

March 1887: Election passed off quietly in De Smet township. No fight was made on the caucus ticket, and very little scratching. The following were elected: C.P. Ingalls, chairman, T.C. Wilkin and R.A. Boast, supervisors, L.E. Whiting town clerk; Iver Amundson, treasurer; Amos Whiting, assessor; David Ross, constable.

March 1887: From Lake Henry. Robert Boast is building a commodious and substantial dwelling.

June 1888. Mrs. R.A. Boast conceived the idea that it would "just splendid" to formulate a surprise for her "liege lord" on the fortieth anniversary of his advent on this mundane sphere. She accordingly, with a look that plainly said, "don't let Rob't know," invited Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Dunlap, Mr. and Mrs. David Ross, Mrs. and Mrs. O.D. Perry, Mr. and Mrs. N. Eggleston, Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Ogden, Mr. Foster and Mrs. Peck to visit them May 23rd, which they cheerfully did, and Rob. Didn't know a single thing about their coming. He says what surprised him the most was that his wife could endure the strain of keeping it to herself. As near full as the cup of surprise now was, there was yet more to follow. At dinner the party brought from its concealment, and presented him with one of Tinkham's best patent-adjustable, back-action, two-story chairs, which caused the cup to bubble over, so to speak. Now Rob, is a very appreciative piece of humanity, and he just thinks "lots" of that chair, and you can "go one better" that he won't forget the donors for many a long day. Mrs. Boast thinks the chair very nice, the surprise perfect, and all that, but she has good reason to be awfully anxious about the extra wear on the bottom of those pants.

January 1889. R. A. Boast and wife enjoyed a holiday at Dr. S. B. Ensign's last week.

June 1889: The neighbors and friends of Mrs. R.A. Boast gathered at their home on Wednesday June 5, it being the 20th anniversary of their marriage. About 75 visitors were present and enjoyed a most pleasant time. Before departing the friends presented Mr. and Mrs. Boast with a handsome bedroom set.

June 1889. Wedding Anniversary. On Wednesday, June 7, in response to invitations issued by R.A. Boast and wife, seventy or more people assembled at the residence of Mr. Boast to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their marriage. At 11 a.m. the exercises opened by an address of welcome by Mr. Boast, which was appropriately responded to. Organization and program for the day was then called for and arranged, R.J. Ross being appointed chairman, and C.P. Ingalls secretary, David Ross, Amos Whiting and Dr. Ensign, committee on arrangements. The people then repaired to an artificial arbor prepared for the occasion of trees taken from Mr. Boast's grove, to partake of a bounteous repast provided by the host and hostess. A congratulatory speech was made by Dr. Ensign. Much credit is due Mrs. Boast that she could so amply provide eatables to appease the appetites of so many and not run short in anything, not even those luscious strawberries. After all had partaken of dinner the tables were removed from the arbor and the organ placed on the porch. Music and singing by David Ross and daughter was followed by speeches by R.J. Ross, D. Bunn, Amos Whiting, Mr. Ensign., C.P. Ingalls, R.A. Boast, and reminiscences of early times by F. Huot. "America" was then played and sung by Misses Moody, Peck, Ingalls and Ross. The meeting then resolved itself into an old settlers' association, and Messrs. Bunn, Boast and Greenman, were chosen a committee on permanent organization. The report of the committee was received, accepted, and adopted, which is as follows: We the undersigned committee on permanent organization, would respectfully recommend that such organization be effected today by electing a president, two vice presidents and a secretary, also an executive committee to consist of three officers, and committee to perform their respective duties as such for the period of one year, the organization to be known as the old settlers' association of central Kingsbury. It shall be the duty of the executive committee to determine the time and place for holding the annual meeting of the association, and making full arrangements for the same. At each annual meeting the officers above mentioned shall be elected for the ensuing year. Respectfully submitted, R.A. Boast, R. Greenman, D. Bunn. After reading and adoption of the above resolution the election of officers was proceeded with. R.J. Ross was chosen president, Mr. Ensign first vice president, Amos Whiting second vice president, and C.P. Ingalls secretary. Messrs. Boast, Bunn and Peck, executive committee. The minutes of the meeting was then ordered published in the Kingsbury Co. News, De Smet Leader, and

Boast Bits -1- compiled by nansie cleaveland

Lake Preston Times. The closing event of the day, and one in which the guests seemed most interested, was the presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Boast of a nice set of bedroom furniture. The presentation address was delivered by R.J. Ross in words which will long be remembered by those present. Although the presentation of any presents was against the wishes of Mr. and Mrs. Boast, it was decidedly in accordance with the wishes of their many guests. With many thanks to their kind host and hostess for a good time, at six p.m. the guests departed for their several homes. -C.P. Ingalls, Sec'y. [Beginnings of Old Settlers' Day!](#)

August 1890. R. A. Boast, who lives this side of De Smet, recently took his wife to Hot Springs for her health. For years she has been a great sufferer from rheumatism. He had to return to look after business interests on the farm and she was so bad he did not want to leave her there, so they are on their way back this week. We understand they have faith in the springs, however, and will return there later in the season.

