The premiere showing of an audio-visual documentary on the Life and Works of BADGER CLARK, South Dakota Poet Laureate from 1937 to 1957, was held in December at Black Hills State College. The slide presentation, funded with the assistance of the LELAND D. CASE Library for Western Historical Studies (LDCLWHS) and other area historical groups, was created by MILT and SHERBY LEE of Rapid City, S.D. Mrs. Lee is a great niece of South Dakota's most famous poet. The documentary was copyrighted in the name of the LDCLWHS.
BHSC hosted a reception in the Student Center following the premiere where many favorable comments were voiced about the documentary. It is designed to be shown in schools and clubs. Efforts are underway to transfer the slides to film for easier distribution. The 28-minute slide program traces the colorful career of the noted poet who "holed up" in the log cabin he built himself in Custer State Park, appropriately named, "The Badger Hole," to pen his poetry. Expressing enthusiasm at the reception for the impressive documentary, which will preserve CLARK'S remarkable life's story for generations that know little of him, were BHSC President GIL HAUSE and DAVID MILLER of the Social Science Dept. at the college, along with the LEES.

MILT LEE knew Clark personally long before he married the poet's grand niece as he had grown up at the Black Hills Playhouse which his father, DR. WARREN LEE, had founded in Custer State Park, not far from the "Badger Hole." Mrs. LEE's relationship to the poet enabled her to contribute many fine family photographs and memorabilia to the documentary. It was a "labor of love" for the LEEs, who operate a graphic arts company in Rapid City, and their motivation was a determination to introduce CLARK, the man and the poet, to those not fortunate enough to have personally known him.

There are many interviews in the documentary with those who did know him intimately, including the founder of the LDCLWHS, as well as excerpts from the speeches and writings of the poet himself. Viewers will be intrigued by CLARK'S account of how he became committed to the solitary life of a poet. He tells of penning a poem for his mother which she, without his knowledge, sent to a publisher. When he learned that there were people willing to pay for such material his life's course was set. He had been searching, after brief stints as a newspaperman and a cowboy, for work that would enable him to ignore clocks and the frustrations of laboring under someone else's supervision, and found it in poetry.

Far from being a lazy man, CLARK was a busy fellow. Besides writing poetry that would bring him widespread acclaim, he was a popular speaker. He addressed countless school groups, exciting the pupils with his poetry, and was in demand as a speaker at graduation exercises and at literary functions. His love for the out-of-doors, all facets of nature and wildlife, the Black Hills, and the free life, was reflected in his speeches as well as his poetry.

A memento copy of CLARK'S widely quoted "Cowboy's Prayer," perhaps his best known poem, was distributed during the premiere showing of the documentary. The LDCLWHS is pleased to have been a part of "introducing" this outstanding personality to the present and future generations. It is proper that neither the man nor his works be forgotten.

+++ "BOOTS AND BYLINES"

Hard on the heels of the premiere showing of the BADGER CLARK documentary came the announcement that the Chronicle Publishing Co. of Custer, S.D., had published another volume of CLARK'S poems. It is an 86-page book titled Boots and Bylines and contains the CLARK poems that were published over the years in the pages of The Custer County Chronicle. It is illustrated with photographs, including the boots which took the poet over the hills and valleys of his beloved mountains and were left in the "Badger Hole" after his death in 1957. Commentary is provided by CAMILLE YULLI, veteran Deadwood newspaperwoman and long-time friend of the poet.
Boots and Bylines was published in limited edition with only 500 copies printed. The copyright for it will eventually go to the LDCLWIS. Meanwhile, profits from the book will be divided among the Chronicle Publishing Co. to help finance future publications, a fund to staff the "Badger Hole," now open for public visitations by appointment only.

+++ READY TO GO

Highlight of the January meeting of the Case Committee, composed of DRS. GIL HAUSE, SEVER EUBANK, KEN HALSEY, ED ERICKSON, DAVID MILLER, PAUL HAIVALA, and MS. DORA JONES, all of the BHSC faculty, was the announcement that the long-awaited "Dorsett Clippers" were "ready to go." The "Clippers" are volunteers from the Dorsett Home at Spearfish who will clip historical items from area newspapers for inclusion in the LDCLWIS archives. With the assistance of MS. JAN WERNER, director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at Spearfish, the "Dorsett Clippers" have begun an important contribution to the Library's growing bulk of research material.

DR. HAIVALA and MS. JONES, in company with MS. WERNER, held a briefing session at the Home and found enthusiasm high for the new activity. The project gives the older residents of the Home something useful to do with their spare time and also provides valuable research material for the Library. Public involvement with the objectives of the LDCLWIS is a continuing goal of the Case Committee and it augers well for the future of the Library.

