

VIDEO SCRIPT

TITLE: Blackboards And Computers

PREPARED FOR: Dakota Pathways

WRITER: Paul Higbee

PRODUCER: Jim Sprecher

DRAFT: Final Edited Version

DATE: September 1, 2005

SCRIPT: # 11

TRT: 13:08

V I S U A L

A U D I O

VISUAL

AUDIO

Open

OPEN

INT. Fourth grade class at Tabor School in Bon Homme School District.

CU feet entering class.

WS sitting down at desks.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER DWCD 0251 Cut 1 "Easy Come Easy Go" (OPEN)

MUSIC OUT

NAT SOUND UP AND UNDER

NARRATOR:

It's Monday morning. All across South Dakota, students are going to school. These kids live in Tabor, a part of the Bon Homme school district, where the state's first school was established in 1860.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER DWCD 0067 Cut 5 "Round and Round"

MAP of South Dakota locating Bon Homme.

MS Teacher 1860s ringing bell.

Boy & two girls walking toward school.

Two boys cleaning barn stalls.

Same boys feeding sheep.

Same boys walking to school.

PHOTO: Early Yankton W.H. Over Museum

PHOTO: Busy main street Yankton Historical Society

PHOTO: Early Yankton 1861 W.H. Over Museum

PHOTO: Territorial Capitol Yankton Historical Society

...the town that built the state's first school, in 1860. Imagine going to school just three months and having the rest of the year off. That's the way things happened that first school year at Bon Homme.

But it didn't mean students had a nine-month vacation. In 1860, once spring came, just about everyone had long hours of farm chores. There wasn't enough time for school again until after harvest, late in the fall.

Still, even with all that work, settlers considered school important. Long before South Dakota became a state, the first Dakota territorial legislature met in Yankton, in 1862. Education was a topic.

V I S U A L

PHOTO: Early Classroom SDSHS

PHOTO: Governor Jayne SUPER
1826-1916 SDSHS

PHOTO: Gov. Jayne stays up

SUPER: Web Pointer

PHOTO: EXT. Burbank School with
teacher and kids W.H. Over Museum

PHOTO: Teacher and students in
one-room log school. W.H. Over Museum

PHOTO: Citizens in small store
1860s. SDSHS

PHOTO: EXT Dalesburg School W.H.
Over Museum

PHOTO: Faculty and Students in
front of Old Main USD 1880s W.H. Over
Museum

PHOTO: Old Main USD 1965 W.H.
Over Museum

PHOTO: Sod House with family.
SDSHS

PHOTO: INT Lutheran Normal
School. SDSHS

PHOTO: Group of workers NARA
General Collection

PHOTO: Family in early automobile
SDSHS

A U D I O

NARRATOR:

Territorial Governor William Jayne spoke:

MUSIC OUT

VOICE OF: Governor Jayne

"The advancement of prosperity, wealth and power of a country is intimately associated with, and dependent upon, the development of the educational interest."

NARRATOR:

Government set up a system of schools. Dakota children would attend beginning at age five. These schools were controlled by citizens elected to school boards in towns, and in the countryside between towns.

Also in 1862, the territorial lawmakers began planning a college for older students—today's University of South Dakota at Vermillion.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER DWCD 0073 Cut 13 "Sally in the Garden"

Dakota Territory was building on an American belief already 200 years old in the 1860s: that all children deserved an education. If the United States was to be a land where everyone had an opportunity to become whatever they dreamed, regardless of family background, wealth or poverty, then good schools would put those dreams within reach.

V I S U A L

A U D I O

PHOTO: Sod school with teacher & students outside. NARA West Collection#181

1880s Textbook, page flips.

Old Books on shelf.

EXT. One-room Frawley school.

INT. One-room class with teacher teaching.

EXT. Pioneer family crossing prairie in wagon with kids walking behind.

