

2020



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Dacotah Prairie Museum

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE	3
Boards	4
Staff	5
Vision & Mission	6
History	7
Special Events	8
Camps	9
MUSEUM BY DEPARTMENTS	
<i>Education</i>	10-11
<i>Collections</i>	12-13
<i>Exhibits</i>	14-17
Attendance	18-19
COVID19 PANDEMIC.....	20-21
Volunteers	22
Financial Summary.....	23

"1928 Model" By Mike Sudlow

Dacotah Prairie Museum Permanent Art Collection

A Year Like No Other

“How to Weather A Pandemic” (see page 20) was not on our bingo card for 2020. The year started out great, with higher than average attendance in January, February and right up to mid-March. We had a surprisingly high attendance in January, usually a quiet month. A visit from South Dakota Public Broadcasting’s “Science Steve” in February and our live-action character event, “History Alive!” in March bumped up our numbers significantly. Even the weather in early March was favorable. And then... well, March 13th was the last day the Dacotah Prairie Museum was open before closing for nearly four months during the global COVID19 pandemic.

Changing Lanes

We reopened to a new “normal” on Wednesday, July 8. As a county-supported museum, we had a safety net that we did not take for granted. We also did not sit around and wring our hands. We immediately switched lanes and got to work reaching our museum families, patrons and community. In normal times, a museum staff never has idle time on their hands as they are always planning ahead and moving forward. Exhibits do not magically appear, fully installed and well-researched; school program visits are scheduled months in advance; and potential artifacts for the collection are continually arriving. At the end of 2020, the museum staff must be commended for modifying their normal tasks while adding virtual events and tours, answering requests for interviews, creating 9 weeks of activity packets for our museum families and reimagining everything about being a museum in service to our community.

Silver Linings

As you will see in this annual report, there were many silver linings to our 2020 museum year. Our social media output and range has grown by leaps and bounds. We have changed our open hours to be more accommodating to our volunteers during the week and to our patrons on the weekend. Our building feels more secure with new delivery protocols, nanny-cams and doorbells so that staff can monitor the coming and going of visitors from different parts of the building.

The Museum staff won two awards in 2020: one for our activity packets for Museum families during June and July and a South Dakota Tourism award for hospitality for our retiring Curator of Exhibits, Lora Schaunaman. Even during a pandemic, we are an “Award Winning Museum” (see page 5)!

Looking Ahead

2021 will be a banner year for us. We will have new part-time staff with fresh ideas and bright outlooks, our senior staff will breathe a sigh of relief as things open up for new plans and programs with fewer restrictions.

As a director, my goal will be to continually push forward and keep this historic building in top-notch shape with remodeling plans for the 3rd floor archives and staff workspaces and to refurbish the exterior brickwork on the north and east sides of the building. I also feel that my job is give the staff all of the tools and support they need to accomplish our goals and mission... of telling the stories of the Dakota prairie and its inhabitants.

Patricia Kendall, MSA

Director

Dacotah Prairie Museum



VERMILLION STUDIO DACOTAH PRAIRIE MUSEUM



TOP: Lora Schaunaman, Curator of Exhibits, in the Zietlow Telephone Exhibit with her notes about J.L.W. Zietlow and his contribution to connecting rural communities, talks to Brian Gevik of South Dakota Public Broadcasting via Zoom for the documentary “The Middle of Everywhere – Connecting Rural South Dakota.”.

BOTTOM: Patricia Kendall, Director, left, and Lora Schaunaman, Curator of Exhibits, right, chat via Zoom with Larry Rohrer of SDPB about the traveling exhibit, “TreeHouses: Look Who’s Living in the Trees”.

BOARDS

Foundation Board

“The Board of Directors shall have general power to control and manage the affairs and property of the corporation, and shall have full power, by majority vote, to adopt rules and regulations governing the actions of the Board of Directors and shall have full authority with respect to the distribution and payment of monies received by the corporation. The ownership of the collection of the Dacotah Prairie Museum shall vest in the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation, Incorporated.” – Bylaws of the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation, Inc.

Carmel Heyd, President

Jan Erickson

Jason Pettigrew, Vice President

Matthew Scott

Nancy Clark-North, Treasurer (Retired at end of 2020)

Justin Scott

Gretchen Sharp

Aaron Darling

Museum Board (Board of Trustees)

“The purpose of the Board of Trustees shall be to discover, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of Brown County and South Dakota through operation of the Dacotah Prairie Museum, hereinafter referred to as the “Museum”. Additionally, the Board of Trustees shall determine and direct the policies of the museum involved in collecting, preserving, and interpreting objects of cultural and historical importance.” – Bylaws of the Dacotah Prairie Museum Board of Trustees

Mike McCafferty, President

Chuck Welke

Gayle Bortnem, Vice President

Duane Sutton, County Commission Liaison

Kathleen Daly, Treasurer

Layton Holmstrom & Casey Weismantel

Kathy Johnson

Aberdeen Area Convention and Visitors

Alan Neville (moved June 2020)

Bureau (ex-officio members)

Lee Schinkel



Top row: Lora Schaunaman, Curator of Exhibits (retired Dec. 2020), Dick Schooley, Custodian, Sherri Rawstern, Curator of Education, Leanne Shutt, Office Assistant (hired Feb. 2020)

Bottom row: Mary Baird, Curatorial Assistant Education, Jackie Ormand, Curator of Collections, Marianne Marttila-Klipfel, Curatorial Assistant Exhibits, Patricia Kendall, Director

Awards



Association of South Dakota Museums (ASDM): Excellence in Community Programming or Collaboration - the entire staff of the Dacotah Prairie Museum participated in making the “Summer Program for Museum Families: Art Kits and History Packets” a success and an unique way of connecting with our patrons in 2020.

South Dakota Tourism: Ruth Ziolkowski Outstanding Hospitality Award, Glacial Lakes Region - Lora Schaunaman, Curator of Exhibits, retired. Lora was nominated for her generous spirit and constant support of her coworkers, volunteers, patrons, students, and art workshop and camp participants. Lora was an excellent representative for the museums in South Dakota as she spoke about the importance of museums to the state’s tourism industry at the awards presentation in Pierre, SD.

