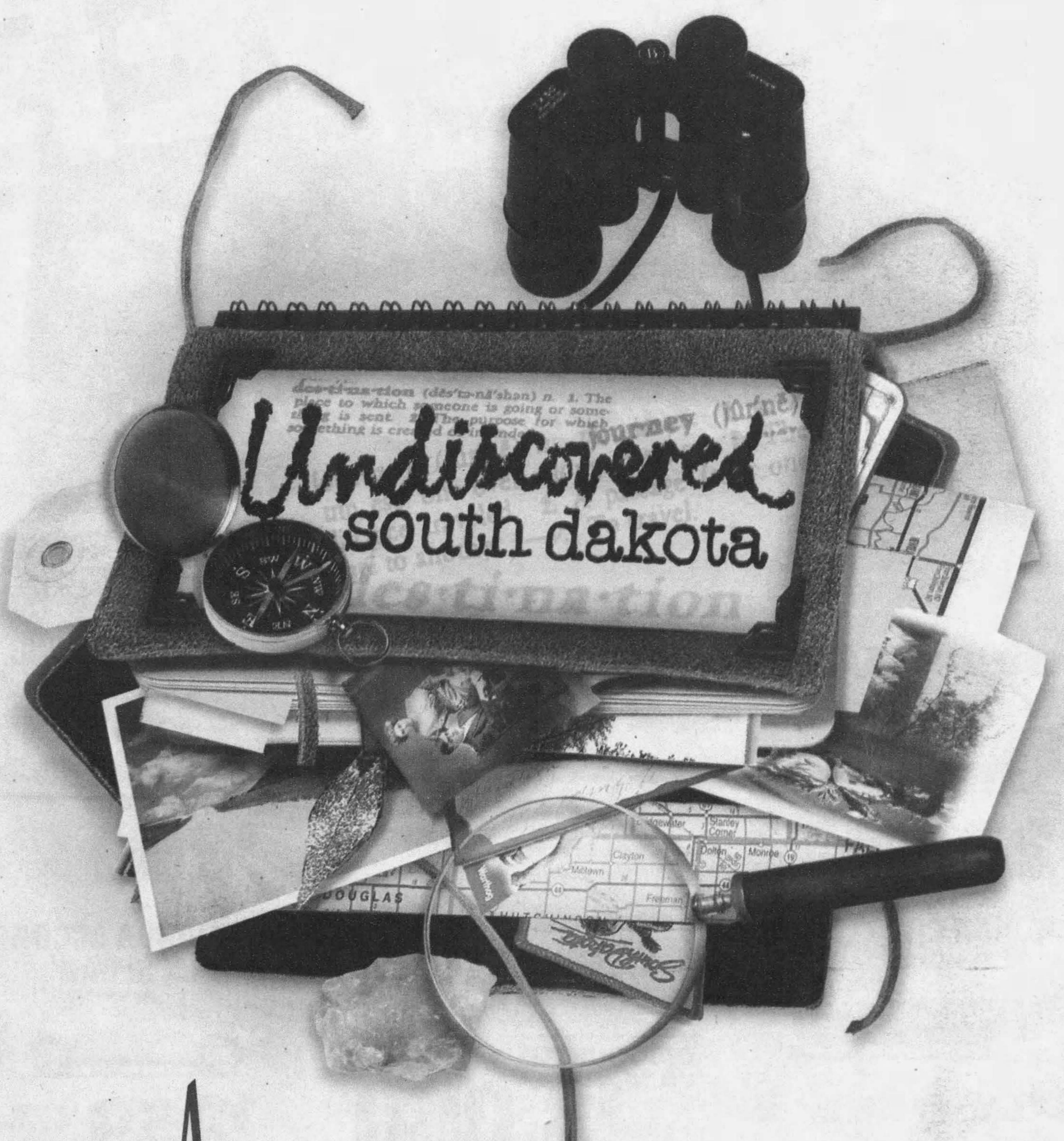
Argus Leader Sunday, Sept. 26, 2004



family passes a jar of sugar cookies down through the generations. An abandoned country ballfield comes alive on lazy summer nights. Legends of bank robbers and hideaways are passed down in community lore.

Argus Leader reporters found many such stories when they set out, much like

famed explorers Lewis and Clark did 200 years ago, to explore South Dako-

In this section, you will meet people, hear their stories and see sights you probably have never seen.

