

SOUVENIR
DAVISON COUNTY
COURT HOUSE

INCLUDING A BRIEF DAVISON
COUNTY HISTORY

Dedicated Labor Day
Monday, September 6th, 1937
Mitchell, South Dakota



W.L. COMSTOCK
TREASURER



BERTHA SLADE
REG. OF DEEDS



GEO. CARLSON
AUDITOR

O.C. THOMPSON
JUDGE



L.W. TOBIN
CORONER



LUCY CONDRAN
CLERK OF COURTS



E.K. MATHER
SURVEYOR



MAMIE GRACE
SUPT. OF SCHOOLS



TOM CALLAN
SHERIFF



L.E. NAVIN
STATES ATTORNEY

COUNTY OFFICERS, 1925-1927



ANDREW ELLWEIN



JOE LOEVINGER



J.J. RATHJE



FRANK MCGOVERN
CHAIRMAN



GEORGE BAUER



G.J. METZGER



FRED M. HOHN

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, 1932-1938
SUPERVISING CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COURT HOUSE

THE NEW DAVISON COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

The hopes and desires of the citizens of Davison county for a new home in which to conduct the business of the county has at last been realized. For years the county commissioners have been looking forward to the time when a new building would be a reality, and by levying a court house fund tax they accumulated funds which were a great help in financing the beautiful building which now graces the court house square. After months of interesting discussion, a petition signed by over 20% of the holders of real property in the county, was presented to the county board, and a resolution was introduced by Commissioner Ellwein calling a special election on October 24, 1933, to vote on the question of bonding the county for \$150,000 for the construction of a jail, office and court building. This was unanimously adopted by the board and the election was held resulting in 1658 votes being cast favoring the project and 1265 opposed. The funds thus provided have been augmented by a grant of about 70,000 from the United States government, and the government has purchased bonds for such additional funds as had to be provided.

Located between East Fourth and Fifth Avenues, one block east of Main Street in Mitchell, South Dakota, this new court house is of unusual architectural interest. It is 79 x 114 feet, with four stories and basement. This court house is one of the most modern and outstanding buildings in South Dakota. The architecture as a whole tends toward the modified vertical, with well defined carved stone accentuating all points of interest as well as the entire skyline.

In construction, the reinforced concrete skeleton has an exterior of Minnesota cut stone, steel windows, cast aluminum spandrels and entrance doors. The interior has terrazzo floors on all stairways and corridors, and walls marble lined to the ceiling, while the office floors are rubber and asphaltic tile. All doors are steel with walnut finish.

A full dual automatic elevator provides convenient access to the different floors where all the county offices

and the court room are located. Additional rooms include a law library, judges' offices, jury rooms, sheriff's quarters, memorial room, museum and a dozen or more unassigned office spaces in addition to large storage vaults in the basement

The Court Room, with a 21 foot ceiling height and side walls of walnut, has a new departure in arrangement which places the judge's bench to one corner with the reporters next to the bench and with witness stand on axis of the room, thereby placing the jury box of three rows of seats in much closer proximity to the witness than is usual.

To the rear of the building, as an integral part of the entrance, is a raised Band Terrace. Cost of building complete including equipment is about \$235,000, of which the national government will contribute about \$70,000.

The whole top floor is devoted to the jail. This is modern in all its appointments, and represents the latest devices for handling prisoners safely. The whole building is virtually a vault, in that it is fire proof throughout and equipped, except the court room, with steel or other fire-proof furnishings.

The grounds have been re-graded, and many of the large trees moved to new locations to conform with the requirements of beauty and modern landscaping.

The construction of this building has been under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners as follows:

Mr. Frank McGovern, Mitchell, 1st District, chairman

Mr. George Bauer, Ethan, 2nd District

Mr. G. J. Metzger, Mt. Vernon, 3rd District

Mr. J. J. Rathje, Mt. Vernon, 4th District

Mr. Joe L. Lovinger, Mitchell, 5th District

and the County Auditor, Mr. Geo. W. Carlson.

Mr. Andrew Ellwein was a member of the board and very active in the early days of the project. He retired from the board and was succeeded by Mr. Loevinger.

Mr. Fred M. Hohn is the new member on the board succeeding Mr. Bauer since the completion of the building.

The details, planning and constructing a court house are very technical and difficult. Unless conditions are carefully studied and checked the result is apt to be what one does not want, rather than what he desires. Selecting an architect, approving the plan, letting contracts, checking

the work of the contractors, and being sure that every thing is done to the best interests of the county, is a job that calls for the highest type of efficiency. These men have shown marked ability and have given to Davison County a building second to none within the state.

The building was designed by the associated architects, Floyd F. Kings and Walter J. Dixon. Both are residents of Mitchell. The main contractor was Peter Kuipers, also of Mitchell. The contractor for the heating and plumbing was F. M. McCarthy of Mitchell. The contract for the interior furnishings including the chairs, steel equipment, desks, counters, filing cases and equipping the court room was let to the Mitchell Publishing Company, of Mitchell. The decorating was done by the Mitchell Paint Shop, of Mitchell.

The offices of the various officials of the county are located conveniently throughout the building.

The first floor has the offices of the auditor and treasurer in the east end of the building and adjoining them are the commissioners' rooms and also the highway superintendent, while the register of deeds and the sheriff have offices to the west of the entrance.

The second floor houses the clerk of courts and county judge in the east end and the superintendent of schools and the state's attorney in the west end, with a large community room between the two sets of offices.

The third floor has the Court Room and adjoining it on the east are the offices and library of the circuit judges. To the west are suites of rooms reserved for attorneys' use.

The fourth floor is given over to the men's jail, the women's jail, and living apartments for the jailer.

The basement contains one large room planned for a museum, while the balance of the rooms are for storage, and to house the heating plant.

A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF DAVISON COUNTY

In the Beginning God Created Davison County. Back when the Universe was young, back before God said, "let there be light," back when the earth was "without form and void" God created Davison County.

