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Journal file photo

This photo of Rapid City's Main Street, looking west from the 500 block, was taken in the mid-1920s. Many of the buildings were fairly new, including the

Pennington County Bank building, left, built in 1915, and the JCPenney building two doors down.

Then & now

Photo display depicts early Rapid City

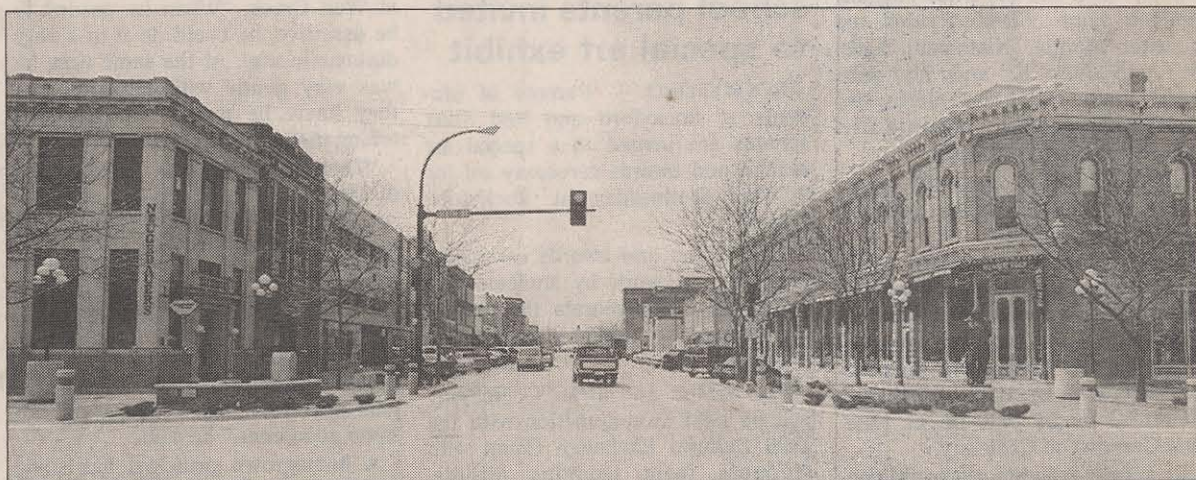
By Dan Daly
Journal Staff Writer

A special photo display at Dahl Fine Arts Center depicts a young town you might recognize.

The Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission put the photo display together in celebration of Preservation Week 1996. The display runs through Friday at the Dahl, 713 Seventh St.

The pictures, from the photo archives of the Rapid City Journal and Rapid City collector Ben Roose, show Rapid City street scenes and buildings going back to the 1890s.

"This exhibit, showing much of what remains (from) the early days and much that has vanished from our city over the years, invites you to consider



Journal photo by Johnny Sundby

This photo from the same vantage point was taken Monday afternoon. The former Clower building, recently restored, now houses Prairie Edge galler-

ies and trading post. The green panels on the JCPenney building are slated to be torn off, exposing the building's original exterior.

the theme of Preservation Week 1996, 'Preserve Community,' as we also show some possibilities for renovation and restoration of buildings which still stand," commission member Norm Nelson wrote in the display's introduction.

In some of the street scenes, you can see familiar structures such as the Buell Building on St. Joseph Street and the recently restored Prairie Edge building on Main Street.

Relative newcomers such as the landmark Hotel Alex Johnson, built

in 1928 at St. Joseph and Sixth streets, have changed little since they were built.

Some photos show buildings that still exist but are covered with modern facades. The former JCPenney building on Main Street is one example. The steel panels are scheduled to come off soon.

But other photos in the display are all that remains of the buildings they depict. The City Auditorium, where the Dahl Fine Arts Center now stands, was torn down in 1973. The three-story

Harney Hotel, built in 1886, still looks stately in the exhibit's circa 1915 photo. The site, at Seventh and Main streets, is now a parking lot.

With the Rapid City pictures will be a traveling display of similar photos from around the state, assembled by the Historic South Dakota Foundation.

In addition, Pat Roseland of Rapid City, a collector of historic photos, has some of his private collection on display, according to Jim Quinn, the foundation's executive director.