SLOW DISSOLVE to:

EXT. WS vast Dakota Prairie

EXT. WS cows in field

PHOTO: Wm. Beadle SDSHS

SUPER William Beadle 1838-1916

EXT. LOW ANGLE WS Horse drawn tiller.

EXT. WS from behind as tiller moves away.

EXT. CU Prairie Windmill turning in wind.

NARRATOR:

Governor Jayne and other leaders spoke of free education, meaning free to students and their families. But of course someone had to buy books...

pay for school buildings...

and come up with money for teacher salaries.

If lots of families with children moved to the territory, as leaders hoped, education would be a huge expense. The leaders looked around them and saw something that looked equally huge.

The vast Dakota landscape. They decided to tax farmers and others based on how much land they owned, and use that money for schools.

William Beadle, an early education superintendent, thought it was also important for the territory, and later the state, to own school lands. These lands would be rented to farmers, and the rent money would go to schools.

The bottom line was, for schools to have enough funding, farmers and ranchers and other land owners had to make money. That's been a problem at times...

MUSIC OUT

V I S U A L

A U D I O

PHOTO: Man and boys running to shelter from sandstorm **LOC General Collection**

PHOTO: Oregon or Bust truck with people standing by it. **LOC General Collection**

PHOTO: Ext. Burbank School with kids and teachers. **W.H. Over Museum**

PHOTO: Family in front of wood house. **NARA West Collection 184**

PHOTO: Family in field front of farm. **NARA West Collection 100**

MAP: South Dakota with Aberdeen marked.

MAP: Continues. Mark Frederick and Eureka.

PHOTO: Immigrants getting off train. **Mills "Milwaukee Road in South Dakota" p3**

Norwegian school book cover.

Slow pull-out on book page.

PHOTO: School at Highmore **SDSHS**

SFX Wind Noise UP and Under

MUSIC UP AND UNDER **AMC 016 518f "Picket Fences"**

NARRATOR:

...when weather devastated agriculture...

or when lots of farmers and ranchers left the land. But taxing land—the property tax—remains the main way South Dakotans pay for public schools.

Superintendent Beadle believed in local control—that schools should be planned and run by the communities and families who had children attending. So in the 1800s, for example...

the school at Frederick, where many families had recently arrived from Finland, felt much different than the school at Eureka...

where German-Russian immigrants had their own school traditions.

In some early South Dakota classrooms, lessons were taught in languages other than English, including Norwegian, German, and Dutch.

And while public schools—those supported by taxes—were open to any child...

V I S U A L

A U D I O

PHOTO: Home Schooling mom. LOC-FSA 8a00974

PHOTO: Slow pull out to reveal Catholic Nun with students. LOC-FSA 8a04966

PHOTO: Pine Ridge School SDSHS

PHOTO: Indian girls in class SDSHS

ART SKETCH: Father Martin Marty NARA General Collecton

PHOTO: Indian boys in boarding school. LOC 43-077A

PHOTO: Cheyenne River Indian School. SDSHS

Pop up Fact: "The United States government created reservation schools, too."

PHOTO: Indian students working printing press. SDSHS

PHOTO: Pine Ridge Boarding School, EXT. Teachers and girls. SDSHS

PHOTO: Indian Boys baking bread SDSHS.

PHOTO: Indian women in blankets. W.H. Over Morrow Collection n248

PHOTO: Pine Ridge School & Agency LOC 02511v

SUPER Web Pointer

PHOTO: Indian chiefs with Agency Superintendent. LOC 02624v The

NARRATOR:

families had the right to educate their kids at home or in other kinds of classrooms. Churches established schools in some South Dakota towns.

MUSIC SEGUE DWCD 0236 Cut 7 "Navajo Dawn"

Churches built schools on South Dakota reservations, too, after the United States government asked them to. The Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Congregational churches built reservation schools, as did the Catholic Church under Father Martin Marty. Often these were boarding schools, where even very young children lived in dormitories, away from their families.

