Will Hobbs is often asked why he wanted to write. He responds that his writing was a natural step because he has always had a passion for reading. Currently he writes books for young people which draw on his love of the mountains, fishing, backpacking, hiking, kayaking and rafting.

Hobbs will be the featured speaker at the SDLA Conference author luncheon in Spearfish. This former reading and language arts teacher has written 15 books for elementary, middle and young adult readers.

When asked if he ever did anything dumb as a child that he later wrote into one of his books, he remembered that while waiting in line for a movie, he chewed the ticket into a spit wad. His character, Clay Lancaster, in The Big Wander does the same thing.

Several of his books have been cited by the American Library Association as Best Books for Young Adults. He also received the Edgar Allan Poe Award in 1998 for Best Young Adult Mystery for Ghost Canoe. For more information, visit his official web site at http://www.willhobbsauthor.com/
This year, as everyone knows, is the 100th anniversary of SDLA and what better place to celebrate it than in Spearfish at our annual fall conference? The local arrangements committee has been very busy organizing the convention and the evening programs. A side trip to Deadwood is in the planning stages and some great pre-conference workshops will be available. Be sure to check the SDLA website as convention time draws closer. I hope everyone will make a special effort to attend.

If Secretary of Education, Rick Melmer’s schedule permits he will be on hand in Spearfish to help open our convention on Thursday morning. Also by convention time our "new" state librarian should be on hand and we look forward to meeting and working with this person. State Librarian, Suzanne Miller has left South Dakota for the state of Minnesota, and although we will miss her leadership, we wish her well in her new endeavor. Her five years in South Dakota has brought much change, visibility, and advancement for our libraries and institutions.

Because of job responsibilities and time commitments at her new job at the Cultural Heritage Center, SDLA treasurer, Cindy Snow has resigned her officer duties. I have appointed Brenda Hemmelman to fulfill the remainder of her term. We will miss Cindy on the executive board, but are glad that she will continue as an active SDLA member.

I had the opportunity to attend Governor Rounds' news conference in Rapid City last week where he kicked off a new summer reading program that challenges elementary students across the state to read at least 10 books this summer. In connection with No Child Left Behind, the program hopes to help students keep up their reading skills during the summer and not regress, so they can enter the school year ready to learn even more. South Dakota is the only state in the nation to take on the challenge of this new program.

The last legislative session went well. I believe that our lobbyists have done a great job in getting our organization "known" to the legislators. We are being looked at in a new light and are being asked for input in a number of areas. By working with our lobbyists we will continue to gain more influence and power each session. Greta Chapman and her associates are to be commended for their efforts on the Library Issues Committee. On the school standards committee, Chairperson Ann Smith is drafting information to compile and update information on K-12 library standards across the state. Be looking at the fall conference website for a pre-conference session on this subject. The Next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 10:00 am at Cedar Shores in Chamberlain. All members are welcome to attend. If you have questions or comments about your organization, be sure to contact me or any of the board members.

See you at the fall convention in Spearfish!
Ladies and Gentlemen:
I write this in mid-April, knowing that you will not be reading it until mid-May. Let me make, therefore, several predictions:

A.) We will have had a DDN meeting of the SDLN Advisory Council on Friday, 14 May. Agenda items included:

1. Aleph implementation update from Gary Johnson. Katrina Anderson, Ex Libris VP Operations (Chicago) and Carmit Markus, Ex Libris Director of Global Operations (Israel) should be on hand to answer questions.

2. Approval of the MINITEX MEIR task force report. As you know, the MEIR taskforce has completed its work in evaluating vendor responses to the tri-state RFP for database access. The contract is now held by Gale-Thomson. I have been assured by MINITEX that we will have a report by that date.

3. A proposal that SDLN spend $28,950 a year to purchase statewide access to the Newsbank index to the Argus-Leader.

4. Update on the State Librarian.

B.) Concerning training, Introductory "Tables" training was completed in January. The first round of Circulation training was completed in March. Serials and Acquisitions training will have been completed and introductory Cataloguing training will be well underway. In addition, the first round of ILL training will have happened.

