

1906

1956



THIS BOOKLET

Respectfully Dedicated to the

PIONEERS

Of

OLIVER COUNTY

NORTH DAKOTA

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OLIVER COUNTY DIRECTORY --- 1906

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 Register of Deeds, F. A. Moore - - - - - Center
 Treasurer, Frank Schmeling - - - - - Center
 County Judge, P. H. Bagnell - - - - - Hensler
 Clerk of Court, B. R. Boerner - - - - - Center
 Sheriff, Anton Tabert - - - - - Otter Creek
 States Attorney, J. V. McCormick - - - - - New Salem
 Coroner, George McErlain - - - - - Center
 Schools, Iva O. Jenness - - - - - Ellis

ce
 - - - - - Hensler
 - - - - - Yucca
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Pioneers of Oliver County.

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--- JANUARY 1, 1956

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AUG 23 1974



One of Oliver County's Early Celebrations



CENTER'S FIRST CELEBRATION, JULY 4, 1906

The day dawned bright and fair and all day long not a cloud appeared to mar the enthusiastic jollification. The crowd began to arrive early in the day and continued coming until noon and never before was there so large and so jolly a crowd collected at the county seat.

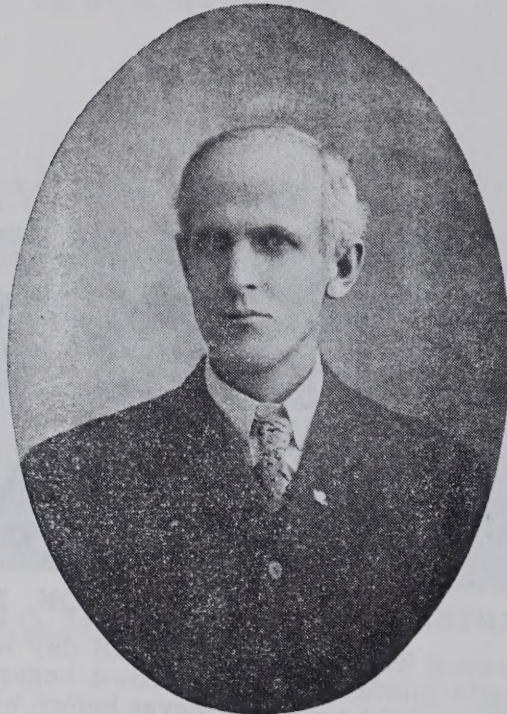
The Center Cornet Band consisting of 18 pieces furnished music until everything was in readiness to start the parade. At 10 o'clock, headed by "Drum Major" A. B. Welles, dressed as Uncle Sam, and the band, the parade formed at the creamery and marched around the town winding up in front of the court house. The floats were many and were neatly and tastily arranged. First in line was E. F. Mutchler's float which was well gotten up and well represented his line of business. Next came the primitive farm scene which was well represented by farmer Thomas McCrea seated with an old style ox cart and drawn by a pair of mooley oxen that travelled along as unconcerned of the noise and crowd as if it had been an every day occurrence with them. Our enterprising blacksmith, T. E. Thom, had a prettily decorated float fitted up with a full blacksmith shop and was busily engaged pounding out work for his customers.

About 50 horseback riders under the leadership of George McErlain and a number of farmers' rigs helped to fill up the parade and made a very creditable showing. Last but not least came the Center Creamery Association's float which consisted of a full set of machinery in operation and the veteran buttermaker, Mr. Adams, was busily engaged churning the morning's batch of butter. In all the parade was simply grand and would have done credit to much larger towns.

The exercises at the pavilion were well attended. Large and attentive crowds listened while the band furnished music and the glee club sang patriotic selections. Miss May Bennett read the Declaration of Independence and the oration by Hon. George P. Gibson was well and favorably received.

After dinner came the horse races in which much enthusiasm was shown. The ball game between the Center nine and the "River Rats" was a hard fought and exciting game which resulted in a victory for the home team by a score of 19 to 22. Next came the foot races and small sports were indulged in with much vim. The principal excitement being the race between "High" Jones and George McErlain in which "High" won out only by a hair's breadth. The large bowery then attracted the attention of the crowd and all seemed to enjoy themselves immensely until the dawn began to break when the crowd dispersed and another epoch went down in Center's history marking the first celebration ever held within its limits. — Center Republican 1906

Sir Oliver



Sir H. S. Oliver, early legislator and Postmaster at Lisbon, North Dakota, for whom Oliver County, North Dakota was named.



First Oliver County Courthouse (with Flag at left.) W. W. Good's Store at right.



Present Courthouse

BRIEF HISTORY OF OLIVER COUNTY

Taken From Items of Center Republican

Oliver County was named for Hon. Harry S. Oliver of Lisbon, a prominent member of the territorial legislature of 1885. It was organized from Mercer County in 1885, having been a part of Mercer County since 1875. The first county seat was located in the platted site known as Raymond, near the present site of Sanger. Louis Connolly, H. E. Fisher, and C. H. Sanger were the first board of County Commissioners, appointed by Territorial Governor Gilbert

A. Pierce. They held the first session on May 18, 1885 and appointed the following county officers:

Robert Hutchinson, Register of Deeds and County Clerk; Willard Birchardt, Treasurer; H. M. Manley, County Judge; Geo. Gordon, Assessor; Wheaton Huntley, Surveyor; J. A. Culligan, Coroner; John A. Day, Sheriff. At the first meeting bids were asked for a court house to cost not to exceed \$1000.00. At the next meeting we find a record of a petition signed by 32 voters remonstrating against and asking that a sum not to exceed \$400.00 be spent for a building. The County Commissioners finally let the bill for \$440.00 for a building 20x30 feet to be used as a court house.

