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The Good News
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What Is Palm Sunday?

Palm Sunday . . . why do we call it that? First, let me clarify that it is not a special weekend day at the beach. Although that does sound quite appealing to us North Dakotans after this arctic winter we've just had.

This coming Sunday is known by that name because of what Jesus experienced when He rode into Jerusalem just a few days before He died on the Cross.

I found this wonderful answer to our key question at a very helpful website called "gotquestions.org".

"Palm Sunday began with Jesus and His disciples traveling over the Mount of Olives. The Lord sent two disciples ahead into the village of Bethphage to find an animal to ride. They found the unbroken colt of a donkey, just as Jesus had said they would (Luke 19:29-30).

"As Jesus ascended toward Jerusalem, a large multitude gathered around Him. The crowd's actions along the road give rise to the name 'Palm Sunday': 'A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road' (Matthew 21:8). In strewing their cloaks on the road, the people were giving Jesus the royal treatment -- King Jehu was given similar honor at his coronation (2 Kings 9:13 tells the story). John records the detail that the branches they cut were from palm trees (John 12:13).

"There is coming a day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11).



"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

Also, John records a scene in Heaven that features the eternal celebration of the risen Lord: 'There before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands' (Revelation 7:9). These palm-bearing saints will shout, 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb' (verse 10), and who can measure the sum of their joy?"

That last paragraph of the article excites me. What a glorious day that will be! Will you be one of those "palm-bearing saints" who will be praising the Lord? I hope you will.

God has made Heaven available to everyone who (1) will turn from their sins in true repentance, (2) and has asked for and have received forgiveness for their sins, (3) and has committed themselves to follow Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

If you have done that . . . great ready to worship the Lord with palm in hand!



DAKOTA DATEBOOK

Snow Geese at Tewaukon
BY JACK DURA

March 23 -- North Dakota is a popular stopover for migrating waterfowl. Even endangered whooping cranes make a pit stop here, but the migrating snow geese at Lake Tewaukon are one of the most impressive sights. They'd give Alfred Hitchcock's movie *The Birds* a run for its money. The little lake and the sky above it become a cloud of white as hundreds of thousands of snow geese swirl and swim. The geese flock to Lake Tewaukon in March, usually around this time of year, at times totaling more than 700,000 birds.

The snow geese migration also marks the start of movement for other waterfowl. Ducks, giant Canada geese and teal show up at Tewaukon in early April, with shorebirds like sandpipers and plovers arriving in May. Bald eagles and great horned owls also nest in the area.

The snow geese's journey from wintering in southern Texas to their breeding grounds in Nunavut Territory, Canada is more than 3,000 miles. Stops along the way might include cornfields near Urbana, Illinois, sloughs near Cleveland and the ditches along I-94 -- small wetlands that are some of the first bodies of water to warm up in spring. In North Dakota they enjoy a paradise provided by the state's prairie potholes.

Lake Tewaukon is part of the Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge. This hotspot for naturalists offers another spectacle in May and June when it features a chorus of wildflowers.

Cold War Education
BY LANE SUNWALL

March 24 -- To some, the Cold War carried the specter of nuclear Armageddon, the end of life as we know it. While humanity dodged that particular bullet, efforts to build more effective bombs spurred both American and Russian intellectual curiosity and scientific prowess. The "space race," the other epic mid-century contest between the US and the USSR, was intimately tied to nuclear arms development. Indeed, the first rockets to send men into space were converted warfare missiles.

Even before 1957, when the launch of Sputnik caught the United States off-guard, the US government knew that if it were to retain the edge in military technology, it needed to improve American science. Toward that end, the government made massive investments in scientific research and education. The result put America on the moon, but perhaps of greater importance was the modern scientific revolution that the investment in scientific study made possible.

Not everyone who was involved with the government's "space race" education initiative became rocket scientists. Many branched off into other sciences and provided America with a myriad of inventions we now take for granted. North Dakota was intimately tied to this renaissance in American ingenuity. As funding to the universities increased, citizens

across the state took up the challenge to advance American technological innovation.

In the fall of 1956, a young Bill Isaacson enrolled in the pre-engineering program at Minot State Teachers College. The program, part of the government's scientific initiative, propelled Mr. Isaacson to Montana State University and to a doctorate of engineering in 1963. Isaacson launched his career at 3M. Combining his expertise with his inborn business acumen, Isaacson played an important role in the invention of multi-focal permanent contact lenses, a new generation of Olympic diving boards, and even 3M's most ubiquitous product, the "Post-it" note.

