

VIEWPOINTS



Missing Grave Sites Of The Great Indian Leaders

BY KATIE HUNHOFF

We thought we'd broached every possible topic in 30 years of publishing South Dakota Magazine, but we found an altogether new subject for our Sept/Oct issue. Where are the burial sites of the great Indian leaders of the 19th century?



Paul Higbee, a Spearfish writer, led our effort to find the graves. He also wrote about the history and tradition of Indian burials. We discovered that the graves generally lie in Christian cemeteries because many Lakota and Dakota people converted to Christianity. But elements of traditional religion were still practiced, including a "release of the soul" rite which occurs a year after death.

Indian country cemeteries don't always have the manicured appearance that you might see

in other communities. Sometimes the grass is long, the stones are leaning and the road is rutted. The difference is partly because traditional Native American culture calls for remembering the dead through ceremony, not at a physical place.

However, many of the Lakota and Dakota leaders' graves are within sight of the Missouri River. And there is a feeling of reverence and solemnity at every site, no matter the height of the grass.

Sitting Bull's grave, just west of Mobridge, is perhaps the most picturesque. A bust created by Crazy Horse sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski marks the site, which is high above the Missouri River.

The graves of Struck-by-the-Ree, Iron Nation and Gall are also near the Missouri. Struck-by-the-Ree is buried south of Marty on the Yankton Sioux Reservation. Gall, a contemporary of Sitting Bull who fought with him at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, is also buried west of Mobridge.

Spotted Tail was a Sicangu leader famous for his wit. He complained on one occasion about the constant relocations of his community, telling authorities, "I think you had better put the Indians on wheels and then you can run them about wherever you wish." His gravesite is near Rosebud.

Red Cloud's grave is near the Red Cloud School, west of Pine Ridge. A Catholic church and a cultural center also share space on the beautiful campus built by Jesuit missionaries in the 1880s. Red Cloud led a deadly campaign to burn military posts, but he eventually realized that U.S. forces were too strong to overcome. After that, he accepted the reservation life while continually fighting federal efforts to reduce tribal lands. "Red Cloud lived to age 88, dying in 1909 when the Indian wars had been romanticized in American memory," writes Higbee. "Yet his name still sent shivers down the spines of some elderly Army veterans."

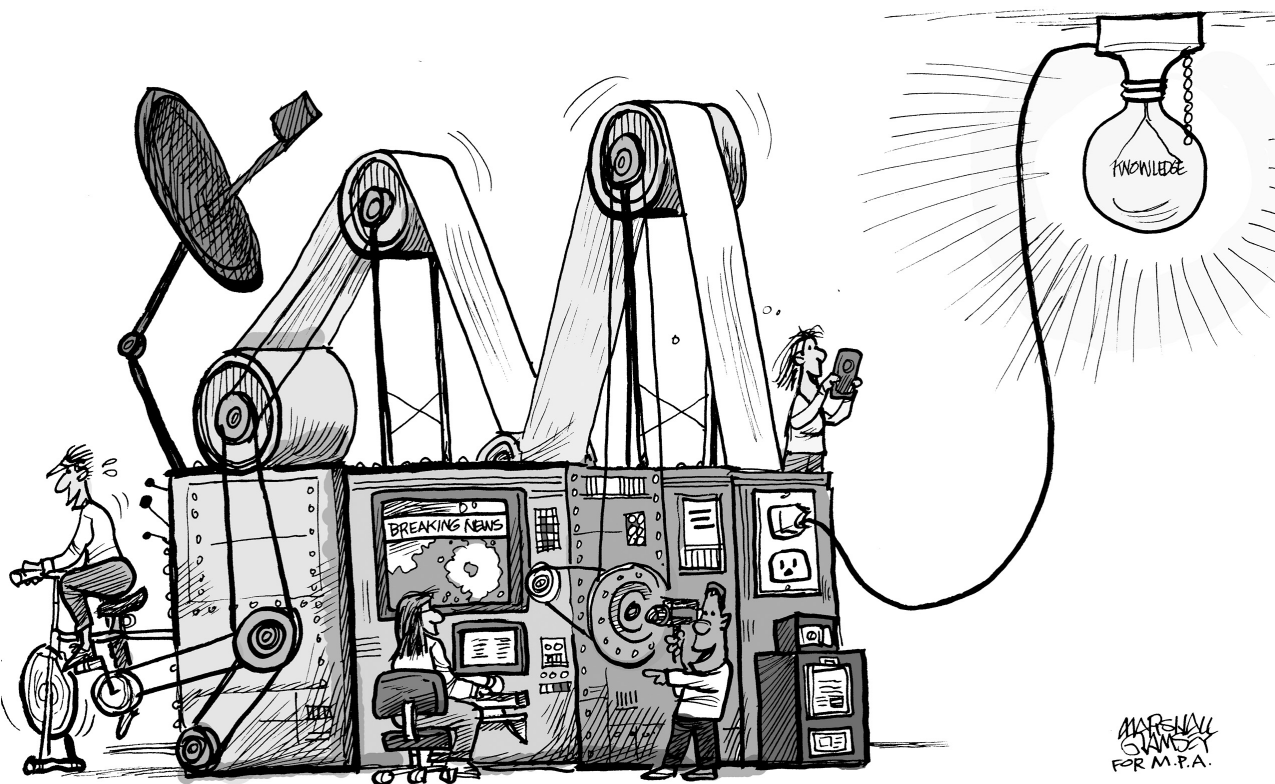
We also traveled to Manderson, home of the Lakota holy man Nicholas Black Elk. He is buried in the Catholic cemetery, across the highway from St. Agnes Church. A deeply rutted road leads to the fenced, hilltop cemetery. Waist-high prairie grasses make it difficult to find the simple black marker. Sage, a purifying herb in Lakota culture, grows atop the grave.

