

Dakota Datebook Horse Manure Problems in Grand Forks

by DR. STEVE HOFFBECK

ON THIS DATE: April 8, 2026 – Modern people think of spring as the season of fresh air and flowers blooming and lovely breezes wafting through budding trees after the snows of winter have fully melted away. But those who lived in cities prior to 1910 had to consider other aromas of spring.

Although numerous citizens walked or used bicycles or electric streetcars, horses still provided the bulk of the transportation, pulling wagons, carriages and carrying people around town.

Grand Forks County had a population of 18,357 in 1890 with a total of 14,833 horses, and the city of Grand Forks had 4,979 people, so plenty of

families in town had horses, which required a carriage house with storage space for hay, straw and carriage, along with box stalls for the horses.

Horses produced large amounts of manure. A horse weighing 1,000 pounds excreted about 50 pounds of manure daily, thus yielding more than eight tons of manure per year!

The straw used for bedding soaked up waste products at a rate of about ten pounds per day, but when horses moved around the city, they deposited manure on street pavements, so that a pedestrian had to watch his step on city avenues. The city hired sanitation workers to sweep the streets of manure and other garbage.

During a long winter, manure piles from stables arose in backyards and alleys. When frozen, the piles were not terribly odiferous. When spring arrived, however, the stench of

thawing stable waste colored the air.

On this date in 1893, the City Health Officer, a man by the name of J.R. Logan, issued a public notice for the annual spring cleanup. Logan informed all citizens that they had to “thoroughly clean their alleys and out-premises of all ashes, manure and other garbage,” and remove all waste to the “city dumping ground,” located on Skidmore Avenue on the north side.

Those who failed to comply within five days would have to pay a fine to cover the cost of “a corps of scavengers” employed by the city to cart away “all offensive deposits.”

Banning Elmer Gantry

by SARAH WALKER
ON THIS DATE: April 9, 2026 – Sinclair Lewis published the book Elmer Gantry in 1927. The book is about a

traveling evangelist who preferred whiskey, women, and wealth to saving souls. It was a controversial book, banned in some areas around the country, such as Boston, where sales of Elmer Gantry could be prosecuted under a law prohibiting “indecent and obscene books.”

On this date in 1927, North Dakotans joined in censoring Elmer Gantry when the North Dakota State Library decided not to stock it. The State Library was still fairly new, having been established as the Public Library Commission in 1907, taking up one room in the State Capitol.

Lillian Cook, then librarian, told the Bismarck Tribune she would not buy it for the library and she would not recommend it, stating, “In almost every library the purchase of one book means that another would be dispensed with, and in this case, Mr. Lewis’ latest book

would be considered ‘another’ in comparison with almost any ‘one.’”

She continued, “It is lacking in accurate perception. It does not produce a convincing impersonation. It has not the rapier touch of the satirist but the bludgeoning of a propagandist. ... The impression is given that the glasses Mr. Lewis used when making his investigation prevented his seeing anything he did not want to see and which did not contribute to his preconceived idea. The result is not an interpretive piece of sculpture, but a work of base metal, cast in a predetermined and distorted mold. Lacking truth and beauty and art, it does not merit attention nor consideration.”

Today, the book is not held at the State Library because the book does not fit with the State Library’s collection policies, the library being “built

and maintained...to meet the information needs of state government, the library community, and the citizens of North Dakota.”

Other books that were banned and burned over the years include “The Scarlet Letter,” “Where the Wild Things Are,” “To Kill a Mockingbird,” “Moby Dick,” “The Great Gatsby,” and “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.”

Books of all sorts are still banned for all sorts of reasons, and that’s why, in 1982, Banned Books Week was established. The annual observance celebrates “the freedom to read.”

“Dakota Datebook” is a radio series from Prairie Public in partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota and with funding from the North Dakota Humanities Council.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Assembly of God

Lake Assembly
Jerry & Denise Dvorscak
Powers Lake, N.D.
Sunday, April 12
10:30 a.m. Regular Service
& FaceBook Live

WCAG Church
Kris Faul, Pastor
Kenmare, N.D.
Sunday - 9:00 a.m. Prayer
9:45 a.m. Donuts & Coffee
10:15 a.m. Worship Service
Every other Monday - 10:00 a.m.
Lean on Me Play Group
Tuesday - 9:30 a.m.
Ladies BELLS Group
Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.
Romans Bible Study
Thursday - 7:00 p.m.
Fruit of the Spirit Study
Friday
7:00 a.m. Men’s Coffee
8:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study

Methodist

United Methodist Church
Pastor Mark Turner
Bowbells, N.D.
Sunday, April 12
9:00 a.m. Worship

Lutheran

Trinity Lutheran Church
Pastor Michon Weingartner
833-2228
Columbus, N.D.
Sunday, April 12
11:00 a.m. Worship