C.) Over the past couple of months, SDLN has spent considerable time developing project timetables regarding the switch to production. Be advised, however, that the dates on the timetables are very tentative. Ex Libris has not yet committed to the timings of the conversion jobs that they will run. For a very general list of dates for the remainder of the project, go to this URL: http://www.sdln.net/about/implementationtimeline.htm There are three links on this page, access to which is password-controlled (at the request of ExLibris - contact SDLN for the passwords).

D.) All libraries’ data has been converted; and testing by all libraries is progressing well.

Thanks.
Suzanne Miller named Minnesota Director of Library Development Services and School Technology

South Dakota State Librarian, Suzanne Miller has accepted a position with the Minnesota Department of Education as Director of Library Development Services and School Technology. Her final day at the State Library was April 23. Miller has been State Librarian since September of 1999. As Suzanne prepared for the challenges of her new position, I asked her to reflect on her time in South Dakota.

*What is the biggest change in the State Library since you began in September 1999?*

I believe that the solidification of the State Library as a full and equal partner with the other offices in the Department of Education is the most significant change.

*Of which accomplishment are you most proud?*

I am most proud of the reorganization we did to improve the administration of services and its companion reclassification project which improved the classification of one third of the staff. For the first time, librarians were recognized financially (although still not lavishly) for the education, experience, and quality of their contributions.

*What have you found to be most rewarding in your time as State Librarian?*

There have been so many rewarding moments. I loved participating in the Summer Institute where small library personnel blossomed into high powered library advocates. I feel that the most recent legislative session was very rewarding. We passed a law that will help with our production of Braille textbooks and saw a small increase in our budget for the first time in many, many years. I took great joy in collaborating with colleagues to plan and implement change. I love seeing my staff grow their programs, make them their own, and fulfill their full potential. Yes, I even loved opening my home to wayfarers stranded in a snowstorm. These are great memories that I will carry with me.

*What will you miss most?*

I will miss my colleagues both at the State Library and across the state. I think that the State Library has the finest staff I have ever worked with. They work harder than any I have ever seen for very little recognition. Through it all, they remain gracious and never forget how to have a good time. The library community across the state is also very special. They work together to improve library conditions regardless of type of library. I have always felt support and encouragement from colleagues just when my energy was flagging. I will miss this more than you will know. Of course, I loved my retreat in Pierre and it was hard to give up!

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Prairie Bud & Prairie Pasque Award Winners Announced

*Wait! Not Paint!, written & illustrated by Bruce Whatley, is the winner of this year's 2004 Prairie Bud Award. It received 887 statewide votes from students in grades K-3. Skeleton Man by Joseph Bruchac is the winner of the 2004 Prairie Pasque Award. It received 511 statewide votes from students in grades 4-6.*

Sponsored by the South Dakota Library Association, the South Dakota Children's Book Awards encourage students in grades K-6 to read and vote for their favorite book of the year. The Prairie Bud Award is designed for students in grades K-3, while the Prairie Pasque Award is for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. Both awards challenge students to read and vote for their favorite book from a list of fifteen nominated titles. Children who read at least five titles from the list for their grade level qualify to vote. Each award is given to the book receiving the most votes from students throughout South Dakota. 5,194 students in grades K-3 voted for a book nominated for the Prairie Bud Award; 2401 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders took part in the Prairie Pasque Award voting. A panel of educators and librarians selects the fifteen candidates for each award. Nominated books are chosen for their quality and potential popularity with children.

The Prairie Pasque Award was first given in 1987 to Ivy Ruckman for her book, *Night of the Twisters*. Other winners include Phyllis Reynolds Naylor for *Shiloh*, David Pateneau for *Someone Was Watching*, and Louis Sachar for *Holes*.

