

THIS DATE IN

HISTORY

EVENTS OF LOCAL INTEREST

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

WF615109-1

1919: 100 years ago...

The past twelve months have been a banner year for the Dakota Life Insurance company of Watertown, according to president **John B. Hanten** at the annual stockholders meeting here. Despite the heavy toll that the influenza epidemic and the war conditions have placed on the mortality among Dakota Life policyholders, the company experienced a large gain in new business and assets. A dividend of 5 per cent has been recommended for the stockholders. During the year, the company was called on to meet death losses in the amount of \$165,000, an increase of 18 percent over normal years. Out of the 90 claims filed, 65 of the deaths were caused by influenza and its resultant pneumonia, one of the worst epidemics this nation has ever experienced. Eighteen claims came directly from the war - with three deaths in France, one by collision at sea, and 14 in camps in the United States. Only seven claims were of a general nature.

1944: 75 years ago...

One Democrat and five Republican officeholders of Codington County today announced that they will seek renomination for their respective offices in the primary election on May 2. **Mrs. Edna Madison** will seek renomination for register of deeds; **Sig Overas**, renomination for clerk of courts; **A.R. Henrickson**, renomination for state's attorney; **Larry O'Toole**, renomination for county auditor; and **A.G. Hestad**, renomination for county commissioner from fourth district. **Andrew J. Lynch**, only Democrat now holding office in the court house, also announced his candidacy for renomination as sheriff. Petitions are being circulated for the renomination of **Vernon H. Belk** as county commissioner from the second district, although he has not officially announced his candidacy. Today's announcements follow the entry of three Republican candidates into the primary race earlier this month. **Hazel Schliesmann**, deputy treasurer, announced that she will seek the Republican nomination for county treasurer; and **Emil Scharn** and **Arbie Christopherson** both announced that they will run for the Republican nomination for sheriff.

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1979: 40 years ago...

Two of Watertown's top high school seniors, **Ron Robson** and **Chris Larson**, were recently named Watertown High School students of the month. Robson, son of **Mr. and Mrs. Paul Robson**, has interests that revolve around sports and student government. He has played football and basketball during all three years at Watertown High School and was named to the second team in All-State Basketball and on the state All-Tournament team. He is a member of the National Honor Society nucleus, has been elected senior class vice-president, and was chosen to participate in Boys State last summer. **Chris Larson**, daughter of **Dr. and Mrs. James Larson**, is also a member of the National Honor Society nucleus. Among her wide range of activities and memberships, journalism is the most notable. She was chosen as an all-state journalist last summer and is the co-editor of the "Arrow" yearbook and the "Purple and Gold" school newspaper.

2004: 15 years ago...

Saying employee theft in the area has "become almost an epidemic," a Codington County judge Friday sentenced a Watertown woman to nine years in prison for stealing from her former employer. Judge **Robert Timm** stayed five years of the sentence handed down to 46-year-old **Cindy Cormier**. Cormier had earlier pleaded guilty to grand theft/embezzlement and admitted to stealing more than \$217,000 over a two-year period while employed as assistant controller for Angus-Palm Industries in Watertown. In her position with the company, Cormier had used a company credit card to get cash advances and then covered up those advances. Although Cormier expressed remorse, Timm pointed to the pattern of her thefts in sentencing her: "It seems to me that within the last few years we've seen more of this (type of crime)," the judge told Cormier. "In fact, to the point where employee theft has become almost an epidemic." Timm said past cases have involved people with various addictions or just trying to meet basic needs.

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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