The Black Hills Historian

A publication of the Leland D. Case Library for Western Historical Studies at Black Hills State College, Spearfish, S.D. 57783

7th annual BH History Conference program is announced

Eighth papers and two special addresses are on the agenda for the Ninth Annual Black Hills History Conference to be held April 23-24 at the Holiday Inn of the Northern Black Hills near Spearfish, S.D.

The two-day event, sponsored by the Social Science Division of Black Hills State College, Spearfish, is again expected to attract a sizeable crowd of regional historians and history buffs. Dr. Sever L. Eubank, chairman of BHSC's Science Division, is in charge of arrangements.

Two sessions on the afternoon of Friday, April 23, will open the conference. Registration will be from noon to 1 p.m.

Session I, focused on the theme, "They Came From Afar," starts at 1 p.m. with a paper, "Aunt Sally - The First Non-Indian Woman in the Black Hills," by Helen Rezatto, Deadwood, S.D., author and field historian for the Leland D. Case Library of Western Historical Studies.

The history of "The Yellow Man in the Black Hills: The Chinese in the Northern Black Hills" will be told by Dan Lieftman, Spearfish, to conclude the first afternoon session.

Following a coffee break at poolside, the second session, "Cowboys and Indians," will get underway at 3 p.m. Kevin Kerr, Pierre, S.D., will give a paper on "A Brief History of the South Dakota Brand Board," and Donavan Sprague, Spearfish, will present a paper on "Early Indian Villages in South Dakota."

A social hour is scheduled for 6 to 7 p.m., again at poolside, and will be followed by the traditional evening banquet. Featured speaker will be C. Barron McIntosh of the University of Nebraska - Lincoln whose topic will be "Land Alienation Research: Let's Apply It to the Black Hills."

Late registration will take place from 8 to 8:30 a.m. Saturday and will be followed by two more sessions, each with two historical presentations.

Session III will open with a program describing "Newspaper Reaction to Wounded Knee" by Carole Saunders, Rapid City, S.D.

It will be followed by the story of "The South Dakota Spa - A History of Hot Springs (S.D.) Health Resort" by Suzanne Julin, Vermillion, S.D.

Session IV will follow a 10 to 10:30 a.m. coffee break at poolside. It will open with a presentation on "50 Years of Water: A Glimpse at the History of the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project" by Ken Wetz, Newell, S.D. Then Dave Strain and Keith Cochran, both of Rapid City, will present a paper, "Revisiting the Black Hills and the Fleur de Lys Ranch with the Baron Mandat - Grancey - 1887."

The conference will conclude with a luncheon address in the "76 Room, "Early Times at Tech," by Dr. Charles Thielan, humorist and faculty member at the S.D. School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City.

Conference fees will be $2 registration, $8 for the Friday evening banquet and $5 for the Saturday luncheon, per person.

Further information can be acquired by contacting Dr. Sever L. Eubank, chairman, Social Science Division, BHSC, Spearfish, S.D. 57783. Telephone: (605) 642-6212.

History writing contests

awards night set April 23

Winners of the 1982 Leland D. Case Awards in Western History Writing will be announced at the April 23 banquet program of the annual Black Hills State College History Conference. The entry deadline closed March 15.

The awards committee, composed of BHSC faculty members, announced that winners will be selected in three categories: Senior, Student and Senior Citizen.

Field Historians

set monthly meetings

First prize awards will be $150 in the senior category open to professional and amateur historians, $50 in the student and senior citizen categories. Runners-up will receive cash awards of $75, $25 and $25, respectively.

All entries will be placed in the Case Library. Winners in 1981 and their subjects were:


Don Young, Coordinator of Case Library Field Historians, has announced that monthly on-campus meetings of Field Historians are now being held.

Purpose is “to bring ourselves up to date on Case Library affairs and to make continuing plans for the future.” The first meeting was held on March 24 in the library following lunch at the Student Union.

The meetings will take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month and Young reports a second meeting per month may be set up later to accommodate Field Historians at Hot Springs and Rapid City, S.D., and Newcastle, Wyo.

