

## Historic events like Mighty Mo Flood reaffirm value of our organizations

With all the flood preparations and rising water along the Missouri River, I have been reflecting on this unusual flood event. The construction of the six dams on the Missouri River mainstem was supposed to, in part, protect the communities along the Mighty Mo from flooding. Residents whose businesses and homes are threatened or flooded by this historic event are concerned about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers management of the river.

In *The South Dakota Experience* at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center, we have an exhibit on the Missouri River dams and the Pick-Sloan plan. As part of that unit, we offer a game, "If you ran the Dam," which allows the participant to determine how to regulate the dams and river flows to protect against floods, allow for shipping, provide irrigation, and supply clean, dependable power, in addition to protecting fish and wildlife, offering recreational opportunities, and delivering safe drinking water. In playing the game, I have discovered it is not easy to satisfy all the interests along the Missouri River. And for those of us who live by the Missouri River, we often hear in the news many of these issues concerning the management of the river.

However, the South Dakota State Historical Society is high and dry in the Cultural Heritage Center. At no time has our collections been at risk. And our collections, especially our archival materials, proved their importance as reporters (national to local media) and historians wanted information and

### From the SDSHS Director



Gary D. Vogt

photographs from the last big flood in 1952. We have set up a link to material on the 1952 flood on our website, [history.sd.gov](http://history.sd.gov), click on "Archives" and then on "1952 Flood." We also have information on our Facebook pages, click on the icon on our website.

This historic event reaffirms the value of our organizations to collect, preserve, interpret and promote the history of South Dakota and your community. Because we rely on the generosity of people, such as you, to donate artifacts to the museum and documents and records to the archives, we are already seeking material on the historic 2011 Missouri River Flood. Of course, our work is not limited to significant events; as keepers of history, we are always in quest of

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## Field Reports

The latest exhibit this summer at the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls is "Bicycles: Life on Two Wheels." The exhibit includes 13 bicycles dating to the late 1800s, including a rare, specially built 1949 Whizzer motorized model and a Schwinn Black Phantom.

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Caitlin Friesz, a social science major at Northern State University in Aberdeen, recently received first place in the Brown County Historical Society's annual research and writing contest. Friesz's paper, "Railroads and the Rise and Fall of Evarts and LeBeau, South Dakota," focused on the early history of the two Missouri River communities. Nick Blazer, a recent NSU History and Political Science graduate, received second place for his paper titled "Drawn to War." Both papers were written for Dr. Dave Grettler's Historical Methods and Historiography course.

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The Casey Tibbs South Dakota Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre is hosting a "Cowboy Carnival" from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, July 24. The event is full of games for kids of all ages, and carnival snacks. The center is still

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## More Field Reports

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taking nominations in six different categories of honorees for the upcoming annual Tribute Dinner in November. Go to [www.caseytibbs.com](http://www.caseytibbs.com) for a nomination form, or call (605) 494-1094 for more information.

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The web address for the Grand River Museum in Lemmon has changed to [www.grandrivermuseum.org/index.htm](http://www.grandrivermuseum.org/index.htm). The museum is adding a "theater room" this summer where DVDs of dinosaur digs, local history and other information will be shown. Call (605) 374-3911 for more information.

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Current officers of the South Dakota Humanities Council in Brookings include: President -- Ann Thompson; Vice-President -- Jean Nicholson; Treasurer -- Scott Rausch; Secretary -- Corey Vilhauer; Executive Director -- Sherry DeBoer; Program Assistant -- Evan Philips; Office Manager -- Carolyn Marshall; Director, Center for the Book -- Steve Binkley; Events and Outreach Director -- Samantha Hendriks. Call (605) 688-6113 for more information.

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## Vogt

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information and items that best represent our history. Once we have that material, we can use it for articles, exhibitions and programs, as well as make it available to genealogists, historians, various researchers and the curious.

Thank you for your concern about the South Dakota State Historical Society during this historic flood, and thank you for your fine work to collect, preserve, interpret and promote the history of South Dakota and your community. jdv

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The Minnilusa Historical Association in Rapid City, which operates the Journey Museum, has begun a fundraising campaign. Over the last few years, income from the association's endowment has been less than annual expenses. It is the goal of the association's board of directors to put in place, through legacy and current gifts, a system that ensures a steady flow of new resources into the association's endowment. Those interested in contributing can call (605) 394-6099 or email [Minnilusa@earthlink.net](mailto:Minnilusa@earthlink.net)

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The Minnehaha County Historical Society in Sioux Falls has an ambitious project of coordinating the sculpting of a 10-foot monument to Richard Franklin Pettigrew, who was an early Sioux Falls leader and South Dakota's first senator in 1889. The completion and installation date of the statue is hoped for May 2012. The Pettigrew Home & Museum and the Old Courthouse Museum comprise the Siouxland Heritage Museums. Current MCHS board members include: President -- Bob Kolbe; First Vice-President -- Jim Carlson; Second Vice-President -- Coletta Bly; Treasurer -- TBA; Secretary -- Bruce Blake; Historian -- Bev Pyn; Directors -- Paul Rowley and James Moore; Social Director -- Nancy Reagan; and Past President -- Carol Mashek.

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The Cultural Heritage Center is unaffected by the flooding in Pierre and Fort Pierre and is open for business as usual. Bring your group for a tour of the museum! Summer hours are 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1-4:30 p.m. on Sundays. Call Jeff at (605) 773-6000 to schedule a visit. Want to share the names of your organization's officers or your events with other *Hoofprints* readers? Send them to [Jeff.Mammenga@state.sd.us](mailto:Jeff.Mammenga@state.sd.us) or the address at the top of the front page.



## IMLS grant to benefit museums, libraries

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded a Connecting to Collections implementation grant of \$237,703 to North and South Dakota for the Dakota Collections Care Initiative (DCCI).

This implementation grant follows up on the initial information gathered in both states by their Connecting to Collections planning grants.

Partners in the initiative are the North Dakota State Historical Society, South Dakota State Historical Society, North Dakota Library Association, South Dakota State Library, the Plains Art Museum in Fargo and the Association of South Dakota Museums.

The DCCI will provide regional training workshops on collections care and facilitate the development of disaster plans and disaster-response skills. The initiative will result in an educated and informed core of collections-care staff and volunteers across the library, museum, historical society and archive fields in both states who will be better prepared to provide good stewardship for the collections entrusted to their care and to assist neighboring institutions in time of need. Throughout the initiative, a mutual aid network of experts and trained responders will be developed which will be accessible following the grant period via a calling tree.

Starting in the summer of 2012, two grant-funded employees will do in-depth collections assessments for 12 locations.

The second year of the project, summer 2013, will focus on disaster preparedness and response.

The IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas.