

DID YOU KNOW.....

A look back at early area history as found in the archives and artifacts of the Enderlin Historical Society and Museum by Susan Schlecht

The following information is an excerpt from the files of the Writers' Project for Ransom County with information on Enderlin as collected by early Enderlin resident Mrs. Susan Vance for a 1936 tourist guide.

“Population: The population of Enderlin in 1930 was 1,830.”

“Civic Buildings: Among the buildings of note in Enderlin we find the school house, 68 by 160 feet, two stories high and basement, built at a cost of \$97,500.00, in 1933. It has reinforced concrete construction, concrete floors and roof with brick facing. It is entirely fireproof and modern with recreation room in the basement. Architects were Lang-Rangland and Lewis of Minneapolis, with Rose and Harris of Minneapolis as Mechanical Engineers.

Enderlin has a City Hall on Railway St. at the end of Fourth Avenue, built in 1925, of red brick with white stone coping, in modern Colonial style. Braseth and Hoken of Fargo were the architects. It is 60 by 90 feet, two and one half stories high and cost \$40,000.00. The first floor contains a banquet room, kitchen, library, two rest rooms, and a City Jail and fire hall in the rear. The second floor contains an auditorium to seat 600 and balcony to seat 300, large stage with two large dressing rooms. Also a City Council room and checking room. Soo Line Superintendent, George Baxter was instrumental in getting the Soo Line to lease land for this building and to heat it with steam from the roundhouse.

Another Civic building is the large Masonic Temple, built in 1927 on Railway Street and Fourth Ave., of pressed red brick with white stone coping in modern Colonial style. It is 35 by 85 feet and cost \$26,000.00. It contains two floors with a specially constructed dance floor which the architect designed with a footing of cinders, air spaced to prevent buckling. It is also steam heated by the Soo Line roundhouse.”

Sue's comments: Amazing that optimistic North Dakotan's were publishing a tourist guide in 1936 during the middle of the Great Depression! Notice that the school had no gymnasium yet in 1936 and they were quick to point out that the building was completely fireproof, since the previous school had burned to the ground earlier in 1933! Also, how many of you knew that the Museum (Masonic Temple building) had a specially constructed “dance floor”?

Watch for more history next week!