

Along the Red Trail: North Dakota’s most Historic Highway

The Grant Marsh Bridge- December 2025

By Bennett Kubischta

President Old Red Old Ten
Scenic Byway

Sixty years ago, on December 9, 1965, the North Dakota State Highway Department opened I-94 from ND 25 to the East Bismarck Interchange. The key to this project was the Captain Grant Marsh Memorial Bridge (Grant Marsh). Construction of the bridge began in June 1963.

To align it with the Northern Pacific Rail-way bridge, the Grant Marsh was built on the east bank of the river. At that time the channel of the Missouri River was on the west bank which allowed the bridge to be built on dry land.

The Highway Depart-ment had to move the river to the east to align it with the Grant Marsh Bridge. This was ac-complished in two ways. One was to build a ‘pilot canal’ which resulted in an orderly flow of water connecting the river to the bridge. The pilot can-al was a 2,800-foot-long channel with a bottom width of 120 feet.

The most critical element in the project was closing the Mis-souri’s main channel and making her flow to Grant Marsh Bridge. This was accomplished by constructing a diver-sion wall of rock. This wall of rock began on the northwest corner of the bridge and extended northwest to the west bank. The rock was de-positied by dump trucks



photo | NDDOT

OCTOBER 18, 1964 shows river diversion rock wall complete, paving of the deck is underway, the contractor’s haul bridges for moving earth across the river, and the embankment to the west bank is just about complete.

and moved into place by a crawler tractor. Today, as you drive westerly across the bridge you can see this diversion wall.

The river diversion was completed on Octo-ber 18, 1964. Then then process of building the roadways on the west side of the river began. The roadway fill came from the east side of the river. The grading contractor built two haul bridges immedi-ately south of the Grant Marsh Bridge. Using 20 cubic yard scrapers and working 22 hour days, one million cubic yards of earth were moved across the river. This task was completed on November 20th.

The bridge was com-pleted in the summer of 1965. It is a seven span steel stringer bridge and is 1,125 feet long. The roadways from ND 25 to Exit 161 were finished in

late fall of that year. The total cost of the project (construction, right of way, and engineering) was \$13.3 million. In to-day’s dollars that would be about \$140 million.

The Captain Grant Marsh Memorial Bridge was designed by Clifford Johnson Associates from Colorado. Johnson, a North Dakota native, was the State Highway Department’s Bridge Engineer from the mid-1920s to the mid-1940s. Several of the structures he designed while at the Highway Department, like the railroad under-pass on the Old Red Old Ten east of Richardton and the Governor Sorlie Bridge in Grand Forks, are still serving the peo-ple of North Dakota.

Goodbye for now. Remember, promoting the Old Red Old Ten promotes our towns, and always take time to talk to the cows.

A Look Back... 25 Years Ago

NSHS Student Coun-cil Donates Fund-raiser Proceeds

Last Week New Salem High School students participated in a contest/fundraiser sponsored by the NSHS Student Council and organized by Council Vice President Kathy Mosbrucker. Each class participate din the contest, the purpose of which was to have the most points; pennies in your class’s bucket meant points for you, while silver, thrown in by your competing classes, meant points against your class. The purpose of the event was to help raise funds for Nick Bachler and Kim Tellmann’s trip to Europe this coming summer. Kim and Nick have been selected to represent New Salem in the Northern Amba-sadors of Music. They will tour and perform in Europe for 16 days, July 4-19. Nick and Kim each have to raise \$3400 for the trip. Generous NSHS students raised \$359.26

Lady Holsteins Post Wins over Lin-ton, Washburn

The Lady Holsteins were in the business for wins last week, picking up a pair with the defeat of Linton on Monday and Washburn on Thursday. The Ladies played host to the Linton Lions on Monday, Dec. 11, and came up with a 3 games to 2 match win. Game scores were 15-11 and 15-7, New Salem; 16-6 and 15-12, Linton; and New Salem winning the final game 15-13. The Lady Holsteins had



PICTURED ABOVE (from left) Kim Tellmann and Nick Bachler receive a donation from NSHS Student Council Vice President Kathy Mosbrucker. The money was raised through a class competition held recently.

New Salem Journal

some impressive stats to show for their work. They came up with 44 kills, 13 by Trudy Doll, Heidi Brandt with 10 and Kristin Bruan 9. They had 23 aces with 8 by Doll; 5 blocks, Doll with 4; a team total of 37 assists with Ashley Backsen leading the team with 33; and 62 digs, of which 23 were by Mindy Norton, Doll with 14. Leading the Lions’ stats in kills were Ashley Jahner with 9 and Priscilla Jahner with 8, while Lacey Carr had 9 aces. Assist leader was Lacey Carr with 12 and Kristina Kaison had 4 digs. On Thursday the Lady Holsteins made short work of the Wash-burn Cardinals with a 3 games to none win and scores of 15-4, 15-12 and aced the last game, 15-0.

Wrestlers improv-ing; Morris Cap-tures 2nd title

The New Salem High School wrestling team finished off the pre-Christmas sched-ule with a good per-formance. All seven Holstein wrestlers who

entered the Linton Lions Rotary Tournament were able to place. John Morris captured his second straight individ-ual title and improving his record to 12-1 for the year. He handed Center’s Dane Heid his first loss of the year, a 13-1 major decision. He reached the finals at 145 pounds with a pin, technical fall and a 6-1 semifinal win. Josh Gerhardt took fourth place at 189 pounds, losing a close decision in the third place match with Linton’s Leo Kuntz, a third place finisher at last years state meet. Ty Bateman placed fifth at 103, and Brock Hager placed fifth at 275. Zach Lemay was eight at 125, Chris Cook and James Holle were 9th at 171 and 215 respectively. Carrington’s Cardinals, coached by former NSHS star wrestler, Mark Pazdernik, won the team title over a strong Linton team. There were 18 teams in the two day meet, the Holsteins were 12th.

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- **CNAs**



Kali Weinand, LMSW

She’s right here.



Coal Country Community Health Center

City of New Salem JOB OPPORTUNITY

The City of New Salem is accepting applications for a full time Public Works Employee. For more information, a current job description, or to pick up an application, contact the New Salem City Auditor at 843-7828 or stop in at 400 Main Avenue during office hours. Applications are also available on our website at www.newsalem-nd.com. Applications can be returned to the City Auditor’s Office, emailed to newsalem@westriv.com or mailed to City of New Salem, PO Box 393, New Salem, ND 58563. Applications are due on or before January 13th, 2026 at 2:00pm.

The City of New Salem is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Abandoned Mine Lands Division (AML) of the North Dakota Public Service Commission will hold a public meeting on January 21st, 2026, at 1:00 pm (CST) at the North Dakota State Capitol, 12th Floor Commission Hearing Room, 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota, 58505. The meeting will also be held virtually at <https://www.psc.nd.gov/meetings-news/meetings-agendas-minutes>. The AML Division is seeking input on the proposed reclamation of the abandoned underground mines near ND Old Highway 10 in New Salem. Anyone interested in this project or with information or concerns about any abandoned coal mine in the area is encouraged to attend this open forum discussion. If you are interested in learning more about the AML program, please visit the Public Service Commission’s website at <https://www.psc.nd.gov/jurisdictions/abandoned-mine-lands>.

For more information, please contact Brett Job, Project Manager, Abandoned Mine Lands Division, North Dakota Public Service Commission, 600 E. Blvd. Ave., Dept. 408, Bismarck, ND 58505-0480 or by calling 701-328-4073.

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