

# Remember When

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Volume II, Issue IX

September 2016

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

Sept. 3, 1891

Mr. Greenberg has lately been painting up his store inside, and what with good light to show goods, and an accumulating and agreeable proprietor, his Lewis street store should continue to command a large share of the trade in his line.

Sept. 10, 1891

Postmaster Willson informs us that he expects to have a signal service in operation here soon, that the weather flags are daily expected.

Sept. 17, 1891

Good News.—There is a very good prospect of the Roller Desk company being established here. To-night, a mass meeting will be held at Weiland opera house, to consider their proposition. There is also a good prospect of the mill matters being adjusted, so that the Shakopee Flouring Mill will soon be running.

Sept. 24, 1891

### The Minnesota Stove Works, of Shakopee, Minn.

A visit to the stove foundry finds the buildings of the above company are completed and everything is in readiness for the building of the cupola and setting of machinery.

The works are located in the west end, three blocks west of the Union depot on the best factory site in the city, having excellent shipping facilities on both the Milwaukee and Omaha roads.

The buildings are of Shakopee brick the main building being 114 by 150 ft. with a brick annex 23 ft. by 44 ft., all with fire proof roof.

The company is composed of Lazard Kahn of Hamilton, Ohio, and George L. Nye of Marietta, Ohio, both experienced stove men and well known to the stove trade of the United States. The company will be ready to make its "first heat" about November 1st, and propose to manufacture a full line of stoves from the finest Nickle Plated Coal Base Burner, to the common Box Stove, and the whole stove, including all the nickle plating, will be manufactured at these works; the estimated output for the first year is ten thousand stoves, furnishing employment to sixty men.

Their line of goods has been christened the "Coral Line." The "Art Coral" is a beauty and will command a large share of the trade on base burners, and will be ready for the trade by

the middle of November.

The works will be provided with the newest and most approved machinery including a complete nickeling outfit. Mr. Nye, the resident manager, is a pusher, and will without doubt keep this company in the front of the Northwestern stove trade.

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

Sept. 3, 1891

R. J. Chewing has purchased the residence known as the Huntsman place. The consideration was \$1000, and it was a bargain for that sum. The property consists of three acres of land and a large two-story stone house.

Sept. 10, 1891

There are eight soldiers and an officer from Fort Snelling camped across the river. They are out after recruits. If there is any young man here who has lost all ambition and has a desire to wear blue clothes with brass buttons now is his grand opportunity.

Sept. 17, 1891

Shakopee now has about all the manufacturing enterprises that it can accommodate until more houses are provided for workingmen. The next thing to receive the city's attention should be a system of waterworks by tapping Riley's Lake; efficient street sprinkling; electric lights, and a telephone system connected with St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Sept. 24, 1891

Mrs. McGrogan has sold her tenement in the third ward, now occupied by Louis Brown, to Mr. Flavell. Mr. Brown will move into the house on First street known as the "Lusk place."

### Interested in Shakopee's history?

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**Shakopee's Heritage**

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

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

**Sept. 1, 1916**

Joe Hontz, dealer in rags and junk. Will pay \$5.00 for any kind of scrap iron and the highest prices for any kind of junk. Phone 142C.

**Sept. 8, 1916**

The hot summer has brought about a shortage of ice, and J. B. Heller is of the opinion just now that nobody wants to be the iceman. He has been shipping carload lots, but when the Omaha railway stopped taking shipment of perishable freight, due to the impending strike, he tore his hair in sheer desperation. This week went back to normal, and there is hope of getting thru the rest of the hot weather with comfort to the customers if not to Mr. Heller. He vows he will never again be caught short of ice if it takes all winter to put it up.

**Sept. 15, 1916**

That old barrel which has served as traffic officer for a year past at Bridge square, and recently invaded our neighborhood, has disappeared, glory be. Let's hope it may never return.

**Sept. 22, 1916**

For Sale at a snap. Barn 11x14, with upper floor. Make good garage. H. A. Marx, Phone 269.

**Sept. 29, 1916**

### Little Big Benefactor

At last outside capital has come to Shakopee's rescue in the matter of modern houses for sale or rent. Contractor Walsh has received a contract from Mr. Little of Minneapolis for cement foundations for six new houses to be erected on the hillside south of the Minnesota Stove foundry this fall; and we learn that the present order for six modern homes is but the beginning of a building program of extensive proportions. To those who are interested in Shakopee's growth and progress, this is joyful news, altho it may not so well suit a few landlords, owners of decrepit old buildings now renting for big money because of necessity for some place to live better than a snowbank. Even so, it is likely that all the homes will be occupied, whether modern or ramshackle, for the old town wants to grow and will just as fast as houses are provided to be occupied.

