

Hawarden...How it All Began

HAWARDEN TURNS 100

Chapter 40

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Long ago: in the 1880's to be exact, Hawarden was unknown and Calliope was experiencing a surge of growth and excitement. The disappointment of losing the County Seat to Orange City was subsiding, and prospects of a bright future loomed on the horizon. In 1881 business improvements were plentiful and the "boom" continued until the middle of the century when the location of the railroad produced a new city called Hawarden. Hawarden, our home for the past 125 years.

The 1880's gave birth to our City; what do we remember about the 1980's when Hawarden celebrated its 100th birthday?

Some historians consider the 1980's to be the Me! Me! Me! Generation. The 1980's produced the mega millionaires and yes, billionaires like Donald Trump. Binge buying and credit became a way of life and "Shop til you drop" was the new favorite phrase. Labels were the new attraction for our clothes and accessories, especially for our children and teenagers. The baby boomers of the 80's were dubbed as the "splurge generation".

The decade of the 80's began with double digit inflation and the word AIDs rapidly became a description of sadness and fear as we lost many of our talented artists to this devastating disease.

President Carter started the decade with an embargo on the sale of grain to the Soviet Union due to the invasion of Afghanistan.

While the world was changing in the 1980's, Hawarden was changing as well. The City Council started researching adding Cable TV to its list of utilities, and it was also the decade when our garbage collection was contracted out to D & E Sanitation, instead of being handled by City employees.

Skywarn, a group of citizens dedicated to watch the skies for tornados, etc., was formed in the 80's and has kept our city safe through the years with advance warnings of approaching storms.

Kiwanis Pancake Days were a Christmas Season tradition as well as weekly drawings for prizes and money. Sleigh rides with Santa and Saturday afternoon parties for the kids were a yearly event.

The Big Sioux River Valley Historical Society was active and working on a Historical Photo Display to be exhibited at the City Hall in November of 1981. This display continues to be a treasure to Hawarden and in 2012 was digitized and is now available on the internet to preserve our history as well as give everyone access to the photos. History was on everyone's minds, as the decade of the 80's saw the birth of Calliope Village and thanks to dedicated volunteers, it has grown and flourished to be one of Hawarden's greatest attractions. This was also the time that the historic Northwestern Depot was renovated to accommodate the City Offices.

January 1981 issued in the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Regan. It was also the year that IBM introduced the personal computer which sold for a mere \$1565.00. In 1982 Hawarden imposed a leash law for dogs and cats, sparking lively discussions where ever you went. The Sioux Theatre closed forever on Dec. 31, 1982 after showing ET to a full house.

October of 1983 introduced the world to terrorism as a truck bomb killed 241 United States Peace-keeping troops at the Beirut International Airport. Production began at the Iowa Lamb plant in Hawarden, and Joe Maher sold the Hawarden Independent to Larry Meints. The Wigwam Drive In showed its last movie after 30 years of summer entertainment.

1984 was the year that the Hawarden Airport runway and facility improvements were dedicated and it was the year that Hawarden's Popcorn King & Queen, Emil and Ellen Schoenrock retired after 45 years of delicious popcorn on Main Street. In 1984 the City of Hawarden adopted a \$4.14 Million dollar budget, and SECO, Hawarden's Junior College was playing in the Region 11 basketball playoffs at Waldorf College.

1985 saw Pete Rose break Ty Cobb's record for most career hits in major league baseball history, and also saw him banned from baseball and the Hall of Fame in 1989 for gambling. Hawarden Lanes and the Red Flair Beauty Shop burned down and the Sioux Theatre was torn down to make way for a parking lot. The Area Arts Council was formed and Sioux Empire College closed its' doors after 18 years as Hawarden's Junior College. The middle of the decade also ushered in the Farm Crisis in the Midwest which saw the demise of some Century old farms as well as many small banks that invested in them. RAGBRAI came to Hawarden for the second time, and that same year, busses of concerned farmers and citizens departed from Hawarden to attend a Farm Crisis Rally held in Ames, Iowa.

In 1986 Dowdey's Furniture Store closed and gasoline prices dropped below \$1.00. The Quick Corner (Hawarden's Only Locally Owned Convenience Store) opened, and the Labor Day Celebration was renamed Big Sioux River Days. Fluoride was added to Hawarden's drinking water and K Products expanded Hawarden's plant while closing two others. The Iowa Seat Belt Law went into effect and Earl and Edith Slife donated \$10,000.00 to establish and renovate the Historical House at 803 Ave. H.

1987 was Hawarden's 100th Birthday Celebration and it was also the year that President Ronald Regan spoke at the Berlin Wall Brandenburg Gate with the words, "Tear down this wall." On November of 1989 the wall was opened and dismantled by enthusiastic crowds.

In 1987 Hawarden got its third Convenience Store, Kum and Go and also its first 24 hour business.

West Sioux joined the War Eagle Conference in 1989 and the City tiled the Dry Creek bed between 9th and 10th streets. The Hawarden Public Library expansion program was well underway at the end of the decade.

The 80's turned into the 90's and Hawarden started on its' journey toward the next century of achievements and disappointments.

As of 2012, Hawarden has not turned into the metropolitan area that was predicted one hundred years ago, but Hawarden is thriving and enjoying a quality of life for its citizens that is peaceful, eventful and continues to advance the traditions, facilities and infrastructures that keep pace with the world around us.

As it has been in the past and will be in the future, Hawarden continues to be more than just a town; it is our Hometown.

