



Photo Courtesy of Bob Davis

**STURGIS
&
MEADE
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Inside this issue:

September Scoop of History Information	2
December Scoop of History Information	2
Nolin Monument Update	2
“The Last Black Hills Goldrush”	3
History Day Recap	4
Calendar of Events	5
Membership Form	5
Our Sponsors	6

President’s Report ... Mark Rambow

The Sturgis and Meade County Historical Society has been able to close the books on our third “History Day” event. We had another very successful day, with large crowds for the various tours and speakers. Planning is already underway for the 4th Annual event next June!

Sturgis and Fort Meade will be celebrating their 140th anniversaries in 2018! We are just beginning to plan, but we feel that a community-wide celebration is in order. With the cooperation of

other community organizations, we will be focusing on the theme of the 140th anniversary, and planning many varied activities and programs during next year’s History Day!

Additionally, we are expanding the popular “Scoop of History” program. This popular speaker series has been traditionally held in spring and fall, but we will now be holding them four times a year to accommodate more wonderful speakers and topics. Please read

inside about the programs planned for the series in September and December!

We look forward to seeing you throughout the coming year!

I can be contacted at:
mark@sturgishistory.org
Or the organization at:
info@sturgishistory.org

Thank you for your memberships and support!

Our Society

MEMBERSHIPS

- 46 individual
- 30 family
- 1 lifetime member
- (113 total members)

SPONSORSHIPS

- 3 paid sponsors
- 13 in-kind sponsors
- (16 total sponsors)

Your interest and monetary contributions help us move forward in preserving the history of Sturgis & Meade County. If you are not already a member, please consider joining us! You will find a membership form on page 5 of this newsletter. (Information provided by Joan Bachmeier.)

UPCOMING SCOOPS OF HISTORY ...

BUS TRIP TO FAITH

You’ll visit the historic Flannery’s Beer/Ice House
Saturday, September 16
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

GETTIN’ RUBBER IN ALL FOUR GEARS

Memory sharing of the 1960s drag racing near Sturgis Airport
Sunday, December 3
2:00 p.m.

Read more about both of these events inside and then make your plans to **join us!**

Scoop of History: Visit to Faith Beer-Ice House. . . *Leona Schroeder*



On Saturday, September 16, the public is invited to join the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society for their Fall Scoop of History event which is a bus trip to Faith to tour the Flannery's Beer-Ice House. Originally known as the Minneapolis Brewing Company Warehouse, the 1911 beer-ice house is now listed on the

National Register of Historic Places. Annelie Afdahl from Faith will join us on the bus to discuss points of interest and to answer questions.

Transportation to Faith will be provided by Da Bus, with seating limited to 30 people. To reserve a spot, which costs \$25 per person, a check for the full amount should be sent to the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society, P. O. Box 221, Sturgis, SD 57785. If the trip is cancelled for any reason, all money will be refunded.

The bus will leave from the Sturgis Community Center at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 16. A stop will be made at the Union Center Cenex Station to pick up participants from the rural area. It is expected that the bus will return to Sturgis by 3:30 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring a sack lunch and a drink for an 'indoor picnic' in Faith.

Join us for this field trip to the opposite corner of our 3,500 square mile county!

Scoop of History: "Gettin' Rubber In All Four Gears". . . *David Super*

Spinning tires, straining engines and edgy drivers... does this bring back memories from the 1960s and drag racing on the straight stretch of paved road out by the Sturgis Airport?

On Sunday, December 3, the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society will feature "Gettin' Rubber In All Four Gears" as one of its free, Scoop of History, pro-



grams. The presentation will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Knuckle Saloon.

Longtime Rapid City Journal reporter and motorsports enthusiast, Jim Holland, is

working with David Super and other volunteers to assemble stories, photos and artifacts from that era that will be woven into the presentation. Anyone (especially drivers) with information about "The Drags" is encouraged to contact Holland or Super to share their knowledge. Call Super at 605-716-5523 or Holland at 605-484-7063.

The Charles Nolin Monument Update ... *Ross Lamphere*

The Nolin Monument will be reappearing soon!

