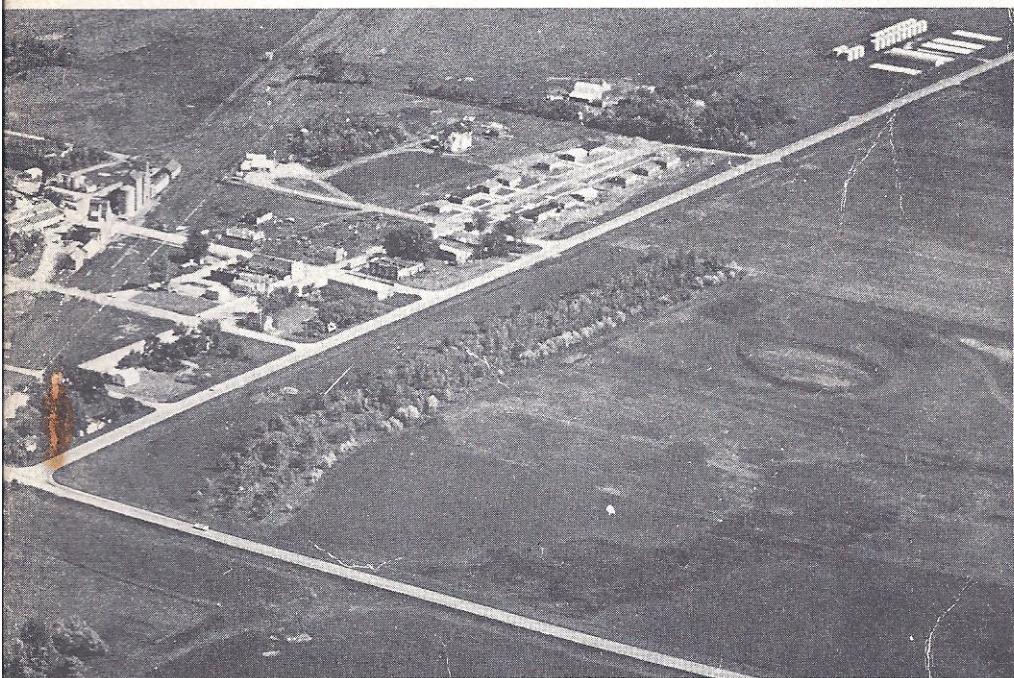




Stories About Our Town of Peever

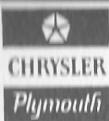


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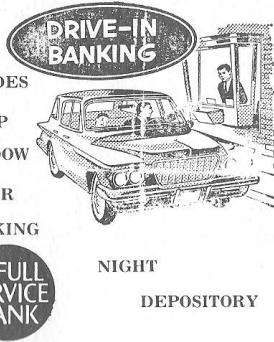
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Wilmot

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AND MOST COMPLETE BANKING FACILITIES



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When You Need It
You can put your trust in us . . . our reputation is based on dignity and good taste. We care . . .

BADERS FUNERAL HOME

Phone 698-3161



Looking Back In The Files ...

PEEVER PILOT, MAY 26, 1904

Stanley Harris and wife took their baby to Browns Valley for medical treatment.

Henry Shindler, Wurt Miller, Harry Spackman, Rev. Lane, Warren Lane, Mayor Babcock and Auditor Metcalf were down at the justice trial of a saloon keeper tried for running with an illegal license. He was found guilty before Justice Urich.

The celebration Tuesday, May 17, was a grand event in the life of Peever.

The day was superb and an immense crowd witnessed the ball game, horse race, slow race and the fat man's race. In the evening a basket social was held at the school house for the benefit of the woodmen finishing the day with a dance at the James Hall. Peever came out with flying colors in the ball game with Sisseton but had to surrender to Wilmot in the afternoon.

Mr. James is having the hall over his store partitioned off into living rooms and Tom Olson and family will move into them at once.

Mrs. Viola Hess witnessed the sports here Tuesday, coming down from Sisseton that day.

P. E. Laing was at Sisseton between trains Tuesday.

Miss Edith Aney's school in Becker Township was closed last week on account of Scarlet Fever.

Daisy Clover

AUGUST 2, 1904

Lohre's "Station"

A dance was held at Fred Kelley's last Friday on account of the busy times not as many attended it as might otherwise have done so.

Severin Lohre has hired out to Iver Hagen of Goodwill for the quite reasonable compensation of \$50.

Yesterday a couple of high steppers and a green conveyance (a pair of "Long ears") were tied behind _____ Close investigation proved to be K. Helgeson and Martin Peterson, the latter having purchased a team of horses from R. A. Johnson of \$255, including a set of ornamental harnesses. Some of you boys will be left out in the cold when Martin comes around if you don't look out.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Grinde, twins, both boys, last week.

Hereafter the mail between Lohre and Good Will will be carried in a rubber-tired stagecoach.

PEEVER PILOT - 1904

Pete Thompson, of the firm of Thompson and Gable (Harness store), called to Flandreau yesterday by a telegram stating that his daughter was seriously ill at that place.

A Sunday School picnic was held at Renville's grove a few miles west of town Wednesday. About 65 people, mostly women and children, attended and while there the ladies organized the ladies aid society of Peever.

KERMIT PEDERSON STORE



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Phone 698-3551

Sisseton, S. D.

Harold Schindler, who has been employed as manager of the McGowan Lumber Co. as manager and elevator manager at this point for the past seven months, will leave here Monday. Mr. Strait, a former employee of the St. Croix Lumber Co. will assume active management of the business.

In conversation with attorney Rix of Milbank, who is employed as counsel in a case where in the possession of an Indian allotment is in dispute, we learned that the deed to allotments taken under render the act of 1873, were only held in trust by the Government for five years instead of twenty-five as has been generally supposed here.

About 3 years ago Dave Faribault of the Agency, purchased a horse from a transient who was traveling through the country. One day last week a party from near Sioux City, Iowa, arrived and claimed it as one of three stolen from him a few years ago, and furnished proof positive that the animal belongs to him. The party that stole the horse had lately been arrested for another crime and confessed to stealing the horse and disposing of him to Mr. Faribault, who last week turned it over to its lawful owner.

PEEVER PILOT - FROM THE COURANT
AUGUST 11, 1904

Harold Schindler has leased his hall to the Woodmen Lodge of this village for the ensuing year.

GOODHART BROS. INC.

Blacksmith, Welding & Machine Work



Custom Boxes & Hoists - Snowmobiles - Sales & Service
Complete Lawn-Boy Line - Wil-Rich - Schweigers - Belrus Tractors

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JOHN WENSCHLAG, Owner

Phone 698-3251 or 698-7979



Sisseton, S. D.

Grain - Feed - Seed - Twine - Fertilizers
Drying - Cleaning - Chemicals

E. J. Barnett, assistant in the Reservation State Bank and a well known lady of Sisseton were south bound passengers Tuesday. Things look rather suspicious and perhaps Earl will be forced to buy when he returns.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1904

Therom Craig of Wilmot was in Peever last Saturday, with an Indian who he had arrested for "bootlegging".

Peever is going to have a jail. It seems funny that soon after a town gets a newspaper they must have a jail. But they do.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1904

Philip LaBatte threshed 21½ bu. of wheat to the acre on his farm near the Agency.

F. E. James, one of Peever's bustling merchants and ranchmen, arrived home Thursday from a two week business trip to the Twin Cities and Osage, Iowa.

George Wood, one of our prosperous and progressive farmers, is hauling lumber for the erection of a cattle barn on his farm to be 24 x 40 feet. Mr. Wood is one of those people who believes there is money in stock.

Mr. O. A. Bakken has been canvassing the matter of forming a company to erect a cheese factory and so far has met with very flattering success. Several men have already signed and it is



Tri County Co-op

Browns Valley, Minn.

Where the customer
is the company

probably that a meeting will be held sometime next week. It is a good thing. Push it along.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1904
Democratic Ticket

Among others, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Miss Emily Meade of Charles Mix. Commissioner of Schools and Public Lands, Thomas H. Peever, Roberts County, Peever, South Dakota.

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1908

Disappeared from my buggy last Saturday night at Berger Bergerson's dance, five boxes of strawberries, a large package of sugar and the sirloin steak for our Sunday dinner. There were 10 cents worth of sour pickles left in the buggy and they had been tested and found unwanted for there appeared to be human teeth marks on the end of one pickle. Some man and his wife had a Sunday dinner, we didn't; consequently our rebellious interior, plus a few sour pickles in an empty stomach, gave us visions of people eating strawberries and cream. There were one hundred more words expressing our feeling on this subject but the entor say this engine is weak—so am I.

Your Alex Grey

BEST WISHES

PEEVER you are 75 years old and we at BROOKS MOTORS would like to extend our best wishes.

Stop In And See Us
BROOKS MOTORS

Since 1940



Phone 698-7633 • Sisseton, S. D.

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Located downstairs in the Sears Catalog Store.

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BEAT THE HEAT...
SHOOT THE BREEZE
WITH COBRA

BUCKS TELEVISION
SALES & SERVICE

JULY 10, 1908

The Browns Valley Tribune say a small Metyor or shooting star fell at Fernsleigh Beach at the head of Traverse Lake, during the thunder storm Monday, particles of it being picked up in E. Paul's garden. They resemble pieces of coke, and when Mrs. Paul first discovered them in the garden, they were still hot. It is evident that the shooting star, when nearing the earth and coming in contact with the heaven atmosphere, exploded, scattering the particles as described.

APRIL 16, 1908

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Erickson leave for Norway on Friday, April 10. We are sorry to have such good neighbors leave our midst, but will hope their return will be in the near future.

JUNE 11, 1908

Mr. Thompson and his crew of men finished ditching the big slough east of town last Saturday about 8 o'clock. They started about forty rods north of the telephone line which is three miles north of Peever and ditched the slough to the railroad bridge which is nearly a mile south of Peever.

NOVEMBER 22, 1906

Martin Erickson, who lives west of town holds the record so far this year for the average yield of wheat. From one piece of 24 acres, old ground, he threshed 527 bushels of no. 2 blue stem wheat or in other words got 22 bushels to the acre. If all people farmed as Mr. Erickson does they would have no reason to complain of South Dakota or any other state. It takes up-to-date methods to do anything successfully.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1907

Engelbrit Anderson's threshing rig was sold here Saturday to Henry Thompson, Chas. Smith, Ed Lyngen and Ole Grinde.

OCTOBER 10, 1907

Mr. and Mrs. Will Opsal moved into the Earl Aney house this week. Will is employed in T. H. Peever's Store.

OCTOBER 1907

Leo Kurrasch has purchased the George Smith farming outfit and will take possession Monday. The way Leo will go into his farming business will be very slow. We understand there is a lady from Sisseton who expects to do his cooking, while some of the boys around town claim he is going to "batch it" next summer. What the truth of the matter is we are not two to one on the girl is from Sisseton.

NOVEMBER 14, 1907

Mrs. Henry Hensem was quite seriously injured in a runaway at the Agency Wednesday afternoon. She is reported much better before we go to press.

DECEMBER 5, 1907

Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Coe of Medford, Minn., who spent the past ten days at the DeFrance home, returned home today.

APRIL 9, 1908

Alfred Nelson and Herman Kurrasch were the first around Peever to spear any fish this year. Tuesday evening they went down to the grade east of town and succeeded in getting four pickerel.

JULY 24, 1908

Notice is hereby given to the stockholders of the Farmers Elevator that their next meeting will be held in the Woodman Hall Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, August 1st. Secretary, A. M. Anderson, 1908.

Interlake Mill & Elevator, Inc.

Grain - Seed - Feed

Browns Valley, Minn. 56219

Phone 612-695-2327

Best Wishes . . .

We are here to help with all your seed & feed needs.

CUSTOM GRAIN CLEANING

Sisseton Seed Mill

Fred Suurmeyer, Owner

Phone 698-3491

Sisseton, S.D.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1908

John Sykora's Barn Burns

While John Sykora and his hired man were at Browns Valley Saturday afternoon, Mr. Sykora's barn caught fire and was burned to the ground. There was about 1000 bushel of oats in the barn and some harness and a calf. The oats were not all destroyed; he thinks he can get about 400 bushels of good oats out of the 1000 that was in the fire.

Mrs. John Sykora and the children were at home. Mrs. Sykora was out working in the garden at the time the fire started and the children were in the yard and happened to be near the barn when the fire started and, through their racket, their mother was aroused and hurried to the barn where she found it on fire. She rushed into the barn and untied three horses and that was enough for any woman to do.

It is unknown how the fire started, whether the children set it or whether the thrasher dropped a match and the mice got a hold of it and set the fire.

Mr. Sykora had no fire insurance on the barn so it will be a big loss to him, where if he would of had it insured he would have been to a very little loss. So if there are any other farmers who have no insurance on their farms property now is the time to have it insured.

We Salute You . . .

We are proud to serve the fine people in the Peever area - our neighbors.

Hansen Oil Company

Conoco Petroleum Products
Allis-Chalmers - New Holland - Melroe

Browns Valley, Minn. 56219



A delegation of Indians from the Yankton, Crow Creek and Granite Falls reservations arrived here Wednesday to attend the Presbyter at Goodwill Mission.

Tom Richards received two blooded hunting dogs from Ridgeland, S. C., Wednesday and will train them for chicken hunting. The dogs belong to Mr. Davies of New York and are valued at several hundred dollars.

JUNE 30, 1905

John LaBatte received nine baseball suits from Minneapolis on Saturday last for the Agency team.

The Peever baseball team again met with defeat Wednesday in its game with Graceville. The game was well played on both sides. One of the interesting features of the game was Herman Renville's sensational one-handed catch away out in the center field while running backwards. The score was 4 to 1.

We understand the Agency and Peever baseball nines have consolidated and will play together in the future with John LaBatte as manager. Out of the two teams nine of the best players will be selected. John Rogers who is now playing with Watertown will also play with us. The team will be known as the Peever Indians.

Watch the Peever Indians get the win on July 4.

AUGUST 29, 1907

C. J. Rice is building an elevator at his station. The building will be 24' by 60' high.

N. P. Ildnald's two year old daughter drank a quantity of poisoned fly paper water last Sunday afternoon and for a time it was thought she would not recover. Doc Pearson was called and after hard work succeeded in saving the little one's life. A person cannot be too careful with poison around children.

JANUARY 8, 1909

The M. E. Sunday School of this place held their annual election of Sunday School officers and teachers last Sunday, January 3. The following is the result of election: S. H. Malm of Easter Typ., was elected Supt. Mr. H. Kurrasch, Assistant Supt. Miss Myrtle Bloomhall, Recording Secretary. Mrs. H. Kurrasch, Sunday School Treasurer. Mr. O'Bryan, teacher for the Bible class. Mrs. Laing, teacher for young people's class. Miss Hensell, teacher for the Infant class. Miss Myrtle Bloomhall, organist.

The M. E. people of Peever feel well pleased over their election of teachers and officers. They are well satisfied that they have a very striving and competent crop of teachers for their Sunday School.

The M. E. Church has an organized choir, which is very highly spoken of by those that understand vocal music.

The M. E. people extend a cordial invitation to all the people in Peever and joining vicinity to come to their services in the M. E. Church. Sunday School every Sunday at 2 o'clock p.m. Preaching by Rev. Shearer at 3 o'clock p.m. Next Sunday's lesson will be found in Acts 2:1-2. This first church in Peever.

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tankful at our
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parts
be sure
to see the boys at
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Auto Parts



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We Aim To Keep Pleasing You
For Another 75 Years.

