

THIS DATE IN

HISTORY

EVENTS OF LOCAL INTEREST

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


1919: 100 years ago...

The Business Woman's club of Watertown will hold a meeting next Monday evening in their club rooms on the third floor of the State Bank and Trust company building. These rooms are to be redecorated and several improvements made in the arrangement. Much of this work will not be completed by the time of Monday, but this affords an opportunity for the members place and get a plans contemplated. An effort is being made to procure the meeting to see the better idea of the the services of a stewardess, and later cafeteria lunches will be served. It is also planned to later do off rooms which can be rented at the looms out to girls who would like a room by themselves pleasure of congenial companionship. Watertown is lacking in a place of this kind as there are no club rooms for women and still have the community houses where strangers can go or anything of this nature. The committees have spent much time and thought to work out plans and deserve credit for what they have accomplished, owing to the fact that the first steps in a move of this kind, to get interest aroused, is often the hardest part. The program committee have arranged an attractive program for the meeting Monday and women and girls invited to come.

1944: 75 years ago...

The invasion day assault climaxed two months of accelerated operations over Europe under a plan to minimize if not eliminate the enemy's advantage of fighting on home grounds. The plan had four phases, according to information relayed from the Normandy beachhead, the first of which began in early April against probably 100 targets carefully selected for their location as well as their value to the Nazis. The next phase, beginning about three weeks before D-Day, was concerned primarily with air fields within a specified reach of the invasion point. While that portion of the plan was being carried out, the third stage aimed at more than a dozen railheads, was begun. This was the clinching blow to transportation for food, ammunition and reinforcements. The final stage began at dusk on Monday night and was a close-in slugging match during which everything with wings, guns and bomb racks was used. The aim here, with some 11,000 warplanes participating, was to flatten the enemy in the actual invasion area.

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1979: 40 years ago...

What was supposed to be a public hearing concerning the merits of a proposed multi-million-dollar expansion project at St. Ann's Hospital, here Wednesday turned into an often-emotional discussion on the future of Watertown's two primary care hospitals. The S.D. Department of Health's Office of Health Planning and Development conducted the hearing at City Hall. By the time the four-hour session was over, the future of St. Ann's and Memorial Medical Center seemed more clouded than ever. At the heart of the brewing controversy is a proposal by St. Ann's which would consolidate some existing areas of the Catholic hospital while at the same time upgrading others. Laboratory, dietary and surgical facilities as well as some auxiliary departments would all be expanded and improved contingency plan. It was also publicly revealed for the first time that St. Ann's has developed a tentative contingency plan which, if the current proposal proceeds as planned, would eventually allow the present 70-bed hospital to expand to a 120-bed facility if the need arose. While the quality of patient care was seldom discussed directly, opponents of the expansion argued that the nearly \$4 million plan would continue to insure a two-hospital system which, they contend, results in unnecessary and expensive duplication at both hospitals. The costs of this duplication are eventually passed on to the patient in the form of higher hospital charges.

2004: 15 years ago...

A bird in southwest Watertown received the charge of its life Wednesday afternoon when it came into contact with a switch at an electrical substation. The resulting power outage knocked out electrical service, at 2:40 p.m., from the Watertown Municipal Utilities Pelican Substation on Fish Road, east along Highway 212 to the Watertown Mall, on the south side of the highway. Electrical service was also killed electrical service along Highway 212 north to Kemp. The 11-minute power outage knocked street lights off line and scrambled city police officers and city street department workers to establish temporary traffic control at the intersection of highways 212 and 81. The intersection is one of Watertown's busiest. Watertown Police Capt. **Lorin Halling** said when he arrived at the intersection, drivers-going different directions- were just starting to edge their way into the intersection.

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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