



# Plains Talk

Volume 39, Number 1 - Spring 2008

**'Dinomummy' Debuts June 14**

## World-Famous Dinosaur at North Dakota Heritage Center

A mummified dinosaur, one of the rarest fossils ever found, will be on public display at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck beginning June 14. The duck-billed hadrosaur, nicknamed "Dakota," was discovered in 1999 by Tyler Lyson, now a doctoral student in paleontology at Yale, on his uncle's ranch near Marmarth in southwestern North Dakota. When he first saw it, Lyson knew he had found something very special.

The nearly complete hadrosaur fossil has skin, bones, and tendons preserved in sandstone.

"This duckbill's skin is remarkably

preserved, making Dakota one of the most scientifically important dinosaurs ever found," said State Paleontologist Dr. John Hoganson with the North Dakota Geological Survey (NDGS). He estimates the living hadrosaur weighed about four tons, and was a plant eater. Dakota was buried quickly after death about 67 million years ago, and its skin and other soft tissues were replaced by minerals.

On exhibit near the museum's main gallery entrance beginning June 14 will be one arm and the tail section. Overviews will explain how the dinosaur was found and the process of

*continued on page 2*



Photograph by Deborah K. Hellman, SHSND

Working to prepare the dinosaur for exhibit is Amy Sakariassen of Bismarck, seen working in the North Dakota Geological Survey's paleontology lab housed at the North Dakota Heritage Center. Looking on are second grade students from Shiloh Christian School in Bismarck (l to r) Mallory Hillman, Jonathan Dolbec, and Isaac Watson.

## New Interpretive Centers, Exhibits State Historic Sites Open for Season

Two new interpretive centers, new exhibits, and popular programs await visitors to the State Historical Society of North Dakota's (SHSND) many popular historic sites, which opened May 16 and will remain open through September 15.

A day of festivities May 18 launched the opening of the new interpretive center at **Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site** near Fargo. The \$1.3 million center features *Beyond the Boundaries: The History of Fort Abercrombie*, an exhibit telling the story of this "Gateway to the Dakotas" that includes the fort's role in the Dakota Conflict of 1862 and its service as a supply post during its years of operation from 1858 to 1877.

The **Chateau de Mores State Historic Site** in Medora celebrated the grand opening of its new interpretive center April 25-27 with special programs and events. The new 8,600-square-foot facility, open

*continued on page 6*



Courtesy of Split Rock Studios, St. Paul

The *Deadwood*, an original stagecoach from the Marquis de Mores's Medora Stage and Forwarding Company, is featured at the new Chateau de Mores Interpretive Center in Medora. The \$2 million facility is part of the 128-acre state historic site that interprets the French nobleman and entrepreneur, who in the 1880s ran a cutting-edge meatpacking plant in the town he founded and named after his wife.

**World-Famous Dinosaur**

*continued from page 1*

getting it out of the Badlands. A digital screen showing progress on uncovering the body block in the NDGS's paleontology lab will be updated regularly.

**In conjunction with** the June 14 exhibit opening will be a symposium featuring Lyson and Dr. Phillip Manning of the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom, who has supervised the project. Other scientists who have been doing research on the fossil will address topics ranging from sedimentology to designing computer simulations of how the animal moved. Hoganson will begin the symposium at 10 a.m. with an introduction to the Hell Creek Formation where Dakota was found, followed by Lyson, Manning and other speakers, who will present until 4 p.m. A ceremony opening the exhibit will begin at 9 a.m. and include a ribbon cutting.

Special gallery talks for children will include Lyson speaking about his life-long interest in paleontology and being a fossil hunter in the Badlands. In the afternoon, Manning will read from his children's book *Dinomummy: The Life, Death, and Dis-*

*covery of Dakota, a Dinosaur from Hell Creek* (see page 8).

'Dinosaur' cookies and punch and a booksigning session with Manning, Lyson, and Hoganson will conclude the symposium. Their books will be available in the Heritage Center's museum store, along with dinosaur t-shirts, books, and tattoos.

All events will be free and open to the public.

**Since the arrival** of the four-ton body block and smaller tail block at the Heritage Center February 5, preparators have been working steadily to uncover the tail for exhibit. "It will take another year or so to free the rest of the hadrosaur from the rock it's entombed in," said Hoganson.