OCTOBER 16, 1908
Fire at Mission School

Word came from the Goodwill Mission Indian School five miles west of Peever that the residence of the superintendent burned down Tuesday forenoon but the other buildings were saved. The wind was blowing a terrific gale and the burning shingles set fire to the prairie and as a result the whole country southwest of Sisseton was on fire and the city was asked to sent out help to fight the flames. About 200 people went out to fight the fire as a large amount of farm property was in danger.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1905

Some election returns. Peever votes License.

At Peever the regular nominated ticket was elected as follows: Chairman—Matt Opitz; Trustees—Chas. Nelson and John Peterson; Clerk—Ole Bakken; Treasurer—A. Nelson; Marshall—Alex Murray; Justice—J. C. O'Brien; Road Overseer—Peter Peterson. License was voted in by a vote of 32 for to 7 against.

APRIL 14, 1905

It's Chief of Police John Laing now, having been appointed by the town board to the vacancy caused by the resignation of Alex Murray.

Congratulations Neighbors!

Best Wishes On Your 75th Birthday

Farmers Union Co-op

Propane & Custom Spraying & Hardware

On - The Farm

Tire Service



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Wilmot

From One Pioneer To Another

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

May You Long Remember The Date



J. A. Dady

Hamms, Bud & Miller Distributor

SISSETON



Budweiser

NOVEMBER 13, 1908

Hot Shot

We hope our readers will pardon us for using a little slang in expressing our views of the victims smoking cigarettes. Say you kid, you're a nice looking nip with that cigarette under your nose ain't you? You're the kind of a soft, pliable floppy piece of a boy, all weakness and moral embescility which the toughs take as apprentices and educate in the deep dark mysteries of how to be bad. You are marked as a little fool by every decent man who sees you, and every time you indulge in the foolish and hurtful habit you are lessening your opportunity of being respectable, you want to be smart but you know it isn't smart. Nobody thinks it is smart. If you go into a strange town your cigarette spots you as a little hoodlum and you will have to do a lot of good things before you can convince anyone that you are worth having. It impairs your health and ruins your reputation and makes a contemptible monkey out of you.

Your friends are ashamed of you. If you are far enough along in the habit you glory in your shame and will stick to it thru pure cussidness. Your Ma hasn't given you up yet and wants you near her as you are. Nobody respects you.

They think you are the blossom that yields the fruit of idleness and shame; you are a sprout from which a worthless bum will grow in time. You ought to quit; and knowing that you ought, then why don't you.



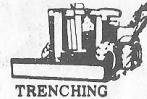
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SERVICE AVAILABLE

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Air Conditioning
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W. Hwy. 10 - Sisseton, S. Dak.



Rev. P. Kilness had quite an exciting time yesterday when his team ran away with a stone boat with a barrel of water. No damage was done.

APRIL 13, 1905

The basket social held at the school house last Friday night netted the organ fund \$20.65. A good crowd turned out and everybody enjoyed themselves.

Earl Aney is changing both his residence and business places. He moved from Urich to the Ross residence and will soon move his barber shop and pool tables into the Spackman building.

Alex Murray has been busy this week putting up a windlass for the fire department to roll the hose on, between the Bank and the P. G. P's store. This leaves the hose in a convenient place to get at in case of a fire.

APRIL 27, 1905

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Rice are the proud parents of a 10 pounds banker boy, born to them Wednesday, April 9th.

Robert Ross received 4 gang plows yesterday and is rigging up his steam outfit today and expects with a long day to plow 20 acres a day.

**Our Best Wishes
To The
Peever Residents
On Your 75th Birthday
We Are Proud To Be Serving Your
Electrical Needs**

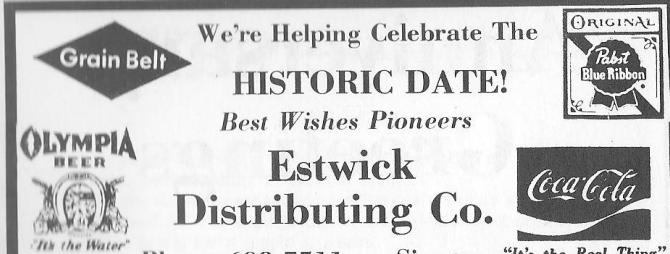


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HISTORIC DATE!
Best Wishes Pioneers

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ORIGINAL
Pabst
Blue Ribbon

Olympia Beer
It's the Water!
130

Coca-Cola
It's the Real Thing

MAY 4, 1905

Arbor Day was fitly observed here Friday. Swen Anderson was out to Big Coulie and procured a large number of trees, which were duly planted around the schoolhouse and nearly every property holder in the village set out a few trees. This is a step in the right direction.

MAY 18, 1905

The Laing Bros. are putting their blacksmith shop in shape. J. Pederson and T. Peever are fixing and remodeling their store building this week.

The ruling by Indian Department relative to allowing the Indians only \$10.00 a month of his land money has been revoked and they are now allowed to draw \$50.00 per month. If the Indian is a citizen of the U. S. as was recently proven, we can see no reason why, he cannot as well as any other citizen enjoy the use of their money that rightly belongs to him and spend it as a citizen of the U. S. should.

JUNE 1, 1905

Prof. Dudeck announces that Saturday, June 3, the school children will hold a last day of school picnic at the Renville grove west of town. An elaborate program has been prepared and the children are looking towards it with great anticipation.

Here at Gambles we are pleased to serve you
with nearly anything you may need
**Go
Gambles**
for Farm, Home, Auto.
ROGER VIG
Owner

Anniversary Greetings

We At The Union State Bank Are
Proud To Serve The Many Fine
People In The Peever Area With
Our FULL SERVICE BANK.

Yes, whatever your Financial
Requirements Call upon us . . .
after all we are your neighbors.

- Savings
- Auto Home & Farm Loans
- Full Service Bank
- Insurance

Union State Bank

BROWNS VALLEY

JUNE 15, 1905

John Peterson purchased lots 7, 8 and 9 of Block 14 in town of Peever last week from Harry Spackman and intends building a residence soon.

JULY 6, 1905

John Rogers, Peever's footracer, was hired out to the water-town baseball team for \$75.00 a month.

Ole Bakken went to Simpson Park on Tuesday where it is understood he will manage the culinary department of one of the large hotels for a couple of weeks.

We understand the Agency and Peever baseball nines have consolidated and will play together in the future with John LaBette as manager. Out of the two teams nine of the best players are selected. John Rogers, who is now playing with Watertown, will also play with us. The team will be known as the Peever Indians.

A petition has been circulated among our citizens this week asking the County Commissioners to appropriate \$250.00 towards fixing up the grade east of town. This is a necessity, as during the wet season it is almost impassable. It is about the only way out of town to the east and is on the U. S. mail carriers route to Browns Valley and we hope the honorable board of County Commissioners will lend a helping hand.

JULY 27, 1905

Chas. Norton this week purchased the Woolcott restaurant and will run it for himself in the future. Charles is going to put in a nice line of confectionery as cigars, fruit, tobacco and soft drinks.

Six year old Winfield Urich caused no small amount of worry and anxiety Wednesday afternoon and night when he became lost from the party who were picking raspberries in a gulch 7 or 8 miles southwest of town and a posse of about 50 citizens hunted all night without finding him until about 5 o'clock Thursday morning when Fred Fredrickson notified the crowd that the boy had come to his place at daybreak, after wandering among the hills and coulees all night alone.

AUGUST 10, 1905

Some horse doctors are driving over the country in automobiles. That is certainly knocking their business.

A. M. Gray and Miss Laura Peterson, both of One Road township, were married at the Good Will Mission on Thursday last, July 27, by Rev. Evans.

We understand contracts have been signed to the effect that Miss Schumaker and Prof. F. E. Dudeck will again teach the Peever Schools this year.

AUGUST 25, 1905

The C. M. and St. P. railroad has at last decided to put a

stockyard in at Peever, and construction has started.

We understand Alfred Nelson will buy grain in the McGowan Elevator this fall. Miss Hattie Aney will take over the duties of acting postmaster.

The Peever Pilot office expects to change quarters next week and will be found in the Bakken building now occupied by the post office. Alfred Nelson will move his post office into the Spackman building.

OCTOBER 12, 1905

The Peever Justice Court was exceedingly busy the latter part of last week. Dog fights, men fights, hats and hair fights, shirt and collar fights could be found at most any old place around town.

Montgomery Ward and Co. have been so well pleased with the business gotten from Peever that they have donated \$5.00 toward the building of a church in this place. If our home merchants got as much business in proportion from Peever as the catalog houses do, they would all donate \$25 or more. The donation from the company certainly nails the truth of what we put forth in these columns each week.

NOVEMBER 2, 1905

The Lutheran Ladies Aid will hold an auction sale on Monday

Happy Birthday Peever!

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS • FERTILIZERS

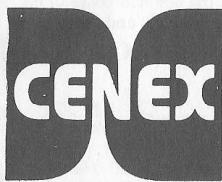
Town & Country Delivery

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Sisseton, S. D.

Jensen Locker Service

Located In Sisseton

Wishes Peever Residents Success
On Their Anniversary

75 Years Is Quite A Span

morning, November 6, commencing at 11:00 a.m. and lasting until everything is sold. Proceeds will go towards the building of the Lutheran Church. Reports are that the foundation has been laid. Nearly enough money has been subscribed to pay for it.

Rev. C. R. Crawford of Good Will was in town today. While here dropped into the Pilot Office. Rev. Crawford for 29 years has been a pastor at Good Will but recently resigned on account of ill health. He also related to us some early history of this country. He being the first Indian scout employed by the government in these parts.

DECEMBER 14, 1905

Alfred Nelson has been pushing the matter of having a switchboard placed at Peever and have several local phones put in. This week he received word from headquarters at Aberdeen that if 18 local phones would be put in, Peever would be supplied with a good switchboard. Signers for 18 phones were very soon received and next week we will have phones.

PEEVER NEWS, FEBRUARY 23, 1904

F. E. James returned from an extended visit with his family in Osage, Iowa, Tuesday. Mrs. Alfred Nelson returned from New London, Minn., Monday evening where she has been visiting.

A Friendly Hello

To All Peever Residents On
This Historical Date



ALLEN ELLSWORTH
Your Standard Oil Bulk Agent

Phone 698-7111

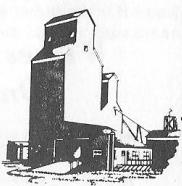
Sisseton

We're Proud To Be

Serving The
Peever Area

Count On Us To Give
Farmers Top Service

Seeds - Feed - Chemicals - Twine - Fertilizer



Vig Elevator

WAYNE HORNER, Mgr.

Phone 932-3661

Peever

Anniversary Greetings!



We have enjoyed serving you
with the finest in building supplies,
paints, petroleum products and
lumber these many years.

We Salute All The Pioneers

Vig Lumber

KENNETH VIG

Phone 932-3641

Peever

MARCH 2, 1904

Mr. Dove, the house mover, is in town this week and has started a foundation to a store building to be put up just as soon as weather will permit, adjacent to the building moved in from the Agency.

The band will give another dance March 8. The band boys would like to have a good crowd present (Mr. Ole Bakken was a member of this band.)

MARCH 9, 1904

The marriage of Sam Quinn and Julia Redwing occurred here yesterday. Justice O'Bryan tied the knot.

The majority of farmers around Peever have taken advantage of the fine weather and have done their spring harrowing.

MARCH 23, 1905

If Tom Olson don't move his hog yard, the citizens of Peever will have to move the town.

Dr. Bobb reports a 11 pound girl at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Byron Baily the 17th.

You may have taken notice of the paper this week being much better than usual. The reason for this is Bert Opsal went to Ortonville, so the 3 devils took charge of the Pilot.

Robert Hensell has purchased the Pioneer Livery of Tom Richards. Mr. Richards has moved on the Lewis ranch where he will train dogs for eastern parties the coming summer.

MARCH 30, 1905

Mat Opitz is making some extensive improvements on his store building by putting in a hat case and two heights of shelving on top of those, giving it quite a metropolitan appearance.

A deal was completed this week whereby C. E. McGowan became proprietor of the Aney Bros. Lumber Yard, and will move the same across the track to his yard. "Wash" Aney will have charge of the McGowan Elevator and Yard after April 1.

At Peever the regular nominating ticket was elected as follows: Chairman—Matt Opitz; Trustees—Chas. Nelson and John Peterson; Clerk—Ole Bakken; Treasurer—Alfred Nelson; Marshall—Alex Murray; Justice—J. C. O'Brien; Road Overseer—Peter Peterson.

Taken from the Courant, Sisseton, S. D.
PILOT CAPTION, JULY 11, 1907

We understand Mrs. Bloomhall has rented the hotel for another year. Everyone interested is entirely satisfied.

There will be Norwegian Lutheran services in the school house Sunday, July 14 at 11 o'clock. Rev. Chr. Peterson of Bensen, Minn. will conduct the services.

The remains of H. L. Urich, who was buried east of town about

five years ago, was transferred to the Peever cemetery south of town this week.

Peever has at last been successful in inducing a doctor to locate here with us. We have needed a doctor a long time, but owing to the fact that we did not have a drug store, it was hardly considered advisable for one to locate here. Mr. A. W. Pearson is the gentleman's fume and he hails from Chicago, is a graduate of the College of Physical and Surgeon's of U. of Ill. Came well recommended and is welcomed by everyone. Leo Hailbarttrom, a barber who has been employed in the Myers Tonsonial parlors for the past two years and was in Peever looking over the town in view of putting in a first class barber shop and pool room. He was well satisfied with the prospect and rented the old Bakken building before leaving for a week's visit with friends at South Shore. He will probably be back today to get everything in readiness for opening up business next week. Mr. Hailbarttrom is a good barber and the fact that he held a chair in the Meyers shop in Sisseton two years in itself is a good recommendation. In fact, last issue we stated that at 11 o'clock Saturday evening, June 29, the saloon at Sisseton would close up business for the year. The same is also true about Peever in one respect. Our saloons are closed but in length of time they will be closed indefinitely.

The application of the W. F. Done and Oscar Hegna for license to sell booze in Peever was rejected by the board of county commissioners and it is up to the right people to get out their petitions

and make application for a permit and will be granted here after it is expected that a saloon keeper run a clean, decent place in order to get a license and the good will of the town and county board.

JULY 25, 1907

Mr. J. P. Gorman and sons Bill and Peter of Britton were guests at the Gosline family this week. Doc. A. W. Pearson is our new Modern Woodman of American Physician. He was made to ride the goat last Tuesday night.

An Indian was found dead in bed this morning at his home in Big Coulee. As yet the cause of his death is unknown.

We understand that Solon LaBatt was married last Sunday to a girl from Carlisle, Pa.

The Laing brothers have torn down the old barn on the back of the property they recently purchased of the bank and are building a more modern structure. They are improving the property in many ways.

Leo Hailbarttrom painted the inside of his shop and pool room Monday and it now presents a very neat appearance. Leo is one of those boys who likes to have things neat and clean around his place of buisness.

AUGUST 8, 1907

Banker Rice was at Sisseton Monday on business.

AUGUST 15, 1907

Alfred Nelson, Matt Opitz and B. L. Opsal were at Sisseton Tuesday to attend the meeting of the County Commissioners and see them disfranchise to voters of the Town of Peever. Great stuff, this reform portion of the county board.

