

Make plans now to attend 2010 state, regional history conferences

Mark your calendar for two 2010 conferences you are not going to want to miss—the South Dakota State Historical Society’s history conference, **April 30-May 1** in Pierre, and the Mountain-Plains Museum Association (MPMA) annual conference, **Sept. 13-17**, in Rapid City.

The theme for the South Dakota History Conference is “Prairie Politics ... from Territory to Today.” If you have attended any of our history conferences in the past, you know that you are going to hear some great stories and history from top-notch historians and scholars, and you get to connect with friends from throughout the state interested in our history. As the nation and South Dakota head toward another election, this conference will provide historical perspective that indicates that maybe a lot has not changed. In addition, the State Capitol turns 100 years old in 2010, and this is an opportunity for us to commemorate its anniversary. Remember: April 30-May 1, Ramkota Inn, Pierre.

The MPMA is a 10-state museum alliance. For the first time in decades, the organization is meeting in South Dakota, and it provides museum professionals and practitioners the opportunity to get together close to home and learn more about the business of museums. The theme for the 2010 MPMA Conference is “Monumental Visions: Carving the Future for Museums.”

The MPMA annual meeting is more of a traditional museum conference. Proposals for sessions are presented to

From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Vogt

the organization, and they determine which best fit the theme and the setting for the conference. Enclosed with this newsletter is a session proposal submission form. If you have any ideas for sessions, please consider submitting a proposal. Sue Gates, director of the Dacotah Prairie Museum in Aberdeen (605-626-7117 or dpmdir@brown.sd.us), is co-chair of the Program Committee, and Helen B Louise, director of the South Dakota State Historical Society Museum here at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre (605-773-3798 or helen.louise@state.sd.us), is a member of the committee. If you have any questions, feel free to contact them. The deadline to submit a proposal is Jan. 16, 2010.

Even if you do not have any

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Field Reports

The second in a series of programs in Lead’s Winter Historical Film Festival is set for Dec. 9 – 12 and will feature Rapid City and the Southern Black Hills. Audiences will see the early Alex Johnson Hotel, Stratobowl balloon flights, and Custer’s summer pageant.

The series mixes historical film, some of it nearly a century old, with live commentary from local historians. The films are from the Historical Footprints collection. Lead’s renovated Roundhouse building will host the series in the Living Map Theater. Each program runs about two hours. In a single program audiences will typically watch nine decades of history unfold.

Because the theater seats only 65, early reservations are recommended and can be made by phoning (605) 717-0296, or e-mailing livingmap@knology.net. Admission is \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors 60 and older, and \$12 for students 18 and younger.

After the first of the year, the series will continue with programs on Spearfish and Spearfish Canyon from Jan. 13-16, Railroads of Western South Dakota from Feb. 10-13; Lead, Homestake and the Sanford Lab from March 10 – 13, and Tourism from April 14 – 17.

At each program audiences will also enjoy trivia competition and refreshments at intermission.

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Fall River County History Conference set for Jan. 9

The 5th annual Focus on Fall River County Historical Conference will take place at the Mueller Center, 801 S. 6th St., Hot Springs, on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010. This annual conference has continued to grow in popularity for local historians, educators and western history buffs with its distinctive focus on the early days of Fall River County.

"This year's attendees will especially enjoy presentations detailing legendary Fall River area characters such as Chippy Lamson and Badger Clark (South Dakota Poet Laureate)," said Stu Marty, conference media contact. "In addition, other talks will cover such diverse topics as hospitals, clinics, and sanitariums in Hot Springs,

the ghost town of Wayside, the Hot Springs refinery, Stevens Studio and the early history of the Hot Springs Golf Course. There will even be a presentation on fretless zithers."

The conference is an all-day event (9:15 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.) with a lunch included in the registration fee. Registration rates are: Adults - \$30, Students - \$15, and a special Membership Combo rate is offered for \$40, which includes both the conference and one year's membership at the Pioneer Museum in Hot Springs. Also offered is an Early Bird Registration Special, which allows a \$2 discount for registrations received by Dec. 10. Walk-ins at the door will be allowed at \$40 each, if space permits

(lunches may not be available).

To register for the conference, mail payments, along with name, postal mail and e-mail addresses to: Connie Benson, Treasurer, 438 N. 17th St., Hot Springs, SD 57747. For more information contact: Stu Marty (605) 745-3522.

The Fall River County Historical Society is a non-profit corporation, and it oversees the Pioneer Museum of Hot Springs. All conference proceeds will be used to support the operation of the Pioneer Museum in Hot Springs. The annual meeting of the Fall River County Historical Society will take place immediately following the conference.

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Countryside Hospice, which provides hospice care to people with cancer and other diseases in the Pierre area, receives large numbers of historic book donations each month. Many of these are South Dakota-history related, including biographies, and city and county histories. These often hard-to-find and out-of-print resources can be purchased on the agency's Web site at www.countryside-hospice.org under the "Hospice Used Bookstore" link.

Money from book sales goes toward the hospice "Bed and Breakfast" program, which provides travel funds for people around Pierre who have to travel for cancer treatments. Call (605) 945-0827 for more information.

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Jan Humphrey is the 2009-10 president of the Historic Homestake Opera House Society. Dee Black is vice-president, Sarah Carlson is secretary and Judy Gray is treasurer. The society is focusing on fundraising and grantwriting to acquire the \$4 million necessary to complete the restoration of the theater and recreation center building in Lead to bring "The Jewel of the Black Hills" back to its original 1914 appearance.

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Jerry Bryant is the current president of the Lawrence County Historical Society, based in Spearfish. Other officers are: vice-president -- Mike Runge, treasurer -- Jacke Mitchell, secretary -- Mark Asmussen, and membership chair -- Verla Weaver. Other board members are David Wolff, Jim Weaver, Milton Mitchell, Gordon Campbell, Laurie Bozzetti and Larry Miller. Wolff, an associate professor of

history at Black Hills State University, recently had a book, *Seth Bullock: Black Hills Lawman*, published by the South Dakota State Historical Society Press.

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Current officers of the Brookings County Historical Society in Volga are: president -- Larry Barnett, vice-president -- Harold Christianson, treasurer -- Howard Lee, secretary -- Joanne Murphy. Board members are Grace Linn, Barbara Behrend, Dorothy Husher, Deanna Rude, Jerry Leslie, Don Kleinjan, Lyle Strande, Ron Landegaard and Chuck Cecil.

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The annual Holiday Open House of the Codington County Historical Society is Friday, Dec. 11, at the Heritage Museum in Watertown. Call (605) 886-7335 for more information.

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The 32nd annual "Celebration of the St. Lucia Tradition in Dalesburg," hosted by the Dalesburg Scandinavian Association, is Sunday, Dec. 13, at 4 p.m. at Dalesburg Lutheran Church in rural Vermillion.

Vogt

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proposal ideas, please plan on attending the MPMA Conference, Sept. 13-17, Best Western Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City. It is a rare opportunity to have this type of meeting so close to home and an exceptional chance to learn from other museum leaders.

The State Historical Society History Conference and the MPMA Conference are two first-rate meetings that are both educational and loads of fun. I hope you can join us at both. JDV