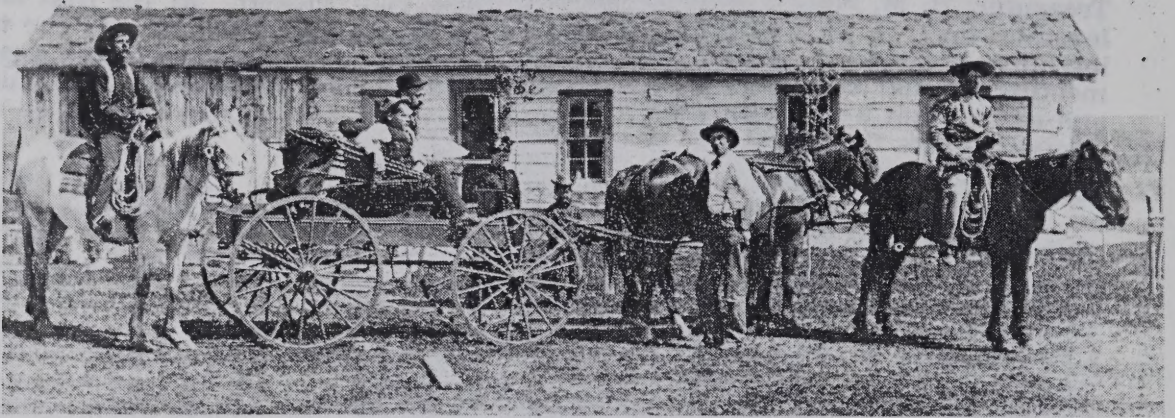
The first school district was Marysville No. 1. The second was Manley. This seemed to be the total school districts in the county and Geo. Sanger was appointed as County Superintendent at a salary of \$50.00 per year. On April 1st, a petition was presented to change the name of the county seat from Raymond to Bentley and this was done to take effect May 20, 1888. The first County Auditor was appointed in July 1890 and Geo. Sanger was the appointee with a salary of \$400.00 per year. The Treasurer drew \$300.00 and the County Judge \$150.00. In the summer of 1902 a petition was presented to have the county seat moved from Bentley to its present location, now Center, and the question was submitted to the voters on November 4, 1902 and approved. The first towns in what is now Oliver County were Raymond, located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19, Township 143, Range 81 and Hensler on Section 24, Township 144, Range 83. The population of the county was 327 and there were about 102 farms.

After the Indian and the buffalo had faded from the prairie, large herds of cattle, sheep and horses grazed over the Oliver County hills. This scene was soon replaced by the homesteader whose residence was made of sod, logs or rough lumber. He and his family, by their mode of living, their interest in church and school, established the way of life as we know it today.



Cattle Raising in Northeast Oliver—early 1900's

People and Scenes of Early Oliver County



Early County Residence — Moses Hyatt's Place at Sanger



Swedish Immigrants of North Oliver



An important piece of work in pioneer days — Plowing Fire Brake.

Old Scenes from the Old Times



Early Oliver County Steam
Threshing Rig



N. P. TRAIN — OLIVER COUNTY, 1911

The railroad, a very effective industry to the pioneer, was completed through Oliver County in November, 1911.



Bringing Home the Venison — Anstadt Brothers, Ft. Clark



The Surrey with the Fringe on Top — Ed Light Family, Center, N. D.

News Notes of Yesteryear

Pioneer — March 1900

J. F. V. Kiebert informs the Pioneer that he intends to manufacture a larger quantity of cheese this year than during any previous year. The call for the cheese made by his factory has largely increased in sale so that now he is unable to supply the demands. He intends purchasing a new engine and other new mechanical devices and run the factory with an increased force.

Pioneer — March 15, 1901

THE TELEPHONE COMPANY

Articles of incorporation were filed this week for a telephone company to be known as the Mandan and Northwestern Electrical Company. The capital stock is \$25,000 and the incorporators are C. E. Draper, C. F. Massingham, C. M. Whitmer and C. F. Miller.

The company intends to build a telephone line from Mandan to Oliver County and before a great while will extend up through Mercer County and around to Hebron. This line would cover a large territory and require considerable time to complete it. It is estimated that it costs about \$107.00 to pole and string a telephone line a mile. By the time the line reaches Hebron, it will be a very costly system, but will no doubt prove a very convenient means for communication to the part of the country through which it passes. Stockholders are C. M. Miller, A. Amerson, C. M. Whitmer, W. O. Hazelton, J. F. V. Kiebert, M. Frazer and Square Butte Cheese Factory.

Pioneer — June 1902

For the first time in the history of the state a legislative election will come with Morton and Oliver county separated. Heretofore, Morton county has taken all the legislative places and Oliver has had none. Now, Oliver county is with Mercer and McLean, and the indications are that Oliver will get a place on the ticket. During the week, some of the Republicans from our neighboring county were in town getting information as to the best course to pursue to get the political mill grinding. Oliver County has plenty of good legislative timber.

FIRST CENTER REPUBLICAN PRINTED IN CENTER DEC. 5, 1903

With this issue of the paper, we make our first appearance as the home paper of Center and Oliver County. For various reasons, we have been unable to get outfit on the ground at an earlier date, but this week the paper is issued from our own press in the village of Center.