DR. ERICKSON was appointed to serve as contact person to cooperate with MS. WERNER in setting up an oral history workshop. It was decided to offer certificates to those who participate. The Committee voted to act as sponsor for some research on outlaw women of the West and DR. MILLER was appointed to coordinate the project. It was also voted to promote dissemination of the BADGER CLARK Documentary at the forthcoming Black Hills History Conference.

+++ BANANA BELT BULLETIN

Prolonged cold weather in the Black Hills, "unusual" for the fabled "Banana Belt," has slowed recruitment of volunteer workers for the LDCLWIS, according to MRS. MARIAN HERSH, former member of the S.D. Board of Regents, who is heading up the drive. MRS. HERSH, who was snowbound with her husband in a Washington, D.C., hotel blacked out by a power shortage during the much-publicized blizzard there in February, returned home with renewed determination to rally the volunteers. She reports good response from the Business and Professional Women's Club of Spearfish to a mailed appeal for volunteers, and more expected when improved weather conditions permit greater mobility in the region. DR. HAUSE indicated a coffee hour will be held to acquaint the volunteers with the Case Library system as soon as enough of them are recruited to get started.
A fresh corps of field historians for the LDCLWHIS was confirmed by the S.D. Board of Regents at a recent meeting to augment the capable field force appointed and confirmed earlier. Most of the new historians come from the ranks of the Black Hills Corral of The Westerners, which undoubtedly pleases the Library's founder, and includes MYRLE HANSON (the present Sheriff) and his wife GEORGIA of Spearfish, CLARA LOEBELL (she's Deputy Sheriff) of Rapid City, HAROLD SHUNK, retired Indian Service official, also of Rapid City; CUSHMAN CLARK (Past Sheriff) and his wife HELEN of Deadwood, BOB LEE (also Past Sheriff), Sturgis newspaperman, and PROF. WATSON PARKER of Oshkosh, Wisc., author of several Black Hills books. In addition, IRMA KLOCK of Lead, a prolific writer on Black Hills topics, will be gleaning material for the Library as a field historian.

These aggressive searchers of historical material will join the energetic field historians confirmed earlier, including MABEL BROWN of Newcastle, Wyo., RICHARD WILLIAMS of Sturgis, MARSHALL TRUAX of Hot Springs (who, incidentally was elected to the State Senate from Fall River, Custer and Shannon counties with an outpouring of votes from the Indians of his district), JEROME GREEN of the National Park Service in Denver and, of course, the indomitable LEILAND D. CASE of Tucson, Ariz.

With such talent aboard, who can doubt that the LDCLWHIS will become the leading repository of Western Americana in the region? It is already well on its way to reaching that objective.

+++ WE MEET AGAIN +++

Nine papers are on the agenda for the annual Black Hills History Conference scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 27-28, at the Holiday Inn of the Northern Hills, Spearfish. The BHSC-sponsored event will start at 1 p.m. with the first series of papers, includes an evening banquet program and another series of papers Saturday morning, culminating with a luncheon program.

Keynote speaker at the evening banquet will be DON RICKEY, author of Forty Miles a Day on Beans and Hay and $10 Horse, $40 Saddle, among other works on frontier military subjects. RICKEY is an active member of the Company of Military Historians, the Western History Association, and is a widely quoted historian for the Bureau of Land Management. He has been to the Black Hills before and is well versed on its history. Keynote speaker at the concluding luncheon will be RICHARD HART, Sturgis, who retired last year as superintendent of the Custer National Battlefield. He will regale conference participants with tales of his experiences with the National Park Service, including the outrageously funny things that occur when Custer scholars and buffs collide on the battlefield where the famed Seventh Cavalry met its Waterloo.

To be announced during the conference will be the winners of the annual LEILAND D. CASE Awards in Historical Writing. PAUL HAIHALA is Conference Chairman and further information can be obtained by writing him at BHSC, Spearfish. This annual event grows in popularity each year and it is again expected to attract an outpouring of historical scholars and buffs. Perhaps it will spark some of the interesting confrontations that HART experienced "where Custer fell." Hopefully, though, there will be less blood-letting.

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LELAND D. CASE sends us the following anecdote from his abode in Tucson, Ariz., which he hopes typifies the spirit of the LDCLMHS workers:

"RALPH WALDO EMERSON was a well read man. Unfortunately, none of his reading equipped him for the tricky task of pushing a calf into a barn. His son grasped an ear. Emerson shoved from behind. The heifer wouldn't budge. Red faced and frustrated, they watched a servant girl approach. With an amused glance, she stuck her finger into the calf's mouth, and the calf, sucking it, followed right into the barn. Emerson, absorbed in thought, entered the house and then recorded this in his journal, 'I like people who can do things.'"

