



Future Editors

July 29

Richard White

August 5

Tom Will

August 12

Roger Winkle

Greeters

July 26

No Greeters

August 2

Stacy Askvig
Jeff Balentine

August 9

Mike Berg
Wallace Berning

Upcoming Programs

July 26

ND State Fair Meeting

August 2

Three Affiliated Tribes
Museum

Why is it shaped like that? by Tom Wentz



The suggestion is to always write about what one knows, but real estate in Minot is hot – generating a lot of articles. So, I decided to stay with a real estate theme, but to go back to the beginning of ND.

As many of you know I enjoy history so I decided to research why North Dakota is shaped the way it is.

The best resource I found was a book by Mark Stein on the politics behind how each state got its “shape.” Probably the most notable American boundary is the long straight line that defines so much of our country’s northern border with Canada.

This line is the 49th parallel. It first surfaced on the American map following the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. The document conveying France’s remaining North American land – a tract that included all or some of Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota, Montana, and Colorado – states that the French Republic cedes to the United State “the Colony or Province of Louisiana with the same extent that it now has.”

This wording is quite vague for a legal document and such a large purchase, but the French were in a hurry for the money. The vagueness is also the reason very little evidence of the Louisiana Purchase can be found in our state lines.

Other than the boundaries provided by the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River, no one knew what its boundaries were! Jefferson believed that all the land comprising the watershed leading to the Missouri and the Mississippi rivers constituted the Louisiana Purchase.

But, as he soon discovered, our neighbors did not. In reality, France’s

American territory extended to the west as far as a Frenchman could go without getting shot by a Spaniard, and likewise to the north without getting shot by an Englishman.

The ambiguous borders of the Louisiana Purchase led England and the United States to negotiate where France’s former lands ended and where British North America (Canada) began. Under the Convention of 1818, the two nations agreed upon the 49th parallel from the westernmost longitude of Lake of the Woods to the crest of the Rocky Mountains – pretty clear!

Why the 49th parallel and not the 50th? It’s such a nice round number. The reason for the one-degree difference is that England needed to maintain her access to the Great Lakes via the westernmost of those lakes - Lake Superior.

Such access was vital to England’s fur trade and its major fur trading post located at the confluence of the Assiniboine and Red rivers – a place now known as Winnipeg. Had the border been located at the 50th parallel, Winnipeg would have been in American territory, as would the waterways that flow west to Lake Superior.

When Minnesota became a state in 1858, it shed most of its territorial land and acquired a new western border. Three years later, Congress created the Dakota Territory. Minnesota’s western border became the eastern border of the Dakota Territory and, in time, part of it, the Red River of the North, became the eastern border of North Dakota.

The western border of North Dakota surfaced as a result of Idaho, despite the
cont’d on page 3

Secretary's Corner Om Madhok

7/19/10

PRESENT MEMBERSHIP: 97

ATTENDANCE: 59.6%

VISITORS: Chelsey Bruhr, guest of T. Hinzpeter; Steve Burnside, guest of L. Pinkerton

We Missed You!

D. Albertson	A. Estvold	F. Lien Jr.	D. Somerville
S. Askvig	B. Fedorchak	D. Looyen	R. Sommers
J. Balentine	J. Feist	Jarid Lundeen	K. Turneau
M. Berg	M. Gaddie	Jay Lundeen	B. Walker
R. Buchholz	J. Haaland	B. Mattson	T. Wentz Jr.
D. Bausman	D. Hodnefield	M. McMahan	R. Winkle
L. Clute	T. Hoff	J. Montgomery	K. Wullweber
D. Davison	J. Jensen	J. Olson	M. Watne
R. Dick	M. Keller	S. Oothoudt	
S. Dufner	A. Kurth	D. Rubbelke	
D. Ellingson	L. Langmaack	C. Sem	

Attendance: April—May—June 2010

100% - R. Argent, B. Christianson, D. Feist, J. Guidinger, P. Hankla, T. Hinzpeter, K. Holte, J. Khalifa, K. Kitzman, J. MacMartin, O. Madhok, W. McLees, T. Myre, D. White, D. Zimmerman

92% - J. Balentine, S. Johnson, A. Krause, D. Lehner, R. Merritt, P. Smith, R. Streyle

83% - S. Askvig, M. Berg, J. Coughlin, M. Keller, M. Miller, R. Olson, S. Podrygula, B. Walker

75% - CJ Craven, F. Crist, E. DesLauriers, M. Effertz-Hanson, R. Gordon-Thompson, J. Montgomery, Darrell Olson, A. Reynolds, M. Rolle, ME Syria, T. Vallye, T. Zeltinger

67% - T. Aldrich, R. Anderson, W. Berning, B. DesLauriers, K. Harmon, R. Horne, M. Klier, D. Langemo, W. Magaster, OH Mittelberg, R. Winkler

58% - W. Hankla, C. Olson, S. Oothoudt

50% - L. Clute, R. Dick, D. Hodnefield, A. Kurth, G. Lumley, D. Somerville, B. Thomas, S. Tonneson, M. Watne

This comes to a total of 65 members with 15 members with a perfect attendance. On the other hand, 35 members, including 2 who are on leave of absence, have less than 50% attendance.

