

The Depression Generation

Kevin Holten



Had he not escaped the North Dakota dusty prairies for greener pastures at that time I would not have gotten to celebrate my ninth birthday on Vashon Island where he lived with his wife and kids. So, you see, the side effects of the Great Depression do extend to other generations.

Of course, some people, like my mother, who were born during the Great Depression, grew up thinking it was the norm. For example, she talks about going to school with a lard sandwich in her lunchbox.

Orson Bean, the American film, television, stage actor and comedian said this: “The movies saved my life. I grew up in the Great Depression, the only child of a pair of star-crossed lovers. My father lost his job. My mother drank. They fought. And the movies were my escape”.

Of course, many of those who experienced the Great Depression, much like World War II veterans, are no longer with us. And generations that have followed, whether you realize it or not, have been affected.

One way that the Great Depression has influenced me is this: I hate clutter. And why is that? Because my mother could never throw anything away.

No, she wasn’t a hoarder and she kept our house very tidy while

I was growing up. But throwing away a plastic container that could be reused is beyond her comprehension.

Former NBC News Anchorman Tom Brokaw, who grew up in South Dakota, said that the “greatest generation” (meaning the WWII generation) were strongly influenced by the Great Depression. They shared everything including meals, jobs, and clothing.

Brokaw also said this: “Your grandparents came of age in the Great Depression, when everyday life was about deprivation and sacrifice, when the economic conditions of the time were so grave and so unrelenting it would have been easy enough for the American dream to fade away”.

Instead, it brought people together, humbled them, made them more patriotic and forced them to communicate with each other and form bonds.

Still, what is most impressive about those people who lived through the Great Depression is this: They won’t take handouts. They give and are always ready to help. They have no outrageous expectations. And they don’t think they are owed anything.

Thus, their greatest gift to us is passing that attitude along to our generation. And our greatest gift to them is to do the same.

A Step Back in Time

Troy Tescher

120 Years Ago

Sentinel Butte Review

Sept. - Nov. 1905

There are now 50 carloads of cattle being held near town awaiting cars for shipment.

The morning passenger train number four killed nine of A.L. Martin’s sheep last Saturday.

Ed Goldsberry has ordered a stock of leather and will soon start a first-class boot and shoe shop in connection with the Sentinel Butte Saddlery Company.

The Maltese Cross Ranch established in 1885 by Theodore Roosevelt was sold last Thursday to O.J. deLencie of Fargo. The ranch consists of 2,000 acres.

A.L. Martin was out deer hunting last Saturday, he saw a few tracks!

J.Z. Gardner and son, Will have finished the school house at Trotters and returned home Friday.

The Sentinel Butte Saddlery Company has just received the largest shipment of leather ever received in western North Dakota.

100 Years Ago

Sentinel Butte Review

November 27, 1925

Prompt action on the part of the county board of health, headed by Dr. A.J. Jameson, succeeded in checking the spread of scarlet fever, prevalent in many parts of the county and which threatened to take on epidemic proportions. A few cases, mostly in mild form, occurred in the vicinity of Alpha. Golva had a few cases of scarlet fever, as well as diphtheria. The schools at that place were closed for a short period to permit fumigation. Numerous cases were reported in Beach, the homes of those afflicted having been quarantined and

the grade school closed to prevent the spread of the disease. No cases of contagious diseases have been reported from Sentinel Butte or vicinity. A ban has been placed on the holding of public dances by the county board of health and the public is advised to use care in the holding of public gatherings. With that said, a large crowd attended the goose and duck raffle at the Westerheim store Friday night.

75 Years Ago

Golden Valley News

November 30, 1950

Coming entirely unexpectedly was the death of Father Wm. Fred Hake, pastor of St. John’s Catholic Church of Beach, passing away at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Dickinson after being admitted for rest and thought to be a mild heart condition. He served his parishioners here since about 1915.

Local draft officials have been expecting an increased number of enlistments and one of the first Golden Valley County men to volunteer is Charles Stedman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Stedman, but must wait until this Friday, Dec. 1 when he will reach the age of 17, before he can leave for induction.

50 Years Ago

Golden Valley News

December 4, 1975

Last Thursday, Nov. 25 the wrestlers traveled to Watford City to wrestle Tioga and Watford City in a triangular. After a slow start, the Bucs notched a 36-32 win over the Pirates of Tioga, but could never muster the necessary edge while bowing to the powerful Watford City club, 40-18. They are coached by Dennis Quiring and assisted by Dan Shupe.

Six lettermen greeted Coach Ed Anderson at opening boys basketball drills. Present members of the varsity squad are seniors Darrell Hayden, Doug Anderson, Don Roberts, Kris Hanson, Leonard Stockwell and junior Mark Egan. Other squad members are Shawn Kukowski, Mark Hollinger, Jim Abernethy, Randy Northrop, Mike Hardy, Peter Wirtzfeld, Dave Metcalf, Tom Wojahn and Maurice Hardy.

Liquidfire John Deere snowmobiles on hand for sale at Dakota Farm Equipment. Skidoo snowmobiles are available for purchase at West Plains Implement.

25 Years Ago

Golden Valley News

December 7, 2000

Darrel Schmeling of Golva has some good advice to people for Christmas, “Buy a carbon monoxide detector right away.” For unknown reasons, their furnace apparently started back-drafting exhaust into the basement. Darrel’s wife, Karen woke up early Thursday morning and said the cat was acting funny and her own heart was racing. After they got up four of their kids, three of them passed out, at which time they contacted Steve Rising, who then notified the Beach Ambulance Service. The Schmeling family was given oxygen and transported to St. Joseph’s Hospital in Dickinson and were released after several hours of further oxygen treatments.

Quote of the Week
“God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with.”
- Billy Graham

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Billings County

PIONEER

Official Newspaper for the City of Medora.
Official Newspaper for Belfield and Billings County School Districts.
Official Newspaper for Billings County, ND.

Jill M. Friesz..... Publisher
Gaylon Parker..... Reporter

The Billings County Pioneer is published each Thursday at GS Publishing, LLC, 22 Central Ave. Suite 4, Beach, ND 58621. Periodicals postage is paid at Beach, ND and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster send address changes to: Billings County Pioneer • P.O. Box 156, Beach, ND 58621



In Billings County\$45.00

All other subscriptions\$52.00

E-edition\$35.00



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DID YOU KNOW...

94% of North Dakotans say local newspapers are the most trusted source for news and Public Notices!

Recipe: **Leftover Mashed Potato Knephla**

From the kitchen of: **Joy Zimmerman**

Ingredients:

2 C. mashed potatoes

1 egg, beaten

pinch of salt

flour (to make soft dough so you can handle it with your hands)

Directions:

Divide the dough into three parts. Put on floured board or table and just roll like a strudel, then cut them about one inch long and cook in boiling water. When they come up, stir a few times and drain off the water. You can fry them or put sauerkraut over them or cream-style corn.

To submit a recipe, email to: djimm@westriv.com or mail: Joy Zimmerman, 7670 57th St. SW, New Leipzig, ND 58562



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