

PRESERVING OUR PAST

Mary Ellen Casey House Restored

Mary Ellen Casey's home is hard to miss. The rose house (accented with purple and white), built about 126 years ago, is perched directly above Main Street on Deadwood's Forest Hill. The home itself is beautifully restored, inside and out, and its distinctive switchback stairs and terraced retaining walls are scheduled for replacement this spring. But, Casey says, none of it would have been possible without the grant and loan programs available to Deadwood residents from the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission.

"This house would not have made it without that," she told the Rapid City Journal recently.

According to Rose Speirs, a DHPC board member, Casey is part of

a growing number of Deadwood residents availing themselves of Deadwood's grants and low- or zero-interest loans to restore their aging residential properties.

"When gaming first began in 1989, our first priority was to restore the central commercial district," Speirs said. "And while there's a great deal yet to be done in downtown Deadwood, we're beginning to focus more on residential properties. Many of the houses here are more than a century old, and if they don't receive some attention soon, they're going to deteriorate."

Speirs explained that restoring the city's retaining walls is a priority because the foundations of Deadwood's houses – built on the steep hillsides of the gulch – are dependent on the support they provide.

"Without the retaining walls, the foundations of a lot of these houses would crack and



Mary Ellen Casey, Deadwood home owner, and Rose Speirs, DHPC board member, stand outside Casey's beautifully restored home.

crumble," Speirs said. "And when that happens, any other restoration you've done above ground becomes a moot point."

For Casey, restoration of the walls and preservation of the house was especially important, since the property has been in her family since the 1930s. Thanks to Deadwood's matching grant program, the most she'll have to pay for the retaining wall work is \$3,500 – which she can finance with city-sponsored low-interest loans. She's already taken advantage of other restoration programs, including the Deadwood Paint Grant.

"There are a number of great restoration incentive programs in Deadwood," Speirs said. "And the more residents know about them and utilize those funds, the more Deadwood's historic character will be preserved."



ON-TAP IN DEADWOOD

FEBRUARY 4-5, 2005
Mardi Gras
"Madness"

MARCH 5, 2005
Rockin'
Into Spring

MARCH 17-19, 2005
St. Patrick's
Day Celebration

Saint Ambrose's Plan Sparks Emotional Response

Deadwood's famed Mount Moriah Cemetery has long been valued by the town's residents as a community treasure. But city officials had no idea how strongly people felt about Deadwood's lesser-known historic burial ground – Saint Ambrose's Cemetery – until they announced restoration plans in the last edition of the HistoryLink newsletter.

"Since the last newsletter went out, all we've gotten are positive responses," said Tammy Jo McGuckin, administrative assistant for the Deadwood Department of Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation. "We had one phone call from a resident who has family up at Saint Ambrose's and really wanted to thank us for the restoration plans. She was very, very grateful."

"Then we received a second phone call from a gentleman who didn't give his name or where he was from," McGuckin continued. "He was crying so hard he could barely talk. He said that he had a family member that was buried up there, and he was so grateful that Deadwood was going to restore that cemetery. It was a very emotional conversation."

But, McGuckin said, the signs of appreciation didn't stop there. She explained that the office also had received a note – and a check for \$10 – from a man in Arizona who wished to express his support for the Saint Ambrose's project.

"It was just a real short note," McGuckin said, "but it was very nice."

After offering "congratulations and commendations!," the author explains that even though donations weren't requested, he wanted "to give the enclosed \$10 as a token of my thoughts and feelings for the restoration of Saint Ambrose's Cemetery."

"It was a really great experience to hear from them," McGuckin said. "It was nice to talk to them and know that we're really helping these people and making them happy with this project."



Tammy Jo McGuckin, administrative assistant at Deadwood City Hall, stands with a letter expressing appreciation for the Saint Ambrose's restoration project. The Arizona author also enclosed a \$10 check to help with the efforts.

Deadwood Historic Symposium



On April 1-3, 2005, the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission will be presenting the Third Annual

Deadwood Historic Preservation Symposium. Previous symposia have focused on Chinese Archeology and History in the West and Mining Architecture and Technology. This year's symposium will focus on Historic Western Cemeteries, and is supported and cosponsored by the Leland Case Library at Black Hills State University and the Adams House and Museum.

