

Two bills affecting State Historical Society in this year's Legislature

It is winter. It has been up and down. Warm one day and bitterly cold for the next several days. This season my attention is directed to the State Legislature. This year it started on Jan. 9, and it concludes on March 9 before a two-week recess to return on March 26 for what is called "veto day." We had two bills of concern for your State Historical Society.

HB 1206, an act to decrease the rate of the gross receipts tax imposed on certain visitor-intensive businesses, appears on the surface to be a "tourism bill." However, that one-half penny tax also supports the work of the State Historical Society. When the tax was first initiated, it was agreed that the tax would support tourism marketing, fund the South Dakota Arts Council and parts of the State Historical Society. We receive 16% of that one-half cent tax, and it supports our office of archaeology and the museum located in the Cultural Heritage Center. Fortunately, the arts and tourism have significant constituent lobbying support, and we were able to defeat the bill in committee.

SB 197, an act to revise certain provisions on the protection of historic properties, was intended to improve the ability of the State Historic Preservation Office to protect cultural resources. Unfortunately, the proposed legislation mixed federal and state requirements and made it more difficult to work effectively and efficiently. Although the bill had some merits, there was just too much that did not



From the SDSHS Director

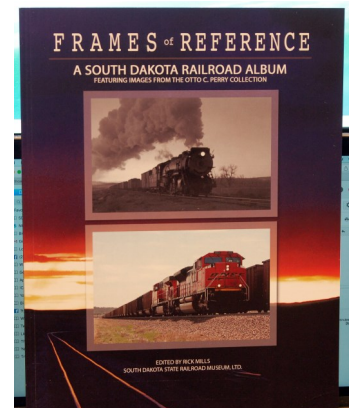
Jay D. Vogt

work to make an effort to "fix" the bill.

In the midst of winter comes the hope of spring. For many of the local historical societies and museums, it is also time to get ready for school groups and opening for summer visitors. The State Historical Society has a new website (same address: history.sd.gov), and I suggest you check it out and consider using either one of our education kits or a traveling exhibit to add to your museum experience. Go to history.sd.gov and click on "Museum" and go to "Exhibits" to learn about the traveling exhibits or "Education Kits" to see the topics available in the kits.

See "Vogt," Page 2

Field Reports



The South Dakota State Railroad Museum's new publication, "Frames of reference," is steaming along. Rick Mills, director of the Hill City museum, has been busy out promoting the book, and will be at the following locations in March:

March 10 — Program and signing with Linda Hasselstrom at 10 a.m. at the Piedmont Valley Library in Piedmont;

March 17-18 — Hill City Antiques/Railroad Show in Hill City;

March 24-25 — NMRA Sioux Empire Train Show in Sioux Falls

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Current officers of the Dalesburg Scandinavian Association in Vermillion include: President & Membership — Ron Johnson; ASI Liason — Lorraine Carlson; Treasurer — Connie Richards; Officers-at-Large — The Late Carol Shubeck and Brendyn Richards; Website — Jeff & Barb Erickson;

See "More," Page 2

More Field Reports

Continued from Page 1

Ex-Officio Officer — Paster Martens
The association's annual Midsummer Festival this year is Friday, June 22, and Sunday, June 24.

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The Historic Homestake Opera House in Lead will be hosting the Gold Camp Players Community Theater's production of "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" on March 2-4 and 9-11. The play is a darkly comedic drama containing adult themes, language and content, and not intended for children. On March 4, the HHOH will also be hosting an activity more suited to children — the University of South Dakota Acappella Chamber Choir.

For more information, contact HHOH Executive Director Sarah Carlson at 605-584-2067 or homestake-operahouse@gmail.com. The HHOH is

a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to returning the building to productive use for the enrichment of the region and to provide arts and culture and educational opportunities for generations to come.

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Condoleezza Rice is this year's featured speaker at the Boe Forum hosted by the Center for Western Studies at Augustana University in Sioux Falls. The forum is March 20, at 7:30 p.m., in the Elmen Center. Rice, a former U.S. Secretary of State, is now a political science professor at Stanford University. Her topic is "America's National Security and the World."

New CWS board members include Blair Tremere and Rebecca Sunde. Dr. Mark Hollabaugh was selected as a council member.

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The Brown County Historical Society held its annual meeting on Feb. 17 at the Dacotah Prairie Museum in Aberdeen. Sue Gates, Director of the Dacotah Prairie Museum, gave a program titled "Taking Care of Business – Early Aberdeen Business and Industry." Officers for 2018 are President – Sherri Rawstern, Vice-President – Cara Romeo, Secretary – Jean Rahja, and Treasurer – Brad Tennant. Other board members are Evelyn Blum, Rose Kraft, and Marie Schumacher.

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The monthly program of the Minnehaha County Historical Society, usually held the third Thursday of each month, took place on Feb. 15 at the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls. Local historian and columnist Craig Kumerfield presented "Dell Rapid: A Walk Through History," taking attendees on a tour of Dell Rapids history using the businesses and buildings of Historic Main Street as his guide.

Vogt

Continued from Page 1

I encourage you to spend some time exploring the website, and because it has been newly rolled out, let me know if you run into any problems. The State Historical Society staff has worked closely with the website designers, but we are too close to the project and the website. Your insight would be very helpful. Feel free to contact me with any comments, jay.vogt@state.sd.us.

The annual history conference is April 27-28 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City. I hope you attend and your organization is represented. It is also time for the Governor's Awards for History, and if you have any nominations, the deadline is coming fast. Contact Jeff Mammenga, Awards Coordinator, at 605-773-6000 or jeff.mammenga@state.sd.us.

History is the account of things said and done in the past. For those of us in the "history field," it is a calling. I appreciate the work you do to collect, preserve, interpret, and promote your local history. I am pleased that you are partners in our important work. Thank you. jdv

New Deal-era art returns home to Black Hills

The Civilian Conservation Corps Museum of South Dakota has acquired an original oil painting created by 24-year-old CCC artist Morris (Moe) Gollub.

Gollub was assigned to Camp Pine Creek, S-1, Co. 1793 from May 29, 1935-September 30, 1935. The painting is a tribute to the men who were in the camp with Gollub. Several individuals portrayed in the painting, including the project superintendent, have been tentatively identified from comparing known camp photos.

Kathleen Duxbury, the authority on CCC art, tipped the museum that the piece was available. After two years of negotiations, the painting came home to the Black Hills. The museum is located at 23935 Highway 385 in Hill City. From there it is 13 miles to Camp Pine Creek, and Mount Rushmore is just another mile.

Before Gollub was in the Cs he was a student at the City Art Museum of St. Louis, his hometown. The director of that museum wrote letters of recommendation endorsing Gollub's placement into the Cs art program. In his letter of resignation from the CCCs Gollub noted: "Perhaps an explanation is in order for the reason that I've sent in no other work besides two pretty poor landscapes. I've been engaged in doing some of the Park Wild Life, a subject of particular interest to me. These are to be



(I hope) placed in the State Park Museum."

You may have seen Gollub's work and not even realized it. He went on to become an artist for Walt Disney and one of his projects was on Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book." He enlisted in the Navy during WWII where he was a reconnaissance photographer. One of his post-war jobs was with the Western Printing and Lithographing Company of Racine, Wis., where he drew comic book covers including for the Lone Ranger, Raggedy Ann & Andy and TUROK, from the 1950s.

For information on planning your trip to see this New Deal Era art, go to www.southdakotacc.com.