Bill Isaacson has neither forgotten his home state nor the difference his education played in his life. This week in 2011, Isaacson traveled back to his alma mater, now Minot State University, to speak to aspiring inventors, scientists and entrepreneurs. His purpose: inspire a new generation of North Dakotans to push the boundaries of science to bring the newest technologies to market, applying their knowledge toward a better tomorrow.

Weather History
BY SARAH WALKER

March 25 -- Avid fans of weather history may recall that in mid-March 1941, a blizzard swept across the upper Midwest, leaving death in its wake. Out of more than 70 victims, at least 35 fell in North Dakota.

Reports of the dead and the close calls flew everywhere. The Northwestern Bell Telephone Company in Fargo reported that 2,500 long-distance calls were placed following the blizzard -- the greatest number of long-distance calls placed in a single day in the history of the office.

On this date, only 10 days after the storm, North Dakotans were trying to deal with what had occurred.

In Devils Lake, hundreds of motorists were marooned in their cars overnight. In Grand Forks, at least 11 people were still listed as missing two days after the storm. Near Fort Ransom, a father and son froze to death while out walking. Two cousins near Hannah died while walking home from a 4-H club meeting.

The Weiner family, from near Langdon, had just arrived at their farm home when the storm broke. Their driveway was blocked, so they parked along the highway -- but upon opening the car door, the oldest daughter was swept away by the wind. By the time her parents caught up with her, they were all lost. They did eventually bump into a fence post that Mr. Weiner recognized as his own. He left his family behind and followed the fence to his sheep shed. He returned, but his wife was unable to move, so he took his daughter and young son to the shed, then returned once more and half-dragged, half-carried his wife to safety.

Four brothers from near Dazey, aged 17 and younger, had been out roller skating, and on the way home were caught in the

storm. Donald, Lee and Dickie perished. Only "Bobbie" Taylor survived -- and only because his twin brother Dickie had been holding him in the snowdrift in which they had sought shelter.

Bobbie was in the hospital for a while. He lost his left foot and the toes and heel of his right foot. However, he kept a good attitude, telling his nurse, "I don't think I will be able to play football because of my feet, but I think I will make it all right in basketball."

The reports of the Taylor family tragedy spread far and wide, and Bobbie unexpectedly received an autographed photo from movie star Robert Taylor -- written on the photo was "To Robert Taylor from Robert Taylor. Best wishes."

Spuds' Day of Firsts
BY MERRY HELM

March 26 -- It was a day of firsts across the river in Moorhead, Minn. As reported on this date in 1928, Moorhead High had won its first major sports title by taking the 16th annual Minnesota high school basketball championship. They beat a Minneapolis team, the Edison Inventors, before a record-breaking crowd of 7,200 spectators in the U of M Fieldhouse.

A reporter wrote, "In the championship game, Edison's vaunted passing play, which baffled Northfield Friday, was no puzzle to the Moorhead Spuders after they got going in the second quarter.

"Moorhead, which has made frequent appearances as representatives of their section, used a cautious slow approach in invading the Edisons' territory, but once past the middle of the floor, they uncorked clever passes and some accurate shooting that brought them into favor with a majority of the rooters that were from outside the home city of the Inventors."

Moorhead fans showed up in droves to welcome home their young heroes. Newspapers reported, "From the moment Clifford Halmrast, doughty captain and all-state forward, alighted from the train bearing the championship trophy, until a monster mass meeting was called to order in the high school auditorium, the cheers of the rooters, the blare of the bands, and the shrill cries of the [factory] whistles and [fire] sirens predominated. The victorious players and their coach, Glenn Hanna, were loaded on a fire truck with prominent city officials and were paraded through the main streets of the city."

Halmrast scored 20 points -- the most in any championship round between 1922 and 1944. Both he and guard Earl Moran were selected by newspapermen and officials for the Minnesota all-state team. Moran didn't know it at the time, but he was on the way to becoming the first player to make all-state three times.

The Spuds won the state final again the following year -- the first team in Minnesota history to win back-to-back championships. They hoped to make it three in a row the following year, but one of their players, all-state forward Pat Hilde, had just turned 20, making him ineligible.

Moran and teammate Carroll "Shorty" Malvey were the only Minnesota players to get to three state finals prior to 1971. After graduating, Pat Hilde, Earl Moran and Shorty Malvey enrolled at Concordia in

Moorhead, where they continued to make basketball history by leading that college to its first Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Title. All three teammates made all-state again -- this time at college level.

