

# Dakota Datebook

## Bismarck Indian School Closure *By Jack Dura*

June 30, 2025 – For thirty years, Bismarck, North Dakota was home one of 30 non-reservation boarding schools for native students in the US. The Bismarck Indian School was established in 1907 between the Missouri River and the city’s Northern Pacific Railroad tracks. Students largely came from the Fort Berthold Reservation, but also Standing Rock and Turtle Mountain, and some from other states too.

The school had a tumultuous history, including five superintendents within a five-year span, from 1917 to 1922. The school’s first superintendent, W.R. Davis was reported as a popular with the students. Every student and teacher crowded the train platform to see him off after he retired in 1914.

The school closed for a short time in 1918, partly due to the Great War. School staff often doubled up on jobs, as in the case of a blacksmith/carpenter and a seamstress/cook. Many employees sought transfers, and resigned simply because they didn’t want to stay. Poor maintenance also plagued the school.

The Bismarck Indian School served up to 125 students. It was under the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Girls learned about housework and sewing, while boys were taught about livestock and carpentry. Students were often treated poorly and punished for thefts, escapes and other behavior. Punishments included confinement and strappings.

Many students and their families resisted the school’s forced assimilation into Euro-American society. Turtle Mountain families in particular resisted the school and often refused to send their children. Fort Berthold families threatened organized opposition against the school. As one of its superintendents wrote, the school had “one of the rottenest reputations” he had ever encountered.

In 1922, the school became an all-girl institution. It closed on this date in 1937, with the site later becoming a temporary camp for the Civilian Conservation Corps and military grounds.

## Ald Paulson of Crosby *By Dr. Steve Hoffbeck*

July 1, 2025 – Alf Paulson had the great adventure of his life in 1945. Born in Alamo, 30 miles north of Williston, in 1921, Alf Harry Paulson was the son of Berndt and Kirsta Paulson, both of whom had been born in Norway. Alf worked on his father’s farm in Divide County until WWII. He joined the U.S. Army in December, 1942, and his strong, wiry frame – 5’ 9,” 155 pounds – got him noticed. Even more noteworthy, he was “proficient in Norwegian.”

The O.S.S. (Office of Strategic Services), the forerunner of the C.I.A., was recruiting soldiers for undercover sabotage of German war-efforts. In particular, the OSS “was looking for men . . . for extra hazardous duty behind enemy lines” in Nazi-occupied Norway.

Because Alf Paulson spoke Norwegian, the OSS asked him to “volunteer for hazardous duty.” Alf replied “that the whole U.S. Army was hazardous” so they signed him up.

He became a member of the elite Norwegian Special Operations Group (NORSO), joining 74 men from the famous 99th Infantry “Norwegian Battalion.”

Paulson got trained for winter and mountain warfare, including hand-to-hand combat, plus “intensive parachute and ski training.” He also learned about demolitions, including “blowing up bridges and railroad tracks.”

Finally, in March, 1945, Operation Rype began. Rype, the Norwegian name for grouse, was the code name for this top-secret mission. 35 specially selected men were led by Major William Colby, who would later become director of the C.I.A. They flew to Norway. The goal: blow up bridges and rail lines to trap 150,000 German troops in Norway, preventing them from joining the final battles in Germany.

Only 16 NORSO men, including Alf Paulson and William Colby, successfully parachuted into mountainous Norway. These 16 commandos worked with Norwegian Resistance fighters to destroy the Tangen railway bridge connecting northern and southern Norway, and later they dynamited “a mile and a half” of railway tracks, successfully delaying rail use by the Germans.

WWII ended May 8, 1945, and on July 1 the Minneapolis Tribune published news that Alf Paulson and his fellow “Norway Invaders” were on their way home.

Alf Paulson came back home to farm near Crosby. The former ski-trooper died in 2007. He had served in the “only combined ski-parachute operation ever mounted by the U.S. Army.”

## Beginning Black Hills Expedition *By Jack Dura*

July 2, 2025 – Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer was busy in the summer of 1874.

General Phil Sheridan had selected Custer’s Seventh Cavalry for an expedition to the Black Hills to scout out a possible site for an Army fort. Custer’s men were stationed at Fort Abraham Lincoln, across the Missouri River from Bismarck in Dakota Territory. Sheridan had first considered sending the expedition from Fort Laramie in Wyoming territory, but decided against it based on perceived hostilities from Native Americans.

Custer may have acquired the mission through his friendship with Sheridan. The sacred Black Hills had been set aside in the new Fort Laramie Treaty for the Great Sioux Reservation, but government officials were allowed to perform duties there.

Around 8:00 a.m. on this date in 1874, Custer’s Black Hills expedition left Fort Abraham Lincoln. Most of the soldiers had already been camped south of the fort, spending a week getting used to camp life.

