City Charter proposals, in effect, incorporate present proven City policies regarding these objectives. In addition, there are included four proposals that will effect definite changes in the operation of the City of Shakopee. They include:

Five aldermen instead of nine with salaries of the mayor and aldermen to be increased. (The five aldermen are to be elected at large, replacing the former three aldermen each from the three wards.)

Eliminated will be expensive City special elections on sales of property, on vacating streets, and on the filling of vacancies in elective offices.

Farm properties of 10 acres or more are to be taxed at one-half of the city's mill rate, in an effort to encourage orderly annexation.

For the first time in the history of Shakopee, the Home Rule privilege of voter referendum is to be extended.

The proposition is to be presented the voters is "Shall the voters of the City of Shakopee approve and accept the provisions of Chapter 183 of the Laws of 1965 relating to the City of Shakopee and providing for the election and salary of council members, for the holding of special elections, for certain budgetary matters, for the conduct of certain of its municipal affairs, and for the taxation of agricultural property within its boundaries."...

**Sept. 16, 1965**

#### **Jaycee Attractions On Gridiron Friday**

Added attraction at the Shakopee High School Indians-St. Anthony gridiron contest tomorrow evening (Friday), September 17, will be the Shakopee Junior Chamber of Commerce special booth in front of the grandstand near home plate in Riverside park, along with a presentation to be made by the new Miss Shakopee, Loane Hickman, at half-time.

The Jaycees will be offering the opportunity of winning two season tickets to the Minnesota Vikings football games right up to half-time. A limited number are also being offered by Jaycee members today and tomorrow. Winner of the two free season tickets to Viking home games award does not have to be present at the game Friday night, but Chairman Joe Theis pointed out it would certainly add to the presentation ceremonies.

Also included in this half-time highlight will be the Shakopee Junior Chamber of Commerce presenting a check to Art Hoen, Shakopee High athletic director, and Superintendent John J. Feda, to be used for the purchase of movie equipment, the project that prompted this Jaycee activity.

The movies, used to record Indian games on film and in team evaluation, have already been first taken at the Indians' opening home contest last Friday with Orono. Theis reports the school plans to purchase this equipment with the proceeds from the Viking ticket promotion being sponsored by the Jaycees.

Chairman Theis urged fans to attend the game and to support this worthwhile project of further high school sports activity. The Jaycees are offering this opportunity for 50 cents each or three for one dollar, with the big grand award of two free season tickets to the Vikings home games, which open on Sunday, September 26, when the Detroit Lions invade Metro-

politan stadium at Bloomington.

**Sept. 23, 1965**

#### **Lockers Damaged At New School Site**

Shakopee police investigated an act of destruction, resulting in delay of locker space available when the school is to be occupied along with hundreds of dollars in damage, that occurred sometime between Sunday evening and early Monday morning at the site of the new Shakopee Public high school under construction on Tenth Avenue.

The Shakopee police have in custody the six juveniles who admitted the destruction.

Reported was that the building was entered with some 520 lockers, to have been installed Tuesday of this week, tipped over and extensively damaged, some with frames twisted and others with paint extensively scratched.

The lockers were being assembled in the gymnasium of the new school and were to have then been installed in the corridor locker recesses on Tuesday.

Superintendent John Feda reported that they will now have to be sent back to the locker company for reconditioning, thus causing the delay in available lockers at the time of occupying the school.

It was determined that entrance was gained through a grating on the roof of the school building.

**Sept. 30, 1965**

#### **Page From Old West Recreated In Scout's Stockade Project To Replace Flooded Cabin**

Shakopee Boy Scouts are currently in the process of recreating a page from the old West. In June the Scouts obtained a lease on the State of Minnesota Reformatory farm buildings, located south of Sixth Avenue, and they are now engaged in remodeling the buildings.

The new location will be officially known as the "Boy Scout Stockade." The buildings and adjacent area will be transformed into a frontier-type stockade fort similar to those used for Indian defense in the pioneering days of our country...

The Boy Scout Troop committee made the decision not to rebuild the former Boy Scout Cabin located in Huber park after it was severely damaged in the 1965 flood. This former Scout building was erected in 1927 by the Scout committee and fathers of the Scouts. The most recent addition was built in 1960 at which time the meeting room size was doubled...

In early May the idea was conceived to look into the possibility of securing the farm buildings on the State Reformatory farm property. By June the lease had been obtained and plans were underway for the Stockade.

Starting point this past summer has been the remodeling of the downstairs of the large dairy building. This building

will form the nucleus of the new Troop Stockade...

