

# THIS DATE IN

# HISTORY

## EVENTS OF LOCAL INTEREST

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

### 1919: 100 years ago...

A young lady dentist will be opening an office here as soon as office equipment, which she is now purchasing in Chicago, arrives in Watertown. When **Dr. Lotta Frink** opens her dental office in our city, she will be the only woman dentist practicing the profession in South Dakota.... In other local business news: The Deming Transfer line of Watertown is making plans for an expansion of its transfer and general storage business. They have recently purchased the warehouse of the **International Harvester company** building, located at the corner of 1st Ave. and 1st St. N.W.) Half interest in the transfer business has been purchased by **Ed Elkins**, formerly county sheriff, who has formed a partnership with **W.W. Skinner**, formerly the sole proprietor of the business. Deming Transfer will take possession of the International Harvester building about April 1, when the International branch here moves to its new building a short distance west of the old locale.

### 1944: 75 years ago...

American soldiers and marines have wiped out all enemy resistance in western New Britain, blasting out a broad gap in the Japanese south Pacific defense perimeter which a year ago was considered in some quarters to be almost impregnable. **Gen. Douglas MacArthur** announced today that the marines from the Cape Gloucester sector on the north coast had joined with the soldiers who moved up from Arawe peninsula in the south, and that the western part of the island was completely in American hands. The victorious conclusion of a campaign which started Dec. 15 with the landing at Arawe, and which took the lives of 7,000 Japanese, meant that MacArthur has a 200-mile wide opening in the enemy's defense area from Java to Rabaul, New Britain, through which the Allies may drive north. The 32nd American infantry division invaded northeastern New Guinea at Saidor, Jan. 2. From this point, across the Vitiav Strait from New Britain to Arawe is about 200 miles, all cleared of effective enemy fighting units.

### Today's sponsor:



1 East Kemp Avenue,  
Watertown, SD 57201  
(605) 884-0340  
[www.watertownworks.com](http://www.watertownworks.com)

### 1979: 40 years ago...

This past weekend, Watertown audiences were entertained by the **Town Players** production of "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay," directed by **Jan Holzwarth** at the Harmony Hill Auditorium. **Sue Snyder**, as the dramatic Cornelia Otis Skinner, and **Jill Jeffries**, as her vivacious but scatterbrained friend, headed a cast of 17 in this play about the 1920s. The play is based on the true experiences of the two young women when, as 19-year-olds, they traveled to Europe together on their own for the first time. Barbara Miller, in her review of the play, wrote: "Their hilarious adventures prove that, while customs have changed in the past 50 years, 19-year-olds and their mothers and fathers have not. **Liz Green** and **Stokes Snyder** were excellent as Cornelia's parents." She continued, "Even the English accents used by **Joyce Barte** and **Kristi Estes** and the French accents of **Patty Haag**, **Bette Moisan**, **Skip Jungemann** and **Rich Snow** were good."

### 2004: 15 years ago...

Watertown High School Spanish teacher **Lisa Burghardt** and her husband, Tom, have seen first-hand the difference between learning a second language at a young age and in high school. Lisa Burghardt was joined by sons Alex, 10, and 5-year-old Carson last fall during her time in the Fulbright Teacher Exchange program in Aguas-Calientes, Mexico. Over four-plus months, she watched her boys, neither of whom had any appreciable Spanish language training, doing things with the language that even as a 15-year teaching veteran she won't ever be able to do. "What I really learned was the importance of learning language early," she said. "I learned so very much from my children and they speak with a much better accent than I will ever have."

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](mailto:news@thepublicopinion.com) and let us know.

To read previous columns, go to our website at [thepublicopinion.com](http://thepublicopinion.com) and click on the "This Date In History" box under Extras.