Om Madhok, Secretary

Birthdays

July 30
Jeff Balentine



Anniversaries

July 26
Richard & Mary Olson

July 28
Betty & Mike Fedorchak

July 31
Tom & Jessa Rafferty

August 1
Lisa & Barry Clute

August 2
Peter & JaMie Hankla

Fines

\$5.00 Bruce Christianson

\$2.00 each

R. Merritt, R. Streyle, B. DesLauriers, D. Olson, R. Anderson, S. Tonneson, T. Zeltinger, who did not attend MSU Summer Theater, who bought insurance

\$1.00 each

B. Horne, M. Miller, A. Krause, J. Guidinger, W. Berning, T. Aldrich, R. Argent (all had good news to share) and who played golf this weekend.

TOTAL FINES:
\$111.00

The Prairie Flower is the official publication of Rotary Club of Minot, Minot, North Dakota. It is published every Thursday. Annual membership dues for the year 2010-2011 in the Rotary Club of Minot, ND are \$588. 6/28/09 Om Madhok, Secretary.

Kalyan Banerjee of Gujarat, India— President, Rotary Int'l
Roly Turner of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada—Governor District 5580

The Rotary Club of Minot meets 12:00 to 1:10 p.m. every Monday at the Grand International of Minot.

Board of Directors: Teal Myre, President; Ron Merritt, President-Elect; Dusty Zimmerman, Vice-President; Om Madhok, Secretary; Dave Lehner, Treasurer; Reed Argent, Past President.

Directors: 2011—Mike Berg and Tom Will; 2012—Jen Guidinger and Peter Hankla; 2013—Jo Khalifa and Roscoe Streyle

Standing Members: Peter Hankla, Exchange Students, Ken Kitzman, Scholarship Fund; John MacMartin, Rotary Foundation.



Group Study Exchange

GSE is a program of the Rotary Foundation, and is a exchange program for young professionals.

A team of 4-6 non Rotarians between the ages of 25 & 40, plus their Rotarian leader, visit another country for four to six weeks. A GSE team travels through a single district, staying 1-4 days in each town they visit. During their trip the team makes presentations about their home countries and professions, study their host country's way of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, and exchange ideas.

The Rotary Foundation provides the plane tickets to and from the host country for each team member, and local Rotarians provide for meals, lodging, and entertainment during their stay.

Participants in GSE return home from their once-in-a-lifetime experience with a broadened culture perspective, new understanding of their vocation, and increased self confidence. The program is designed to have an invaluable impact in the career of a young professional in the increasingly global workplace.

Employers benefit when an employee participates in GSE, as they return with new communication and facilitation skills that promote tolerance and collaboration. In addition, GSE provides a great public relations opportunity to promote awareness of your business.

Over the past few years District 5580 and the Minot Rotary Club has hosted GSE teams from Iceland, Japan, Taiwan, France, and others.

Why is it shaped like that? Continued from page 1

fact that Idaho, as we know it today, shares no border with North Dakota!

In 1863, Congress created the Idaho Territory in response to gold discoveries in the region's mountains. Initially the territory included all of present-day Idaho and nearly all of the land east of Idaho to the 104th meridian. This created a new western border for the Dakota Territory, one that remains to this day as the western boarder of North and South Dakota.

But why was this border located at 104 degrees? This border is a result of the effort by Congress to create states that are as equal as possible. By locating the western boarder of the Dakotas as the 104th meridian, North Dakota joined South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Washington, and Oregon in having almost exactly seven degrees of width.

In preparation for statehood, the Dakotas divided into North and South Dakota in 1887. The legislation called for the Dakota Territory to be divided along the 46th parallel, which bisected the Dakota Territory's six degrees of height (43 degrees to 49 degrees).

In effect, the location of this line had been determined over thirty years earlier, when Congress created Kansas and established its southern boundary at 37 degrees. In doing so, Congress altered, by one half of a degree, a boundary line that extended from Virginia and North Carolina, through Kentucky and Tennessee, and Missouri and Arkansas.

Why make this change? By locating the southern border of Kansas at 37 degrees, Congress could eventually create a column of four states, each having three degrees of height. And in fact, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota all possess three degrees of height – well almost.

In actuality, the southern border of North Dakota is located not at 46 degrees, but at 45.55 degrees – one-twelfth of one degree off. Surveying error?

In this case, no. For those that have driven to Sioux Falls via Aberdeen, take a look to your right as you are driving south. The official name is the Coteau des Prairies - which is a 200 mile long plateau that stands out above the prairie.

The northern tip of this extraordinary landform is just south of the 46th parallel, but it provides an inviting location for the boarder. And indeed the boundary is located just at the tip of this special feature of South Dakota.

Although the tip of this plateau is only one-twelfth of a degree south of the 46th parallel, to some extent the land South Dakota lost compensates North Dakota, which is slightly smaller because its eastern border, the Red River of the North, veers slightly westward.

Probably not very useful information on why North Dakota is shaped the way it is, but just in case someone asks, you now know the reasons.

**Looking for GSE Team Members
to go to Brazil in March & April**
Rotarian Leader
25-40 year old team
members, not a Rotarian



Invite a Friend



to a Rotary Lunch



SUNRISE ROTARY
THURSDAY, 7:00 AM
Grand International