AUGUST 22, 1907

A. A. Peterson of the Peever Mercantile Co. of Sisseton was an arrival here Wednesday afternoon to take charge of the Peever store here.

Howdy Partner!

We Wish You Many Fine Things
For The 75th Anniversary

A & C Variety

Located In Downtown Sisseton Since 1946

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We Salute You On This 75th Birthday

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Story Told Ora Steinfeldt . . .

HOMESTEAD LIFE FOUND DIFFICULT

Pioneer History of Alice May Nancarrow Knight as told to Ora Steinfeldt for the Archives of State Historical Society.

On October 4, 1874, Alice May Nancarrow was born at Pine Island, Minnesota to Robert and Annette Nancarrow. When Alice was 4½ years old (1878) the Nancarrows and the Charles Gary family (aunt and uncle to Alice) came from Pine Island to Canton in Dakota territory. They planted their farm to corn that first year, but grasshoppers took their entire crop and they returned to Pine Island.

Dakota had gotten into their blood, however, and Bob Nancarrow accompanied by brothers-in-law, Del Reingart and Warren Smith returned in 1879 and build a sod shanty northwest of where Wilmot, South Dakota now stands. He then returned to Pine Island for his family. In the spring of 1880, on March 20, they left their home town with two covered wagons drawn by mules and after several weeks of traveling arrived in Dakota territory on April 15, 1880. Alice and her parents were in one wagon which consisted of bedding, a small stove with oven and a walnut table which is still (1967) in the family. The family fare consisted mainly of salt pork, corn meal, beans, tea and staple foods. They came as the crow flies and Alice distinctly remembers crossing a river (Yellow Medicine) where they swam the mules and cows across, taking the women and children in a boat.

On arriving at the homestead, they were struck by the barrenness of the prairie. The sod shanty appeared as a tiny island in the midst of a vast sea of grass. To the west the hilly promontory of the Coteau Des Prairies with its wooded coulees relieved the monotony.

On their arrival, they found only two other white families: the Kimballs, and the Hilmar's. Many friendly Indians came to visit them, however. Among them Sam Finley, Adam Staiford and Horace and Adam Greeley. Their main source of fuel was green wood hauled from the Coteau Hills, supplemented by twisted hay and buffalo chips. Many antelope and Indian ponies roamed the prairies. Snow was so deep the following winter it was necessary to tunnel up snow steps to get outside their shanties. The nearest trading post was Browns Valley, Minnesota. They Managed to exist that winter.

The John Artman family, newly arrived, had no shanty to move into. When their Indian neighbors heard of their predicament, they came down with ponies and sleds and took the Artmans to the home of Edwin Phelps, where they spent the winter. Mr. Phelps was the first Indian Minister and held services in his home, which still stands of the C. L. Lake farm near Peever.

In those days, Indians and prairie fires were a constant worry to the pioneers. Many times long lines of Indians with their belongings, led by Chief Gabriel Renville, passed by the Nancarrow home on their way to buy government supplies in Montevideo, Minnesota.

In that summer of 1880, land was broken and potatoes, small grain, beans and rutabagas were planted. Del Reinhardt (Alice's uncle) and his wife and seven children who had accompanied the Nancarrows to the Dakota Territory lived in a large shanty a quarter of a mile away. Because there was no floor in the Nancarrow shanty, Alice's mother refused to live in it and so they made their home in the covered wagon in which they traveled until the father could make a trip to Canby, Minnesota for lumber with which he could built a one room shanty. To add an additional room to this shanty the covered wagon box was removed from the running gears and placed on the ground adjacent to the shanty. The Nancarrows livestock consisted of 2 mules, 2 cows and one half dozen chickens. The latter were kept in a box in the rear of the covered wagon.

Alice never liked the above mentioned mules because her father traded a beautifully matched team of horses for this woefully unmatched span of mules, knowing mules withstand more hardship than horses on a cross-county trek. The sod shanty, which Mother Nancarrow would have no part of, was used as a barn for the stock.

During the harvest season, often times the men of the family were far from home and slept where they worked. In their absence, the women and children carried on as best they could caring for their small gardens, chickens, milking and herding cows.

Alice was the eldest of three children. When she was fourteen, her sister Leila was born. Eighteen months later her brother George arrived.

During the blizzard of 1888, Alice and seven of her schoolmates were stranded in their schoolhouse overnight. Though the visibility was only a few feet, they attempted to leave the building, Balough concluded, but the teacher decided against it. They went to bed supperless on a bed made of their coats. Fortunately, they had plenty of coal, but found it impossible to keep the room warm when the thermometer plummeted to many degrees below zero. Early the next morning parents came in sleighs, bringing kettles of soup. Alice still remembers how good that soup tasted. The children were then taken to the home of the nearest neighbor for a hot breakfast. In 1895, Alice married Seymour Knight in a ceremony in "rooms" over Draves Hardware Store in Wilmot, South Dakota. The couple lived northeast of Wilmot about two miles for three years then bought a relinquishment two miles east of Peever, South Dakota.

Women and children still had the chores to do, same as they did in Alice's childhood, and on one particular evening when Mrs. Knight and her family and neighbor, Mrs. DeFrance and her family, returned from an afternoon of herding cows, they noted that one window was open. They exchanged worried glances and a few remarks and decided they had forgotten to close the window. Then tried to forget the incident. Since their husbands were miles away threshing, the two women pooled their resources and the two families spent the night together. When the children were asleep, one woman whispered to the other "Are you asleep?" "No," the other answered, "I can't sleep. I keep hearing noises and wondering about that window." Just then they heard a team drive into the yard. The team passed the house and drove on to the woodpile where the driver stopped; unhitched the team and threw the harness over the fence and two men walked on to the barn where the stock was. Shortly, they reappeared and Mrs. DeFrance, who in the meantime had taken the gun from above the door, urged Mrs. Knight to level the gun on the window sill and "shoot." Mrs. Knight knew well enough how to shoot, but though she leveled the gun on her targets, try as she might she could not pull that trigger. The men proceeded from the barn to the woodpile, where the women were sure they planned to find an axe, then turned and walked to the house. The women were petrified with fear as the door downstairs opened and a man's voice called, "Matt, we're home." Their husbands had trouble with the thresher, had borrowed a rig and team to return home for repairs.

Alice vividly remembers how the county seat of Roberts County was changed from Travare (near Browns Valley, Minnesota) to Wilmot. Her uncle and father helped move the documents by moonlight on a dog sled. Her uncle was one of those arrested and called into court at Fargo, as a result. The authorities were powerless to do anything about it, however, and the "prisoners" were released.

Later, Sisseton, by fair means of foul, had the county seat removed there, and there it remains today.

The Knights lived near Peever until 1823 when they moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Knight passed away there within the year and Alice returned to Wilmot, to the home formerly owned by her parents, who had moved from the farm home into town in 1920. Alice lived there until September, 1966, when she entered the Wilmot Community Home. On a recent visit with daughter Frances (Mrs. Manley Pew), who lives three miles east of Corona, South Dakota, she was treated to a "puggy" ride behind a team of burrows. She later remarked, "That's the first ride I've had behind a span of mules for 80 years." She also "rode" the burrow sidesaddle, without the saddle. Seven children were born to the Knights, Lloyd, Frances, Glen, Doris, Dorothy, Marjorie and Mildred.

P.S. Alice just now remembered that my father, (Calistus Pew) who also lived three miles east of Corona, managed a threshing crew in the Wilmot area and received the highest pay of any man on the crew in the amount of \$2.50 per day. He traveled as far as twenty miles with a team, and was on the job at 5:30 a.m. Many nights, of course, he slept on the job. One night he had rented a room at the Wilmot Hotel. He was awakened by the smell of smoke, he opened the window and jumped into his threshing machine, parked beneath the window and drove it to safety as the hotel burned to ashes. Mrs. Knight recalls they did not know what sickness was in those days except when a new baby arrived. "Our only Doctor was Mrs. John Artman, a very efficient midwife. Sometimes I think we pioneers were much happier and more contented than people are today. We appreciated and enjoyed our many blessings."

ANDREW GRINDE & FRANK E. DUDECK

Andrew Grinde, the son of Ole and Sarah Grinde, was born in Chippewa County, Minn. At an early age he came with his parents to Roberts County. He served in the Army in World War I overseas, to France. After he came back he farmed and did carpenter work for several years. He was custodian 12 years at Peever School, also caretaker of the church.

Frank E. Dudeck was born at Rolling Prairie, Ind. and came to Roberts County in 1904 as a teacher in the Peever School. He was editor and owner of the Peever Pilot. He served as postmaster and also operated a general store for years at Peever. He also farmed and served on the town council and school board.

SIDNEY LABATT

I was born on March 10, 1895, 3 miles east of Peever. We later moved to town where my dad started out trading horses, along with his other business. Towards the last he had a race horse, a thoroughbred, and entered Old Agency, Browns Valley and the Wheaton races. When A. M. Anderson came, he build a sod house just north of us. I knew all the Peever people. "Wash" Aney, Tufts, Straits, Dudecks and Bob Miller. Bob Miller was a good-natured man. Sidney now resides at the High Rise in Sisseton.

Sidney tells of his father, Philip LaBatt, operating a saloon in Peever. We lived in a house across from what is now Hortness Implement business. Pius Laing ran the blacksmith shop. I don't remember the date, but I do remember the May 17th celebration day.

I remember the hitching posts. There were two ponies tied up sleeping with their harnesses with blinders on, which were too big for them. Along came this man and sneezed. The horses jumped and scared the man. We laughed so much over this.

ANEY, SUNDEHEIM, ANDERSON, BARSE, HALLAND, CHRISTENSEN

Allen D. Aney was born June 1, 1874 near Elroy, Wis., the youngest son in the family of seven. When he was seven years old he came with his parents to the vicinity of Wilmot and Peever. Allen and brother Reuben from Becker township, and moved to Peever in its early days, where he ran a dray and with Reuben, a livery stable until horses were no longer used for transportation, where they farmed west of town for many years.



Reuben & Allen Aney



Aney Livery

Agnes and Oscar Sundheim lived in Peever where Agnes was Postmaster until 1962, before that they farmed south west of Peever.

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Anderson lived in Agency Township where they lived on his parents homestead. They had two children, Harvey and Doris. Mr. Anderson was active in his church, township and school board.

Frank (Jack) Barse attended school at Big Coulee Day School and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a life long community resident.

EDNA JURGENSEN

Edna Jurgensen and her sister, Mary Backman were born four miles south of Peever (Gardner farm). My dad, Jens Jorgensen came on the train from Illinois and stayed over night at Charlie Rodeens, then he went back and got his wife after buying the homestead rights. He shipped by train his oxen, covered wagon and all their possessions, moving into a sod house where my sister and I were born. Dad bought an Indian house and moved this onto the Gardner farm. We had a stone cellar.

My uncle "Pete" Ildavad, ran the elevator where Vigs is now, for many years. He was well known in this community. Our good neighbors were John Suttons, P. R. Christensens, Charlie Rodeens, A. M. Andersons, Abraham, Andrew and Martin Ericksons and A. Hunters.

My dad was the first to plant corn in this area. He brought the seed from a New York farm where he worked. He and his wife saved their money to move up here in the 1900's. We used to brown barley in the oven for coffee.

My grandparents came from Denmark where his father was killed during a war between Germany and Denmark. They prayed for food to keep them going each day.

Times were so hard and there were five children.

Edna also remembers these neighbors, Hegnas, Enquists, Quartons, Redearths, DeWolfe's, Bendicksions, Lakes, Fitz', Johnsons', Germans, Knights, Ericksons, Whipples, Huffmans, Swayzes, Steinburgs, Oddens, Kellys, Greys, Stefflers and Urichs.

Andrew Halland, the son of Iver and Anna Halland, was born Sept. 22, 1883 in Leekanger, Sogn, Norway. He came to Bellingham, Minn. on Oct. 3, 1903. Mr. Halland attended Madison Normal School and worked in a store in that city. He taught parochial school. On Oct. 10, 1906 he married Lizzie Marken of near Pellingham. In the year 1910 on May 10, he moved with his family to Peever, which was his home. Mr. Halland was one of the early settlers of the Peever Community and during the time of his residence here he owned a merchant store for many years. He was a member of Peever Lutheran Church for 45 years and served as secretary for many years.



Halland Store Interior

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Sisseton, S. D.



O. R. Aney and the Aney Brothers



Harvesting - 1946



Threshing Tank Wagon

"DOC"

July 1907 Dr. Pearson started his medical practice in Peever, also a Drug Store managed by a pharmacist from Sisseton. Peever then had less than 200 inhabitants. It had one general store owned by Tom Peever of Sisseton and managed by Hans Jurgens, one State Bank owned by Carl Rice with Adolph Ertsgaard as teller, one store owned by Mr. Opitz and hardware store by Hans Swenson. One hotel operated by Mrs. Bert Bloomhall and family. They had at least three steady boarders, namely Dr. Pearson, Hans Jurgens and Adolph Ertsgaard, until in November 1908 Dr. Pearson went to Clitherall, Minn. and married Inga Johnson, rented a house and left the hotel which was now managed by Mrs. John Peterson. In June 1909 Adolph Ertsgaard married Myrtle Bloomhall starting a home of their own and in the fall Hans Jurgens decided it was time he ought to get married, traveled to Denmark bringing back a wife.

Peever also had a barber shop, blacksmith shop, five grain elevators, a livery barn, owned by Reuben and Allen Aney. Their brother, Washington Aney, managed one of the elevators and soon their brother Orris Aney and wife started a hotel and grocery store in connection. Good meals could be had for 25 cents.

There was a little telephone office managed by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dudeck. Had service during the day but closed about 8 p.m. Usually one of the several farmer's lines would be connected to the doctors residence at night. Mr. Dudeck taught in the one room schoolhouse which was also used on Sundays by the Lutherans for services conducted by Rev. Peter Kilness. There was also a Methodist church.

Peever had a lumber yard, butcher shop, city hall. Soon one more bank, the Farmers, was started, another lumber yard and barber shop. Soon Andrew Halland started a general store. In 1910 Carl J. Rice and Dr. Pearson purchased automobiles, soon followed by others and gas stations were started. There were no hospital facilities in Sisseton or Peever so surgical cases had to be taken to Webster or sent to Rochester.

Peever was a thriving little town for many years until the bank failures and good roads were established. Our depot agent was Joe Steffire and later Jack Nieland. A Lutheran Church and high school were soon built. Peever had no city water, only a few wells owned by private residents. Electricity came in during the year it was brought to Sisseton about 1915.

In 1919 C. J. Rice sold his bank to Mr. Hodgeson and moved to Minneapolis. In May 1932 Dr. Pearson and family moved to Sisseton, also the Pearson Drug Store. Soon he and Dr. Peterson started a little hospital in the Wedelund residence. Also Dr. Powell started a hospital.

Written by "Doc" Pearson, 1975

We Salute the Pioneers
Gill's Repair
Tractor Truck & Car Repair
Mr. and Mrs. Don Gill, Sr.
203 W. Oak. Sisseton
698-3805



JENNY (87) AND JIM (81) THOMPSON

Jenny has danced at Indian celebrations since she was 18. She is the last living child of Gabriel Renville, chief and scout. She tells of her dad who had three wives and 14 children. Jenny was from Old Agency and Jim from Big Coulee. They met at a dance. Jim lived for many years west of Peever and now lives in Sisseton.

Jim tells of the time they tried to make it up Big Coulee hill with a Model A and it went down so fast his dad had to jump clear. Byron Woods lived close by there. He remembers when John Ladd and wife came from Iowa with a covered wagon in 1906. He built a stone house at Hidden Valley Ranch. He lost his wife there and George Ladd lived there where he raised cattle. Bert Griffeth came from Minneapolis, also Byron Woods on this ranch and last it was owned by Mr. Miller of Waubay, who named it Hidden Valley Ranch.

Jim is the last of his family also. Both Jim and Jenny had some schooling but they both had eye problems so they had to quit school. Jim has worked for Doc. Pearson, Bill Jordon and many other farmers also. Jim tells of when he was a boy and got angry at his dad and climbed a tree and wouldn't come down. His dad chopped the tree down and Jim climbed another one. Jim finally gave up.

RENVILLE, GERBER, PETERSON, KELLY

Gabriel Renville, 1825-1892. South east two miles from Old Agency on the crest of the hill stands a stone monument in which is inscribed the following words: Gabriel Renville, always friendly and at peace with his white brethren and true to his government.

Dwight and Orcelia Gerber lived three miles west and two east of Peever for 45 years on their farm in Lawrence Township. They had six children. Dwight served on the township board and school board for many years. One time a bunch of Wilmot people came to our 17th of May celebration. They said Peever had the most smoked Norwegians they'd ever seen. The 17th of May was a Norwegian holiday. They used to enjoy the Saturday night movies on Main Street in the '30's.

Fay and Miller Peterson lived in One Road Township and homesteaded there until 1914, then moved two miles west of Peever until 1930. Miller ran a threshing and steam rig as well as farming, with Fay hauling the grain with a team of horses and wagon. They moved to Peever operating a filling station for many years. They had two sons Dan and "Bud".

John and Julia Kellogg Kelly moved from Pomme de Terre, Minn. in 1876 to Marshall, Minn. They homesteaded in One Road Township in 1901. Their home was destroyed by fire. They then bought a farm and built on it one mile west of Peever, now the Lawrence Lundstroms farm. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly helped build the Catholic Church in Peever. Jul. a was loved by all and remembered as a friendly and helpful police matron. They had two daughters, Amy Hunter and Ruth Aaro.

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Long Term

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Sisseton

LUNDSTROMS

written by Lawrence Lundstrom

Peever in the early 1900's was not just a town of people, but a Community Center of pioneers who had come from distant countries or from the east in search of a more independent and challenging life. Their hopes were high, and their spirits good. They loved people and were glad to share the ground, and their learning with Indian people who occupied the territory. The land proved to be rich, raised good crops and livestock. The town of Peever grew quickly.

Kellor, a fore runner of Peever, less than two miles to the northwest on the Milwaukee Railroad and crossed by a trail leading from the Indian Agency to Browns Valley; had been dissolved due to the fact that the land on which it would engulf was Gosit Trust (Renville) land and the parties interested could not buy land for a townsite. The station had been a depot for the Agency, but was also a trading center including a grain elevator, store and post office. I believe Sampson Renville operated the store. A bridge spanned the creek two miles north of Peever. My parents settled just off this trail two miles to the east of Kellor. I believe my parents to have been typical pioneers, too busy for much rest and seeing too many in need to be remorseful. Yet I can remember my dad, Adolph Lundstrom, in his chair singing an old Swedish song and dreaming his way back to the Old Country. He had come to America at the age of sixteen, the elder of a family of fifteen. He first worked in Chicago and then came on to Browns Valley in about 1888. Five more brothers later followed him to America. He loved the land and horses and he worked for the Bechers and Bensons on the east of Lake Traverse. With his savings obtained a few implements and horses. He then batched and farmed with Fred Nelson for awhile. He could have taken a homestead with the opening of the Indian reservation for settlement in 1892, but at that time many thought the prairie worthless, especially with its numerous prairie fires.

My mother, then Caroline Mattson, was born in a log cabin. She first worked at Appleton, Minn. and then came to Browns Valley. She married my father at Wheaton in March, 1894. They left this place, and moved to the place east of Kellor. They had purchased the residence and homestead rights, 160 acres, from a man wanting to move on. Later they purchased another 200 acres and at this farm seven children were born. My father purchased cord wood at the Agency. He did custom plowing with a walking plow, leaving my mother alone much of the time.

My mother made many friends, and made her rounds with horse and buggy. I rode with her many times to Sisseton and Peever. Once the horse shayed, I fell out. She helped care for the sick and helped with the new born and the dead. She had determination enough to grub an acre of plum trees with an axe, and build a chicken coop out of scrapes, to shock a field of grain while caring for a home with little ones and yet have time for others.

I was the youngest, but I still recall the coyotes howling, and how they would move into the farm yard and out again like a whirlwind. I remember the good prairie chicken hunting, and the special train cars of hunters that packed in Peever and the singing of the Indians as they traveled with horse and wagon with the squaws always sitting in the back. I also remember the Gypsies and their gypsy camp grounds, the first phonographs, radios, airplane, cars, pheasants, tractors. I pitched bundles into a steam powered threshers and helped build roads with horses, picked corn by hand and am thankful for all these experience.

We have seen the small town nearly destroyed but we are now again seeing a move back to it and the country.

**Greetings From
Midtown Barber Shop** Sisseton
698-7172

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

written by Lawrence Lundstrom

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**Greetings From
Midtown Barber Shop** Sisseton
698-7172

Happy Anniversary

**Lakeland Lounge
and Lanes**

614 W. Hickory

Sisseton

Best Wishes

**R & T
Lounge**

Pabst Beer
PeeverRecreation
932-9608**AN OLD RED RIVER VALLEY PIONEER**

by Julie Argo, grade 7, Wilmot Public School

August Hunter came from Germany and came over to the United States to live. They had eleven children. Five girls: Marble, Minnie, Ethel, Dorothy and Lois. Six boys: Willis, Robert, George, Henry, Clifford and Clarence. Clarence was born on Nov. 1, 1890 in Barry, Minn.

Clarence told of some things Bob and he did when they were young. One day his bother, Bob and he were trying to break a steer to drive and broke the reach part in the buggy. Also at his dad's place, Clarence slipped and fell in a well in the ice and Bob had to pull him out.

He talked of the times when they milked twelve cows by hand. He plowed with a walking plow for nine years. They grew corn, wheat, oats, flax and barley. They stored grain on the farm and fed some to the animals.

The price of corn was one dollar a bushel. Oats was fifty cents a bushel. For five pound of sugar they paid eighty nine cents and coffee was forty-five cent a pound.

Clarence first started to work out when he was twenty-two years old.

He and his brother Bob built our house in 1919 when Clarence was twenty-nine years old. The house was formerly known as "the Hunter Place." It took thirty-eight days to complete it. The ceilings were built high in the house. "I recall when I hired an Indian to plaster the walls and the ceilings. My brother and I had hid a pint of whiskey between the petitions. When the Indian came to plaster the wall he wanted to start on the wall where we had hidden the whiskey and we didn't want him to, but he plastered that wall first anyway. We never did find that whiskey bottle."

They also built a garage, a grainery and a lean on to the barn. Clarence planted trees on the north side of the house.

Best Wishes!

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By the garage they had gas pumps and sold gas. In the garage they overhauled cars and did blacksmith work. For every Model-T they overhauled they got twelve dollars.

Clarence met Margaret Trower at his dad's place. She had come from Illinois with her mother and her two brothers. In 1927 Clarence and Margarete were married. Margarete was eighteen and Clarence was thirty-seven. They had four boys. Albert, one of their son's, died three days after he was born. The other sons they had were: William, Eddie and Howard.

They had four rooms in their house. They also had sixty pigs, two dogs, twelve cows and ten horses.

On the farm they plowed with walking plows and work horses and they milked cows by hand. Clarence threshed for fifty-two years starting at the age of nine.

Clarence recalled a bad blizzard in 1904 and another in 1905. He said they didn't see the barn for three days.

In March 1945, Clarence and Margarete moved into Peever, South Dakota to live. Clarence worked from 1950 to 1958 for Alfred Powell threshing and harvesting. He was sixty years old then.

Clarence said: "I have been married, and raised three fine sons who are married and have children of their own. I am really spry for my age and plan to live to be one hundred and four. I milk a few cows and have some pigs. I work out for twelve dollars a day, on a farm putting in crops and haying."

"I own my own place in town and also have eighty acres of farm land which I rent out to get feed for the pigs and cows.

"I enjoy getting up early in the morning and getting outside. I go up town for the mail and to jaw with my old friends. Sometimes we gather at the only cafe in town and play cards. Peever only has two hundred and eight people, has one cafe, one grocery store, one liquor store, one hardware store, two gas stations, one lumber yard and two elevators, two churches: Lutheran and the Methodist Church, which I belong to.

I am now 86 years old and have never had an accident. I drive a fairly new car. Margarete and I go to Watertown, Milbank and Sisseton to shop. We also take in the State Fair at Huron almost every year. On Sundays we like to drive out into the country and look at the scenery and visit some of my old friends and talk about the 'Good Ole Days.'

"Last summer was one of our highlights of our life. Margarete and I went on a vacation to Huron to visit our son, William and his family. Two of our grandchildren were then married. They both married someone from Huron. Margarete made each of them a pair of pillows and a pair of pillow cases. She also baked the buns for the weddings. Our children all live farther away but fine time to visit every summer. The grandchildren also enjoy staying with them during the summer.

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"Although Margarete and I have had a lot of happiness and some sorrow we have had a very good life together." Margarete remembers at least once a week we had big card games at Fredrickson's, Lakes, Hunters or Herman Johnsons in the winter time. The first school Margarete attended was Agency No. 4. The board officers were R. F. Dauson, Iver Matheson, Christ Christensen. Our teacher was Bertha M. Argo. The pupils were Alonzo Davison, Ernest Howell, Elsie Howell, Arthur and Hazel Quarton, Gruntwig Christensen, Willy Christensen, Margarete Trower, Wesley and Sherman Trower, Ruth, Alvin and Leroy Kivley, Lois Hunter, Malinda Rose, Amelia and Wallace Owen, Homer Goodteacher and Edwin and Farrell Phelps.

Clarence and I came to town a lot and in WPA time I used to come in and visit. Then I was asked to help the ladies tie quilts and make mattresses. I remember when we made mattresses, a lot of ladies got sick from the wool dust. I made two for us and we are still using them. I helped make three or four others, then I got sick, so I quit!

Always on the 17th of May, the town of Peever would have a big celebration and everyone came in. They had sack races, run races for kids. Pie eating contests, in three minutes eat ten crackers and then whistle. They had wrestling matches, tug of war, horse races and ball games. Fat man's race, ladies race, townmen against countrymen in the tug of war. That celebration quit in the early '20's. Then in the '30's, the town used to have free shows—shown outside in the spring, summer and fall. In the winter they were shown in the big hall that was built in WPA time. They quit the shows in the late '30's.

The big event for the 4th of July was the celebration at Old Agency. Indian dances, ball games, horse races and later on the rodeo. Peever started going downhill when Sisseton got the Indian Agency to move to Sisseton.

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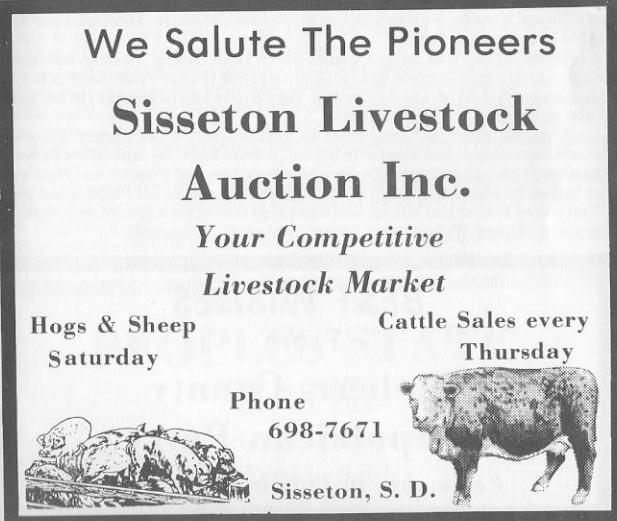
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Peever

GILBERT EARTH

Gilbert Earth was telling of how they built the old government school in 1908 or 1909. The building was 200 feet long. I don't remember when the school closed. From there I went to Pipestone, Minnesota, where I went to a trade school for carpentry and then to Flandreau school. When we went to school then, we went until we were of age (21). When we went to school we had to study and stay in school; a young fellow got one chance to do something wrong and then he was sent to Plankington. When we went to school, we had to walk both ways. The schoolhouse was always cold when we got there, but I'm glad that I went to school in those days. Now they close the schools in May. In those days we had school until the last day of June.

The Old Agency celebrations were further south than Old Agency is now. There were Indian dances and different tribes came from Nebraska, Montana and Minnesota.

Gilbert worked for the Whipple and Quarton ranches. We rode a lot of horses for Griffith and Whipple. We'd go with him to Wheaton and Morris, Minnesota and drive cattle back to South Dakota.

Hidden Valley was quite a place. Harry Lake, Eberg, Hartvig and Elmer Elfeson and Helmer Johnson had cattle there at one time or other. Griffith lived in Minnesota and lived here in the summer. They'd have long hay stacks (50 feet long). Ladd owned the Griffith place first.

We would "cross cut" wood when we went to school at Old Agency. They then bought something to saw wood with horses (tread mill). We burned cord wood at the school which was shipped in by freight to Beardsley and Wheaton and from there we hauled the wood to Old Agency. Old Agency had a stone jail which is now gone. What ruined Peever and Wilmet was when they moved the Agency away, it should have stayed there. We had a good time at Old Agency celebrations.

**BEST WISHES
From
Roberts County
Republican Party**

Remember to Vote in November!

**BEST WISHES
Rustand
Recreation**

Candy - Soft Drinks - Amusements
Peever

The first Indians settled in Minnesota, then west of Milbank. The church still stands. We then moved to Big Coulee and Agency. We used to play a Mocassin game. We hid a bead under a mocassin and we sang and guessed where the bead was. There aren't too many of the old people left.

ALTA DeWOLFE DAVIS

Alta DeWolfe Davis, parents were Delmar and Emma DeWolfe who came from Wisconsin to Minnesota. Lyle was the oldest and Shelly was born in Roberts County.

The Delmar DeWolfs lived in Roberts County near the Minnesota border. Alta lived at home on the farm until she went out with her brother who had already homesteaded. This is where Alta homesteaded in the Standing Rock Reservation in Western South Dakota in 1912. She met Harry Davis who also had homesteaded here. They lived there until 1925. Mrs. Clifford Ramynke is their daughter. Millie Ramynke was the County Judge for 15 years for the counties of Roberts, Day, Marshall and Grant. She was recently elected Circuit Judge for an eight year term.

Harry was our auctioneer. Harry's parents were from Ireland.

An incident with Dad and she at the livery barn. One bitter cold night there was a team tied outside in the cold and snow. He took it to the barn and paid for its night's keep. This happened in 1903.

Emma DeWolfe, my mother, was a beautiful character, always seeing good in everyone and setting that example for her children. Never would she tolerate or every repeat evil gossip that might come to our house!

CORA FREDRICKSON ARGO

Cora Fredrickson Argo tells of her parents Fred and Susan buying their homestead rights from some German people who didn't like it here. This was eight miles west of Peever. She remembers her dad looking out the window while having breakfast and laughed, saying, "Look at the building they moved into the slough from Keller. This elevator was the start of Peever."