One of the most fascinating aspects about Dakota is the well-preserved scales on its skin, varying in size and suggesting a possible camouflage pattern. "In modern animals, scale size often indicates color change," said Jeff Person, a NDGS paleontologist working on Dakota at the Heritage Center. "We can't get color from a fossil. But we can see there are some very small scales, the size of a pinhead, to other

scales that are much larger," he said.

Another discovery with Dakota's preserved soft tissue is that the hadrosaur's tail was about 25 percent larger than previously believed. This suggests it could run much faster than scientists thought, perhaps up to 28 miles an hour. "We've also found ossified tendons, which make the tail more rigid, like a big rudder," said Person. "These are very common in smaller theropods like *Velociraptor* and *Deinonychus*, and helped hadrosaurs evade their major predator, *T. rex*."

**The National Geographic Society**, a major contributor to the excavation and research on Dakota, has published two books and produced a National Geographic Channel television program called "Dino Autopsy" about the rare find. The program is now being shown regularly in the Heritage Center's theater near the auditorium.

For more information, visit these websites:

<http://www.mrfdigs.com/>

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/12/071203-dino-mummy.html>

<http://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndfossil/>

**'Fiddlin' Around**

Young fiddlers from throughout North Dakota filled the rooms of the Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site in Bismarck as they competed for cash awards and scholarships in the First Annual Arthur A. Link Fiddling Contest. The March 24 contest was held in honor of former Governor Link (1973-81), who told participants that he began playing the fiddle at age eight. Now 94, Link and his wife, Grace, presented certificates to the participants and prizes to the winners, and enjoyed the concert that followed. The event was sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of the Former Governors' Mansion and the State Historical Society of North Dakota.



Photograph by Karen DaSilva

**Accepting his award from former Governor Arthur Link is first-place winner Jadan Sorenson of West Fargo. Other winners included second place: Thomas Johnson, Bismarck; third place: Sadie Sorenson, West Fargo; and fourth place: Gabriel Brien, Belcourt. The winners of scholarships to the International Music Camp Fiddle School at the International Peace Gardens were Morgan Tuscherer, West Fargo; Carlinda Haglin, Munich; Monica Schmidt, Bismarck; and Amanda Lorentzen, Washburn. The portrait on the wall is of Eli C.D. Shortridge (1830-1908), who was the first governor to live in the mansion, serving from 1893-95.**

**Tesoro Provides \$25,000 Grant**



Photograph by Sharon Silengo, SHSND

**The national award-winning *Passport to North Dakota History* project received a \$25,000 grant from Tesoro to underwrite the free distribution of 50,000 copies to the more than 90 Tesoro retail stations in North Dakota and the region, as well as historic sites, parks and recreation areas in North Dakota. John Berger, Tesoro Mandan Refinery manager, presents 'the check' to SHSND Foundation Executive Director Virginia Nelsen and SHSND Director Merl Paaverud May 6 at the North Dakota Heritage Center. This handy guide to more than 60 sites was first published in 2007 with the support of many partners and a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service.**



# Corner

## Fruits of Our Labors ...

### Seeds Planted by the Six Governors

FOUNDATION

This year the fruits of our labor are appearing in the spring. Three major state historic site investments have recently been completed: a new interpretive center at the Chateau de Mores, with a ribbon cutting April 26; a new interpretive center at Fort Abercrombie, with a ribbon cutting May 18; and a key transfer ceremony held April 8 at Cooperstown for North Dakota's newest state historic site, the Oscar Zero Missile Site. The State Historical Society and its Foundation couldn't be more proud.

Seeds were planted for these projects back in 2001 when the five former governors asked Governor Hoeven to establish a commission to review the investment needs of the State Historical Society. The 18-member commission, chaired by Lt. Governor Jack Dalrymple, laid out the recommendations for the projects we are celebrating today. We must thank the governors for their foresight.

**Acting on the commission's recommendations**, the Society and its support network have worked with Governor Hoeven and the legislative leadership to advance investments. These new investments have been made, including an addition to the State Archives, new interpretive centers for historic sites, grants and resources for regional and tribal historic organizations, investments in heritage tourism promotion, and the acquisition of a new historic site – more than \$21 million dollars in investments since 2001.

As the 2009 Legislative Session approaches, the Society and Foundation are working with architects, engineers, and exhibit planners to complete a comprehensive design plan for the expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center. The \$1.5 million legislative investment for planning will further implement the recommendations of the SHSND Commission – providing new collections and exhibit spaces for the North Dakota Heritage Center, a “hub of history” for heritage tourism promotion, and bringing new technologies and additional professional staff to create a “Smithsonian on the Plains” on the state capitol grounds.

