

Keystone

A man with a backpack is standing on a rocky cliff, looking over a town. The town features a main road with several buildings, including a 'Quality Inn' and a 'Birdwalk Motel'. The background shows a forested hillside under a cloudy sky.

SMALL TOWN. BIG SPIRIT.
VisitKeystoneSD.com



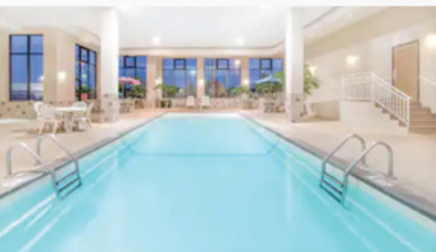
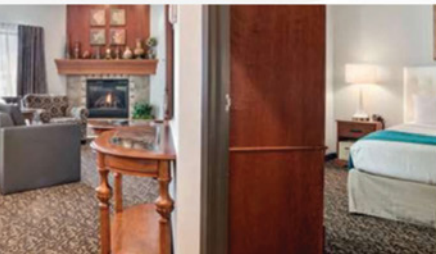
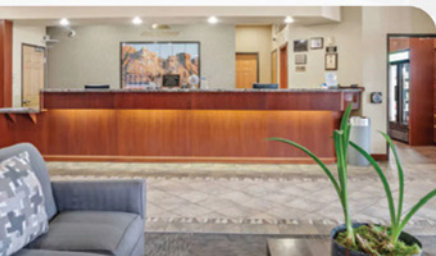
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Welcome

We're a small town with a big spirit, and we can't wait to share it all with you.

The town of Keystone would like to welcome you to the beautiful Black Hills. Keystone is the perfect place to base your family vacation. Centrally located in the Black Hills and the gateway to Mount Rushmore, with quick access to Custer State Park via one of the most scenic drives in the state: Iron Mountain Road.

In town we have an incredible selection of unique lodging, shops, restaurants, and watering holes that will make your vacation unforgettable. Not only that, our family friendly attractions promise monumental adventures; from riding a historical train, panning for gold, taking a memorable Old West picture, zip lining through the trees, or seeing the world's largest Bigfoot carving.

If you love history, be sure to visit the Keystone Historical Museum while you're here. Keystone has a rich mining history dating back to the late 1800s, and was also home to the dedicated workers that carved Mount Rushmore from 1929 to 1941. Keystone is the mining town that failed to become a ghost town due to our early entrepreneurs.

Beyond the presidents on Mount Rushmore, there are other faces that have shaped the history of Keystone. Carrie Ingalls Swanzey, a business woman and sister of Laura Ingalls Wilder, was a true western pioneer. We're also home to modern faces like Ben Black Elk, the 5th face of Mount Rushmore; "Paha Ska" Orville Francis Salway, the Goodwill Ambassador of Keystone; Nick Clifford, the last carver of Mount Rushmore; and Harry Hardin and Sugar Babe, the miner and donkey in Landstrom's Jewelry's famous ads.

Whatever brings you to the Black Hills, we wish you safe travels, and hope you enjoy your stay here in Keystone!



Keystone
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE





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SMALL TOWN. BIG SPIRIT.

Thrills & Amusements

From mining for gold to blasting the face of Mount Rushmore, Keystone locals have always loved the thrill of an adrenaline rush.

Beginning with daring exploits in the mines that built Keystone, to modern obstacle courses and roller coasters, the adventurous spirit of our founders lives on. We have attractions for every taste around town, so jump in and get your blood pumping! Start out by delving into the depths of the mines that got us started, where you will venture into the earth using the original tunnels miners used almost 100 years ago. You can even try your hand at panning for gold—you just might strike it rich!



Did you know, here in Keystone we can help you conquer your fear of heights and small spaces all in one day? Check out our aerial obstacle courses that let you walk, climb, and jump your way through the ponderosa treetops. When you're ready to come back down to earth, there are several caves in our area that will take you deep into the ground and leave you in awe of their natural beauty. For the daring explorer in your group, look for caving tours that will take you through small spaces but promise big rewards.

Prefer activities with a little more gusto? We have you covered! Keystone has plenty of ziplines and coasters to fulfill your need for speed. You'll find trademark Black Hills ingenuity in our coasters, where you can decide if you want to fly at top speed, slow down and enjoy the scenery, or even hunt buffalo along the way! For an organic take on the traditional roller coaster, try a tubing hill or slide and coast down the mountain in style.

