

RETURNS ON THE INVESTMENT



Hammel, Green and Abramson (HGA), Inc.

This view of the proposed Phase II expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center shows the facility facing southeast on the state capitol grounds in Bismarck. This main entrance from the east, featuring the Northern Lights Atrium, would provide a new opportunity to draw visitors to the state capitol complex from the busy adjacent highway. (inset) The Governors Gallery would host temporary and traveling exhibits, creating regional and world-class 'blockbuster' events capturing the attention of visitors from the region and beyond. It would also provide the State Historical Society with the opportunity to display more of its existing collections and produce large-scale exhibits that could travel worldwide.

An Outstanding Year



Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr., Director

- The State Historical Society of North Dakota enjoyed an outstanding year in 2007-08.

The expertise and dedication of our staff made it possible to complete a number of long-awaited projects, as well as provide programs that are much appreciated by our many visitors and supporters. It is a great honor to be associated with this team of professionals who take on difficult tasks and aim high to achieve the highest level of quality possible.

- The new interpretive centers at the Fort Abercrombie and Chateau de Mores State Historic Sites were a product of cooperative efforts of staff from all of the Society's divisions. Both facilities are first class and provide an outstanding environment for staff and the public to work and learn in.

- The work of moving into and organizing the new State Archives wing continues. This project shows that the work really begins once the construction is completed. Our operation in the Archives has moved forward, and collections are now cared for in a state-of-the-art environment.

- The publication of the textbook *North Dakota History: Readings about the Northern Plains State* expands the opportunities that our high school students have to learn about their

state. Developed in partnership with the North Dakota Center for Distance Education, the book was recognized by the North Dakota Library Association as the best state publication in 2008.

- A myriad of new exhibits were produced through the ongoing efforts of our excellent museum staff. This was achieved through dedicated support from the archives, archaeology and historic preservation, and communications and education divisions, and our partner, the North Dakota Geological Survey. It is difficult to select just one of these outstanding projects to highlight, but the *Corridor of Time* exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center is certainly one of them.

- Expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center continues to be a focus and priority. The State Historical Board, agency staff, our Foundation, and the North Dakota Geological Survey have worked very hard to develop, promote, and achieve this goal. The resulting schematic design and plans show a beautiful new facility that will enhance the outstanding Heritage Center exhibits as well as provide room for collections for the next 25 years.

- These are just a few examples of the many projects that the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) staff has been involved with this past year. You will be able to read more about them in the following report. I extend my appreciation for all the interest and support that we received throughout the past year.

Expansion and Growth

Expansion and growth continued to be the watchwords in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 as the SHSND moved forward with major expansion projects approved by the 2007 North Dakota Legislative Assembly.

At the **North Dakota Heritage Center**, headquarters of the SHSND, construction was completed on a \$5.7 million expansion to its research wing. The addition to the State Archives facilities is the first phase of a projected \$60 million expansion of the state's largest museum. The project was funded by a \$5.5 million bond approved by the 2005 Legislative Assembly. Another \$200,000 was provided by the state Department of Transportation, through a federal grant from transportation enhancement funds. This first phase provides much-needed additional space to the State Archives, reducing the need for additional off-site archival storage facilities. The second phase will expand the exhibit galleries and public areas; the artifact, archaeology, and paleontology collections areas; and staff work and lab areas. It also includes investments in county and tribal historical resources, as well as sites the SHSND manages statewide.

Construction was completed on the new addition nearly tripling the size of the Interpretive Center at the **Chateau de Mores State Historic Site**. The 8,600-square-foot facility houses a permanent gallery, traveling exhibit gallery, museum store, and a meeting room.

The 2005 Legislative Assembly approved \$1.1 million in bonding for the expansion, with a match of \$500,000 in federal transportation enhancement funds, for a total funding package of \$1.6 million; another \$150,000 was provided by the 2007 Legislative Assembly to help cover nearly \$275,000 in additional unexpected constructions costs after discovery that the center's structure, built in 1972, was in worse condition than initially believed. The structural problems forced the demolition of the old building and construction of a new facility.

Grand opening ceremonies were held May 18 for a



Photograph by James Odermann

The Chateau de Mores State Historic Site celebrated the grand opening of its new interpretive center April 25-27, 2008. The \$2 million facility is part of the 128-acre site that interprets the story of the Marquis de Mores, the French nobleman and entrepreneur who in the 1880s ran a cutting-edge meatpacking plant in the town he founded and named after his wife. Among those at the ribbon-cutting ceremonies were (l to r) SHSND Foundation Executive Director Virginia Nelsen, Representative Frank Wald (R-Dickinson), Lt. Governor Jack Dalrymple, State Historical Board President Albert I. Berger, and Medora Mayor Doug Walker.

new \$1.3 million interpretive center at **Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site**. Legislators in 2007 approved \$700,000 (with an additional \$200,000 match) needed to complete construction of the center and install exhibits at this site, known historically as "the Gateway to the Dakotas." The expansion builds on the \$500,000 development project completed at the site in 2002, which included reconstruction of the fort's blockhouses, guardhouse, and part of the stockade.

The Chateau de Mores State Historic Site's new interpretive center is nearly triple the size of the previous interpretive center built in 1972.



Photograph by Dolores Linn, SHSND



Lincoln Bicentennial Continues

The 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth in Kentucky is February 12, 2009, and work continued to highlight the milestone event. Governor John Hoeven appointed SHSND Communications and Education Director Rick Collin in December 2005 as the state's representative to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and the SHSND continued this year to plan projects with other state agencies and organizations. North Dakota's commemoration is being held in conjunction with the official two-year national observance, continuing through February 2010. The 2007 Legislative

Assembly approved \$50,000 in 'seed money' for the SHSND to help fund such projects as exhibits, history conferences, and living history programs for the Lincoln Bicentennial in North Dakota. It also approved an additional \$10,000 for another state agency, the North Dakota Council on the Arts, for Lincoln-related programming statewide.

"When I have attended meetings with the national commission, I've been struck by the many different Lincolns there are," said Collin. "Here in the West, we look at the Lincoln who signed the Homestead Act, the Morrill Land Grant Act that created what is now North Dakota State University, and the charter for the Northern Pacific Railroad that opened up the settlement of the Northern Plains. We admire the prairie lawyer Lincoln who rose to the highest office in the land with only one year of formal schooling and study his handling of the bloody Minnesota Indian War of 1862. Then you have the Eastern Lincoln – the Lincoln who is more remembered for the Emancipation Proclamation and the freeing of the slaves, his Gettysburg Address, and serving as commander-in-chief of the Union Army during the great battles of the Civil War. During this bicentennial, we look to celebrate the best qualities that Lincoln represents to all of us, no matter where we live or how he has influenced us."



