

State having Quasquicentennial, or 125th anniversary, in 2014

Quasquicentennial is the term used for a 125th anniversary. It is pronounced: kwos-kwi-sen-ten-ee-uhl. On November 2, 2014, the state of South Dakota will reach its 125th anniversary or quasquicentennial. Since most people are unfamiliar with the term or struggle to pronounce it, I am using the 125th anniversary.

Governor Dennis Daugaard issued an Executive Order on July 30, 2013, creating a South Dakota 125th Anniversary of Statehood Commission. The nine-member commission is responsible for suggesting state and local commemorative activities, marketing the logo (pictured on Page 2), and promoting South Dakota history throughout 2014. In addition, an internal state government working group is putting together a plan for ways state agencies can mark the state's 125th anniversary.

Currently, the commission is soliciting ideas from the public for the commemoration. Citizens are encouraged to visit the official website at 125.sd.gov and provide their suggestions. In addition, a logo has been selected, and it can be used to promote activities and events for the 125th anniversary. Again, visit 125.sd.gov to learn about the guidelines for using the logo. Eventually the website will include a calendar of events, so keep that in mind as you host your own 125th anniversary activities and events.

At the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center, we have on display the silk banners used to promote the division of Dakota Territory into two states. The banners were given to the

From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Vogt

South Dakota State Historical Society by Margaret Mellette (South Dakota's first First Lady) in 1906. During the centennial nearly 25 years ago, there was a little controversy because North Dakota wanted "their" banner back, but we resisted their claim. Also on exhibit is the pen used by President Benjamin Harrison to sign the statehood documents. On Nov. 2, 1889, because Harrison was signing the documents to make both South Dakota and North Dakota states, he shuffled the papers and signed them in such a way that no one would ever know what state preceded the other into the Union. As a result, North Dakota is considered the 39th state and South Dakota the 40th state, based on the alphabetical order, and we are twin-sister

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Field Reports

The Hermosa Arts and History Association dedicated the Doug Hesnard Memorial Garden on Aug. 10 in Hermosa. Hesnard was a passionate organizer and supporter of the HAHA, as well as many other Hermosa activities.

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Chris Maxwell was recently welcomed as the newest member of the board of directors for the Fort Pierre Development Corporation. Their motto is "Building our economic future on the foundation of our historic past." Other current board members include: President — Steve Hayes; Vice-President — Joel Catlin; Treasurer — Terry Campbell; Directors — Diane London, Carl Rathbun, Dawn Nagel, Milt Morris and Dana Iversen.

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The Lake Norden Historical Society recently received a barbed wire exhibit for its museum constructed by Alvin Kangas of Lake Norden. Kangas has more than 500 different kinds of barbed wire in his exhibit; the oldest piece he has was patented in 1853. The society sponsored Kangas on Aug. 8 when he presented "How was the Last West Settled (1865-1890?)" at the Lake Norden Community Center.

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The West River History Conference has established a scholar-

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ship in memory of Watson Parker, "The Dean of Black Hills Historians," who passed away in January. Contributions to the scholarship fund can be sent to: West River History Conference, PO Box 9276, Rapid City, SD 57709.

The WRHC recently added two new at-large board members, Wayne Gilbert and Carolyn Weber. They join other current members: President — Shebby Lee; Vice-President — Bev Pechan; Secretary/Publications — Bobbi Sago; Treasurer — Diana Hayes; Exhibits — Marguerite Kleven; and Project Director — Sylvia Cox.

This year's annual WRHC is Oct. 3-5. The theme is "War on the Plains: Stories of Conflict Over the Years." For more information, email wrhc@shebbyleetours.com

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The Dakota Discovery Museum



Vogt

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states.

Your South Dakota State Historical Society collects, preserves, interprets, and promotes the history of South Dakota and its people. We celebrate the history of South Dakota every day. The 125th anniversary provides us the opportunity to encourage South Dakotans everywhere to learn more about their past, commemorate our history, and prepare for the future.

I encourage your organization to make plans for the 125th anniversary of South Dakota statehood. It is an excellent opportunity to refresh exhibitions, update local history, and throw a party. jdv

in Mitchell, through Sept. 21, is hosting the exhibit "From the Hills of Boyd County: A Portrait of a Place," featuring photoconstructions by Nebraska artist Pat James. For more information call (605) 996-2122 or visit www.dakotadiscovery.com

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Current officers of the Minnilusa Historical Association of Rapid City board of directors include: President — Karen Miller; Vice-President — Judy Cobb; Secretary — Pat Roseland; Treasurer — Eileen Rossow; Directors — Randy Daughenbaugh, Midge Lakner, Ed McLaughlin, Bill McBride, Vern McMullen, Wini Michael, Stella Hughes, Jan Rathbun and Johnny Sundby; Honorary — Helen Wrede and Helen Daughenbaugh (deceased 2009).

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The Minnehaha County Historical Society hosted an open house Aug. 15 at the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls to raise awareness about the critical need to build a collections center for the

Siouxland Heritage Museums and to thank the Bob and Kari Hall family for their donation of land to use for the center. The Hall family has donated 25 acres to the historical society for the project, which still needs approval. The center is estimated to cost \$3.9 million, with the county and city each giving \$1.3 million and the remainder coming from the sale of 15 acres of the donated land.

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Robb Erickson of Stratford and Michael Abu-Sirriya of Aberdeen received first and second place, respectively, in the Brown County Historical Society's annual spring research and writing contest. Erickson's winning paper, "Legacy of Baseball: The Hub City Nine," and Abu-Sirriya's second-place paper, "The Historical Beginning of the Capitol Theatre in Aberdeen, South Dakota," were written for Dr. Mark Bartusis' Historical Research and Writing course at Northern State University. Both received a certificate and cash prize for their papers.

Deadwood Fund grants awarded

Seven historic preservation projects in the state recently received matching Deadwood Fund grants from the South Dakota State Historical Society.

Funding for the program is from Deadwood gaming revenue earmarked by state law for historic preservation projects throughout the state. The program is administered by the State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

The following projects were the most recent to receive grants:

Dallas: Dallas Carnegie Library, \$4,000 for foundation repair;

Dell Rapids: Smith Block, \$10,000 for storefront rehabilitation work on windows, corner staircase, exterior foyer, and pressed-metal ceiling;

Fairburn: Fairburn Hotel, \$15,000 for foundation repair;

Hot Springs: Hot Springs City Hall, \$9,000 for foundation repair;

Sioux Falls: The History Club, \$8,200 for rehabilitation of historic windows;

Sisseton: Stavig House Museum,

\$10,000 for stabilization of the historic front porch and brick chimney;

Tyndall: Tyndall Carnegie Library, \$6,500 for repairs to windows and installation of storm windows.

Deadwood Fund grants are awarded twice a year, with grant application deadlines of Feb. 1 and Oct. 1. For more information, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at (605) 773-3458 or visit history.sd.gov/Preservation.

Community Foundation awards grants

The South Dakota Community Foundation recently awarded grants to two state projects.

The South Dakota Railroad Museum in Hill City received \$5,000 to assist with the expansion of its existing education programs.

A \$10,000 matching fund grant was awarded to the Historic Homestead Opera House in Lead for a restoration phase report for the upcoming phase of its rehabilitation.