Landscaping is being done in the next week or so and construction of the monument will be close behind. The plaques are done, as well as the mounting brackets, which were done by local fabricator, Al Bruch, at Farm Service

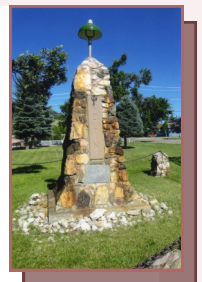
Repair. The brackets were then coated by Dakota Kustom Coating and are awaiting the final phase of pouring the sidewalk.

Discussions are taking place as to when a formal dedication may be held. 2018 will mark the 140th anniversary of Sturgis, which may make a great time for our formal dedication.

Drive by the new Regional Hospital and

Clinic and watch as the monument reappears this fall!

Thank you for all the contributions from people near and far to make this Nolin Monument Revitalization a reality!



Please send comments, corrections, or ideas for future newsletter content to Earla Karels at earla.karels@gmail.com

Historical Musings . . . Mark Rambow

The Last Black Hills Gold Rush

While other areas of the Black Hills are rich with stories of the wild days of the gold rush, Sturgis is usually not included in those tales. In very recent research, however, I found that Sturgis was home to a small, and possibly the last, gold rush in the Black Hills.

In the late fall of 1936, and winter of 1937, papers around the country were running the story of a gold discovery in Sturgis. It seems that 11-year-old Jennie Bayliss, daughter of "Sergeant John and Mrs. Bayless," (both spellings appearing in the stories) had previously purchased a lot across the street from her parent's home with money she had saved. The lot had a hill she wanted to sled on! The story says that it was located in town along Deadman Creek.

Jennie encouraged her parents to build a house there. After digging for a septic tank, they found a large rock in the dirt which had been scattered in the yard. It had particles resembling gold. Not knowing for sure what they had, Jennie and her family took the rock to M. T. Snyder, a local jeweler, who assayed it and found a considerable amount of gold! As happens with gold discoveries, word leaked out in the community, and the gold rush was underway.

The Bayless' were quick to begin searching through the other dirt on their property for additional gold. It is said that more was immediately found. According to the story, two local men, State's Attorney, Jack Everett, and local businessman, F. E. Steele, bought nine lots adjoining that of little Jennie Bayless. They hired people to begin digging and soon found "color" of their own.

The news stories claim that 20 lots were sold and 24 mining claims entered. People were put to work digging in the Bayless back yard, and the adjoining lots along Deadman Creek. One story reports that there were as many as 30 curious bystanders at times, who came to watch the activity, and carry away buckets of the dirt tailings which had already been searched.

The story reports that State's Attorney Everett carried a vial in his pocket with rice-sized pieces of gold found on his claim. Other diggings began to spring up on lots around town, particularly those close to Deadman Creek, where property owners were curious if they were literally "sitting on a gold mine."

Jennie Bayless received many offers for her lot, which she refused to sell. She was actually a bit perturbed by the maze of diggings and channels. She complained that it ruined her sledding!

At the time of this writing, I have not been able to verify what became of the Sturgis Gold Rush. I will continue to research and see if there are subsequent stories of mining and riches found in Sturgis. However, considering that we aren't aware of this story today, and no large-scale mining developed in our community, I would assume it was an isolated pocket of gold, and nothing more. On the other hand, who knows?! Maybe there is a "mother lode" somewhere underfoot within the confines of the town of Sturgis!



History Day Recap ... *Kris Hubbard*

(Reprinted with permission of the Meade County Times Tribune)

Almost 200 people passed through the doors of the Sturgis Community Center June 23-24 to participate in the third annual History Day sponsored by the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society.

Booths displaying a variety of artifacts, tools, pictures and other information and memorabilia depicting local history were set up including displays about Fort Meade Museum, Marcus and Faith communities, Nolin Monument, St. Martin's Academy, Fassbender photo collection, Stoneville School museum and community. An old school time clock, collections of old newspapers, Sturgis Brown High School Bear Butte Breezes and annuals, and O'Haras Handbook of the Black Hills were also on display.

