

## Last call for attending MPMA Conference in Sept. in Rapid City

This is my last chance to encourage *Hoofprints* readers to attend the Mountain-Plains Museum Association (MPMA) 2010 annual conference Sept. 13-17 in Rapid City. The event will attract museum professionals from a 10-state region in the heartland of America, including South Dakota.

The theme for the 2010 conference is "Monumental Visions: Carving the Future for Museums," playing off Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Crazy Horse Monument in the Black Hills.

The MPMA Conference has not been held in South Dakota for decades, and we are especially pleased to have this organization meet in our state. It will be a wonderful opportunity for South Dakota museums and local historical societies to attend a conference which focuses on museum issues and learn more about the tools of their trade. It also gives South Dakota an opportunity to showcase the history and culture of the Black Hills.

Many of your organizations are financial sponsors of the general session featuring AAM President Ford Bell and former U.S. Senator and presidential candidate George S. McGovern.

As general chairman of the event, I thank you for your support.

However, I am asking you to make sure your organization and state are well represented at the conference and to help spread the word about this fantastic meeting. The conference program and registration information can be found at <http://www.mpma.net/>

### From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Vogt

accurent.php. The early registration deadline has passed, but you can register right up to the start of the conference.

Through workshops, sessions, tours, and networking with other museum leaders, the conference provides invaluable learning opportunities for professionals, practitioners, and volunteers that participants can take back home and put into practice.

The conference is designed for anyone who works, volunteers or is interested in museums. Hundreds of people from art, history, science, tribal and local museums, as well as zoos and botanical gardens with paid and volunteer staffs, are expected to attend the conference. Companies providing services and products to museums are

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### Field Reports

The 18th annual West River History Conference will be held Sept. 23-25 at the newly-renovated Surbeck Center on the campus of the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City. This year's conference theme is "Relative Riches," and researching family histories will be discussed. For more information about the conference, call (605) 343-4852 or e-mail [wrhc@shebbyleetours.com](mailto:wrhc@shebbyleetours.com)

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The annual Candlelight Tour of Homes for the Clay County Historical Society in Vermillion is Friday, Dec. 3. The tour runs from 5-9 p.m., with a reception following at the Austin Whittemore House. The society's annual Ice Cream Social was on June 17. Gloria Barnes is the 2010-11 president. Other officers include: Past President -- Joe Hoffman; Vice President -- Tom Thaden; Secretary -- Maxine Johnson; Treasurer -- Luann Ouellette; Board Members -- Judy Sullivan and Cyndy Chaney; and Lifetime Board Members -- Ann Severson and Cleo Erickson.

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A highlight of this year's 88th annual Days of '76 Rodeo and Parade in Deadwood was the recreation of the historic panoramic

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## More Field Reports

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photos that were an integral part of past celebrations. Parade participants, rodeo contestants, teamsters with wagons, stock contractors, American Indians, Deadwood re-enactors, clowns, bullfighters, rodeo queens, bands, rodeo spectators, local families and anybody else were invited to join the Days committee for the photo. The panoramic photos were part of the annual celebration from 1928 through the 1950s. This year's was the first commissioned since 1993.

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The Fall River County Historical Society in Hot Springs recently received two grants. A \$10,000 grant from the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation will be used to expand the new archive space in the lower level of the Pioneer Museum. And a \$20,000 grant from the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission will be for repairing the masonry and foundation on the Pioneer Museum.



The outside scenery of the Children's Museum of South Dakota, scheduled to open in September in Brookings, will be dominated by a life-size model of a Tyrannosaurus rex. The T-rex measures 60 feet long from nose to tail, is 25 feet tall, and it's able to blink, move its tail and, of course, roar! (Photo courtesy of The Brookings Register)

The Dakota Discovery Museum in Mitchell hosted traditional Lakota dancer Michael Ziegler on July 31. Ziegler performed a variety of dances, including the Horse, Buffalo, Shield and

Victory. Ziegler called the dances "a living testimony" to the rich cultural heritage of his people, and a way to preserve that heritage for future generations.

## Vogt

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encouraged to participate in the Exhibit Hall.

The featured speaker lineup brings together national leaders:

- \* Sen. McGovern, who is now a nominee for a Nobel Peace Prize, will offer a lifetime of achievement and historical perspective to this year's attendees.

- \* Paleontology will frame the message from keynote speaker Dr. Kirk Johnson, chief curator at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. His specialty recently netted him a place on the "Dream Team" of paleontologists from around the world who clarified the reason for the extinction of dinosaurs.

- \* Gerard Baker, recently retired Mount Rushmore superintendent, will talk about current studies and issues involving the memorial.

- \* Dr. Ford Bell, president of the

American Association of Museums, will provide perspectives on national and international museum issues.

- \* I will discuss the state of museums in South Dakota.

Local experts will lead tours of museums and historic sites in Rapid City and the Black Hills. The opening reception will be held at night at Mount Rushmore, and another evening will be spent visiting The Journey Museum and the Dahl Art Center in Rapid City and the South Dakota Air and Space Museum at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Nine workshops will be held, covering topics such as "How to Clean Artifacts Properly," "Research Techniques for Museums," "Interpretive Writing," and "Making Mannequins." Other topics include exhibits, collections insurance, volunteers and teachers.

Many people have put lots of time and effort into planning the conference. Host committee co-chairs are Mary

Kopco of Deadwood, director of the Adams Museum and House; and Ray Summers of Rapid City, director of The Journey. Program committee co-chairs are Sue Gates of Aberdeen, director of the Dacotah Prairie Museum; and Chris Orwoll of Hutchinson, Kan., president and CEO of the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center.

Major sponsors of the conference include the Black Hills Corporation and the City of Deadwood. Other sponsors are the South Dakota Humanities Council, the Cheisman Center, Henderson Phillips Insurance Company, Split Rock Studios, the South Dakota State Historical Society, the Association of South Dakota Museums, and many of the state historical societies in MPMA's 10-state region.

Additional contacts are by phone at 303-979-9358 or by e-mail at [mountplains@aol.com](mailto:mountplains@aol.com)

The conference is going to be lots of fun -- I hope to see many of you there!