“BHSU will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1982,” Young reminds, “and plans and activities are well underway for that big year.”

Ethnic Minority Groups in the American West,” runner-up.


Ms. Fell has served as a volunteer worker at the Case Library.

The cash awards were provided from a fund established by Dr. Leland D. Case of Tucson, Ariz., to encourage research and writing in the field of western history.

Irene Semones of Lead, S.D., new president of the Friends of the Leland D. Case Library, won’t surprise anybody if she nurses the organization to new heights of accomplishment. She’s a Registered Nurse and a former American Airlines stewardess.

The Illinois native was reared in Chicago Heights and received her R.N. degree at the Augustana School of Nursing.

She came to the Black Hills when her husband, Dr. Arthur Semones, opened a medical practice at Lead in 1950. They have one daughter, Elizabeth, now living in Denver, Colo.

When Dr. Semones died suddenly in 1972, at the age of 47, his widow busied herself in a myriad of volunteer services, including The Case Library. She lists reading and golf as her favorite hobbies.

“We’re doing the best we can to promote the Case Library and to make its resources available to more people,” Mrs. Semones comments. “We have made great progress and I expect we’ll continue to make gains with each passing year.”

Mrs. Semones succeeded Mrs. Marion (Mattie) Hersrud of Sturgis, S.D., who remains on the executive committee as a member-at-large.

Mary Garman, Sundance, Wyo., was elected vice-president at the annual meeting. Judith Larson, Spearfish, and Richard Hart, Sturgis, were re-elected secretary and treasurer, respectively.

At its January 13, 1982, meeting, the board also extended executive committee at-large membership to S. Cushman Clark of Deadwood, S.D., former treasurer. It also confirmed Mrs. Semones’ nomination of Don Young, Spearfish, as Coordinator of Field Historians and approved the re-appointment of Harold Shunk, Rapid City, S.D., as Membership Chairman.

The board voted to sponsor an autograph party for Dr. Melvin Skarsten, retired BHSU professor, whose latest book, “Those Remarkable People: The Dakotas,” was completed at age 89. The date of the party will be announced through the area media when it is set.

The Friends directors will next meet at 7:30 p.m. April 14 in the Faculty Reading Room of the college library.
When he isn't writing, Author - Editor - Field Historian Bob Lee engages in another favorite avocation -- reading.

Historian-editor-author is a man who can't say 'no'

By M. Jill Karolevitz

With the newspaper business in his blood and a love for history in his heart, Bob Lee, one of several field historians for the Case Library, finds it difficult to divide himself between the two interests.

Born under the sign of Gemini, the twins, Lee often finds himself trying to do two things at once -- editing a weekly newspaper, as well as writing for and editing other publications -- while continuing his historical hobby.

As editor of the Tri-State Livestock News, based in Sturgis, S.D., Lee's schedule includes writing the weekly column and articles for several historical journals, including "South Dakota History" which he helped to establish for the South Dakota State Historical Society of which he has served as president. He still serves on its board of trustees.

With his busy schedule, however, Lee has found it hard to find the time to put his historical collections to work.

"You can do so much research, but somewhere along the line, you have to start writing," Lee said. "One of the reasons I came into a weekly operation was because I thought it would be a breeze, compared to working on the historical books."

But that was before he was faced with the task of putting his historical research to work. Lee said he is currently working on a book about the history of the Black Hills area, which he hopes to have published soon.
The coffers of the Friends organization were enriched by $504.85 last summer as a result of its sponsorship of a Book Fair during Spearfish's annual "Arts in the Park Festival."

Don Howe of Spearfish, project chairman, and his able chief assistants, Don Young of Spearfish and Dick Hart of Sturgis, spent between 40 and 50 hours of volunteer service in collecting, sorting and transporting the donated books to and from the park. Books were collected in barrels which were labeled and placed in Lead, Deadwood, Sturgis, Spearfish and Sundance.

In addition, large contributions were received from the libraries at Hot Springs and Rapid City.

New books were donated by North Plains Press, Aberdeen, S.D. and Kay Riodan of Rapid City contributed a case of her popular cookbooks.