Again, many times, God recreated it. He caused it to sink, and the ocean covered it. He raised it from the ocean bed, and "God saw that it was good." He made the rains to fall and the winds to blow, and the rivers to flow. And when God looked upon the face of the land He saw the great and mighty Missouri river coming down from the north and flowing through the land with its rushing waters covering the face of this fine county He had made. It was beautiful and majestic and powerful, but it was not just as He wanted it. Over half the face of the continent He spread His mountain of ice, His glacier. God maketh the rain and the snow, the wind and the ice to do His will. And with this sheet of ice He ground to powder the mountains. He transported the silt and the sand and the gravel, and He pushed the majestic river a hundred miles to our west and left Davison County with undulating plains, sloping hills, pretty lakes and life giving streams, wealth of fertile lands, and sand, and gravel, and grasses, and grains, and flowers, and clouds and sunshine, and streams and woods, and fishes, and birds. God fitted it for man. And God looked upon His work and behold, "He saw that it was good."

How long ago? We do not know. For fully six thousand years we know the history of some parts of the world. We have no reason to think that Davison County was not smiled upon by sun and stars during all of these historic years. But it has been little more than fifty years since we have taken advantage of Gods gifts to men and come to our inheritance. Over these plains, the bison and the elk, the deer and antelope, the bear and the wolf, the coyote and the fox, the eagle and the buzzard have roamed or flown. Davison county was a good place for all of these.

It was a good place for the Indian. It has proved a good place for civilized man.

Early History.

England claimed Davison County by right of discovery of lands adjacent to her, (meaning the outskirts of New York and New Jersey).

Spain claimed our county by virtue of the expedition of Francisco Vasquez Coronado, whose expeditions came north and west into Kansas, Oklahoma, and Colorado, in 1541.

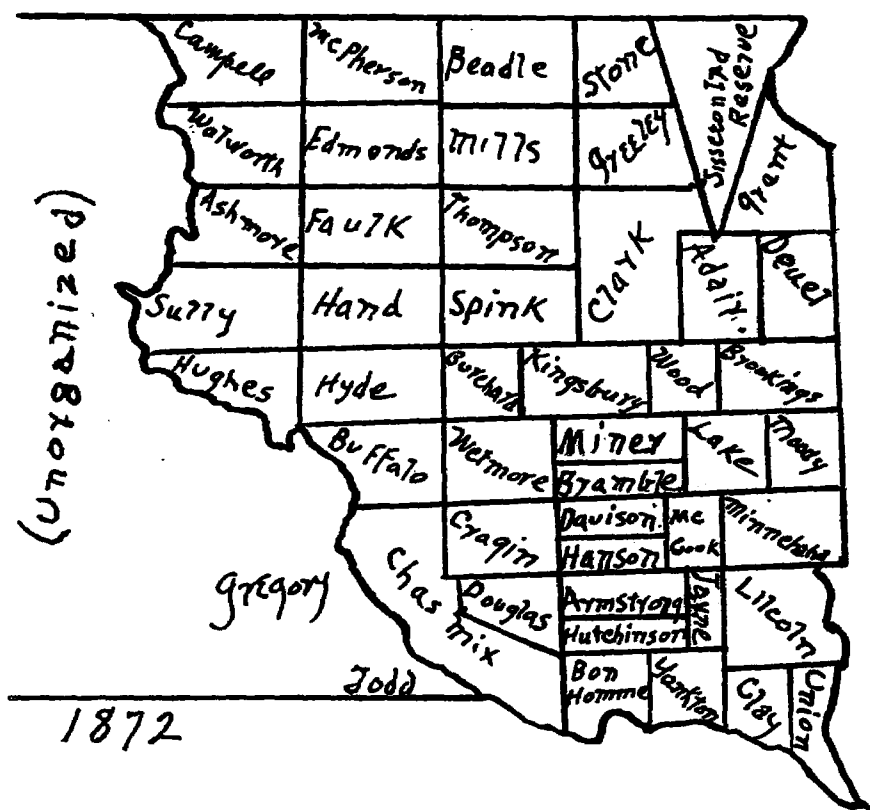
The French claimed the county by virtue of explorations through Canada to the west, during the 17th and 18th centuries, and especially by the expedition of Verendrye, in 1743, during which the lead plate was planted near Fort Pierre.

This county, along with all territory west to the Mississippi River was ceded by France to Spain in 1762. In 1800 Spain sold the whole tract back to France.

In 1803 France sold Davison County to the United States for \$7,826.21, a little less than three cents per acre. Along with this purchase the rest of South Dakota, North Dakota and in fact, most of the states west of the Mississippi River except Washington, Oregon, and California, were included. This county became a part of several territories during the next few years. It was an integral part of Louisiana from 1805 to 1812. Then successively a part of Missouri, in 1834 a part of Michigan, in 1836 a part of Wisconsin, in 1838 a part of Iowa, in 1849 a part of Minnesota, from 1858 to 1861 it was a part of no named territory, embracing South and North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and a few townships of Nebraska. In 1861 it was a part of the Territory of Dakota, and in 1889 a part of the State of South Dakota.

Location and Name.

The legislature of 1873 established some twenty-three counties whose names are now counties of the state, and several others whose names have been superceded by other names. Previous to that date only a fringe of counties on the south and east had been established, namely, Bon Homme, Yankton, Clay, Union, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Brookings and Deuel. But that year the whole territory east of




SOUTH DAKOTA COUNTIES AS FIXED BY LEGISLATURE OF 1872

the river was laid out in counties. Many of the names of the counties created that year bear the names of prominent citizens of the territory; Beadle, for W. H. H. Beadle; Campbell, for Hon. N. B. Campbell, of Scotland; Clark, for Hon. Newton Clark; Edmunds, for Ex-Governor Newton Edmunds; Faulk, for Ex-Governor Andrew J. Faulk; Hand, for Hon. George H. Hand, Territorial Secretary; Hughes, for Hon. Alexander Hughes, a legislator in 1873; Hyde, for Hon. James Hyde, a legislator of 1873; Kingsbury, for George W. and T. A. Kingsbury, brothers, legislators of 1873; Davison, for Hon. Henry C. Davison, an early resident of Bon Homme County.