Mrs. Charlie Rodeen was president and Mrs. Fredrickson was vice president of the first Peever Ladies Aid. They were so pleased when they finally got started on the basement. This was in the old Lutheran Church which is still standing across from Hortness Implement. Their neighbors were Vriems, Henseths and Chris Johnsons, who lived in a sod house. Later Tom Richards moved on the Monson place east of us.

Cora remembers the early Indians were so friendly, they always held out their hands and shook hands. They would be so glad to see us and pleased if we'd try to talk their language.

The farmers used to help build township roads with horses and a scraper in the 1920's. Planks were used a lot too.

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ELLA LAKE

Ella Lake used to walk up the track to the Methodist Church. Herman Kurrasch invited me and welcomed me.

I worked at Aney's Hotel. The first summer there was a celebration in Peever. Leo Kurrasch was one of the players in the band Peever had.

Maggie Douglas (Flannery) and I worked at Aney's Hotel, waiting on tables, cooking and ironing. Jenny Renville and Ollie Campbell ate meals there. Earl Hemminger and his wife ate meals there on their way to the agency. It was at the celebration where I saw Leo Kurrasch for the first time (17th of May).

There was a contest for the nicest young lady and a gift subscription of the Peever Pilot. Anna Kelly won first and Ella Wood won second.

HELEN (HEGNA) BATHEL

There were no trees here at all when we came here. We would drive out West—the wheat fields were heavy and beautiful. We always had a big celebration the 17th of May. I always had to hurry home when Mama called for supper and back, the first ride was free. They had homemade ice cream and cake stands. In the evening people would sit around and visit—there were no cars—only a horse or two. The evenings were peaceful and quiet. The streets were full of people walking up and down the business places every night.

We had a train at 8:00 o'clock in the morning and then it came up again in the afternoon. We used to go up to Sisseton and shop and ride the train in the afternoon.

Charlie Dugan used to be quite a fighter. They had wrestling matches on the celebration day. John Renville used to wrestle three in an afternoon. They were good people.

The first summer we lived in the hills the wolves were so thick you could hear the pack howling. They would kill a calf every night. They used to follow the wagon home, trailing along behind.

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EARL OWEN

Around 1910 Phillip LaBatte was the Saloon keeper. His saloon was where the park is now. I planted those trees. That saloon was about right in the middle where the trees are. The harness shop was next to it. That belonged to an Indian, Sampson Renville.

When I first came down here in 1910 that Phillip LaBatte's son, Solon, turned out to be a rich boy. He took money from his dad, his dad helped him along. (He went broke from running the saloon.) But his son, Solon LaBatte, was a real estate man. He made good money, he had lots of that.

Peever was quite a town. They started with a feed mill. Just across from the city hall, that brick building there . . . A livery barn there. North of that brick building was a blacksmith shop. Bill Laird was the first barber. He didn't keep it long, he was a really sick man. Opitz owned the building where Earling is now. He had general merchandise, clothing and what-not. A big store. North of the hotel, across the street from the state bank - there was a shoe shop, a white man. And there's five or six Indians living there, around those business places. There were two banks. Alfred Nelson owned one and C. J. Rice owned where Mabel is now (though it wasn't there at first). But they both went up after I got here. North of Erickson's was - you notice there's never anything there. And from there was the pool hall, south of that was a beer joint and on the corner was Swenson's hardware store. The Laing brothers, Joe and Pius, they owned the first drug store here, that's south of where the bank is now. Doc Pearson was the first doctor.

About 1911, for five years, I was teaching wrestling and boxing in town and I made a kind of a bad town out of it. Where Bill Rustand is now, that building still stands. John Fredricks was in there, when I first came here. And then there was a school building next to it. They torn that down. Then there's two beer joints down

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here yet, north of the feed mill, right across the street from the blacksmith shop. That's where Alvin is now. This Solon LaBate built that big building that's there, that big brick building. He set up that for a pool hall.

Sampson Renville had a pretty big harness shop and shoe shop, right in the middle of the big park now. And the back alley, we don't need to hear about that. Back of Bill Rustands was another livery barn. That was run by Hazen Shepherds and Oliver Moore. And the lumber yards, there was a man by the name of Earl Straight. That's on the same location.

Yes, Peever was a good-sized town, I don't see how that all ever moved out to Sisseton.

They had a big stockyard, Frank Douglas. There were two saloons in Peever and about three beer taverns and the opera house.

And pretty soon the automobiles came in. I was always bothering Clarence and his brother, Bob, always having flat tires and car trouble. They had a garage out there somewhere. I had money then.

I got 32 ribbons there, got them at the tribal fair last fall, 1975.

TOM RICHARDS

Tom Richards came in 1903. They went to school in the old Sparrow Hotel. They was no depot, no sidewalks. A box car was used for a depot. My mother sat and cried, "I'll never stay in this God forsaken town." My Dad bought a livery barn. He ran that several years. He drove and also rented horses out. He traded his livery stable for the training business.

He started training dogs. He kept a New York lawyer's dogs the year around. They would buy dogs that they thought had talent and Mr. Richards trained them out in prairie fields. Helen would sit in the buggy and her dad would go ahead and chase up birds and then wave her to come with the wagon and team.

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NETTIE VAN TASSELL

Mrs. Van Tassell was organist for the Methodist Church about 25 years. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Neilsen. Mr. Neilsen was the house mover here. We homesteaded up in the hills not too far from Fredricksons. They were both born in Denmark. They had four boys: Earl Stanley, Albert and Ambrose and two girls, Ella and Nettie.

They had silent movies in Bailey's Hall (now the Senior Citizens Center). I played the music. After the movie they had a dance. Frank Richards played the violin and I played the piano. Clayton had the first kerosene delivery. He'd haul it from Sisseton to the Peever people.

I remember some of the pranks they used to pull. Some were pretty bad. Clayton was Peever's first barber. Clarence Hunter got his first city haircut from him. Henry Campbell was Peever's first tailor. Noble Wilcox was also a barber.

The Clayton VanTassells lived on what is now Mussetters home, for 17 years. He served on the town board as mayor.

PETRA STANBURG (TILLIE BARRY'S MOTHER)

Mrs. Stanburg came to Peever with her husband and two daughters, Tillie and her sister from Baltic, South Dakota, by covered wagon. On the way here the wheel came off the wagon and they had it fixed at Watertown. A family in Watertown kept them overnight.

My grandfather did carpentry work and my mother did housework for a minister here. She was fifteen. They lived here about three years. There was just a store and the post office.

They moved to a farm at New Effington from here. She remembered walking uptown after groceries and the mail for the minister that she (Petra) worked for.

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Congratulations Peever

Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe - Fourth of
July Pow Wow July 3, 4, 5, 1976, at the
Ceremonial Grounds-Old Agency

July 4 Schedule

- 10:00 a.m. - Flag Raising, Prayer**
- 10:30 a.m. - Honor Songs, Games**
- 12:00 Noon - Dinner Break**
- 1:30 p.m. - Grand Entry**
- 2:00 p.m. - Sister Irene DeMarrias'
40th Anniversary as a Nun**
- 2:30 p.m. - Elimination Contest
General Pow Wow**
- 5:30 p.m. - Supper Break**
- 7:00 p.m. - Grand Entry**
- 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 - Elimination
General Pow Wow**

**Come Share Our
Fourth of July Pow Wow!!!!**

PEEVER BANK ROBBERY IN 1908 BY LEILA FONDER

In 1908 when my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Douglas moved to Peever, they managed a hotel for about two years.

One real foggy night a man came into the hotel office and lit the lamp. He called out for everyone to stay in their beds and no one would be hurt. My oldest brother, Marshall, nine years old, got up to get a drink of water. His room was next to the office. The man asked him what he wanted, He said he wanted a drink of water. The man told him to get his drink and get back to bed. When he got to the kitchen, there was another man at the back door. He told Marshall to get his drink and get back to bed.

A Mr. Miller that roomed there, heard someone so he got up and lit his lamp. One of the men called for him to put out his light, just then a shot gun blast came thru his window. He didn't get hurt, but he put out his light and crawled under his bed.

My sisters and I were sleeping in a room on the first floor, our window facing the side street. We saw a light in the side window of the bank and some movements in the front of the bank. There was a loud blast, then they entered the bank and came out again. Another loud blast. It took three charges to open the safe. Later we heard horses running and a lot of shooting. Some went west and some went east.

The next day a railroad hand car was found about a mile and a half south of town. That was the get away car for some of them while one or two rode horses, to make people think they all rode horseback. The next day Mr. Nelson was missing the lines from his horses harness. They were found at the edge of town where they had been used to tear down the telephone wires. They were never apprehended.

LEILA DOUGLAS (MRS. GUILES FONDER)

My folks had a farm near the Valley. They sold it and moved to New Mexico. They originally came from Iowa in 1890. We moved to Peever in 1908 where we ran the hotel (the bank was across the street). My Dad ran the livery barn, too. After we moved out of the hotel, my sister Maggie (Flannery) worked with Ella Wood at Aney's Hotel across the street. In 1913 we moved back across the street.

My sister Ella and her husband, from Marshall, Minn., will celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary on March 12.

They used to have dances and roller skating over Hans Swenson's hardware store in about 1910. Dudeck had a show hall there and they had silent movies. He had a mystery movie one week and continued it to the next so we had to wait a week to see the end. This was before Bailey's Hall was built. We had some wild old dances there.

Every kind and grownup too was there for the 17th of May Celebration. My Dad was the first cattle buyer. He bought and sold cattle and hogs to ship to St. Paul.

**Congratulations
On your 75th Anniversary Peever
Settlers, Pioneers & Residents**

Roberts County Democrats

One Halloween they pulled Andy Johnson's separator of the threshing rig and put it on top of Aney's building (store) and put the blower in the window.

There used to be a little store beside John Fredricks Meat Market that sold dishes, lace and knick knacks in it. She had a live parrot that talked. Minnie Swenson and I bought her mother a dish at this store for her birthday. I still have the ruffled pink dish which I paid a dime for.

OLE LOHRE

Ole Lohre, who with his wife, ran Lohre's Station, west of Peever, for many years (Ole's father ran the Station before him). He remembers his parents and the five kids going to Peever to buy groceries at Hallands Store and selling the cream. He (Halland) had a little place in back of the store where he bought cream and eggs. Mr. Halland had four clerks working (Esther Gruly, Mel Anderson, Mr. Martinson and one other). I remember one guy giving Mr. Halland cigars and he thought it was pretty nice until he found out he was smoking his own cigars.

Jack Kane, the local animal doctor, came up to Henseths to doctor a sick horse. He said to give him this medicine every hour until midnight. Henseth asked him what about after midnight and Kane told him that doesn't matter, he'll be dead by then.

HERMAN POMRENKE

Herman Pomrenke was born June 22, 1878 in West Bloomsfield, Wisconsin. His wife Mary Campbell, was born in Indiana in 1892. Mary met Herman while she was staying with her brother, Walter. Walter lived one mile east of Peever. They were married July 1, 1915. They lived around Peever a few years then moved on the Perkins County. In 1936 they moved back to Peever, two miles south. They raised 12 children.

Mary passed away Oct. 3, 1938. Herman passed away March 18, 1969.

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Laing's Hardware Store

CHARLIE C. OWEN

Charlie C. Owen was born Aug. 29, 1877 at Graceville, Minn. He passed away June 5, 1936. He lived in the Waubay area until the time of his marriage to Amanda E. Tiomanipi in 1895. They moved to Agency Township.

To this union three girls and one boy was born. They are Malinda Spider, Rose Starlight, Amelia German and Charles Pierce Owen. They also adopted two daughters, Grace Two Stars and Waunita Keeble.

Mr. Owen farmed several years. He also owned a horse powered threshing machine and threshed for many farmers.

When he quit farming he went into gardening, raising all kinds of vegetables. He also raised many different kinds of apple trees and tame grapes. In the fall he would load his wagon with fruit and vegetables, which he sold throughout the hills to other farmers and into the Waubay area.

He built a log house in 1931-32 and lived there until the time of his death.

GEORGE QUARTON'S DAUGHTER LaVELVA WILLIAMS

(5 girls, 4 boys—was George one of the boys or did he have 5 girls and 4 boys?)
Mr. Quarton was a farmer and rancher. LaVelva remembers her and her sister riding to Peever horseback and putting their horses in the livery stable and one of them kicking one of the livery "boys" and how mad he got. I remember tying one horse to the hitching post. We lived in Peever in 1872 while the kids went to school. The American Legion Post was named after Norbert Opitz. His dad owned the Opitz store.

I remember Pearl Welch and Margarete Trower, Carlton Quarton and Harvey Ellifson. We had ice cream at Pearson's Drug Store on a Sunday afternoon at their marble top tables.

Mr. Quarton and Mr. Frank Whipple used to have rodeos at Old Agency where we were very well known by all the communities around.

We had a picnic and Roy and I were supposed to stand up and sing. Roy quit on me but I didn't dare to sit down.

I remember our school program and Mary Neblen and I were peeking at the curtains and she fell, we laughed so much.

AUGUST H. HUNTER

August H. Hunter came to America in 1872 with his folks, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hundt from Hamburg, Germany, at the age of 9. They settled around Owatona, Minn., where he grew to manhood. He left home and changed his name from Hundt to Hunter. He said he wasn't a hound dog.

He met Blanche Ellin and later they were married on Jan. 8, 1885. They lived and farmed around Willow Lake, Howard Lake and Barry, Minn. They then moved to Sisseton, S. D. by team and wagon. He ran an implement shop and ran a well drilling operation. In the year 1900 they moved on their homestead 5½ miles south, 4 west of Keller in Agency township where he farmed and ran the thresher for many years. He was on the township board, school board and was assessor of the township.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Hunter had eleven children: Willis, Robert, Minnie, Clarence, Mable, Ethel, George, Henry, Dorothy, Clifford and Lois. In the year 1901, they lost three children with diphtheria, Willis, Minnie and Mable.

Clarence said he had to walk to Keller more than once to get tobacco and groceries for his folks. As a boy of ten, they moved from Sisseton to the homestead. His folks left him and Bob there alone at night and they hid under the bed as they were scared of the Indians. He said he had to walk two and a half miles to school in deep snow, packing their lunches.

In the fall of 1917, Mrs. Mary Trower and three children came to live and work for Mr. Hunter. Sherman, Wesley and Margaret Trower grew up on his homestead.

In 1935, Mrs. Mary Trower moved back to Mattoon, Ill. to live. The same year Mr. A. H. Hunter moved into Peever to live until his death on Jan. 30, 1950.

WRITTEN BY MONICA STEFFLRE FULTZ

Perhaps the saddest memories I have are the severe fires on Main Street. The numerous homes and business places on lower Main Street were burned to the

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Holiday Motel

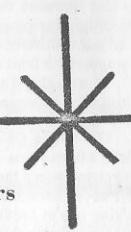
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Room Phones - Air Conditioned



ground not once but twice. My parents lost an Implement sales place in the fire of the opposite end of town (near Nelson's garage). I too remember the fire which destroyed the grain elevator near the Station, the town's men tried desperately to contain the fire by the bucket brigade method.

You no doubt do know the first school house was the Murray restaurant building, it was on the Mill's home lot. Frank Dudeck was the first teacher. I did not go to school there but my brother Gerald did. My father planned a trip to Minneapolis about 1910, the big boys in school asked him to buy them a basketball, they had pooled their money and offered to pay for this. Dad bought them not only a ball but a basket and suggested they use their money for another piece of playground material.