**Good fruit comes from good seeds planted.** The six governors – Governor William Guy, Governor Arthur Link, Governor Allen Olson, Governor George Sinner, Governor Ed Schafer, and Governor John Hoeven – have all planted good seeds when it comes to the State Historical Society. And today we are seeing the good fruit from their efforts. They are to be lauded for their foresight, their planning, their tenacity and vision. Thank you, governors. We appreciate you very much.



Virginia A. Nelsen,  
 SHSND Foundation  
 Executive Director



Bill Schott, leader  
 of the SHSND  
 Foundation's  
 Trustee membership  
 development



Marlo Sveen,  
 SHSND Foundation  
 Director of Development

**2002-03 State Historical Society of North Dakota Commission –  
 Recommended by the five former governors and established  
 by Governor John Hoeven:**

Chairman, Lt. Governor Jack Dalrymple, Casselton; Merlan Paaverud, Jr., SHSND Director, Bismarck; Representative Ole Arsvold, Blanchard; Senator John Andrist, Crosby; Al Berger, State Historical Board, Grand Forks; Dina Butcher, Bismarck; Representative Bette Grande, Fargo, replacing Representative Janet Wentz, Minot (deceased); Don Haugen, SHSND Foundation Board, Fargo; Richard Kloubec, Fargo; Cheryl Kulas, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, Bismarck; Governor Arthur

Link, Bismarck; Rosemarie Myrdal, former Lt. Governor, Edinburg; Chester E. Nelson, Jr., State Historical Board, Bismarck; Senator Larry Robinson, Valley City; Terrence Rockstad, Bismarck; Norman Sortland, Crosby; James Sperry, former SHSND Superintendent, Bismarck; Deanna Vickers, SHSND Foundation Board, Dickinson; John Von Rueden, State Historical Board, Bismarck (deceased). Representing the Governor's Office, Lance Gaebe and Bill Goetz; and Facilities Management, Joel Leapaldt.

## May

### May 26

**Memorial Day Observances**, Pembina State Museum, 10:30 a.m., in conjunction with the Kern-Thompson American Legion Post 77, (701) 825-6840. Also at Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site, (701) 553-8513.

### May 27 and May 29

**Program about Teddy Blue**, an Englishman-turned-cowboy who worked the cattle herds in the 1880s, at 7 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, Medora, (701) 623-4355.

### May 30

**Catch the Reading Bug**, kickoff of summer reading program, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with many activities throughout the day for children. Free and open to the public. North Dakota Heritage Center, (701) 328-2792.

### May 31 - June 1

**History Alive!** performances featuring buffalo hunter *Yellowstone Vic Smith*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, Medora, (701) 623-4355.

## June

### June 4-August 31

**Footsteps into Medora's Past**, walking tour of historic Medora, featuring stops at sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places and vignettes with actors in historic costumes. Daily at 1 p.m. and Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday at 10 a.m. (MT); also living history tour Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. for senior citizens and Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. for children, Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, (701) 623-4355.

### June 6-August 12

**Recollections of Murder and Mayhem in Medora**, a 20-minute theater production dramatizing the conflict between cowboys and outsiders over land use and barbed wire. Courtroom of the Billings County Courthouse Museum in Medora, every Friday at 2:30 p.m. (MT), and Saturday and Sunday at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., (701) 623-4355.

### June 6-August 22

**Story Time**, Fridays, 2 p.m. Fort Totten State Historic Site, (701) 766-4441.

### June 7-8

**History Alive!** performances featuring A.T. Packard, 1880s editor of the *Bad Lands Cow Boy*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, Medora, (701) 623-4355.

### June 14

**Dakota: A Mummified Dinosaur** exhibit opening, North Dakota Heritage Center. Fea-

turing portions of a mummified duck-billed dinosaur discovered near Marmarth, North Dakota, revealing secrets about how dinosaurs looked and behaved. For more information, see story on page one.

### June 14

**De Mores Day**. Celebrate the Marquis de Mores's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday! Cake and coffee in the interpretive center, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.

### June 14-15

**History Alive!** performances featuring buffalo hunter *Yellowstone Vic Smith*, at 3 and 5 p.m., Fort Buford State Historic Site, (701) 572-9034.

