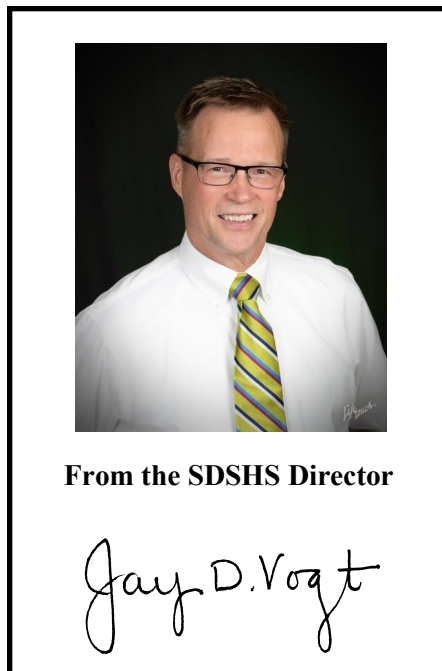


## True West names SDSHS museum one of the 10 best in the West

**T** rue West magazine has just listed the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre as one of the top 10 history museums of the West. It is quite an honor. We did not apply for the designation — it was a decision reached independently by the True West team.

From its humble beginnings as a few display cases on the first floor of the State Capitol, to its move to across the street in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Building, and now in its current home in the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center, the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society has changed and grown along with the Society itself.

**A**s a child, I remember visiting the museum in the memorial building and having what I recall as an "old man" showing me and the group I was with the Verendrye Plate. I was awestruck that the plate was placed on the bluff overlooking the present-day city of Fort Pierre in 1743 and later found by a group of school students in 1913. Later as a young adult newly arrived in Pierre, I was impressed with the sophisticated Sioux Indian Exhibition which featured an on-going slide show (really uptown for the time), and the Sioux Horse Effigy was the exhibit center piece. I was fortunate to join the State Historical Society staff in 1987, and I was involved in the move of all the Society's Pierre-based operations to the new Cultural Heritage Center. My office was located in the State



Library building, now known as the MacKay Building, but most of our operations were housed in the Memorial Building.

**O**nce moved into the Cultural Heritage Center, we did not have any exhibitions. Fortunately, then-Secretary of Education and Cultural Affairs James O. Hansen freed up funds to prepare the museum gallery for the future exhibits and to move the cases of the former Sioux Indian exhibition to be reconfigured and used for temporary displays. The South Dakota Heritage Fund, now known as the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, raised funds to

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## Field Reports

Current Officers of the National Music Museum in Vermillion include: Chairman — Scott Ray Lawrence; Treasurer — Joan Holter; and Secretary — Gerald Gaul. The senior staff are: Associate Director/Interim Co-Manager and Senior Curator of Musical Instruments — Margaret Downie Banks, Ph.D.; Manager of Communications — Patricia Bornhofen, Ph.D.; Collections Manager/Interim Co-Manager — Rodger Kelly, M.M., M.A.; Joe R. and Joella F. Utley Curator of Brass Instruments — Sabine K. Klaus, Ph.D.; Conservator — Emanuele Marconi, M.A. Curator of Education and Woodwind Instruments: Deborah Check Reeves, D.M.A. Manager of Membership Services: Carol Robertson, B.S. Curator of Stringed Instruments: Arian Sheets, B.A., B.M. Associate Curator: Michael Suing, M.M.

Museum activities include: *NMM Live!* Concerts, self-guiding multi-media tours, guided group tours, temporary and touring exhibits, children's summer programming and professional conferences and seminars.

The National Music Museum recently became the second Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in the state, joining the South Dakota State Historical Society. For more information call (605) 677-5306 or email [nmm@usd.edu](mailto:nmm@usd.edu)

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## More Field Reports

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The Fall River Historical Society and Pioneer Museum of Hot Springs is presenting Pioneer Day from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23. The day includes fun events such as live music, booths full of arts and crafts, kids' activities and lots of food. Plus tour the museum for only \$1 — the best rate for the season.

The society and museum conducted a Cemetery Walk at the Evergreen Cemetery on Aug. 27. The museum staff and volunteers were at the gravesites covering the historical importance of the local families and the impact they had on the community. The sites selected this year were:

Mr. & Mrs. Schroth, who worked for F. O. Butler, the owner of 7-11 ranch; Dr. Moresman, whose doctor's office is displayed in the basement of the Pioneer Museum; well-known local and state poet Badger Clark; Leslie Jensen, former Governor of South Dakota; John Mueller, the first fire chief and founder of the fire department band; and Mr. Killinger, as the old Mercantile Building contained Killinger Furniture. Some family members will be present to talk about their family history.