Tired of the same old view? Soar through the air in a helicopter and see Keystone from a whole new perspective!

Looking to keep a more leisurely pace? Check out mini golf, where you and your family are sure to spend plenty of time betting on the perfect shot. Other family activities offer laser guns, mazes, virtual reality and traditional arcade games. Rain or shine, there's plenty to help keep you occupied and burn off steam.

SMALL TOWN. BIG SPIRIT.

Dining & Lodging

If you want to dine with presidents at Mount Rushmore and sleep amongst the ponderosa pines, Keystone is the perfect place to visit.

Start your monumental adventure at one of our favorite coffee shops in town where you can settle into a cozy armchair and contemplate the day ahead. Many of our shops support their fellow local craftsmen, which means you can grab a cup of joe made from beans roasted right here in the Black Hills. Lunch is a more lively affair, as you can find several joints on the boardwalk in town that will transport you back to another time. Watch for burgers



that stand up against the best in the hills and pizzas that will please the whole family. A trip to Keystone and the Black Hills isn't complete without trying locally sourced buffalo or fish, and several establishments in and around town are happy to oblige. If you somehow have room left after dinner, top off a perfect trip to Keystone by sampling our famous taffy!

No matter where you prefer to lay your head at the end of the day, we have the right place! Keystone boasts a wide variety of hotel staples reimagined to fit into the rustic charm of the Black Hills, and you're sure to find your favorite names. We also have several bed and breakfasts and historic lodges ready to welcome you in like family. Want a little more room to yourself so you can enjoy some peace and quiet? A variety of cozy cabins and home rentals dot the hills around Keystone, where you can find everything from a small studio layout to a multi-room spread big enough for your extended family to stay comfortably. Prefer to sleep outdoors? Enjoy one of our family-friendly campgrounds, or try your hand at glamping! Both are great ways to enjoy all that Keystone has to offer while also connecting with the beautiful Black Hills. Wherever you choose to stay, we look forward to hosting you and your family on your monumental vacation here in Keystone.

Prime rib is a popular offering on dinner menus that you shouldn't miss—but be warned, South Dakotans go big on meat. You may have to walk back to your lodging after dinner!





10 KEYSTONE, SOUTH DAKOTA



SMALL TOWN. BIG SPIRIT.

Events & Shopping

Annual events and small shops showcasing local artisans are the lifeblood of any small town—and in Keystone we do both with style.

Join us in July for Carrie Ingalls Swanzey's birthday celebration, complete with cake, lemonade, costumes and crafts popular in her lifetime. Later in the summer, support our nation's veterans with us as we host a motorcycle rally and ride in their honor. Events include a silent auction, live music, and a special lighting ceremony at Mount Rushmore. September is the end of the traditional tourist season, but that doesn't mean the fun stops! In the middle of the month, we host the Mount Rushmore half marathon, where runners enjoy views that will take your breath away—if the inclines don't do it first! Also in September is our newly minted Keystone Hometown Celebration, where we take a day to celebrate everything that makes our town great. Expect historical costumes, fun at the 1880 Train station, live music and a family carnival. Even if you aren't local, come and celebrate with us like you are, because our guests are family too!

Looking for the perfect souvenir from your trip? Or maybe just a thoughtful gift for a special someone? Let our local artists and shops help you find exactly what you need. Downtown offers a wide range of souvenirs in the form of mugs, t-shirts, magnets and more. Want something more unique? Check out our old time photo shops, where you can dress up like the Old West and take pictures home as a fun keepsake. There is also plenty of fine art made here in the hills, including intricate glass art blown here in town and authentic Native American arts and crafts. We also have plenty of choices for your daily needs, as well as clothes and accessories. Stroll through downtown and window shop in between adventures—we know you'll find something to suit your fancy.

Ride the historic 1880 Train, grab some taffy, and walk our famous boardwalk. Keep your eyes peeled—you never know when you might witness an old west shootout!

SMALL TOWN. BIG SPIRIT.

The Outdoors are Calling

There's no mistaking the beauty of the Black Hills National Forest all around us—it's part of what makes Keystone so great.