The books were displayed on several long (and heavy) tables and a round table with umbrella which served as an autograph table for visiting authors. Case Library Field Historian Helen Rezatto and Irma Klock of Lead autographed their most recent books for buyers.

Proceeds were earmarked for library acquisitions. Not surprisingly, the Friends board of directors voted at their January meeting to sponsor another Book Fair at the 1982 Festival next summer.

Editorial, readying news releases for typesetting, and traveling to different areas of the five Old West Region States covering various livestock - related events.

"Newspapering comes easy to me now because of my years of experience. It's not as much of a challenge anymore," Lee mused. "But since we switched to a livestock newspaper, I have been challenged to learn a whole new job about that particular industry."

Lee began his newspaper career in his hometown of Minneapolis, Minn., at the Minneapolis Tribune. He was also a Stars and Stripes reporter in Italy during World War II and worked on the Rocky Mountain News in Denver, Colo.

When he moved to South Dakota in 1946, he became the Sunday editor for the Rapid City Journal. Later, he married Delores (Dodie) Behrens, whom he had settled in the Black Hills area in 1879, which first spurred Lee's interest in the history of Dakota Territory.

Since then he has collected books, photos and clippings pertaining to the history of the Black Hills area, Indian and white relations, and the military, with plans to compile the information into book form.

His published works include co-authoring "Last Grass Frontier," a history of the cattle industry in South Dakota; "Tragedy Ends An Empire," the life story of Sitting Bull published in "Dakota Panorama," the book commemorating the Dakota Territory Centennial; "Chronology of The Old West" in Ford's "Old West," editing and contributing chapters to the Deadwood Centennial book "Gold, Gals, Guns, Guts."

In addition, he has written ar-

Although Lee now has a larger staff to help him with his newspaper duties, he's still a frustrated historian because the other activities he's involved in continue to keep him away from "that great day when I can write - using all the research material that I've collected and stowed away."

Aside from the Tri-State Livestock News, Lee is the editor of the Black Hills Historian and the Naja Nugget. He's also a member of the South Dakota, Nebraska and Montana State Historical Societies, and National Historical Society, the Western Writers of America, the Old Fort Mende Museum Assn., the Society of Black Hills Pioneers, the Black Hills Corral of the Westerners, and the Last Roundup Club. In addition, he holds membership in Sigma Delta Chi, the Olive Branch Lodge of the Masons, Naja Shrine, the High Plains Heritage Center, the Crazy Horse Commission, Sons of Norway and Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Company of Military Historians and the Council of American Military Posts (CAMP).

"My output of historical writing - has dropped significantly in the last few years," Lee lamented. "I could handle more writing though if I dropped all the other activities except newspapering - because that's my bread and butter - but I let myself get talked into all this. Throughout

(Continued on Page 4)
Library donations comes from eight states, eight S. D. towns

Eight states and the same number of communities in South Dakota are represented in donations to the Case Library since the last issue of The Black Hills Historian, reflecting the continued rapid growth of the regional facility’s archival holdings.

Miss Dora Ann Jones, Special Collections Librarian, discloses the following donors have contributed useful research material since the last report:

From Arizona, Dr. Leland D. Case of Tuscon continues to lead the pack with additional boxes of historical material of considerable significance. Dr. William B. Sleen, also of Tuscon, is a repeat contributor. And Robert Lenon of Patagonia came through with the generous gift of Dakota contributors in adding to the archival records. They included Donald P. Howe, Al Tomas, Paul Haivala, Jerry Swarts, Bill Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Myrl H. Hanson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Newcomer, Dr. M.O. Skarsten, Ms. Louise Rand and Keith Kolstad.

Other Black Hills residents who made important contributions were Mrs. Dorothy Delicate, Custer; Ben F.R. Rosse, and The West River Catholic, Rapid City;

Mrs. Joyce Wilson, Hot Springs; Homer Ayers, Marion (Mattie) Hersrud, Richard T. Hart and Bob Lee, all of Sturgis; Paul W. Hennessey and Ms. Doris A. Kiplinger, both of Belle Fourche.