As we might expect, many of the counties carved out at that time had to be recarved. No railroads were laid out in this part of the territory. It was not possible to anticipate where towns would be located, and in those days a town was of little account except as a postoffice if there was no railroad passing through. It is always desirable to have a county seat accessible to the citizens of the county, and before the days of the auto, a county seat was best located if near the center of population. So in establishing the counties in the session of 1873 many errors were made which were corrected later. The Davison county of that day is not the Davison county of today, except in part. Then the county was composed of what is now the north half of Hanson county and what is the north and east two-thirds of Davison county. We attach a map of the counties of the state as they were following the legislative session of 1873. Note that Beadle county was then where northern Brown county is now; the counties of Stone, Ashmore, Mills, Greely, Thompson, Adair, Burchard, Westmore, and Bramble, exist no more. Armstrong then, what is now the northern part of Hutchinson, has moved over the river west of Potter. The hastily prepared division of the state into counties was probably prepared by the legislature of 1873, with a view to making county names a monument to themselves, rather than waiting until the need developed in such a way as to accurately outline the boundaries to fit the needs of the inhabitants.

But legislators are supreme. The counties as made were legal counties, and in July of the following year, 1874, Davison county was organized. It was a strip of land two

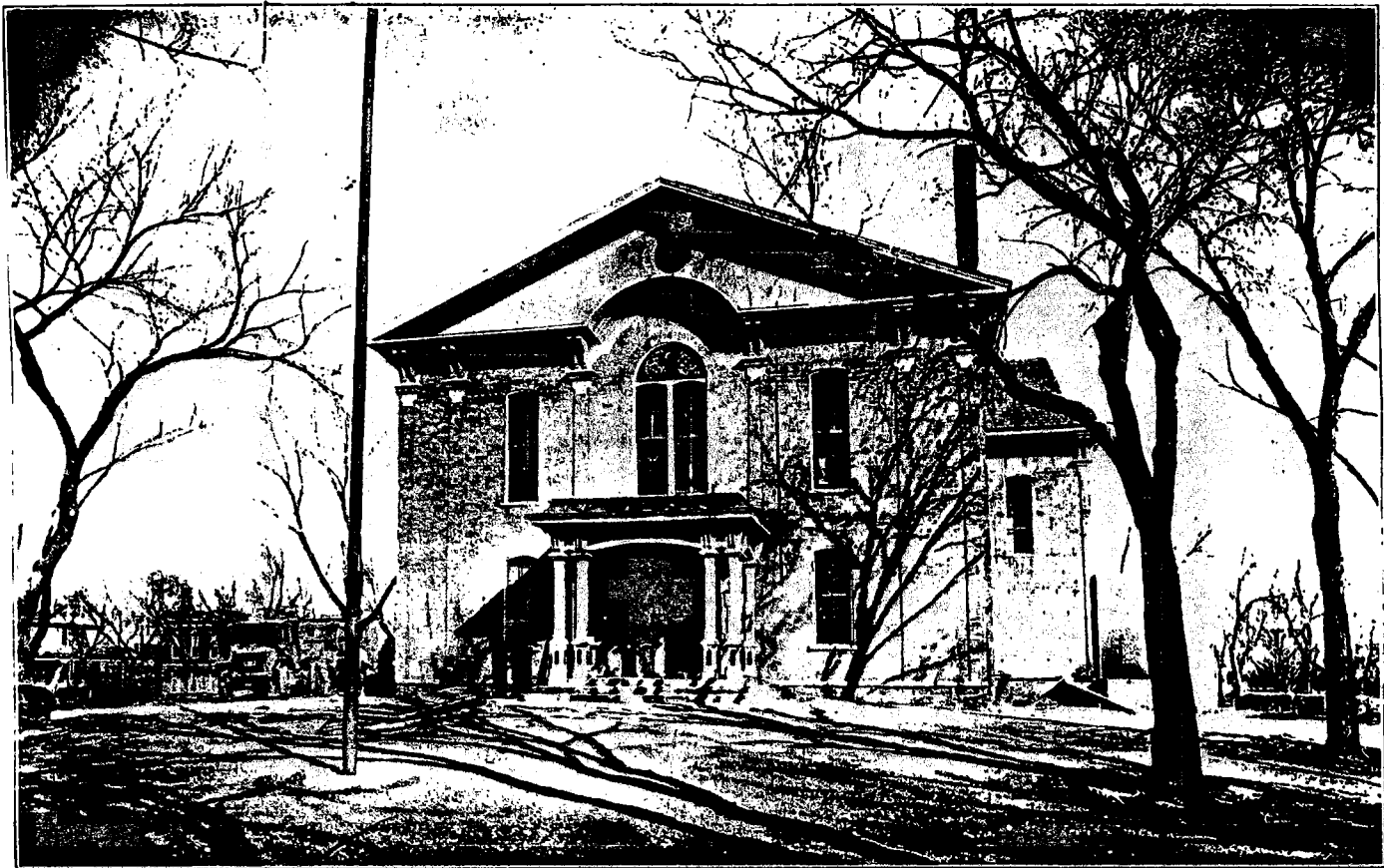


townships wide, north and south, beginning on the east line of what is now Hanson county and extending west thirty miles. This strip of land contained ten townships. The settlement of the county was begun two years earlier, 1872, by John Head and H. C. Green, who had "built houses" by preparing "dugouts." County government was principally a name. It was however a start for a considerable government as the years sped. In 1874, the date of the organization of the county, there were recorded but twenty-one voters in the whole county. It is probable this number is not accurate. The population, while not recorded, could not have been more than fifty, and probably less. The voters, as recorded, were as follows: H. Morris, C. Morris, Thomas Watson, R. P. Cady, J. Head, Rev. John Morris, H. C. Green, R. Alterton, Major Israel Green, L. Hain, M. C. Baker, G. Baker, A. J. Curtis, J. Platt, S. Platt, L. Lowell, George F. Allen, Perry Tyrrell, Charles Saunders, Pete Kremer, a blacksmith, and Thomas Watson.

The first commissioners appointed by the governor were: J. Head, L. Hain and J. Platte. The county seat was at Firesteel, and the commissioners met in the home of H. C. Green, who was Register of Deeds. The first election of officers took place in the fall of 1874 and resulted as follows: Commissioners, John Head, R. P. Cady, and L. W. Lowell; Register of Deeds, Thomas Watson; Sheriff, L. Hain; Clerk, R. F. Alterton; Treasurer, Judge of Probate, and Superintendent of Schools, Rev. J. Morris.

In 1873, H. C. Green built a frame house, hauling the lumber from old Bon Homme, where a saw mill had been erected and native trees were being sawed into lumber. This house of Mr. Green's was used for private residence, hotel, church and courthouse, as the need developed.