Center Republican — Jan. 30, 1904

One year ago on last Friday the safes which had stood in the court house at Sanger for a number of years were loaded up and started for the new county seat at Center. The ride of County Treasurer Schmeling down a hill with a three-ton safe and a broken axle on his wagon has been the talk this week at the county seat and all seem to agree that had it not be for his efforts the old safes would probably be at Sanger yet.

Center Republican — Ellis News — Jan. 14, 1905

About 60 couples attended the dance at the store building last Saturday evening and all reported a first class time.

Center Republican — June 21, 1906

Center is getting to be an important point on the routes of traveling salesmen. Hardly a week passes but several of the "knights of the grip" steer this way and find our merchants ready with large orders for the concerns which they represent.

THE BAND CONCERT, APRIL 27, 1907

The concert given by the Band Boys on April 5th, which delighted so many, was repeated on last Friday night to a well-filled house. The maroon coat and cap uniform which was used upon this occasion for the first time gave a tone to the entertainment which it lacked before. The music, if anything, was better rendered than a few weeks before. Miss Clara Jewett's solo with organ and violin accompaniment was exceptionally rendered. Miss Jewett has a good clear voice and delighted the audience with her perfectly natural and unaffected way. The Center Band was organized about a year ago by Mr. Dent Welles, and no little credit is due him for his untiring efforts in its behalf. The rendering of the music on last Friday night was surely a splendid recommendation to his abilities as an instructor, and the members of the band as well as the people of the county should feel grateful to him for his efforts.

OLD SETTLERS ORGANIZATION NOT FOR POLITICAL USE — MAY, 1908

The Old Settlers Organization which was completed last June was for the purpose of a social gathering and not to be used as a fence to get a crowd out for political purposes. Neither the Republicans nor Democrats have any right to try to use this organization for the above purpose. If either party wants to hold a political rally let them do so over their party heads and not over the heads of the Old Settlers Reunion. The organization is solely for the purpose of sociability and not for political purposes.

News Notes of Yesteryear

FLATTING OF FORT CLARK — AUG. 19, 1909

The plat of Fort Clark will be finished in about ten days and the Ellis Townsite Company will then become active in establishing the town. Several of the engineers of the railroad have expressed themselves of the opinion that Fort Clark is the most logical point for a townsite of any place along the two branch lines. C. F. Ellis says that he has already many applications for the establishing of various business concerns at this place. Among them are lumber yards, a bank, general stores, etc. Fort Clark certainly has an excellent location and a good farming district around it and the little town when fairly started ought to forge ahead with great rapidity. Mandan Pioneer.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICTS TO BE REDISTRICTED — FEB. 10, 1910

For some time the question of equally dividing our county commissioner's districts according to population has been in our citizens' minds, but the time has not been ripe heretofore for the proposition. It now seems that the county should be more equally divided and for that purpose a number of petitions are being circulated. The proposition is to divide the county north and south into three districts. This will throw a little more territory into Commissioner Smith's district, but according to population, he will have no more than his share. Under the law at this time, the redistricting is almost compulsory and the County Judge, Clerk of Court and County Auditor are the required redistricting board. This board will have the matter in hand and will see that fair play is meted out to all.

CENTER DRUG COMPANY — FEB. 23, 1911

The Center Drug Company have an ad in this issue calling the attention of the people to their stock of drugs, and confectionery and other items that go to make up the stock for a store. Messrs. Jennings, Householder, and Woolsey, who comprise the company, are all well known here and realized the value of a drug stock in Center and have erected a building 22 by 40 in the eastern part of the village where they will carry on their business. As soon as the needs of the people become known, they will endeavor to put in a stock of goods that will supply their wants in their line.

CORN EXHIBIT AND BREAD BAKING CONTEST — NOV. 12, 1912

The first Corn Exhibit ever held in Oliver County was held here Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1912. It was a grand success for corn from all parts of the county was brought by the school children who raised the corn from seed furnished by the Agricultural College last spring. Prof. Palmer of the A. C. did the judging and awarded the prizes as follows: 1st, Wm. Miller; 2nd, Myrtle Bigelow; 3rd, Willard Ellis; 4th, Charles E. Day; 5th, George Ellis; 6th, George Miller; 7th, Pearl Day; 8th, Emil Skubinna; 9th, Frank Day; 10th, Mary Krauth; 11th, Otelia Strand; 12th, Olga Strand; 13th, Mildred Walker; 14th, Alfred Strand; 15th, Wm. J. Taylor. In connection with the exhibit, a bread baking contest was also held. Those who won prizes were as follows: Mary Mosbrucker, 1st; Ruth Steele, 2nd; Eva Mosbrucker, 3rd. Mrs. Iva O. Jenness, who was Oliver County Superintendent of Schools, had promoted the exhibit and contest.

DEDICATION OF HENSLER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH — DEC. 28, 1913

Last Sunday, Dec. 28th, Hensler's new church was dedicated and formally opened to the public for worship. It was indeed a great day for Hensler and the exercises afternoon and evening were thoroughly enjoyed by all who were privileged to attend. The dedication sermon was preached by Dr. E. H. Stickney of Fargo, who is superintendent of the Congregational missionary work for this state. Other gentlemen also assisted in the services of the day, including Rev. D. D. Mutchell, Prof. Cole, Mr. Rice of Washburn, and Rev. J. S. Rood of Hebron. Special music was rendered by the choir and many were the expressions of praise for the new edifice. A hopeful future is looked for and the supreme aim and desire is that the glorious gospel of old shall be proclaimed as never before within its walls.

