

THIS DATE IN

HISTORY

EVENTS OF LOCAL INTEREST

These historical notes were taken from the *Public Opinion* newspaper archives.

1919: 100 years ago...

A Bemis boy has wed a girl in England and will be one of the first South Dakotans to get a Red Cross "honeymoon ticket." The distribution of "honeymoon tickets" is one of the latest functions of the American Red Cross abroad. **John J. O'Connor**, a young man from Bemis, S.D., is one of the returning doughboys who is taking advantage of the ticket. The "honeymoon ticket" was invented when it was found that up to 10,000 American soldiers had married in England and Europe during the war and during the armistice that follows. The United States government allows foreign-born wives to become American citizens by marriage and has agreed to pay for the ship transport of "war brides" and their children. The Red Cross has agreed to pay the remaining expenses, which include meals en route and transportation to the port of embarkation. Thus, the "honeymoon ticket" was evolved. It is presented free to the doughboy bridegroom.

1944: 75 years ago...

Persons of unknown identity are reported attempting to secure information in Watertown and Codington County concerning the employment of family heads, number of children under the age of 16 years in the household and similar facts and representing themselves as calling in behalf of "educational" or "census" surveys. The telephone calls were revealed to city and school authorities through questions directed to them by curious residents who had been contacted but were confused by their purpose. As a result, statements were issued today by the offices of county and city superintendents of schools that there are no "educational" or "census" surveys underway in the city or county, and that neither city nor county school systems are in any way responsible for these inquiries. The questioners, who are reported to have called numerous homes, are reported to have responded to questions concerning their reason for asking questions with various explanations, that they are conducting a "library" survey, a "census" survey or an "educational" survey but have not otherwise identified themselves.

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1979: 40 years ago...

This has been a dismal week for both men and women alike, not to mention justice, according to **Mary Berkibile**, the president of South Dakota's League of Women Voters. This week the South Dakota Legislature voted to rescind the state's earlier ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Supporters of the ERA had fought long and hard to block the rescission movement, but opponents threw unrelated social issues such as abortion, toilets and homosexual marriage into the debate on this amendment which simply guarantees equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex. **Doris Eizember**, president of the South Dakota Federation of Business and Professional Women is equally unhappy about the vote. "It is appalling," she said, "that legislators can pledge allegiance to the flag every day, affirming their belief in liberty and justice for all, and then denounce the very principle on which such judgments are based."

2004: 15 years ago...

Wayne Hammond has been promoted to the position of news editor at the Watertown Public Opinion. He will be responsible for organization of the news and on-line content generated by the Public Opinion staff in northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Hammond is a native of Milroy, Minn., who graduated from Marshall (Minn.) High School in 1995. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism and Mass Communication which he was awarded in 1999. He began his career as a staff writer with the Public Opinion in September of 1999 and was named the S.D. Newspaper Association's 'Young Journalist of the Year' in 2003. He lives in Watertown with his wife, **Kathy**.

Did today's DIH spur a memory? Do you know where the people mentioned today are and what they are doing? If yes, please email our newsroom at news@thepublicopinion.com and let us know.

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