Keystone's central location within the Black Hills means we are perfectly situated to launch you onto more than 600 miles of trails throughout the region. Whether you're looking to hike, bike, ride horses, or suit up and zip along the trails on four wheels, we have plenty of choices to help you experience the outdoors.

Our earliest residents enjoyed trekking through the trees on foot or on horseback, and you can do the same. In town we have plenty of locals and businesses alike that will assist you in finding your next favorite hike, and help outfit you with gear if you need. If you prefer horseback, the stables near town would love to setup a meeting between you and your new equestrian best friend to explore with! Are you a biking enthusiast? Don't miss the George S. Mickelson trail, a railroad converted into 109 miles of pristine biking fun. You can access it via trailheads near town and enjoy breathtaking views on converted rail bridges or through mountain tunnels. Take the time to relax and enjoy the Black Hills as you immerse yourself in nature.

For a more modern and adrenaline-inducing experience, consider renting an ATV or UTV. We have several businesses in town that cater to the side-by-side community, and they're happy to point you to their favorite trails as most are avid riders themselves. Put on your seatbelt, throw on a helmet and let the mud fly! While you're out and about, we ask that you please respect the trails, to include closures due to impassable conditions, so they stay in great shape for everyone to enjoy.

On horseback or in the back seat—truly experience the wonders of the Black Hills by immersing yourself in the many miles of trails in our area.





SMALL TOWN. BIG SPIRIT.

Historical Adventure

History is a big part of Keystone, from the people who built us out of nothing, to those who have kept us going through hard times.

Anywhere you go in town, you can see the history of Keystone all around you: our dirt sparkles with the mica that inspired the earliest miners, our boardwalk transports you to the Old West, and you can almost always see the face of George Washington gazing down at you.

While Mount Rushmore is the main show in town—for good reason—did you know you can actually see every president our country has ever had right here in town? On top of that, you can learn more about Gutzon Borglum and his works beyond Mount Rushmore, as he was a prolific artist and sculptor before he came to Keystone. How else would he have gotten such an important job?

A little closer to home, Keystone has many of its own famous faces. You'll meet a few in this guide, but take the time to see their belongings and walk in their footsteps at our museums. From gold prospectors and miners to business men and women, our locals have written the book on what it means to be a South Dakota pioneer.

For a hands-on experience in history, take a trek through the forest on a steam locomotive like the ones that built the Black Hills. Few other places in the country offer the chance to ride a train that's almost 100 years old, so don't miss your chance!

Whatever historical period or topic interests you most, Keystone is certain to teach you something you didn't know before you came.

Make sure you take time while you're here to get to know as many of our local innovators as possible—you won't regret it!



HISTORY

Mount Rushmore

When Gutzon Borglum first saw the mountain that would become Mount Rushmore, he proclaimed, "America will march along that skyline."

Carving the likeness of American heroes into a mountain in the Black Hills was an idea conceived by state historian Doane Robinson. He hoped to draw tourists to the area as a way to supplement the agricultural economy prevalent in other parts of the state. Robinson recruited Gutzon Borglum for the project after being inspired by Stone Mountain in Georgia, which Borglum had originally been part of. The original site he had selected was in the nearby Needles formation, but Borglum recommended the project move to its



present location due to carvability issues in the Needles. The face of the granite Borglum chose also had the advantage of facing to the southeast, allowing for maximum sunlight coverage and thus visibility throughout the day. The original plan for the monument included explorers like Lewis and Clark and local legends such as Red Cloud, but Borglum insisted instead on the four presidents we see now due to their part in the birth and growth of our nation.

GAINING SUPPORT AND FUNDING

Robinson and Borglum joined forces with Senator Peter Norbeck to raise support and funding for the carving of Mount Rushmore. Originally, Robinson supported only Presidents Washington and Lincoln, but Borglum and Norbeck insisted that adding Jefferson and Roosevelt would better encapsulate the American spirit and growth of our nation they were trying to embody. Initially, the men reached out to the foundations associated with each previous president, but they found one of their biggest sponsors in a living one: President Calvin Coolidge.

Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln were chosen to represent the nation's birth, growth, development, and preservation, respectively.

