

'Why We Love History' is what keeps history alive

Several years ago, the South Dakota Historical Society Press published a "chapbook" entitled "Why We Love History...". A chapbook is a small-sized book of thirty to sixty pages. Its originals date back to five hundred years ago in England when "chapmen" used to sell small publications. In that spirit, the Press asked a number of its authors to contribute a short piece on why they love history. As director of the Society and co-author of *Picturing the Past*, I was asked to provide my thoughts. The following is what I wrote.

"History is the real stuff—the real adventure, the real discovery, and the real stories. If we pay close enough attention, history speaks to us. History can inspire us with accounts of exemplary lives and achievements or caution us with tales of human foolishness and wrong doing. History provides us with perspective because it is the stories of compromise, peace, and war; politics and people, intolerance and justice; and change and status quo.

"History is drama. It is better than any fictional tale whether brought to life in a book, on stage, or on the big screen. And more importantly, history is happening today. We are part of history. We are part of the unfolding drama of life that will be chronicled as our history.

"At the State Historical Society we collect, preserve, interpret,



From the SDSHS Director

Jay D. Vogt

and promote the history of the people of South Dakota. Our work helps ensure that the "real stuff"—the adventure, discovery, and stories—is available to current and future generations about and for the people of South Dakota. What is not to like about history?"

I do not believe I offered anything profound, but in reviewing my comments, I realize that I truly love history, especially South Dakota history. I also realize that the tremendous people I work with at the State Historical Society love history, and that you, the keepers of local history, love history. It is because

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Field Reports

Current officers of the Minnehaha County Historical Society in Sioux Falls include: President — Richard Foster; Vice President-Marketing & Social Media — Jill Roosenboom; Deputy Vice President-Membership — Rachel Hanisch; Treasurer — Jerry Kerhove; Secretary — Jennifer Smith Hoelsing; Archivist — Ralph Lawrence; Past President-Historical Markers — Jim Carlson; Directors — Ken Alvine, Zach DeBoer, Wayne Fanebust, Scott Schoenen, Rayan Tellberg and Trevor VanCoyant.

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The Historic Homestake Opera House in Lead is hosting a reunion concert of the Red Willow Band, with special guests Albert & Gage, on Thursday, July 27. Original band members Chris Gage, Hank Harris, Kenny Putnam, Marley Forman and Barry Carpenter will perform. The band began playing together in the mid-1970s and recorded two albums and several singles, one of which, "I Wish I Had Your Arms Around Me," hit No. 97 on Billboard Music's Hot Country 100. The band was inducted into the South Dakota Rock 'N Roll Hall of Fame in 2015. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for HHOH members and \$25 for students ages 11-17. Tickets are available at homestakeoperahouse.org, at the door or by calling (605) 584-2067.

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A bell collection put together by members of the Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society was featured at the annual Old Settlers Day Celebration on June 17 in Highmore. The collection fit in well with the event's theme, "Let Freedom Ring!" The bell collection was originally assembled for last year's Christmas Open House at the museum in Highmore.

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Current officers of the Union County Historical Society (UCHS) in Elk Point include: President — Mark Turner; Vice President — Jerry Flannery; Treasurer — Kathy Noll; Secretary — Sondra Stickney; Board of Directors — Ann Tornberg, Kim Baker, Roni Burns, John Guenther, Connie Larsen, Milton Ustad and Rodney Anderson/Hoyt; Museum Curators — Fern Chicoine and Angie Rosenbaum; Financial Secretary — Jana Foltz; Newsletter Editor — Rodney Anderson; Care Taker — Logan Rubida; and Event Coordinator — Marie Fullenkamp.

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of that appreciation of state and local history as well as American and world history that we are passionate about preserving our history. Thank you for all your efforts. The mission statement for the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation is "Keeping South Dakota History Alive!" The Foundation does not "do the work of history," but their mission is to support that work. Nevertheless, that phrase captures why we do the work we do. We are all committed to telling and remembering the stories of our past. As we collect, preserve, interpret, and promote the history of our community, state, country, and indeed the world, we are working to keep history alive. Keep up the good work. jdv

On Sept. 9, the UCHS is hosting the second annual Country School Reunion on the museum grounds in Elk Point.

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Keynote speakers have been announced for the West River History Conference, Oct. 12-14 in Rapid City. This year's theme is "Commerce on the Frontier." On Thursday evening, Oct. 12, Doug and Pat Engebretson will discuss "History of Rodeo and Early Rodeo." The Friday, Oct. 13, luncheon keynote is Larry Ness, CEO and chairman of the board of First Dakota National Bank in Yankton; his topic is "The History of Banking in South Dakota." The Saturday Westerners Breakfast on Oct. 14 will feature Patricia A. Campbell presenting "Deadwood in My Blood," as four of her ancestors worked for the Deadwood Stage at the height of the gold rush.

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The Codington County Heritage Museum in Watertown is hosting the "Legends of Watertown Street Festival" on Aug. 5. On the sidewalk, in front of the building where they made their living, eight personalities from Watertown's history will greet you with a story about their life. Presenters will include a postman at the Post Office, a typesetter from the Public Opinion newspaper, John B. Hanten, an early settler and attorney; Etta Tarbell, wife of a druggist and early settler; Lewis Shaw the undertaker, banker H. D. Walrath, printer and early bank director William Peck, and milliners Rosa Frey and Nellie Jorgenson. Root beer floats, popcorn and lemonade will be provided, and the afternoon will be capped off with a 4 p.m. performance by the Watertown Municipal Band at the First Avenue end of Broadway. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of and can be purchased at the museum.

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The Center for Western Studies at Augustana University in Sioux Falls has released the inaugural volume in its Public Affairs Series, "Conservation on the Northern Plains: New Perspectives." The book challenges widespread assumptions about people and nature, re-

framing understandings of both in the process. The book costs \$12 and can be purchased by calling (605) 274-4007 or visiting augie.edu/cws.

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The evolution of the school house is the focus of "Up Hill Both Ways: One Room Schools," a new exhibit opening at the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls. An exhibit-opening reception will be held on Thursday, Aug. 3, from 5-7 p.m. Admission is free.

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The documentary film "Floating Horses - The Life of Casey Tibbs" will debut in Casey Tibbs' homeland area on Thursday, Sept. 14, at the Riggs High School Theater in Pierre. There will be one showing late afternoon and another early evening. This is the beginning of the kickoff of Fort Pierre's Bicentennial events that following weekend.

Fort Pierre native Casey Tibbs was a 9-time World Champion whose career expanded from bronc riding to becoming a movie stunt man, writer and producer.

"We have had many people inquiring about when the film will be shown in our area," said Cindy Bahe, director of the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre.

"In addition to Casey's famous rodeo career I wanted to design the film to focus on the highs and lows of his personal life," said Producer Justin Koehler.

In April, the film originally debuted at the Black Hills Film Festival and at another festival in Texas. The film was shown at the Black Hills Film Festival Special Event in Hill City in July and is also showing in Colorado, New York, California and Arizona this summer.

Seating at the Pierre debut will be first-come, first-served with a free will offering to offset some of the producer's costs in making this film over the last 3-4 years. Other details are being coordinated to take place at the Rodeo Center earlier that day.

For more information call the Rodeo Center at (605) 494-1094.