The Prairie Bud Award was created by the Prairie Valley Reading Council and has been given annually since 1998. The Prairie Bud Award was first given to Patricia Rae Wolff for her book, *Toll-Bridge Troll*. Other winners include Bill Grossman for *My Little Sister Ate One Hare* and Joan Steiner for *Look-Alikes*.

For more information about the Prairie Pasque and Prairie Bud Awards, contact:

Jim Oliver, SDLA Children’s Book Awards Committee
Siouxland Libraries
201 North Main Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-6002

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SDLA2004 Celebrates 100 Years in SD

Annual Conference Spearfish October 6-8, 2004
The Bull Rider's Advice: New and Selected Poems
by David Allan Evans. Sioux Falls, SD: Center for Western Studies, 2003.

South Dakota poet laureate, Dave Evans, continues to draw on the depths of his experience. The first part of this book contains selected poems from his previous publications: Train Windows, Real and False Alarms, Hanging Out with the Crows, and Decent Dangers. They contain poems of life as we know and experience it. Many of the poems selected are already considered to be timeless and are favorites of many readers.

With his new poems he continues to draw on his life experiences—whether they come from his youth or from his present day experience. He presents a depth of reality that all who read his poems can relate to in some fashion. His voice is the reader’s voice—whether sad or humorous.

The imagery continues as we read—from "Chasing Barbara" to "Fishing Alone" to "Tilt-A-Whirl" to "Chicks." He offers a variety of topics and gives his readers something to either ponder or laugh about, but each has a message.

This collection can be read with ease, but gives Evans' statement about life with the understanding and insight that only he can give—because he lived it. It is a vivid picture of life in the Midwest that many will relate to and enjoy. This is truly an excellent collection that will be read again and again by many.

By Jan Winkelman


Kids in the Courthouse is a nostalgic heartwarming story for all ages. It brings memories of childhood days for many of us. The family values and unity were what many of us experienced in our growing years. The parents and grandparents enjoyed holidays together and joined forces to work together to get the jobs done. The grandparents were the support system for the children when parents worked. As they grew older, the grandparent’s independent living was facilitated by the grandchildren's help. In today's world, the distance in miles often makes these relationships difficult to establish. Children miss the security and nurturing of extended family.

The Courthouse is a mysterious place for many children, but in this setting it becomes very familiar. No disrespect for property or personnel was allowed by these Grandparents. The cousins, being children, were as outrageous as I remember from those times. The creativity to find a way to get a soda without a quarter was certainly commendable. They created games to play in the various settings of the courthouse. All the cousins welcomed the opportunity to help their grandparents in the courthouse cleaning. Those who were too small to do anything more than ride a polisher also served a purpose. At times, rivalry to be the chosen helper created great problems.

The train ride was an especially memorable event because it was a rare treat. Many people have missed the opportunity to be a passenger. The young people in the story did not consider the discomfort of the trip to be a treat at the time, but certainly had a wonderful experience to remember.

I certainly enjoyed the book and highly recommend it.

By Cheryl Miller

United States Army Vietnam Combat Art Program

On Tuesday July 15, 2003, at the Library of Congress, South Dakota artist Jim Pollock gave a presentation about the U.S. Army Vietnam Combat Art Program. This program was established in June 1966, for the purpose of creating a pictorial record of the war. Soldiers, who were also artists, were selected to create the art work. Each team consisted of five soldier artists who spent 60 days in Vietnam gathering information and making preliminary sketches of U.S. Army related activities. The teams were then transferred to Hawaii where they spent 75 days completing their work. When one team finished its work, another team was sent in.

Jim Pollock's presentation was a visual presentation which he has preserved on CD. The presentation is 177 slides of the men who served in the U.S. Army Vietnam Combat Art Program, and the art they created. Throughout the project, from its inception in 1966, until its end in early 1970, there were nine teams of artists. Mr. Pollock shows pictures of each team and the work they created. This is not the art work of experienced artists, but rather of young soldiers who had artistic talent and were chosen to work on the Art Program. The art work is very moving and readers see the Vietnam War through the eyes of these young men. All different media were used and all different aspects of war in Vietnam are shown.

This CD is recommended for all libraries in South Dakota. Mr. Pollock is making the CD available to others at the cost of $15.00 per CD. You can purchase the CD by writing Mr. Pollock at Box 555, Pierre, SD 57501.

By Colleen Kirby
**News**

**Governor Rounds proclaims April 18-24, 2004 Library Week in South Dakota**
Governor Rounds signed an Executive Proclamation declaring April 18-24, 2004, South Dakota Library Week. The purpose of the proclamation was to recognize the 100 years of service of the South Dakota Library Association and its many dedicated members. The signing was the result of the collaborative efforts of the State Library and the SDLA Public Relations Committee. The proclamation can be found on the SDLA website at http://www.usd.edu/sdla

**Siouxland Libraries introduce “Book Club to Go” library bags**
Is your book club looking for a few good books to read? Do you have trouble finding enough copies for all your members? Siouxland Libraries has an answer: the “Book Club to Go” bag. Twelve copies of the book and a discussion guide are included in each bag. The wide range of the titles includes Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom, About a Boy by Nick Hornby, The Cape Ann by Faith Sullivan, and The Professor and the Madman by Simon Winchester. Over fifteen titles are available and more will be added. The bags check out for eight weeks. “Book Club to Go” bags can be sent to any Siouxland Libraries location for pick up. Library locations are the Main Library in downtown Sioux Falls, the Caille and Ronning branches in Sioux Falls, and branches in Crooks, Colton, Brandon, Hartdord, Humboldt, Garretson, Baltic and Valley Springs and two bookmobiles.

**State Archives announces Newspaper Archive Project**
The State Archives has started a newspaper indexing project. Tentatively called the "SD Name Index," the index includes birth, death, marriage, divorce, and school reunion information. Inmates working at the Archives Microfilm Unit in Springfield are indexing all newspapers currently being filmed while inmates at work in Pierre are combining indexing projects done by various historical groups from around the state. Work will eventually move to the older papers on microfilm. This information is being stored in a Microsoft ACCESS database that will later be moved to the Archives website.

**40th Anniversary Celebration**
Midland Community Library is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. This is a library that received county funding to pay the salary for the part time librarian and all operating funds are provided by community donations and fund raisers. They had a soup supper and anniversary cake to mark this special day. Karel Reiman is the librarian at both the school and at the Community Library.

**State Library welcomes new staff**
The State Library is proud to announce that LaVera Rose has accepted the position of Digital Librarian. LaVera brings to this position experience in archives and special libraries. She is currently collaborating with libraries, archives and museums to create the South Dakota Memory Project which is a digital archive of photographs, documents and other South Dakota memorabilia. LaVera completed the SD Newspaper Project and has worked with the Native American Resources Project. She is an author of children's books. She is currently the Librarian for the South Dakota State Archives Library. LaVera began her new position on April 26th. Colleen Kirby has accepted the position of Technical Services Librarian effective February 24th. This is a position that Colleen has held before and we are happy to welcome her back. Colleen has extensive experience in Technical Services and has taught cataloging (among other things). If you have a cataloging question or need some training, please contact Colleen. She is ready, willing and able to help. Annie Brunskill has been chosen to fill the Reference/Government Documents Librarian. Annie is perhaps best known to you as an employee in the Documents program. She has been helping demystify federal and state documents for 2 years. Annie will complete her MLS degree program in December. Quynn Verhelst is the new Administrative Assistant. She had been working as a Staff Assistant at the State Library for almost two years.

**News from the Rapid City Public Library Youth Department**
Looking for some great teen ideas? The Youth Department of RCPL is in the development stages of forming a Pokemon Card Playing League. The league is held every Saturday from 1-3 in our meeting room and we currently have 10-20 young players each week. In addition, 15-25 Yu Gi Oh card players come every Monday and Friday after school to play. In February, the department partnered with Arthur & PBS during February's Love Your Library event with over 300 participants. In conjunction with NEA and SDEA, the Youth Department brought the Cat-in-the-Hat to our library in March with over 450 participants. In May, a few dozen books. All items in the sale were donations from the Augustana and Sioux Falls community. Proceeds will go toward the renovation project of the Mikkelsen Library, which is celebrating its 50th birthday in 2004.