Much appreciated gifts also came from Rev. Patrick Igoe of Bonesteel and Mrs. Audrae Visser of Elkton, also in South Dakota.

Each of the donors received a letter of appreciation from Miss Jones on behalf of the college and the Friends.

Er... sorry about that

We erred - twice - at least, in the last issue of The Black Hills Historian.

Our article about the death of Harry Baum, author - son of L. Frank Baum of “Wizard of Oz” fame, indicated his passing had been recent. We assumed as much when the Chicago newspaper obituary reached us undated.

But Mrs. Brenda Baum Turner of South Laguna, Calif., writes to report he had actually died in 1967. Now, who saves obituaries that long before forwarding? We won't tell.

Mrs. Turner also reports that there's an International Wizard of Oz Club, composed of fans and Oz book collectors, that kindred spirits can join for a mere $10. It includes a subscription to the “Baum Bugle,” described as a wonderful quarterly magazine that is “highly intellectual.”

Douglas Crozier of Berkeley, Ill., retired assistant treasurer of the United Methodist Church and author of “A Short History of the Navajos” as well as being a member of the Chicago Corral of The Westerners, informs us we erred in reporting in the last issue that Leland D. Case helped found the Chicago Corral in “1946.”

Crozier sends along photostats of the first few pages of The Westerners’ Brand Book covering discussions the Chicago Corral heard during the period March, 1944, to March, 1945. Its preface reveals:

“...It was a wet, rainy night in..."
Miss Jones also reported that 372 pieces of other material, including monographs and serials, had been received during the period. They were contributed by 18 separate donors.

"We have completed the pulling, stamping, and refiling of cards project," she added. "We are continuing work on the vertical file and have begun work on the picture file."

Miss Jones disclosed that 33 persons, all but six of them researchers, had visited the special collections a total of 43 times. She also reported that featured exhibits in the Grannis-Martin Case during the summer of 1961 pertained to Dr. Leland D. Case and Korczak Zolkowski, sculptor of the Crazy Horse mountain memorial at Custer, S.D.

Four docents had volunteered 161 1/2 hours of service during the

BHSC hosts Indian Council

BHSC and its Center of Indian Studies were hosts to the Fourth Annual Council on the History of the Northern Plains Indians last fall.

Papers and presenters at the two-day conference held in the Upper Lounge of the Student Union Building were:

"The Dawes Act of 1887 and Its Impact on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation," Patrick Lee, BHSC.

"Old Cars and the Social Dynamics of Dominance on the Pine Ridge Reservation," Dr. Dowell Smith, Oglala Sioux Community College.

"The Impact of Colonization on the Plains Indians," Mitch Chapel, Teachers Corps, BHSC.

"Early Missionaries and The Plains Indians," Ray Howe, BHSC Center of Indian Studies.

"Giving Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 Another Look," Dr. Dave Miller, BHSC.

"Indian Involvement in Organizing the Developing Counties in South Dakota (Bennett)," Edison Ward, Martin, S.D.

"The Developmental History of Lakota Language," Verine Cedar Face, BHSC.

"History of the Literature of the Northern Plains Indians," Calvin Jumping Bull, Oglala Sioux Community College.

my experiences and with the fact that I write, anyone who has had anything to write has come to me.

For the Sturgis Centennial in 1978, Lee wrote a three-act play, "The Court - Martial of Major Marcus A. Reno," which was produced by a community cast during two summers. It was based on the actual court-martial of the controversial Major Reno of Battle of the Little Big Horn notoriety at Fort Meade when that frontier military post was giving birth to the nearby town bearing the name of the Seventh Cavalry commander, Colonel Samuel D. Sturgis. Lee has also presented papers at numerous regional history conferences, including that of the prestigious Western History Assn. of which he is also a member.

"A lot of people ask me how I can do so much," Lee continued. "There's only one way -- inadequately. When you take on too much, you can't do justice to it all. I have a feeling of remorse about that because I'm not doing the job I should be doing on these extra things."