1874 to 1879 were years of waiting, marking time, as one may say. Some of the early settlers moved away. A few more came to take their places. But not much could be done. There was almost no property to tax, so little or nothing could be done in the way of making public improvements, building bridges and grading roads. There was no railroad building nor any immediate prospects of such. But in 1879 things changed. A boom had started. Settlers began to come "west" and settle in and around



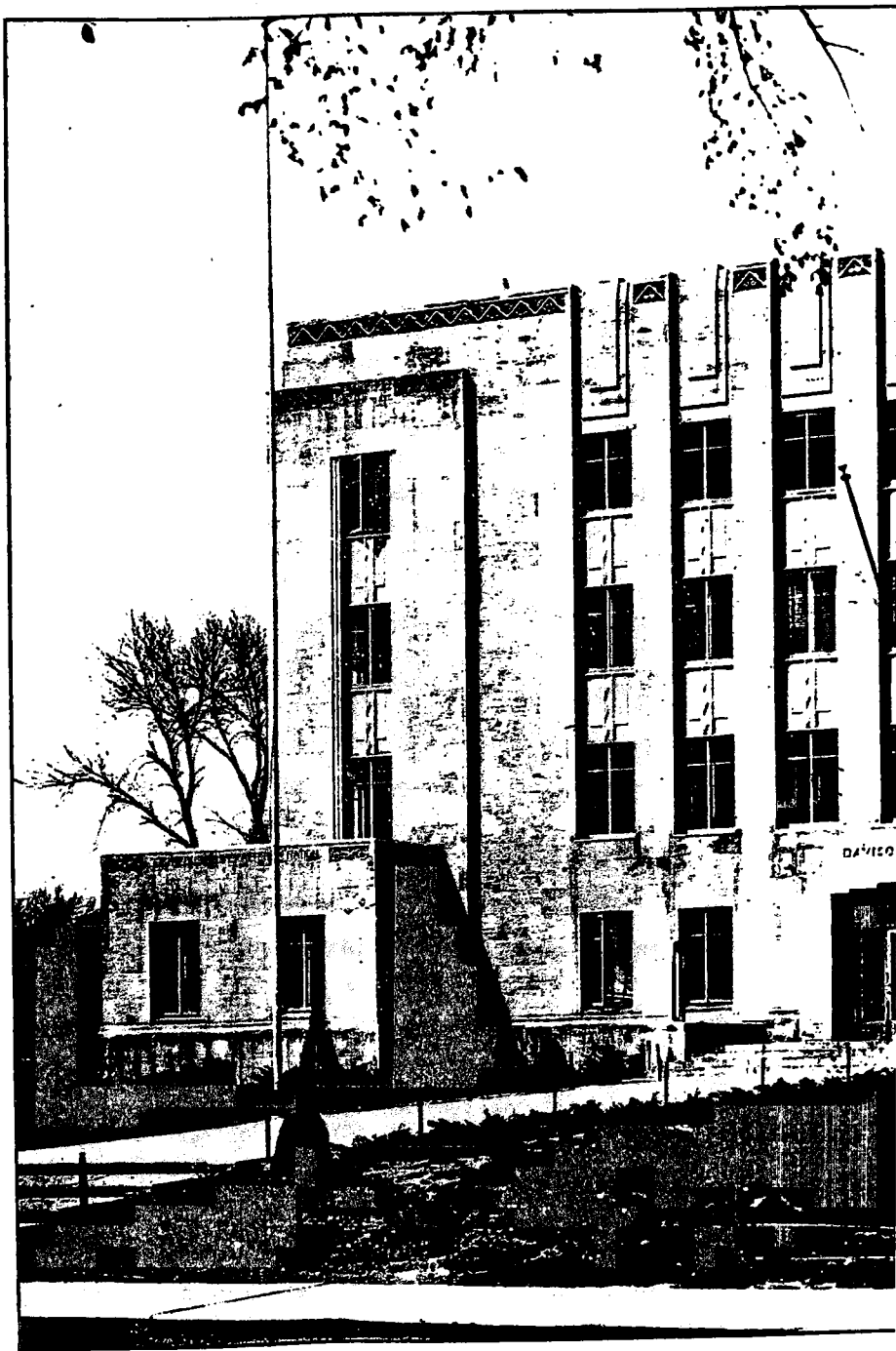
OLD DAVISON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