By the way, the final score in that first state championship game played by Moorhead in 1928 was pretty low by today's standard: Spuds 29, Edison Inventors 16!

Pig Lady of Hollywood
BY SARAH WALKER

March 27 -- Edith Hughes was a big-city/little-city girl. She was born as Edith Wakeman in New York state, but she was raised in Bismarck. When she was older, in 1930, she took her parents to California and they made their home in Los Angeles. Until 1941 she made it her custom to visit her home city at least once a year.

In the early 1940s, however, Edith began to lose her sight. One Easter Sunday before World War II began, she described her worsening vision as the way the stage looks "when they lower a gauze curtain between the scene and the audience." Her condition grew worse, and all the doctors she went to disagreed on a solution.

But she was a go-getter, and after Pearl Harbor, she reported to a volunteer agency to offer her services. Sightless or not, she was determined to help as best she could. She proposed collecting small donations from people. The director of the agency did not go for the idea, but Edith persisted on her own. Her charitable efforts focused on the issue of blindness, in hopes that the war would improve medical knowledge in that area. Later she said, "I humiliated everybody by starting a penny-a-day campaign." She chose the slogan, "A penny a day drives the darkness away."

Her vision continued to worsen, but she turned her energy to other worthwhile causes. Soon she began circulating Mexican piggy banks to collect funds for the Braille Institute. But she wanted a better design, so she bought a live pig (for \$10) and commissioned a sculpture of a life-size pig seated on a pedestal, its front hooves folded in a porcelain plea for funds. She christened this statue "Aurora, goddess of dawn and foe of darkness." This new, large piggy bank was placed in the Los Angeles Farmers' Market to make its plea to the thousands of people who passed through the gates daily. She was known as "the pig lady of Hollywood," and for good reason: she pushed people to donate their pennies to her piggy banks.

On this date in 1950, it was reported that Edith Wakeman Hughes was blind no longer. She had undergone surgery by a San Francisco surgeon who restored her sight. She could now see!

Nonetheless, even in its absence, her blindness inspired her, and she continued to push forward and even increase her efforts. This "pig lady" was a business woman and a humanitarian, a go-getter and an inspiration.

"Dakota Datebook" is a radio series from *Prairie Public* in partnership with the *State Historical Society of ND* and with funding from the *ND Humanities Council*. See all the *Dakota Datebooks* at prairiepublic.org, subscribe to the "Dakota Datebook" podcast, or buy the *Dakota Datebook* book at shopprairiepublic.org.

Construction scholarships for high school seniors

The Associated General Contractors of ND has scholarships available for high school seniors pursuing a career in the field of Construction.

These scholarships are for the 2026-27 school year. The deadline is April 22, 2026. Scholarship details and applications are available at www.agcnd.org/scholarship

- \$1,500 scholarships available at North Dakota State University and University of Mary for construction management or construction engineering

- \$1,500 scholarships available at Minnesota State University Moorhead for construction management

- \$1,500 scholarship available at Bismarck State College for heavy equipment operator

- \$750 scholarships available at Bismarck State College for construction technology, welding technology, heavy equipment operator, engineering

technology, HVAC, diesel technology or other construction related majors

- \$750 scholarships available at ND State College of Science for construction management technology, civil engineering and land surveying technology, building construction technology, architectural drafting and estimating technology, diesel technology or welding technology

"The AGC of ND is continually looking to partner with the next generation of industry professionals and is proud to assist with the financial aspect with our scholarship program" states AGC of ND Executive Vice President Russ Hanson.

The AGC of ND, an association of more than 400 contractors, suppliers and construction-related companies, has awarded more than \$1.4 million in scholarships since 1964.

Donate to Dahlen RFD

The Dahlen Rural Fire Department was organized on June 20, 1965, and their current fire hall was built later that year.

In 2024 the department unanimously voted to expand their current operation. With a strong need driven by the expansion of service equipment, the Dahlen Rural Fire Department will begin expanding its station by constructing a new facility across from its current building. The Dahlen Rural Fire Department recently purchased a grass truck which is driving the need for this building expansion. Without heated storage, this valuable piece of equipment is deemed unreliable if it is stored anywhere other than an indoor, heated facility. Donations for this project can be made to: Dahlen Rural Fire Department, 120 Main St. N, Dahlen, ND 58224-0000.

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