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1917 • 100 Years Ago

On August 1, 1917, the library was receiving regularly 407 Minnesota papers, comprising 27 dailies, 371 weeklies, 8 semi-weeklies, and 1 triweekly. That the society has been able to build up this splendid collection has largely been due to the cooperation, through the donation of their journals, of the publishers of the state, who recognize the manifest advantages to themselves of so doing. It is with the hope that the benefits enjoyed by each may be completely realized that some of the details connected with the work of caring for these papers are herewith presented. —“*Notes and Documents: Preservation of Newspapers*,” by John Talman, Vol. 2, No. 3, August 1917, p. 173

1942 • 75 Years Ago

The *Bemidji Pioneer* began publication in March, 1896, and the *Bemidji Eagle* a month later. The editors, typical frontier newspapermen, were enthusiastic boosters of Bemidji, and their newspapers radiated a spirit of optimism and confidence in its future. During the summer [of 1896] the settlement was incorporated as the village of Bemidji. Another spelling which often appeared in the early years was “Bermidji”. According to some authorities the village was named in honor of Chief Bemidji. Recent investigation reveals, however, that both the settlement and the chief probably took their names from Lake Bemidji, which was known by a contraction of the Indian name “Bemidjigumag.” —“*Bemidji: A Pioneer Community*,” by Harold T. Hagg, Vol. 23, No. 1, March 1942, p. 27

1967 • 50 Years Ago

On his [Oliver H. Kelley’s] farm he built one of the first frame barns erected north of St. Anthony and sowed the first timothy hay. He experimented over the years with everything from buckwheat to apples, from melons to asparagus. Hard pressed by the drought of 1863, he installed an elaborate irrigation system and became the Minnesota agent of J.D. West’s patented pumps. He is also said to have owned the first mechanical reaper in the state. —“*Oliver Hudson Kelley: Minnesota Pioneer, 1849–1868*,” by Rhoda R. Gilman and Patricia Smith, Vol. 40, No. 7, Fall 1967, p. 333

1992 • 25 Years Ago

If just listening to Garrison Keillor’s stories about Lake Wobegon on the radio isn’t good enough, fans can read an analysis of his comic genius in a book from the University Press of Mississippi. In *Garrison Keillor: A Voice of America* (1991) Judith Taross Lee traces the early days of the Lake Wobegon phenomenon and examines the humorist’s rhetoric in both his broadcasts and published works. —“*News and Notes*,” Vol. 53, No. 2, Summer 1992, p. 84

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ISSN 0026-5497/17/0014-\$0+\$1.00.

Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, MN. Postmaster: Send address changes to Membership Office, 345 Kellogg Blvd. West, St. Paul, MN 55102-1906. Publication number 351660.

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.



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