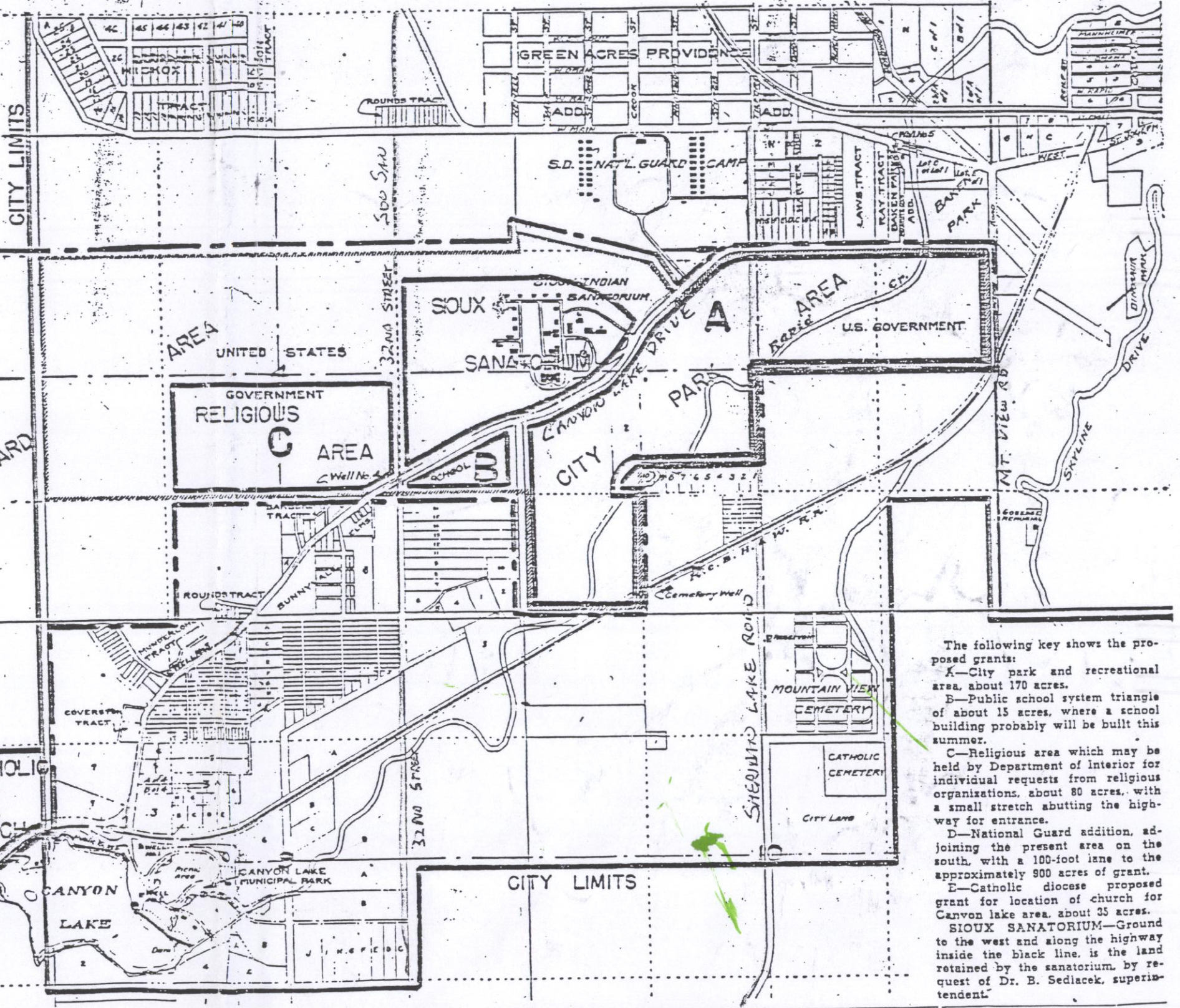


Sioux Indian School Land Grants To City Approved

National Guard, Schools, City, Catholic Church, Other Religious Groups To Benefit



The following key shows the proposed grants:

- A—City park and recreational area, about 170 acres.
- B—Public school system, about 15 acres, where a school building probably will be built this summer.
- C—Religious area which may be held by Department of Interior for individual requests from religious organizations, about 80 acres, with a small stretch abutting the highway for entrance.
- D—National Guard addition, adjoining the present area on the south, with a 100-foot lane to the approximately 900 acres of grant.
- E—Catholic diocese proposed grant for location of church for Canyon Lake area, about 35 acres.
- F—SIoux SANATORIUM—Ground to the west and along the highway inside the black line, is the land retained by the sanatorium, by request of Dr. B. Sedlacek, superintendent.

Approval yesterday of United States senate bill to convey Indian school or Sioux Sanatorium farm lands practically assures the outright granting of these lands to the city of Rapid City, National Guard, school system, religious organizations and Catholic Diocese. Sen. Chan Gurney assured The Journal and the Chamber of Commerce.