I remember the wooden sidewalks which were well placed and much needed at one time.

The wide spot in Hegna's creek was the town's Old Swimming Hole, not many girls were allowed to use it, but the boys learned to swim there.

One of the very best teachers the town ever had was a Ruth Hayes, she lived at the Dr. Pearson (Pierson) home.

Our first home was the house purchased by Mrs. Jurgeson and moved behind the Idavad house, this in 1916.

My father was the Railroad Agent, Telegrapher, freight agent and sold real estate on the side. When he bought a house and after paying for it found the Title was not clear and heirs showed up to claim his house he vowed to study the laws and sell only clear property. This he did but he would accept nothing from the needy or a widow if he could help her.

The small telephone building near the Station was the location of a Millinery Store where my Mother made and sold hats and doll hats from the material scraps.

The Flu of 1918 saddened our school members to no end in the death of Katherine Kane, a lovely girl.

There were four grocery stores there at one time. The Drug Store fountain was a popular place for young people to assemble.

All July 4th celebrations were held at the Reservations where they Indians really put on a show in their feathers, the dances were enjoyed by all who never tired of seeing them.

The Peever Pilot, a weekly newspaper, was published by my uncle, Louis Stefflre. Masquerades were a common form of entertainment. One year about 1915 he printed the news on yards and yards of pink sateen for my Mother's masquerade costume.

Chiefly I remember Peever as a comfortable, friendly town where everyone was interested in everyone else, the kind neighbors ready to assist he who needed assistance.

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Complete Brake Service - Tune Ups

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Your Governor's Mother visited in Peever in 1924. She and I attended the same school in Elkton, S. D. The first aeroplane sat down in Peever in 1917, passengers were taken for a ride, 5 minutes for \$15.00. School was dismissed that all might see the plane. Peever had an unusually active Red Cross during the 1st World War. Even the school girls knitted for the cause.

PEEVER METHODIST CHURCH

One of the promoters of this congregation was Charley Nelson who moved to Peever from a farm west of Sisseton in the fall of 1904. The church was built in either 1905 or 1906. The first minister was Rev. Louis Lane of Wilmot and Rev. Dunn succeeded him and from there on Rev. R. C. Schrearer, Ebert Hess, Butterfield, Gough, Miller, Gughin, Sweeney, Jarman and Spiller.

Members were as follows: Charles Nelson, S. H. Malm, H. C. Kurrasch, Myrtle and Beulah Hensell, Miss Fareman, Alfred Nelson, C. A. Strait, Obrian, Murray, G. W. Aney, Reuben Aney, S. H. Renville, P. E. Laing, Chas. Rodeen, Tom R. Richards, John Fredrick, A. M. Anderson, John Bailly, Marge Bailly, Vern Gardner, A. L. Nielson, C. VanTassels, Ben Bassets, A. T. Pearson.

The M. E. Sunday School held their annual election of Sunday School officers and teachers on Jan. 3, 1909. The following is the result of the election: S. H. Malm of Easter Township was elected Superintendent; Mr. H. Kurrasch, Assistant Supt.; Miss Myrtle Bloomhall, recording secretary; Mrs. H. Kurrasch, Sunday School treasurer; Mr. O'Bryan, teacher for Bible class; Mrs. Laing, teacher for young people's class; Miss Hensell, teacher for the infant class; Miss Myrtle Bloomhall, organist.

The M. E. Church organized a choir which was very highly spoken of by those that understood vocal music. This was the first church in Peever.

*Congratulations on your
diamond Anniversary
And our good wishes for
continued growth and
prosperity.*

Stavig Bros. Inc.

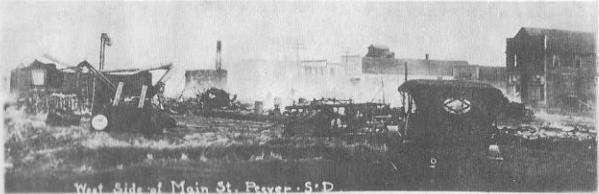
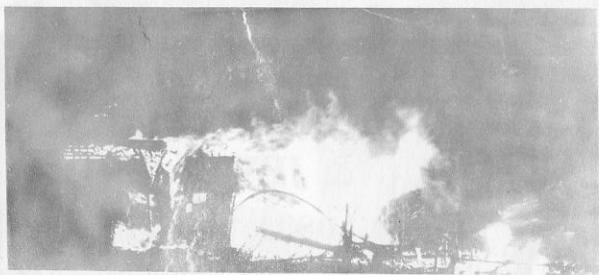
DEPARTMENT STORE

SISSETON, SOUTH DAKOTA



First State Bank + Ruins of Jurgens + Beck Store ▲ Peever, S.D.

Burned and Rebuilt



West Side of Main St. Peever, S.D.

JOHN GERMAN & CHRISTINE JACOBSON

John German and Christine Jacobson were married in Iowa Feb. 3, 1891. They lived in Iowa five years and moved to Egan, S. D. where they lived nearly five years and decided to go to Roberts County, South Dakota and homestead.

In 1900 John came up to Peever in the hills and homesteaded. He put up his claim shanty and done some plowing. Toward fall they moved up.

Mrs. German drove a team on a hayrack loaded with their chickens and belongings and Mrs. German's mother, Bertha Jacobson, drove a team on the covered wagon with the rest of their possessions. John rode horse back and chased the cattle. They had five boys when they moved to Roberts County. Mrs. German tipped over with her outfit and one of the boys got his arm hurt. Don't know how many days it took them to move up.

Mr. German hauled lumber from Ortley and they got their house done enough so they could move in before it got to cold. Clarence was born in October of that year. They raised nine boys and three girls.

WILSON AND ELIZABETH WREN

Wilson Wren was born in Comberlond, England, Nov. 7, 1861 to John Wren and Mary Ellan Owen. Elizabeth Jackson was born Sept. 22, 1863 in Galvin Patua, Scotland.

In 1881 she married John Gill. They had on child, Lizzie. They came to America and he worked in the coal mines. He was killed in a mine cavein at Colorado Springs, Colo. She and Lizzie returned to Scotland where she met Wilson Wren. They were married Jan. 5, 1885. This same year they came to America by boat, then traveled by train to Coal City, Ill. where they lived for a number of years.

They were the parents of nine children. Lizzie Gill, twins, Ed and Susan;

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**"The Lundstroms
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Happy Anniversary Peever**



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Congratulations

to Peever On Your Anniversary

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FACTORY, Inc.**

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PEEVER LADIES



**Mrs. Ralph Kivley
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Early day steam engine

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William, Wilson, Jr., Esther and John. Wilson, were coal miners in Coal City, Ill.

In 1909 Wilson and three of his children, Wilson, Jr., John and Susan and her husband, Charles Phillips, came by train to Sisseton. Elizabeth followed later. One year later they moved by wagons, horse and buggy to a farm south of Peever.

CLARA AND WINFIELD WELCH

Clara and Winfield Welch homesteaded in Spring Grove in 1901. They farmed 14 miles west of Peever. Their children are Albert, Ella, Esther, Pearl, Arthur, Laura and Ines. They moved to Peever city in 1943.

TOWN OF PEEVER

The original station was about two miles north of the present town of Peever. It was a point where much of the freight consigned to the Old Indian Agency was unloaded and was named Keller, that being the name of the Indian agents. When the law permitting the Indians to sell their lands was passed, Tom Peever bought a tract of land beyond Keller, organized a townsite company and called the town Peever.

RECOLLECTIONS by JERROLD D. PEEVER of Port Washington, Wisc.

I was less than six years old when my father, Samuel Peever died and my mother, sisters and I moved to Wisconsin. Tom Peever, my uncle was the real founder of the beginning of Peever. His selection of Peever as an ideal location for a large lumber yard for the shortage of lumber. The lumber he was obtaining by purchasing homes in Wisconsin logging towns that were being abandoned because the lumber had all been cut in that area. These homes from the finest lumber were selling for around \$50 each. These homes were carefully torn down and the lumber shipped to Peever for construction thru that Dakota territory. It was for this reason

Happy 75th

AERIAL SPRAYING

Charter and Flight

Instruction

DONMAR AVIATION

Ward Mills, Manager

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Sisseton



my father, Sam, who was a carpenter contractor, moved his family to the Peever area, but was taken sick and died before the project got rolling.

I understand that my uncle Tom had a general store in Peever, known as "Peever-Gorman Mercantile Co." and the building remained standing until a few years ago when it was destroyed by fire.

My impression is that uncle Tom died about a year after my fathers death. Uncle Tom was President of a bank in that area. Uncle Tom had a son named, David who was very successful in business and became President of the railroad company. He died of the flu epidemic of that time.

I, Jerrold Peever, visited Peever in 1968.

PEEVER SCHOOL

As the origin of Lawrence District No. 1 in 1896 located one mile east of what is now Peever. They had a six month school term, four months in the fall with Emery Urich as teacher and two months in the spring with Winfred Brown as teacher.

The former town of Keller bonded its town to build a school in what is now Peever in 1897 located site where Violet Karst now lives.

It was not until 1901 that a nine month term was held. It was interesting to know that in 1906 the school had \$3.50 on hand. The levy of taxes at that time was 2 percent on taxable property in the township.

In 1904 two teachers were hired. The teacher upstairs received \$50 and the one downstairs \$35 per month.

In 1911 Lawrence Township and Peever divided their property becoming two schools, dividing their property, such as blackboards and erasers equally. Peever got the books and Lawrence the stoves. Peever then sold the building and it was moved to Main Street. It was sold for \$350 and Peever built a school in the north part of town.

SMORGASBORD SEVEN NIGHTS A WEEK! (Sunday All Day - Noon Thru Evening)

Ike's ^{at} CHICKEN SHACK
Smorgasbord Every Night

OLD TIME THEATRE

Come As You Are!!

We have now added WINE SERVICE

Minnesota Side Of Lake Traverse
2 Miles West & North of Browns Valley
on Highway 27



City Hall - 1916 - Blacksmith Shop



Armistice Day Celebration Nov. 11, 1918



Halland's Store - First State Bank

Alfred Nelson . . . First Barber Shop, Bill Laird, Clayton VanTassell was first barber . . . First Church was in schoolhouse . . . First Church was the Methodist . . . Dr. Straight had first Lumber Yard where Vig's is . . . Hall burned down in the blizzard of March 4, 1966. The fire started around 5:30 a.m. . . . Dale Store burned in 1964 . . . April 15, 1968 Ed Gruba house caught fire around 3:30 a.m. . . . 1948 Peever Victoria elevator burned down on Saturday night, Dec. 18 . . . In December 1965 South Dakota had an ice storm with no electricity or phone for a week or 10 days . . . in 1967 Behrns Store caught fire . . . March 2, 1970 we had lightning, thunder, hail, rain, snow, all in one night . . . April 21, 1905 the fire department was called out early by the burning of some rubbish between Opitz's Store and Post Office . . . Peever had another fire on March 17, 1968 on a Sunday morning. The whistle blew and everyone left the two churches to fight the fire. It started in Peever dump ground and went across the east part of Clarence Hunters pasture going north and jumped the blacktop road and went on north up the big slough. Had to call Peever, Sisseton and Browns Valley fire departments to fight it and save some of the hay stacks . . . A big prairie fire raged west of town Tuesday, April 21, 1905 and many narrow escapes are reported by farmers who came very near loosing buildings. The fire came up to a few feet of C. J. Rodeens barn before it could be extinguished and Tom Richard did some hard fighting to save the ranch buildings. It is also reported that the buildings on the Larson farm were barely saved. The origin of the fire is unknown but started up near the foothills at about 11 o'clock and by 4 o'clock in the afternoon the fire had covered a strip about four miles long and from one to two miles wide. Hundreds of tons of hay are stacked southwest of town but by hard fighting the boys succeeded in making a fire break and saved the hay, all but a few stacks. People should be more careful about setting prairie fires as there is a heavy penalty attached to it if proven guilty and besides had this occurred at night the entire country south of here would have been swept by flames causing a loss of thousands of dollars worth of property.

Congratulations



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Gene & Phyllis Frank

Sisseton, S. D.

**Happy 75th
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East of Sisseton on State 10

Sisseton, S. D. 57262

Ph. 698-7900



TIME TABLE 1906

H. & D. Division C. M. and St. P. Ry.
Going East
Passenger - Daily 11:58 p.m.
Passenger - Daily except Sunday, 10:55 a.m.
Way Freight, 3 p.m. - 12:25 a.m.
Going West
Passenger Daily 2:27 a.m.
Passenger Daily, except Sunday, 5:22 p.m.
Freight Daily, 6 a.m.
Freight Daily except Sunday, 8:40 p.m.
Sisseton Line
Leaves Milbank 8 a.m.
Arrives Corona 8:35 a.m.
Wilmot 9:09 a.m.
Peever 9:50 a.m.
Sisseton 10:30 a.m.
Leaves Sisseton 12:30 p.m.
Arrives Peever 1 p.m.
Wilmot 1:55 p.m.
Corona 2:25 p.m.
Milbank 3 p.m.
George R. Phelan, Agent

BUILDING RECORDS FOR 1910

Improvements for the past year in Peever amounts to over forty-four thousand dollars, including: A. W. Pearson Drug Store, \$3000 . . . Farmers Security Bank

Congratulations Peever!

**Butler Farmsted®
Buildings**

**Anderson
Construction**



Sisseton, S. D.

Phone 605-698-7106

\$4578 . . . L. James, Lumber Yard \$1500 . . . Palace Hotel, Annex \$1000 . . . J. H. Baillys, Feedmill \$550 . . . Victor Nelson, Blacksmith Shop and residence \$1600 . . . J. Steffire, Machine Shop \$2000 . . . Casey and Murray, Machine Shop \$800 . . . A. F. Bailly, Poolroom \$750 . . . Peever Lumber Co. Coal Shed \$500 . . . Amey Bros. Ice House \$225 . . . Hans Lillejard Ice House \$200 . . . Hans Lillejard residence \$850 . . . Carl J. Rice residence \$7000 . . . W. J. Pulver residence \$2000 . . . H. C. Kurrasch residence \$5000 . . . A. A. Murray residence \$1200 . . . L. H. Nye residence \$250 . . . Ole O. Olson residence \$300 . . . Ed Thompson residence \$950 . . . J. F. Kean residence \$250 . . . C. J. Rodeen additional residence \$450 . . . A. L. Nielson additional residence \$500 . . . John Pederson additional residence \$1250 . . . J. F. Fredrick additional residence \$1400 . . . J. B. Murray additional residence \$150 . . . Elite, additional \$125 . . . Farmers Variety Store, warehouse \$50 . . . New Cement Sidewalks and Crossing \$1830 . . . J. A. Norby and Co. Furniture \$1200 . . . Minor additions, barns, foundations, etc. \$1425 . . . Y. F. Dove, basement \$1200 . . . Total \$44,375.

The year of 1910 breaks all records for new buildings and improvement in Peever, total of \$44,375 was represented by the new buildings, sidewalks, crossing and other permanent improvements added to the town during the year just ended.

This being the best year for building since Peever has been on the map. The most noticeable improvements during 1910 are the Farmers Security Bank, C. J. Rice's residence, H. C. Kurrasch residence, A. W. Pearson's Drug Store and the Annex to the Palace Hotel. Those amounting to \$20,570. In the figures given herewith no attempt was made to pad Valuation. The Values were fixed by Contractors and Lumbermen and are well with actual cost in practically every instance. No padding of the figures is necessary. The showing is one that stands on its own merits and we believe is unequalled by any town of its size in South Dakota.