While many good teachers came to reservations and worked hard to help students, it's true that lots of reservation school leaders felt American Indian people needed to forget their traditional ways. That way, the thinking went, they'd more likely succeed in the modern world. Often on South Dakota reservations, students were forbidden to speak their family's traditional language.

During the 1900s, reservation residents worked to gain local control of their schools. They were successful. The schools became places where traditional ways were studied and celebrated.

MUSIC OUT

V I S U A L

Interview

PHOTO: Lakota Men in Sweatlodge.

SDSHS

Teacher ringing bell and students entering one-room school.

INTERIOR One-room school with kids getting out books watching teacher.

EXT of One-room school with kids walking toward it, lunch pails in hand.

DISSOLVE to Winter snow in field.

Blowing snow

School house in blizzard

School swing in snow.

Kids walking in blizzard

INTERIOR school teacher working a coal stove.

Two students working side by side, one a first-grader, one an eighth-grader.

Teacher at front of class

A U D I O

NARRATOR:

NAT SOUND UP AND UNDER

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, thousands of schools were built across South Dakota. By far, most were one-room country schools, where one teacher worked with an average of ten students, first grade through eighth.

MUSIC SEGUE DWCD 0072 Cut 33 "Black Mountain Rag"

NARRATOR:

Early South Dakotans thought kids should be able to walk to school up to two or three miles—each way. That's how school houses were spaced across farm country.

MUSIC OUT

SFX Blizzard wind

Of course, two or three miles can be a long hike on a South Dakota winter day. One of the state's worst tragedies happened in January, 1888. One-hundred-twelve people died when a sudden blizzard hit. Many were children, dismissed from school and walking as the weather turned dangerous.

NAT SOUND UP AND UNDER

One-room school teachers, usually women, needed lots of skills. They had to keep their buildings heated, first with coal, and later with oil-burning stoves.

They had to keep everyone learning, even though one student might be doing eighth grade work while her neighbor did first grade work.

SFX Wind and Thunder

V I S U A L

A U D I O

Stormy clouds.

NARRATOR:

Rattlesnake about to strike.

These teachers had to handle emergencies—
from threatening weather to snake bites—all by
themselves.

SFX Rattlesnake rattle.

One-room school kids playing
baseball, with the teacher umpiring.

It was also good if they could umpire baseball...

make minor building repairs...

INTERIOR One-room school
classroom with teacher leading them
in song.

NAT SOUND UP

...and lead students in song.

NAT SOUND UNDER

PHOTO: Dalesburg (brick) school
SDSHS

MUSIC UP AND UNDER DWCD 0067 Cut 22
"Travelling"

Brookings (brick) school. SDSHS

Towns built schools for students grades one
through eight, too, and that's also where the
state's public high schools were located.

EXT Frawley One-room
schoolhouse.

It's hard for people in bigger cities to understand
how much a school means to a very small town
or a completely rural area. Sometimes these
schools have housed the region's sole library...

Kids playing on slide (1880s)

School books on shelves.

PHOTO: Small school band. LOC
8d21024v

and have been the only places where the
community could enjoy concerts...

PHOTO: School drama. LOC 10014v

plays...

V I S U A L

A U D I O

PHOTO: Basketball game. LOC 068110

NARRATOR:
and basketball games.

PHOTO: Abandoned brick school
LOC 8b38886u

That's why it was painful when smaller schools closed across South Dakota in the middle and late 1900s. It didn't make sense for taxpayers to support so many schools...

PHOTO: Another abandoned school
LOC 8b38024u

PHOTO: Old School bus in snow.
LOC 5a14679u

when good roads and buses meant students could easily be moved to bigger places.

PHOTO: School bus kids getting on
LOC 8b35057u

PHOTO: Small one-room school,
deserted on prairie with snow fence
LOC 8c18028u.

Almost all one-room schools closed, and some neighboring towns like Deadwood and Lead combined their high schools.

MUSIC OUT

PHOTO: Deadwood High School
SDSHS

MUSIC UP AND UNDER DWCD 0183 Cut 22
"Discovery"

PHOTO: 1950s classroom. LOC
10006402

Other trends changed South Dakota education during the last half of the twentieth century. As kids started the new school year in the fall of 1957, they couldn't have guessed that a rocket...

Another 1950s Classroom LOC
10006407

SFX Sputnik radio Signal UP and Under

PHOTO: Rocket on launch-pad, slow
tilt down.

halfway around the world, was about to change their classrooms. The rocket launched a Soviet Union satellite named Sputnik into space, and Americans were stunned—worried they were falling behind the Soviets in science and technology.

GRAPHIC ANIMATION: Sputnik
spinning around earth from space.

PHOTO: 1950s-style chemistry class
LOC 8d41148u

Schools everywhere in the United States began teaching more science and math.

V I S U A L

VIDEO: Kid in wheelchair going into school library.

Same kid wheeling up to computer.

EXT USD Campus Students walking to classes.

Another shot students walking

EXT USD Campus with students walking.

MAP: South Dakota showing locations as mentioned.

EXT Augustana College.

SUPER: Augustana College SF

EXT sign BIA at Rosebud.

EXT sign at Sinte Gleska College.

EXT Sinte Gleska College with students.

Phyllis DeCory ON CAMERA

Sinte Gleska students in classrooms and library.

Students at computer.

Phyllis DeCory ON CAMERA

A U D I O

MUSIC OUT

NARRATOR:

Beginning in the 1970s, South Dakota schools responded to a national law saying students with even the most severe disabilities had a right to meaningful educations.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER DWCD 0183 Cut 43
"Living Free"

Another trend in the late 1900s saw more South Dakotans than ever before wanting to continue their educations beyond high school. Colleges and universities grew.

NARRATOR:

In addition to the University of South Dakota at Vermillion, for more than a hundred years South Dakota has supported state colleges or universities at Aberdeen, Brookings, Madison, Spearfish, and Rapid City.

There are also some private colleges...

and in the 1960s, reservation leaders began building colleges.

MUSIC OUT

PHYLLIS DECORY:

On how Sinte Gleska College was created and what it has meant to her life.

V I S U A L

A U D I O

Female students Sinte Gleska

Phyllis DeCory ON CAMERA

INT Hallway at Southeast Vo-tech
with students going to class.

EXT Southeast Vo-tech.

Jan Nicolay, Pres. Southeast Vo-
Tech, Sioux Falls ON CAMERA

INT Southeast Vo-tech classes to
cover what Jan Nicolay says.

Jan Nicolay ON CAMERA

EXT South Dakota State Capitol
building in Pierre.

FLY-IN Portraits of various
governors. End on George S.
Mickelson. **SDSHS**

Mickelson portrait, with dates of his
administration. **SDSHS**

Janklow portrait, with dates of his
administrations. **SDSHS**

NARRATOR:

Not every South Dakotan who wants an
education beyond high school selects a college
or university.

NAT SOUND UP and Under

JAN NICOLAY: On what Vocational Schools like
South East Vo-Tech have to offer students.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER **DWCD 0067 Cut 38**
"Autumn Romance"

NARRATOR:

Often South Dakota education has reflected what
political leaders believe.

For example, Governor George Mickelson
believed local control to be important and looked
for more ways to involve communities in shaping
their schools.

Governor Bill Janklow promised South Dakota
would lead the nation in learning technology, and
worked to wire the schools for computer
connections.

V I S U A L

A U D I O

CU hands typing on computer

Our schools today, in many ways, are different from the first one in Bon Homme.

INT Teacher working with one student.

But in some ways they're exactly the same: places where kids want to learn and teachers want to help.

MUSIC OUT

MUSIC UP AND UNDER DWCD 0251 Cut 1 "Easy Come Easy Go" (close)

Modern school set in a modern neighborhood. (Vermillion Austin School)

NARRATOR:

Places backed by communities who hope for bright futures.

Dissolve to credits and program close

CLOSE

Fade to Black.

MUSIC OUT