But Lee is not a man to give up... "Don't let your dreams die, for when they do, you're like a bird with a broken wing and can't fly," he quoted.

Living up to that statement, he continues to plan for the day he will make use of his historical research, even if he has to wait until after he retires.

"When I retire, I'll have the perfect formula for retirement -- keeping busy," Lee said, referring to the history books and papers he plans to write. "After I go, my collection will be quite an asset to the Case library ... but I want to make use of it first!"

March, 1944, when a posse comitatus of men, summoned by Acting Sheriffs Leland D. Case, Franklin J. Meine and Elmo Scott Watson met in the latter's home to discuss the hitherto inedited adventures of Calamity Jane, as presented by Clarence Paine, of Beloit. After discussing the lady's adventures and misadventures, they decided to 'do it again' -- and The Westerners was founded.

The Chicago Corral, of course, was Number One. The number has climbed to over 100 during the ensuing 33 years -- thanks chiefly to that nonpareil booster now residing in Tucson, Ariz. -- and has enlarged its field of operations to include "International" in its title.

Our sincere apologies for these careless errors of fact! And our equally sincere thanks to Mrs. Turner and Crozier for setting the record straight. That's the way we want it.

Bob Lee
Editor

Writers honored

(From Preceding Page)

[The text continues with the list of published works and the nominees whom the list of published works was available at press time was Myrtle Hasvold of Chamberlain, S.D. She was nominated on the basis of her published history of homesteading in the Chamberlain area.]

The awards committee, going down the list of nominees alphabetically, covered the "A" through "L" names in the first group of honorees. The remainder of the alphabet will be covered in the second group to be honored at the annual Friends' meeting in September 1982.
Case Library Friends honor non-fiction writers

Sixteen residents of Western South Dakota who have made non-fiction contributions to the history and knowledge of South Dakota and the West were given special recognition during the First Annual Awards Luncheon held last fall in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Friends of the Case Library at BHSC.

The recognition event was designed to express the Friends' appreciation of "those writers, dramatists, poets, artists, etc., who have made the historical and present-day West vibrant and alive for the rest of us." The first honorees were selected from a list of 30 nominations submitted to a Friends committee chaired by fish who, at 90 years of age, left the nearby Fort Meade VA Hospital to attend the awards program. The retired rural mail carrier and lumber yard owner wrote about his colorful career in a book published in 1979. He has also authored several booklets on regional history.

- Don C. Crowser, Deadwood, S.D., author of "Dakota Indian Treaties - From Nomad to Reservation."
- S.D., (since deceased) author of "Seth Bullock - Frontier Marshal." Kellar was long-time general counsel for the Homestake Mining Co. at Lead and he was a grandson of the frontier marshal he wrote about in his first published book.
- Joe Koller, Belle Fourche, S.D., author of "Homesteading in South Dakota" in "Dakota Panorama" and 40 western short stories published in national pulp magazines including "The West" and "Frontier Times."
- Another honoree who was unable to attend the awards program was Dora A. Kiplinger, Belle Fourche, S.D., Butte County rural school teacher and author of "Prairie Flowers," who confides, "I write solely for pleasure and relaxation."

Including one on farm steam engines, two on raising buffalo and two about South Dakota farm families as well as numerous magazine articles.
Mrs. Doris Phillips was in charge of arrangements for the luncheon program. Honorees were limited to residents of Western South Dakota who are writers of western-oriented non-fiction, exclusive of poetry or plays, who had been published through the summer of 1981. Plans are to expand the recognition awards to others in the region in subsequent years. The awards program will be a feature of the annual general meeting of the Friends.