The same consent bill passed the house recently under the direction of Rep. Francis Case.

Only remaining procedure is for President Truman to sign the bill, which will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant outright the requests which have been formally filed with his office and previously approved by the bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington.

It is expected the secretary of the interior will approve the legal descriptions and plats, which were gathered together and forwarded to Case and Gurney a few weeks ago, and which have been explained to the interior department. Gurney indicated by wire that chances of veto were very remote.

Securing the Indian farm land is the culmination of considerable effort upon the part of the city of Rapid City, Chamber of Commerce, and a number of interested citizens. In addition to careful watching of the situation by Rep. Francis Case.

RIGHT-OF-WAY
The city commission has started condemnation proceedings on the Rapid City, Black Hills & Western railway right-of-way, and if the city acquires this land for a highway, it will be noted that it will contact the park and recreational areas in two places and potentially three. If section line highways were opened and extended.

Sen. Chan Gurney and Robert King, the latter now secretary to Gurney and formerly secretary of the Chamber of Commerce in Rapid City. Local persons included Commissioner Stan Neil, J. B. French, Sr., C. G. Skerfvedt, City Engineer S. C. Lake, City Attorney John Fisher, Sup. E. B. Bergquist, E. H. Lighter, Vince Janda and members of Civic Improvement.

Years ago when the Indian school was abandoned, the land was purchased by a city, Black Hills & Western railway right-of-way, and if the city acquires this land for a highway, it will be noted that it will contact the park and recreational areas in two places and potentially three. If section line highways were opened and extended.

Planned Several Years
For five or six years local citizens had viewed the land as a city-wide park and recreational area and groups had inspected it and met to attempt a trade with the Indian department. Although Case had contacted the department and kept watch over the matter, no definite word from the bureau of Indian Affairs was obtained until about two months ago.

Because of King's knowledge of the land, the matter was taken up with him last June and it was given some consideration at that time. Increased interest with the planning program during the winter, under the direction of French, as general chairman, again stimulated interest in the Indian farm lands. Lighter, president of the Chamber of Commerce, contacted Gurney and they secured a meeting with William Zimmerman, commissioner of Indian Affairs. This was at the time the land came up for lease for three years, and local representatives in getting the 25 or 99-year lease from the government.

Much credit on the recent efforts to secure the land must be given Dr. B. Sedlacek, superintendent of Sioux sanatorium, who cooperated in securing legal descriptions and plats of the area, working with the Chamber of Commerce, school system and national guard in determining what land should be allocated to each request. Lighter reports that without Sedlacek's cooperation in the matter it would have been difficult for the Chamber of Commerce to spearhead the program and stated that his recommendations and correspondence with the bureau of Indian Affairs aided materially in getting the grants approved by Commissioner Zimmerman and the bureau.

Decide on Direct Grants
After due consideration Case advised that Zimmerman had tentatively agreed to give direct grants of the land to municipalities, educational and religious organizations. Case and Gurney prepared similar bills for the house and senate, asking permission for the secretary of interior to grant outright the lands.

It was suggested by Gurney that all requests be grouped together and relation of one to another be shown on a master map. Legal descriptions, plats and formal requests were prepared by the city, school board, Catholic diocese and the national guard, and a master map prepared by Lighter and one set each was sent to Case and Gurney. The city was asked to make application for the second tract of almost 80 acres north of Canyon Lake drive, to be reserved for applications from churches, Bible schools and possible future requests, and this tract was withdrawn from the tract of about 900 acres the national guard was requesting. Plats and descriptions were prepared by the city engineering department.

While the house and senate bills do not specifically state what tracts are to be given to each group, the legal descriptions and plats were

The above map, part of the regular city map, showing the new city limits in the area, and each tract conveyed through the legislation, was prepared by the city engineer's personnel, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce. The engineers also prepared plats and legal descriptions of the various tracts.

ed to make this territory available to the city." E. H. Lighter, president of the Chamber of Commerce, "It was through the fine cooperation of a number of people that this transfer of lands to the various parties has been completed. However, it is my personal feeling that through the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, the City Engineer's personnel, and the Chamber of Commerce, the project has been completed and congratulated for the progress of Rapid City will materialize."

The entire project has been a splendid lesson in cooperative civic enterprise. Those who have assumed the burdens of leadership should be doubly congratulated. Bishop William T. McCarty: "It has been a great satisfaction to learn that the government has seen fit to convey to us, for a reasonable price, a part of the Indian farm land. While I wish to express my sincere appreciation for this consideration, I also wish to commend and congratulate all who have made it possible for the City of Rapid City and the other interested parties to obtain this land. It will interest you to know that our plans for the future development of the land we have obtained will be entirely for church purposes."