### June 14-15

**History Alive!** performances featuring the Dakota venture capitalist, the *Marquis de Mores*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.

### June 14-15, June 28-29

Opportunities available to help preserve the Hutmacher homestead farm near Killdeer, North Dakota. For more about this Preservation North Dakota project, which the SHSND has assisted, email [info@prairieplaces.org](mailto:info@prairieplaces.org) or visit the website [www.prairieplaces.org/hutmacher.cfm](http://www.prairieplaces.org/hutmacher.cfm).

### June 16-18

**Keepers of the Land**. The Teacher Resource Coalition hosts a class at Lake Metigoshe with guest Michael Caduto, author of the *Keepers of the Earth* books. Also a look at North Dakota homesteading, (701) 328-2792.

### June 20-22

**Aber Days**, Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site, (701) 328-2124.

### June 21-22

**History Alive!** performances featuring the charming hostess of the Chateau, *Madame de Mores*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.

### June 24

**High Tea** at the Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site, Bismarck, 2 p.m. Hosted by former First Lady Grace Link. Pre-registration and \$5 fee. To register, call (701) 328-2792.

### June 28-29

**History Alive!** performances featuring the charming hostess of the Chateau, *Madame de Mores*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.

## July

### July 4

**Ice Cream Social**, 2 to 4 p.m., Camp Hancock State Historic Site in Bismarck, (701) 328-9528.

### July 4-5

**History Alive!** performances featuring steamboat captain *Grant Marsh*, 1 and 3 p.m. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, (701) 572-9034.

### July 5

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Gingras Day!**, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., featuring living history performances, tours, traditional music and dancing, and traditional crafts demonstrations. Gingras Trading Post State Historic Site, (701) 825-6840.

### July 5-6

**History Alive!** performances featuring the charming hostess of the Chateau, *Madame de Mores*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.

### July 11

**State Historical Board Summer Meeting**, 8:30 a.m., North Dakota Heritage Center.

### July 12-13

**School of the Soldier**, Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site, (701) 328-2124.

### July 12-13

**History Alive!** performances featuring A.T. Packard, 1880s editor of the *Bad Lands Cow Boy*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.

### July 14

**High Tea** at the Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site, Bismarck, 2 p.m. Hosted by former First Lady Grace Link. Pre-registration and \$5 fee. To register, call (701) 328-2792.

### July 18

**Storytime with the Library**, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., North Dakota Heritage Center, (701) 328-2792.

### July 19-20

**History Alive!** performances featuring the charming hostess of the Chateau, *Madame de Mores*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (MT). Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.

### July 19-20

**History Alive!** performances featuring buffalo hunter *Yellowstone Vic Smith*, at 3 and 5 p.m., Fort Buford State Historic Site. (701) 572-9034.

### July 26

**Killdeer Mountain History Hike**. Take a guided hike to the top of Killdeer Mountain and hear about the 1864 Battle of Killdeer Mountain and the Medicine Hole, (701) 328-3508

### July 26-27

**History Alive!** performances featuring buffalo hunter *Yellowstone Vic Smith*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, Medora.

## August

### August 2-3

**History Alive!** performances featuring A. T. Packard, 1880s editor of the *Bad Lands Cow Boy*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.

### August 2-3

**History Alive!** performances featuring Sgt. John Ordway of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 3 and 5 p.m., Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center.

### August 5

**High Tea** at the Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site, Bismarck, 2 p.m. Hosted by former First Lady Grace Link. Pre-registration and \$5 fee. To register, call (701) 328-2792.

### August 9

**Pembina Red River Rodeo events.** 11 a.m. vintage car show, 1 p.m. rodeo queen and princess speeches, modeling. Free and open to the public. Pembina State Museum, (701) 825-6840.

### August 9-10

**History Alive!** performances featuring buffalo hunter *Yellowstone Vic Smith*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, Medora.

### August 10

**Children's Carnival at the Confluence,** 1 p.m. Old-style carnival games for prizes, face-painting, an educational scavenger hunt, craftmaking, and a children's movie. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, (701) 572-9034.

### August 15

**Storytime with the Library,** 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., North Dakota Heritage Center.

### August 16-17

**26<sup>th</sup> Annual Fort Buford Sixth Infantry Frontier Military Encampment,** Fort Buford State Historic Site. Visit Fort Buford this weekend as the Sixth Infantry reenactors bring the fort back to life with special events all weekend long, (701) 572-9034.