The Symposium will once again be held at the Deadwood Masonic Center on Main Street. There will be

three intensive three-hour workshops held on Friday, April 1, 2005, prior to the official start of the Symposium. There will be a morning workshop discussing Genealogy and Cemeteries and an afternoon workshop presenting hands on Recordation and Restoration Techniques for Grave Markers. There will also be a three-hour tour of local cemeteries including Mount Moriah and Saint Ambrose's in Deadwood and South Lead Cemetery. There will be limited enrollment and a registration fee for the workshops and tour.

The Symposium will commence officially with registration and an opening reception on Friday evening. This will provide an opportunity for participants to view a photo exhibit and meet various exhibitors. There will be eight

separate presentations on Saturday by experts from throughout the nation. These presentations will discuss cemetery design, cemetery restoration, iron grave markers, western cemeteries as part of western myth and history, archeology and ethnic variations in cemetery development. The dinner on Saturday evening will feature a presentation by Candace Wheeler from Virginia City, Nevada. Sunday morning there will be a roundtable discussion of various cemetery topics by attendees and speakers.

The impetus for the symposium was the donation of Saint Ambrose's Cemetery to the City of Deadwood by the Rapid City Catholic Diocese. Preliminary planning has started on the proposed restoration of Saint Ambrose's, and actual work should commence in the late spring of 2005.

Fifteen Years of Sharing the Growth

At high noon on November 1, 1989, a gunshot on Deadwood's historic Main Street signaled the beginning of legalized gaming in this Wild West town – and the start of historic preservation projects that would span across the entire state of South Dakota.

The fifteenth anniversary of this historic event was observed earlier this year at the Franklin Hotel, where civic leaders and members of the media gathered to celebrate accomplishments and take note of the long road ahead. Among the speakers was Jay D. Vogt, South Dakota's state historic preservation officer and director of the State Historical Society.

"Deadwood has become a shining example of historic preservation for the past 15 years. During that time we have established a tremendous partnership between the City and the State of South Dakota and the South Dakota State Historical Society," he said, going on to note Deadwood's aggressive retaining wall programs, the Chinese archaeological dig and funding for projects outside Deadwood such as the Homestake Opera House in Lead, the Frawley Ranch outside Spearfish and the Empire Theater in Sioux Falls.

Sean Rost, president of the Deadwood Chamber of Commerce, also noted the strong partnership between the community and the state, highlighting the continued cooperation in marketing among Deadwood, the State Tourism Department and the regional tourism organizations.

"Today, for every dollar of gaming money that Deadwood spends marketing itself, it sends two dollars and fifty cents to the State Tourism Fund," Rost said. "That's good for all of us!"

Indeed, funds derived from gaming taxes don't stop at Deadwood city limits. In fact, dozens of preservation projects throughout South Dakota have received

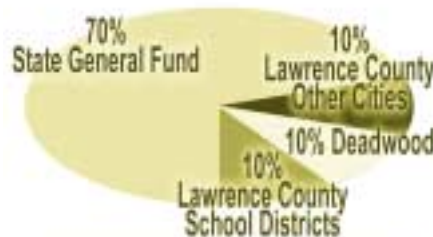
more than a half million dollars over the past three years as part of the Outside Deadwood Grant Fund.

But the Outside Deadwood grants are a relatively small part of the millions of dollars derived from Deadwood gaming that end up in the state government and other municipalities each year. According to the 2004 annual report of the South Dakota Gaming Association, last year the South Dakota Department of Tourism received \$2.2 million, the State General Fund received over \$1 million and other communities and school districts received more than \$300,000. All told, over \$118 million in taxes have been collected since gaming began in Deadwood in 1989.

"Deadwood is a fantastic preservation success story for all of South Dakota," says Jim Wilson, Deadwood's Historic Preservation Officer. "Every time we preserve something in Deadwood, we preserve a piece of South Dakota's heritage. And every time we help preserve something somewhere else in the state, we're really helping to deepen our understanding of Deadwood. Everything is related somehow. It's really remarkable."