President Coolidge had visited the Black Hills and was taken with the beauty of the area, even spending a summer in Custer State Park. During his stay, Borglum invited him to visit Mount Rushmore by dropping a wreath on the lawn of the game lodge. The invite



inspired Coolidge to give a speech at the monument and promise federal funds for the project. He eventually signed a law granting \$250,000 in federal funds, more than a quarter of the overall cost.

COMPLETING THE PROJECT

While carving ceremonially began on August 10, 1927, the real work began on October 4 of that year. Over 400 men and women worked on the mountain, and it would take 14 years to complete. Unfortunately, Sculptor Gutzon Borglum passed away on March 6, 1941, and the final drilling was completed on October 31, 1941, under the direction of his son, Lincoln Borglum.

Looking at the faces on the monument, many visitors might wonder if the project is actually finished, considering Lincoln's lack of ears, and Washington's decidedly lopsided wig. You'd be correct in thinking so, and there are a couple of reasons why the monument seems incomplete. With the onset of WWII, funding for projects like Mount Rushmore wasn't a priority, and in the fall of 1941 money ran out. Additionally, underneath the sculpture's faces is a layer of mica schist—an unworkable metamorphic rock. These two factors combined mean that Mount Rushmore, although declared complete, does not fully represent Borglum's original vision.



Luckily, a visit to the Sculptor's Studio at the monument gives guests an idea of what Borglum initially intended; the faces of the presidents as we see them, but also their torsos down to their waists. Regardless, the final carving as it sits today inspires all who see it and is indeed a unique national treasure.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY

As Mount Rushmore looks to celebrate almost a century since the first drill pierced granite, the monument has left an indelible mark on Keystone and the Black Hills. Not only that, it has become an important piece of Americana that increases in popularity every year.

To keep up with the ever-growing number of visitors to Mount Rushmore—over 2 million annually—the National Park Service is constantly reevaluating and updating facilities at the memorial. Additions to the original site include the visitor center, dining room and gift shop. Most recently, energy efficiency and accessibility enhancements were added to ensure the continuing viability of the memorial for all of our patrons. On top of that, new educational activities and tour options are constantly being added for you and your family to explore. If it's your first visit or one of many, there is surely something new to discover at our nation's Shrine of Democracy.



Gerard Baker was the first, and so far only, Native American to serve as Mount Rushmore's Superintendent. During his tenure, Baker integrated Native American culture and history into the story of the memorial, shedding light on all facets of the American story.



CARY GRANT, EVA MARIE SAINT,
NORTH BY NORTHWEST, 1959

SPOTLIGHT

Rushmore in Hollywood

As you drive up the highway next to Mount Rushmore, you might notice a sign that says “North by Northwest, National Treasure II, filmed in this area.”

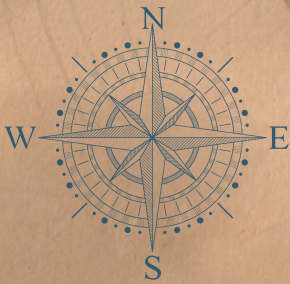
Alfred Hitchcock had a personal goal of filming a chase scene across the faces of Mount Rushmore, and supposedly had the script of “North by Northwest” written with this in mind. The movie and chase scene were meant to be to be a crowning jewel in Hitchcock’s extensive filmography. When park officials got wind he planned to have a fight scene and possibly a couple deaths on the monument, they refused him access. Not easily deterred, the crew petitioned for access to take precise measurements and then recreated the famous faces in MGM’s studios. You’d be hard pressed to know the faces are a set, however, as Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint look exactly as though they are evading capture on our beloved monument.

More recently, “National Treasure II” inspired a new generation of moviegoers to wonder exactly what secrets Mount Rushmore is hiding. As Nicholas Cage searches for a city of gold, his quest brings him to a lake behind Mount Rushmore, and eventually to a secret chamber within the monument itself. It might surprise you that the secret chamber is actually the more realistic of the two locations. The lake appears to be directly behind Mount Rushmore, but in actuality it is Sylvan Lake, over 10 miles away in Custer State Park. The chamber, however, is based off a 70-foot-long tunnel that exists in real life, and does contain a sort of treasure. Not a golden city, perhaps, but instead 16 porcelain tablets etched with the story of how Mount Rushmore, buried in the rock for future generations to find.