VISION & MISSION

Our Mission

- To facilitate conversation of the prairie and its people, cultivate insight, and curate its collections as a catalyst for inter-generational exchanges to inspire children, connect families, and build community through education, programming, exhibits, and its collections.
Amended and Approved 05.26.2015

Our Vision

- The Dacotah Prairie Museum, a non-profit, permanent learning center in service to all people, is committed to the continued growth of its collection of material evidence representing the ongoing history of its region. This collection will be used by present and future generations to study and interpret the lives and accomplishments of previous generations inhabiting the Dakota Prairie. Through these endeavors the Museum will continue to advance itself as a cultural, educational and economic asset to South Dakota.
Adopted 11.18.2008 & Amended 08.23.2011

Our Values

- **Respect:** For people, their stories, their artifacts
- **Excellence:** In personal and institutional performance
- **Achievement:** Through timely accomplishment of stated goals
- **Responsibility:** To ourselves, to each other, to the institution and to the public
- **Fairness:** In judgment and decision making
- **Integrity:** In preservation and presentation

Adopted 11.18.2008 & Amended 08.23.2011



The idea for a Museum

...in Aberdeen originated in **1938** when John Murphy, a Northern State College professor, and Marc Cleworth, a salesman, created the Northern South Dakota History Museum, which was housed in the Central building on Northern's campus.

This Museum closed in **1941** when space was needed on campus to train WWII glider pilots. The nearly 500 artifacts collected were either returned to donors or placed in storage where they remained until **1970** when they were added to the collection of the new Dacotah Prairie Museum.

A New Museum is Born

The idea of a Museum resurfaced in 1963 when a group of past presidents of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) met to consider possible community projects for the group. By **1964** the AAUW committee, along with representatives of other community groups, had chosen a museum as their project and had begun looking for possible sites.

In **April 1968**, the Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department offered the Anderson Recreation Center (now Senior Center) as a temporary home for a museum. The Museum's board of directors accepted the offer and, in **1969** opened the Dacotah Prairie Museum, but the search for a permanent site continued.

The Museum Finds a Home

On **March 11, 1970**, Fred Hatterscheidt, a local businessman, offered the building at 21 S. Main to the County for use as a museum. The County Commissioners accepted the offer and by mid-summer renovations to the building began.

On **October 25, 1970**, the Dacotah Prairie Museum opened the doors of its new home to the public. Governor Frank Farrar spoke at the opening ceremony.

In **1970** the Museum's exhibit area included only portions of the first floor, as it shared the building with several other tenants. As the decade progressed, the Museum expanded its exhibit space to the entire first floor and half of the second. By **1980** the Dacotah Prairie Museum occupied the entire building. Staff and volunteers worked to ready new found spaces to accommodate staff, exhibits and collection storage.

The 1980s and 1990s

During this time the Museum continued to define itself. A mission statement was adopted, and policies of operation were put into place. Staff numbers increased, as did the Museum's tax-supported budget. The Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation was incorporated in **1985** to assist the Museum in raising outside funds to supplement the annual budget.

During these two decades, several professional assessments were conducted to help the Museum improve its collection management methods, maintain the integrity of its historic building, and strengthen its overall operations.

The 2000s and 2010s

Renovations to the building's exterior and its major first floor gallery spaces were the focus of work during the early years of this period. The feasibility of an expansion project to double DPM's size was explored in **2007** (and again in **2017**). Despite a positive response from the community, a down-turned economy postponed action on the project. To compensate, upgrades to existing spaces were made to maximize their effectiveness.

In **2013** the first floor "Squire Gallery" was renovated with help from the Ka Squire family. It highlights "Opening the Dacotah Frontier" with its full-size Red River cart, fur trading, native Lakota family, Fort Sisseton and fine lady in a carriage vignettes.

In **2016** the former Toy and Fan exhibits gallery was renovated into an open space, removing walls and the "maze" as it was called to create a new space for changing exhibits. Currently, the "Dacotah Prairie Museum: 50 Years and Growing..." anniversary exhibit highlights the history of the DPM. Other updates include all-new LED lights in the majority of the exhibits and common areas at the end of **2019**, and the last two skeleton key locks were replaced at the same time. Also in **2019** new bathroom pedestal sinks in the second floor restrooms replaced the mid-century era versions and all of the common areas on first and second floor, including the stairwells, received a fresh coat of paint. In **2020** new vinyl lettering welcomed visitors in the first floor lobby and above the Museum gift shop. *Looking sharp for the new decade!*

SPECIAL EVENTS

SDPB's Science Steve

February 29

South Dakota Public Broadcasting hosted Science Steve at the museum for three hours of science fun. Steve uses humor, watermelons, and flying toilet paper to bring dry theorems and scientific laws to life for kids and adults. Each appearance included approximately 15 science demonstrations on physics, chemistry, anatomy and more.



Science Steve

Museum Alive!

March 8

Five costumed actors interacted with visitors in character as historic Brown County figures. Michelle Schaubman as Matilda Joselyn Gage, Chris Anderson as J. L. W. Zietlow. Tabor Schabot as a railroad station agent, Christina Grettler as Meda Mason, and Jacob Usselman as a WWII soldier.



Museum Alive!

Summer Program for Museum Families

Every Monday in June and July (9 weeks)

A joint staff venture that produced 9 editions of the History Times with fun activities and Brown County historical stories centered around the buildings at Centennial Village and 9 different art kits with supplies and instructions. Over 1800 packets were handed out to area families to make their summer a little bit more enjoyable.



Summer Program for Museum Families

Nicole Philips Book Signing

September 10

Author of "The Negativity Remedy", Nicole Philips, Aberdeen, spent an afternoon at the museum greeting visitors and personally signing books. The Mercantile gift shop sold the book and promoted the event.



