



Minneota Memory

These 11 members of Minneota Boy Scout Troop No. 30 built this dog sled to compete in the "Klondike Derby", which was part of Cottonwood's "Fishless Derby" on Sunday, Feb. 13, 1972. The boys pictured are: Douglas Jackson, Kevin Jackson, Richard Christianson, James Christianson, Douglas Josephson, Lanny Merritt, Brent Larson, John Pennings, David Pennings, Danny Thompson and Kevin Harbank.

From the Mascot Files

100, 75, 50 and 25 Years Ago

100 Years Ago (Jan. 20, 1922)

Borson in Willmar for Grain Growers

Ben Borson of Minneota has been spending the week in Willmar working in the district there for the U.S. Grain Growers. Borson is considered one of the most valuable field men that the Grain Growers have out.

Pemberton, Bjornson judge debate in Canby

Professor L.R. Pemberton and G.B. Bjornson went to Canby last week to act as judges of the high school debate between Canby and Renville. The question posed was whether or not the government should control cost prices in times of peace. Most of the debaters shared their facts like veterans. Renville was declared the winner of the debate.

Minnesota Farm Bureau to hold local meeting

There will be a social meeting of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Unit at the home of the Dove brothers on Jan. 23. This meeting will address by O.E. Olmstead of the University Extension Service. He will discuss farm clubs in general. Every member of the Unit and anyone else interested is invited to come to the Dove home and attend this meeting. The ladies of the Unit will serve lunch after the program.

75 Years Ago (Jan. 24, 1947)

Bank reaches \$4M mark for 2nd time

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Minneota hit the \$4 million mark on Monday, the exact figures being \$4,071,861.01. The totals at the bank went over the \$4 million for the first time in the institution's history during September of last year. Also, directors re-elected at the bank's annual meeting were E.M. Amundson, A.E. DeSutter, John Tillemans, H.J. Tillemans

and L.V. Widmark.

Taunton still seeking postmaster with exam

The Civil Service Commission announced this week that it would hold another examination for the position of postmaster in Taunton. These exams have been held periodically for the past three or four years and so far, it seems, no one has stepped forward and passed the test. Mrs. Aloysius Tillemans has been serving as acting postmistress. The government will pay the new postmaster \$2,200 a year.

Drietz farm home damaged by fire

Minneota firemen, by their quick action and knowledge, are being credited with saving the farm home of Walter Drietz when a fire broke out in the bedroom on the second floor last Saturday evening. The farm is eight miles southwest of Minneota. When the firemen arrived on the scene, the blaze had broken out through the roof and furniture and clothing was burning in the bedroom. Considerable damage was done to the house.

50 Years Ago (Jan. 20, 1972)

Two men injured in accident south of town

Kenneth Skaar, 18, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Skaar of rural Minneota and a student at Southwest Minnesota State, and Marlin Bresse, 24, of Russell were both injured about 7:15 a.m. Monday when automobiles they were driving collided in the vicinity of Hemnes Lutheran Church about three miles south of this village. Both men were taken to the hospital in Marshall and Skaar is listed in critical condition with head injuries, a broken pelvis, and face lacerations. He is in a coma and was transported to the Sioux Hospital in Sioux Falls. Bresse was not severely injured.

Railway closes four depots in this area

Four depots at stations in this area, including Minneota and Canby, were closed by the Chicago and Northwestern Railway last week and the communities they originally served will be served by the depot in Marshall. Byron Groezinger, who has been the agent here, will now work out of the Marshall office, as will D.R. Clark, the Canby agent.

MBA elects 3 new members to board

The Minneota Businessmen's Association elected three new members to its board of directors at its meeting on Monday evening. The three new members are Wynston Boe, Don Hoberg and James Wambeke. Other directors are Virgil Ufkin, who has been president the past year, Dennis Tomask, Gary Swendsrud and Jon Guttormsson.

25 Years Ago (Jan. 22, 1997)

Otter Tail cautions about power lines

Heavy snowfalls, together with extraordinary high drifts caused by strong winds and snow removal, have made any activity near power lines especially hazardous, according to Don Larson, Otter Tail Power Company's safety director. There are reports of instances in which line clearances are reduced by half or more. Larson advises people conducting any type of activity around power lines, especially the operation of equipment, to be especially careful.

Minneota Crop Show called second to none

The Minneota Crop Show will be held Jan. 23 at the American Legion in Minneota. The Crop Show features an outstanding program for corn and soybean farmers. Included in the program are timely and hot agronomic topics. The Minneota Crop Show has earned the reputation at the best regional educational program for producers. If

farmers are going to attend one corn and soybean clinic this winter, this is the one.

5 wrestlers champs at Foley Invitational

Five Minneota wrestlers won individual championships at a strong Foley Invitational this past weekend. St. Michael-Albertville, ranked No. 1 in Class AA, won the team title. Minneota, one of the smallest team competing in the tournament, finished a close second. Individual champions for the Vikings were Ben Vlaminck at 103 pounds, Kris Fier at 112, James Miller at 119, Kurt Fier at 130 and Scott Fier at 160. Ross Eischens was second at heavyweight.

This Day in History January 21

1793 - During the French Revolution, King Louis XVI, condemned for treason, is executed on the guillotine.

1861 - Jefferson Davis of Mississippi and four other Southerners whose states seceded from the Union resign from the U.S. Senate.