OLIVER COUNTY PAYS LAST BOND — MAY 28, 1914

Last Thursday, County Treasurer Schmelng sent away a draft on an order drawn by County Auditor Kiebert in the sum of \$5300.00 being the payment of principal and interest on the court house bond issued in May, 1894, for the building of Oliver County's court house. Not only is this the final bond on the court house, but it may be said to the credit of the county's officials and her tax-paying residents, it is the last of the county's bonded indebtedness. We understand there is an outstanding indebtedness payable from various funds, but that there is now on hand in those several funds a balance of \$9,161.25. Take off your hat to Oliver County — she is in better condition than many of the counties of the state and has reason to feel optimistic.

NEW CHURCH DEDICATED — NOV. 11, 1915

On Friday of last week the new Catholic church, which the members of that denomination have recently completed, near Yucca was dedicated.

Bishop Werhle, of Bismarck, assisted by four priests, including Rev. Fr. Wiedmann, of Sweetbriar, conducted the services.

Members of that faith, as well as others from all parts of the country, were present to witness the ceremony.

The new edifice is a credit to that community and the congregation is to be congratulated upon the effort put forth that resulted so successfully.

It is probable the Rev. Fr. Wiedemann will conduct services there in addition to his other pastorates.

Mail Service

The U. S. mail service was the only connecting link the pioneer homesteader had with the outside world. Letters and mail from home helped to gladden the hearts and to dispel the loneliness of life in a sod shanty on the claim.



George (Perfect) Baye, one of the first mail carriers out of the Center Post Office. Center to Washburn mail across the wild Missouri in a row boat.

From Center Republican, June 1904

WASHBURN AND CENTER DAILY STAGE LINE **Geo. Baye, Proprietor**

Leaves Center at 6 A.M. for Gaines, Ellis, Hensler and arrives at Washburn at 11:45 A.M.

Leaves Washburn at 1 P.M. for Hensler, Ellis, Gaines and arrives at Center at 6:45 P.M.

Carries mail, passengers and freight.

Center Republican, December 6, 1906

MANDAN AND HANNOVER DAILY STAGE LINE **Theodore Albers, Prop.**

Leaves Hannover daily at 7:30 A.M. via Center, Cordes, Yucca, Harmon, arriving at Mandan at 6 P.M.

Leaves Mandan daily at 7 A.M. via Harmon, Yucca, Cordes, Center arriving at Hannover at 6:00 P.M. CARRIES MAIL, PASSENGERS AND FREIGHT.

Center Republican — February 27, 1904

County Treasurer Schmeling is circulating a petition for a mail route to run from New Salem to Youngtown, Rosebud, Churchtown and Center. This mail route will give Center a better mail service than any route running into the village, as we will be able to send or receive mail daily from the east or west over the Northern Pacific. If this route is established there will be but very few days in the year when we will not be able to get eastern mail. The route will most likely be the means of opening up new postoffices at Rosebud and Churchtown, which is something that the people in that vicinity need and will appreciate.

Early Oliver County Missouri River Schools



Manley School, first school house built in Oliver County, about 1885.

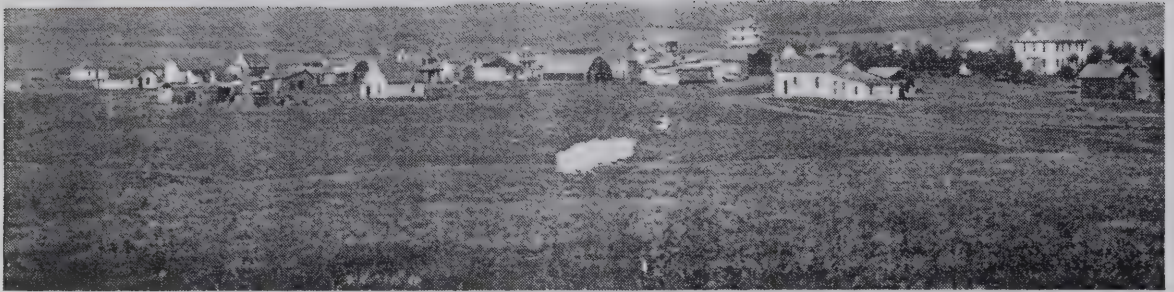


Maryville School near Hensler pictured about 1898



Early school in southeast Oliver County

Center, About 1915



HISTORY OF CENTER

Center, North Dakota, the County Seat of Oliver County since November 4, 1902, is made up of three parts — the original townsite, Light's Addition and the Brockington Addition. The village was named "Center" because of its central location in the county. The first buildings in Center were the original courthouse and the W. W. Good store. As the surrounding territory was settled, stores, a bank, print shop, meat market, creamery, hotel, blacksmith shop, and livery barn were established. The present courthouse was built in 1904, the trees around which having been planted by W. L. Taylor, pioneer horticulturist. Because there was no other meeting place of any size, the courthouse was also used for church services, dances and other social activities. The Center Republican, housed in the second story of the W. W. Good store, published its first issue in Center December 5, 1903 and the printing office was put up the following year. During the early years, Center nearly always had a resident doctor, some of the earliest being Doctors Householder, Rogers and later Rasmussen. Ernest Hagerott donated the lots for all three of the first Center churches. The Center Band was organized in 1906 and incorporated in 1909. Center now has graded, gravelled streets and cement sidewalks downtown, but the first cement sidewalk was laid in 1914 by Peter Christiansen in front of his poolhall. He also established the first electric lighting system in town.