### August 16-17

**History Alive!** performances featuring the charming hostess of the Chateau, *Madame de Mores*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.

### August 17

**Annual Lawn Party,** 1 to 4:30 p.m., Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site. Sponsored by the SHSND and Society for the Preservation of the Former Governors' Mansion, (701) 328-9528.

### August 21

**Celebrate Madame de Mores' 152<sup>nd</sup> birthday!** Coffee and cake served in the interpretive center, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.

### August 23

**Five-year anniversary of Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center.** Free admission and a variety of events, (701) 572-9034.

### August 23-24

**History Alive!** performances featuring the charming hostess of the Chateau, *Madame de Mores*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.

### August 24

**Whitestone Hill Battlefield afternoon public program,** (701) 328-2124.

### August 30-31

**History Alive!** performances featuring buffalo hunter *Yellowstone Vic Smith*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. (MT), Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, Medora.

### SHSND Exhibits

For a complete listing and information about the SHSND's many exhibits, including its popular Traveling Interpretive Exhibits Service (TIES) program, contact Outreach Programs Coordinator Scott Schaffnit at (701) 328-2794 or visit the Society's website at [www.state.nd.us/hist/mus/exhb.htm](http://www.state.nd.us/hist/mus/exhb.htm) and click on "Exhibits."

## Transitions

**Mary Kate Ryan** resigned effective March 7 as architectural historian for the Historic Preservation Division to accept a position with the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Office. She began working for the Society in February 2003.

**Ann Jenks** began work January 2 as state archivist. She was the university archivist and head of the Center for Archival Collections at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where she had been employed since 1996. Prior to that, she was state historian at the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre. Jenks received master of arts and bachelor of arts degrees in history from Bowling Green State University. She replaces Gerald Newborg, who retired November 9 after serving as state archivist since 1981.

**Melissa Thompson** began work December 4 as collections assistant. She was the collections assistant for two years at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa. A native of Milwaukee, she earned a master of science degree in anthropology and a museum studies certificate from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She also holds a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology and history from the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities.

**Naomi Frantes** began work November 14 as cataloguer in the State Archives. She was employed for 17 years at the North Dakota State Library, where she worked in reference, interlibrary loan, state documents, and as head of technical services. A Minnesota native, she earned a master of library science degree from Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Connecticut, and a bachelor of arts degree in history and German from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

Photo Archivist **Sharon Silengo** has been designated as a certified archivist from the Academy of Certified Archivists. She also has been accepted for admission to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for a program designed to help professionals develop a specialty in archives and records administration. Silengo has been the agency's photo archivist since July 2000. A California native, she received a masters degree in information resources and library science from the University of Arizona in Tucson in 1998.

Photograph by Terje Bendiksbø, Scampix, Oslo, Norway



**U.S. Ambassador to Norway Benson K. Whitney speaks to a July 4, 2006 gathering in Oslo in front of the bust of Abraham Lincoln presented to Norway by the people of North Dakota in 1914.**

## Lincoln in Norway

A custom tour to Norway is being planned in July 2009 as one of the many North Dakota events to commemorate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The University of North Dakota Nordic Initiative, Brekke Tours and Travel, and *North Dakota Horizons* magazine are working with the U.S. Embassy in Oslo to organize the trip. The North Dakota delegation will participate in the annual July 4 ceremony held at the bust of Lincoln in Oslo's Frogner Park.

The bust was a gift to Norway in 1914 from the people of North Dakota to commemorate the centennial of Norway adopting its constitution and declaring itself an independent nation. A North Dakota delegation, led by then-Governor Louis Hanna, traveled to Norway to present the bust to the nation.

More details about the trip will be released in late September. For more information, contact Brekke Tours and Travel in Grand Forks at 1-800-437-5302 or email [tours@brekketours.com](mailto:tours@brekketours.com).



## State Historic Sites Open

*continued from page 1*

year-round, features interactive exhibits that tell the story of the Marquis and his family. Included in the main exhibit, *Rails, Ranching, and Riches: The Marquis de Mores in Dakota*, is a smaller-scale refrigerator beef car, and the "Deadwood," an original stagecoach from the Marquis's company. A temporary exhibit gallery is hosting *Land in Her Own Name*, studying women who homesteaded in North Dakota, through September 15; the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit *Between Fences*, from June 24 through August 1, in partnership with the North Dakota Humanities Council and the Billings County Museum; followed by *The Art of Einar Olstad*, celebrating the pioneer artist from the Sentinel Butte area, from August 6 through September 15, 2010.

