

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

EVENTS OF LOCAL INTEREST

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

1919: 100 years ago...

Clifford Skinner received a message Saturday morning from Sergeant **Robert Marsh** stating that he will arrive in Watertown Saturday evening. Mr. Marsh was formerly employed by the Hagna Lumber Company. He enlisted in 1917 with the first South Dakota Calvary and was later transferred into the air service. He went to France last September as an observer. **Gene Dennis** of Sioux Falls came to the city Friday and is an over Sunday guest of **Andy Foley**. **John Turnquist**, taylor at the Calmenson Clothing store has returned to work after a week's vacation. Mr. Turnquist spent a couple of days at Lake Poinsett fishing.

1944: 75 years ago...

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE - The Allied invasion of France has not lived up to the expectation of many of its planners, who had estimated the assault would progress more rapidly than it has. Officers made no secret of this today, but at the same time hastened to say that the western front, after one month of fighting, could not be described as unsatisfactory. "After all, we have landed and established a front and a month ago we were none too sure whether we could do that," one officer said. That progress has been slow is attributed to several reasons, the chief one being that the Germans have reacted violently and fought fanatically for each foot of ground. The worst June weather in 25 years blocked the Allies from using air superiority to the full extent and a channel gale caused considerable damage in unloading operations. The weather was at its worst during the unloading stage - sufficient supplies and troops early in the campaign might have paid big dividends before the Germans could get set.

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1979: 40 years ago...

Members answered roll-call with the most interesting flower show they have attended when Watertown Garden Club met Monday at the home of **Gladys Ehrstrom** with **Maude Hurlle** as co-hostess. Guests were **Jan Sharp**, **Marie Mack** and **Mildred Smith**. The president **Bernice Hipp** conducted the meeting. Reports and correspondence were read. Mrs. Ehrstrom gave the program. She shared pictures on flower arrangements and pictures from tour she had taken including trips across the states and Canada Taiwan and China. Mrs. Mack and Mrs. Smith were welcomed as new members. The next meeting will be August 13th at the home of **Ellen Eck** in rural Henry with **Alice Campbell** as co-hostess. Roll call will be things collected or things to be collected for dried arrangements.

2004: 15 years ago...

When Watertown High School faculty began handing out laptops at the beginning of the 2003 - 04 school year no one least of all the students was absolutely positive the new technology would be effective. Now that is full school year has passed it and still have mixed reactions to the learning with laptop initiative. Although students became more accustomed to the laptops as a year progressed it was a difficult adjustment at first. Teachers who were willing to experiment and incorporate the laptops in their classes generally receive the best reactions from the students.

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.

To read previous columns, go to our website at thepublicopinion.com and click on the "This Date In History" box under News.