

Town Celebrates Birthday

The Zeeland community is celebrating its 75th birthday on June 16 and 17 (Thursday and Friday)—and there is going to be a lot of fun for all, according to the schedule the Zeeland Jubilee Committee has organized.

June 16 activities:

A big parade starts off the festivities at 10:00 a.m., which will feature floats from Zeeland and neighboring towns. There are five float categories—historical, antiques, antique cars and trucks, comedy and beauty. The parade will be repeated on June 17 at 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

At 11 a.m. on June 16, Armand Bauer, a former Zeeland resident and currently a professor at North Dakota State University, will speak. Bauer has done considerable work in the history of the German-Russian people.

Races are scheduled at 1 p.m. and a wagon train at 2:30 p.m., with a free act at 3:30 p.m.

During the evening, a drill team from the Sixth Infantry Company of Fort McKeen will perform.

Afterwards, street dancers, featuring the Schmidt Family Dancers will kick up their heels.

June 17 activities:

Repeat of parade at 10 a.m., followed by two judging events: the beard-growing contest and the Zeebells.

A free act is scheduled at 1 p.m. with a baseball game slated at 2:30 p.m.

The parade will start the evening activities at 7:30 p.m., followed by a band concert and the Sixth Infantry Company drill team.

Later, a street dance is scheduled with music by The Wanderers.

A street carnival is set for both days.

The following old photographs help to illustrate the way it was in Zeeland during its early days:



Zeeland Cornet Band, photo taken about 1910 or 1912. Although Zeeland had a band as early as 1907 it wasn't officially organized until 1908 and was known as the Zeeland Cornet Band. It consisted of 19 members and occasionally played for dances. It is remembered by one member when they played at Artas for a dance starting at 7:30 p.m. and continuing to 7:00 a.m. at which time they had to catch a train for another engagement! Later Henry Walz became the leader, a job that he held for many years. Other leaders were Don Paul and John Stoller. In 1930 Martin Braun moved to Zeeland and became a leader. He brought his band from St. John's Parish five miles north of Zeeland, which he had organized about two years before. These two bands were joined totaling 50 some members. Braun was leader until he moved to LaMoure in 1937. He returned in the fall of 1945 and had agreed to resume his duties as leader but died suddenly in April 1947. Arthur Ottenbacher then took over the leadership.



One of the early pioneers of this region, Christina (Mrs. Julius) Bauer.



Mr. and Mrs. John R. Meidinger.
Picture taken about 1929.



Here's how many of the early homesteads looked. Picture on the opposite page shows the homestead of Christian Bauer and his wife Sophia Hafner Bauer. Toward the back was the original homestead, a sod house. To the right is a stacked pile of Dakota Lignite (or mischt, the German-Russian word for the mixture of cattle droppings and straw which was burned for fuel). People in the photograph (l. to r.): Edward Bauer, Christ Bauer, Arthur Bauer, Anna, Sophia Bauer holding Emil, Christian Bauer, Christina Bauer (Christian Bauer's mother) and Reinhard Bauer.



Picture of students at Strasburg No. 2 country school near Zeeland. Front row (l. to r.): Katherine Weigel, Ferdinand Meidinger, Art Meidinger, Joe Weigel.

Second row: Christine Weigel, Barbara Weigel, Godfrey Meidinger, Julius Döckter, Leopold Meidinger and Miss Florence Booker—the teacher. Picture was taken April 7, 1916.

Zeeland had a baseball team as early as 1904—one of the summer-time sports that captured the interest of many communities at the turn of the century. In those days, baseball was played not only between towns but with rural teams as well. In 1927, Zeeland had a champion team, defeating the likes of Linton, Mobridge, Java, and Eureka—its main rival. Picture above is of one of the early teams. Front row (l. to r.): unidentified, Ed Bauer, bat boy is unidentified, Richard Hafner. Second row: unidentified, Frank Wald, John Beck, Henry Hafner, unidentified.

