

CELEBRATING STATEHOOD!



South Dakota Begins The Yearlong Celebration Of Its 125th Birthday With A Festive Gala In Yankton

P&D Photos By Kelly Hertz



ABOVE: George and Libbie Custer (portrayed by Russ Leonard Jr. and Suzanne Leonard) greet visitors in front of the Dakota Theatre as part of Saturday's 125th anniversary gala in Yankton. The event kicked off a yearlong celebration of the state's quasicentennial of entering the union in 1889. LEFT: Lt. Gov. Matt Michels spars with some "rowdy North Dakotans" during Saturday night's statehood program at the Riverfront Event Center.



LEFT: Gov. and First Lady Dennis and Linda Daugaard and Lt. Gov. and Second Lad Matt and Karen Michels are greeted by students from Yankton's Beadle Elementary School at the Riverfront Event Center Saturday prior to the statehood program. The students later led the large crowd in the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance, and sang the state's song. ABOVE: Gov. Arthur C. Mellette (portrayed by Michael Schumacher) pleads Dakota's case for entering the union as part of a program held Saturday night at the Riverfront Event Center. Hundreds of people, many of them dressed in historical garb, turned out for the opening event of South Dakota yearlong statehood celebration. To see or purchase images from Saturday's activities, visit spotted.yankton.net. Also, for video coverage of Saturday's festivities, check out www.yankton.net.



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Saturday night's public dance drew a big crowd, including several people who were dressed in historic attire from various phases of Yankton's history.



ABOVE: Gov. Dennis Daugaard presents a South Dakota 125th anniversary flag to Justin Song Hawk, representing the Yankton Sioux Tribe, during Saturday's program at the Riverfront Event Center. In his speech, Daugaard said part of the statewide celebration's aim is to continue the effort at reconciliation that was a cornerstone of South Dakota's centennial celebration in 1989.



Some reenaction action, from left to right: Bridget Stange (left, portrayed by Heidi Henson) discusses life in Yankton during the 19th century while Mary Culver Ash portrayed by Tara Gill) looks on near the Yankton County Government Center at the corner of Third and Broadway; President Theodore Roosevelt (portrayed by Nathan Johnson) delivers a speech at Third and Walnut. Roosevelt spoke at the same location in 1900, as a vice presidential candidate for president, and in 1903 as president; Mrs. Sara Ward (right, portrayed by Joan Neubauer) talks about her life with Dr. Joseph Ward with visitors at the Cramer Kenyon Home; Capt. Grant Marsh (Doug Haar) tells tales of his life as a riverboat captain on the Missouri River during a presentation in front of the old Schenk-Barth Brewing Company.



Men with hats, from left: John Blackburn of Yankton is decked out in his best evening attire at the dance held Saturday night at the Riverfront Event Center; William H.H. Beadle (portrayed by Russ Leonard) discusses his life, including his days in territorial Yankton, at the Dakota Territory Capitol in Riverside Park; Press & Dakotan publisher George W. Kingsburg (portrayed by current P&D owner Gary Wood) talks about early journalism (accompanied by DeDe Wood and Rachel Wood) in front of the Press & Dakotan office on Walnut St.

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