Nicole Philips Book Signing

Harvest Stroll

October 3

A "Stroll Around the Block" event to celebrate harvest time in Brown County. Staff offered a variety of stations placed around our historic 1889 building. Patrons enjoyed hot cider and a sugar cookie and took home a fun fall activity project-in-a-bag, and a mini pumpkin. The 2020 All Dakota High School Fine Arts Exhibition was on display in our gallery windows as visitors strolled by our building. Several harvest/seasonal decorated photo op were set up; visitors were encouraged to take photos and share on social media. A holiday raffle of cozy gift items from The Mercantile was available; a basket of cool-weather comforts with a nod to Aberdeen and Brown County history perfect for gift giving and a Melissa & Doug 30" T-Rex plush toy with a gift shop gift card. This was an outdoor event with social distancing; the staff was eager to see museum families and patrons again in person.



Harvest Stroll

Art Camp Stands Alone

Each summer the Museum hosts hundreds of elementary and middle school aged children at a variety of camps. But in 2020, with Covid concerns, the Museum decided to reduce the camps to just Art Camp with limited attendance. History Camp was deemed too hands-on and filled with a variety of group activities that were not conducive to social distancing.

Centennial Village at the Brown County Fairgrounds was determined to be the best outdoor space for Art Camp with its open, shady grounds with picnic tables and paved walkway. It also offered an indoor open space in the “Saloon” to socially distance while working on art projects in case of inclement weather.

Campers and parents/guardians were greeted at the entrance to Centennial Village and a smooth system of drop-off and pick-up quickly fell into place.

Campers were given bottled water by staff and no other personal belongings were allowed to reduce any possibility of cross contamination. Hand sanitizing stations were set up for easy access by campers and staff.

What is Art Camp?

Inspiration awaits! Campers came to historic Centennial Village to be an artist for the morning. There were new themes daily, with two weekly sessions available for many options. Campers registered for one or more days.

Lora Schaunaman curated and taught 8 sessions of a morning-only workshop.

Daily themes included:

- Going Wild with Watercolors*
- Picturing Amazing Animals*
- Visiting the Cool Caribbean*
- The Art of Story Telling*
- Sketching Centennial Village*
- Paint a Masterpiece*
- Fun at the Famous Artist Club*
- Let's Print It*



EDUCATION

Educational impact

The Dacotah Prairie Museum Education Department is a unique and essential part of the learning community in Brown County. As a repository of local history, the staff, Sherri Rawstern, Curator of Education and Mary Locken Baird, Curatorial Assistant, is uniquely qualified to supplement the current state and national requirements. Teachers are provided with detailed and varied programs that fit the elementary curriculum. For instance, the Museum's program on "Homesteading" fits into the South Dakota history requirement.

Key stakeholders who benefit from the DPM's educational programs are teachers, students, parents, school administrators and the general public. Teachers have the advantage of using the DPM as an additional resource in their already-strapped budgets as staff bring all the necessary supplies for each visit. Students gain additional knowledge and insights from knowledgeable staff that visit their classrooms and then share with their parents, families and caregivers. School administrators have access to the supplemental learning opportunities provided by the Museum, a county entity. ***Most of all, the people of Brown County benefit from the Museum's educational programs as students learn about the history of their town, county and state.*** They gain a connection and understanding to their hometowns. This connection means they will be more committed as adults to understand and protect their community's history and will want to be fully engaged members of society. As an added benefit, these students are enthusiastic about the DPM and can't wait to visit again and again and to bring their families.

The resulting impact of the DPM education programs and staff visits is far reaching. Outcomes are ever generated going forward. They are: Educated citizenry, increased museum patronage, the ability and reputation to bring in outside educational programs from many sources and the reputation of having a robust and meaningful educational impact on the citizens of Brown County.

The Education department has developed several partnerships: the Aberdeen public and private school systems, county schools, and service groups. The DPM's Education Department's reach is far and wide and will continue to provide ongoing benefits for the community and our patrons.

History never gets old or outdated and every year brings a

fresh audience of youth to learn about South Dakota and Brown County history. The Museum staff will be there to bring up the next generation of historians and good community members through our programs.

How did the Education department handle the restrictions placed on school visits during the school year in 2020? YouTube and Zoom! When public and private schools switched to online learning, the Education Department quickly developed a series of "History Moments" videos for YouTube that mimicked the regular education programs the staff took on classroom visits. Video titles included:

Winter of 1896-97

Railroads & Winter

Rain, Flood, Drought & Hail

Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Depot Fire 1911

How to Churn Butter

Along with those education programs, staff also produced behind-the-scenes exhibit tours with the Exhibits department. The inside look at the Pioneer Kitchen was popular with YouTube viewers.

Once school returned to in-person instruction in the fall, the Education staff appeared in classrooms via Zoom on Smart Boards and through Apple tablets. Although challenging at times, the staff and the teachers made it work despite touchy technology and wavering Wi-Fi.



EDUCATION: JUNIOR DOCENTS



*Junior Docent class of 2019:
Was the last class to fully
participate in the docent
program before Covid.*

Museum patrons in the making.

The Dacotah Prairie Museum Junior Docent program began in 1993 with the Aberdeen Roncalli sixth grade classes. Docents help the education staff with “Afternoon in the Past” programs at the museum and with classroom visits at all of the Aberdeen schools, both public and private. The docents also choose a museum exhibit to present to visitors during Catholic Education Week each year. Previous docents of all ages, who visit the museum, eagerly tell staff which exhibit was “theirs” and what they remember from that time.

The DPM is generating future museum patrons and supporters through this program. These elementary students will always have a connection to the Museum and to Brown County history. Just to make sure, each student receives a copy of the 1980 Brown County History Book upon completion of the year.