This circa 1880 painting of Abraham Lincoln is featured in the *Lincoln's Legacy in North Dakota* exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center on display through January 31, 2010. It was owned by John L. Cass, who moved to Stanton, North Dakota from Lincoln County, Minnesota in the 1890s. He served as Mercer County

State's Attorney and was later editor of the *Mercer County Farmer*. The painting is also the cover image for the special Lincoln Bicentennial edition of the *North Dakota History* quarterly journal published by the State Historical Society.

The original 1862 Homestead Act, on loan from the National Archives, was unveiled in ceremonies May 16 at the North Dakota Heritage Center. Here, Kamryn Hellman of Bismarck views the historic document signed by President Lincoln that was on

exhibit from May 16 through November 11, 2008. It had not been on public view since 1979, when it was part of a national bicentennial exhibition at the National Archives. Also featured May 16 was the U.S. Postal Service from Bismarck, which offered a commemorative pictorial cancellation in honor of the exhibit launch.



Photograph by Deborah K. Hellman, SHSND

Photograph by Sharon Silengo, SHSND



The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial observance officially got underway in North Dakota and the nation during the year. The state launch took place February 8, 2008 at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck with the grand opening of the exhibit, *Lincoln's Legacy in North Dakota*. The day's activities included an "Abe and Mary Lincoln" look-alike contest for Bismarck's Northridge and Will-Moore schools fourth grade students, who also participated in the exhibit's ribbon-cutting ceremony. Here, Governor Hoeven shakes the hand of first place winner Ethan Porter, while honorable mention "Log Cabin Nick" Sanford looks on with Lincoln Bicentennial State Liaison Rick Collin and second place winner Mikayla Pfaff.

Site Developments

Fort Buford State Historic Site, which includes the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, saw more than 14,500 visitors during FY08. A wide variety of special programs heightened the community's awareness of and appreciation for the site, contributing to more than double the number of family and individual season passes sold, compared to FY07; the number of area school students visiting also increased nearly 10 percent compared to FY07. The Confluence Center and Fort Buford sites hosted 33 free events. These included activities for children, concerts, living history demonstrations, book discussions, author presentations, scholarly lectures, nature-based activities, quilting activities, and more. They attracted a combined attendance of more than 1,700 visitors. Removed from the site were the vacant site supervisor's house and a propane tank that supplied a previously-removed comfort station, as well as debris from around the maintenance garage. Emergency responders, including the North Dakota Highway Patrol, the Williams County Sheriff's Department, and the Williston and Trenton Fire Departments, were invited to the Confluence Center for a tour of the facilities. Fort Buford State Historic Site led the way on two regional collaborative projects, working with seven other MonDak Region museums in creating the *MonDak Region Historical and Cultural Passport* and with three other museums in developing the *MonDak Veterans Stories* program. The Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center collaborated with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to host a special "Paddlefishing the Confluence" event May 3, 2008, edu-

A day of festivities May 18, 2008 launched the opening of the center at Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site near Fargo. The fort began operations in 1858; the last



Photograph by Chris Johnson, SHSND

soldiers were withdrawn in 1877. As the crossroads of several major transportation routes, it guarded fur trade ox-cart trails, stagecoach routes, and steamboat traffic on the Red River. Here, Family Folk (l to r, Johannah, Suzannah, Barbara Jo, and Gary Miller, all of Mandan) perform period music as part of the day's celebration.

cating visitors on the life of the paddlefish and its natural environment.

More than 6,200 visitors came to **Fort Clark Trading Post State Historic Site** near Washburn. Research continued on archaeological survey data gathered during the summers of 2000 and 2001, which included the revelation that there were at least two expansions and reconstructions of this key fur trade post in the 1840s and 1850s.

Fort Totten State Historic Site hosted its 15th annual *Living History Field Day* in September 2007. Some 500 seventh grade students learned about the history of this frontier military post that also served as an American Indian boarding school. The Fort Totten Little Theater Group enjoyed another successful season with its production of *Hello, Dolly!* The Totten Trail Historic Inn continued as a popular tourist destination, with visitors able to stay overnight and enjoy breakfast in the building first used as an officers' quarters and later as apartments for Fort Totten Indian School employees. For reservations, call (701) 766-4874 or visit the website www.tottentrailinn.com.

Whitestone Hill Battlefield State Historic Site in southeastern North Dakota hosted its eighth annual Education Day for area school groups in early September 2007, marking the 144th anniversary of the last major battle between soldiers and American Indians east of the Missouri River. Students participated in making pemmican, scraping a deer hide, learning about the Dakota people and the frontier military lifestyle of the 1800s, and looking at artifacts found near the site.

Camp Hancock State Historic Site in downtown Bismarck continued to see improvements throughout the year. In July 2007, Camp Hancock hosted the Northern Pacific Railway Association for a tour and discussion of

Photograph by Chris Johnson, SHSND



This view of the new Interpretive Center at Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site shows the U.S. and North Dakota state flags flying. Exhibits and artifacts at the interpretive center tell the story of this "Gateway to the Dakotas," which performed many duties in its 19 years of operations, including serving as a supply base for military freight, wagon trains headed west to the Montana gold fields, and pioneer settlers headed into Dakota Territory.

the 1909 Northern Pacific locomotive displayed at the site. Fundraising for a shelter for the locomotive was launched, with a first donation of \$1,000 by Bismarck railroad enthusiast Michael Booth. The second annual Ice Cream Social was held July 4, 2007, with some 75 people stopping by to enjoy an ice cream cone on a perfect summer day. The end of the 2007 season saw the addition of a furnace and central air conditioning in the museum building. Funding of the HVAC system was made possible by a grant from *Save America's Treasures* administered by the National Park Service.

It was an exciting year at the **Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site**, with several events and renovation work taking place. Two events debuted: the first annual Crafters Bee and Social and the First Annual Arthur A. Link Fiddle Contest. The Crafters Bee featured area crafters gathering to knit and enjoy other crafts as well. The First Annual Arthur A. Link Fiddle Contest was sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of the Former Governors' Mansion (SPFGM) and the SHSND. A series of popular "high teas" hosted by former North Dakota First Lady Grace Link were held during the summer. The back shed near the kitchen was painted, wired, and heated and now serves as the site's visitors center. An inquiry by the SPFGM into additional furniture at the state penitentiary turned up some pieces now exhibited at the mansion. Among them are a small, circa-1900 oak writing desk and the last dining room table used at the site during the 1950s.

