

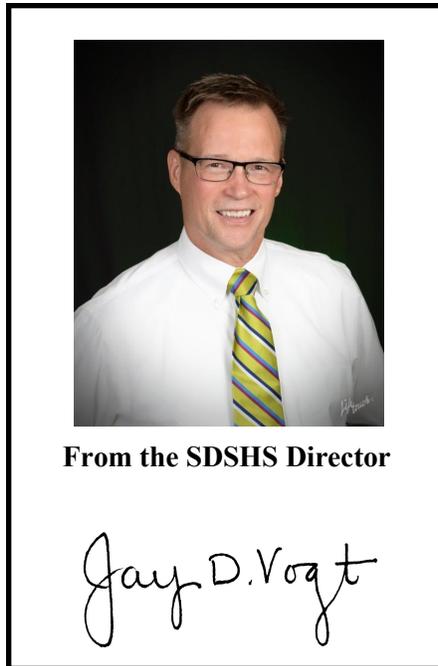
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## Cultural Heritage Center turns 30 years old in 2019

Although I was not working for the State Historical Society at the time of the 1987 groundbreaking, I started shortly thereafter and remember the construction of the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center. I would sneak up from my office in the State Library to peek inside. At that time, the administrative and publishing offices for the Society and part of the archives were in the State Library building, now known as the MacKay Building.

There was just a plywood wall and door where the front doors would eventually be located. The first time I was in the enclosed structure, it looked vast as there was no floor or interior walls. One day as construction progressed, I witnessed three cement trucks pouring the concrete floors in the building. (I am still amazed at seeing three cement trucks in the building at the same time.) Because of Pierre's soil, the Cultural Heritage Center does not technically sit on the ground. Many pylons go down to bedrock, and the floor is attached to them. It appeared that the floor was being poured on cardboard boxes with rebar above them. Over the construction time, the interior of the building seemed to get "smaller and smaller" as the various rooms were being created. Being the new person on the staff, I had a lot to learn about our operations and getting ready to move to the Center was an educational experience and opportunity to achieve a fuller understanding of the State Historical Society.

The 63,000-square-foot building is underground with 1,500 tons of dirt on the roof of the building. Its irregular shape is approximately two football fields long. Most of the building is



designed for collection storage and is not open to the public. The façade is South Dakota granite from Milbank. The grounds were landscaped with native prairie sod from Jones County.

Since opening in 1989, private funds paid for the design and fabrication of "The South Dakota Experience," the primary exhibit in the Center. The administrative and publishing offices, the state archives and the museum have been located in the Center since the beginning. The historic preservation office moved from Vermillion to the Cultural Heritage Center in 1996. The roof has been replaced, the front walkway made more handicapped accessible, and the parking lot rebuilt to allow two-way

See "Vogt," Page 2

## Field Reports

Incumbent officers and board members of the Brookings County Historical Society/Brookings County Museum were re-elected Oct. 12 at the board's annual meeting at the museum in Volga.

Phil Wagner of Brookings was re-elected president and Jerry Leslie of Volga vice-president. Bob Buchheim of Volga was re-elected to a one-year term as secretary and Darla Strande, Brookings, was re-elected to her second year as treasurer.

The three-year terms of six board members were also extended for another three-year period by unanimous vote. Re-elected were Marv Hope of Volga, Darla Strande of Brookings, Dorothy Husher of Volga, Phil Wagner of Brookings, and Lyle Strande and Cindy Jacobson of Volga.

The board of directors have set winter work projects that include the continued refurbishing of the first floor of the James Hauxhurst house to as close to its 1884 condition as possible. Board members Floyd Havrevold and Larry Ust will head up the sub-committee for this project.

Marvin Hope will chair the subcommittee assigned to re-evaluate the placement of present and new displays in the Vintage Farm Equipment Building.

Darla Strande and Shirley Deethardt will review the placement of stand-alone museum items and display cases in the main museum in an effort to realign the placement of various items in that building and to recommend new items for display in the museum's inventory.

See "More," Page 2

## More Field Reports

Continued from Page 1

The Dalesburg Scandinavian Association, based in Vermillion, is having its 42nd Celebration of the St. Lucia Tradition in Dalesburg on Dec. 15 at Dalesburg Lutheran Church.

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“Sioux Falls in Color” is a new exhibit this fall at the Center for Western Studies in Sioux Falls. The exhibit, a collection of whimsical cityscapes by Sioux Falls artist Rodger Ellingson, runs through Jan. 10, 2020. It features images of familiar locations throughout Sioux Falls such as the Lincoln High School Band, First Congregation-

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## Vogt

Continued from Page 1

traffic and make it more bus-friendly.