Junior Docent Class of 2020

The Roncalli 6th graders were just getting into their training for “Afternoons in the Past” when students were sent home for online learning. Here are the two classes:

Roxanna Aguirre’s Class:

Simon Carrels, Dawson Erdmann, Ella Feickert, Austin Fisher, Courtney Haverkamp, Riley Keller, Ian Kramer, Scott Lohman, Ava Meyers, Kelynn Mount, Matthew Peterson, Quinten Shelton, Jayda Siebert

Finn Anderson’s Class:

Joe Cogley, Lucas Daggett, Cambry Feickert, Tommy Geary, Claire Johnson, Linus Johnson, Lydia Kost, Josie Mitzel, Kara Olivier, Ryan Peterson, Ava Saylor, Jean-Anthony Thomas, Becca Vipond

Docents have shared over 18,000 hours of service since 1993.

COLLECTIONS

Every Artifact

The Dacotah Prairie Museum Collections Department touches every artifact that enters the building and ultimately into the collection. A strict vetting process is employed to determine if an object meets the established criteria; it must tell a story about Brown County or a county resident, it must be in good condition, it cannot be a duplicate of an artifact already in the collection (due to space limitations), and it must fit our mission statement. Our Curator of Collections, Jackie Ormand, uses these criteria and a discriminating eye when evaluating new acquisitions.

2020 Projects:

Transferred photos of current and past artifacts in collection into PastPerfect (museum catalogue program).

Inventoried and photographed archival documents/artifacts (Cabinet "C" in archives).

From Cabinet "A"-"C" in Archives, caught up with "R" research numbers (non-accessionable items).

Re-arranged archival boxes and changed locations in PastPerfect.

Most of this was done by Jackie while working from home during the Covid situation. She was able to concentrate on archival documents/artifacts which can be moved back and forth easily between the office and home and she used her time at the museum to work on 3-D artifacts.

Here is a detailed collections report from 2020 with select photos on the facing page.

- **33 Donors - 124 Donated Artifacts Accessioned in 2020**

- **14 Unknown Donor Artifacts. From in-house archives that had yet to be accessioned or inventoried.**

- **34,434 artifacts catalogued into PastPerfect at end of 2020.**

- **No De-Accessions in 2020**

- **Significant Donations/Family Heirlooms:**

- *Snow Queen Memorabilia – including 17 past programs that we were missing from early years.*
- *Various Aberdeen advertising artifacts.*
- *Pillow Cover re: Suffrage Movement owned by friend of Matilda Joslyn Gage ca late 1910s.*
- *2 Nurses Uniforms from 40s-50s that belonged to Sally Johnston.*
- *Baptism dress from Langford ca 1941, made from same nylon/silk material as parachutes being made during WWII.*

- **Large Donations:**

- *26 White House Historical Association official Christmas tree ornaments.*
- *14 campaign buttons from 1920s-60s.*
- *Medical collection from Bethesda Home ca 1960s.*
- *Cub Scout Handbook Collection ca 1950s.*

- **Documents**

- *Letter from Santa to Roncalli Elementary from Bostwicks Dept Store advertising ca 1960s.*
- *NNIS, NSTC, NSC documents, pamphlets, programs, etc. (Now Northern State University)*
- *Equity Creamery Stock Certificates ca 1950s.*
- *Granary Rural Cultural Center Pamphlets.*
- *Alexander Mitchell Library memorabilia, pamphlets, book marks, etc. (Now K.O. Lee Public Library)*

- **Artwork for Permanent Art Collection**

- *5 paintings by Rebecca Mulvaney*
 - *"Sligo" 1979*
 - *Untitled 1993*
 - *"Joy – Fall" 2003*
 - *"The Peacock" 2009*
 - *"Dress Rehearsal" 2012*
- *Painting by Nicole Fischer*
 - *"Virgin in Black" 2006*
- *Painting by Nick Fischer*
 - *"Field With Hay Bales" 2006*
- *Painting by Nathan Cantwell*
 - *"A Bit of Pressure" 2006*
- *9 Prints from SD Governor's Pheasant Hunt from 1980s-90s*

Baptism Gown Made with Parachute Material



Promotional & Campaign Buttons



White House Official Ornament 2001



Behrens's Lumber Thermometer



Lager's Barber Ice Scraper



Santa Letter from Bostwicks Store



Suffrage Pillow Cover, 1910s

EXHIBITS: IN-HOUSE

Curating Art and History

The Dacotah Prairie Museum Exhibits Department produced over 20 in-house exhibits in 9 gallery and display spaces in 2019; ranging from local artists to traveling exhibits to interpretive historical displays. In addition to the rotating exhibit spaces, the Museum currently has 11 semi-permanent gallery spaces that are maintained, updated and otherwise redressed as needed during the year. This keeps the exhibits staff of Lora Schaunaman, Curator and Marianne Marttila-Klipfel, Curatorial Assistant busy all year long.

LAMONT GALLERY

October 8, 2019 – January 16
“Our Nordic Roots” – Celebration of Our Heritage Series Featuring: (Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland)

We began the year in the Lamont Gallery with a continuation from 2019 of a very well-received exhibit about Nordic culture and history. Starting with ancient Vikings and including traditional dress, artifacts, and evolving cultures, the exhibit featured items from our collection, augmented by loaned treasures from a dozen patrons. A home scene full of Nordic artifacts filled the east half of the exhibit space.

February 8 – August 9
“TreeHouses: Look Who’s Living in the Trees” Traveling Exhibit from Sciencenter of Ithaca, New York

Components for “TreeHouses: Look Who’s Living in the Trees” arrived in a large truck in chilly February, which was the second traveling exhibit from the Sciencenter in Ithaca, NY to grace the halls of Dacotah Prairie Museum. (The first was “Toys: The Inside Story” in 2016.) The exhibit, set up in the Lamont Gallery, Helen Bergh Education Room, and Prairie Landing Gallery spaces, included two accessible tree houses. Visitors were encouraged to “climb” into the tree houses to try out the animal sounds dance floor, peer into animal themed viewfinders, see wildlife specimens, and find tracks and other signs of animals. Technology and hands on activities were utilized to help patrons learn about responsible forestry, construction principles, and products from trees. Substantial volunteer hours were contributed by several individuals to ensure the success of this exciting exhibit, including the heavy lifting of getting the many exhibit parts in and out of the building.

