

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

EVENTS OF LOCAL INTEREST

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

WT-614962-1

1919: 100 years ago...

Measures to prevent the use of revolvers and rifles by boys under the age of 16 years were taken up by the city council this week, acting on the recommendation of **Police Chief A.H. Cornwell**. The aldermen agreed that the present city law that prohibits the use of guns in the city limits must be strictly enforced and all violators punished. In addition, the council instructed the city attorney to draw up a new ordinance prohibiting the sale of revolvers and rifles to boys under the age of 16 years and prohibiting boys under sixteen years from using firearms unless they are accompanied by their parents. Boys have been carrying guns and using them in their play to such an extent that it has become dangerous to other children. A citizen from the east end of town stood before the council with a revolver and the shells with which it had been loaded, saying he took the gun from a boy who was shooting it while playing with children in his neighborhood.

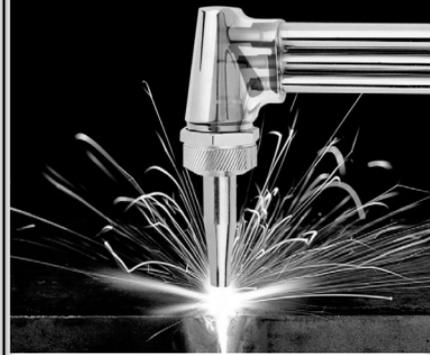
1944: 75 years ago...

A double effort is being made in Codington County regarding the home nursing classes, **Mrs. Thomas Halgrims**, Codington County Red Cross chairman, said today. More registered nurses are needed to volunteer as instructors, and more persons are needed for enrollment in classes, to build up a reserve of trained persons to deal with potential emergencies. Month by month more nurses and doctors are being called into the armed services, and it is imperative, Mrs. Halgrims points out, that persons in their homes become equipped to deal with many minor illnesses and especially that they be ready to deal with any epidemic that might occur. Statistics show that in normal times one home out of ten is stricken with illness, and that in a time of epidemics, one home out of four is so stricken. The course offered in home nursing not only provides a means of meeting the war situation and helping preserve the health of the nation, but it gives the individuals taking the nursing information, training that will be of lifelong value.

Today's sponsor:



Miller Electric/Smith Equipment is a manufacturer of gas cutting and welding apparatus, located in Watertown since 1981.



1979: 40 years ago...

Jack Engelhart is the owner-manager of Fleet Wholesale in Watertown and Milbank. This week he's sporting a new Centennial beard, supporting a lovely new bride, and promoting Fleet into one of the most successful independently-owned stores in the Upper Midwest. He promotes in all the traditional ways...but one! He decided if Goodyear can have a blimp, why can't Watertown. So he bought one for \$2,500. It's 25 feet long, 9 feet high and holds more than 1,000 cubic feet of helium. "That's 275 bucks worth every time we fill it," Jack says. The pint-sized airship is anchored to the roof to keep it from straying into airplane corridors or causing UFO alarms. It flies 15 stories above the Fleet store and can be seen up to 15 miles away. So look out, Goodyear! As long as Jack Engelhart is around, you won't have exclusive airship rights around Watertown. And Jack says he'll be around promoting Watertown and Fleet for a long, long time.

2004: 15 years ago...

A former fast-food restaurant manager accused of holding a female employee against her will and forcing her to strip was acquitted late Thursday after seven hours of deliberation, jurors in Rapid City found **Allan Mathis** not guilty of kidnapping and second-degree rape in connection with a three-hour strip search of a 19-year-old female employee in the back office of the restaurant last June. Mathis, who took the stand in his own defense, said he was following the direction of someone on the telephone who claimed to be a police officer. Prosecutors disagreed, saying a videotape shows Mathis sexually assaulting the woman. Before the jury got the case, defense lawyer **Randy Connelly** said Mathis was the unwitting victim of a "freak who plays God." The incident was part of a string of telephone ruses by an unknown criminal who persuaded other restaurant managers across the country to perform strip-searches of employees, Connelly said. The caller claimed to be a police investigator working with an upper-level restaurant manager to find a thief at the restaurant, Connelly said.

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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