If any family has an interest in the Cemetery Walk for next year and wants to be involved with their family history in the cemetery, they are asked to bring a one-page letter with them to the walk.

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## Vogt

Continued from Page 1

design, fabricate, and install the long-term exhibition we call "The South Dakota Experience." We continue to refine the exhibition, and we also have two other gallery spaces for temporary exhibits.

The museum experience involves displays of a tipi and sod house that visitors are able to walk through, a variety of short films and audio programs, hands-on activities that include milking a cow, and impressive displays of artifacts in the telling of South Dakota stories. Of course, the Verendrye Plate and the Great Sioux Horse Effigy remain a couple of our most significant artifacts. Adding to the list of major artifacts includes the Jefferson Peace Medal left by Lewis and Clark during their expedition through the future South Dakota, the stagecoach "Kitty" which traveled between the two largest cities of its day on the Upper Great Plains -- Deadwood and Medora, Dakota Territory; the President Harrison pen used to sign the statehood papers for North Dakota and South Dakota; a Ku Klux Klan robe (a sobering reminder of prejudice on the Great Plains), and the Whitebird Congressional Code Talkers Medal in recognition of Noah

Whitebird, Sr.'s secret service during World War II. The Society also offers a variety of public programming, including Family Fun Saturdays, intended to get parents and children to experience history together.

Today the Great Sioux Horse Effigy has become the symbol of the South Dakota State Historical Society. The horse effigy is recognized worldwide as the finest piece of Plains Indians horse sculpture, having been included in two international exhibitions.

The Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center joins the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, WY; the Witte Museum, San Antonio, TX; the Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West, Scottsdale, AZ; the Brinton Museum, Big Horn, WY; the Old Cowtown, Wichita, KS; the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, TX; the Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park, Tombstone, AZ; the Silver City Museum, Silver City, NM; and the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum, Hannibal, MO, in the top 10 museums of the west.

I invite your history group to have a field trip to visit the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre and see for yourself why True West magazine listed our museum in the top 10 museums of the West. We would enjoy having you. Thank you! jdv

The Dakota Western Heritage Festival (DWHF), Stirling Family Ranch Rodeo and the Bicentennial Celebration are merging together to provide a 200-year celebration of history and culture in the little town of Fort Pierre, population 2,100. Officials predict the town's population could easily triple during the three day event Sept. 15-17.

On the eve of the celebration, the much anticipated showing of the film, "Floating Horses: The Life of Casey Tibbs" will kick things off at Riggs Theater at 4 p.m. and a second showing at 7 p.m. A free-will donation will get viewers into the showing because the producer is not able to charge admission until the film has finished its film festival run. It has been shown from coast to coast and in between to rave reviews.

Friday, Sept. 15, at 8:30 a.m. the DWHF wagon train will "head 'em up and roll 'em out" with Wagon Master Willie Cowan at the helm. Over 200 wagons and horseback riders are expected to participate. The wagon train will arrive back in Fort Pierre to join a Historic Parade at 3:30 p.m. Friday evening will feature a community steak feed, dignitary program and entertainment provided by DWHF poets and musicians.

Saturday, Sept. 16, a 5K Run/Walk will kick off with registration in Lilly Park at 7:30 a.m. At 10 a.m. DWHF vendors will open their booths in the Expo Center and Bicentennial vendors will open their booths in Lilly Park next to the Expo Center. Besides western arts and crafts, children's activities like pony rides and bouncy houses will be available. After a day of festivities and cowboy music and poetry, singer songwriter Susie Bogguss will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$25 at Dakotamart stores in Pierre/Fort Pierre and other Fort Pierre locations or at the door for \$35. (Only 650 tickets are being sold.)

Sunday, Sept. 17, Cowboy Church will convene at the Expo Center at 9 a.m. Stirling Family Ranch Rodeo will serve a cowboy brunch at the fairgrounds grandstand at 10 a.m. and vendor booths will open once again at the Expo Center and Lilly Park at 10 a.m. Stirling Family Ranch Rodeo grand entry will take place at 11 a.m. and the rodeo will finish mid-afternoon with a Bicentennial Wrap Up.