Join our modern-day Corps of Discovery as it explores the South Dakota you may not know.



About this propert

For six weeks in July and August, 42 Argus Leader newsroom staff members - reporters, photographers, artists and online editors - spread out to find the Undiscovered South Dakota.

With an eye toward marking the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the staff members traveled in teams to six areas of the state - Northeast, Southwest, Southeast, South Central, North Central and Northwest. They logged thousands of miles, ate in local cafes, drove dusty country roads. They found dozens of friendly South Dakotans, including a couple who invited a reporter in for pudding and park rangers who led a team into the depths of Wind Cave. Reporters kept diaries of what they saw and who they met along the way.

The travelers returned with dozens of stories and photos and an excitement to share what they had found. In the end, 98 stories were written. Many of them are featured in this section. Others, as well as the reporters' complete diaries, are available on our Web site, argusleader.com.

We hope you will enjoy rediscovering South Dakota with us.

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Northwest

North Central

Northeast

Find out where a Cold War missile site is being transformed into a B&B, and sit in on a card game that's been going on for 50 years.

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Near Wecota, a man lives in a five-story grain elevator. Also, in Vivian, bank robbers used a garden hose to help pull off the caper.

PAGES 35-40

Did famous gangsters visit tiny Hillhead in the 1930s? And do horses really need massages?

PAGES 4-10

Meet the man who gave Abraham Lincoln a new hairdo, and learn more about the vast expanses of Wind Cave.

PAGES 11-18

Anthrope,

Meet a caramel roll lady from Presho and a guy who has dedicated his house to the Minnesota Vikings.

PAGES 27-34

Ante Contract

Accompany our explorers as they journey across South Dakota in a special online experi-

An Elk Point woman has an 88-year-old jar of cookles. Meanwhile, a Garretson man is convinced he has found a bottomless pit.

PAGES 19-26

This project was edited by Jacqueline Palfy, Life editor, and Kyle Heim, assistant metro editor. It was designed by Sarah Beatty, creative director of custom publishing, and Jim Helland, design editor. Jane Thaden Lawson, Laura Buseman, Caroline Lalley and Todd Norden copy-edited. Marty Two Bulls made the maps. Cory Beck is online editor.

Some photographs courtesy of the Old Courthouse Museum.

THE PARTY OF THE P

ence. In the multi-media slide show, you'll meet some of the characters and see the sights that are featured in this special section. In addition, you can read the complete diaries kept by Argus Leader staff members as they traveled and find more Undiscovered South

Dakota tales. It's all at www.argusleader.com.

A TO A DOLLAR SECTION OF THE SECTION

Northwell

THEFFE FORTH BBBBBBBBBB

IN THIS SECTION

DEAL THEM IN

Afternoon card game in Faith a tradition

TRINKETS FROM LEMMON 43

Jewelers supply national park system

COLD WAR CONVERSION Family converts missile silo to B&B

OLD THINGS GET NEW LIFE 45 600 dolls part of museum's collection

SPEED DEMON AT 72

Church organist feels need for speed

BUFFALO GRAVEYARD

Reservoir now covers ancient site

MORE ONLINE

For more stories and diary entries, log on to www.argusleader.com.



Team members are (from left) Jennifer Sanderson, Jeff Martin, Caroline Lalley, Kelly Hildebrandt,
Nathaniel Cerf, Marty Two Bulls
and Jason McKibben. Cory Beck is not pictured.



AFTERNOON TRADITION IS IN THE CARDS IN FAITH

For these retirees, part of game is giving each other a hard time

AITH – Depending on how the score is tallied, the card game at Haines Trucking has been going on either for an afternoon or for some 50 years.

The stakes are bragging rights until the next day's game, but the price is a quarter in the kitty to help the building's owner recoup heat and electric costs. That would be Glen Haines, also Faith's mayor. The phone has its own entry in the town's book, if anyone cares to look up "Haines Card Room."

The men sprung the much-improved "new" table from someone's kitchen, shoring it up to handle added elbow weight. Conversation around the deck has a reputation for rivaling gossip at the beauty parlor, with more inventive language. At least half of the players came to the game as boys with their fathers. Most are retired ranchers, although laziness often is a topic of discussion.

"He never did a damn thing to retire from," player Donn King said of Alfred Moelter, his pinochle partner for the day.

King might be considered an authority on work by virtue of his being on afternoon break from his kitchen at Kings Hi-Way Cafe. The local breakfast hangout adjoins the Cenex station on Highway 212. Another player, Derl Jensen, drives 60 miles round-trip from Lantry each game day. If two make it, the pair plays cribbage. But, King said, if "three, three-and-a-half or four" show up, the game is pinochle.

"That guy over there," Moelter said, pointing across the table to King. "He's worth half a player."

For a stretch of time, the muffled slaps of cards laid on green felt were the only background noise as the men let high scores go unchallenged. As a particularly productive hand played out, King checked turns on dealing. "Did I deal that?" he asked.

"No," Moelter answered from beneath a battered black hat, "you couldn't deal that good."

He was winning that day, but King charged that it was only because he was the scorekeeper and a cheat.

"They're just jealous," Moelter said. "Because they can't add, and I got through third grade."

Jennifer Sanderson



Diarry

It's peculiar how quickly a person's perspective changes. On the way out west, we didn't take much note of the many

different crops. But once we got into the ranching country from Faith to Union Center, we nearly marveled at the narrow strip of corn someone was growing among the hills and rocks. Later, we gained an appreciation for the occasional tree.

Caroline Lalley

Did How Knows.

A card game played a prominent role in the colorful history of western South Dakota.

On Aug. 2, 1876, Wild Bill Hickock was gunned down by Jack McCall while playing poker in a saloon on Deadwood's main street.

The hand Hickock was holding at the time – a pair of black aces and a pair of black eights – has come to be known ever since as the dead man's hand.

Why did McCall gun down Hickock? Some historians think McCall may have been retaliating for the death of his brother, Lew. Hickock allegedly shot and killed McCall's brother in Kansas.

Others think the gunman was trying to enhance his image.

Some details you may not know about the famous western scene:

Hickock's real name was James Butler Hickock.

The jack of diamonds was the other card in Hickock's hand.

- First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

ARGUS LEADER, SIOUX FALLS, S.D. + SUNDAY + SEPT. 26, 2004

EDITORIALS

Lower cost of higher ed

Tuition in state is affordable – for many families. But others need more help

On the surface, a new report that gives South Dakota an F for affordability of higher

education is damning. Dig a little deeper, though. There's much more to this. It's just flat-out wrong.

The report is Measuring Up 2004, a study by the National Center on Public Policy and Higher Education.

We got a B+ in participation, which measures the opportunity for higher education. And with six public universities - plus a variety of private colleges - for our small population, that makes sense. We probably should have received an A.

It's the affordability category that's troubling. We got an F, along with 36 other states - so if you buy the idea that we're really bad, we've got plenty of company. According to the report, families spend an average of 23 percent of their income on public universities. At private schools, it's 50 percent.

Both figures were up from 10 years ago. The costs include not just tuition, but books, room and board, and other expenses. And those are figured after financial aid.

That would be appalling if it were true. It's not. It's absolute craziness.

The truth is, tuition at our public universities is about \$4,100 a year. Yes, there are oth-

er expenses, but how does that match up with a state median household income of around \$38,000? There would have to be a whole lot of additional expenses - more than equal the cost of tuition - to push the figure up to 23 percent of income.

Actually, that's not how the report calculates all this. It bases the figures on low-to middle-income families. And there's a huge difference. In fact, the report specifically talks about families making \$20,600 a year. Adding in additional costs to tuition, those families spend about a third of their income on public education.

It's all a question of what figures are used - and how they're used.

"Their measuring stick is not designed to give us kudos," said Board of Regents President Harvey Jewett, who contends tuition and fees at South Dakota schools are afford-

"Affordable" always is a tricky word. But by any measure, \$4,100 a year in tuition - in a state where the median household income is \$38,000 – is affordable.

That \$4,100 is a bargain in the higher education world. Look around at other states. You'd be hard-pressed to find as good a deal. Not only is the raw tuition figure a bargain,

but the state Board of Regents has kept increases to a minimum, while other states are raising tuition at double-digit percentages - year after year.

Does that mean we've done all we can to make sure all South Dakota students can get a college degree if they're academically qualified?

No. We'll likely never do enough.

But we've started. In the past year we've seen two scholarship plans funded - one by the Legislature and one through business donations. After years without state-sponsored scholarships, we're on the right track.

