

SOUTH DAKOTA  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY PRESS

*Publishing South Dakota's Rich Heritage*

1 September 2023

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City Historic Preservation Office  
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Deadwood, SD 57732

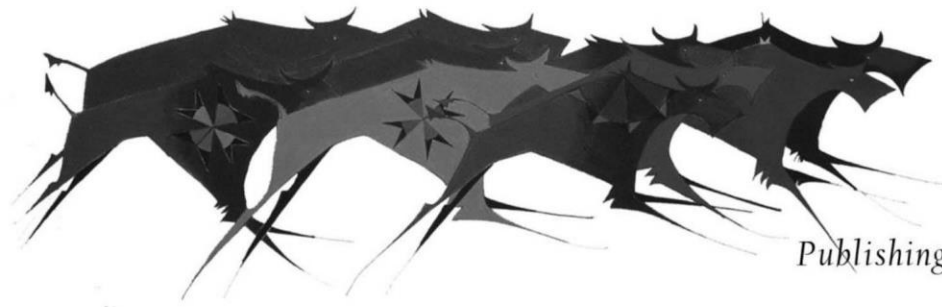
Dear Kevin,

It is my pleasure to send you the FY2023 Deadwood Publications Fund report (which tracks the accounts on an annual basis, January 1 through December 31). Our “Deadwood books,” as we lovingly refer to them, are doing splendidly. We have two new Deadwood Fund books for 2023 that will be released this month. We have high expectations for both. The first, *Bob Marshall: Defender of the Wilderness*, is an illustrated children’s book about the largely unknown man whose name appears on the popular camp in the Black Hills and on a large swath of wilderness in Montana. The book is beautifully illustrated and delightfully written.

The second new Deadwood fund book is *Football for Fun: The Story of Coach Stewart “Fergie” Ferguson*, beloved coach of Deadwood High School for a decade that included multiple championships. Before that, the Mitchell native coached at Dakota Wesleyan and at Arkansas A&M, where he implemented his “football for fun” philosophy. Fergie’s Arkansas A&M team became nationally known for their antics (think Harlem Globetrotters, but with more zaniness than skill). The book is an entertaining and informative romp through high school and collegiate sports in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Our 2021 and 2022 Deadwood Fund books have garnered recognition for their excellence. David Wolff’s *The Savior of Deadwood* won the bronze Will Rogers Medallion Award. *A Place for Harvest: The Story of Kenny Higashi*, by Lauren R. Harris, with illustrations by Felicia Hoshino, was a Spur Award finalist and the South Dakota Center for the Book’s selection for the Library of Congress’s National Book Fair in August. *A Place for Harvest* will be a featured book at the SDHC Festival of Books in Deadwood this fall (as it was in Brookings last year). Both author and illustrator will be speaking at several schools as part of their Book Festival appearances. *Savior of Deadwood* will also be featured at the Festival of Books, rescheduled from the 2021 Festival that was not held in person.

Just a quick staff update: Cody Ewert accepted a position at the Montana Historical Society Press in late January. Abby Wright left us in February to pursue other opportunities. Slater Sabo is now managing editor and we added associate editor Craig Walters to our ranks in late May. We are



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hoping to add a marketing director/associate editor to replace Jennifer McIntyre in the near future. This is a position administered through the SDHS Foundation. Slater, Sarah, and I worked like fiends to get our 2023 books and journals published as a three-person outfit for almost four months. We did it, though we hope not to have to do it again!

The entire Press staff is extremely grateful to the City of Deadwood for the ongoing opportunity to provide our growing readership with excellent books about the Black Hills and the West River region. We greatly value our partnership with you and look forward to our continued collaboration.

All the best,

Dedra McDonald Birzer  
Director