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

**Sept. 1, 1916**

The school building in District No. 41 is receiving a coat of stucco and undergoing extensive repairs in preparation for the opening of school next week. Misses Margaret Hirscher and Esther Ring comprise the teaching staff.

**Sept. 8, 1916**

### Auto Stolen on Street During Fair

A brand new six-cylinder five passenger Buick car belonging to Jacob Geis of Marystown was stolen from First street at 8:30 o'clock Saturday evening while crowds of visitors were in town attending the fair.

Mr. Geis had parked his car at John Berens' store and locked it. Returning shortly after he found it missing and reported his loss to Sheriff Kopp. The latter telephoned the St. Paul chief of police to watch for it and Sunday evening received word from St. Paul that the car had been located back of the old postoffice building on Wabasha street, where two men were seen attempting to remove the number. The thieves escaped when pursued but the sheriff and Mr. Geis went down Monday and brought the car home. The robbery is thought to have been the work of professional thieves.

Mr. Geis had owned the automobile but two weeks and did not know its number which was obtained by Sheriff Kopp from P. T. Donovan, who sold Mr. Geis the car. The latter considers himself very lucky to get his Buick back.

**Sept. 15, 1916**

George Murphy is building a house in East Shakopee adjoining Mrs. Kate Pettet's residence property on the east.

**Sept. 22, 1916**

Peter Schultz of Bloomfield, Walt and Arthur Theis, Theodore and Anloph Veiht motored up from Minneapolis Saturday in the latter's new Ford to attend the sale at the Veiht farm. Mr. and Mrs. Veiht will move to Shakopee as soon as their new home is vacated.

**Sept. 29, 1916**

L. E. Dawson is improving his opera house block by putting a new plate glass front in Wm. Engle's poolroom. Mr. Engel is doing the carpentry.

## 75 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Argus-Tribune*

**Sept. 4, 1941**

### Verkennes' Grand Opening of New Direct Service Station

Henry Verkennes and his son John have just recently completed their new service station at 922 East First Street. Their new station completely modern in design and located adjacent to Mr. Verkennes' residence, is a Direct Service station.

To introduce their new Direct Service station and the methods of operation which the Verkenneses say, will positively obtain, they have planned a grand opening for Saturday, Sept. 6 to which the general public is cordially invited...

**Sept. 11, 1941**

**New Parking System Betters Street. – But Objection Is Raised**

Bringing a marked improvement in the appearance of the street affected, and providing a far greater degree of safety to motorists as well as pedestrians, a system of parallel parking was successfully inaugurated here Friday and Saturday.

Most difficult part of the job, R. L. Brown, police chief said, was getting the first cars parked properly. After a few were in correct position along the curb, he explained, the others naturally followed the example.

That not all businessmen in the affected area are in accord with the new parking provision made mandatory by the State Highway department was indicated Tuesday night when the council received notice that an ordinance, presumably authorizing angular parking, was to be introduced at the next regular meeting of the council.

**Sept. 18, 1941**

**Continues Vital Defense Program**

Continuing its chosen task of arousing public sentiment in support of the current vital program, "The Battle of Production", the Shakopee League of Women Voters, in compliance with the organization's national and state program, will further its activities in that field when members of the local group meet at the public school here at 7:30 p.m., Monday, officers announced this week...

**Sept. 25, 1941**

**Forget-Me-Not Day Saturday!**

The ever onward march of time again brings us Forget-me-not Day. Next Saturday is the day which has been officially set for the disposition of the little forget-me-nots which are worn on that day. These little imitation flowers are fashioned and made by soldiers in hospitals, who, because of their physical condition and handicaps are unable to do much of anything else. They are made by them and offered to the general public without price but in the hope that the receiver will make some donation to the cause promulgated in the interest of all those unfortunate soldiers.

Supervised and directed by the local American Legion Auxiliary, six high school girls have been selected to make the rounds of all business places in the city for the purpose of distributing the little forget-me-not flowers. These girls will also distribute them about town and wherever they may be able to dispose of them.

J. J. Cavanaugh, mayor of the city of Shakopee, respectfully requests that the girls be received kindly and courteously—and to be as generous in their contributions in return for one of the little flowers as they can.

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

**Sept. 1, 1966**

**Organize Citizens' Committee To Further Proposed School**

With some 40 turning out for the first meeting in the Shakopee Public High School library Monday night of this week, the Citizens' Committee to serve in furthering acceptance of the proposed \$690,000 bond issue for the new Edward and Grace Sweeney Elementary School proposed for the southwest sector of the city, was organized, and those present were given details regarding the construction and financing by the school administrators and the school's architect...

**Sept. 8, 1966**

**Plan New Firm**

A new firm, incorporated on August 30, named T J Electric Co., Inc. for the repair, sale and service of electric equipment, appliances and fixtures, is to be located at 238 Lewis Street. Incorporators are Theodore Knutson, RR 2, Prior Lake, Marian Knutson, RR 2, Prior Lake, and John Knittle of Minneapolis...