Maybe we're not as far as we need to be, but we're on the right track.

We probably can do more, especially in the area of loans. And we should look closely at loans tied to the student entering a critical profession, as well as staying in South Dakota for a specified period of time after gradua-

That would help meet our needs of filling important jobs and stemming the exodus of our young people.

To say we're unaffordable, though? To lump us with 36 other states and give us an

That's just a bunch of hooey.

Unaccredited crime lab no reason for alarm

It's a little distressing to learn - in the midst of investigating the 33-year-old disappearance of two teenagers - that our state crime lab isn't accredited by a national organization.

But it shouldn't concern us greatly, either.

The question came up as the lab was getting evidence from the Division of Criminal Investigation's Cold Case Unit and others looking into the 1971 disappearance of two Vermillion girls.

Some labs are accredited by the American Society of Crime Lab Directors. Ours is not.

That doesn't necessarily have to be a problem,

though: Only 274 of more than 1,000 crime labs are accredited, and ours is a small one.

■ The issue in court is not so much accreditation as it is past. It sounds like in the the following of standardized future, we'll be better.

procedures. All evidence indicates we do that, and there have been no serious questions about the lab's competence.

We're building a new, larger crime lab as part of a \$21.3 million complex that will have a law enforcement training academy, an emergency operations center, and offices for the attorney general and department of public safety. Plans are to gain accreditation for that new facility - partly so we can take advantage of repayment through work for the U.S. attorney.

"Full accreditation opens doors by way of funding we simply can't open now," said Attorney General Larry

That seems like a smart

We've been OK in the

Take a look in the mirror

'Undiscovered' section explores people, places that make S.D. what it is

If you scan this space occasionally, you've probably heard me say that the very best newspapers hold a mirror up to the unique people, places and issues of the regions they serve.

That's not all they do, of course. They also lead - committing to the kind of fearless journalism that challenges us to make our communities and states better places to live, and editorially pointing the way.

But it is that first, vitally important and too-often overlooked role of a newspaper to which I devote my thoughts today.



Executive Editor

The fact is, a newspaper must earn the right to lead. And it does that by fulfilling that role I first mentioned in varied ways - acting as a sounding board for a diverse spectrum of voices, accurately and fairly reflecting the many rhythms of life in a place, capturing the

essence of a people. Inside your Argus Leader today is a 48-page special section, "Undiscovered South Dakota," that

represents a herculean effort to do all those things in a way that reminds each of us of this uncommon and remarkable place we call home. Throughout the summer, six teams of Argus Leader staffers - reporters, editors,

artists, clerks and photographers - took turns exploring the nooks and crannies, near and far, of the Rushmore State. Their charge: Like the Lewis and Clark expedition 200 years earlier, discover and

record the unique fabric of South Dakota the stuff that doesn't appear in travel brochures or road atlases. From the 15-year-old basketball phenom of White River to an Elk Point woman's 88year-old cookies to Faith's half-century-long

card game, the compelling stories, poignant images and personal journals assembled by the Argus Leader staff hold up a true mirror to this state and its people. I don't usually bother to tell you how hard we work here to bring you a good newspa-

