

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Aug. 10, 2015

**CONTACT:** Jeff Mammenga, Media Coordinator, (605) 773-6000,  
jeff.mammenga@state.sd.us

### **Custer State Park programs celebrate Badger Clark's first book**

PIERRE, S.D. — The centennial of poet Badger Clark's first book will be celebrated in two special programs at Custer State Park.

Pegie Douglas and Rex Rideout will be celebrating 100 years of "Sun and Saddle Leather" at 1 p.m. MDT at the Badger Hole and at 7 p.m. MDT at the Tatanka Barn Theatre on Sunday, Aug. 23. Both programs are free, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Badger Clark (1883-1957) was known as the cowboy poet. He was named South Dakota's first poet laureate in 1937, an honor he held until his death 20 years later.

"Sun and Saddle Leather" was first published in 1915 and has remained continuously in print. It contains several of Clark's most recognized works, including "A Cowboy's Prayer" and "Ridin."

Douglas has set 10 of Clark's poems to music. She lives in the Black Hills from May to October and sings these songs in the Hills and throughout South Dakota. Douglas created the show "The Life and the Music of Badger Clark" at the Tatanka Barn Theatre by the Game Lodge Campground in Custer State Park. She also gives tours of Clark's home, the Badger Hole, located by Legion Lake in Custer State Park.

Rideout has been studying the song and verse of the Old West for more than 30 years. He will join Douglas on Aug. 23 to recite and sing Clark's poems along with telling the stories of the life of the cowboy poet.

Custer State Park and the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society, are sponsoring this special celebration of Clark's works. The foundation oversees the reprinting and distribution of "Sun and Saddle Leather" and other volumes of Clark's work. In honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of "Sun and Saddle Leather," the foundation is offering the book at a special price of \$22 per copy, tax included, at the Badger Hole and at the Tatanka Barn Theatre program.

"Sun and Saddle Leather" is also available for the special price of \$20 per copy plus tax from the Heritage Store at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

Call (605) 773-6346 to order the book from the Heritage Store or visit the website [www.sdhsf.org](http://www.sdhsf.org) for more information about Clark and his books.

*The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit [www.history.sd.gov](http://www.history.sd.gov) for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.*