The first school in Center was built in 1906 and the present school in 1912. The first high school subjects were offered in the local school in September, 1915 when a two-year course was established. The first class was graduated from the present high school in 1932. In September, 1916, a library was started in Center and was located at the Jennings Variety Store.

During the First World War, the people of Center were very active workers for the Red Cross and other service organizations. The Liberty Loans to the government were always heavily over-subscribed in this vicinity. Center's young men of eligible age all served their country in the army and navy.

For a period of many years, Center people sponsored and enjoyed a Chatauqua, a form of high class entertainment for five days each summer. The first American Legion Post was established in 1919 and was named for Edward A. Miller, a Sanger young man, who was the first Oliver County man to die in World War I. Later it was reorganized in 1945 and renamed the Miller-Linn Post in order to also honor Samuel Linn, first Oliver County man to die during World War II.

The Bank of Oliver County was built and opened in 1908. Later it was the First State Bank of Center. The present Bank Station was opened by the Security State Bank of New Salem in 1937.

Center has always had a number of service clubs and organizations, including the Current Events Club which was active for many years and was affiliated with the State Federation of Women's Clubs. Active clubs now include American Legion and Auxiliary, Center Civic Club, Band Sponsors Club, and several Homemakers and 4-H clubs which have flourished for the past several years under the direction of the County Extension Agent's office.

Center now has three churches, each of which has its own women's organization, three general stores, a variety store, a bank, a newspaper, two cafes, two bars, a mortuary, one hardware store, two appliance stores, meat market, a barber and beauty shop, postoffice, several garages, service stations, cream buying stations, lumber yard, farm equipment dealers, two blacksmith shops, and telephone office. Population is approximately 500. During the summer of 1956 Lincoln School District is erecting a new 15-room elementary and high school building.

FROM THE EARLY FILES—

Center Republican — Ellis News — December 6, 1906

George Digby is the proud possessor of a new buggy.

Center Republican — June 20, 1907

Parties attending the Old Settlers Reunion and Institute are requested to bring bedding. It will be impossible to get the loan of tents from the state as Adj. General Pool advises us that they are all stored six miles out of Devils Lake, and we will be unable to get them back in time for the state encampment. All who have tents are requested to bring them along. The court house and other places will be used for sleeping quarters.



Girls Foot Race, Center Old Settlers, 1915



Center Main Street Looking West



Center, Main Street



The Old Hotel and Livery Stable

School, Activity and Heroism



LINCOLN SCHOOL, CENTER, N. D.

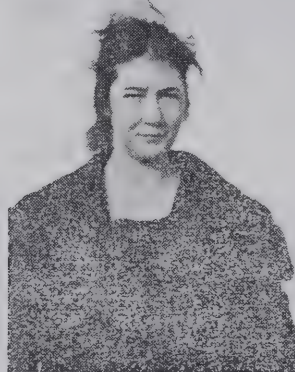
The first school sessions in Center were held in the building which had formerly been used as a courthouse. The first real school building, erected in 1906, is still standing, being occupied as a store by Alma Benjamin.

The present school building was erected in 1912 — later it was enlarged. The first high school class was graduated from Lincoln High School in 1932. A new school building is under construction in 1956.



RHYTHM BAND

This rhythm band, made up of lower grade and pre-school children was active during the years 1941-1942. It was organized by County Nurse Mary H. Fischer, and was directed by Helen Rapsavage.



HAZEL MINER

Hazel Miner, age 16, who gave her life to protect and save the lives of her brother and sister in the blizzard of March, 1920. When the school sled in which they were riding overturned, she kept the children blanketed by exposing herself to the elements. A monument to her memory stands in the court yard at Center.

Center Band, July 4th, 1907



CENTER BAND — 1906-1907

Back Row, left to right: A. B. Welles, D. R. Welles, Wm. Schulte, Henry Munson, Herman Lehmkuhl, Fred Schulte, Lester Light, Louis Lehmkuhl, Fred Lehmkuhl.

Front row, left to right: O. K. Wildgrube, Wm. V. Kiebert, James McConkey, Frank Moore, Edward Light, Ned Robb and Richard Bubel, Sr.

THE CENTER BAND

The Center Band, one of the few community bands left in the state, was organized in about the year 1906 by the late D. R. Welles, who directed it continuously until his death last July, except for a few years during World War I, when the late Richard Bubel Sr., conducted. The first group was called a cornet band. As the years passed, more musicians and instruments were added until it was possible to have a complete band. The band played for public functions of all kinds, not only at home, but at many other towns in the surrounding territory. Many of the members started their training as youngsters and played with the band for years. The Center Band has definitely been one of the moving forces in the cultural development of the community. During all these fifty years, except for a few years during World War II, the band has been active and continues today under the direction of W. H. Lehmkuhl.



The Center Band at its full strength, about 1920

Base Ball



Hensler River Rats having lunch near Ft. Clark on their way to Deapolis to play their first ball game of the season, 1908.



Strike three—you're out! Ball game between Hensler and Ft. Clark at Center, Old Settlers Day, 1915.

PLAYED SHUT-OUT GAME—JULY 19, 1917

Center ball players and fans were all puffed with pride when they returned from Hazen Sunday afternoon. That day they played a return game with Hazen and shut out the latter on Hazen grounds, the score being 10 to 0. All insisted that it was a fast, clean and almost errorless game, with little or no disputing. Pitcher "Jig" Heskett is said to have been in the best of form.



Standing, back row, left to right: Burt Wilcox, Ed Hagerott, Clyde Fields, Clarence Scherer, Ben Light, Umpire Bill Miner.