At the **Gingras Trading Post State Historic Site**, the land acquisition project that would add about 12 acres to the site continued to move forward after a delay caused by the installation of a pipeline through the Walhalla area. A new 10-year draft master plan was completed for the site, which hosted its popular *Gingras Day!* event August 4, 2007.

Although no major construction projects were undertaken at the **Pembina State Museum**, a substantial electrical shock occurred when the local power company made an error while doing line work that sent a massive power surge throughout



Photograph by SHSND Foundation

Completion of a \$5.7 million, 30,000-square-foot archives addition to the North Dakota Heritage Center was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony November 2, 2007. The addition doubled the space available for the state archives, where unique documents, photographs, maps, and other treasures are preserved and protected for future generations. Ribbon-cutting participants were (l to r) State Senator Aaron Krauter (D-Regent), Governor John Hoeven, former Governor Arthur Link, SHSND Director Merl Paaverud, former State Senator Ed Kringstad (R-Bismarck), former Governor George Sinner, SHSND Foundation Treasurer Barbara Lang, SHSND Executive Director Virginia Nelsen, State Historical Board President Albert I. Berger, and State Archivist Gerald Newborg.

Pembina. The power company paid for all repairs, including a \$7,000 overhaul of the elevator operating system. Plans were finalized for an updated *Pembina Today* exhibit in the permanent exhibit gallery. Museum staff hosted nine special events and programs during the year, including lectures, demonstrations, and the traditional Memorial Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter activities. Visitation for FY08 was 5,412, an increase from 5,172 the year before.

At the **Killdeer Mountain Battlefield State Historic Site**, the sixth annual *Killdeer Mountain History Hike* was held July 28, 2007, led by former Fort Buford site supervisor Chuck Stalnaker, who discussed the geology and flora of the area, as well as the battle that took place July 28, 1864 between the U.S. Army led by Brigadier General Alfred Sully and Teton, Yanktonai, and Dakota (Sioux) Indians.

An interpretive sign and directional sign project was completed at **Writing Rock State Historic Site** near Grenora. The Divide County Department of Transportation and the Williston Basin Resource Conservation and Development program assisted with installation.



Photograph by North Dakota Tourism

Governor John Hoeven presents the 2008 Governor's Travel and Tourism award to SHSND Director Merl Paaverud (l) and the Society's visitors services coordinator Beth Campbell (r) at the annual state tourism conference April 21, 2008 in Mandan. North Dakota Tourism Director Sara Otte Coleman looks on (see page 15).

Collections and Exhibits

Highlights included 28 loan agreements to other museums. Artifact loans reached 19 North Dakota communities and three other states. As part of the *Lincoln's Legacy in North Dakota* exhibit, the original Homestead Act document signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862 was on display for six months, beginning May 16, 2008. This unique historical treasure was loaned to the Society from the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C.

A total of 116 collections were donated totally or in part to the Society, and 192 potential acquisitions were offered to the agency. There were 191 requests for museum collection access, with 149 from North Dakota residents and 42 from out-of-state residents. A total of 1,669 objects were catalogued into the collections during the year.

Temporary exhibits at the **North Dakota Heritage Center** included: *The Atomic Age Arrives: The Cold War in North Dakota*, which was completed in November 2007, and *Lincoln's Legacy in North Dakota*, which was completed in February 2008. Installation of the temporary exhibit, *Dakota: A Mummified Dinosaur*, was completed in June 2008. Working in partnership with the North Dakota Geological Survey, this exhibit features the 1,700-pound tail section of a mummified duck-billed dinosaur.

Permanent exhibits installed at state historic sites included *Rails, Ranching, and Riches: The Marquis de Mores in Dakota*, completed in April 2008. This 2,000-square-foot exhibit is on display at the new Chateau de Mores Interpretive Center in Medora. Installation of the exhibit *Beyond the Boundaries: The History of Fort Abercrombie*, was completed in May 2008. This 1,000-square-foot exhibit and outdoor interpretive sign project can be seen at the new Fort Abercrombie Interpretive Center near Fargo.

Historic sites temporary exhibits included the **Pembina State Museum's** *Emigrants from the Empires: North Dakota's Germans*, installed in February 2008. It replaced *Sister Rosalia's Lace*, a traveling exhibit produced by the North

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies on June 14, 2008 celebrated the opening of the new exhibit *Dakota: A Mummified Dinosaur* at the North Dakota Heritage Center. The exhibit shows an arm and tail section of a duck-billed hadrosaur discovered near Marmarth, North Dakota. The nearly complete fossil has skin, bones, and tendons preserved in sandstone, making it one of the most scientifically important dinosaurs ever discovered. Here, visitors look at the tail section of "Dakota."



Photograph by Deborah K. Hellman, SHSND

Dakota Council on the Arts. At the **Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center**, *North Dakota Remembers World War II* was installed in April 2008, replacing *Winter Memories*, depicting how North Dakotans have had fun and stayed warm during the winter months on the Northern Plains. *The Four Seasons at Camp Hancock* and *Weather in North Dakota*, looking at the history of this site through the seasons, including when it served as the region's U.S. Weather Bureau Station from 1894 to 1940, continued at **Camp Hancock State Historic Site** in Bismarck. *From Buckets of Oats to Quarts of Oil*, about the history of transportation in Bismarck, continued at the **Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site**, and *Artistic License*, showing paintings used to illustrate the stamps required on state hunting and fishing licenses, replaced *TV in '53* at **Fort Totten State Historic Site**.

The Society's popular Traveling Interpretive Exhibits Service (TIES) Program currently has 12 traveling exhibits for use by the general public. The program had 22 bookings for FY08, reaching 22 communities statewide and drawing

more than 24,000 visitors. Popular with teachers for classroom use, the Suitcase Exhibits for North Dakota (SEND) Program had 38 bookings in nine North Dakota communities and one each in Idaho and Montana, reaching 3,000 people. Classes from the University of Mary, Dickinson State University, and United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) used both the 32



Mr. and Mrs. Nick Schmidt and their son Stephen of Breien, North Dakota, study a display prepared by St. Alexius Hospital in Bismarck, of emergency food, clothing, and shelter that citizens should prepare in the event of nuclear war. This was taken in November 1962, the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis, when the danger of such a war loomed large. It is one of many items and artifacts featured in the exhibit *The Atomic Age Arrives: The Cold War in North Dakota* that opened on Veterans Day 2007 at the North Dakota Heritage Center.

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SEND trunks (16 topics) and the North Dakota Heritage Center's main gallery to gain first-hand teaching experience through the *Teaching in the Gallery* program, with school children coming in from area communities. Interactive video teaching sessions on North Dakota history with kindergarten through eighth grade classes throughout North Dakota brought 715 students from outlying districts virtually to the North Dakota Heritage Center, where the interactive video classes originate.