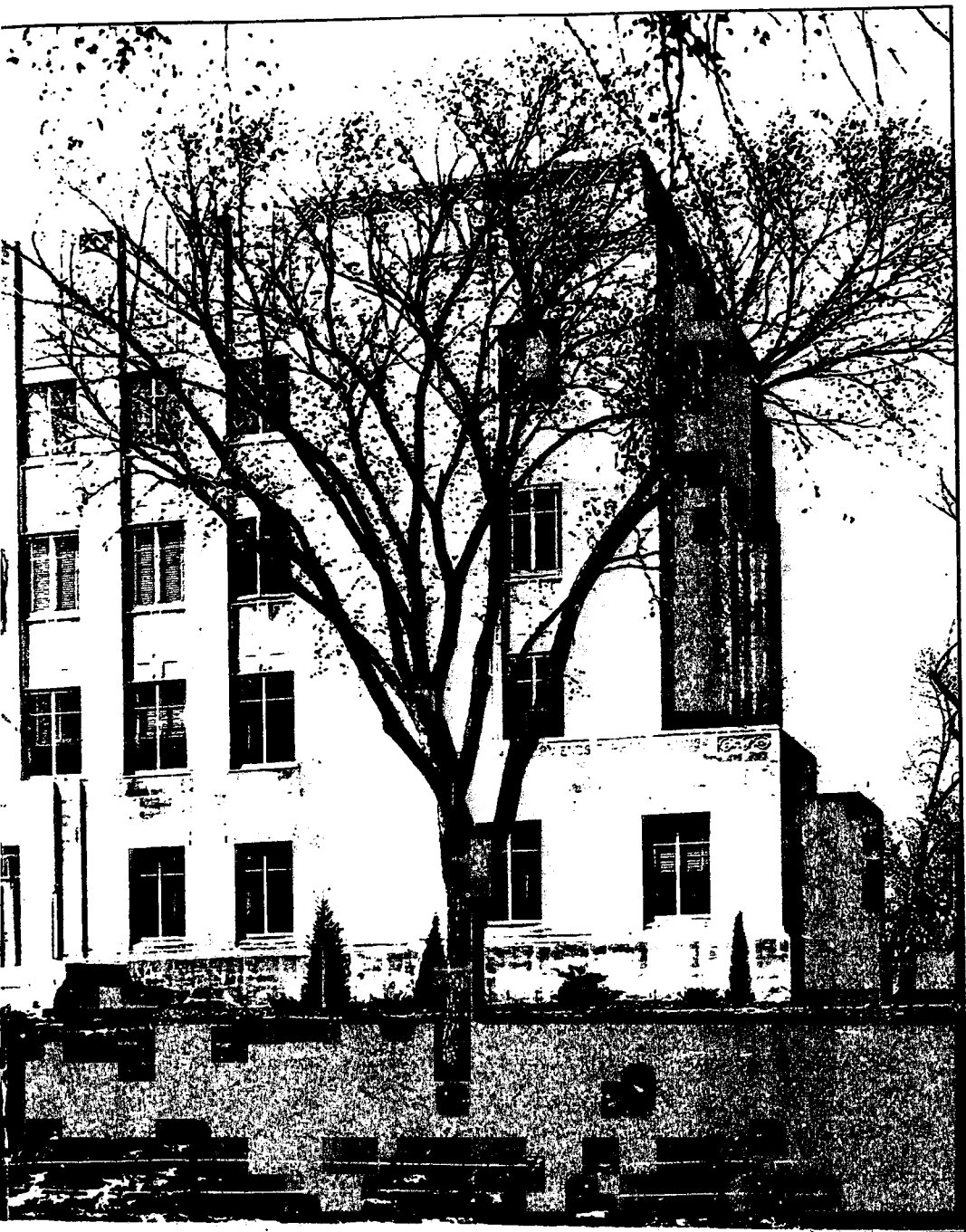
Davison county. Land could be secured free for the asking, (and living on it).

Two railroads were headed for the county, one coming from Yankton, the other from Sanborn, Iowa. Firesteel was the county seat but its location did not suit the townspeople of the Milwaukee railroad, and a new location two miles west was selected and the town called Mitchell, in honor of the president of the Milwaukee road, Mr. Alexander Mitchell. In 1880, the county seat was moved from Firesteel to Mitchell. The boom continued in 1880-81, and reached its climax in 1882. By 1882, nearly every quarter of land in the county was taken, and the citizenship had increased to make a respectable county population. Many of the settlers lived on land and were in business in small towns near their homes.

At the legislative session of 1881, two bills were passed regarding the boundaries of Davison county. Chapter XLVI undertakes to define the boundaries of McCook, Hanson and Davison counties. The first two are defined accurately while the boundaries of Davison are indefinite and impossible. The other, Chapter XLII, has to do with the boundaries of Hanson, Davison, and Aurora counties. In this law were two propositions. One was that the two counties of Hanson and Davison as then constituted, should be joined as one county and named Hanson county. The second proposition was that the territory of the then two counties be increased by adding four townships to it adjoining them on the west and that then the counties be divided by a line due north and south giving each county the same number of townships, namely, twelve.

These propositions were put to the people for vote. The proposition to combine the two counties as Hanson county lost in both counties. The people of the two county seats, Alexandria and Mitchell, knew consolidation would eliminate one county seat. The law made Alexandria the county seat, but a vote might take it to Mitchell. Mitchell on her part, saw that the law cut her out as a county seat and did not dare to risk winning in an election. The second proposition therefore won and Davison county was permanently created.





Chronicles of our Great Men.

In our dearly loved Book of Books we learn that Adam was the first man. It appears that he was subject to influence by the so-called weaker sex. History of our great men are not so complete. But we have had men in our county who have influenced its destiny. And after all, the history of most men, in so far as it interests all other men, is written in three words, "born, lived, died."

We have recorded above the twenty-one voters of the county in 1874. There is but one of all that number who is yet among us. A. J. Curtis is that man. From the earliest times, A. J. Curtis has been a prominent man of Davison county. July 3, 1875, Mr. Curtis was appointed sheriff of the county to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Levi Hahn, and as sheriff served the first legal papers served in the county. In 1881, Mr. Curtis was one of the county commissioners, living in Davison county in the part which is now Hanson county. Following the vote which gave the county its present shape, Mr. Curtis found it necessary to resign, as he no longer lived in Davison, but in Hanson county. From June 1910 to 1915, Mr. Curtis was again a commissioner of this county. He was also road commissioner, and in all the years from 1874 to the present time he has been one of our most prominent citizens.

It is impossible to give full accounts of those early prominent characters who loyally and during many years worked to advance the interests of the county. But mention should be made of Luke W. Lowell, Levi Hahn and John Head. These three men were our first county commissioners, as recorded in the minutes of the board meeting of July, 1874. The county had been organized somewhat earlier in the year. The minutes of this meeting indicate that some records should come from a Mr. Parkhurst, but nowhere is there a minute that such records were received. In April, 1875, Levi Hahn was replaced by R. P. Cady. Thomas Watson qualified as commissioner on Jan. 5, 1880, replacing Cady. Jan. 7, 1881, Carl Eilers took the place of John Head.

Following the vote of October 11, 1881, in which the county was established in its present form, two new board members were elected to fill vacancies caused by two commissioners living outside the boundaries of the new county. H. C. Green and Demming McClatchie were appointed.

During the formative years two men stood out prominently as county clerks, R. F. Atherton and J. K. Smith.

It is interesting to note that the salary of the county clerk, or what corresponds to our present county auditor, for the year 1879, was \$40.00. In 1880, the salary rose to \$200.00 per year. In 1881, the salary of clerk, J. K. Smith, had increased to \$300.00 per year.

Our First Court House.

Among pioneer people, ideas, like wheat dropped into the damp and well prepared soil, developed rapidly. By January 1st of 1882, pioneer days, as judged by the men of Davison county, had disappeared and the community became permanent and stable. All government land had disappeared. Two railroads had crossed the county. The county seat had been permanently located at Mitchell. An idea was hatched in the fertile brain of County Commissioner H. C. Green. And he had his idea spread upon the minute book of the county commissioners. It was on January 6, 1882, that a resolution, introduced by Green, passed the board, which reads as follows;

“Resolved that we deem it advisable that suitable rooms be furnished for county purposes, and the only feasible way to perform that service is to build a court house. The same to cost \$20,000. And, Resolved, that the above proposition be submitted to the legal voters of Davison County as the law provides.”