Seated, left to right: Ed Wonn, Burt Conyne, Batboy Ray Schultz, Gust Pelke.

Above — the Center ball club about 1924. The Center team was so fast in those days, they needed only eight men and a small boy.

Fort Clark, N. D., 1915



FORT CLARK, NORTH DAKOTA

Fort Clark is one of the most historically interesting locations in North Dakota. It was named for Captain Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, who spent the winter of 1804-05 in this vicinity.

This community abounds in unresearched history of trading posts, Indian lore, and early Missouri River travellers.

In or about 1910, E. W. Chamberlain built the first general store, where the post office was established with Mr. Chamberlain as postmaster. The Northern Pacific Railroad tracks were laid to Fort Clark in the late fall of 1911. From 1910 to 1915 Fort Clark enjoyed an era of building and prosperity when grain elevators, stores lumberyards, a hotel and restaurant, a newspaper, stock yard, blacksmith shop and a livery barn were built. Recreation was found in the forming of a band in 1916 and in having one of the fastest baseball teams in the county for years. The present school was completed in 1917.



THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE—FORT CLARK

The Church of the Nazarene of Fort Clark, North Dakota was organized in July, 1922 by W. M. Brewer, North Dakota District Superintendent, and Will Griffith, evangelist. Meetings were held in a tent and from this came 17 charter members to form a church. They were:

Mrs. M. O. Ankerberg
Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Alderin
Daisy DeCamp
Mr. and Mrs. James Eckenrode
Mildred, Ruth and Marie Eckenrode

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Eckenrode
Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Linn
Mrs. G. B. Martin
Rebecca Spitler
John Welch

Six of these charter members are still in this community and attending this church. The first pastor was Rev. A. W. Porter in 1922. The church was dedicated in 1926. In 1938, the parsonage was added to the church. In 1944 Chas. Noble purchased pews for the church and the N.Y.P.S. bought the pulpit chair. The church now has 25 members, a good Sunday School and a missionary society. The present pastor is John F. Bergstrazer.

The Village and Church of Hannover, N. D.



HANNOVER, NORTH DAKOTA

The Post Office established in 1886 was named Hannover after the original home of the German immigrants who settled in this locality. H. H. Albers, Sr., was appointed the first postmaster in 1886 and in 1892 Mr. Albers operated the first general store.

The Hannover Creamery was built in 1899 and its first buttermaker, R. F. Flint, later became Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor for the State of North Dakota. Thereafter, a cooperative was formed of this industry which is the oldest Co-op in North Dakota on record. Hannover butter has rated high in state contests and the industry proved to be a financial boon to farmers of this locality.

In 1912 the store and creamery were moved to the present site from a location not far to the west. In 1944 the old creamery was destroyed by fire, but the present structure was built with brick the same year. A John Deere Implement business which was formed by the present owner and manager, Wm. H. Borne-mann, has been in operation for a number of years. The present store is owned and operated by Arthur and Rose Albers, Mr. Albers, who is postmaster, being the grand nephew of the first store owner and postmaster.



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

From 1896 to 1900 the first parsonage and church were built. The charter members were H. Albers, Sr., H. Albers, John Albers, Sr., John D. Albers, Deitrich Henke, Wm. Henke, Wm. Rabe, Aug. Wolf, F. Woehler, and Christ Bornemann.

In 1912 the second parsonage was built and a parochial school added in 1913.

Organizations which followed were the Lutheran Ladies Aid Society in 1917 and the Young Peoples' Society in 1924. Rev. Alb. F. W. Barz was the first resident pastor.

The present structure was dedicated in April 1950. Rev. Wm. H. Gierke, the present pastor, has served the congregation since 1938.

Hensler-Washburn Ferry Boat



HENSLER

The Hensler Post Office was established in 1882 in the Louis Connolly residence with Louis Connolly as the first postmaster. Mrs. Connolly's maiden name was Hensler, she being Lizzie Hensler, the youngest daughter of the Hensler family and the only young lady in the community at that time. The office was named in her honor.

The first Hensler school house was built in 1906. The present Hensler townsite was surveyed and platted in 1909 and building began in the early spring of 1910, the first train arriving in 1911. The Hensler Congregational Church was erected in 1913.

FROM THE EARLY FILES—

OLIVER COUNTY CREAMERIES — January 12, 1911

According to the Ass't. Dairy Commissioner, Oliver County had five creameries, even though it was one of the smallest counties in the state. There were three in operation the past season and the new plants at Hensler and Yucca will be ready to begin operations as early in the spring as business will warrant. The two creameries that reported for the full year ending June 30, 1910, handled 785,159 pounds of milk; 138,025 pounds of cream and made 76,642 pounds of butter and paid their patrons \$16,845.92. This may not seem like a large volume of business for two creameries, but when that amount of money is distributed among 75 or 80 patrons it means a great deal to those receiving it in a year of partial crop failure.

DIG ROCKS — April 29, 1915

Would it not be a good idea for the auto owners of Center and vicinity, as well as others kindly disposed, to get together some Saturday afternoon and dig some rocks out of a lot of the roads tributary to Center? A few hours work that way would be well spent. Other localities could do likewise.

The Town of Price, N. D.



PRICE, NORTH DAKOTA

The town of Price was named for the Wm. Price family by the railroad surveyors when the railroad was built along the river in 1910-1911. Shortly thereafter, there were established a lumber yard, hardware store and grain elevator. Later there was a blacksmith shop, a restaurant, a pool hall, a general store and postoffice. A cordwood cutting plant and a limestone kiln were also among the early enterprises. Early and famous visitors at Price, via river boat, were Teddy Roosevelt and Sitting Bull. About two miles north of Price is located the Mollander Indian Village Site.