(The museum was closed to the public due to COVID-19 in March until July. Closures around the nation resulted in cancellation of the next venue for the TreeHouse exhibit which was scheduled to leave Aberdeen in May. As a result, TreeHouses was held over to early August.)

September 1 – November 10
“Stitching Our Story: Prairie Stitchers Chapter of the Embroidery Guild of America”

Over 140 handmade pieces made by members of the Prairie Stitchers Chapter of the Embroidery Guild of America filled the Lamont Gallery and spilled out onto the walls of the adjacent Lamont Annex Gallery in the fall of 2020. The colorful and celebratory show was to be open in conjunction with the Embroidery Guild’s regional meeting which was cancelled due to COVID-19. Despite this setback, the exhibit was a triumphant display of intricate beauty and mastery of fiber arts.

November 20 – Con’t to Jan. 31, 2021
“West: A Photography Show by Joshua Vincent” (Andrews)

A colorful compilation of large scale photographs of various places in the western United States, including South Dakota, filled the walls of the Lamont Gallery in November and December. The photographs of natural scenery were captured by the artistic eye of Aberdeen native Joshua Vincent Andrews during his last three years of travels. The artist statement for the show and photos on display conveyed an unmistakable love for the great outdoors, appreciation for the beauty of the natural world, and passion for the art of photography.

LAMONT ANNEX HALLWAY

February 22 – April 18

“Rewriting History: Who Am I?” – An Exhibit of Creative Writing by the 6th Grade Class of Frederick Area School, Frederick, South Dakota

For the third year in a row, sixth grade students of Frederick Area School participated in an exhibit of creative writing inspired by “unidentified” historic photos from the Museum collection. The imaginative stories featured in the exhibit were written as part of DPM’s educational programs in schools.

September 1 – November 10
“Stitching Our Story: Prairie Stitchers Chapter of the Embroidery Guild of America” (Continued in Lamont Gallery)

The Lamont Annex provided extra wall space needed to accommodate pieces from the Prairie Stitchers show in the Lamont Gallery. The works featured in the Annex worked nicely as an introduction to the larger show in the next room.

FIRST FLOOR ELEVATOR LANDING

Spring 2020 - December
“L. Frank Baum & the Aberdeen Oz Connection”

Nearly coinciding with the timing of our closing for COVID, this Oz exhibit was held over through the end of the year. It was originally intended to complement the Aberdeen University-Civic Symphony production of The Wizard of Oz in April at the Jewett theatre on the campus of NSU. Additionally, it was a featured topic of one of our online videos during the days the building was closed to the public. The exhibit explored Frank Baum’s work and time in Aberdeen with Oz sculptures, posters, books, figurines, a scrapbook, etc.

EXHIBITS: IN-HOUSE CON'T

HELEN BERGH EDUCATION ROOM

February 8 – August 9

“TreeHouses: Look Who’s Living in the Trees” Traveling Exhibit from Sciencenter of Ithaca, New York

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DACOTAH GALLERY

January 1 – January 26

“Enchanted Winter Nights” South Dakota Snow Queen Festival

The annual Snow Queen exhibit, along with an outreach exhibit installed at the ARCC Theatre Lobby, was set up in conjunction with the SD Snow Queen Festival. The exhibit occupied the Dacotah and Prairie Landing Galleries. This year’s display in the

Dacotah Gallery featured queen portraits from the decades 1950s to 2020 accompanied by photo collages of historic trends of the times.

February 11 – May 1

“South Dakota Paintings and Quilts” by Mike and Cindy Sudlow

The exhibit titled “South Dakota Paintings and Quilts” was a collaboration of husband and wife Mike and Cindy Sudlow, with works paired together in a display designed to echo the colors, sights, and sentiment of life on the South Dakota prairie. Quilts made by Cindy were shown alongside paintings created by Mike for an interesting juxtaposition of canvas, paint, pattern, and fabric, merging two separate journeys of self-enrichment and creativity into one overarching theme.

May 13 – December 31

“It Started with a Brownie...” Photography Show by Laurie Heupel

“It started with a Brownie...” engaged visitors with 21 colorful works of photography printed on glass, which were, by design, meant to catch the vibrancy and play of light on reflective surface for a pleasing effect. Laurie Heupel, who was born and raised in Aberdeen, discovered a love for photography when she was given an old Brownie box camera. Through the years, her career with the National Park Service has afforded her many opportunities to photograph nature in eight different national parks, and at various locations near her home on the east coast. Late in 2012 she began a two year journey of taking at least one photo a day. The resulting photographic memories comprised this unique show. Originally scheduled for a shorter stay, the show was held over until the end of the year due to unforeseen cancellations surrounding the events of 2020.

NEW - SEMI-PERMANENT GALLERY

Opened December 20, 2020

“Dacotah Prairie Museum 50 Years and Growing...”

A new semi-permanent exhibit celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Dacotah Prairie Museum opened on December 20, 2020 in the former football exhibit space. The display features many aspects of the institution’s history with features on early advocates for the Museum, the Museum’s different departments, recent donations to the collection, notable artifacts including an original painting by Harvey Dunn, and a scale model of the DPM building handmade by Randy Pfutzenreuter. A hands-on feature with rotating boxes shares interesting details about 12 different artifacts from the collection and a button-activated audio feature shares perspectives on the museum’s development based upon the personalities of Peg Lamont, the first President of the Museum Board, Ellsworth Brown, an early Director of the Museum, and Helen Bergh, the Museum’s first Curator of Education. The exhibit was curated by Lora Schaunaman and Marianne Marttila-Klipfel and was Lora’s last big exhibit of her 20 year career at the DPM, a great legacy of many beautiful displays.

EXHIBIT DEPARTMENT EVENTS/TOURS

Snow Queen Tour & Activity at DPM, Jan 11 (70)

TreeHouse Opening Weekend, Feb 8-9 (283)
Talk: What’s Going on at the Museum?