The Cultural Heritage Center, often referred to as the Heritage Center, is a building, the headquarters of the South Dakota State Historical Society. It is the fourth home for the Society. Starting out in the original wooden Capitol, the Society then moved to a suite on the first floor of the current State Capitol (as you walk down the marble stairs to the first floor and look at the arched windows to the right, you will see “historical society.”). In the 1930s, the Society moved to the new Soldiers’ and Sailors’ World War Memorial building (across from the State Capitol), and then in 1989 in honor of the state’s centennial anniversary, the Society moved to the new South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center. The people of South Dakota built the Center to ensure that the heritage and history of what is now South Dakota is well-looked-after. The Cultural Heritage Center also made it possible to have all the Pierre-based Society functions under one roof.

The Society is a state agency, a division of the Department of Education. The Society collects, preserves, interprets and promotes the history of the people of South Dakota. Our work is serious and important. Of the 32 years I have been with the State Historical Society, one-half of that time has been as your director and 30 years at the Cultural Heritage Center. jdv

al Church, the Levitt Stage and Augustana University.

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Two events were held in October to celebrate and honor the life, times, humanity, mentorship and self-determination of Black Hills historian James “Jim” Aplan, who passed away last December. During the Oct. 10-12 West River History Conference, the James O. Aplan Memorial Flag Pole was dedicated at the Historic Adams House in Deadwood. And the annual Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association show, held Oct. 26-27 in Sioux Falls, was dedicated in Jim’s memory.

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Six South Dakota rodeo greats were honored by the Casey Tibbs Foundation during the foundation’s 30th annual Tribute Dinner held Nov. 2 at the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre. Those being added to the “Wall of Fame” included: Rodeo Cowgirl Great — Sherry Ann (Maher) Taylor; Rodeo Cowboy Great — Marty Jandreau; Past Rodeo Great — Romey Gunville; Rodeo Promoter — Mike Steiger; Ranch Cowboy Family — The Russ Madison Family; and Rodeo Animal Athlete — Willie, owned by the Woodward Family.

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The Fall Meeting of the Codington County Historical Society on Nov. 7 in Watertown featured the program “Dakota Daughters: Three Women, Three Stories, Three Cultures and One Moderator.” Geraldine Goes In Center, Joyce Jefferson and Lillian Witt examined the hopes, fears and values of the Lakota, Afro-American and Euro-American fore-mothers in an effort to aid the healing of racism and remember the lessons of Wounded Knee as we approach its 130th anniversary. They were moderated by Kat Holmgren.

The latest exhibit at the Codington County Museum is “Weathering the Storm: Nature’s Impact on South Dakota.” The exhibit, which examines the weather in Codington County and throughout South Dakota, is up until April 2020.

Current officers of the Codington County Historical Society include: President — Roger Whittle; Vice-President — Vince Foley; Secretary

— Shelly Alvine; Treasurer — Kris Fey; and Directors Jon Iverson, Dana Lindner, Joy Nelson, Denise Ottenbacher, Tim Oviatt and Sue Pearson.

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The Historic Homestake Opera House in Lead is gradually returning to its original grandeur. Bolstered by a \$375,000 Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities intended to generate \$1.1 million in private donations, supporters and staff of the HHOH, led by Development Director Sarah Carlson, are identifying potential contributors to assist in funding infrastructure upgrades and advance the rehabilitation efforts at the historic building. To date, \$135,000 has been raised toward the challenge grant, which will release \$45,000 in NEH funding this year and give the project \$180,000 to move forward with plans and actual construction. The building was a gift to the City of Lead from philanthropist Phoebe Hearst in 1914, then was destroyed by a fire in April 1984. Restoration efforts began in 1998.

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The Annual Meeting of the Grant County Historical Society in October in Milbank featured the History Channel program “Curse of Oak Island,” presented by Judi Rudebusch. The society, led by president Arlo Levisen, is making plans to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2020.

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The South Dakota State Railroad Museum in Hill City announced its 2019 “Golden Spike” raffle winners: AAA Amtrak trip — Jim McReynolds of Rapid City; Colt 22 revolver set — Dale Kessler, Sr., of Menno; Lionel Commemorative Union Pacific M-10000 — Colleen Lewis of Hill City; HO Scale Big Boy locomotive — Phil Pearson of Rapid City; Commemorative 1969 Golden Spike art print — Gary Holzinger of Anamosa, Iowa; and 2019 USPS Framed Golden Spike stamp block — Mike Evans of Rapid City.