SALUTE TO ALL PIONEERS

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Butter



Poultry

Eggs
(Shell or Frozen)

Watch For Whetstone Valley Brand

LANDSBERGER CREAMERY
& PRODUCE

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Sisseton

TAKEN FROM THE PEEVER PILOT, THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1917
Given us by Sherman Trower

THE HEART CENTER OF OPPORTUNITIES

Peever, a town of 375 inhabitants, enjoys one of the most ideal and picturesque locations of any town in the northwest, located as it is at the foot of the Coteau Hills, which raise to the height of 400 feet to the west with their beautiful wooded gulches facing town and with broad rolling prairies to the east, gives one of the most delightful settings which any town may desire.

Peever has four General Stores: Jurgens Beck, O. R. Aney, A. Halland, M. Opitz; Two Banks: First State, Farmers Security; Meat Market, Ben Fredrick; Drug Store, O. A. Treinen; Hotel, O. R. Aney; Two Pool Halls: Solon LaBatte, Tom Quinn & Co.; Two Garages: Nelson Garage & O. A. Johnson; Two Feed Mills: J. H. Bailly and H. C. Kurrasch; Two Stock-buyers: Frank Douglas, Hines & Griffity; Electric Lights: Otter Tail Power Co.; Two Doctors: Dr. A. W. Pearson, Mrs. Bassett; Two Hardware Stores: Laing Bros., H. O. Swenson; Two Lumber Yards: C. E. McGowan, Lampert Lumber Co.; Furniture Store: Laing Bros.; Two Restaurants: Mrs. Smithson, Ben Harris; Two Barber Shops: E. M. Sausier, Wm. Laird; Two Blacksmith Shops: O. G. Olson, Nelson's; Five Elevators; Printing Office: Howard Bailly; Opera House: J. H. Bailly; Studebaker Agency: A. O. Johnson; Dodge Agency: Solon LaBatte; Music Store: Frank Richards; Two Dray Lines: Clayton VanTassel, Carl Martin; Lawyer: J. S. Noble; Two Auto Liveries: Aney Bros., John Stucki; Two Livery and Feed Stables: Aney Bros., Nils Johnson; Post Office: Evan Hilland; Millinery: Mrs. Wm. Laird; Theatre: F. E. Dudeck; Implement Dealers: Bassett and Pearson, H. O. Swenson; Churches: United Lutheran, Synod Lutheran, Methodist, Catholic; Schools: A graded and high school.

A beautiful new brick building with modern equipment and improvements

Best Wishes

Roberts County

Abstract Company

ABSTRACTS OF TITLE
Arthur M. Johnson Sisseton

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Lake Region
Truck Line

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Sisseton 698-7212

Anniversary Greetings

Landmark
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Peever 932-3584

Howdy Neighbors!

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(BELOW CITY BAKERY)

Sisseton 698-7491



Peever Ladies Aid - 1949

throughout furnishes ample room for the children of the city and also the children of the surrounding community. The high school department is equipped with apparatus for all kinds of scientific work and graduates are able to enter any college in the country without entrance examinations. Ample playground; athletic fields and playrooms, together with strict sanitary conditions insure health for the children at all periods of the term.

WATERWORKS

While opportunity affords itself for piping water from the largest and swiftest flowing spring in Roberts County (the spring being located six miles west of the city) Peever has provided herself with another more conservative system. Three large cisterns are well filled with water at all times but are used only in case of fire. A fire engine affords the pressure and five hundred feet of hose makes it possible to effectively reach any part of the city when a fire call is sent in.

As in all other prosperous cities Peever has a commercial club good quality as well as quantity of composed progressive businessmen. To this organization is due largely the rapid growth of the city and the rural advantages enjoyed by farmers of the surrounding community—advantages such as good roads, rural free deliveries and rural telephones.

Peever has a very good electric lighting system. The "juice" being furnished by the Otter Tail Electric Light Company of Fergus Falls, Minn.

Situated as it is, near the head of the famous Red River Valley, Peever is in the richest and finest stretch of farm land in the northwest. The richness of the land is demonstrated by the large, well-equipped farm buildings, which may be seen on every farm.

Agriculture is the oldest occupation. Yet it has often been said that no country can become richer than its lands. Does not our food and clothing come from the lands and are not all other human needs subordinate to food and clothes? After all we must concede that food is the material concern of life—its production is the most important occupation.

Therefore in looking up a new location or bettering your present position there are several things of vital importance that should be given due consideration. Geographically we should not go too far from a central market. Topographically we should look for sufficient natural drainage. Geologically the soil and subsoil are of vital interest.

We are near enough to the South St. Paul, Sioux City and Chicago stockmarkets as well as the Minneapolis and Duluth Stock Centers to secure an excellent market. And right here we wish to emphasize the fact, that Peever has one of the best markets in the state for cattle and hogs as well as grains and product. Besides the

merchants carry well selected stocks which are sold on "live and let live" principles. The streets, especially during threshing season, present a business activity that never fails to impress the stranger.

Lying as it does about 1400 feet above sea level this section has drainage east and south. The drainage is sufficient to carry any surplus water, preventing drowning of crops even in excessive wet seasons. However, owing to the proximity of the range of hills heretofore referred to, we are not subject to droughts.

The thought that you or some of your boys or perhaps a relative or good friend of yours have been deciding on a change has inspired the publication of this article. It is not our intention to exploit this as being the only habitable portion of the globe. But we do wish to impress on you a few facts, and invite you to come and see for yourself. This part of the Sunshine State offers opportunities that are real and tangible. We have the soil, the rain and sunshine necessary to produce bountiful crops and invite you to share in the development and wealth of our natural resources.

By reason of the high altitude our climate is very healthy and invigorating. The winters are not as severe as in the lower altitudes, the summers not so sultry or depressing. Especially are the spring and fall months enjoyable.

An abundance of good water for domestic and stock purposes can be had at from 40 to 125 feet. Several farms are supplied with artesian wells.

The soil is black loam of from 10 to 30 inches in depth, with clay subsoil which insures sufficient resistance to prevent leaching and forms a natural moisture basin. There is ample drainage to take care of the water in the spring when the snow thaws and heavy showers in the summer. Wheat, barley, oats, rye and corn are raised extensively and profitably. As in most sections of the Northwest, wheat has for a long time been the principal crop. Fortunately, our farmers realize the futility of the one-crop system and have diversified more and more adding more stock and hogs and increasing the acreage of the corn. Corn raising has proved a success and results have shown that as good a quality of corn can be raised here as in the so-called corn belt of Iowa. Corn, stock and alfalfa has become a slogan with our farmers.

The wild prairie grass is still the staple hay crop of this section, timothy, clover



Milton Laing, Earl Richards, Roy Aney - 1907

and alfalfa are making active strides, in their local use. More and more are tame grasses being sown. They have long since passed the experimental stage and are taking the place of prairie hay.

As a result of the increased acreage of corn and tax grasses the stock industry has grown in proportion. Dairying and hog-raising has ceased to be merely a side-issue but a most profitable factor of the farm. On many of the farms one may see good-sized herds of thoroughbred cattle. The corn that can be grown has made hog-raising most profitable. With prices of hogs at present prices you can easily imagine that a carload of hogs would bring some real money. The value of the hogs and cattle shipped from here the last year would reach a total well into six figures. While alfalfa has been raised for only a comparatively short period it has proved a success and it will only be a short time until it is the principal hay crop in this community.

A strong evidence of the general prosperity of our farmers are the automobiles. Most every farmer has a car and, as our roads are good practically the year around the farmer and his family do most of their shopping in the "motor wagon" and enjoy outings evenings and Sundays. There are several lakes with an abundance of game fish within an hour's drive.

After you have been here and seen for yourself, you will readily concede that this is truly a town of possibilities and a country of opportunities. You will quickly see the soundness and good business in an investment in our productive soil and satisfying environment. Now the question is, do you wish to share in the material advantages and comfort that this section offers?

The secretary of the Commercial Club will be glad to furnish you any information you wish. In the event that you decide to come and see for yourself, at once notify the secretary of the fact or call on him on arrival and you may rest assured that every effort will be made that it may be an enjoyable visit, as well as be the stepping stone to a most profitable investment for you. Farm land in this section

Congratulations Miracle Styles Women's Apparel GOLDIE & MILDRED HELLWIG 114 W. Oak, Sisseton 698-3139	Happy 75th CLARK'S CORNER Skelly Products SKELLY Goodyear Tires, Gas Groceries and Beverages Phone 932-3679 Sisseton, S. D.
Happy Birthday Peever Tastee Freez Drive - In On State Highway 10 Frozen Desserts, Soft Drinks, Barbecues, Hot Dogs, Chicken Burnell & LaVertta Evenson Phone 698-7455 Sisseton, S. D.	Congratulations C & C Floral (Formerly Mel's Floral) Flowers for all occasions Phone 698-7317 Sisseton, S. D.

can still be bought at very reasonable prices. However, values are constantly going up. A word to the wise, etc.

The excellent market conditions of which we are justly proud are proven by the greatly increased territory that call Peever their market town. Here again the advantages of a live, active and wide awake Commercial Club, ever ready to promote new interests and to improve present conditions is forcibly exemplified.

Horace Greeley's advice to go west and grow up with the country was sound, common sense when we take into consideration that he lived in the New England states, and referred to the very territory we are occupying. We, also wish to go on record as giving good, sound, common sense advice when we invite you to come where and grow up with the country and with us.

May a renter who is working out a meager livelihood in the east, paying a large cash rent, could with the same amount of cash and energy own a farm of his own here in a few years. Here you will find conveniences and advantages of which many older communities are want to boast. Opportunities that you have thought beyond your reach are beckoning to you. There is a trite old saying that opportunity knocks once on every man's door, but only once. This is opportunity's knock at your door. Do you recognize it? Will you heed it?

We do not claim this section to be a fruit country, although we raise splendid apples, plums, gooseberries, raspberries and strawberries. All kinds of vegetables are also grown and add materially to the table and tend to counteract the high cost of living.



P.H.S. Basketball Team - 1940

MR. AND MRS. ASBERRY SIMMONS

Mr. and Mrs. Asberry Simmons, (known as Simmy and Grandma to Peever friends), moved from Ipswich, S. D. in 1929, to a farm seven miles southwest of Peever, owned by the late Berger Bergerson (Oscar's parents). Mr. Simmons moved all their household possessions with two hay racks and four horses. He and the faithful family dog, walked more miles than they rode. It took many days to make the 140 mile trip. Mrs. Simmons, Ellen, Bonnie and Helen came by car, after Mr. Simmons had arrived at the farm.

On his trip he met many obliging people, that put him and his horses up for the night. Some weren't so friendly, so refused him. When he got up west of Lohre's Station he found all people with a kind Christian attitude. The Sorensons (Gus' parents) really fully opened their hearts, to make him as comfortable as possible.

Many other neighbors were eager to help all they could. To name a few, we have the G. Halseide family, the Ben Richards, the Hinseths, Levi Howells, Sampson Renville and the Jones and Two Star families. All were a big part in the Simmons families lives.

The family then moved 3½ miles southwest of Peever in 1934 and farmed a small plot of land. They gained some more nice neighbors there, namely Pat Kellys, Alec Renvilles, Edwin Valnes', Oliver Sandbakkens, Ralph Kivleys and Frank Karsts and many more. That farm was sold, so they moved into Peever. Mr. Simmons was drayman for awhile and Mrs. had her sewing and flowers to keep her busy and happy. I think we can be right when we say the whole town of Peever were their friends. Nels and Orphie Hanson, the cafe owners then, rather adopted them and kept good check on them in illnesses and snow storms and called on them to keep them cheered.

The Simmons girls still like Peever and feel it still is home to them. It may be a small town but to them it's a mighty big place in their memory.

—submitted by Helen Foster Fitz

PEEVER

by Mrs. Alfred Nebben

The town of Peever had its beginning in the early part of the year 1901. Previous to the organization of Peever, there was a station called Keller located about two miles northwest of the present site of Peever. This station was named after Anton Keller, who was superintendent of the Indian Agency, which was located about five miles west of town, close to the Goodwill Mission. Keller was the freight center for goods shipped to the Indian Agency during the 1890's. A merchant named Tom Peever from Sisseton purchased forty acres two miles south of Keller and with the help of two other promoters organized a townsite company and sold lots, calling the town Peever. The buildings from Keller were moved to Peever. This land was

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rather low and swampy. Plank sidewalks were built up high to keep out the mud. A drainage ditch was dug east of town which helped matters, and the streets were improved.

There was no school in Peever during its first two years of existence and children living there had to attend a district school about one and a half miles south and east of town. The first schoolhouse in Peever was built in the east part of town, but later replaced by the present school building, housing both grades and high school.

In early days church services were held at the school house. Today we have two churches. The Methodist church was built about 1905 and the Lutheran church in 1911.

Peever is located near the center of Roberts County with the Coteau Hills to the west and Big Stone Lake to the east. The shopping center for those who lived at the Indian Agency was Peever, until the Agency was moved to Sisseton.

This little town has seen both good and bad days, but today we see it with several new homes and some very good business places. The best improvement for the city was the installation of a city water system in 1950. We celebrated the town's 50th anniversary in June of 1951.

75 YEARS AGO

Items taken from the Sun of April, 1901.

Browns Valley, Minnesota — An interstate warfare growing out of small pox conditions at Sisseton, S. D., is on at this point. More than one hundred cases of the disease exist at Sisseton, and Browns Valley authorities forbid persons from there who have been exposed from entering this village. This enraged the Sisseton authorities, and under the pretense of having quarantined Roberts County they placed armed guards on the state line one-half mile from Browns Valley, who forbid farmers from this side to come across. Many of the farmers have broken the guard line by running their horses, while some have been arrested, handcuffed and taken into Sisseton, fourteen miles distant. There is great excitement over the affair, and unless the authorities of the two states take a hand and bring about an adjustment of the matter there will undoubtedly be serious trouble.



CHRIS CHRISTENSEN

Christen Christensen and Caroline Corneliusen immigrated from Denmark in 1890, homesteading six miles southwest of Peever. They were married at Wilmot in Dec. 12, 1901. A boy Willy was born March 3, 1903 and a boy Grundtvig was born May 5, 1905. They resided on the homestead until 1944, when they moved to Inglewood, Calif. Caroline passed away Jan. 4, 1960 at the Sisseton Hospital. Christen passed away at Brush, Colo. March 9, 1964.

Mr. and Mrs. Christensen have been remembered by many as being very helpful to their neighbors and friends in early times.



Pete Idlevald & Chris Christensen



Edwin Sundheim, Estin Tyngen, Ludvig Dolsmon

MRS. INGA SUNDHEIM

I came to Peever in 1900 with mother and dad in the month of June. I was only 11 months old. We had one team of horses, a wagon with a double box. In this wagon was packed all their belongings. They had a small stove with four lids, very small. A neighbor of theirs by Milan, Minn., gave my parents two hens and a rooster. My parents also had one cow, which was tied behind the wagon for a very long journey. The trip was over 100 miles or more. There were no roads, so traveling was rough.