Custer led an expedition of a thousand men and one woman. It included ten companies of his Seventh Cavalry, sixty Native American scouts, one hundred wagons, and hundreds of horses, mules and cattle, as well as a battery of Gatling guns and a cannon. Officers’ wives waved goodbye as the men marched to the southwest. The band played “The Girl I Left Behind me” as the soldiers left the fort.

The first day on the trail was hot and sticky. The men were happy to be on the move after fighting off mosquitoes on the bivouac grounds. About five miles in, the wagon train stopped for water on the north branch of the Little Heart River. The crossing took longer than expected as many of the wagons got stuck. Four wagons had to be unloaded to get out of the muck. One wagon’s contents were left behind.

The men used extra mules and ropes to pull the wagons out. It was five hours before all the wagons passed through the creek. Despite the delay, the expedition covered 15 miles on the rolling prairie of Heart River country. It was familiar territory where the soldiers had hunted pronghorn, and was close enough to the fort to still receive mail later that day. Still, the day was hot, and about a dozen men “gave out.”

The expedition made camp about five miles northwest of present-day Saint Anthony, North Dakota.

They killed and ate some cattle and hunted pronghorns. Supper was ready by 10:00. Some men ogled a comet in the sky. Everyone was asleep by midnight, and wake-up was set for two o’clock in the morning.

## Dr. Henry Windell and His True Love *By Dr. Steve Hoffbeck*

July 3, 2025 – Today’s story is one of true love – a love story that unfolded near Bowbells, Kenmare, and in Minot. It begins in Bowbells in 1903. That June, an epidemic struck the town. A man got severely ill from typhoid fever, caused by Salmonella typhosa, a fearfully infectious bacteria in contaminated food or water.

This was the worst kind of typhoid, for every person who provided medical care for the diseased man caught the bacteria and became sick, including the local Bowbells physician, Dr. Moses Bushenville, two local nurses, and Bowbells’ Methodist pastor.

Typhoid infected seven more people, becoming an epidemic. The original patient died, followed by three more deaths.

Dr. Bushenville and others were transported to Minot, where Dr. J.D. Windell attended to them in his hospital. Needing more help, Windell called for his brother, Dr. Henry C. Windell, of Kenmare, who came right away. Heartbreakingly, both Windell brothers got infected, just before Dr. Bushenville died.

Dr. Henry Windell became deathly ill. In desperation, a doctor from Fargo was called in, but the doctor believed there was “no hope” that 33-year-old Henry could possibly recover.

Henry was at the point of death, but word of his plight reached his hometown in Canada. Elizabeth [McMullan] Hays, age 33, who had been a dear friend of Windell’s, decided to help. Elizabeth was a trained nurse, and she traveled to Minot to provide care.

On this date in 1903, a newspaper reported that the Bowbells epidemic had ended, and that 16 people, including Henry Windell, were convalescing.

Elizabeth cared for Henry with patience and loving kindness, and remained with him constantly. With Elizabeth’s attention, Windell began to gain strength, and, over two-months’ time, Henry got well again.

Poignantly, in the depths of typhoid fever, Henry fell in love with his kind-hearted nurse, Elizabeth. Windell “concluded he couldn’t get along without her,” and asked her to marry him. Elizabeth accepted. They were wed in Kenmare’s All-Saints Episcopal church in August, 1903. Soon thereafter, in 1907, Henry and Elizabeth Windell moved to Williston. They had a son, born in 1908.

Elizabeth passed away in 1921, and Henry died in 1926. They were married for only a short while, 18 years, but their story reverberates as a beautiful tale of love in the time of typhoid-fever.

## Fourth of July *By Jim Davis*

July 4, 2025 – With many of North Dakota’s young men and women already serving on the battlefields in Europe, the 4th of July in 1917 promised to be a day of commemoration and consecration.

For some, it was difficult to call it a day of celebration, but unlike Memorial Day, with the somber reflection that death may await loved ones serving overseas, the 4th of July remained a celebration of patriotism, commemorating the battle for independence and democracy. According to the Pioneer Express from Pembina County, “It was observed as a day to be joyful of the memories of the past, proud of our history and progress, but thoughtful of the present and future.”

The town of Pembina celebrated with an impressive parade. This included many floats with themes such as Liberty, the Conservation of Food, Law and Order, and Transportation. There were other war-related floats such as a Field Hospital, a Red Cross Ambulance and even a naval theme represented by two large submarines complete with deck guns and radio antennas, and powered from beneath the waves by hidden automobiles. Young ladies flitted through the crowds pinning ribbons on lapels for those who contributed to the Red Cross.