Bus tours of the Duayne and Becky Israelson home, the Alan and Judy Harwood home, the F.O. Jolley Fu-

neral Home and the Ron and Rhonda Beug home were offered twice during the day. The drive-by tours of the homes included narration by the owners. Bus tours of the Fort Meade area and cemetery were also held.

Special programs were held throughout the day, beginning with Historical Society President Mark Rambow talking about "Life and Death in Old Scooptown." Former and current employees of KBHB radio station offered comments and told stories of the early years at the radio station while Wayne Gilbert of Belle Fourche discussed the topic "Vigilantes" and hangings in the Black Hills during the 1870s and 1880s.

The Martin C. Beug Friend of History Award was presented to the Sturgis Area Arts Council History at High Noon Committee members Diana Hayes, Rosalee Johnson, Bonnie Lange and Dode Lee. The History at High Noon Committee has been in

existence since 2010 when the committee changed its focus from art to history. This award is presented annually in honor of the contributions made by the late Martin C. Beug, who started the Historical Society. Recipients of the award must demonstrate preservation, protection or promotion of Sturgis or Meade County history.

History Day activities concluded with a hot dog cookout, ice cream social and hymn sing at the Fort Meade Museum.

Sponsors of the event were Black Hills Title Company, Boulder Canyon Station Convention Center, City of Sturgis, Compass Point, DA BUS, Davenport Family Real Estate, Elk Creek Steak House, Grocery Mart, Homeslice, Jambonz Grill and Pub, Loud American Roadhouse, Sidehack Saloon, Sturgis Photo & Gifts, The Knuckle Saloon and Weimer's Diner & Donuts.



The Sturgis Area Arts Council History at High Noon Committee was recipient of this year's Martin C. Beug Friend of History Award.

Committee Members are: (left-right) Bonnie Lange, Diana Hayes, Dode Lee, and Rosalee Johnson.

Making the presentation were Ross Lamphere (back-left), Historical Society Vice President, and Mark Rambow (back-right), Historical Society President.

Calendar of Upcoming Events ... *Leona Schroeder*

Saturday, Sept. 16: SCOOP OF HISTORY ... Bus trip to Faith.
(See article on page 2)

Tuesday, September 19: MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 17: MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 28: MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Sunday, December 3: SCOOP OF HISTORY ... Gettin' Rubber in All Four Gears"
(See article on page 2)

Tuesday, December 19: MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Friday, January 26, 2018: 3RD ANNUAL SCOOPTOWN SHOOTOUT
"A Taste of Sturgis"

STURGIS & MEADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Our goal is to preserve, protect and promote the history of Sturgis and Meade County. We cannot do this alone ... this is done through memberships, sponsorships and donations. The Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society is a 501©3 nonprofit organization. Therefore, sponsorships and donations are tax-deductible; membership dues are not tax deductible.

Registration Information

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership Level Desired

_____ Individual: \$25.00/year _____ Family: \$35.00/year _____ Student: \$15.00/year

_____ Business Sponsorship: \$250.00/year _____ Life Membership: \$5,000.00

Please send this form, accompanied by a check for your membership, to:

Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society
P.O. Box 221
Sturgis, SD 57785

You may also register, pay dues, and donate online with a credit card or PayPal at: www.SturgisHistory.org

STURGIS & MEADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



P. O. Box 221, Sturgis, SD 57785

Board Officers

Mark Rambow, President, mark@sturgishistory.org
Ross Lamphere, Vice President
Leona Schroeder, Secretary, leonags@aol.com
Janice Lundgren, Treasurer

On Line

E-mail: info@sturgishistory.org
Web: sturgishistory.org
Facebook: The History of Sturgis & Meade County, SD

OUR SPONSORS



**GROCERY
MART**

2216 Junction Ave., Sturgis, SD
605-423-4606



Davenport Family Real Estate



Weimer's  Since 1949
Diner & Donuts 1120 Main



Sturgis Photo & Gifts



PO Box 909
1855 Ball Park Road
Sturgis, SD 57785



Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society

P. O. Box 221

Sturgis, SD 57785



"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots." Marcus Garvey