The initial honorees were presented with framed Certificates of Appreciation signed by Dr. J. Gilbert Hause, president of BHSC, and the officers of the Friends organization. These honorees were:

- W.L. (Bill) Campbell of Spearfish
- Mary Ann Goodson, Piedmont, S.D., who has written and illustrated several informative books, including “The Gateway Arch,” “The Rushmore Story,” and “Black Hills Attractions.” She is the mother of seven and is a freelance illustrator and cartoonist.
- John R. Honerkamp, Piedmont, S.D., author of “At the Foot of the Mountain,” a history of a small area of the Black Hills centered about Piedmont Valley. The book was completed despite the fact that Honerkamp has been confined to a wheelchair for many years as the result of an accident.
- Kenneth C. Keller, Deadwood, S.D., who has written five books,
- David F. Mccauley of the board of directors.
- Dana C. Jennings, Rapid City, S.D., who has written five books,
- Marshall Trux of Hot Springs, first president of the Friends and still an active Case Library Field Historian, proudly displays the certificate of appreciation he received during the annual meeting.
Book Reviews

Parker book on Deadwood will complete any BH library

By Bob Lee


Almost every book ever written about the Black Hills region—and there have been more of them than any other part of South Dakota—inevitably focuses the most attention on Deadwood. That is not surprising because its history by far surpasses its neighboring communities, including the older Custer, in color, drama, pathos and human interest. It is the only South Dakota town to take rank with Tombstone, Ariz., Dodge City, Kans., Virginia City, Mont., and Abilene, Kans., in national notoriety.

Of the many books about this former metropolis of the Black Hills, whose population for a brief period was the largest in all Dakota Territory, Parker's is unquestionably the best. The author of two other books about the Black Hills, he knows his subject exceedingly well. In fact, he is indubitably the authority on Deadwood history and he writes about it with the familiarity of one who was reared there—which he was.

When Melvin O. Skarsten, S.D., completed his second book last year at age 89, he turned his attention to two other books he's writing, including one about Black Hills State College.

His latest book, "Those Remarkable People: The Dakotas," follow a biography of George Duvalier, an interpreter with the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition.

BHSC Student Doug Nelson, writing about the remarkable Skarsten in the college publication, "Today," reported:

"Of his most recent book, he says, "At first I didn't really want to write it, but a friend of my daughter's talked me into it. It's written in such a way that either children or adults can enjoy it." He adds, "Really, my first love is the Lewis and Clark expedition—they fascinate me. I've been over almost their entire route."

Most of Skarsten's books interest, including chairman of the Psychology Department. Musing on his days at Dakota Normal (as it was then known) he says, "We had about 15 instructors—I could name very one of them—and our average class had about 100 freshmen. Of course, you couldn't get a degree here then."

He goes on, "Not to brag, but I was one of the people who helped change Dakota Normal to a four year college where you could get a degree. It took a lot of work and a lot of changes, but I knew then it would be worth it. That was around 1942, I think..." I really enjoyed my time at Dakota Normal. I always got along well with the..."

Author Skarsten somewhat remarkable too

Jerome Greene book on Slim Buttes out

Jerome A. Greene is the latest Black Hills Field historian to break into the ranks of authors of books on regional subjects. The Research Historian for the National Park Service in Deadwood, Greene's book is the latest entry in the prolific output of writers who have chronicled the history of the Black Hills.

Parker’s book consists of nine chapters, well illustrated and footnoted, and a selected bibliography that reflects his exhaustive research efforts. The author, a popular speaker as well as a skilled writer, tells the story of Deadwood and the Black Hills with the impish humor that stamps him as a delightful yarn spinner. His book will not only enhance any collection of Black Hills publications, it will complete it!
Field Historian’s book brings Deadwood’s ghosts alive

By Bob Lee


Historians and history buffs have long been fascinated by cemeteries and have recognized them as the source of many interesting stories. One of the country’s most popular, judging from its annual count of visitors, is Mount Moriah, Deadwood’s famed “Boot Hill,” which attracts a horde of curiosity seekers. Mount Moriah’s main attractions are the graves of such well - publicized frontier personalities as Wild Bill Hickok, a man who lived by the gun and died by one; Calamity Jane, whose association with the murdered gunman still stirs controversy; the martyred Preacher Smith who was among the first whites to pay the price of illegally invading the sacred domain of the Sioux; and the diminutive latter day town character, Potato Creek Johnny Perrett, whose greatest achievement was finding what he believed to be the biggest gold nugget ever panned in “thos thar Hills,” but wasn’t.