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A TRULY "GREAT LADY"

Mention was made in the last issue of The Black Hills Historian of the generous contribution of 108 items, principally books, to the LDCLMHS by the estate of the late MRS. MARY MINERS of Hot Springs. The acquisition arrived as the Historian was going to press and insufficient recognition was given to the exceptional woman in whose name this tremendous gift was bequeathed. The outstanding scope of this truly remarkable woman's extensive collection includes such rare gems as "A Memoir of REV. EDWARD PAYSON," published in 1830, and "The Orator's Guide," printed in 1822, among other valuable books.

We are indebted to Field Historian TRUAX for providing the following biography of MRS. MINER as prepared by MRS. KATHRYN TWOMEY of Hot Springs and read during the "MARY MINER'S DAY" there on Sept. 5, 1966. It was, TRUAX reports, "a great occasion with three bands and a parade, a big affair at the old Evans Hotel with speeches, a banquet and a money tree decorated with hundreds of dollars from the people of Hot Springs. I don't think there was ever a citizen so honored by this community before or since." MRS. TWOMEY'S biography follows:

"MARY SQUIER MINERS was born Sept. 7, 1904, at Faribault, Minnesota. She was the daughter of HARVEY M. and LUCY GRILLEY SQUIER. Her childhood years were spent in Minnesota but she was orphaned in late childhood (her mother was one of dozens of guests who perished in a hotel fire in Minneapolis in 1917) and then made her home with relatives in Minot, N.D., where she was educated in the public schools. She attended Minot State Teachers College from which she was graduated in 1925. She taught school in Deering, N.D., for two years and in Garrison, N.D., for fifteen years, nine of them as principal.

"Mary was married to EUGENE M. MINERS on May 26, 1928. They moved to Hot Springs, S.D., in 1935. Mary became librarian at the Hot Springs Public Library in 1944 and retired from that position in 1966. Her years as librarian were marked by the expansion of the children's library, with summer story hours and reading programs for the children.

"Mary was one of the first Hot Springs women to be named 'Woman of Achievement' by the local Business and Professional Women's Club. She was a member of that organization for many years and served as local president in 1958-59. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church and served as a denominational representative on the Board of Trustees of the United Churches. She
held memberships in Daughters of the American Revolution, Order of the Eastern Star, P.E.O., the Society of Mayflower Descendants, Daughters of Colonial Wars, South Dakota Library Assn., Genealogical Society of New Jersey, and the Black Hills Natural History Assn., at Wind Cave Park in which she served as president. She had taught Sunday School classes for several years and worked with the Board of Christian Education. In September of 1977 she concluded two three-year terms as State Governor of the South Dakota Society of Mayflower Descendants.

"Her interest in young people led to many acts of assistance, especially for those seeking an education. Among her hobbies were gardening, rock and mineral collecting, old glass and genealogy."

To which TRUAX adds:

"Mary was a charter member of the Jedediah Smith Corral of The Westerners. She wrote a book, The Society of Mayflower Descendants in South Dakota, published in 1975, and a Grilley Family Genealogy printed in 1957. She was a descendant of RICHARD WARREN, a London merchant who was on the Mayflower and who died in 1628. She was a whiz on genealogy and did much work for the State Historical Society on church records in Hot Springs. I know she compiled a very complete report on the baptisms, marriages, and deaths of old St. Luke's Episcopal Church from 1889 through 1922 and did the same for the Methodist Church. She worked with DON BARNES of Rapid City who was doing microfilming for the State Historical Society of records in the courthouse and at the State Soldier's Home."

MRS. MINERS died at Hot Springs on Feb. 17, 1978. "She was a great lady," TRUAX comments, "warm-hearted, generous, kindly, a truly beautiful face with a smile and a charm that did indeed steal your heart away. She loved children (had none of her own) and developed an outstanding children's library here."

A cursory examination of the titles donated to the Library from MRS. MINER'S estate, through her attorney, ALLEN C. WILSON of Hot Springs, reveals a wide range of interests. Her books constitute an invaluable addition to the LDCLWHS and she'd be pleased, we're sure, that they went to an educational institution dedicated to preserving the rich historical heritage of the region.

Profiles of other LDCLWHS donors will be carried in future issues of The Historian. Few, we suspect, will match the useful and productive life of this truly "great lady."