For more information, visit www.deadwoodhistorylink.org/legislators

Sharing The Growth



In 1995 legislation capped Deadwood's share of gaming taxes and license fees at \$6.8 million. Everything above that amount is shared as shown above.

In 2004 the following received funding from Deadwood gaming:

- South Dakota Tourism - \$2.26 million
- State General Fund - \$1.03 million
- Lawrence County - \$565,000
- Lawrence County Schools - \$146,000
- Lawrence County Cities - \$146,000
- City of Deadwood - \$146,000



Don Nelson, from the Northern Hills General Hospital, paints a Deadwood home. In 2004, NHS celebrated 10 years of "Paint the Town."

Neighborhood Revitalization

Each December, Deadwood residents gather to hang holiday decorations and lights around their neighborhood. The beautifully restored Victorian-era homes and thousands of tiny lights present an incredibly delightful picture – a picture that even those without vehicles can enjoy, thanks to several nights of neighborhood tours on the Deadwood trolleys. But none of it would be possible without cooperation between the Neighborhood Housing Services of the Black Hills and Deadwood Historic Preservation.

"We sponsor a number of NHS programs each year, from Paint the Town in the summer to the Tour of Lights during the holiday season," said Jim Wilson, Deadwood's Historic Preservation Officer. "We also work closely with the neighborhood block clubs on similar community projects. It really helps to bring the town together."

Deadwood's eight block clubs – one for each of the historic town's distinctive residential districts – take on several neighborhood jobs each year, including hanging holiday lights in winter, planting flowers in spring and hosting picnics in summer. For the most part, the projects are organized by NHS and sponsored by the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission.

"Deadwood's not just a tourist attraction or just a historical site," Wilson said. "It's a living, vibrant community, and thanks to the block clubs and groups like NHS, it always will be."

2005 DHPC GRANTS

The recipients of the 2005 Outside Deadwood Grants will be announced in February, says Deadwood Historic Preservation Officer Jim Wilson. The grant fund awards up to \$250,000 each year to historic properties in South Dakota outside of Deadwood city limits. For more information, visit www.deadwoodhistorylink.com/grants_finding

HistoryLink

A TRAIL TO DEADWOOD'S PAST

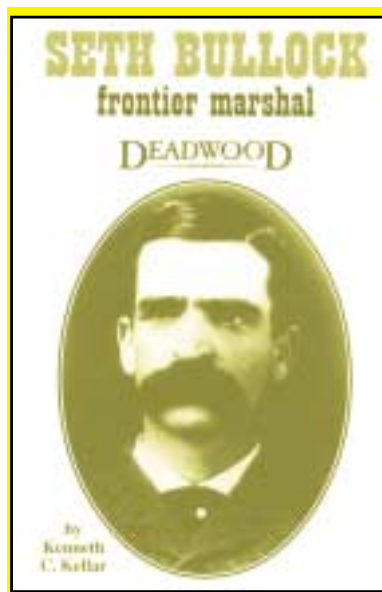
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Deadwood Continues Towns Worldwide Media Exposure

The technology of Deadwood's early days was recently featured on the History Channel cable network on "Deadwood Tech," part of the weekly Wild West Tech series hosted by David Carradine. Over the past several months Deadwood has also been featured in the News of the World, one of the largest national newspapers in the United Kingdom, Up Country, the largest country music magazine in Europe, and several publications in Australia and New Zealand, where HBO's Deadwood premiered in October. Additionally, major feature stories on Deadwood will appear during the coming months in Antiques Magazine, Western Horseman and AAA Living.



After almost three decades, Seth Bullock: Frontier Marshal is back in publication, thanks to a partnership between the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission and the Adams Museum and House. The two organizations recently purchased the copyright for the book, which was written by Bullock's grandson and Lead native Kenneth C. Kellar. Kellar died in 1981. Reprints of the book are available at the Adams Brothers Bookstore at the Adams Museum,

or online at www.AdamsMuseumAndHouse.org/store as well as other retail outlets.