Case Library Field Historian

Helen Rezatto, a splendid writer who took up residence in Deadwood relatively recently, quickly caught the history bug that invariably engulfs Black Hills residents and her research zeal soon led her to the cemetery overlooking her adopted hometown. There she found nuggets of historical appeal that far surpassed that of Potato Creek Johnny’s celebrated find. She laboriously searched out the stories behind the tombstones and performed a major miracle by making the highly interesting men and women buried there come alive again in the pages of this captivating book.

While devoting adequate attention to the stories of the better known characters buried there mentioned above, this reviewer was most intrigued by what she learned of the lesser known personalities who share the hilltop cemetery with them. Her explanation of how the cemetery was started, its gradual evolution as a major tourist attraction and its role as the final resting place of the developers as well as the scoundrels of Deadwood and its environs will enchant the book’s readers.

The well - researched work is divided into four chapters titled “History of Deadwood and Its Two Boot Hills,” “Vignettes of the Big Four” (identified above), “Vignettes of Pioneers and Notables,” and “Epitaphs.” There is a wealth of historical material of an informative and entertaining nature in each of the chapters. They are greatly augmented by an admirable collection of photographs, many of them rare, and appealing drawings by Mary Ann Goodson, talented illustrator from Piedmont, S.D. There is a helpful bibliography and useful index that add considerably to the value of the work. Moreover the book gives a good overview of general Black Hills history.

Mrs. Rezatto’s meticulous search for the stories behind the tombstones raises some ghosts that will haunt readers and mesmerize them. Her book is worthy of being placed with the best in Black Hills histories, and we highly recommend it.
Heritage Center co-founder likes Longhorns

Sturgis, S.D. - It's not surprising that Harry Blair, an active member of the Black Hills Corral of The Westerners headquartered here, is an ardent supporter of Longhorns as a vital element of the livestock industry. Blair, 92 on April 10, 1962, is a survivor like the pioneer breed he raises on his Carter County, Montana, ranch.

"They can take care of themselves and that's important in these days of high production costs and low cattle prices," Blair says. "They calve easy, better than other cattle, and I've seen calves beat their mothers up from the ground after birthing."

He also likes the Longhorns' ability to rustle down through the snow for feed, a valued trait on the vast montana rangelands, and to gain well on minimum feed. His admiration for the breed is the more remarkable because he is well known in the region as a prominent leader in the development of registered Hereford herds.

Blair, a former director of the South Dakota Hereford Assn., still raises Herefords on his South Dakota Hereford Ranch northeast of Buffalo, S.D., in partnership with Guy Doll. They carry the Hackamore brand there. His Longhorn herd is raised on his Bell Tower Ranch some 30 miles southeast of Ekalaka, Mont., where he ranches in partnership with Argalen King.

The Blair family was well known in Hereford circles, producing many local and regional champions, long before Harry diversified his operation with the addition of Longhorns. The family, consisting of the parents, four boys and a sister, came to South Dakota from Missouri in 1907.

In addition to their ranching activities, the Blair's have been active in local, county, state and school affairs. Both Harry and Enos served as Meade County Commissioners in their home county seat and as Senators in the South Dakota Legislation.

Moreover, Harry has been president of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Assn. and a director of the American National Cattlemen's Assn. (now the National Cattlemen's Assn.)

His three brothers are now deceased, but Harry is still going strong and frequently making headlines in the local press with examples of his physical prowess despite his advanced age. He has been the oldest participant in the traditional Sunrise Service held atop towering Bear Butte every Easter morning for many years, making the arduous climb up the historic mountain near Sturgis at a pace that shames the younger climbers.

Never one to shun experimentation, whether it be politics (he's a Jeffersonian Democrat who votes for conservatives whatever their party) or Longhorns, Harry took his first balloon flight when he was 86 and he's repeated the experience every year since. The Black Hills Balloon Races are held every summer near Spearfish, S.D., as a fund raiser for the High Plains Heritage Center near there which Harry and a rancher friend now deceased founded to perpetuate the memories of the people in all walks of life who helped develop the High Plains states of Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, North and South Dakota.