**Sept. 15, 1966**

**Buys Barber Shop**

Jerry Aronson, 931 South Main, has purchased the former Norm's Barber Shop at 116 South Lewis from Norm Erickson and invites Shakopee area residents to walk in or call for appointments. Erickson and his family have moved to Mankato, where he is now associated with the Minnesota Natural Gas Company. Aronson announces the firm will now be known as Jerry's Barber Shop.

**Sept. 22, 1966**

**Municipal Swimming Pool Plan Given Further Consideration**

Following reports from the respective interested agencies and further discussion on the cost and financing of the project, it was directed that City officials invite representatives of swimming pool construction firms to a meeting in the near future to ascertain if a municipal pool for the proposed \$130,000 is feasible.

This action was taken Tuesday night of this week at an informal meeting of the Common Council of the City of Shakopee held in the Council chambers of the City building with interested persons, representing the Recreation Board, Public Utilities Commission and Planning Commission present.

**Sept. 29, 1966**

**Bonfire Restored To Shakopee Homecoming Fest**

Added highlight this year to the Shakopee Public High School homecoming festivities will be the traditional bonfire,

now being restored after some five years absence.

Tom Door, senior class president, announced his class has received permission to sponsor this traditional, popular activity this year, with the bonfire to be set off tonight (Thursday), September 29, just following the Coronation ceremonies and presentation of Homecoming skits to begin at 7:15 o'clock.

Reigning at the pep rally, highlighted by the restoration of the bonfire, will be the newly chosen Chief Shakopee and his Indian Princess and members of the royal court.

The bonfire is to be at the new Senior High School on Tenth Avenue toward the west end of the school grounds adjacent to the Water Tower skating rink.

The public is urged to join in this homecoming bonfire and pep session.

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

**Sept. 5, 1991**

### **LeRoy Lebens dies at age 73**

LeRoy R. Lebens, 73, Shakopee, a noted photographer and entertainer, died Monday at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park.

A Shakopee native, Lebens played in dance bands during the 1930s and 1940s and led a jazz trio for 36 years...

Growing up in Shakopee, Lebens began his music career in the seventh grade and played locally and throughout the Midwest.

In 1952 Lebens formed the LeRoy Lebens Trio and played at the old St. Paul House in Shakopee, which later became the Shakopee House.

In 1960 Lebens opened a commercial photography studio in his home, selling wildlife and outdoor photographs and pictures from the studio at the Shakopee House...

**Sept. 12, 1991**

### **Bypass delayed six months over funding**

Bid-letting on two stages of the Shakopee Bypass – and the project's completion date – have been delayed six months due partly to the Shakopee City Council's refusal to contribute more than the \$1 million the city originally pledged to the project.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (DOT) informed Shakopee Public Works Director David Hutton that bid-letting on the second stage of the project, which includes overpasses on county roads 17 and 83, scheduled for February has been pushed back to August. Bid-letting on the third stage, the largest segment of the project that includes the main part of the bypass, was scheduled for November 1992,

but that has been delayed to May 1993...

Hutton said last week he was informed by the DOT that the main reason the bid-lettings were delayed was because the state agency is behind in the right-of-way acquisition process.

**Sept. 19, 1991**

### **Group's goal is to end prejudice, discrimination in schools**

Mention the words "multicultural gender-fair" and some people will think it is an ethnic event they can attend.

Although those words mean much more than attempts to instill an appreciation of culture, Ron Zimmerman, chairperson of Shakopee's Multicultural Gender-Fair Steering Committee (more commonly known as "MGCF"), said the perception is not entirely inaccurate...

Over the years, the district has been concerned about racial, gender and disability issues and has been working toward providing equal access to all students, according to Ronald Ward, director of administrative services and group facilitator for the MCGF Steering Committee...

The MCGF plan is broad and sweeping in scope, covering six years (1990-96), with each year having a different emphasis. For example, this year's emphasis will be on sexual harassment laws and curriculum. Future emphasis topics will be race, abilities, and family structures...

**Sept. 26, 1991**

### **Task force says city should buy land for facilities**

A task force has recommended that the city of Shakopee purchase land behind the high school for the possible future site of facilities for community activities, and to later sell a portion of the land to the school district for school expansion.

An analysis of the city's needs and recommendations relating to athletic and other facilities were presented Sept. 17 to the City Council, which referred the issue to the council's next committee of the whole meeting.

The task force focused its analysis on a 160-acre parcel south of the high school, which is under a temporary development moratorium imposed by the city. The moratorium was approved last spring at the request of the Shakopee School District, which needed time to consider a proposal to expand the high school. It also allowed the city time to determine the location of roads and a drainage ditch for future development in the area. The property is owned by Gold Nugget Development Inc...

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