On January 11th, the election was called for February 20th, total cost of the building not to exceed \$20,000.00, and building to be completed before December 31st of 1882. The building was to be paid for in warrants (later interpreted to mean bonds) of the county issued in amounts not over \$500.00 and to bear not more than 7% interest.

A special meeting of the board on February 25th, to canvass the vote recites that there were 264 votes cast for the building of court house and 56 against. There were at the time but three precincts so that the cost of the election was very small.

Commissioner H. C. Green was appointed a committee from the board of county commissioners, and two citizens, F. M. Hammer and S. F. Goodykuntz, were to assist him in selling the warrants, (bonds), and attending to the building of the court house. July 3rd, the contract for

building was awarded to H. H. Calhoun, he also having been the architect. August 26th, H. C. Green reported that he had received an offer for the sale of \$10,000.00 worth of the Court House "bonds" at $\frac{1}{4}\%$ premium from S. F. Goodykuntz and sale was approved. The sale was later cancelled and re-sold to the contractor, H. H. Calhoun. Calhoun proceeded with the building but during the early part of 1883, found himself unable to complete the building. He made a settlement with the county commissioners, they paying him some \$5300.00 and completing the court house under their own supervision. It was near the end of the year 1883, before the building was fully occupied.

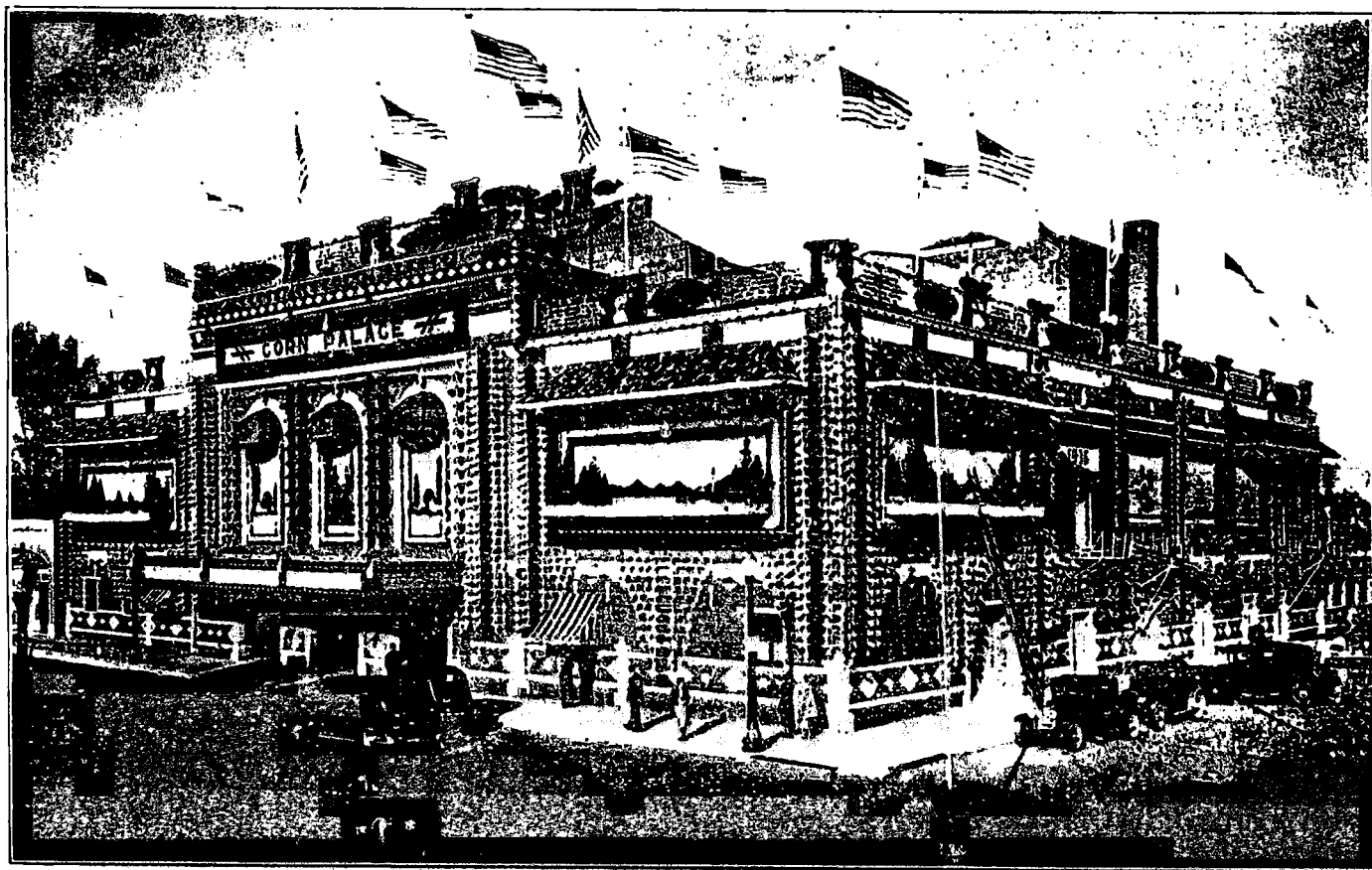
It was however a substantial building and served the county for more than fifty years, not adequately during the last twenty years. Times change. What was a luxury in 1883, was only mediocre in 1900, something to be endured in 1925, and outgrown in 1935.

Mitchell.

Paul was a citizen of "no mean city." There are few of us who will not also claim that we are residents of *no mean city*. It is almost a universal rule that people admire the city or town in which they live.