August 1890. R. A. Boast drove down from his home, this side of De Smet, on Tuesday to see Dr. Ensign and get some medicine. Later, we understand he is quite sick with typhoid fever.

August 1891. Mrs. R.A. Boast came down from De Smet and visited over Sunday at the home of A.W. Ogden.

March 1895. A very pleasant party was given by a few old friends and neighbors last Saturday to Mrs. R.A. Boast, it being the anniversary of her birth. They came about eleven o'clock, bringing with them a most tempting dinner, after which the afternoon was spent in social talk. As a token of their regard they presented her with an easy chair. There were present Mr. and Mrs. Moody, Mr. and Mrs. David Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Ingalls, Mr. and Mrs. R. Greenman, Mrs. Still, Mr. and Mrs. J. Whaley and the editor and his wife. We never had a pleasanter day, and hope we may meet these friends on many more such occasions.

November 1895. The editor and family ate Thanksgiving dinner with R.A. Boast and wife. There was quite a party including Dr. and Mrs. Ensign, and Mr. and Mrs. Ingalls. A bountiful dinner was served, and the company entertained as only Friend Boast and his estimable wife know how. Good company and a good dinner made us forget our troubles for one day.

April 1896. R.A. Boast and Mrs. G.W. Lattin took Mrs. Boast to Belvidere, Illinois on Monday for treatment by a Christian Faith doctor. She has been helpless from rheumatism for some time and has been troubled with the disease for years.

April 1896. A letter from Belvidere dated April 21<sup>st</sup> says that Mrs. Boast arrived safely at the end of her journey though very tired. The train hands were very obliging, with the exception of the sleeping car porter, and helped them all they could. The A.O.U.W. lodge of Belvidere sent a committee to meet the train with carriages for the entire party. Mrs. Boast and Mrs. Lattin were taken to the hotel while Master Workman Palmer went with Mr. Boast to see the doctor and secure lodgings. The latter were found near the doctor's house and Mrs. Boast was moved there in the afternoon and arrangements made for daily treatment. The A.O.U.W. lodge showed every courtesy and Master Workman Palmer was especially active in making the strangers at home and doing everything possible for them. Their kindness is appreciated and will be remembered by the friends here. The grass is green and the trees all leaved out there and the country looks very beautiful to one just from the prairies. It is too soon yet to say what the prospect is of a complete cure but we will all hope that it may come. / Mr. and Mrs. Boast accompanied by Mrs. G.W. Lattin started for Belvidere Illinois last Monday to get medical treatment for Mrs. Boast who has been very low with rheumatism during the winter. The railway people very kindly stopped at the crossing opposite the house and Mrs. Boast was lifted into the car in a rocking chair. She was feeling quite strong that morning and friends who had gathered to see her off felt that she would make the trip safely. They should arrive at Belvidere at ten o'clock on Tuesday. A card written from Owatonna Minn. informs us that they had transferred to a sleeping car and were getting along finely.

May 1896. Mrs. Geo. W. Lattin came home from Belvidere Tuesday evening. She left Mrs. Boast considerably improved and thinks that, with no accident, she will be cured in time. Dr. Hammond calls himself a magnetic healer and depends

on personal magnetism for the cures which he performs. There is no nonsense or humbug about him and he is certainly doing wonders in the way of curing difficult cases.

July 1896. R.A. Boast is running for sheriff, Populist party.

November 1896. There was an old fashioned quilting party at the home of R.A. Boast Wednesday. The neighbors assembled on the invitation of Mrs. Boast to the number of nineteen and had a good visit while tying some quilts. There was a bountiful dinner enjoyed by all and a pleasant time all around. Mr. and Mrs. Boast know how to make a success of entertaining their friends.

November 1896. R.A. Boast has rented a house in town and will move into it this fall. He makes the change in order to have a better chance to take care of his wife, who is still unable to get around on account of rheumatism. He will rent his farm the coming year and expects that it will be taken by O.C. Dow of Manchester.

March 1897. Mrs. S.B. Ensign visited Mrs. R.A. Boast, who is very low, at De Smet between trains today.

June 1897. Mrs. Boast took a ride down town yesterday for the first time since last winter.

July 1897. Wanted. A girl to do general house work. R.A. Boast.

April 1900. Robert Boast has been busy moving his family into the new Baptist parsonage.

December 1902. R.A. Boast graded his lawn and otherwise improved his residence property on Second street before winter set in. He intends to do more in the way of improvement next spring and will make his one of the finest pieces of residence property in the city.

May 1904. Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Boast made a red letter day for about twenty-five juvenile friends Thursday of last week. The guests ranged in age from four to six years and the least that can be said is that both the entertainers and the entertained had a royal good time. Mr. and Mrs. Boast are great admirers of children and know how to make the little ones happy.