Visitors to other state museums and historic sites will enjoy new exhibits including *Dakota: A Mummified Dinosaur*, *Lincoln's Legacy in North Dakota*, and *The Atomic Age Arrives: The Cold War in North Dakota* at the **North Dakota Heritage Center**; *Emigrants from the Empires: North Dakota's Germans* and *Looking Back: Pembina's Flood Battles* at the **Pembina State Museum**; *Artistic License* at **Fort Totten State Historic Site** near Devils Lake; *North Dakota Remembers World War II* at the **Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center** near Williston; and *Prairie Churches* at the **Camp Hancock State Historic Site** in Bismarck.

Travelers will also enjoy the free popular museum theater program, **History Alive!**, portraying several historic figures from North Dakota's past.

See pages 4-5 for information about the many programs and events featured at the state history agency's museums and historic sites or visit its website at [www.nd.gov/hist](http://www.nd.gov/hist).

## North Dakota Heritage Center Receives Tourism Award

The North Dakota Heritage Center has been awarded the 2008 Governor's Travel and Tourism Award as the state's top tourist attraction. Located on the state capitol grounds, it is the largest museum in the state and home to the State Historical Society of North Dakota. It features exhibits that explore life on the Northern Plains from pre-history to the present. It is also home to one of the largest Plains Indian artifacts collections in the nation, and houses the State Fossil Collection, in partnership with the North Dakota Geological Survey. Plans are well underway to nearly double its size by adding an additional 125,000 square feet to further enhance its exhibits and collections areas.



Courtesy of North Dakota Tourism

**Governor John Hoeven presents the Governor's Travel and Tourism award to State Historical Society of North Dakota Director Merl Paaverud (l) and the Society's visitors services coordinator, Beth Campbell (r) at the annual state tourism conference April 21 in Mandan. North Dakota Tourism Director Sara Otte Coleman looks on.**

## Dig It!

Dinosaur and fossil enthusiasts will have four opportunities to participate in public fossil digs this summer. Pre-registration is required to participate in these scientific, professionally-conducted fossil excavations. The digs, sponsored by the North Dakota Geological Survey (NDGS) and several other partnership organizations, have limited participation, so early registration is recommended.



Photograph by John Hoganson, NDGS

Participants enjoy a public fossil dig near Medora as they find 60-million-year-old fossils of crocodiles, turtles, and fish. This 2006 excavation was sponsored by the North Dakota Geological Survey and the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation.

**June 16-21 • Medora, North Dakota**  
**\$145/person per day**

**June 21 Family Day: \$30/person for morning or afternoon dig**

Featuring excavation of a 60-million-year-old fossil site containing crocodile, champsosaur (crocodile-like animal), turtle, and fish fossils recently discovered in the beautiful and rugged Badlands near Medora, North Dakota.

**June 28-July 5 • Marmarth, North Dakota**  
**\$900/person for the week**

This dig will be at a site containing 65-to-75-million-year-old fossils of dinosaurs and other fossils recently discovered in the Badlands near Marmarth, North Dakota.

**July 13-July 19 • Near Rhame, North Dakota**  
**\$600/person for the week**

Participants will be excavating a site about 65 million years old (Cretaceous-age Hell Creek Formation), containing *Triceratops* dinosaur, plant, and other fossils recently discovered in the Badlands near Rhame, North Dakota.

**August 3-9 • Near Buffalo Gap, North Dakota**  
**\$900/person for the week**

Join in this dig of a 60-million-year-old fossil site containing crocodile, champsosaur (crocodile-like animal), turtle, and fish recently discovered in the Badlands near Buffalo Gap, North Dakota.

For more information about the digs, visit [www.dmr.nd.gov/ndfossil](http://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndfossil) or contact Dr. John Hoganson, NDGS paleontologist, at [jhoganso@nd.gov](mailto:jhoganso@nd.gov) (701) 328-8006 or Jeff Person, NDGS paleontology lab specialist, at [jjperson@nd.gov](mailto:jjperson@nd.gov) (701) 328-1954.

## New to the National Register

Properties in Dickinson, Grand Forks, and Valley City are the most recent North Dakota sites to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Built in 1912, the historic **Dickinson Elks Lodge Building** served as the first home of Dickinson State University from 1918 until 1924, and was a center of local life for decades. A fire in October 2007 caused extensive structural damage to the 28,000-square-foot building, which had been undergoing renovation since 1999.