Faith Lutheran Church
Columbus, N.D.
Sunday, April 12
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
with Monte Rubbert

Christ Lutheran Church
Pastor Michon Weingartner
833-2228
Lignite, N.D.
Sunday, April 12
11:00 a.m. Worship at Trinity
Tuesday, April 14
9:00 a.m. Quilting

McGregor-White Earth Lutheran Parish

Milo Mell, SAM/Intern Pastor
Wednesday, April 8
2:00 p.m. First WELCA Mtg.
4:00 p.m. Confirmation in Tioga
Sunday, April 12
9:00 a.m. Zion Worship
10:00 a.m. Zion Sunday School
11:00 a.m. First Worship
2:00 p.m. Zion WELCA
Tuesday, April 14
1:00-6:00 p.m. Tioga Food Pantry
at First Lutheran
Wednesday, April 15
4:00 p.m. Confirmation in Tioga

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pastor Michon Weingartner
833-2228
Bowbells, N.D.
Wednesday, April 8
2:00 p.m. WELCA General Aid
Sunday, April 12
9:00 a.m. Communion Worship
with Children’s Church
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
Monday, April 13
1:00 p.m. Quilting
Tuesday, April 14
2:00-4:00 p.m. Clothing Pantry
Wednesday, April 15
2:00 p.m. WELCA Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Confirmation-Mentors

United as One Lutheran Parish

Pastor Pauline Crowder
701-399-9472
pastorcrowder@gmail.com
Lay Minister, Jean Quigley
**Holy Cross Lutheran
of Powers Lake**
Sunday:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
& Coffee Hour
Wednesday activities:
10:00 a.m. Quilting
12:15 p.m. Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Confirmation
6:30 p.m. Luther League
Bethel Lutheran of Battleview
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
Elmdale Lutheran of Niobe
1st & 3rd Sundays
9:30 am. Worship
with Lunch Following
**Trinity Lutheran
of rural Kenmare**
2nd & 4th Sundays
9:30 a.m. Worship
with lunch following

Catholic

St. Joseph’s Catholic Church
Father Daniel J. Berg
Bowbells, N.D.
Thursday, April 9
5:00 p.m. Mass
Sunday, April 12
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Mass
Tuesday, April 14
5:00 p.m. Adoration & Mass

**St. John the Baptist
Catholic Church**
Rev. Gregory Crane
Portal, N.D.
Sunday, April 12
11:30 a.m. Mass

St. Luke’s Catholic Church
Rev. Gregory Crane
Noonan, N.D.
Saturday, April 11
7:00 p.m. Mass

St. James Catholic Church
Powers Lake, N.D.
Fr. Corey Nelson
Recorded Message 464-5012
Odd Months:
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Mass
Even Months:
Saturday - 7:00 p.m. Mass

Baptist

Bethel Baptist Church
Chuck Kranz, Pastor
Powers Lake, N.D.
Sunday, April 12
9:00 a.m. Prayer
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

326 Prairie Drive, Stanley
Ward Bishop Jay Jackson
916-838-5728
Office: 701-628-5507
Wednesdays 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Sundays 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
608 1st St. N, New Town
Branch President Terry Jones
701-627-3397 or 307-272-1915
Sunday
10:00 a.m. Sacrament Meeting
11:00 a.m. Primary/Nursery
(1st/3rd Sunday)
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
(2nd/4th Sunday)
11:00 a.m. Priesthood/
Relief Society Young Men/
Young Women

Five Fulltime Mechanics including AG Mechanic

Impact Mechanics
KENMARE & Tire Shop

701-818-1490 or 701-609-6467

- Auto Repairs • Complete Semi Repairs & Overhauls
- DPF Deletes • Small Engines • Motorcycles • Snowmobiles
- AG Repairs • Scan Tool • Oil Change • Tire Service • Alignment
- Transmission Flush • Coolant Flush • A/C Service • AC Delco Batteries
- On-Site Service • Towing/Transport • Key Programming • Exhausts

**Thompson
Larson
Funeral Home**

21 3rd Ave SW
Minot

(701)852-3446

Lamb’s
HONEY FARM
MOHALL, ND • JASPER, TX
EST 1979

Thank you to everyone who lets us put bees on your land! We are currently looking for additional spots.

To learn more call (701) 595-3035 or visit www.lambshoneyfarm.com

Bowbells
Insurance

701-377-2739
Ryan Peterson
Darla Peterson
bowins@nccray.com

K² ELECTRIC INC
Stanley, ND

Specializing in Residential Commercial, Agricultural & Industrial Electrical Work

“Locally Owned & Operated for Over 20 Years”

No Job Too Big or Small
Call Today: 701-628-1184

Bowbells Crop Insurance

Focused on ag.
Focused on you.