The SHSND participated in National History Day, a program that encourages academic achievement for students in grades six through 12 through a series of district, state, and national competitions. The theme for History Day 2008 was "Conflict and Compromise in History." Participating students developed papers, exhibits, performances, or media documentaries based on a history-related topic. Several Society staff members served as judges for the April 4, 2008 competition at Bismarck State College.

The Society again hosted an exhibit booth at the annual Norsk Høstfest, the country's largest Scandinavian festival, held in Minot, North Dakota October 10-13, 2007. The agency also staffed booths at the state tourism annual conference in Fargo, the North Dakota Education Association annual conference in Minot, and the UTTC annual pow wow in Bismarck. A National Quilting Day *Quilt 'til You Drop* event was hosted by the agency at the North Dakota Heritage Center, in partnership with area quilting groups. Other public programs

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Photograph by Deborah K. Hedman, SHSND

An extraordinary dinosaur arrived February 5, 2008 at the North Dakota Heritage Center. The 67-million-year-old fossil, nicknamed "Dakota," is a duckbilled hadrosaur. Here, its nearly four-ton body block is moved toward the loading dock of the Heritage Center by a forklift after arriving in a semi-trailer truck. The fossil has been featured in national and international news reports and a special on the National Geographic television channel because of its rare skin preservation. It was found near Marmarth, North Dakota in 1999 by Tyler Lyson, now a graduate student at Yale University.

State Archives

- Reference requests and website visits to the State Archives continued at similar levels as recent years, with some reduction in on-site visitors and an increase in email and interlibrary loan requests. More than 13,800 researchers were served directly through the reading room, mail and email, telephone requests, or interlibrary loan. More than 100 new rolls of microfilm were produced and 235 orders for microfilm purchase were completed. Website access continued to increase – on average, over 26,000 unique visitors accessed the Society website monthly.

- Rehousing the heavily used photograph collections continued. Photo Archivist Sharon Silengo and dedicated volunteers placed more than 18,150 historic photographic prints in new archival envelopes that were boxed for better protection and access. More than 6,000 photographic images were scanned and digitized for easier access and reproduction.

- Ann Erling was the Kermit Karns intern assisting researchers in the Reading Room. Intern Maria Witham researched and wrote Norwegian-

related stories for the week of the Norsk Høstfest, and other stories for the popular daily Prairie Public radio feature, *Dakota Datebook*. Intern Tyler Kennedy researched descriptions and prepared digital images from the historic photograph collections for upload to Digital Horizons, an online scrapbook. Over 1,200 images were uploaded between Kennedy, Head of Technical Services Rachel White, and Cataloger Naomi Frantes. The searchable online scrapbook is a collaborative effort by North Dakota State University's Institute for Regional Studies, Concordia College, Prairie Public Broadcasting, and the State Historical Society.

- Emily Ergen, a Summer 2007 intern, returned in May 2008 to continue work on the William E. "Bill" Shemorry Collection in cooperation with Williston State College Foundation. She has inventoried, digitized, researched, described, and done outreach for the collection in preparation for uploading images to Digital Horizons.

- More than 1,980 publications were added to the cataloged holdings

during the year. In addition, 2,338 linear feet of archival records were accessioned and re-boxed and 3,372 linear feet of materials were inventoried.

- State Archivist Gerald Newborg retired after 26 years of service in November 2007 and was named State Archivist Emeritus by the State Historical Board. Newborg saw his years of planning and oversight for the 30,000-square-foot addition to the archives successfully completed. Ann Jenks was hired as the new State Archivist in January 2008. The Archives staff spent months moving over 4,200 linear feet of boxes of state agency records, over 80 pallets of newspapers and county records, boxing architectural drawings, disassembling, moving, and reassembling shelving, and assigning locations in the new addition.

- The State Historical Records Advisory Board was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for a statewide digitization project.

2007 Governor's Conference on North Dakota History

Lincoln Legacy: The Railroad was the theme of the 2007 Governor's Conference on North Dakota History held at the North Dakota Heritage Center November 2-3. It was the first of a two-part theme for the annual conference, with the Fall 2008 theme entitled *Lincoln Legacy: The Homestead Act*. The conference highlighted the impact of the railroad on North Dakota and the region, featuring several speakers and entertainment centered on the railroad theme. Also presented was an all-day workshop, *Disaster Response: The Critical First 48 Hours*, by Neil Cockerline from the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis.

Awards honoring individual and group achievements in history were also presented. Recipients of the State Historical Society's Excellence in Local History Award were co-

Collections and Exhibits

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developed and presented by the Society and its partners included: *Catch the Reading Bug*, with more than 4,000 children and adults on hand at the North Dakota Heritage Center to launch the Bismarck-Mandan summer reading program; *The Heritage of Acoustic Music* in March 2008, featuring workshops and performances by musicians statewide; Halloween events at the Pembina State Museum, North Dakota Heritage Center, and Fort Buford and Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Sites; and the popular *Sensational Sundays* series from January through May 2008 at the North Dakota Heritage Center, with programming from the SHSND, the North Dakota Humanities Council, and the North Dakota Geological Survey. Other agency partnerships included continuing to develop, review, and assist the daily *Dakota Datebook* radio series with Prairie Public Broadcasting; helping with *Showcase North Dakota*, featuring activities December 26-27, 2007 at the state capitol building's Memorial Hall and the North Dakota Heritage Center; and promoting North Dakota literature and reading, through the *Read North Dakota* program, with the North Dakota Humanities Council, Prairie Public Broadcasting, the North Dakota Council on the Arts, and the North Dakota Library Association.

The Society also hosted its annual Valentine's Day Social in February 2008 and Volunteer Recognition Banquet in August 2007 to honor the more than 200 Heritage Volunteers statewide, ages 14 to 94, who help the agency year-round. Since 1981 volunteers statewide have contributed more than 324,000 hours of service.

winner Leonard Berce of Williston and Gertrude "Dudy" Reep of Stanley. Berce has helped lead the charge in preserving and interpreting the history of Fort Buford State Historic Site. Reep is a major driving force in preserving the history of Mountrail County in northwestern North Dakota. Also honored was the late William "Bill" Snyder (1916-2007) of

Fargo, who received the Society's Heritage Profile Honor Award for, among other achievements, founding the first professional commercial film studio in the state in the late 1950s. The more than 800 productions he made form a catalog of the business and political life of North Dakota and the region. Receiving the Person of the Year Award, given to someone deceased at least 10 years, was Linda Slaughter (1843-1911), the first woman postmaster, first school teacher, and first woman elected to public office in North Dakota. The winner of the 2007 Editor's Award for best article during the preceding year in *North Dakota History*, the SHSND's quarterly journal, was Dr. John Hoganson, state paleontologist with the North Dakota Geological Survey. He was honored for his extended article, "Dinosaurs, Sharks, and Woolly Mammoths," in Volume 73.1 & 2.



This 1875 poster advertises Northern Pacific Railroad routes available from then-Bismarck, Dakota Territory. Railroads and their impact on the region were the theme of the 2007 Governor's Conference on North Dakota History, as part of the state's Lincoln Bicentennial observance.

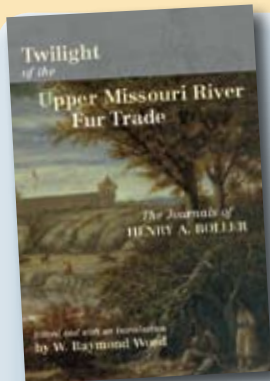
Photograph by Fern Stenerson, SHSND



Volunteers serve ice cream donated by Cass-Clay Creamery, and hot dogs donated by the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame during the Annual Lawn Party August 12, 2007 at the Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site in Bismarck. The day featured a salute to the last decade of governors who lived at the mansion, C. Norman Brunsdale (1951-57) and John E. Davis (1957-61).

Publications

A book detailing North Dakota's history was published in May 2008. *North Dakota History: Readings about the Northern Plains State* is a collection of articles and images from more than 100 years of publications by the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Printed in full color, the anthology includes more than 340 photographs, maps, and other images to help bring the past into perspective.

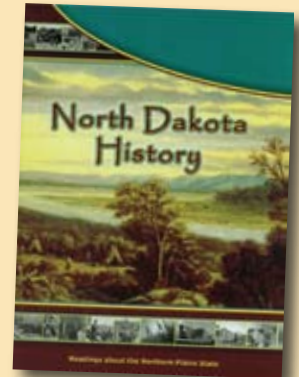


Henry A. Boller was an eyewitness to the declining days of the fur trade on the Northern Plains in the mid-1800s. These are his journals and letters from his time in Dakota Territory. Edited by renowned Northern Plains scholar W. Raymond Wood, *Twilight of the Upper Missouri River Fur Trade: The Journals of Henry A. Boller* provides unique insights into the mid-19th Century fur trade and contemporary accounts of the Mandans, Hidatsas, and Arikaras in the last years before their removal to reservation lands.

Developed in partnership with the North Dakota Center for Distance Education, topics range from dinosaurs to automobiles, ranching and farming to politics and cultural challenges, and American Indians, immigrants, and industry to missile silos and future outlooks for the 39th state. All the articles are intended to help readers imagine and understand the daily lives of those who lived in North Dakota before them. Its primary goal was to meet a longtime need for a North Dakota history textbook for high school students.

The State Historical Society published *Twilight of the Upper Missouri River Fur Trade: The Journals of Henry A. Boller*. In 1858, Boller (1836-99) arrived at Fort Atkinson, a trading post located near Like-A-Fishhook Village in what is now North Dakota. He left the fort, and the fur trade, in the fall of 1861, eventually returning to his home in Philadelphia. Boller later turned his journal and letters into a book. *Among the Indians: Eight Years in the Far West, 1858-1866*, published in 1867, brought his sympathetic view of the plight of American Indians to a wide audience. The original letters and journals on which his book was based were donated by his widow to the State Historical Society of North Dakota. These materials con-

***North Dakota History* is intended to be used as a North Dakota history textbook for high school students, but has also found a broad audience with the general public. The 426-page, hard-bound textbook was chosen by the North Dakota Library Association as the 2008 winner of the Association's award for the best state publication produced in North Dakota.**



tained details and impressions not included in *Among the Indians*. It is these Boller writings that were published in the 276-page *Twilight of the Upper Missouri River Fur Trade*, which also includes many photographs, maps, and other images.

The SHSND Museum Stores reprinted a 1946 edition of *Cinderella, or The Little Glass Slipper*. Previous reprints include a 1904 edition of *The Night Before Christmas, or a Visit of St. Nicholas* (2006), an 1897 version of *Beauty and the Beast* (2005), a 1942 *Three Little Kittens* book (2004), an 1888 version of *Red Riding Hood* (2003), and an 1896 edition of *The Night Before Christmas, or a Visit of St. Nicholas* (2002). The 1946 edition of *Cinderella* was donated by Charleen Laschkewitsch of Bismarck. The original book, printed by the Harrison Company Publishers of New York, was on exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center from October 2007 through January 2008.

Readers were also able to experience a trip into North Dakota's prehistoric past, thanks to *Dinosaurs, Sharks, and Woolly Mammoths: Glimpses of Life in North Dakota's Prehistoric Past*. It was a reprint from **North Dakota History** Volume 73.1 & 2, written by State Paleontologist Dr. John Hoganson of the North Dakota Geological Survey. It features more than 200 vivid, full-color pictures of everything from fossilized feces to detailed dinosaur paintings.

This 1946 version of *Cinderella, or The Little Glass Slipper*, became the sixth in a series of reproductions from the collections of the state's history agency. The reprints have been funded by the North Dakota Heritage Center Museum Store.



Enhanced Grant Program

Following the debut in the 2003-05 biennium of this popular program to help fund history-related projects statewide, the Legislative Assembly approved a major increase in funding for the 2007-09 funding cycle, from its initial \$75,000 to \$375,000.

The SHSND offers the funds through three programs: Cultural Heritage Grants, where funding is available in matching grants for 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations and subsidiaries of tribal, city, and county governments, including local

historical societies; Heritage Training Scholarships, where funding is available for recipients to attend training relevant to their historical society's operations, ranging from the Governor's Conference on North Dakota History to workshops and conferences nationwide; and North Dakota Museum Assessment Grants, where funding is available for museums and other history-related organizations to further review and develop their operations by writing a long-range

plan for completing projects.

To receive Cultural Heritage Grants, museums and historical organizations must provide at least a dollar-for-dollar match. This can be a combination of cash or in-kind services. For more information on the Cultural Heritage Grant program, contact the SHSND's Grants and Contracts Officer Amy Munson at (701) 328-3573 or email amunson@nd.gov.

Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Six sites and one historic district were added to the National Register of Historic Places between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. These sites include the William E. Metzger House in Portal, the Neuburg Congregational Church in Mott, the Valley City Municipal Auditorium in Valley City, the Hoff School District #70 in Walsh County, the Elks Club and Store in Dickinson, and the Emma Petznick and Otto Schade House in Bowman. The Grand Forks Riverside Neighborhood Historic District, with 129 properties, was also added to the National Register of Historic Places.



Photograph by Willard & Jeanette Harsch

The Valley City Municipal Auditorium is a multi-purpose building built in 1936 and still used today. Its architecture and quality of construction, representing the simple, bold Art Deco styling of the 1930s, contribute to its history as a Works Progress Administration project. Vital to the World War II home front activities of Barnes County, it hosted community meetings, dances, and other events. Singer Peggy Lee, a native of Jamestown, North Dakota, performed here in 1950.

Through the use of National Park Service funds, the SHSND provided more than \$177,000 to restore, rehabilitate, and protect National Register-listed properties in North Dakota during FY08. Development grants were awarded to the Dickey County Courthouse, First State Bank of Buxton, Grand Forks Masonic Temple, James Memorial Center in Williston, Bagg Bonanza Farm near Wahpeton, the Campbell House in Grand Forks, Municipal Auditorium in Valley City, and the Lake Region Heritage Center (U.S. Post Office and Courthouse) in Devils Lake. National Register nominations for Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site and the Oscar Zero Cold War State Historic Site were also undertaken this past year. The Society also administered and distributed some \$67,500 in grants to the seven local governments in North Dakota that have been certified, with the assistance of the Society, as meeting standards for participating in federal preservation programs. The certified local governments are Pembina and Walsh counties and the cities of Dickinson, Grand Forks, Devils Lake, Fargo, and Buffalo.

The Society contributes to North Dakota's economic development by assisting owners of historic buildings in obtaining federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation projects. Society staff members make recommendations on listing in the National Register and review rehabilitation plans to ensure they conform to federal standards. One tax credit project, the YMCA Community Center in Grand Forks, was in progress in FY08.

The Society's Archaeology and Historic Preservation Division continued incorporating recorded archaeological, historical, and architectural sites in North Dakota into an access base and a multi-layered digital mapping format,

the Geographic Information System (GIS). Digitizing the 54,200 archaeological, historical, and architectural locations and the approximately 11,000 cultural resource inventories in the division's manuscript collection will be an invaluable tool to cultural resource professionals, researchers, and project planners working in North Dakota. Digitization of the spatial data began in 2002. Division staff is now working with Bartlett & West to develop an ArcIMS Internet Map Service that will allow users to view, retrieve, and interact with the spatial and attribute data relevant to this sensitive cultural dataset. The GIS has been undertaken in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

The division is the sole repository for the state in housing and managing the cultural resource site files and cultural resource manuscript collections. These files are utilized by cultural resource professionals and SHSND staff on a daily basis for federal undertakings. Visitors using these files this past year totaled 746.

The division also responded to more than 1,760 Section 106 projects submitted by federal agencies or their representatives. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires consideration of historic preservation in federal actions, a process involving the federal agency and the state or tribal historic preservation officer.

North Dakota's comprehensive historic preservation plan may be accessed by visiting the SHSND's website at <http://history.nd.gov> and clicking on "Historic Preservation," "Historic Preservation Planning," and then "Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan." The plan is a federal requirement for North Dakota's participation in the National Historic Preservation program sponsored by the National Park Service.

In 2008 an updated and revised version of the *Archaeological Component of the North Dakota Comprehensive Plan for Historic Preservation* was published online. The version includes a refined prehistoric chronology, incorporation of

Photograph by Mary Hawbaker



The William E. Metzger House in Portal in northwestern North Dakota was listed in the National Register of Historic Properties. Built in 1905, it is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style of architecture.

archaeological investigations in North Dakota since the early 1990s, and links to other resources. The document may be accessed on the SHSND website: <http://history.nd.gov/hp/hpforms.html>.

The SHSND continued into the fifth year of a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation to accession and catalog the one million-plus artifacts belonging to the Bureau but curated in the Society collections, with all materials to be bagged and boxed in acid-free containers and a database containing the accession and catalog records generated. The project will result in easier access to the Bureau's museum property for research, educational, and public use. Project costs are covered by the Bureau.

Geophysical and remote sensing techniques have been successfully applied in conjunction with archaeological investigations at four state historic sites – Huff, Menoken, Double Ditch, and Fort Clark – in the last decade. Two recent edited volumes, *Remote Sensing in Archaeology: An Explicitly North American Perspective* (University of Alabama Press, 2006) and *Plains Village Archaeology: Bison-hunting Farmers in the Central and Northern Plains* (University of Utah Press, 2007), showcase these sites. The investigation at Double Ditch Village was used as a case study in the college textbook *Seeking Our Past: An Introduction to North American Archaeology* (Oxford University Press, 2007). Likewise, geophysical techniques and controlled archaeological investigations for education, site interpretation, and long-term historic preservation purposes were applied in 2007 and 2008 at three additional sites. The Larson Village and Chief Looking's (Ward) Village Projects (State Historical Society-PaleoCultural Research Group) near Bismarck and the Biesterfeldt Village Project (Archaeological Conservancy-National Park Service-Moorhead State University) near Lisbon each demonstrated the great value of collaborative investigations in meeting historic preservation goals and objectives.

The Neuburg Congregational Church in Hettinger County served as the religious and community center of a group of Germans-from-Russia. The congregation began meeting in 1898; this church was built in 1925.



Photograph by Lonnie Laffen

Staff and Board Transitions

Effective July 1, 2007, **Claudia Berg** began work as the coordinator of the North Dakota Heritage Center Phase II Expansion project. She had served as museum and education director since September 1, 2000. As a result of Berg's reassignment, the SHSND restructured its museum and education division. The education staff joined the communications/publications/marketing staff to form the new Communications and Education Division, with Communications Director **Rick Collin** promoted to become the new Communications and Education Director. Eastern Regional Manager **Chris Johnson** was promoted to become the SHSND's new acting Museum Director.

Mike Heyd was selected by his colleagues to receive the 2007 Staff Award for Excellence. Heyd, who has been with the agency since February 1978, became assistant security supervisor in September 2004. Also honored at the Society's holiday

gathering December 21, 2007 were these staff members for their years of state government service in North Dakota: 35 years: **Jean Erickson**, administrative assistant; 20 Years: **Lotte Bailey**, deputy state archivist; **Fern Swenson**, archaeology and historic preservation division director; 10 years: **Jenny Yearous**, curator of collections; 5 years: **Cathy Carlson**, account technician; **Tom Linn**, architectural project manager; **Shane Molander**, reference specialist; and **Tim Reed**, research archaeologist.

New SHSND staff members included **Adam Bradshaw**, museum preparator; **Bonnie Johnson**, assistant editor; **Amy Bleier**, research archaeologist; **Scott Rose**, security officer; **Ann Jenks**, state archivist; **Naomi Frantes**, cataloguer; and **Melissa Thompson**, collections assistant, a new position authorized by the 2007 Legislative Assembly.

The following staff members

resigned: **Dr. Gregory Camp**, historian; and **Mary Kate Ryan**, architectural historian.

The following staff members retired: **Roger Bakke**, security officer; **Loren Jechort**, cataloguer; and **Gerald Newborg**, state archivist.

Photo Archivist **Sharon Silengo** was designated as a certified archivist from the Academy of Certified Archivists.

There were also some changes on the State Historical Board, which oversees the operations of the state's history agency, during FY08. **Albert Berger** of Grand Forks, **Chester E. Nelson, Jr.**, of Bismarck, and **Art Todd III** of Jamestown were reappointed to three-year terms by Governor Hoeven, effective July 1, 2007 (the beginning date of FY08); and **Richard Kloubec** of Fargo and **Diane Larson** of Bismarck were reappointed to three-year terms, effective July 1, 2008 (the beginning date of FY09).



Photograph by Kim Syth, SHSND

During the October 27, 2007 **Fort Buford Cemetery Walk** visitors were escorted through the fort cemetery to meet past inhabitants of the fort who died and were buried there. Six "ghosts" told their histories to 239 visitors that night. Seen here is one such former inhabitant, portrayed by **Jim Ryen** of Williston. Ryen portrayed a doctor who died of consumption. The **Cemetery Walk** has become one of Fort Buford's most popular events, with attendance up 29 percent from 2006.



Photograph by Jeff Blanchard, SHSND

Members of the American Legion Kern-Thompson Post 77 perform a firing salute on Memorial Plaza at the Pembina State Museum during Memorial Day 2008 festivities. Also participating in the ceremony were representatives of the Post 77 Auxiliary and the Royal Canadian Legion.



Photograph by Kim Syth, SHSND

Members of the Fort Buford Sixth Infantry Regiment Association perform the flag retreat ceremony during September 15, 2007 activities marking the end of the visitors season. The Indian Wars reenactment unit has offered living history programming at the site near Williston, North Dakota since 1962.

Photograph by Johnathan Campbell, SHSND



The Bread of Life Church at Camp Hancock State Historic Site in Bismarck received a facelift in the form of exterior paint during the Day of Caring August 15, 2007. Sponsored by the United Way, the annual event brings together volunteers who donate their time to help non-profit organizations.



Photograph by Diane Rogness, SHSND

Karen Nelson, portraying *Medora, Madame de Mores*, wife of the French aristocrat and cattle baron, the Marquis de Mores, is part of the popular *History Alive!* series. Nelson, an adjunct professor of speech at Dickinson State University and seasonal staff employee at the Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, has done extensive, groundbreaking research on Medora's life.

The SHSND acquired two abandoned U.S. Air Force missile sites near Cooperstown to tell the story of the Cold War in North Dakota. The sites, the Oscar Zero Launch Control Center and the November-33 Missile Facility (below), are the last remnants of the 321st Missile Wing, a cluster of intercontinental ballistic missile launch sites spread over a 6,500-square-mile area around the Grand Forks Air Force Base. The agency took control of this historic facility as its 56th state historic site in December 2007, with plans to ready it for opening to the public in the summer of 2009. A key transfer ceremony between the U.S. Air Force and the State Historical Society held in Cooperstown in April 2008 was attended by more than 300 people.



SHSND 2004-P-06-181



Photograph by Deborah K. Helman, SHSND

More than 4,000 children and adults converged on the North Dakota Heritage Center on May 30, 2008 to enjoy the popular annual summer reading program kick-off. This year's theme was *Catch the Reading Bug*, where participants enjoyed many bug-related activities, including crafts, face painting, celebrity story readers, and of course real bugs! Here Jenny Yearous (left), SHSND Curator of Collections, shows her worm farm to a trio of curious children.



The state's history museum was awarded the 2008 Governor's Travel and Tourism Award as the state's top tourist attraction. The North Dakota Heritage Center, located on the state capitol grounds, is the largest museum in the state and home to the State Historical Society of North Dakota (see page 7).



Photograph by Beth Campbell, SHSND

College interns gain valuable hands-on experience as they work with staff at the state's history agency in several specialized areas. The internship program has been benefiting both students and the State Historical Society of North Dakota since 1982. SHSND interns in 2007: (back row, l to r) Robert Tiegs, Elizabeth Andrews, Kelly Kirk, Stacey Schaan, Emily Ergen. (front row, l to r) Ann Erling, Laura Johnson, Casey Gruman. Not pictured: Jennifer Syvertson, Lorna Meidinger, and Sarah Walker.

Young fiddlers from throughout North Dakota filled the rooms of the Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site in Bismarck as they competed for cash awards and scholarships in the First Annual Arthur A. Link Fiddling Contest. The March 24, 2008 contest was held in honor of former Governor Link (1973-81), who told participants that he began playing at age eight. Link, 93, and his wife, Grace, presented certificates and prizes to the winners and enjoyed the concert that followed.



Photograph by Deborah K. Hellman, SHSND



Photograph by Chris Johnson, SHSND

Whitestone Hill Education Field Day provides area students an opportunity to learn more about the site near Kulm, North Dakota with free tours of the battlefield and museum. Here Gary Miller, portraying a bugler, talks to the students by the Bugler Monument during the September 7, 2007 event.

The SHSND

The State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Foundation has worked to provide needed support for the expansion visions of the State Historical Society.

Highlights of FY08 included:

- The SHSND Foundation secured \$2 million in private support for the expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center by the end of June 2008. Fundraising efforts have been led by Foundation staff and board members.
- Foundation staff and board members were involved in the complexities of the design process for the North Dakota Heritage Center expansion. Meetings covered LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, detailed planning processes and sessions with stakeholders to add their expertise to the direction of the project.
- **Mike Gustafson**, Foundation board member and a History's Trustee, has developed the History's Hero concept for the Heritage Center expansion capital campaign. This exciting program asks for 10 family or individual gifts of \$10,000 each from the 53 counties in the state. It is projected to provide \$5.3 million of the \$12 million proposed to be raised for the expansion from non-state funds.
- Foundation History's Trustees from across the state are working to gain the support of a number of major service clubs in North Dakota for the expansion. Leaders of this effort have been Trustees **Don Walz** and **Bill Schott**.
- Since 2001 the SHSND has received more than \$21 million in support for one-time expansion projects and improvements to the historical resources of North Dakota. Funds were from the state legislature, federal sources, and private donations. The Foundation has been actively involved in helping to secure these funds.
- The City of Medora agreed to provide \$150,000 as part of the community support for the new interpretive center at the Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, as required by the state funding package for the \$2 million facility.
- All capital campaign fundraising materials were revamped with images of the new approved design concepts for the Heritage Center expansion. Fundraising documents, membership information and foundation activities are highlighted in the updated website at www.statehistoricalfoundation.com.
- The *Passport to North Dakota History* was reprinted with a \$25,000 grant from Tesoro Refinery of Mandan. The original document was developed under a grant from the U.S. De-

Foundation

partment of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service. Passports were distributed to 93 Tesoro retail stations and provided to the attractions and historic sites in the booklet. There were 95 additional partners in the project, and the passport has received three national awards.

- The USDA Forest Service provided the State Historical Society a \$15,000 grant to test a new program named *History on Call*. Using phone or cell phone access, the program will provide short historic commentaries from the *Passport to North Dakota History* to interested parties beginning May 2009. Tours of museum and site exhibits are also planned.
- In early 2008 Foundation staff, board, and supporters began efforts to develop donations from the oil industry. A reception was held at a statewide event for oil producers in Minot. Follow up appointments were held with major producers in Denver, Colorado. Discussions continue in this area.
- Leaders in the oil industry in North Dakota initiated and funded an oral history project which will interview oil pioneers in the state. **Gerald Newborg**, retired State Archivist, will do the interviews. Partners for the project are the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources, the North Dakota Petroleum Council, Tesoro, the Northern Alliance of Petroleum Producers, Keitu Engineering, Prairie Public Television, and the State Historical Society and SHSND Foundation.
- The North Dakota Heritage Family Program received a donation from the North Dakota Peace Officers Association and their Foundation. This gift will help fund a new electronic kiosk system for peace officer memorials and family memorials. The popular program collects histories of individuals and families and places them in the Hall of Honors at the North Dakota Heritage Center. Additional partners for this program are regional funeral homes.
- Providing regional leadership and support are members of the History's Trustee committee. **Bill Schott**, trustee development consultant, has grown this network to 235 informed supporters. Trustees are a major component in the Foundation's network for success.
- Foundation membership continues to grow with an aggressive direct mail campaign managed by staff and volunteers. The Foundation is grateful for its highly skilled personnel, a team of energetic volunteers, and capable Experience Works staff.
- The Foundation board of directors continues to provide extraordinary leadership and strong vision at this very significant time in the history of the Foundation and the Society.

SHSND Foundation Board (FY 2008)

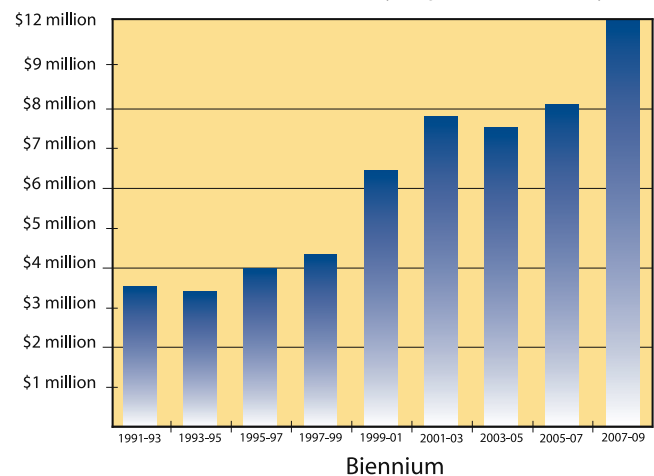
Jon McMillan, president, Fordville
 Wally Beyer, vice president, Bismarck
 Barbara S. Lang, treasurer, Jamestown
 Darrell L. Dorgan, secretary, Bismarck
 Pat Grantier, Bismarck
 Michael Gustafson, Kindred
 Armen Hanson, Devils Lake
 Robert M. Horne, Minot
 Jack Johnson, Fargo
 Thomas J. Riley, Fargo
 Dalles Schneider, Bismarck
 SHSND liaison - Gereld Gerntholz, Valley City

State Historical Board (FY 2008)

Albert I. Berger, president, Grand Forks
 Chester E. Nelson, Jr., vice president, Bismarck
 Gereld Gerntholz, secretary, Valley City
 Marvin L. Kaiser, Williston
 Richard Kloubec, Fargo
 Diane K. Larson, Bismarck
 A. Ruric Todd III, Jamestown
 Sara Otte Coleman, Director,
 Department of Commerce Tourism Division
 Alvin A. Jaeger, Secretary of State
 Douglass Prchal, Director,
 Department of Parks and Recreation
 Kelly Schmidt, State Treasurer
 Francis G. Zeigler, Director, Department of Transportation

State Historical Society of ND

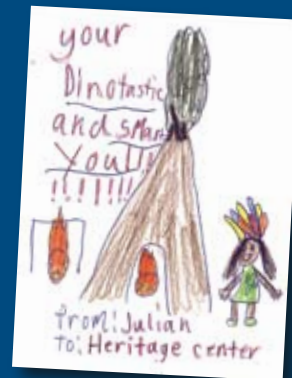
State Funds Appropriated by Legislative Assembly



Photograph by Deborah K. Hellman, SHSND



The popular *Sensational Sundays* series continued January through May 2008. The free programs feature a variety of speakers, music, dance, and other entertainment. A big hit March 9, 2008 was Bill Schott of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, named one of 2004's Top Ten Elvis Presley impersonators in the world at an international competition held in Memphis, Tennessee.



The Society receives many thank-you letters from students who have visited its museums and historic sites. These charming notes are from third grade students at Saxvik Elementary School in Bismarck, following a visit to the North Dakota Heritage Center with their teacher, Dawn Churchill.



Travelers are encouraged to visit the state's history museum in Bismarck to learn about attractions statewide by way of eight billboards featuring these three designs. Funding was approved by the 2007 Legislative Assembly. The billboards, located throughout the state along Highway 83 and Interstates 94 and 29, will be up through the 2007-09 biennium and perhaps beyond, depending on future funding.



Photograph by Claudia Berg, SHSND

Greg Sund of Dickinson examines fresh mountain lion tracks while snowshoeing during the annual *Heritage Outbound Winter Adventure* February 16, 2008. The day-long winter adventure also included hide painting, lessons on how to throw an atlatl, playing with ice gliders, and enjoying a traditional buffalo feast in an earthlodge. The event, sponsored by the State Historical Society, North Dakota Geological Survey, and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, was held at the Knife River Indian Villages site near Stanton.



Photograph by Belinda Murphy, SHSND

Fort Totten State Historic Site observed its 140th anniversary with a weekend of activities July 14-15, 2007. Here a color guard member, carrying a flag from the Odd Fellows Lodge in Building #2, leads an American Indian youth dance group to the area where they performed several dances.