**Back Door Books & More Sale**
It was no April Fool that the Augustana College Library Associates know how to hold a book sale! This year marked the second annual “Back Door Books & More” sale hosted by the Augustana friends’ group on April 1 & 2. Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and guests converged on the lower level of the library to check out the books, CD’s, videos, and children’s items and everyone left with a few or a few dozen books. All items in the sale were donations from the Augustana and Sioux Falls community. Proceeds will go toward the renovation project of the Mikkelsen Library, which is celebrating its 50th birthday in 2004.

**Sioux Falls Area Support Staff luncheon**
Sioux Falls area library support staff celebrated the 2004 Library Support Staff Day with a luncheon at the Royal Fork in Sioux Falls on Wednesday, April 14. There were 31 people in attendance from a variety of library types, including academic, public and school libraries. The fun included a mixer game, door prizes and the opportunity to network with other library support staff. The picture shows over 30 people with 291 years of collective library service ranging from a person with 38 years of experience to one with less than a week of experience!
Suzanne Miller continued from page 4

What challenges lie ahead for the State Library?
Economic times are forcing tough choices in less populated areas. Often this means officials are redirecting tax revenues levied for libraries to other services, reducing library service hours, and/or simply discontinuing support for local libraries. In a time when the library is of increasing importance to every citizen, this is tragic. The State Library will continue to be called upon to provide support for these disenfranchised citizens. However, they can never provide the same service as the local library. School libraries are also under duress in SD. We continue to fight for improved quality of libraries to insure that K-12 students graduate with the information literacy skills they need to be productive citizens. In order to carry through on the promise of quality school libraries, the State Library needs to help insure that the training required to implement them is available and meets the requirements of state licensing and No Child Left Behind. It is important to insure these rules and guidelines are interpreted to insure high quality librarians and aides who are able to deliver the services.

Dorothy Liegl has been officially appointed acting State Librarian. Miller said, “She knows the libraries across the state better than anyone I know and will do a good job of insuring their success”. Mary Caspers-Graper will fulfill Miller’s duties as MPLA Representative.

In Memory
Diane Bannister
was born September 6, 1957 in Salina, KS.
She worked with interlibrary loans for many years at Holbrook Library at Ellsworth AFB.
She passed away on March 8, 2004 after a lengthy illness.

2005 SDLA Legislative Platform Meetings — Plan to Attend

Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about next January when the South Dakota Legislature is once again in session. You are invited to participate in this important process. As members of SDLA, you can help prioritize the legislative issues we want to bring forward.

Greta Chapman, Chair of the Library Issues Committee, will be hosting two legislative platform meetings where priorities will be identified and discussed. The first meeting will be Wednesday, May 26 in Sioux Falls. The second meeting will be in June in Rapid City. Agenda items will include public library districts, statewide virtual reference, school library standards, school library consultants, and other issues brought by the membership. A brochure with additional details will be mailed out as well as posted on the SDLA website in the upcoming weeks.

Last year’s legislative efforts resulted in the repeal of the law requiring vendors to have South Dakota tax IDs, and the assurance of funding from the Dept. of Education via the State Library for a statewide electronic database package (ProQuest or its equivalent). We look forward to having another successful legislative session with even more involvement by the membership. The 2005 draft platform documents will be reviewed and finalized at our annual conference, so please plan to attend the Legislative Update session. For more information, contact Greta Chapman at gchapman@rcplib.org.
Midland Community Library celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Augustana’s 2nd Annual Back Door Books and More

Rapid City Public’s Youth Dept. partnered with PBS to bring Arthur to the library.

Sioux Falls Area Library Support Staff Luncheon April 14, 2004