In the times of the 80's towns and cities were the result of railroad building. Villages would move over night to the location selected for a town. So it was with Mitchell. When the location of the railroad town was determined upon, Firesteel, like a burned out match disappeared. The Town of Mitchell had been established in 1879. May 1, 1880, saw the first train pull into the town. By the close of 1880, Mitchell was the proud possessor of two railroads, and a county seat, which was moved from Firesteel in the fall. Those three were sufficient to insure the growth of the town into that of a city, and prosperity was just ahead. To be more certain of that fact the inhabitants pointed to the transfer from Sioux Falls to Mitchell, on September 21, 1880, of the United States Land Office. This was a great commercial asset as every person who filed on land was required to visit the land office in person, and this land office served a country extending to the Missouri River and well to the north also.

In 1881, the town was incorporated. It very soon grew into the proportions of a city. In 1882, building improve-



WORLD'S ONLY CORN PALACE

ments exceeded \$500,000.00. In 1883, twenty-five business blocks and two hundred houses were erected, and the business of the city was well over \$1,000,000.00. By 1890, the population was above 2,000 and ten years later had grown to more than 4,000.

The Jim River Advocate was published in Firesteel by Cyrus B. Ingham in 1876 to 1878. The Firesteel Mail was founded in 1878 with J. W. Walsh in charge. This paper was discontinued, but later revived and moved to Mitchell.

Since those times other papers have come and gone, and at the date of this writing Mitchell has one weekly paper, the Gazette, and one daily, The Daily Republic.

Since 1882, Mitchell has had a steady and substantial growth, so that now she stands as the third city in the state with a population surpassed only by the cities of Sioux Falls and Aberdeen. Some of the things which have contributed to this success may be catalogued as follows:

The railroad division point of the C. M. St. P. & P., and the terminal of the Omaha.

The repair shops of the Milwaukee.

Dakota Wesleyan University.

Notre Dame Academy.

Mitchell Business College.

Three wholesale grocery houses.

Two Wholesale Motor Equipment Houses.

Several superior dry goods and ladies' ready-to-wear stores.

Two wholesale printing establishments, and several local job shops.

Several splendid men's furnishings and haberdasheries. Bakeries.

The Corn Palace.

Splendid Banks.

Many fine churches.

Insurance agencies.

The County Seat of Davison County.

Two first rate hospitals.

Uncounted high class groceries.

Superior staff of physicians and surgeons.

Wholesale and retail distribution center for all makes of automobiles.

Progressive and public spirited professional and business men and women.

Wholesale distribution plants, for gasoline and oil.

Homes of scores of traveling men.

Packing plant and live stock industries.

Concrete products companies.

Dairy industries and butter factories.

Wholesale ice cream factories.

Poultry dressing and egg shipping plants.

Chick hatcheries.

Department stores

Machine repair shops.

Grain dealers.

Wholesale seed warehouses.

Wholesale and retail furniture establishments.

Grade and high schools.

Municipal air port.

Mitchell has never experienced what may be called a boom. Her growth has been a steady constant development. Even in the depression years her homes and store buildings have been in demand and her population has increased regularly at every census. Now, in 1937, she supports nearly ten miles of paved streets, and most of her other streets are graveled so as to insure comfortable travel in all weather. She has systems of sanitary and storm sewers, a disposal plant, adequate water system, a fire department, a splendid city hall, jail, city public library, beautiful parks, municipal and private golf links, municipal bowling lawn, tennis courts, and other recreational facilities.

Two miles to the north of the city, but a part of the city, is the beautiful Lake Mitchell. This is a lake made by the damming of the Firesteel creek. The main paved highway No. 37 passes over the dam. There are private and municipal bathing beaches, and many summer cottages are located near the lake shore. The land adjacent to the lake is under the direction of the City Park Board and 15,000 trees have been planted and are growing into beautiful groves which will soon shade the thousands of groups which will make these parks their picnic grounds.

In addition to other recreational features, Dakota Wesleyan University and the City Board of Education

maintain athletic fields. The latter has its field lighted for evening games of football, or other athletic events. The Mitchell Baseball Association also has its field lighted for evening baseball.

The Post Office in Mitchell, corner Fourth Avenue and Lawler Streets, in addition to postal force, houses the Deputy Revenue Collector, Biological Survey, Educational Extension Department, Farm Credit Bureau and Recruiting Agency.

A resident United States Commissioner furnishes contact with U. S. Department of Justice.

There is a state highway superintendent and state highway patrol resident in Mitchell.

WORLD'S ONLY CORN PALACE

Starting back in 1892, as a unique venture in entertainment and for the purpose of advertising the town, the World's Only Corn Palace, situated at the corner of East Sixth and North Main Streets in Mitchell, continues as interesting and attractive to the thousands of visitors attending each year as did the first celebration.

Known in the early days as the Corn Belt Exposition, the name was changed to Corn Palace in 1905.

The first building was frame of Persian architecture with many turrets and towers, decorated inside and out with varied colors of corn.

Three men have figured in the artistic decorative scheme which has continued to differ in design each year. Colonel Rohe of St. Louis, Mo., prepared the designs until 1905. Dr. Floyd Gillis took over the work until 1924, and William Kearney has furnished the plans since then until the present. Gillis and Kearney are both native sons.

The Corn Palace is primarily a palace in which to give an entertainment. The original purpose was to advertise the possibilities of this part of South Dakota as a corn growing country. At present its purpose is mostly giving entertainment to the community.

In 1921, the present fireproof palace was built at a cost of \$300,000 and has a seating capacity of 5,000. It is city owned and one of the largest auditoriums in the state. Every notable band in the United States has been heard in the Corn Palace including the U. S. Marine in 1909, which came from Washington on a special train.

Notable speakers have been Theodore Roosevelt, W. J. Bryan, Mark Hanna, William H. Taft, E. W. Chafin, Robert M. LaFollette, Chas. Evans Hughes, General Leonard Wood, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Hiram A. Johnson, James W. Cox, Herbert Hoover, Senator W. A. Borah, Ruth Bryan Owens, Dolly Curtis Gann, and many other prominent persons.

The Corn Palace is also used for conventions, rural school music festivals, basketball tournaments, the President's birthday ball, and many other important functions.

Pictures of the Mitchell Corn Palace have been published in England, France, Germany and Japan, in newspapers, magazines, school books, on letterheads, circulars and envelopes.

MOUNT VERNON

Mount Vernon, is a city about 12 miles west of Mitchell. Originally known as Arlandton, in honor of C. H. Arland, the first settler, from whom a portion of the townsite was procured. At the request of the Postal Department the name was changed to Mt. Vernon. The name Arlandton seemed, for postal purposes in conflict with Arlington.