John Potter, city attorney, speaking in behalf of the city, said: "Early in February of 1948, I was asked, as City Attorney, to prepare a resolution requesting federal authorities for the acquisition of government land situated west of Mountain View road and south of Canyon Lake road. The formal request was made by the adoption of a resolution. The City Commission resolved to use the land for recreational, park, educational, and other community purposes. Since that first formal step a great deal of work has been done in securing the passage of the necessary legislation involved in securing this land for Rapid City."

"Many individuals are to be congratulated for this splendid addition to our city. First of all, I believe that to Mr. Ed Lighter, president of the Chamber of Commerce, goes the major portion of the credit for this acquisition. Senator Gurney, Congressman Case and Bob King are also deserving of much credit in this matter. I believe that there are few people in Rapid City who realize the full significance of this grant and that this area which lies in the most beautiful and accessible area of Rapid City is now to be the focal spot for the development of a recreation-center which will be unexcelled so far as natural beauty and availability are concerned."

"I am personally grateful for the opportunity to have had some small part as City Attorney, in this land acquisition and appreciative of the efforts of all who have helped to make this territory available to the city."

Following are statements from those who are recipients of the Indian lands and who will be in charge of future plans, when properly conveyed:

Brig. Gen. Theodore A. Arndt, adjutant general, South Dakota national guard: "The acquisition of the Indian land will provide a very necessary close-in training area. The war department approved the training of the South Dakota national guard at Camp Rapid this year due to the fact that it is in the preliminary stages of reorganization. However, unless more suitable training facilities can be provided before next camp, the national guard will have to go elsewhere. The present camp is only of sufficient size to house the personnel and the supply and maintenance facilities, in addition to the adjutant general's office. With the investment in buildings, it would be very unfortunate to be forced to abandon it due to lack of training area."

"Before the war, we were able to use the training areas at Fort Meade, but since that has been turned over to the veterans administration it is no longer available to us. The Indian land will give us sufficient space for firing of weapons of relatively short range, such as the bazookas, mortars, grenade launchers, etc. Tactical problems for squads and platoons can also be conducted in the new area. Having camps in the Black Hills area, es-

pecially for units in the eastern part of the state, is an added inducement for attending to this project. E. B. Bergquist, superintendent of the Sioux sanatorium land bill has passed both lawmaking bodies in congress is most pleasing. It means much to the building of a more desirable Rapid City community. As an official of the Rapid City Independent school district I am grateful for the fine spirit of helpfulness and the initiative shown in the sponsoring of this bill by the Chamber of Commerce, and the fine publicity that the Rapid City Daily Journal has given each step of the project through to this successful conclusion. "Too much credit cannot be given to the authors of the bill in Washington, Senator Chan Gurney and Congressman Francis Case, who have given the matter their persistent personal attention."

Evangelical Leader Named

Aberedeen, May 11 — (AP) — The Rev. Roy E. Long, pastor of the Evangelical United Brethren church here for 12 years, was elected superintendent of the South Dakota conference of the denomination, Wednesday, May 11. The convention concluded in Aberdeen, S. D., Sunday. He succeeds the Rev. C. M. Bergland, who has been transferred to McLaughlin. Long will continue to reside in Aberdeen. He will be succeeded as pastor of the Aberdeen church by the Rev. H. H. Dockter, who is now attending a seminary in Portland, Ore.

FEEDERS' DAY

Brookings, May 11 — (AP) — Talks for all groups of livestock men — cattle, hog and sheep leaders — are included in the program for the annual Feeders' day at State College, Wednesday, May 11. Fred Lehman, president of the South Dakota Feeders' Association, presided at the convention, which concluded in Aberdeen, S. D., Sunday. The program, with the topic, "Responsibilities of a Land Grant College to Agriculture."

Rev. H. H. Dockter, who is now attending a seminary in Portland, Ore.

Other South Dakota conference assignments made by Bishop E. W. Praetorius, St. Paul, included: Beresford, the Rev. J. Sackmann; Big Stone City, the Rev. O. A. Gehring; Bowdle-Sutley, the Rev. R. H. Miller; Butler, the Rev. A. A. Bergland; Clear Lake, the Rev. E. T. Eshman; Ellington, under the supervision of Eureka, the Rev. E. T. Eshman; Kellerton, the Rev. Ernest E. Burch; Kidder, the Rev. William Mock; Menno, the Rev. H. J. Lock; Monroe, the Rev. J. A. Brown; Olivet, the Rev. Floyd Brown; Ramona, the Rev. W. Arnold; Revillo-Alban, the Rev. Morris Eliason; Twin Brooks-Grant Center, the Rev. R. F. Dunn; Watertown, the Rev. T. S. Rames; Yankton, the Rev. G. W. Bergland; Scotland, the Rev. Clarence Ketterling.

Grind leftover meat, moisten it with any leftover gravy, season as desired and put in a greased casserole; top with rounds of baking powder biscuits, enough to bake in a hot oven.

A five-pound dressed stewing chicken will yield about three pounds of chicken meat, including giblets. This will make three to four cups of cubed meat for a creamed dish or a salad.

CURRENT GIS MAP