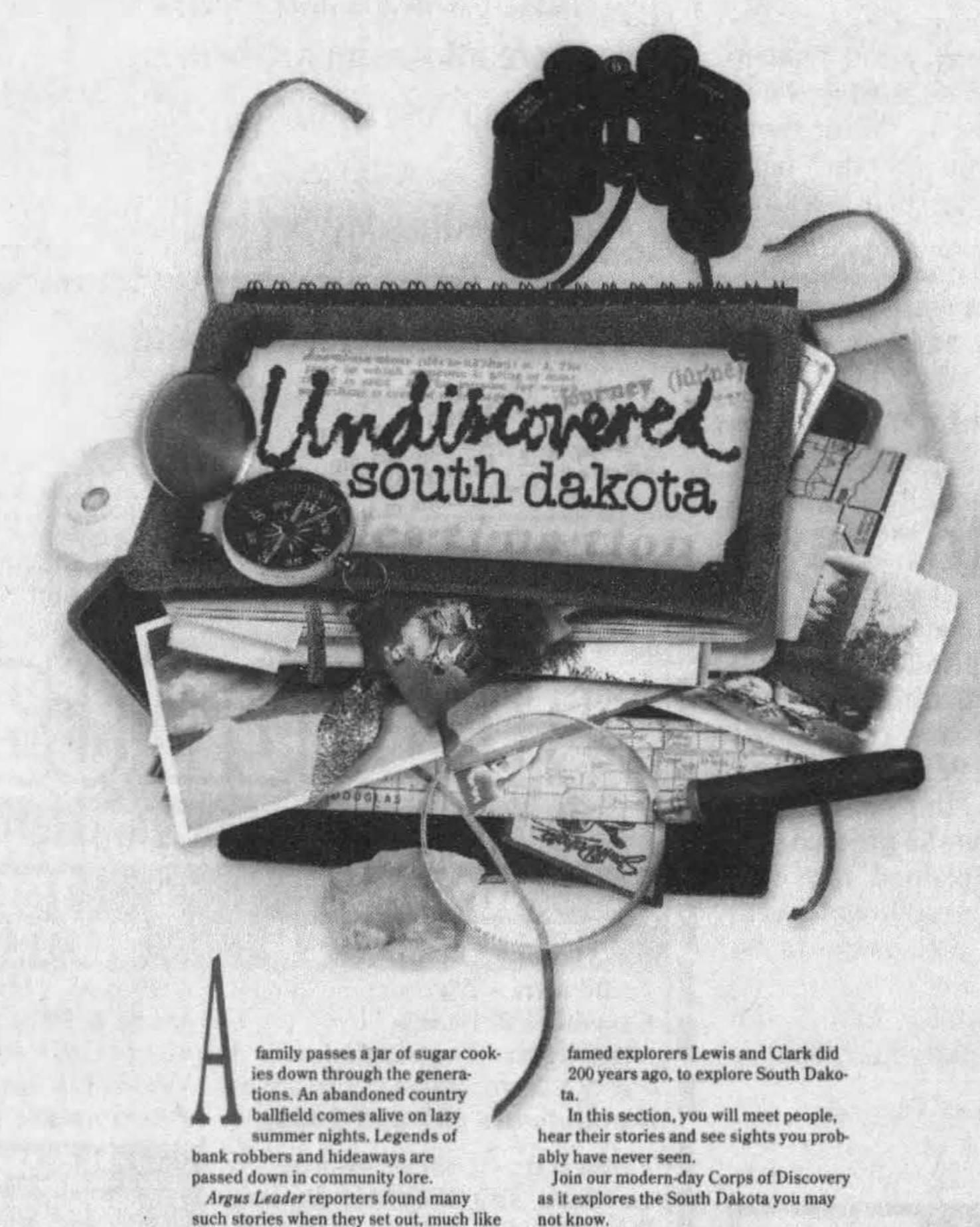
per every day. That's what you expect, and you should. We expect our public officials to perform their duties without special plaudits, and it must be no different with us. But I'll make an exception in this case. Staffers, attacking this unusual assign-

ment with zeal, racked up an estimated 32,000 miles as they scoured the state for the stories in this section, as well as an additional 60 that are featured exclusively on our Web site, argusleader.com.

In case you don't have your calculator handy, that's comparable to driving from New York to Los Angeles about 11 times.

The journals they kept along the way (all are featured on our Web site) recorded the personal - Brenda Wade Schmidt's trip to tiny Hillhead, where 50 years ago a young man worked up the courage to ask to drive a young woman home from the dance; they

Argus Leader SUNDAY, SEPT. 26, 2004



LLOYD B. CUNNINGHAN / ARGUS LEADER

The Argus Leader presses were busy printing two special sections. Both are included in this newspaper bundle. Daily subscribers are getting the bonus sections, too.

became Brenda's parents - and the aweinspiring - how Randy Hascall felt as he gazed, alone, into the heavens on a moonless night on Bad River Road near Wendte.

As they traveled, staffers rediscovered a truth often lost in the breakneck pace and polarized climate of today's world: On this side of America, people remain generally kind, trusting and more than a little proud of their families, work, friends, communities and state.

That's why I think the experience of working on "Undiscovered South Dakota" was a lot like yours will be reading it. Ultimately, both reconfirm our decision to make this place our home.

The behind-the-scenes story of this project wouldn't be complete without mentioning the extraordinary efforts of the newspaper's circulation department to make it available to a wider-than-normal audience.

More than 14,000 copies will go to 115 South Dakota schools, where, through the Newspapers in Education program, teachers will use them as tools to bring the state and its history to life for our children.

Our normal Sunday distribution was

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► GREG ROBINSON, Controller 331-2280

▶ CHUCK BALDWIN, Editorial Page, Editor 331-2326

► GARY SHAWD, Information Technology Director

expanded so that you'll be able to buy a copy of the Argus Leader in nearly all 66 counties, from Sturgis and Belle Fourche to Mobridge and Faulkton and points in between.

And, perhaps most gratifying, three veterans groups have purchased 1,000 copies of "Undiscovered South Dakota" to send to our troops in Iraq.

To meet the anticipated demand for this section, we printed about 113,000 newspapers, the largest single press run in Argus Leader history. On top of that, the newspaper itself is a lot bigger and heavier than usual. (I sure hope you didn't get a hernia when you picked it up.)

Here's another way of putting it: We used roughly 85 rolls of paper – four tractor-trailer loads - to produce today's newspapers, enough to stretch the 700 miles from Sioux Falls to Denver.

That's a lot of paper to reflect, as a mirror, the unique people and places of this magnificent state.

But we're worth it, don't you think?

Randell Beck is executive editor of the Argus Leader. Contact him at (605) 331-2332 or rabeck@argusleader.com.

Chris Hesla, 43, is the executive director of South Dakota Wildlife Federation in Brookings.

Guest columns, maximum 500 words, may be submitted to: Reader's Forum, Argus Leader, Box 5034, Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5034. You also can e-mail the information to editor@argusleader.com or fax it to 605-331-2294.



Bill needs to fix U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BY CHRIS HESLA

After years of scrutiny and criticism from scientists and policy experts for its penchant for porkfilled water projects that harm the environment, the upcoming Water Resources Development Act of 2004 presents a landmark opportunity to change the way the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does business. This legislation would authorize more than \$8.6 billion's worth of new Corps projects. More than \$5.5 billion of that sum would be at federal taxpayer expense at a time when the nation is facing record-setting deficits.

Reforming the Corps of Engineers is the true test of whether Congress and the administration are serious about reining in government spending and whether they are truly committed to fiscal and environmental responsibili-

While the Senate's version of the bill incorporates some longawaited and much-needed policy changes, it is not sufficient to restore the checks and balances needed to steer the nation's largest water management agency onto a path of environmentally sustainable and fiscally responsible water solutions.

The South Dakota Wildlife Federation urges Sens. Tom Daschle and Tim Johnson to oppose this legislation until the Senate closes policy loopholes that allow the corps to pursue environmentally destructive projects at great public expense with little or no public scrutiny.

The National Academy of Sciences, the Department of the Army Inspector General, the General Accounting Office, federal agencies and independent experts have all documented the need for modernization and improvement of the corps' program, to ensure current and future water projects are based

on the best available science and sound economic analysis.

The bill fails to ensure that the corps pursues economically and environmentally sound projects through a truly independent system of review. The independent review provision in the bill would allow many older, economically and environmentally questionable projects to escape review. It also fails to allow the public to participate and provides no consequences if the corps chooses to ignore the panel's recommendations.

Ironically, the Senate's version

of the bill contains a section about updating and modernizing the corps' planning guidance that does little to actually update or modernize the corps. In order to protect our precious water resources and tax dollars, the bill must direct the corps to make environmental protection an explicit co-equal goal of project planning, as recommended by two National Academy of Sciences reports. The bill also must direct the corps to update and modernize its 20-year old Principles and Guidelines to reflect contemporary scientific methods and technologies.

The bottom line is that the Senate's bill continues the porkbarrel tradition at a time when our nation can least afford it. In order to protect South Dakota's natural beauty and wildlife heritage and support the Bush administration's commitment to no-net-loss of wetlands, Senators Daschle and Johnson must ensure this bill contains meaningful, common sense policy changes to the corps' program. The corps must change if our children and grandchildren are to be able to enjoy a healthy environment.

We cannot afford to let this opportunity to reform the corps slip by.

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WRITE US LETTERS

We welcome Voice of the People letters that have a maximum of 200 words and are written exclusively to the Argus Leader.

All letters are subject to editing and trimming. New writers from the Argus Leader circulation area receive preference over

repeat authors.

Letters to the editor, opinion and editorial columns, and articles submitted to the Argus Leader may be published or distributed in print, electronic or other forms.

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