May 1904. R.A. Boast has a bad case of ivy poisoning. His right forearm is badly blistered over about one-half its surface and is quite painful. / R.A. Boast and his estimable wife were the most thoroly surprised pair one finds in a day's travel last Monday. The way of it was this: Mr. Boast, like most mortals has a birthday that comes due each year. The 23rd of May was the selection Mr. Boast made some 56 years ago and it leaked out among some of their friends and they decided to go up to their home and take supper with them in celebration of the occasion. - So well was the plot laid Mrs. Boast was overpowered, and it was some little time before Mr. Boast could be found. Whether he had caught a hint of it in some way, or the recollection of earlier celebrations in which the laying on of hands had left such a warmth that the softest place was none too comfortable to sit upon, had made him a little leery about seeing his friends on his natal day we are not able to determine, at any rate he was found and a jollier lot of folks never ate picnic supper together.

May 1904. R.A. Boast and wife spent Sunday at the home of Dr. and Mrs. S.B. Ensign at Lake Preston. --- Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Boast will depart Thursday of next week for Chicago where they will spend three days and then go on to Richmond, in the province of Quebec, Canada for a two month's visit with Mr. Boast's parents.

July 1907. R.A. Boast has at his own expense graveled the center of Second street in front of his residence property. It makes a great improvement. The coarse gravel packs solid and makes a street that is always in good condition, no matter how much rain we have and how muddy other streets become. We would like to see all the streets of the city fixed in the same manner.

October 1909. EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY. Saturday, September 25, 1909, was the eightieth anniversary of the birth of Dr. Silas B. Ensign, of this place, and his wife and Mrs. Esther L. Peck arranged a very pleasant surprise for him.

Relatives and friends, whether located near or in distant states, were early notified of the anniversary and of the desire to give him a post card shower. The Doctor never tumbled to the proposition until he had reached home from the post office after the morning mail and found that he had nearly two hundred postal and souvenir cards. Later mails swelled the number of congratulations and good wishes to 353. Souvenirs and presents came from twelve different states, and included many of his old patrons in Iowa, many of the relatives and friends in different states and some from Canada as well as locally. Dr. Ensign is hale and healthy if he is four score years of age, and possesses all his old time mental power, takes as deep an interest in public affairs, and can walk about as spry as the average individual who has lived half the length of time. Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Boast and Mr. and Mrs. T.I. Robinson, of De Smet, were down Saturday to help to resident relatives and near friends properly celebrate the event at the home of the honored one, on south Lake street, in our little city. That part of the program, as well as the shower of cards, was arranged by Dr. Ensign's wife and his cousin and was carried out pleasantly.

June 1910. From Drakola. Visit with O.E. Stearns of Madison, who now deals extensively in harness and shoes. Also visited Mrs. Lindsay of Lake Preston, formerly Mrs. Frank Remington. Her father is Mr. Lathrop, who spent the winter of 79-80 near the divide between Lakes Henry and Thompson, the only residents of this locality during that winter except the late C.P. Ingalls and family, who occupied the section house a little east and south of the present site of De Smet, and possibly Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Boast.

June 1913. To show his appreciation of the good work being done on our streets I.J. Miller invited Street Commissioner Boast to step into his store and help himself to the best pocket knife in the case. Mr. Boast is surely making some handsome streets, and we hope the funds will not run out before he completes the work.

January 1915. Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Boast came down from De Smet this morning to spend the day visiting with their old friends of thirty or more years ago, the Dr. S. B. Ensigns.

July 1915. Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Boast returned last week from Sioux Falls, and we are sorry to say that their trip was of no avail. Mrs. Boast did not receive the relief she had hoped to.

November 1918. Mrs. R.A. Boast died Wednesday night, the immediate cause being the prevailing influenza. Mrs. Boast had been a sufferer from rheumatism for many years and her condition was too weak to withstand the influenza.

July 1919. R.A. Boast, who has served as street commissioner for a number of years, felt that he could no longer spare the time and strength necessary to the proper discharge of the duties of the office and the first of the week handed in his resignation. To Mr. Boast is due much of the credit for our fine streets and well kept park, and we all regret that he feels compelled to give up oversight of the work.

April 1921. Want Information about De Smet's Park at Depot. That the city park located on the depot grounds has attracted attention is indicated by a letter of inquiry sent to the local station agent, asking about the maintenance of the beauty spot. The letter came from the United States Department of Agriculture. Many words of praise have been heard for the park since it was laid out several years ago, and each year it has been made more beautiful. Credit for it goes to the city officers and R.A. Boast, who has faithfully watched over it the last few years, and seen that the work done on it was thoro.

June 1921. R.A. Boast has been ill the past week, confined to his home with stomach trouble.

July 1921. R.A. Boast Passes Away. Burial Sunday. It was a shock to De Smet people to learn Friday morning of the death of R.A. Boast which occurred at seven o'clock. Mr. Boast had been ill for several weeks and it was known that he was failing but the end was unexpectedly soon. Death was a result of cancer of the stomach and of heart trouble. The funeral was held Sunday afternoon from the home and the body laid away in the local cemetery.