



Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press

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Early deadline
Thanksgiving early deadline
for the Steele Ozone is
4:00 pm Wed., Nov. 19

New book highlights life of early KC builder

By Richard Paolinelli

In the early 1880s, Kidder County in general, and Steele specifically, had high hopes of literally being the center of North Dakota by the time it became the 39th state of the union. Kidder County was officially organized on March 22, 1881.

The city of Steele was platted in 1878 by Wilbur F. Steele, a post office opened in 1880, and the county courthouse was built in 1883. With hopes, like many communities, of being the state capital once North Dakota became an official state.

While that did not happen, the area still was of interest to many. One such person was Alexandre-Sijefroi Poissant dit Boileau, S.P. Boileau for short, or Jeff as he was called by the locals after he arrived in Steele in 1891.

Boileau was born in Quebec, Canada in 1859.

At the age of 20 he crossed the border into Michigan before

settling in Wisconsin. He moved to Steele in 1891 and became a U.S. Citizen in 1898. His life and his work in Steele and both Kidder and Stutsman Counties are the subject of a book by Jamestown resident Teri Raiche.

S.P. Boileau: A Mover and Shaker in Kidder and Stutsman Counties of North Dakota is now available for purchase as Raiche has recently wrapped up the final stages of the book's production.

"The book is primarily newspaper articles that I retyped because they are so hard to read," Raiche explained, "with some commentary by me."

A genealogy enthusiast, Raiche has written nearly a dozen books in the genealogy genre. She has been collecting articles from newspapers back in the time period that Boileau lived in the area. A large majority of them have been archived on microfilm reels. In some cases, the quality of the photocopies was poor, making

some of the text difficult to read. In those cases, Raiche transcribed them as best as possible, leaving blanks where the words were completely illegible.

The newspapers she drew information from include the Steele Ozone-Press, the Bismarck Tribune, The Jamestown Sun, and several others.

She also received assistance from the Kidder County Museum and local resident Betty Smokov. The staffs of the Tuttle Café, Steele United Methodist Church, the Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church of Steele, the Kidder County Courthouse staff and many members of the Memories of Steele Facebook group in her research.

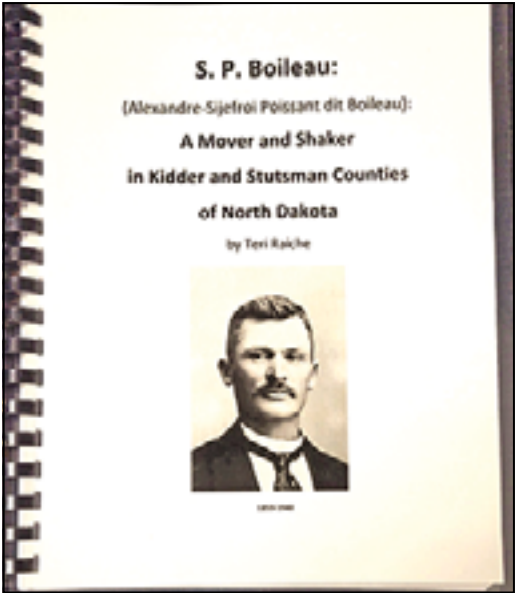
Boileau married Anna Susanna Keim in 1897 and the couple had six

children before her passing in 1907. But a large family was not all that Boileau was building in the area.

Originally, Boileau worked his farm west of Steele. By 1903, he was advertising his services as a carpenter and builder. He constructed the vault addition to the courthouse in Steele. He also built the Methodist Church, the drug store, and the Steele Ozone Building along with several private homes. He built churches in Dawson and Cleveland, the school in Driscoll, and the creamery in Medina among many other projects in the area.

He also served in the Woodlawn Cemetery Association.

Those interested in Boileau's life and some of the very early 20th Century history of Kidder County are sure to get ahold of Raiche's book. The release for the book was late October and editions of the book are available from Teri Raiche, author, at 701/269-4628 or pick one up at the Ozone Press for \$35. They can mail you one too!



The book may be purchased at the Steele Ozone.

2025 Winterfest dates, events set

By Richard Paolinelli

Organizers of the annual WinterFest celebration in Steele have announced the dates and events for this, their 31st year of the event. The 21-person committee that oversees the event has set the festival to begin on Friday, December 5th and concludes on Sunday the 7th.

"It's a winter community event for families and individuals,"

Co-Chair Erin Dewitz explained. "The overall goal is to support the community and local businesses."

Dewitz and Abbey Messer, local community members and leaders have served as festival's co-chairs for the last five years.

In addition to the traditional lighting of the tree at the courthouse, fireworks, an evening parade up Mitchell Avenue that ends at Golden Manor, there will be several events aimed at aiding the community at large.

Numerous organizations will take part in the 2025 Kidder County Winterfest Celebration. There will be a food drive for the Kidder County Food Pantry. The Ambulance Hall will have a German supper with funds to benefit Kidder County EMS. Throughout the month of November the Winterfest Cash Raffle will also take place with the proceeds this year

being split between the Steele Fire Department and the Kidder County Fair Association. Also, included throughout the weekend will be events to help support the Kidder County Swimming Pool. The Steele Lions Club will be serving lunch at the Winterfest Market Vendor Show to help raise funds for the 175th Celebration and other Lions Club activities.

"We'll have a lot of fun activities for the kids," Dewitz added. New this year is an event called Santa's Workshop which will include fun stations like build a bear, ornament making, and cookie making to list a few. Santa and Mrs. Claus will make appearances at Elizabeth Street Photography and the Kidder County Public Library. Many of the events will be free of charge, events with a cost attached will be listed on the Winterfest Flyer. All of the money we raise stays right here in Kidder County and

benefits groups and organizations in the area."

Dewitz also thanked the many area sponsors of the festival.

"They help us pay for supplies and many other things related to See "Winterfest" (Continued on page 2)



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LAND AUCTION: 849.55 Acres - Williams County, ND
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