

THE DAKOTA TERRITORY OBSERVES ITS CENTENNIAL

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEETS

1961 will be the 100th year of the Dakota Territory.

The City of Yankton became the capital of a territory that embraced what is now the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, parts of Montana and Wyoming. This vast wilderness became the homes of the pioneers. The hardships were many and the comforts few, but in this land of infinite variety, they realized a future for themselves and their children.

In 1803 and 1804, Lewis and Clark explored that portion of the Louisiana Purchase which became known as the Dakota Territory. There are many little known but interesting aspects of the Dakota Territory. For instance, the first white settlement was at Fort Pierre in 1817. (First Permanent Settlement)

In 1831, the first steamboat, the Yellowstone, came up as far as Fort Pierre. With the establishment of a newspaper, the Dakota Democrat, the news of this new land spread rapidly causing an influx of new growth.

In 1861, the pioneers, screaming for governmental regulations, were granted a charter establishing the boundaries of the Dakota Territory and bringing civilization to this far western land.

The period between 1861 and 1889, when the Dakota Territory was split into states, became a fierce period of internal struggle. Drought, blizzards, blistering heat and grasshoppers ruled the land; at times however conditions were ideal. Many great historical events took place in that period. For instance, Custer led the 7th cavalry on its ill fated march to the battle of the Little-Big Horn.

In 1876, the infamous Wild Bill Hickok was killed in Deadwood, South Dakota. Other notorious characters and outlaws roamed the plains of the Dakota Territory. The Daltons, the James Boys, Cole and Ira Younger and the famous Buffalo Bill Cody. In this period, the provocative Calamity Jane made her name known throughout the Territory. Perhaps the biggest news of all was GOLD IN THE BLACK HILLS!!, discovered in 1874 causing the famous gold rush of '76.

After a much contested and bitter fight, Bismarck, North Dakota, then Bismarck Dakota Territory became the territorial Capital. Ensuing years saw the separation, the Dakota Territory into North and South Dakota, leaving only parts of Montana and Wyoming of the original Dakota Territory.

Here are more little known facts of the Dakota Territory. The First Governor of Dakota Territory was the personal physician of the President of the United States. His name, William Jayne, appointed by Buchanan. The first legislature was small and consisted of more political figures rather than farmers of the area.

1864 saw the establishment of Fort Sisseton. 1873 the railroad reached Yankton and in 1874 the first white woman entered the Black Hills, Annie Tallent. 1876, the first stagecoach into the Black Hills, 1889, statehood for South Dakota, 1890, the death of Sitting Bull, 1904, Pierre was selected as the permanent capital of South Dakota, 1892 the first Corn Palace celebration, 1924 the first highway bridge at Yankton across the Missouri, 1927 Borglum began construction of Mount Rushmore. This alone has become one of the outstanding memorials of the Federal Government.

With the coming of the end of the struggle of the sheep men and cattlemen, all was solified and the Dakotas' settled down to become the "Land of Infinite Variety", with Great plains of fat cattle grazing, beautiful fields of crops, corn, wheat, oats, and alfafa. From great fertile productivity of the eastern part of the Dakotas', we go West to the barron and desolate bad lands.

A pioneering spirit still exists in the people who are a part of what has become known as the last frontier of development in these United States. 1961 heralds the Centennial of the Dakotas'. We should like to share our history with the rest of the world.

We extend to our nighbors throughout the couuntry, an invitation to come to the Dakotas' and help us observe what we believe to be a proud history. We have planned many things for you. You will see the pageantry of this great Territory unfold; entertainment, parades, authentic Indian folklore, reproduced military establishments, and the drama of life of the Dakota Pioneers. In 1961, we wish to make this the show place of the nation. Not only are we being antiquarian, we also wish to extoll the virtues of not only 100 years of progress but of a futre unlimited.

Good living in Dakotas' is all aroudn you. Dakota is fast becoming the playground of the middle west. Its outstanding hunting, fishing, water sports, boating, horse racing, dog racing and of course the traditional rodeo are but a few pleasures that await you when you visit the Dakotas'. The Governor, the legislature and the friendly people of the Dakotas' extend this invitation to visit and take part in the commemoration of this Centennial.

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