115 Main St. NE • 377-3703
AgCountry.com

AgCountry
Farm Credit Services
equal opportunity provider

**TRINITY
COMMUNITY
CLINIC- KENMARE**

Monday-Friday
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

EMERGENCY ROOM COVERAGE - 24 HOURS
DAYS - EVENINGS - WEEKENDS

KENMARE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
701-385-4296

Maximize your legacy.

Want to pass down as much as possible to the people and causes you care about? With careful planning, you can. Let’s connect to make the most of your legacy and potentially minimize tax implications.

Advice | Investments | Insurance | Banking | Generosity

Thrivent and its financial professionals do not provide legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your attorney or tax professional. Thrivent is the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Insurance products issued by Thrivent. Not available in all states. Securities and investment advisory services offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., a registered investment adviser, member FINRA and SIPC, and a subsidiary of Thrivent. Licensed agent/producer of Thrivent. Registered representative of Thrivent Investment Management, Inc. Thrivent.com/disclosures. 27716A R11-21

thrivent

Kyle W Hanson
FIC, CLTC®
Financial Associate
701-628-2394

Compass Health

Navigating your health

Shelley Bartow PA-C
Mon.-Thurs. 8:30am-5:30pm
701-385-3020
100 1st Ave SE, Kenmare
www.compasshealthnd.com

SERVPRO

Cleaning. Restoration. Construction.
24/7 Emergency Dispatch

SERVPRO® of Minot
(701) 852-7378
Email: Office@servprominot.com
Website: www.servprominot.com

Like it never even happened.
Independently owned and operated

**Liberty
State Bank**

“Your Bank of
Friendly Service”

Member of FDIC
Phone 464-5421
Powers Lake ND

**Farmers Union
INSURANCE**

Jerome (Jerry) Essler
Representative
100 North Central
PO Box 458, Kenmare ND 58746-0458
Office: (701) 385-4048 or (800) 670-4048

CRAFTS 4-U
23 Main St. North, Crosby, ND

Best Prices
**CARHARTT
ARIAT
Wrangler
RED WING**

Custom Embroidery
701-965-6106

**Optometry Clinic, PC
of Stanley and Kenmare**

OPTOMETRIST
Dr. Tessa M. Gustafson

Box 857
Kenmare, ND 58746
385.4004
Fax: 385.4005
Satellite: Stanley, ND
628.3232

**Northern Combine
& Ag Repair LLC**

Dylan Essen - Lignite ND
701-318-2114

- field service
- inspections

**109
STEAKHOUSE**

933-2337 • Lignite

Tuesday-Saturday
11:00 AM - 9:00 PM
CLOSED Sun & Mon

**Melby
Construction**

Hauling Gravel
Digging, Trenching, Back Fill
Farm Water
Systems & Septic Tanks

339-1150
467-3230

**TIOGA
Medical Center**

**Powers Lake
Medical Clinic**

Wednesday
9:30 am - 4:30 pm
For Appointments
664-3368

DACOTAH BANK

Here for you.

BANKING • INSURANCE • MORTGAGE • TRUST
15 Main St SE • Bowbells • (701)377-2386
dacotahbank.com

**Northland
HealthCenters**

Bowbells Medical Clinic

18 Main Street
701-377-6400
Hours: Mon: 7:00-7:00
Tue - Wed: 7:30-6:00
Thur: 7:00-4:00

Visit us online at northlandchc.org
or Find Us on Facebook!

Sandberg Redi-Mix

Washed Sand & Rock
Custom Crushing
Road & Oil Site Graveling
933-2335 - Lignite
385-4038 - Kenmare

We service all of Northwest North Dakota

NLE
NEXT LEVEL EXCAVATING

- Excavating/Dirt Work
- Water/Sewer Lines
- Septic Systems
- Foundations
- Demolition
- Culverts
- Manure Spreading

Kenmare/Lignite, ND
701-705-0151
www.nextlevelnd.com

**Septic Tank
Service**

Steve Jensen
385-4633
cell: 835-2012
Kenmare N.D.

HYGGE HOTEL

101 Railroad Ave.
Powers Lake, ND
701-464-7666
email: hyggehôtel@outlook.com

Hotel & Coffee Shop

Cafe Service for
Hotel Guests and
Reservation Only
dining or hotel reservations
call 701-641-1620

Joel Bird
CFP®, BFA™, CRPC®, APMA®, CLTC®
Private Wealth Advisor, CEO
joel.l.bird@ampf.com

Legacy Financial Partners
A private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC
125 Buckskin Ave., Ste 200 - Bismarck, ND 58503
701.258.9735 | planwithLFP.com

JODY OLNEY
CFP®, CPA, MBA, APMA®, CRPC®
Financial Advisor
jody.olney@ampf.com

Legacy Financial Partners
Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisory Practice

**Ameriprise
Financial**

Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC.