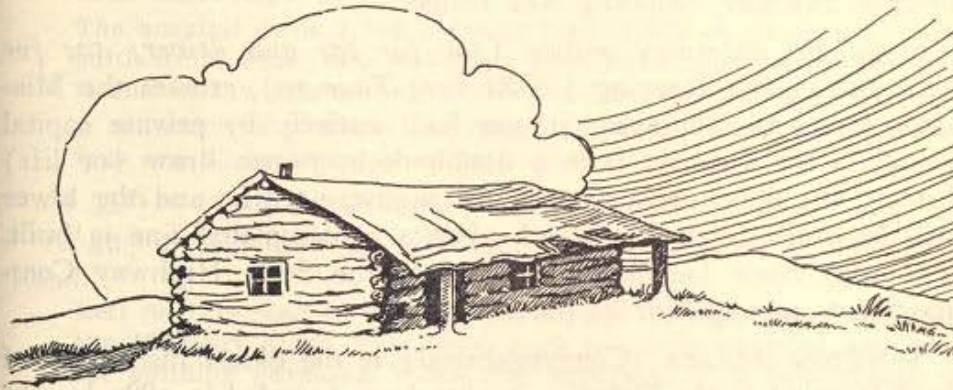


YANKTON, 35.5 m. (1,157 alt., 6,759 pop.), was the capital of Dakota Territory before South Dakota and North Dakota were divided, and much of the State's early history had Yankton as its setting (*see HISTORY*).

In March 1858 George D. Fiske, representative of a fur company, pitched his tent near the Missouri River, becoming the city's first permanent white settler. Sixteen cedar rafts were floated down the river from Fort Pierre, out of which a trading post was built near the present Meridian Highway bridge. The Yankton Sioux Indians, led by Smutty Bear, gathered at Yankton in 1859 to protest being removed to reservations. A satisfactory agreement was



FIRST HOUSE IN YANKTON

reached, with the presentation of some trinkets by the U. S. Agent, and settlers moved into the region. The town was surveyed in August 1859, and construction of more buildings was begun to augment the two log cabins there. On Christmas Day, 1859, the first tavern was opened where the Merchants Hotel now stands; in fact, the original structure is part of the present building.

An unusual character of those days was James Witherspoon, a bachelor, locally known as Limber Jim; it is said that he walked to Washington, D. C., to procure the patent to his land, now known as the Witherspoon Addition.

Yankton was selected capital of Dakota Territory in 1861, and when the first Legislature met, nicknamed "The Pony Congress," the upper house convened in the William Tripp residence. The house has been removed to the city park, restored to its original condition, and is used as a museum. The lower house met in the Episcopal chapel. The first copy of the *Weekly Dakotan* was printed June 6, 1861.

An Indian uprising in 1862 resulted in the erection of a stockade, 450 ft. square, at Third and Broadway, and residents of Sioux Falls and Yankton gathered there for protection. After the excitement subsided, the prosperous city grew steadily.

The streets of Yankton are unusually wide, some 130 ft., with boulevards of flowers and shrubbery. A Negro community lies in the northwestern section of Yankton. The people own their homes and have two church buildings. Some of the young people are athletic stars in the city schools.

THE SITE OF THE CAPITOL OF DAKOTA TERRITORY is marked by a bronze tablet on polished granite at Capital and Fourth Sts. The original two-story building was frame.

MERIDIAN HIGHWAY BRIDGE (*50c for car and driver; 10c for each passenger*), carrying US 81 (*see Tour 10*), crosses the Missouri River to Nebraska. It was built entirely by private capital raised in the vicinity. It is a double-deck, 7-span draw (or lift) bridge; the upper deck is used for highway traffic and the lower will be utilized for a railroad when a contemplated line is built. The 1937 State Legislature authorized the State Highway Commission to arrange for its purchase.

YANKTON COLLEGE (Congregational) is the oldest institution of high learning in the Dakotas, having been founded in 1881 by Dr. Joseph Ward. The Conservatory of Music is considered one of the best in the Midwest. The college has an attractive campus.

GARDEN TERRACE THEATRE, on Yankton College campus, is an out-of-doors amphitheatre used by the college and city, having a seating capacity of 5,000. Each season the Yankton College dramatic arts department presents one Shakespearean drama, a pageant, and other plays. Commencement exercises are usually held here also. The stage has a balcony and a pergola.

BANTON BAND AMPHITHEATRE, Forrester's Park, Locust and 8th Sts., is the scene of weekly summer band concerts. The bandstand is built of stone, entirely surrounded by pools containing goldfish and water lilies.

SUMMIT PARK, W. 5th St., is a tourist resort and has a large swimming pool. In spring it is especially pretty with its winding drives bordered by lilac hedges.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY, Capital and 4th Sts., has several valuable collections, among which is the Roane Memorial Collection of

1,000 volumes; a South Dakota Collection of 900 volumes; and a genealogical department consisting of 300 books.

Right from the center of Yankton on a graveled road to the STATE INSANE HOSPITAL, 1 *m.* This is a \$1,500,000 institution, taking care of about 900 patients. Until 1878 the insane persons of Dakota Territory were cared for, by special arrangements, in Nebraska and Minnesota institutions. When Gov. William A. Howard found the institutions in the other States overcrowded, and insane persons numerous within the State, he used his own funds to secure land and provide shelter at Yankton. The institution was almost immediately overcrowded. With 57 women packed in a cottage originally built for a laundry, fire broke out and 17 patients perished, the others escaping with only their night apparel.

The hospital owns 1,700 acres of land, 1,400 of which are under cultivation. Fine, new buildings have been constructed to make it one of the outstanding institutions in the State.

A collection of pictures, including 273 water colors, 27 oil paintings and 35 etchings, is on exhibition at the hospital.

At 35.6 *m.* is the junction with US 81 (*see Tour 10*).

At 42.5 *m.* is a junction with a graded road known as Postman's Road.

Left on this road to the CHALK ROCK CLIFFS, 3 *m.*, bordering the Missouri River. This chalk rock has been quarried and used for building purposes. When first excavated it is soft enough to be cut with a knife, but hardens soon after exposure to air, and when weathered makes a satisfactory building material. It may also be crushed and burned in a kiln to make a good quality of lime.

TABOR, 50.9 *m.*, (391 pop.), is the center of a rural Bohemian settlement. The entire population of the town and of much of the surrounding country is of the one nationality, and all business transactions are carried on in the Bohemian language. Tabor has a Bohemian newspaper and the only all-Bohemian American Legion post in the State. Noted for fun-loving tendencies, they hold their "Sokols" several times each year. A Sokol is the performance of setting-up exercises similar to those practiced in the army; the Bohemians enter into them with great zest, every summer holding a contest in a spirit of keen competition. They also have the old folk dances, the best known and most difficult of which is the Beseda. This requires 20 couples and the participants are always dressed in native costumes.

The town has an all-Bohemian baseball team. Each year the inhabitants of the town present several stage shows at Tabor and in other Bohemian towns.