+++ MEMOIRS OF A PIONEER +++

Among the most recent acquisitions of the LDCLWHS is a 16-page "Memoirs of a Pioneer," an autobiography of GEORGE LATHROP, Early Wyoming Pioneer, who was born in Potts ville, Pa., in 1830—and in 1879 became a driver on the Cheyenne-Black Hills Stage Line.

"In the spring of 1880," LATHROP wrote, "I was driving on the Cheyenne and Black Hills stage line out of Cheyenne, and between there and Fort Laramie. I tell you I had some dandy six-horse teams. Each horse had his own harness that was not used on any other horse as the company had a set of harness for each team. When my teams went into the station the harness was thoroughly cleaned as well as the horses. I was usually said to be the best kicker on the route about clean harness and horses, I was always proud of them..."

This first-hand account of driving the stage on this famous route is a welcome addition to the LDCLWHS. It will undoubtedly interest scholars and writers of Western Americana for generations.
"For the West is the most American part of America." So stated the dedication program of the Leland D. Case Library for Western Historical Studies on April 30, 1976. The "Philosophy And/Or Purposes" of the LDCLWHS, as publicly reported at that time, is restated here for those unfamiliar with this ambitious undertaking. They are the driving force behind the program of study being developed at Black Hills State College to light up the history of the frontier movement. To serve history students and writers the college has established a resource repository for books, pamphlets, manuscripts, newspapers, pictures, microfilms, slides and tapes. Its core is some 5,000 items contributed by Leland D. Case, a Black Hills reared journalist and historian.

The help of interested persons, wherever located, is earnestly solicited. The membership believes that the LDCLWHS can become a significant resource for scholars. It holds a special potential for students and teachers drawn to BHSC by the salubrious Black Hills summer climate.

Uniquely set up: The LDCLWHS is housed in a special section of the new million dollar plus E. Y. BERRY Learning Center. It is organized functionally. Not only are all materials cataloged in the BHSC Library by the conventional Library of Congress system, but they are also carded and shelved by topical categories that are based upon actual classroom use. The special LDCLWHS card catalog is in the CASE LIBRARY AREA.

A Reference Library: Admission is limited to serious students who have qualified for a CASE LIBRARY card, according to a selective plan adapted from procedures of special reference libraries in the United States. Protective security is essential, of course, to achieve the on-going purpose of the CASE LIBRARY. Items are accessioned upon arrival with donors or sources noted also on the CASE LIBRARY bookplate when appropriate. Thus not only is accessibility of CASE LIBRARY items projected into the future, but a record of the generosity and the foresight of persons who have contributed to the project is readily available.

Expertly administered: With the CASE LIBRARY intimately related to teaching, a special faculty committee has been set up to develop policies and procedures. It is headed by DR. PAUL HAIVALA of the BHSC Social Science Division and meets fortnightly. MS. DORA JONES, Special Collections Librarian, supervises the use of the LDCLWHS Room.

Contributions Welcomed: The LDCLWHS seeks Western items—books, manuscripts, letters, newspapers, diaries, photographs, tapes, art, etc. A few of the collections received and accessioned are: Rare Map Collection (EUGENE SZALAY): Mount Rushmore Society Records (HOADLEY DEAN and others); Depositories for Black Hills and Jedediah Smith Corrals of The Westerners; and the THOMAS E. ODELL Collection.

You are invited to direct inquiries to DR. PAUL HAIVALA, CASE Committee chairman, Black Hills State College, Spearfish, S.D.  57783.
A PLACE TO RETIRE

DICK DUNLOP, discerning travel writer and long-time member of the Chicago Corral of The Westerners, came to the Black Hills a while back under the auspices of the Black Hills, Badlands and Lakes Assn. Here's one of the newspaper articles that resulted from that brief visit:

"If you could retire to any place in the world, where in the world would it be?"

That was the headline in the November issue of Ambassador, the Trans-World Airlines magazine.

And the story, by travel writer RICHARD DUNLOP, listed his dozen favorite places in the world to retire, ranging from Glen Lyon, Perthshire, Scotland, to Graz, Austria, to Perth, Australia, to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

In describing why he chose the Black Hills, DUNLOP wrote in part: "The Black Hills are the highest mountains east of the Rockies, and they are rugged and spectacular. Yet they have a certain intimacy the mountains usually don't have, so when I am among them I feel at home..."

"Perhaps it is because they are forested, with brawling streams full of trout, and the people of the Black Hills are agreeable, with a sense of the frontier past and a zest for living today..."