The downstairs of the building will have a large meeting room with areas for the six troop patrols and the leaders' staff. One wall of the main building will be covered with a display case for troop trophies. Mrs. E. J. Huber has turned over all of her late husband's scouting mementos to the Boy Scouts and these will also be on display.

The interior of the building will eventually have varnished plywood floors, oak-colored paneled walls, and a white acoustical tile ceiling. The large meeting room will have fluorescent lighting and will also be wired with colored spotlights for programs requiring special lighting effects.

Adjoining the meeting room will be an Indian craft store and supply room and a room for Scout-leader conferences and advancement counseling. Gas heating and rest room facilities are currently being installed.

To date, the construction has included removal of all downstairs dairy equipment, concrete floor, concrete stanchions, and ventilator equipment. Steel beams have been installed to support the building so that now one post can replace the 12 posts which were formerly required to support the building.

A wood floor has been put in for added warmth. The equipment room and conference rooms have been roughed in and the plumbing, heating, and wiring are now being installed...

S. M. Hennen of Shakopee is chairman of the building project. He has designed the structural features of the building as well as doing a considerable amount of the work himself. Working closely with Hennen on the project is Vernon Bjork, also of Shakopee.

## 25 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Valley News*

**Sept. 6, 1990**

### **R & R Marine was nation's top dealer in Crestliner boats over year period**

R & R Marine, located two miles south of Shakopee off of Highway 169, was the largest Crestliner boat dealer in the U.S. between July 1989 and June this year.

It was also only the second dealer to record over \$1 million in sales in Crestliner history, which dates back to the 1940s...

**Sept. 13, 1990**

### **Board seeks moratorium on development near high school**

The Shakopee School Board Monday voted to request that the City Council consider a moratorium on land development south of the high school near Vierling Drive while long-

range plans are made regarding building needs of the school.

As proposed, the moratorium would put a freeze on development of approximately 60 acres for up to 18 months, with the possibility of a one-year extension, according to Bob Loonan, a co-chairman of the Athletic Complex Steering Committee, which is interested in including an athletic complex as part of any school expansion.

Members of that committee, as well as the School Board, are hoping the moratorium would buy the school district, and city, time for development of long-range plans...

**Sept. 20, 1990**

### **Shop project a state fair winner**

Martiqua Post, an eighth-grader at Shakopee Junior High, won a blue ribbon at the state fair for her "teardrop box," a wooden object she made in Roger Koskela's shop class. Post gave the box to her mother, who uses it to hold jewelry.

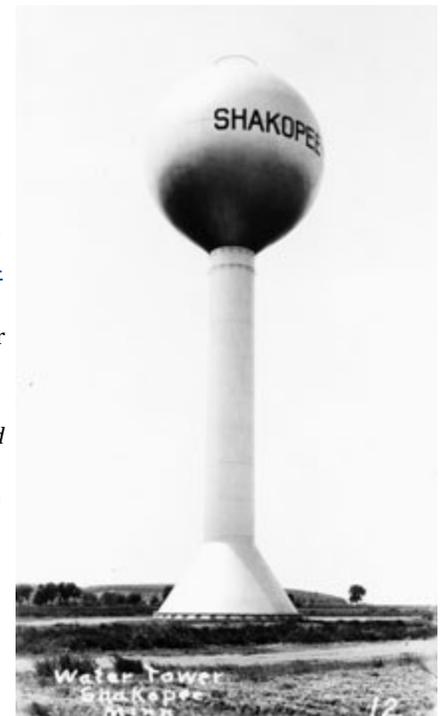
**Sept. 27, 1990**

### **Racing Commission approves televised racing at Canterbury**

At its meeting on Sept. 19, the Minnesota Racing Commission approved a request by Canterbury Downs for televised racing from Oct. 10 through April 19.

Races from Santa Anita, Hollywood Park, Bay Meadows and Golden Gate Fields will be simulcast to Canterbury Downs with common wagering on these races with bettors at the host track. Also approved was the simulcasting at Canterbury on Oct. 27 of the Breeders' Cup from Belmont Park – seven races with the highest total purses in American history...

*The Tenth Avenue and Fuller Street water tower was constructed in 1940. The shape unique for its time, this water tower was featured in an issue of [Popular Mechanics magazine](#) in Dec. 1946. While Popular Mechanics refers to its shape as a "giant mushroom," it was often referred to as a "collar button" shape in issues of the 1940 Shakopee Argus-Tribune.*



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