At Lions Club, Feb 12 (18)

Science Steve As Seen on SDPB, Event at DPM, Feb 2 (382)

Talk: Behind the Scenes of the Wildlife Gallery
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Lenten Series, Mar 3 (215)

Museum Alive Event at DPM, Mar 8 (243)

Mondays in March Art Classes, Mar 2 (19), Mar 9 (18)

Tour: Downtown Aberdeen Main Street, June (28)

Art Camp at Centennial Village, July 6-9/13-16 (58)

Harvest Stroll Outdoor Autumn Event at DPM, Oct 3 (141)

Prairie Stitchers Tour at DPM, Oct 17 (11)

EXHIBITS: IN-HOUSE CON'T

PRAIRIE LANDING GALLERY

January 4 – January 26

“Enchanted Winter Nights” South Dakota Snow Queen Festival

The annual Snow Queen exhibit occupied the Dacotah Gallery and Prairie Landing Gallery spaces. A video slideshow animated the landing gallery space with revolving portraits of all Snow Queens dating back to the first queen in 1947. Snow Queen gowns, past program booklets, trophies, and Frosty were also featured.

February 8 – August 9

“TreeHouses: Look Who’s Living in the Trees” Traveling Exhibit from Sciencenter of Ithaca, New York

The landing space featured additional photos and components of the TreeHouse exhibit which also filled the Lamont and Education Rooms. A four sided tree activity center with activities compiled locally by our exhibit staff was set up to add to the hands on activities associated with the visiting tree themed exhibit.

August 10 – November 10

“Stitches of History” An exhibit of Needlework from the Dacotah Prairie Museum Collection

The Prairie Stitchers exhibit in the Lamont Gallery inspired our exhibit staff to delve into the Museum’s collected historical artifacts in the category of fiber arts. Handiwork trunk items found packed away carefully on the Museum Education Department’s shelves did not disappoint in intricacy, history and beauty! A colorful display of delightful stitchery filled the glass cabinet and several cases in the fall of 2020.

November 20 – December 31

“Christmas from the Heart” Vintage Christmas Cards & Dickens Holiday Village Display

Historic Christmas cards from the Museum collection featuring timeless sentiments were displayed in the Prairie Landing Gallery during the holiday season. A (Charles) Dickens themed Christmas village filled the glass cabinet at the top of the stairs, the first time at DPM that the village has been so brightly illuminated in such a favorable display space, fostering an improved and more eye-level viewing experience.

OUTREACH EXHIBITS

ATTENDANCE

January 4-11

South Dakota Snow Queen Festival Exhibit ARCC Civic Theater.....842
Junior Snow Queen & Senior Snow Queen Events (2 weekends)

May 22 – Dec 31 (*Continues in 2021*)

“Let Women Vote!” Aberdeen Regional Airport..... 13,436

August 10-17

History Display at Summerfest

Brown County Fairgrounds Expo Building.....200

August 13 – October 22

“Women Win the Vote” NSU Student Center Gallery.....3,100

September 10 – Dec 31 (*Continues in 2021*)

“Epidemic!” NSU Jewett Science Center Building.....1,098

September 17

“Constitution Day” Display NSU Student Center.....188

September 19

“Fall Festival” History Display, Demonstration & Activity Booth

Fort Sisseton State Park.....400

ADDITIONAL DISPLAYS/HAPPENINGS

March - May: Virtual tours and informational videos for online viewing.

April - November: The Museum’s first floor windows were decorated for passing traffic on Main & 1st Ave. “A World of Hearts” – *Paper Heart Collage (Western Union Exhibit Window), Going on a Bear Hunt Big Bear Photos (Wildlife Gallery Window), 1970s Anniversary and Hearts Window (Reception Lobby Window), Art Show with Photos of Artwork from “Virtual” All Dakota H.S. Exhibition, (Native American Housing & Telephone Exhibit Windows)*

April: The annual All Dakota HS Art Show was held virtually with 5 schools sending in artwork or images of their art. A judging workshop was video recorded and distributed online to participating schools with awards given. Artwork was compiled into a window display that stayed up in the summer and fall.

April: The annual April Fool’s event involving items hidden in the exhibits was transitioned to a virtual format in Facebook featuring photos in two series, one for adults and one for children during April.

May: DPM’s Photo Archives were featured in a series called “Days in May”, which extended into other themes and formats throughout the summer.

June/July: 100 weekly art kits and 150 weekly history club newsletter packets were created by the exhibits and education departments and were distributed to families who ‘drove by’ the museum for pick up.

July: Taking advantage of summer weather and outside fresh air, two weeks of reduced enrollment art camp were held at Centennial Village.

October: The exhibits and education departments collaborated to create an outdoor, social distance friendly event in the fall. Education staff made activity bags. The exhibits department created a ‘take and go’ Main Street Scavenger Hunt kit. Settings for photos, decorations, and “treats to go” rounded out the festivities.