1950 - Former State Department official Alger Hiss, accused of being part of a Communist spy ring, is found guilty in New York of lying to a grand jury.

1968 - The North Vietnamese Army launches a full-scale assault against the U.S. combat base in Khe Sanh, South Vietnam, in a siege lasting 11 weeks; although the Americans are able to hold back the communists, they end up dismantling and abandoning the base.

1977 - On his first full day in office, President Jimmy Carter pardons almost all Vietnam War draft evaders.

1998 - Pope John Paul II begins a historic pilgrimage to Cuba.

2003 - The Census Bureau announces that Hispanics have surpassed Blacks as America's largest minority group.

Outside Looking In



By Scott Thoma

Let it snow?

Minneota received 10 inches of snow in the latest storm on Friday, which seems like a lot to get in one lump sum. But it's mild in comparison to some of the severe winter storms we've had in this area and this state in the past.

For me, the worst storm I can remember was the 1991 Halloween Blizzard that started on Oct. 31 and lasted until Nov. 3. That storm blanketed the majority of the state and produced over 27 inches of snow in some areas. I had just started to take my kids out Trick-or-Treating in their wagon when the snow started falling. Within only 15 minutes, the snow was halfway up the wagon wheels.

The Minneota area was among the fortunate, though, getting only around seven inches of snow in this storm that was determined by the National Weather Service to be one of the largest and longest lasting blizzards in state history.

There have been many other significant blizzards throughout Minnesota history.

Arguably one of the worst blizzards occurred from Feb. 13-15 in 1866. Drifts up to 20 feet buried barns in the western part of the state. That storm struck at night, which lessened the number of deaths.

The first use of the term "blizzard" came during a March 14-16, 1870 storm in which 16 inches of snow was recorded in some areas of northern Iowa and southwest Minnesota. "Blizzard" was first used as a boxing term to indicate a volley of punches being thrown and later used during a heavy snowfall.

In 1873, 70 deaths were recorded in a Jan. 7-10 storm that produced heavy snowfall and arctic temperatures. Hundreds of cattle were killed, and trains were immobilized for days in huge drifts.

The Minneota and Canby area reported over 20-foot snowdrifts on Oct. 16, 1880. On the Tom Brown farm north of Minneota, 18-year-old Sam Kile was among the threshers hired to work on the farm. The morning of Oct. 16, the blizzard was raging, and the men all went to the barn to do chores. Kile's hat blew off and, despite the protests of the others, ran off to find it. That was the last time they saw Kile alive. He was found three weeks later imbedded in a snowdrift around 300 yards from the barn. His hat was later found a mile and a half away.

On Jan. 12-13 in 1888, the day started out as mild. The sun was shining, children were in school, and people went about their business as usual. High winds and heavy snow came up very quickly and temperatures quickly fell to -37 degrees as the storm intensified. Children were sent home from school in the storm, and many died. In all, over 200 deaths were recorded from this storm.

The Armistice Day Blizzard of Nov. 11, 1940 has been one of those severe winter storms that other storms are judged by. Many hunters were caught up in this slow-moving system that intensified as it moved along, contributing to the 49 storm-related deaths this day.

A fierce blizzard hit the Minneota area, and most of southwestern Minnesota, on Jan. 24, 1972. Winds over 70 mph were recorded with up to 10 inches of snow. Many buses attempting to get children home safely in this fast-moving storm instead were forced to seek shelter in farm homes.

On Jan. 10-12 in 1975, a devastating blizzard forced most state roads to be closed for as long as 11 days due to drifts over 20 feet high caused by 80 mph winds. Over 15,000 head of livestock were lost throughout the state. There were 14 deaths from those caught in the blizzard, and 21 more who died from heart attacks. One of those surviving this horrific storm was Lon Kvanli of Montevideo, who was 18 years old and got stuck in his snowmobile. Unable to walk in the blinding snowstorm, he dug out the side of a drift and spent the night in there until the storm quieted down. He then walked to a nearby farmhouse the next morning and survived with no injuries. As if by divine intervention, Kvanli became a minister and has preached in Mitchell, SD for many years.

Gordon Lightfoot's famous song "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" was spawned from the Nov. 10, 1975 severe winter storm that produced 71 mph winds and created 15-foot waves on Lake Superior. The Edmund Fitzgerald, carrying a full load of iron ore, capsized and sunk, while all 29 crewmen aboard died.

The Metrodome roof collapsed due to heavy snow during near-blizzard conditions on Nov. 19, 1981.

Another severe winter storm in southern Minnesota occurred on Feb. 4, 1984. Winds up to 80 mph caused huge drifts even though only six inches of snow fell. Many people were stranded in vehicles and fish houses, with 16 deaths reported. In Bingham Lake, 35 miles north of Worthington, six people were found in a stranded vehicle by a rescue-snowplow crew. A man, his wife, their three young children, and the man's mother were all taken to the hospital in Windom and the call was issued for help from anyone trained in emergency care that could make it to the hospital. Around 50 people responded, but none of the family members survived.

In the winter of 1968-69, over 90 inches of snow fell in Minneota and the surrounding area. School was closed for 15 days that winter and had to be extended into June to make up for lost time.

Maybe 10 inches isn't so bad after all.



The Minneota Mascot

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