Higbee notes that the story behind Crazy Horse's burial is known, but only by a few people. After he was fatally bayoneted at Camp Robinson in Nebraska, family members took the body. "Certain people are aware of his remains, says Donovin Sprague, a descendant and author. "It's a very guarded secret and no one would ever reveal anything."

Check out the magazine article for more history, photos and directions to the graves. Higbee also offers tips on cemetery etiquette.

We know we missed the burial sites of some important Native American leaders. We'll keep looking and learning. That's the whole idea behind publishing South Dakota Magazine.

Katie Hunhoff is the editor of South Dakota Magazine, a bi-monthly publication discussing the people, places and culture of our state. Visit www.SouthDakotaMagazine.com for more information.



THE POWER OF THE PRESS

Power Of The Press Is Reporting The News Consumers Need

BY GENE POLICINSKI

WASHINGTON – The power of the press rests in the ability of journalists to hold government accountable, to mobilize public opinion on matters that are important to individuals, communities or the nation, and to provide necessary information of value.

Notice in those words not a mention of celebrity content, mobile devices nor "aspirational" reportage that feels good without doing any good.

But also notice in those words the key to the future for newsrooms across the nation: A visible role in the daily life of the nation rooted in real benefit and sustained credibility.

Newsprint may not be the medium-of-choice today for many readers, and perhaps certainly not the one for the desired next generation of readers. But the news organizations behind what certainly will be a blend of printed and electronic pages must be again the mediums-of-choice for that group, whether they be thought-leaders in society, officeholders in government or voters.

The nation – our audience – needs facts, presented clearly, accurately and completely. For those who are help rapt by the comings and goings of the Kardashians and turn away from discussion of policy in the Keystone Pipeline System debate: Well, perhaps it's time to say "goodbye" and leave them to vacuous talking heads, unreal "reality" shows and the assortment of cable TV geek-fests that offer a chance to feel superior just by sitting on a sofa.

"Targeted circulation" indeed. Let's leave behind the prideful ignorant who proclaim little faith and demonstrate even less actual consumption of news, and target those readers and users who want news and data and informed decisions – and who will pay a reasonable fee to get it.

Ok, not as easy to gather in and report out as feature items and single-interview chats. It means bucking the

system to place journalists in seats where daily decisions are made and social issues discussed – from City Hall to church pews. It means bringing the news of the day in new ways, but with the same old standards that separated opinion from fact, news pages from editorials and commentary from reporting.

The Newseum Institute's latest State of the First Amendment national survey, published on July 4, showed that 70% of respondents disagreed with the statement that "overall, the news media tries to report the news without bias."

To be sure, the change of bias has been leveled at journalists since the nation began – and was, in fact, welcomed by many in the first "journals of opinion" and later by media moguls making no pretence at publishing anything but "news" filtered through their own views.

But over time, and by dint of the hard work and credible reporting by tens of thousands of journalists – in newspapers, and later in radio, television and now online – readers, listeners, views and users gave their loyalty to news operations that brought them what they needed.

As emotional as one can be when waxing about ink-on-newsprint, it was the information that was printed with that ink, on those pages, that made newspapers strong and powerful – and that information was the stuff – not the fluff – of life.