EXHIBITS



50 Years at 21 S Main St



Christmas from the Heart



Christmas from the Heart



Snow Queen Festival



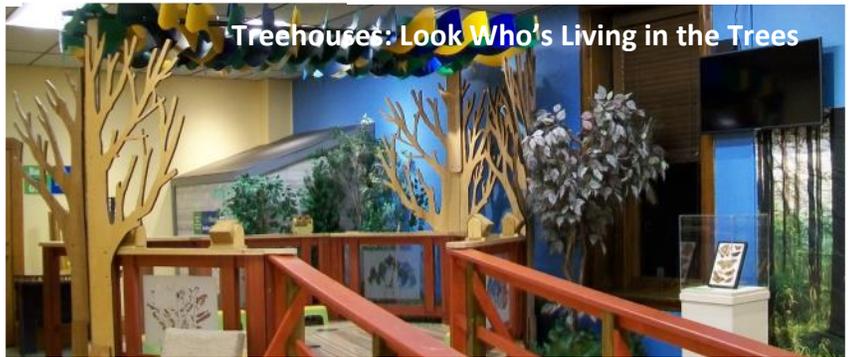
Treehouses



Stitches of History



Treehouses: Look Who's Living in the Trees



Treehouses: Look Who's Living in the Trees



Laurie Heupel Photography



Stitching Our Story



Mike & Cindy Sudlow



Stitching Our Story



West: Photography by J. Vincent



Stitching Our Story

"By the Garden Fence"
Silk Ribbon Embroidery
by Nancy Ringenberg

ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

In-House Programs	2018		2019		2020	
	Events	Participants	Events	Participants	Events	Participants
Tours						
Local Schools	9	198	13	240	0	0
Out of Town Schools	16	274	11	239	0	0
Adult Groups	0	0	10	198	3	78
Children/School Tours	26	428	9	139	7	112
Youth Tours (Not School)	1	45	4	135	0	0
Misc. Tours	19	391	8	137	8	59
Afternoon Into The Past						
Local Schools	14	325	19	430	0	0
Out of Town Schools	14	180	6	159	0	0
Programs/Events						
Youth In House Programs (not APAST)	42	624	12	251	3	409
Adult In House Programs	6	101	4	102	1	20
Receptions	10	417	6	413	1	5
Meetings/Parties/Conference Room Use	40	404	35	389	1	8
Training	8	193	12	263	6	120
Downtown Events	0	0	6	0	1	1180
Volunteer Appreciation	1	24	1	28	0	0
Children's/Traveling Exhibit Open House	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holiday Open House	1	793	1	796	0	0
Other	1	65	1	42	2	424
In-House Events & Programs Totals	208	4,462	158	3,961	33	2,415
DPM Walk-Ins (included in-house programming)	17,684		14,680		5,888	
DPM OUTREACH						
School Visitations (In-person & Via Zoom)	400	9,361	438	10,397	246	6,285
Youth Programs	5	410	6	261	0	0
Adult Programs	10	189	25	1,021	5	275
Offsite Exhibits	17	27,813	13	17,395	5	18,217
Kits/Check out Materials	1	50	0	0	0	0
History Camp	6	176	6	131	0	0
Art Camp	12	178	11	180	8	58
Brown County Fair	5	13,500	3	5,400	0	0
High School Art Show & Exhibition/Reception	4	196	4	164	1	30
Other Outreach Exhibits & Events	0	0	1	200	3	725
Previous Granary Attendance & Events	13	837	11	1,081	x	x
Art Kits (Pandemic Year)					14	699
History Packets (Pandemic Year)					11	747
Totals DPM Outreach	473	52,710	518	36,230	293	27,036
Social Media						
Videos on YouTube & Views					30	1,131
Posts on Facebook & Interactions					372	108,380
Posts on Twitter & Likes					288	31,824
Posts on Instagram & Likes					2	34
Virtual Events					1	0
<i>Social Media numbers are separate from Attendance</i>						
Totals Social Media Impressions					693	141,369
TOTAL EVENTS & PROGRAMS ATTENDANCE	681	57,172	676	40,191	326	29,451
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	70,394		50,910		35,339	

ATTENDANCE HISTORICAL

DPM In-House	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
EVENTS/ PROGRAMS	288	202	252	250	306	271	296	240	273	274	253	249	241	257	286	215	208	158	33
Building Attendance	15,310	12,139	13,838	15,111	15,490	15,036	15,242	14,149	15,052	16,016	15,698	14,808	16,887	16,024	17,376	17,053	17,684	14,680	5,888
DPM OFF-SITE																			
EVENTS/ EXHIBITS	311	324	289	269	239	246	193	266	257	315	334	353	331	368	410	505	480	492	293
PARTICI- PANTS	66,351	69,706	56,018	54,018	60,534	59,356	50,903	45,128	57,730	55,633	62,572	61,668	54,467	43,628	38,181	41,090	52,710	34,805	27,036
GRANARY																			
WALK-INS												482	226	245	157	366	229	259	
EVENTS												42	25	35	32	39	36	26	
PARTICI- PANTS												642	939	1,189	856	1,631	1,211	1,425	
GRAND TOTALS																			
EVENTS	599	526	541	519	545	517	489	506	530	589	587	644	597	660	728	759	724	676	326
PARTICI- PANTS	81,661	81,845	69,856	69,129	76,024	74,392	57,173	59,277	72,782	71,649	78,270	77,600	72,519	61,086	56,570	60,140	71,834 **	50,910	35,339

**Closure of some long-term outreach exhibits at the end of 2018.

2020 Average Daily Museum Attendance = 27.35

Average daily attendance in 2019 = 48.097

The DPM is normally open around 300 days a year, in 2020 it was 156 days.

Our Visitors in 2020

UNITED STATES

36 states

AL, AK, AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, IN,
IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MN,
MO, MT, NE, NV, NJ, NM, NY, NC,
ND, OK, OR, PA, SD, TN, TX, VA,
WA, WI, WY

COUNTRIES

8 Countries

Australia

Belgium

France

Germany

Hungary

The Netherlands

Palau

Samoa



COVID19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

How to weather a pandemic

We had our last “normal” open day on Friday, March 13 and reopened to a new “normal” on Wednesday, July 8 (about four months). As a county-supported museum, we had a safety net that we did not take for granted. We also did not sit around and wring our hands. We immediately switched lanes and got to work reaching our museum families, patrons and community.

Straightaway we increased our social media presence. Do not underestimate the power of electronic entertainment, especially when everyone was quarantining and schooling and working from home. We posted artifact stories, had fun with our exhibits with April Fools – find the out-of-place object, and history trivia with archival photos of Brown County; we increased our social media output by 500%.

Next, we started producing videos, over 20 of them. We have upped our AV game, a good digital camcorder, lav mics, lighting; we can produce quality content on a budget. Our videos included, Facebook live exhibit tours, educational programming from our 3rd grade South Dakota history lessons, “Coffee with Friends” video chats with local historians about interesting topics. Wondering how to make butter? Check out our YouTube channel.

