

VERENDRYE MUSEUM,  
INC.

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- Annual Meeting
- New projects complete!

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# Historic Trails

Newsletter of the Verendrye Museum

ISSUE 2

FALL 2011

## Scotty Philip Memorial Ride a Success



The Bad River Trail: Scotty Philip Memorial Ride began with a re-creation of the pony express mail route (see story on page 2) July 16. July 17 saw 5000 riders leave Philip after a parade through town where the pony express delivered mail was then loaded on a stage coach for the trip back to Fort Pierre.

Night camps were filled with historical programs and entertainment.

## Fort Pierre Railroad Depot Will Return

Because of flooding and the remaining ground water, the depot's return was delayed until next spring.

The committee headed by Gary Grittner to return the depot to Fort Pierre continues to work diligently toward that goal.

Everything is in place and barring any unforeseen disaster, it is hoped the depot will be moved by March 2012.

## Annual Meeting Scheduled

Our annual meeting and dinner for members is set for November 19, 2011, at the Senior Center at the west end of the Community and Youth Involved Center. This year, three Board positions need to be filled.

All paid members are eligible to nominate, vote and serve on the

Board.

Nominations for the Board may be made in advance of the Annual Meeting by mailing such nominations to the Secretary, Ann Beckwith, at 20380 Hwy 1806, Fort Pierre, SD 57532. Nominations may also be made at the time of the meeting.

Memberships can be purchased in advance or at the door for \$25 single and \$35 family. Family membership allows for two voters and two dinners.

Dinner will be served at 5 followed by the meeting and election.

## Deadwood Trail Marked With Signs



Sign marking the Deadwood Trail

A special thank you to the volunteers that helped prepare for the flood in a very short amount of time. We appreciate all your efforts, either with help inside the museum or donations of food, snacks or water.

Bob Iversen and Blaine Nordvold, Chairmen of the Pony Express Committee at the beginning of the Pony Express Route



HISTORIC TRAILS

After the discovery of gold in the Black Hills in 1874, there became a need to transport people and freight to the Black Hills. The history buffs in this area and across the state of South Dakota know the easiest traveled route was overland from Fort Pierre, the nearest river port, to Deadwood, the epicenter of gold mining.

During the 1970's and in recognition of our nation's Bicentennial, a local rural Fort Pierre rancher/ historian, Roy Norman, and his wife, Edith, marked the trail from Fort Pierre to Grindstone with handmade signs. These signs told great stories of what happened in those years. During

the Fort Pierre Deadwood Trail ride in 2008, the participants realized many of the wooden signs were in disrepair and some had been destroyed.

A group of local volunteers located the Norman signs and documented the GPS of each. Eileen Fischer, Ft. Pierre and Patricia Adam, Pierre, applied for and received an outside Deadwood Grant for duplicating the Norman signs. The Verendrye Museum administered the financial part of the grant.

Eileen and Pat researched the placement of the signs along Highway 14. It was felt that if the signs were placed along the highway instead of in the fields,

more people could read and appreciate the history. The exact place of the Trail is noted with the GPS coordinates. The new signs look like the original ones and the stories are duplicated exactly. Eileen and Pat felt it was important that the history on the Norman's signs be preserved and appreciated by future generations.

This project is now complete. The signs were stopped at Grindstone or the Pennington County border. A total of 31 signs were placed along the route. The history can be appreciated by many and the stories will remain for future generations to appreciate.

## Museum Gets Facelift

The front of the Verendrye Museum has been remodeled with modern windows that closely resemble the original front. The modern updates did not change the rustic look of the historic building.

Because of the "flood of 2011" the museum was not open for

the summer season. Everything had to be evacuated which meant everything had to be tagged, wrapped and boxed to be ready to move out at a moments notice.

During July and part of August, the displays on the north side and a few walls and doors

were painted.

Through September and October Joyce Larsen, Museum Curator, and her staff have worked nights and weekends to assemble the displays back to their original cases. According to Joyce there is still much to do this spring.

## Pony Express Rides Again

July 16, 2011, the Verendrye Museum sponsored the Bad River/Scotty Philip Pony Express. Over 1,000 letters were carried to Philip from Fort Pierre by about

80 riders on horseback.

Groups of up to four riders carried two mailbags for about 4 miles at a fast trot. The riders for the next leg were waiting at the transfer point to continue the journey

The 85-mile route was com-

pleted in 11 hours and 15 minutes in well over 100-degree temperatures.

Philip welcomed the Pony Express with a parade of all the riders who collectively delivered the mail to the Philip Post Office.

# Renew Your Membership

Please fill out this form and send it with your check made out to the Verendrye Museum to: Verendrye Museum, PO Box 665, Fort Pierre, SD 57532, or bring the completed form and your check to the Annual meeting and dinner.

## 2011-2012 Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:

\_\_\_\_\_ Single \$25.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$35.00

## 100th Anniversary Photo Project Complete

In 1910, J.W. Darcy took a photograph of business and community leaders in Fort Pierre. His photo collage is on display in the Stanley County Courthouse on the second floor. In 2010, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of J.W. Darcy's tribute to our community, the Verendrye Museum duplicated his efforts and once again had the business and community leaders' photographs taken.

Ronda Wollman of Photography by Ronda donated her time to take the photos and compile the collage of the 2010 business and community leaders.

Chairman Eric Kelderman made arrangements for the 2010 photo collage to be displayed next to J.W. Darcy's 1910 businesspersons photo.

Copies of the entire collage or the individual photos can be purchased through Photography by Ronda.





### **Verendrye Museum, Inc.**

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Fort Pierre, SD 57532  
[verendryemuseum@dakota2k.net](mailto:verendryemuseum@dakota2k.net)  
[www.verendryemuseum.com](http://www.verendryemuseum.com)

### **Projects of the Verendrye Museum, Incorporated**

Verendrye Museum, Inc., is not just a building with historic displays. It is also a committed group of people interested in history and projects that promote historical understanding. These projects help enhance central South Dakota and remind people of our rich culture. Below are some of the past and present projects:

- Fort Pierre Deadwood Trail Ride**
- Fort Bennett to Fort Pierre: Casey Tibbs Memorial Ride**
- Historic Bad River Trail: Scotty Philip Memorial Ride**
- Bad River/Scotty Philip Pony Express**
- Fort Pierre 1906 Railroad Depot**
- 1890 Stanley County Jail**
- Old One Room Sanzarc Schoolhouse**
- 100th Anniversary Businesspersons Picture Project**
- Museum Displays**
- Log Cabin Update**

*Preserving Western South Dakota History*

Verendrye Museum  
PO Box 665  
Fort Pierre, SD 57532

Place  
Stamp  
Here