FROM THE EARLY FILES—

Pioneer, March 30, 1900

The first contingent of Oliver County settlers arrived in Mandan this week and were delayed in getting away owing to the heavy fall of snow. The party consisted of A. D. Gaines, who is the leader of the new settlement, E. B. Fairbanks, R. M. Gilbert, T. A. Nellerhoe, Chas. Pitcher, B. Hooker, Jos. Schaeffer, Julius Schaeffer, C. E. Leslie and Mr. Johnson. These gentlemen are mostly from Minnesota and bring with them stock, agricultural implements and are ready for the season's work as soon as spring opens. These men are, and have been, successful farmers in the East and come with conviction, after a careful investigation, that they can make a success of mixed farming in Oliver County. They are men of intelligence and means and come prepared to build comfortable homes and make them permanent. They are in no sense speculators, but permanent residents who will add to the material wealth of Oliver and contribute toward the development of that young and prosperous county. Oliver is to be congratulated in securing such a class of American citizens, a class that will own farms and with enterprise enough to add value to them every year. This is only the beginning of a large increase which sure to follow and, like Mr. Gaines, the Pioneer believes that the time has come when the tide of Eastern immigration is turning towards North Dakota.

The Sanger School



SANGER, NORTH DAKOTA

Sanger is a town which grew out of one of the first settlements in the county. The first town in that immediate vicinity was named Raymond and was the first county seat. Louis Smith established a store there in about 1886. On May 20, 1888, the name was changed to Bentley. A postoffice was installed with George Sanger as postmaster in 1884. School was held at the Moses Hyatt residence in the early days. George Digby started a general store in 1908 and the railroad arrived in 1910. A new school was built in 1914.

From about 1908 to 1917 the following business were built as part of the town of Sanger: Johnston Lumber Yard, Case Land Co., Digby Hotel, Occident Elevator, Bank, Blacksmith Shop, Pool Hall and the Sanger Hall. Sanger had an active baseball club for many years.



No doubt the first lodge group in Oliver County. The K.O.T.M. Lodge group of Sanger, N. D. Taken in George Sanger's house.

Yucca Community

Taken from Center Republican: Yucca: Population 10; altitude 1770 feet; railways, none; Highway N. D. 25. Founded in 1882, unincorporated.

At first this small trading point was just a store operated by C. M. Whitmer on the bank of Square Butte creek. The post office was established in the store in 1903 and named Heart Ranch, for the ranch owned by storekeeper Whitmer. Shortly after, the name was changed at the suggestion of Mrs. R. H. Walker, to Yucca, for the native yucca lilly (Spanish Bayonet) which grows profusely in the vicinity. The post office was discontinued in 1928 and reestablished in 1931 at a new location.

THE DAYS OF THE YUCCA RODEO



The Yucca community staged its first corporation rodeo on June 24th and 25th, 1926.

Besides the regular contests common to rodeos and roundups, a wild boar race, airplane exhibitions, wrestling matches, acrobatic feats and dances served to entertain the large crowd assembled.

This was the first real rodeo staged in Oliver County and continued to be a summer event for a number of years.



Center Churches

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

This pioneer church in Center was organized August 9, 1903 by the Rev. D. H. Forsburg. Rev. Forsburg served the Center Methodist Community until October 1903, a faithful and tireless worker. He made the long rides from Mandan on a bicycle over the old Indian trail.

In 1904, Rev. A. W. Brown took over the Center charge, holding services in the court house until a church building could be erected. He took up a homestead east of Center which is now the Alvin L. Anderson farm home. Rev. Brown served the Center church from June, 1904 to October, 1910. Under his pastorate a church building, still standing, was built. Ernest Hagerott on whose land the original townsite of Center is located, donated a half block of land to the congregation for this enterprise.

In 1914 a parsonage was built. This was accomplished during the pastorage of Rev. W. R. Thatcher. The present pastor is the Rev. Don Klingensmith of Almont, North Dakota.



ST. MARTIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The first Catholic services were conducted in Center by Father Leo Kaufman, who was resident at Crown Butte and who served this parish from 1908 to 1912. Services were held in the homes of the members and later in the courthouse. The first dedicated church was built in 1916, dedicated November 19, 1916, and was named in honor of St. Joseph. This church was used until the present church was built in 1942 and 1943. The inside of this structure, built of field stone, was destroyed by fire in 1947, after it was dedicated in July 1946. The members of the parish, which had now been renamed St. Martin's parish, rebuilt the church in 1949. Rev. William Moelter, present pastor, has been here for over thirty years.



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Seven families meeting with Rev. Wm. Klein at the home of Ernest Hagerott organized the Center Lutheran Congregation on July 12, 1903. The first church built in 1904 was destroyed by windstorm. In 1916, they built the present church which was dedicated May 31, 1917. There are only four of the charter members of this congregation left, namely: Mrs. August Mantz, Sr., Louis Lehmkuhl, and Mr. and Mrs. Nick Ganten. At the present time the following men are on the church council: Deacons, Richard Bubel and Frank Scherer; Trustees, Raymond Jensen, Fred Schwalbe and Ernest Beckman; Secretary, Lawrence Reinke; Treasurer, Otto Lueneburg. Rev. E. Ketterling is the present pastor.