Of course there is room for entertaining, uplifting stories and reports on that part of the day that makes us chuckle, smile or simply shake a head. But editorial decisions ought not to start and end there. "Click-bait" ought not to squeeze out real debate. "Metrics" ought not to rule over meaning. And the challenge in thorough reporting on the county's budget next year ought to mean finding a new way – perhaps through the new studies of gaming technology as applied to news reporting – of telling a complex story. Decades ago, USA TODAY showed us how color weather maps and national

sports rankings could be fun while still bringing needed information to commuters, gardeners and golfers – and while also reporting on AIDS, national security issues and unsafe military vehicles.

Consider that most news today still originates with mainstream media – and that the value for those aggregators was simply in finding a new way to package and deliver the content. A simple text-and-photo site called Craig's List wreaked havoc on the financial underpinnings of a massive industry just by finding an easier way to post and peruse the same information. Cannot we collectively continue to find such innovation within newsrooms as well?

Journalists have learned many hard lessons over the last two decades: Nobody really loved us because of our nameplates, innovation was not just a good idea but a daily consideration on survival, and we no longer are the gatekeepers anymore between news makers and news consumers.

But in those tough, even brutal, decades, we've also discovered how to make our pages come alive – literally, via the Web – and found new ways to know about and be in contact with those interested in news and information. To the old axiom about being "Clear, concise and accurate" those who have survived have added "responsive."

The power of the press was, is now, and will be in the future, bringing consumers the news they need – and having the fortitude to seek and report the news they don't even yet know they need, but will.

Ignorance and apathy is the challenge. Credibility and necessity are the means to overcome those challenges.

Oct. 4-10, 2015 is National Newspaper Week. Gene Policinski is chief operating officer of the Newseum Institute and of the Institute's First Amendment Center. A veteran multimedia journalist, he also writes, lectures and is interviewed regularly on First Amendment issues.

Something All Kids Need

BY PAULA DAMON

When our youngest son Nicholas was in college, he and his friends decided to move out of the dorm and into an apartment.

As they went about furnishing the tiny mid-century bungalow a few blocks from campus, the foursome scavenged secondhand items and curbside treasures.

In the process, Nicholas suggested they'd need a kitchen table and chairs.

"What for?" his soon-to-be roommates chorused.

"To eat our meals on," Nicholas quipped. Were you guys raised by a pack of wolves?

As he recounted this story, it was one of those prideful moments in my parenting I'll never forget. It paid dividends, all my hard work, collecting my kids and husband to gather around the table each evening. The only time all day we could reap the soulful benefits of being together while sharing a good hot meal.

Even so, our son's necessity for a proper place to eat did not resonate with his roommates.

"I don't need a table and chairs," one chimed in. "I'll



PAULA DAMON

eat in the recliner."

"Yeah, or in bed," another called out.

Are you kiddin' me? Puzzled, Nicholas went out to find a

folding table and chairs.

Well, that was more than 10 years ago.

Today, I'm proud to say that all three of my adult children dine with their families at least once daily, if not more.

I'm afraid this tradition is becoming obsolete in the U.S. We've let it go by the wayside with a whole lot of other stalwart practices, such as saying prayers, being polite and writing in cursive.

Anne Fishel, associate clinical professor of psychology at Harvard Medical School, takes challenges the status quo with her claim that "the most important thing you can do with your kids is to eat dinner with them."

In her Washington Post article, Jan. 12, 2015, Dr. Fishel points to a number of studies linking good health and well being for children whose families dine together.

She says family dinners can reduce teenage smoking, binge drinking, marijuana use, violence, school problems, eating disorders and sexual activity.

"In one study of more than 5,000 Minnesota teens," the Harvard professor writes, "researchers concluded that regular family dinners were associated with lower rates of depression and suicidal thoughts."

It doesn't always have to be in the kitchen or the dining room. Just ask farm families about sharing meals in the field.

As one farm wife recounted recently...

Every day during harvest in the fall and again at planting time in the spring, my sister-in-law and I would take turns packing lunches for our husbands. Their fields were too far away to stop what they were doing and drive all the way home in the middle of the day.

So, we'd pile the children and homemade meals in the

car and drive out to them. That could take an hour or more round trip.

We filled not just one thermos, but two or three with hot soups and cold drinks. We made up sandwiches and desserts. Packed lunches for the young ones, too.

And if we were lucky, one of the kiddos would get to stay out in the field for the rest of the day with their father.

Now that they're grown, they say those were some of the best family meals ever.

I guess you could say families who sit down and eat together stay together. Just thinking out loud....

SOURCES: "Food for Thought," FamilyDinner-Project.org, Sept. 28, 2015.

Paula Bosco Damon is a national award-winning writer whose columns appear weekly in regional newspapers in the Upper Midwest. The author conducts readings of her works and writing workshops for beginning writers. For more information, email boscodamon.paula@gmail.com.

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