"I'd dwell up a canyon, but high enough from the floor to be safe from flood waters, and Joan and I would invite friends in to broil a steak over a wood fire in the yard and quaff a brew or two, and we'd all tell extravagant lies about the old days. There'd be Western history scholarship too, for it all goes hand in hand in the Black Hills, and you've got to know something of the truth in order to separate the conversational wheat from the chaff."

The Historian editor had the pleasure of spending a few inspiring hours in his study with DICK DUNLOP, and we're pleased that "he caught the bug!"

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OF HISTORICAL NOTE

JIM WINTERBERG has been re-elected Sheriff of the JEDIDIAH SMITH Corral of The Westerners at Hot Springs, S.D. Other officers are DOROTHY SCHNUTE, Deputy Sheriff; CINDY REED, Recorder of Marks and Brands; MAURICE FRARY, Keeper of the Chips; SUSAN BANNER, Trail Boss; HOWARD and MARY JANE CAPE, chairman of the "chomp" committee.

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A "FIRST"

BERNIE WEBB, founder of the MoSoDak Corral of The Westerners at Mobridge, S.D., has relocated at Carrington, N.D., where he has scored a "first." The former president of the S.D. State Historical Society succeeded in launching the first Westerner Corral in North Dakota at Carrington. The two Dakotas were one from 1860 to 1889, and now they once again have something in common. Congratulations, BERNIE!
INDIAN CAMP

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Lame Deer, Mont., has secured an option to purchase 120 acres of land adjoining their sacred Bear Butte in the Black Hills. They intend to develop it as a camp site for their annual pilgrimages to their religious shrine. The tract is privately owned and adjoins Bear Butte State Park.

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HELP!

MS. DORA JONES, Special Collections Librarian at the LDCWHS, reports some incomplete holdings among the Newsletters now being received at the Library. She solicits assistance in filling the gaps. Missing are:

BUCKSKIN BULLETIN: Vol. 1, all issues; Vol. 2, No. 2; Vol. 3, No. 2; Vol. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9, all issues; Vol. 9, No. 4; Vol. 10, No. 4; Vol. 11, No. 2; (Vol. 12, No. 4).

CODDINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER: Vol. 1, No. 8; Vol. 2, No. 6; Vol. 3, No. 11; Vol. 4, No. 3.

HUMAN SCALE: Vol. 1, Nos. 1, 2, 3.

PINES AND PRAIRIE: Vol. 1, all issues; Vol. 2, all issues; Vol. 3, all issues; Vol. 4, Nos. 1-5; Vol. 5, No. 2.

SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL NEWSLETTER: Vol. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 - all issues; Vol. 9, No. 1, 3, 4; Vol. 10, No. 1, 2, 3.

LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER: No. 1, Vol. 2; No. 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15.

Also missing are these periodicals:

ANNALS OF WYOMING: Vol. 1, 2, 3, 4, all issues; Vol. 5, Nos. 2, 3, 4; Vol. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, all issues; Vol. 11, No. 1, 3; Vol. 13, No. 1; Vol. 16, No. 3; Vol. 17, No. 2, 3, 4; Vol. 18, all issues.

THE HESPERTIAN (Hot Springs): Only have Vol. 1, No. 2, August 1895; would like anything else.

SUNDAY CLOTHES: Vol. 1, all issues; Vol. 2, No. 1; Vol. 3, all issues; Vol. 4, No. 2, 3; Vol. 5, No. 3 and all issues thereafter.

TROUBADOUR, South Dakota edition: Only have Vol. 3, No. 2, August 1930; would like everything else.

PRAIRIE PROSE: Only have Vol. 1, No. 3, Summer 1943; would like anything else.

BLACK HILLS NUGGETS: Vol. 1, No. 8; Vol. 8, No. 3; Vol. 9, No. 3; Vol. 10, all issues.

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MORE FRIENDS NEEDED

Those interested in becoming Friends of the CASE Library (everybody is welcome) are encouraged to "saddle up" with those already in the vanguard of enthusiastic supporters. Cash contributions as well as gifts of western historical material are earnestly solicited. Make checks payable to "Black Hills State College Foundation (Case)" and mail to Black Hills State College, Spearfish, SD 57783.

Membership fees are:

- Annual sustaining----------------------$ 7.50
- Annual contributing---------------------50.00
- Annual Endowing-----------------------$ 100.00+
- Life Fellowship------------------------$1,000.00++
- Life Donor-----------------------------$2,500.00++
- Life Benefactor------------------------$5,000.00++

+Annual Endowing Memberships are cumulative; ten will bring a Life Fellowship.

++Funds become Endowment Principal (only income used).