We have an annual All Dakota High School Fine Arts Exhibition in April that draws over 15 schools and 150 students from both North and South Dakota for two days of art workshops and curated judging sessions for 8-12 graders. Awards are given in 10 different media categories with a Best in Show prize selected by two professional artist/judges. This year it became a virtual competition and was shared via YouTube with our high school art teachers. We are pretty sure we had the only High School art event all spring in South Dakota.

As we made plans to reopen, we thought about how we could still provide educational enrichment in the interim and safely reintroduce the public to our building. Staff proposed conducting limited tours both in the exhibits and on Main Street. One staff person and nine participants took part in one exhibit tour in June and five downtown tours. This helped us maintain contact with our patrons and community in a fresh way that was well-received and well-attended. It gave us a good practice run for a limited reopening later in the summer.

Our regular summer camps were not feasible this year so we switched to a modified, greatly reduced art camp at Centennial Village, taking in only 9 campers per session instead of the usual 15-18 and cancelled our history camp altogether. To replace and supplement this annual summer tradition of interaction with our museum families, staff created history packets and art kits to distribute to families for 9 weeks, every Monday in June and July. We use our online reservation site for families to “reserve” packets. Each history packet had a theme and a scavenger hunt, and each art kit had an instruction sheet and supplies. We encouraged families to send pictures of the projects and scavenger hunts for us to post on our social media. It was well received and we handed out over 1200 history packets and about 900 art kits and serviced about 60-80 families each week.

Going forward we are open with new hours; in July we started with staff only at the front desk and in August we welcomed back our volunteers as they were comfortable. We have implemented many changes: One-way traffic, frequent hand sanitizer stations, complementary masks and other ways to make our staff, volunteers and guests feel safe. Our mascot, Buster the Bison, helps guests follow Buster’s Trail through the museum exhibits in one direction with fun little tidbits and posters. We are trying to make everything fun even though everything “normal” has changed. We may not be the same Museum that we closed in March but we reopened a better, safer, more innovative Museum, still committed to our community and our mission of telling the stories of the people of Brown County and the Dakota prairie.



COVID19 EVENTS



Summer Scavenger Hunt



Virtual April Fools



Summer Activity Packets



Virtual April Fools



Summer Art Kit Projects



"Coffee Break with Friends" Local History Videos

Aberdeen's Underground Tunnels



Dacotah Prairie Museum Collection

Summer Days on Social Media

MUNICIPAL POOL - ABERDEEN, SD, DAK.



Summer Days on Social Media



Autumn Harvest Stroll at the DPM



Virtual High School Art Show



Autumn Harvest Stroll at the DPM

VOLUNTEERS

We missed our Volunteers and Welcome Them Back

Museum volunteers are the (not so) secret weapon of our industry. Without the smiling face and cheery hello at the front desk, without the helping hands during Afternoons in the Past (APAST) and at camps, without the manual labor of building, hauling and cleaning and every other volunteer act (whew!), the Museum staff would not be able to do the tremendous amount of work required to operate this gem of an institution.

In 2020, our volunteers were not allowed in the building (along with the public) for about 16 weeks due to Covid. Some of our longtime volunteers decided to officially retire during this time and we thank them for their years of service. Returning volunteers when we reopened to the public were excited and happy to get out and DO SOMETHING while still feeling protected with our health safety protocols in place at the Museum.

We appreciate our volunteers and are grateful for their hours of service to the Museum:

HOURS DONATED: Board Attendance - **34**, Front Desk/Gift Shop - **640.25**
Education Programs -**32.5**, Exhibits Assistance - **426.5**, Collections Assistance - **57**,
Special Events - **62.5** = **TOTAL OF 1,252.75 HOURS in 2020**

Marcie Andersh
Chris Anderson
Josh Andrews
Evelyn Blum
Gayle Bortnem
Joan Buntrock
Nancy Clark-North
Kathleen Daly
Aaron Darling
Jan Erickson
Sue Gates
Susan Gerlach
Christina Grettler

Carmel Heyd
Jay Hopkins
Kathy Jackson
Becky Jacobson
Kathy Johnson
Ellen & Lindsey Kendall
Amara, Briella & Eliana Klipfel
Doug Klipfel
Barry Kusler
Jonnae Liebelt
Annikki Marttila
Marie McClintic
Mike McCafferty

Charles Mehlhaff
Cindy Myers
Alan Neville
Evan Ormand
Mkayla Peterson
Jason Pettigrew
Randy Pfutzenreuter
Jeanne Rasmussen
Linda Ringgenberg
Neil & Family Schaunaman
Caroline Sahli
Deanna Sanderson
Tabor Schabot

Lee Schinkel
Jacie Schley
Marie Schumacher
Justin Scott
Matthew Scott
Gretchen Sharp
Brad Tennant
Jacob Usselman
Kim Weaver
Chuck Welke



2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Brown County Budgeted Funds \$345,933.70

Aberdeen City Promotional Budgeted Funds \$12,000.00

TOTAL FUNDS BUDGETED..... \$357,933.70

Salaries & Benefits

Salaries..... \$205,054.87

Benefits..... \$76,345.08

TOTAL SALARIES & BENEFITS..... \$281,399.95

Operations

Insurance \$2,977.42

Professional Fees \$1,335.81

Cafeteria Flex Plan \$55.80

Publishing/Printing/Advertising \$17,926.87

Rentals \$5,763.00

Building Maintenance..... \$7,133.87

Vehicle Maintenance \$1,309.87

Supplies & Materials..... \$27,350.16

Postage \$134.10

Copier \$2,430.98

Travel & Conference \$94.00

Utilities..... \$2,719.63

TOTAL OPERATIONS..... \$67,627.54

TOTAL FUNDS SPENT..... \$349,027.49

TOTAL FUNDS REMAINING AT YEAR END..... \$8,906.21

EXPENDITURES THROUGH COUNTY/MAINTENANCE BUDGET

Gas & Electricity \$12,839.55

Water \$412.00

Supplies & Maintenance..... \$3,815.36

Janitor Salary \$12,173.62

TOTAL MAINTENANCE..... \$29,240.53