Churchtown and Otter Creek



CHRIST LUTHERAN CONGREGATION — CHURCHTOWN

On March 12, 1888, a congregation was formed at the home of Henry Windhorst with Pastor A. Dietrich in attendance. A constitution was adopted and signed by the following: Wm. Klein, H. Windhorst, Fritz Meyhoff, H. Scherer, H. Cordes, Conrad Zinn, H. Evers, H. Holze and Dietrich Meyhoff. The original church council consisted of: One Elder, Henry Ganten, and three deacons, Robert Rusch, Henry Scherer and Henry Cordes.

The present church, built in 1899, is located three miles west and eight miles south of Center. The following men are now serving on the church council: Robert Rusch, Fred Kuch and Henry Brandt. Rev. E. Ketterling of Center is the present pastor.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CONGREGATION — OTTER CREEK COMMUNITY

The first settlers arrived in this community in the year 1885. These pioneers built their little sod shanties and began to establish their new home. However, not before 1890 did the real settlement begin. Most of the settlers came here directly from South Russia. The names of those to whom we owe the settlement of this region and the founding of this congregation are: Joseph Bauer, Matthew Guentner, John Schweigert, Matthew Ellwein, Henry Ellwein, Andrew Ellwein, Karl Reiner, Andrew Dachtler, Sr., Fred Dachtler, Julius Grecklau, Fred Uhl, Theophil Uhl, John Grischkowsky, William Mernitz, Apelon Ruester, John Bickel and the three Schmidt brothers.

The congregation was organized on February 11, 1904, Pastor F. Matthias conducting the meeting. The first church officers were: Elders, Karl Reiner and Andrew Ellwein; Secretary, Henry Ellwein; Trustees, Joseph Bauer, John Grischkowsky and Andrew Dachtler, Sr. Mr. Emanuel Blum taught school in the church and gave catechism instructions. In 1907 the congregation numbered 27 families with 190 souls and 89 communicants. A school was organized in 1908 which was attended by 50 children the first year. Rev. P. A. Merting was the first resident pastor and was installed February 6, 1913. Rev. Wm. H. Gierke of Hannover is the present pastor of the church at Otter Creek. Present church officers are Elders, John Weber and Albert Bauer; Trustees, Paul Briemeier, Theophil Dachtler and Henry Bauer; Treasurer, Lloyd Huber; Chairman, Henry Bickel, and Secretary, Edwin Bauer.

Scenes of the Early Days



Sunday on the Homestead



Oberg Saw Mill near Mandan Lake, Oliver County, 1903



I. P. Baker boat hauling coal on the Missouri

1956
CENTER CIVIC CLUB OFFICERS

Leo Yantzer, President
L. A. Klein, Vice-President
Leonard Moore, Secretary-Treasurer
Herman J. Leinius, Executive Committee
Emil Kautzman, Executive Committee

50th Anniversary Old Settlers Celebration Committees:

Band

W. H. Lehmkuhl, Chairman Leonard Wicklund

Finance

Mrs. Helen Fandrich, Chairman
A. H. Isaak Emil Kautzman

Advertisement and Promotion

C. J. Rapsavage, Chairman
L. A. Klein Roy Matteson

Entertainment

Burton Wilcox, Chairman
August Perschke Mrs. M. Jennings

Parade

Arthur Gall, Chairman
Lawrence Reinke Mrs. Raymond Henke
Mrs. H. J. Leinius Mrs. Frank Brazda
Mrs. Ed Boland Mrs. Gordon Foss
Mrs. Melvin Sorstokke Mrs. Pearl Cullen

Sports

Gordon Schulte, Chairman
Leo Yantzer F. V. Fandrich

Dance

Leo Yantzer, Chairman George Harris
Fred Heinz Mrs. Bertha Yantzer

Historical

Mrs. M. Jennings, Chairman
Mrs. L. E. Dresser Stephen J. Dunn

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following people loaned pictures and gave information from which selections were made for this publication:

CENTER

Mrs. Theo. Starck
Mrs. Grace Jennings
Mrs. Sam Henderscheid
Mrs. Henry Price
Mrs. D. R. Welles
B. R. Gregory
Oliver Light
Mrs. Willard Starck
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Pflieger
Bert Baye
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bergloff
Mr. and Mrs. George Helvig
T. R. Light
Mrs. Emil Erdman
Louis Lehmkuhl
Wm. R. O'Brien
Mrs. Elmer Yeager
Mrs. Fred Kuch
Rev. E. Ketterling
Rev. Wm. Moelter
Alvin Anderson
Mrs. John Orgaard
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bigelow
Ed. Orgaard
Burton Wilcox
Mrs. Gladys S. Dunn
Leonard Moore
G. W. Staigle
Chas. E. Ellis
Mrs. Alma Skager
C. M. Albers
Raymond D. Light

HANNOVER

Mrs. Karl Kuch
Rev. Wm. H. Gierke
Arthur Albers
Mrs. Leonard Hermann

Mrs. Mary Noble
Ft. Clark

Mrs. Joan Boland
Beulah

Mr. and Mrs. Anno van Oosting
Hensler

Clarence E. Wilcox
Hensler

George Smith
Sanger

George E. Albers
Pasadena, Calif.

Thomas Price
Price

John Bagley
Stanton

Mrs. Lawrence Gilbertson
Seattle, Wash.

The Old Settlers' 50th Anniversary Historical Committee takes this means to extend its sincere thanks to all who have cooperated with the committee by giving information and lending pictures for this publication.

The committee has in no way attempted a complete history of Oliver County, but rather it has been our desire to gather some of the facts and scenes of the early years of our county.

Errors which may occur in this publication are wholly unintentional.

— STEPHEN J. DUNN