Harry is chairman of the Heritage Center, a post he has held since its founding five years ago, and he has invested heavily in the project. The Center, which will feature displays representing 100 years of the five High Plains states as well as memorabilia of the pioneer families that contributed to this progress, is scheduled to open next summer without state or federal funds.

"Our country was built up by people who paid their own way," Blair comments. "It's only proper that this memorial to these pioneers be financed by the people who want to preserve the heritage they left us."

Harry obtained his first Longhorns in 1969 from the private herds of Baxter Berry, Badlands area Rancher now deceased, and Don Hight of the Winner, S.D., area who were effusive in their praise of the breed's survivability in the rugged lands of western South Dakota. He found them to be particularly adaptable to the sparse vegetative rangelands of eastern Montana, and reports they have thrived extremely well there.

Harry and the ranch girl he married in 1915, now deceased, reared three children, a daughter living in Sturgis, another residing in Prescott, Ariz., and a son, George, now operating the ranch in Pleasant Valley. Harry established after he and his brothers split up the family holdings during the 1948 dispersion. The son is now serving in the State Legislature like his father and uncle before him.

SDSU professor edits series of bibliographies on the Indians

Jack Marken, professor of English at South Dakota State University, Brookings, recently completed the first in a series of bibliographies on the American Indian.

Marken is the general editor of the series, entitled the Native American Bibliographies, which will include approximately 20 bibliographies published during the 1980's. The series will deal with various tribal groups and subjects dealing with the American Indian.

The Bibliography of the Sioux, the only bibliography offered through Scarecrow Press, Inc., Mufchon, N.J., Marken has also been involved in the publishing of two other bibliographies on the American Indian, as well as having published various books and articles on the topic.

An Ohio native, Marken currently serves as coordinator of Indian Studies at SDSU. He was formerly head of the English Department. He is a founder and past chairman of the South Dakota Committee on the Humanities.
made the trip in an immigrant car while the rest of the family traveled in a regular passenger train. In order to qualify for the reduced rate of an immigrant car, which was nothing more than a box car, the railroad required that families settling in the developing western states send somebody along with their household goods and livestock.

So, while the rest of the family was traveling in the comparative comfort of a passenger car, Harry and John came to Sturgis in the immigrant car that carried a team of horses, a couple of pups and some chickens, as well as the household goods. The family settled in Pleasant Valley, a picturesque region along the eastern ridge of the Black Hills between Sturgis and Rapid City.

The family went into the cattle business shortly after its arrival in the Hills with the boys handling the chores since their father was an invalid. The Blair brothers, Enos and Strauter along with Harry and John, established the Black Hills Hereford Ranch as a partnership in 1928. It remained a partnership operation until a dispersion sale was held in 1948 and the brothers branched out into individual ranching enterprises.

However, the Black Hills Hereford Ranch the brothers had founded remains in the family today with Calvin Blair, son of John, and his son, Bruce, continuing the tradition.

An Open Invitation

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 Friends of the CASE Library and mail to Richard Hart, treasurer, 1517 Davenport St., Sturgis, S.D. 57785.

Membership fees are:
Annual Sustaining ........................................... $7.50
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** Funds become Endowment Principal (only income used).

Currently Marken is working on a contact history of the Sioux with the aid of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Author Skarsten

(From preceding page)

problem, anyone who engages Skarsten in a conversation soon discovers that his mind is sharp. When discussing one of his books, the Lewis and Clark expedition, his days at BII or any of a number of other topics, he becomes as animated as an urban conversationalist.

About his latest book, he says, "The Sioux really are an amazing people. They started out in North Carolina about the time of Columbus and steadily moved westward. The white man underestimated them both militarily and otherwise, as just a bunch of savages. I think that's finally starting to change."

"I think the future of the Sioux is looking much better than most people realize. So many of them are getting educated that it's going to make a difference. Even so, I think they will always be a people with a strong sense of their own values, particularly in the area of family ties."

"It's too early to tell how well the book will sell yet, but no matter how it does, I plan to keep writing."