The parade was followed by patriotic speeches, a ball game and picnics. Notably missing, however, were the fireworks, an otherwise grim reminder of the millions of shells falling on the battlefields overseas.

In Fargo, Island Park was the scene of a special flag raising with the Fargo Band playing the Star Spangled Banner. That was followed by a day of patriotic speeches. A flag committee had been organized to hand out flags as people entered the park. A reading of the Declaration of Independence was followed by the audience singing “America.” Here too, a ball game entertained the crowds, and the evening featured a patriotic program. As a special treat, free lemonade was supplied for the children.

At the Chautauqua in Tolley, North Dakota, Governor Fraizer spoke to more than fifteen thousand people, the largest crowd ever assembled at that event.

But as celebrations commenced across the state, war news continued to worsen. Battlefield casualties mounted, and National Guard units were entering the final stages of the organization as they readied for activation. North Dakota would soon be entering the war in a bigger way, with much more at stake.



The Waddington Brothers, a bluegrass band from the Regent/Hettinger area performed on Friday night for the Hall of Fame celebration, compliments of the GUPPIE organization.

# New Members, Morman and Bettenhausen Elected to School Board Positions

A special school board meeting was held on Monday, June 23, 2025, for the Canvasing of the June 10 school election that was held.

All school board members were present with Tony Sifuentes, Chasity Wood, and Andrew Jacobson in person along with Business manager Kayla Schumacher and Mr. Todd Hetler, principal. Others at the meeting virtually were board members, Marie Bittner, Landon Hoff, Travis Thomas, Jill Feser along with incoming superintendent Marty Bratrud

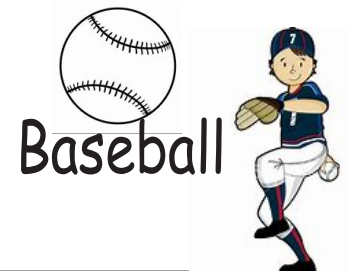
Bittner called the meeting to order and had Schumacher read the results of the school election.

Those results include 110 votes cast.

For the 2 at large city positions for a 3 year term. Those receiving voter are Chasity Wood 91, Tony Sifuentes 49, Travis Thomas 21, Sara White 3. Wood and Sifuentes are elected and will fill the 3 year terms.

The rural one year term saw 110 votes cast with Marie Bittner receiving 16 votes, Mitchell Bettenhausen 75, Matt Morman 9 and Rodney Kinnischtzke 1. Bettenhausen won the one year seat and will serve on the board.

## Glen Ullin Youth League



July 7.....Practice

Rookies at 6pm  
Majors at 7pm

July 8.....New Salem at Glen Ullin

Rookies at 5pm  
Majors at 6pm

July 10.....Glen Ullin at Hebron

Rookies at 5:30pm  
Majors at 6:30pm

July 14.....Elgin at Glen Ullin

Rookies at 5pm  
Majors at 6pm

July 15.....Practice

Rookies at 6pm  
Majors at 7pm

July 17.....Practice

Rookies at 6pm  
Majors at 7pm

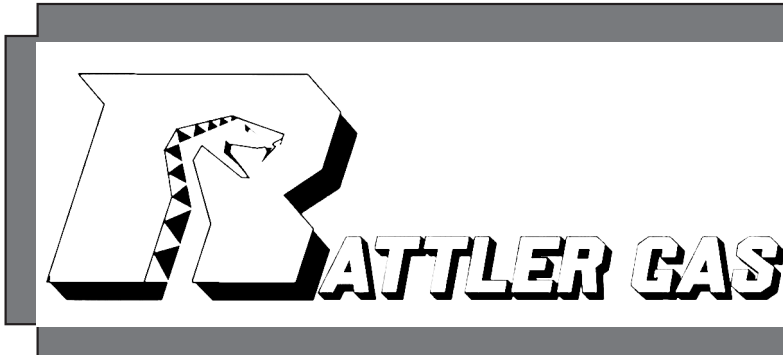
July 21.....Rookie Tournament in  
Glen Ullin TBA

July 22.....End of Season BBQ

July 24.....Majors Tournament at  
Center

*Let’s play ball!  
Support our little leaguers!  
Baseball field north  
across the tracks.  
Concessions available.*

*Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.”— Oscar Wilde*



# C-Store



Open 6 days a week  
348-9100

## CONVENIENCE STORE HOURS:

Monday-Friday: 7am-5pm  
Saturday: 7am-12pm  
Sunday: CLOSED  
We appreciate your business

## Off/On Sale Available

Walk-in Beer Cave

Mini Liquor Mart

Electronic Pull Tabs



# NAPA AUTO PARTS

348-3785

104 E Street South

Glen Ullin, New Salem