In 1881, there were thirteen voters living within the radius of Mt. Vernon. The town grew rapidly. A newspaper called the Gazette was established June 29, 1882, by John H. Pease.

In 1883, the Methodist denomination erected a building and a fine school was built the same year.

The disastrous fire occurred in 1889. Starting 14 miles northwest and fanned by a sixty mile gale it completely destroyed the town. But in rebuilding Mt. Vernon had the advantage of a better and more substantial type of buildings. At the present time Mt. Vernon is one of the better small towns of the state, and enjoys a splendid trade from a wide territory, especially so toward both the north and south.

There are three general stores, handling complete lines of provisions and merchandise—really department stores on a small scale, a high class drug store, a well equipped hardware store and a private telephone exchange which serves a large number of patrons. There are four grain

elevators and a feed mill. The light plant is under the supervision of the Northwestern Public Service Co.

The streets are gravelled, and sewer and water systems are adequate. There are many lovely modern homes and a Public Library with 2500 volumes.

ETHAN

Ethan, 12 miles south and 2 miles east of Mitchell, is situated in the southeastern part of Davison county.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul was built into the town in 1880, and the first store opened by C. W. Gillis (now of Mitchell) who purchased the first lot sold in the town.

The town is especially noted for the cleanliness of its gravelled streets and of the home grounds of its residents. There are some very attractive homes.

The Ethan Enterprise is an up-to-date paper. The Methodist and Catholic churches have large congregations. A modern school building is on Highway 37 carrying full high school courses. There is a high school band, mixed boys and girls' glee club, news club, and physical education is provided. This is an independent school, having its own superintendent and eight teachers.

In addition to the school tennis court there are several private courts.

The fine cheese factory gives the town much favorable publicity. Ethan has a wide trade territory and adequate business district to care for same.

Lake Ethan two miles east of the town furnishes facilities for water sports.

The population in 1930 was 369.

LOOMIS

In 1901, the Loomis Elevator Company of Minneapolis erected an elevator on the town site and in 1902 George Johnson platted his land and dedicated the streets to public use. F. J. Smith, now of Mitchell, built the first residence and store building. A post office was established and the town was named Loomis honoring the man who built the first elevator.

The Congregational denomination has a church building.

The population is about 100. There are two lumber yards, two grain elevators, a general merchandise and a hardware store. A good brick school is half a mile from the town. There is an active baseball club.

BETTS

This town was established for the benefit of shippers. It is half way between Mt. Vernon and Mitchell, a quarter of a mile off paved Highway No. 16. There is a general store, post office and lumber yard. The town is named for Joe Betts who built the elevator on his own land.

COST OF COURT HOUSE

Preliminary Expenses	\$ 1,142.53
Architects Fees	11,346.36
Legal Expenses	100.00
General Contract	153,282.83
Plumbing Contract	8,654.45
Heating and Ventilating Contract	14,194.72
Painting Contract	4,310.50
Electric Contract	5,819.42
Elevator Contract	5,591.00
Jail Contract	8,283.00
Furniture and Fixtures	19,997.88
Landscaping and Labor on Grounds	3,227.13
Total	<u>\$235,949.82</u>

COURT HOUSE DEDICATION

at

Court House

Monday, September 6, 1937

Presiding Officer, H. F. Ricketts, States Attorney

Concert - - - - 10:00 to 10:30 A. M.

Mitchell Municipal Band

Jos. Tschetter, Director

Invocation - - - - Rev. C. E. Reidt

Patriotic Number—

Star Spangled Rhythm, by six little girls.

Johna Lou Austin Delores & Alvera Schnauer

Frances Shirmer Fern Rubida

Delores Knutson

Presentation of key to Court House

Participating: P. W. Kuipers, Frank McGovern, and
Louis Navin—Address of Presentation.

Musial Number - - Mitchell Municipal Band

Address - - - Hon. R. C. Bakewell

Novelty Number - - - Danforth Sisters

Address - - Hon. Governor Leslie E. Jensen

Evelyn O'Brien, Accompanist

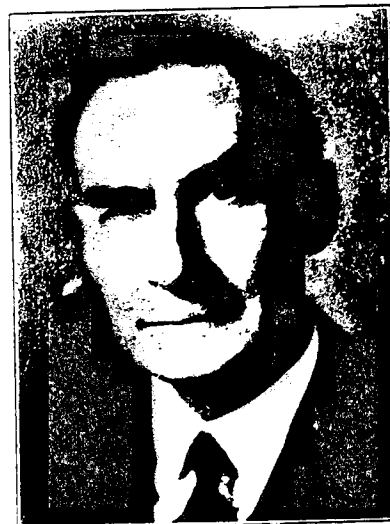
Musical Number - - Star Spangled Banner

Mitchell Municipal Band

FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



JUDGE R. C. BAKEWELL.



JUDGE E. E. WAGNER

FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

OFFICERS OF THE COURT

R. C. Bakewell	-	-	-	-	-	Judge
E. E. Wagner	-	-	-	-	-	Judge
H. F. Rickets	-	-	-	-	-	State's Attorney
J. F. Tobin	-	-	-	-	-	Sheriff
Lucy M. Condran	-	-	-	-	-	Clerk
Neeva Paynter	-	-	-	-	-	Court Reporter
Florence Ryan Foss	-	-	-	-	-	Court Reporter

DAVISON COUNTY BAR

W. R. Danforth	-	-	-	Municipal Judge
O. C. Thompson	-	-	-	County Judge

E. W. Benson	C. L. Morgan
Harold C. Chapman	L. E. Navin
R. M. Crow	Donald O. Nicolls
W. R. Danforth	H. F. Ricketts
Fred C. Drake	David M. Rogers
Thomas E. Eastman	Walter H. Seacat
Donald Fellows	Fred D. Shandorf
Lynn Fellows	Lewis Shuster
Florence Ryan Foss	V. R. Sickel
H. T. Fuller	O. C. Thompson
Herbert E. Hitchcock	Fred A. Tinan
Clifford R. Keister	Frederick E. Wheeler
Clyde H. King	Frank H. Winsor
Lauritz Miller	Chas. S. Whiting
J. Marshall Miller	Paul M. Young
Frank W. Mitchell	P. A. Zollman