



ERNEST BOWYER POST NO. 791

Chartered May 14, 1921 • Ladies' Auxiliary Chartered Feb. 6, 1927
 "Organized to Honor the Dead by Helping the Living"

Richard Wright, Post Commander • Joyce Stahlecker, Auxiliary President

Post and Auxiliary Local Projects

- Support of Military
- Relief to Veterans and Families
- Safety Programs
- Teener Baseball
- Citizenship Programs
- Voice of Democracy Program
- Comforting Hospitalized Veterans

- Assistance to a Variety of Community Projects and Programs
- Scouts
- Special Olympics
- Drug Abuse Awareness
- Cancer Aid & Research
- Honoring the Veterans

Major Goals

- To insure national security through maximum military security.
- To speed the rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
- To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
- To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.
- To perpetuate the memory and history of our dead.
- To preserve and strengthen comradeship among VFW members.

VFW is the oldest and largest organization of overseas veterans. VFW organized on Sept. 27, 1899; VFW Constitution was adopted Sept. 1914 and was chartered by the U.S. Congress.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 AND THE LADIES' AUXILIARY

The Dakotas' Oldest

The Newspaper You're Reading Now Has Persevered Through Changing Times, Ownerships And Names

BY KELLY HERTZ
 The Press & Dakotan

The 150-year history of the *Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan* is filled with twists, turns, myriad ownerships and startling innovations. But through it all, there is a straight line that is just as essential to this publication as any technological advancement ever seen here.

The straight line begins, officially, on June 6, 1861, when the *Weekly Dakotian* was born.

also

■ To see the very first edition of the P&D, plus other historic front pages, see Section D.

(It was printed in Sioux City, so it didn't hit local readers until three days later.) Founded by Frank M. Ziebach, William Freney and J.B.S. Todd, the publication was started just three months after the vast and unsettled Dakota Territory was crafted by Congress. Soon thereafter, Yankton — one of the territory's few genuine settlements, but a

place that held promise as a bustling river port — was chosen as the territorial capital. That spelled out opportunity for the aforementioned gentlemen, who set up shop in a log cabin on the west side of Broadway between Second and Third streets.

In the 1986 book "Yankton County History," longtime *Press & Dakotan* reporter Ellen Tobin noted that Ziebach, Freney and Todd had to cash in on the printing that would need to be done when the Legislature finally convened. But they discovered that the contract had already been awarded to Josiah Trask of Kansas, so the trio sold their newspaper interest to Kansas, who in turn sold the newspaper to George W. Kingsbury, Dr. Walter A. Burleigh, Enos Stutsman and Albert Gore.

Many newspapers featured political leanings in those days, and the *Weekly Dakotian* was no different. Being formed less than two months after the start of the Civil War, the newspaper was a fierce Unionist publication.

"In the present distracted condition of our country," the newspaper declared in its very first issue (written as the "*Yankton Weekly Dakotian*"), "the partizan [sic] should be lost in the patriot, and every heart beat in unison in favor of the maintenance of the National flag, and the perpetuity of the Union. To do this, the old party lines should be obliterated, and every lover of his country unite in sustaining the President in his efforts to maintain the integrity of the country.

"Our motto is — The Union with 34 stars, and as many more as shall apply for admission with republican institutions — always more, but never less!"

Burleigh became the sole owner in 1863, but within a year, his publication faced competition, thanks to the ballot box. The *Dakota Union* was formed in 1864 and was edited by Kingsbury, who had left the *Weekly Dakotian* because he opposed Burleigh's candidacy for Congress. Kingsbury was joined by surveyor Moses K. Armstrong at the publication.

The *Union* lasted just 10 weeks. After Burleigh won the election, Kingsbury partnered with Burleigh, oddly enough, to form the *Union and Dakotian*, which was considered a Republican paper.



ABOVE: George W. Kingsbury was an on-again-off-again owner/editor of the *Press & Dakotan*, but was ultimately part of the paper for decades and became known as the "Father of Dakota Journalism." (From the book "Yankton: The Way It Was!" by Bob Karolevitz)



RIGHT: Fred Monfore, a longtime employee and editor, purchased the *Press & Dakotan* in 1944, and it stayed in his family for more than 30 years.

Hamiel: Yankton A 'Garden Spot

BY NOEL HAMIEL
 Former P&D Publisher (1983-1989)

Yankton is known as the Mother City of the Dakotas, but those who have lived here know it is also the garden spot of South Dakota. Steeply rolling hills created by the river breaks and the serene Lewis and Clark Lake make Yankton a favored destination for visitors and a special place to call home for those who stay.

No city in South Dakota has Yankton's history, which is visible everywhere, and is recorded in its architecture and events.

The display of historic homes — the Ward, Cramer-Kenyon, and Grant Marsh, to name but three — is testimony not only to past glory days, but to its preservationist mindset. Few if any communities in South Dakota can match the passion of historic preservation that is found in the state's first river city.

This recognition of its proud history is also borne out in Riverboat Days, a marquee South Dakota celebration that commemorates steamboat traffic and Yankton's essential role in the development of our state.

This 150-year birthday of the city also mirrors that of its local newspaper, the *Press and Dakotan*, still standing proudly on Walnut Street and recording the present for today's readers and future historians.

Congratulations, Yankton, and thanks, too, for what you have contributed to our state in the past and what you continue to give to it today.

The P&D Has Also Found A Home In Cyberspace

BY BETH RYE
 The Press & Dakotan

"Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't."

These were some of the first words I heard regarding the *Press & Dakotan's* Website when I started as the website developer more than 14 years ago. This "Internet thing" was something the corporate office at the time was pushing on all of their properties and many didn't necessarily accept the Internet with open arms. I knew I was going to have a long road ahead of me — but definitely a road I wanted to travel.



Rye

The *Press & Dakotan's* Website, Yankton.net, officially launched in August of 1997. The Internet department consisted of two computers — only one of which had a modem. The publisher had the only other computer with Internet access and there was just one email address for the entire business. Hard to believe in just over a decade how far we have come and to think how far we will still go.

I saw this new career as an amazing opportunity to be a part of something that was going to change the newspaper world. Delivering the news in a whole new way to a whole new audience. I knew each day would bring something new and exciting as technology is ever changing.

Getting the news online each night was not a process anyone looked forward to back then. Here at the *Press & Dakotan*, I would come back into the office around midnight and use software that undoubtedly had a mind of its own most of the time. Multiple issues would arise and many early morning calls were made to make sure the news did indeed get posted to the site six days a week. Now we are able to upload our content from anywhere at anytime. A computer is no longer needed to read the news — smart phones can keep you up-to-date with breaking news via text message. The print version is now available online in its entirety to read on your iPad ... even giving you the option to have the news read to you!

Yankton.net reached a milestone in 2011. We had more than 1,000,000 page views in one month and have continued to see that number grow higher each month since. The ability to reach our viewers through social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter have certainly helped us achieve that number. The core product has grown so versatile. It provides photos using our photoblog site "Spotted," videos, comments and user-contributed content — allowing readers to become more engaged in their local content. Advertisers now have a new reach with all print ads and special sections online that become interactive to the viewer.

Yankton.net has won many awards over the years and I believe this is due to how well the entire staff at the *Press & Dakotan* has adapted to the Internet and realizing how it has helped in our mission to keep our readers informed.

And even though those first words I heard so many years ago still echo in my mind — they remind me of how much progress we have made and will continue to make for years to come.

Where did the years go?

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