The **Grand Forks Riverside Neighborhood Historic District** consists of 181 properties, with 129 of them retaining the historic values that comprise the district, significant for its architecture – mostly “mechanics’ cottages” and working-class homes from the 1920s and 1930s – and for how it developed. It joins the Near Southside District as the second residential district in Grand Forks to be listed in the National Register.

The **Valley City Municipal Auditorium** is a multi-purpose building built in 1936 and still used today. Its architecture and quality of construction, representing the simple, bold Art Deco styling of the 1930s, contribute to its history as a Works Progress Administration project. Vital to the World War II homefront activities of Barnes County, it hosted community meetings, dances, and other events. Peggy Lee also performed there in 1950.

## Air Force Turns Over Keys

The U.S. Air Force has officially handed the keys to two of its abandoned missile sites near Cooperstown to the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

The sites, the Oscar Zero Launch Control Center and the November-33 Missile Facility are the last remnants of the 321<sup>st</sup> Missile Wing, a cluster of intercontinental ballistic missile launch sites spread over a 6,500-square-mile area around the Grand Forks Air Force Base. The agency hopes to have the sites open to public in 2009, to tell the story of the Cold War in North Dakota.



Photograph by Arny Munson, SFSND

The U.S. Air Force turned over its keys to two abandoned missile sites near Cooperstown in ceremonies April 8 in the Griggs County Central School gymnasium. At the podium is retired Air Force Colonel Charles Simpson of Breckinridge, Colorado, a former site missileer. Seated are (l to r) North Dakota Tourism Director Sara Otte Coleman, State Representative Don Vigesaa (R-Cooperstown), and State Historical Board President Albert I. Berger.



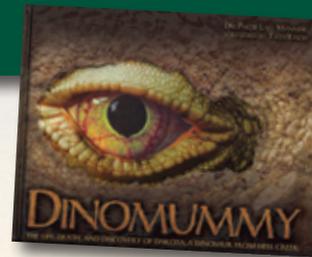
## Homestead Act at ND Heritage Center

The 1862 Homestead Act document signed by President Lincoln is on exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center. On loan from the National Archives, it can be seen as part of the *Lincoln's Legacy in North Dakota* exhibit through November 10. Advertising played an important role in homesteading, as shown in this image from the exhibit. Entitled *Dakota Applying for Statehood*, it shows Dakota presenting her qualifications for statehood to Uncle Sam, while Columbia (whose statue stands atop the U.S. Capitol dome)

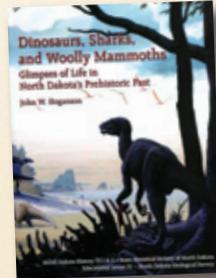
prepares to add Dakota to the Union roster. This was printed in 1887 for the Commissioner of Immigration of Dakota Territory. The Homestead Act opened up 10 percent of the United States, or 275 million acres, to settlement. Between 1879 and 1886, more than 100,000 people settled in then-northern Dakota Territory. Rarely displayed, it has not been on public view since 1979, when it was part of a national bicentennial exhibit at the National Archives. Also featured at the exhibit's May 16 opening was the U.S. Postal Service from Bismarck offering a commemorative pictorial cancellation in honor of the exhibit launch, and Civil War-era music by the Miller Family of Mandan, North Dakota.

## Dino-Mania!

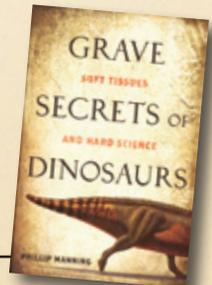
*Dinomummy: The Life, Death, and Discovery of Dakota, A Dinosaur From Hell Creek* by Phillip Manning. Hardcover, with beautiful photographs and illustrations! \$18.95



*Dinosaurs, Sharks, and Woolly Mammoths: Glimpses of Life in North Dakota's Prehistoric Past* by John W. Hoganson. Full-color images of animal life that existed in North Dakota in the past, alongside photos of actual fossils. \$14.95



*Grave Secrets of Dinosaurs: Soft Tissues and Hard Science* by Phillip Manning. Hardcover. Manning presents the most astonishing dinosaur fossil excavations of the past 100 years – including the recent discovery of the remarkably intact dinosaur mummy nicknamed “Dakota” in the Badlands of North Dakota. \$28



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