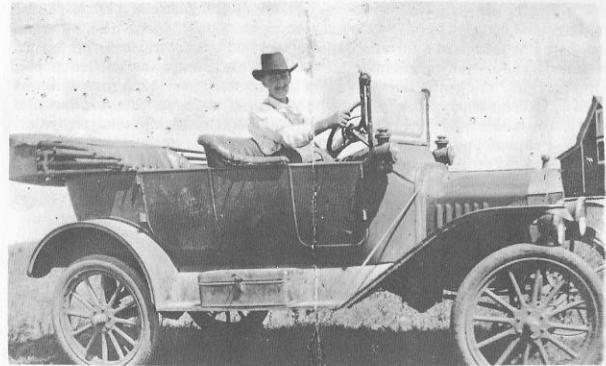
Mother told us she was very scared of the Indians. One day, an Indian came riding on a horse. Mother took me from the wagon seat and she, herself stayed down in the wagon box until he had passed by. Dad had his gun ready in case, but the Indian and Dad just waved to one another as they passed. In that year of 1900 there were hardly any buildings in Peever. I am thinking of how happy this team of horses were and the cow, when this trip was all over with. When Dad homesteaded it was in the month of May, rather cold at night. We stayed in this one room house which was not fixed up for cold weather. There was no water on the homestead. Mother had a dipper which she started to dig a hole with. It went very slow, but she got water after three feet, this was our drinking water and household use.

In the fall of November, 1900, my Dad got Typhoid Fever. He was in bed for three months, unconscious for over a month. In the mean time, my first sister Anna was born on Nov. 23, 1900. The only help was my grandmother, Ingeborg Grinde, who was a mid-wife. Dad never knew my sister was born. Then mother got the Fever also. My poor old grandmother took care of the chores, one cow, one team of horses and one pig. It was very cold. Dad made remarks many times how she ever did all of this. She made moccassins, something like that, of gunney sacks. She would sew hay inside, so this is what I used instead of shoes. Where there is a will there is always a way.

When I was 5 years old, my twin brothers were born. I said to mother, "Oh my, 2 boys, are there any more?" We were all happy as there was 3 girls before. Mother had a very hard time keeping me away from the two boys. We had a large family, 13

in all. Those were the days. We kids sure loved it when a few of the neighbors would come over to see the new born. They would bring a gallon of prune soup and cake and a gift for the baby. It was a very happy occasion for us kids.

Later in the fall, we moved into this new house located near the old one.



Ed Grinde's Model T - 1913

PEEVER WRITTEN BY MRS. AUGUST PEARSON

The town of Peever was first situated a short distance north of the present location and started by Tom Peever who was living in Sisseton.

In July of 1907 Dr. August W. Pearson, having finished medical school at the University of Illinois at Chicago, came to Sisseton to visit his brother Robert, an attorney, and decided to locate at Peever at its present site. There were about 160 inhabitants. A general store owned by Tom Peever and managed by Hans Jurgens, another store by Opitz and a hardware store owned by H. O. Swenson, a Post Office (the first manager that I can remember was Evan Hilland, a City Hall, a livery barn by Reuben and Allan Aney and several grain elevators (five I believe), one managed by Washington Aney. There was also the First State Bank started by Carl J. Rice, a hotel later managed by Mrs. John Peterson (Hilda) and later by Mrs. Bert Bloomhall. The hotel had at least three steady boarders, namely Hans Jurgens, Adolph Ertsgaard, cashier and teller at the bank and Dr. Pearson, who also had managed to get a drug store started by a druggist from Sisseton, also a depot.

In November 1908 Dr. Pearson went to Clitherall, Minnesota to marry Inga Johnson and brought her to Peever. He had rented a four room house at \$10 a month from Charley Rodeen, a farmer living southwest of Peever. In June 1909 Adolf Ertsgaard decided to leave the hotel and took Bloomhall's daughter Myrtle (16 yrs. old) as his wife and established a home. Soon Mr. Jurgens left for Denmark, married his sweetheart Hulda, brought her to Peever and established another home. Peever had no electricity or water except a few wells and rainwater. We did have a little telephone service managed by Frank Dukeck and wife. Service was available during the day and until 8 p.m. and thereafter usually one of the farmer's lines was connected to the Doctor's house. Mr. Dukeck also taught school in the one room schoolhouse which was also used by the Lutherans for services on Sunday conducted by Rev. Peter Kilness who later took up Chiropractic. The town also had a blacksmith shop operated by John and Plus Laing.

Orris Aney and wife started a grocery store and a hotel in connection. Good dinners could be had at 25c. There also was a veterinarian, Jack Kean. A lumber yard by McGowan and I think managed by Doc Strait, a barber shop, a meat market and later two meat markets, two drug stores and two barbershops. Some of the druggists there were John Walker of Sisseton, Bill Kidney, Roebuck, Blewitt and Treinan. Peever also had a butcher shop and later on two. Soon one more bank was started by the farmers and called the Farmers Bank, then another barber shop and a pool hall. The town was a thriving little center; had a depot too, the first agent I remember was Joe Steffler and later Jack Nilan. We also had a weekly newspaper, the Peever Pilot, which later became part of the Sisseton Standard. A flour mill was started by Herman Kurrasch, a farmer who moved in from a few miles northwest of town. He also built a fine home in town. In 1910 automobiles were purchased by Carl Rice, Dr. Pearson, and Herman Kurrasch and others. Now gas stations had to be built to supply car owners with gas and supplies.



Left to Right: Peever School, Dr. A. W. Pearson's House, Strait's House, Mr. Beck's House

Carl Rice also founded a Land Company and acquired several farms and other land in the vicinity. They lived on the southeast edge of town on forty acres and had a few cows, pigs and chickens, providing chores for their children. In 1909 he enlarged their home and remodeled it into a modern beautiful and spacious place. He also had land on the north edge of town known as Rice's addition and they donated a goodly portion for the parsonage and the Lutheran Church. Others buying lots and building homes there were Andrew Halland, Dr. Pearson, Mr. Beck and H. P. Jurgens. Mr. and Mrs. Beck were co-owners of the general store bought from Tom Peever with Hans Jurgens. This was known as Jurgens and Beck store until Mr. Beck passed away in 1918, then Mr. Ed Ordahl bought his share.

We also had a bit of excitement one winter in 1909 I believe, when the bank was robbed. Men came up the railroad on a hand car and blew up the vault. Some gunfire took place between the robbers and men of the town, but no one was hurt and the robbers escaped.

Al Pierson established an implement shop, Victor Nelson bought the blacksmith shop and his brother Alfred Nelson became the manager of the Farmers Bank with John Kelly, Miller Peterson and Dr. Pearson as directors. They also had a land company and had acquired some land in Montana which was difficult to dispose of after the bank closed. We had no graded roads, but several Indian trails. We called the soil "gumbo" and you can imagine what the roads were like after a rain.

The people were very happy when the Otter Tail Power Company installed electricity in our town. (I can't remember the year but it was after 1915.)

There was a Methodist church and soon the Lutherans built theirs. Soon there was a new four room school house for all grades and high school. Some of the first graduates were Millard, Leonard and Vivian Rice, Russell Aney, Milton Laing and

Harold Kurrasch.

During the summer of 1919 Mr. Carl Rice decided to sell his bank and move to Minneapolis as their five oldest children were ready to enter the University. The new bank owner was Mr. Hodgson until it closed during all the bank failures. The Farmers bank also closed. These closures were surely bad for everybody causing hardships for so many as only about 1 percent of their money was ever returned. After there were better roads Peever lost some trade as people would do their shopping in other towns as well as their banking.

Peever also used to have celebrations with several contests, races of all sorts (sack races, three legged races, etc.), and a ball game. One year we celebrated the 17th of May with our distinguished Representative Royal C. Johnson as speaker and it was up to the Pearsons to entertain him at dinner which was a real pleasure.

For many years Peever or Sisseton had no hospital, so surgical cases were usually sent to Webster where Dr. Peabody was located or to Mayo's in Rochester or to Ortonville or Graceville. After some years Dr. C. M. Peterson and Dr. Pearson rented the Swedlund house and operated it as a hospital in Sisseton. Dr. Powell also built a hospital in Sisseton.

The Indian Agency was then at the Old Agency and the Mission. Many Indian children were being sent to Indian schools at various locations such as Pierre and Carlyle. We also enjoyed the several days of Indian celebrations held at the Old Agency. The Agency was later transferred to Sisseton. Dr. Pearson had many patients among the Indians until they were supplied with a Dr. by the Government.

I am sorry that I did not keep a record of some of the happenings in our stay at Peever so I could give a better record. I can remember one evening when the Dr. was called into the hills to attend a patient sent home from Rochester and I decided to go along as our son Alvirdo was visiting at Grandmother Pearson's. Dr. decided to stay to see if the medicine would help his patient that had nephritis and I sat in a straight-backed chair all night until 5 o'clock in the morning. Other times we would care for some patients for weeks at our house gratis when we realized they would receive little care at home. This care was all free, too.

One fall he was taking care of an Indian patient northwest of Peever when he told Dr. he knew he would recover faster if he only could get "duck soup". So one day Dr. succeeded in shooting some ducks and brought some along to him, but he said, "That's not what I was talking about." He meant "dog soup". That explained why sometimes you would see several dogs around their homes.

We moved to Sisseton in May 1932 as so much of his work was around there, also north of Sisseton.



These men started the Farmers Elevator.



Main Street - 1907



Main Street - 1920



Another View of Main Street

HISTORY OF PEEVER LUTHERAN CHURCH

by Pastor Dennis Paulson

Less than two years after Tom Peever began developing the town-site eight miles south-east of Sisseton, a group of the Norwegian and Danish immigrant settlers in the area began to think about the need for the nourishment of God's Word and Sacrament to their growing community. It seems that sometime in 1902 a Lutheran congregation began to be organized in the Peever area, through the efforts of Pastor C. N. Peterson. The members of the new congregation, apparently led by Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Rice, requested Pastor Peterson to correspond with the Norwegian Synod, the largest of several Lutheran churches among Norwegian-Americans during that time, for the purpose of calling a pastor. On Feb. 22, 1903, Pastor Peter Kilness was installed and the congregation took the name Sisseton Agency Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. Among the early members were names such as these: Ellefson, C. Johnson, Bjornson, Engebretson, Bakken, Gunderson, Swen Anderson, Engebreich Anderson, Chirs Anderson, Albert Anderson, Vreim, Fredrickson, Odden, Thone, Rice and Christensen. Worship services were held in homes and school houses until late in 1911, when the first church building was completed on a lot at the north end of town, donated by C. J. Rice.

Also in 1911, another Lutheran congregation called Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Congregation was organized by Pastor O. J. Hyland of Wilmot under the auspices of a different synod. The two congregations existed separately until the Union of 1917 brought together three synods to form the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America. At that time, the two congregations merged to form Peever Lutheran Church and called Pastor G. H. Nerison of the former Bethlehem congregation as pastor.

During these early years worship services were held only about once or twice a month, and the pastors had to serve several congregations in a wide area. After Pastor Kilness, there was no resident pastor in Peever for many years. In this situation, spiritual nurture and support had to be maintained through the ministry of the lay people to one another. A Ladies Aid society was formed very early, under the leadership of Mrs. Kilness and Mrs. Rice. The first officers included Mrs. Swen Anderson, Mrs. Fred Fredrickson and Mrs. Charles Rodeen. A Sunday School was formed in the Sisseton Agency congregation during the term of Pastor Kilness and the first superintendent seems to have been Mr. Adolph Ertsgaard.



Original church building - 1911

From 1917 until 1942, the Peever Lutheran congregation was served by pastors who lived either in Wilmot or Sisseton. Pastors in these years included G. H. Nerison (1917, 1919-28), C. A. Ask (1918), N. J. Holm (1928-31) from Wilmot, and O. A. Hofstad (1932-35), L. E. Evans (1935), R. L. Simonson (1935-42) from Sisseton. In 1942, Pastor Philip O. Hyland was called to serve a reorganized parish consisting of Peever, Bethel and Buffalo Lake Congregations. During these war-time years (1942-46), Pastor Hyland did much to strengthen and build up the congregations in their ministry, and the congregations grew both in numbers and vitality. In December, 1945, the present parsonage was dedicated, and during this time improvements to the church building were completed.

In the following years, the congregations were served by Pastors A. O. Aadland (1947-48), Jacob Askeland (1948-58), Donald Skjerseth (1958-63) and Al Ostroot (1964-66). By 1960, the congregation had a baptized membership of 297, with a Sunday School enrollment of 89. It was about this time that discussion of building a new church building began to take place. In October, 1963, the congregation was saddened by the death of Pastor Donald Skjerseth, who was still only in his early thirties. Following Pastor Ostroot's departure, there was a long pastoral vacancy, until in 1968 the congregation again entered into a joint ministry with Grace Lutheran congregation of Sisseton. Under the supervision of Pastor James Thvedt, the congregation was served by three seminary student interns—Thomas Boe (1968-69), Darrel Olson, (1969-70) and Robert Hanson (1970-71). During this time a building program was at last undertaken and the new church building was completed in August, 1970.

In 1971, Pastor Spencer Brien was called to serve in a joint staff ministry of the two congregations. In 1973, this joint ministry was ended and in 1974 the present pastor, Dennis Paulson, was called. The congregation continues to carry on a very active program, based on the dedicated involvement and support of the lay people in its ministry.

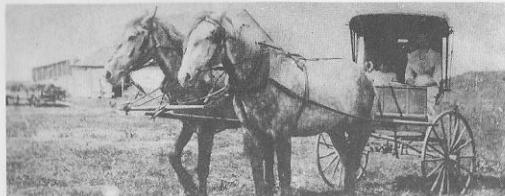


New church building - 1970

PEEVER POSTMASTERS

Post Office established at Keller on April 5, 1898. Name changed to Peever on Feb. 14, 1901. Postmasters were: William H. Peek, April 5, 1898; Rose D. Renville, August 26, 1899; Alfred Nelson, April 3, 1903; John C. O'Bryon, Oct. 9, 1909; Frank E. Dudeck, Sept. 19, 1910; Evan Hilland, June 12, 1915; Jacob A. Norby, Jan. 17, 1921; Percy P. Mikelbost, Dec. 17, 1926; Agnes O. Sundheim, Jan. 3, 1929; Myrtle O. Nebben, acting postmaster, Feb. 8, 1962; Elnora Kempton, Jan. 17, 1964.

Our present town board members are Chairman Harold Hortness, Wilfield Robbins and Donald Bucklin; Trustees; James Kranhold, Treasurer; Grundtvig P. R. Christensen, Clerk.



A mode of travel



Teachers helpers at summer school



After Fire -- 1915

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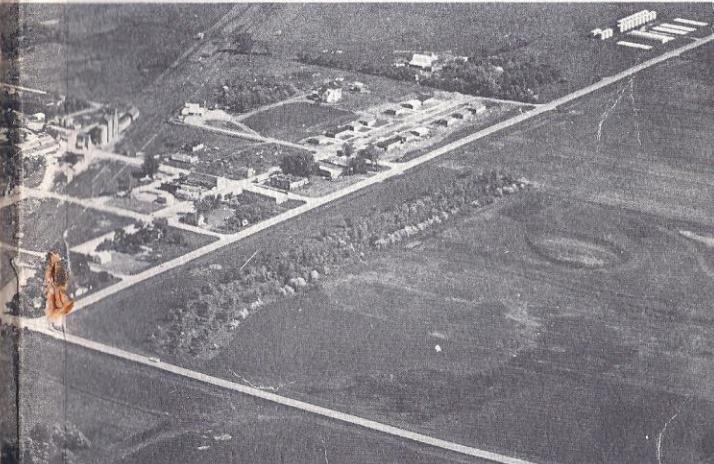
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Stories

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Town of Peever



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