Secret lair, time capsule, hidden chamber; there are many names for the room behind Mount Rushmore. The Hall of Records was conceived by Borglum as an archive of American artifacts, like our Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

Keystone

Historic Walking Map



Iron Mtn Rd. - HWY 16A

A3 A2 A1

Cemetery Rd

B2

C

E

H

I2

I1

F

G

J

D

★ Visitor Information Center

Reed St. - HWY 40


Swanzy St.

Winter St.

HWY 16A



- A1 & A2:** Pictures of Mount Rushmore workers
- A3:** Picture of Borglum's first studio and the Crag of Jesse T
- B1:** Site of our first gift shop, history of Golden Valley and the Hesnard Museum
- B2:** Site of 1930's baseball field for the Rushmore Drillers, picture of the team.
- C:** Mountain View Cemetery. This US Forest Service land was deeded to Modern Woodmen of America by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1900.
- D:** Original building and site of Keystone's Volunteer Fire Department and Town Hall.
- E:** Close to the original site of the Carrie Ingalls house, which was destroyed by fire in 1977.
- F:** Story and picture of Lakota artist Orville Francis "Paha Ska" Salway.
- G:** Pictures of Wild Horse Harry Hardin, Old Dave McVay and Harney Hydraulic Gold Mining Company's Trestle.
- H:** History of Carrie Ingalls Swanzey and her life in Keystone.
- I1:** Walking tour maps, pictures of John Manion, Dr. AT Roos and David Swanzey.
- I2:** Picture of the "Iron Horse" train engine.
- J:** Ride the 1901 Otis Elevator from the Homestake Gold Mine, reportedly the first of its kind west of the Mississippi.

 = Original Gold Mines

**Visit These Historical
& Informative Story Board
Locations Throughout Town**

Keystone

Area Map

Hill City	17 min (12 mi)
Crazy Horse	36 min (20.5 mi)
Custer	45 min (42.3 mi)
Custer State Park	34 min (16.3 mi)
Hermosa	22 min (15.8 mi)
Hot Springs	58 min (53.7 mi)
Lead/Deadwood	57 min (46.3 mi)
Mt. Rushmore	11 min (3.7 mi)
Rapid City	26 min (20.9 mi)
Rapid City Airport.....	37 min (29.3 mi)
Sturgis	30 min (21.6 mi)
Spearfish	1h 9 min (68.7 mi)



**Black Hills
National Forest**

Hill City

**Crazy Horse
Memorial**

Custer



● **Nemo**

Rapid City

Keystone

★
**Mount Rushmore
National Memorial**

Hermosa

🛡️
Custer State Park



HISTORY

Experience the Road

South Dakotans can be a rough-and-tumble lot, and here in Keystone we've never let words like "impossible" get in our way.

When Senator Peter Norbeck first explained his plans for Needles Highway, that's exactly what he was told it was: impossible. Not easily deterred, he enlisted the help of engineer Scovell Johnson, who said it could be done, "if you can supply me with enough dynamite!" An estimated 150,000 pounds of dynamite and two years later, the remarkable one-of-a-kind journey through the granite spires was complete.

Norbeck wasn't done, however, and he approached the Superintendent of Custer State Park, C. C. Gideon, with a continuation of the idea: Iron Mountain Road. More than just a way to get from Custer State Park to Mount Rushmore, it would make visitors slow down and immerse themselves in nature. The 17-mile stretch of road showcases everything we cherish about our beloved Black Hills, but it is perhaps most famous for its mountain tunnels and curved bridges. If you start in Custer State Park and head towards Keystone, you will traverse two tunnels carved through solid rock that perfectly frame Mount Rushmore—a feature Norbeck and Gideon insisted on as a way to introduce visitors to the project in a monumental way.

The tunnels aren't the only showpiece of the road, or even the most fun. Along the route are several timber bridges that spin travelers a full 360 degrees while covering a steep descent. Gideon referred to them as "spiral-jumpoffs," Norbeck called them "whirly jigs," and they're known locally as pigtail bridges. No matter what you call them, they'll force you to slow down and enjoy the ride.



Peter Norbeck was the first South Dakota Governor born in the state, and served three terms in the United States Senate. He was single-handedly responsible for the funding and creation of Mount Rushmore, Custer State Park, and the Norbeck Wildlife Reserve.



Covered Bridge
Iron Mountain Road
Black 1920, No. Dak.





HISTORY

Prospecting for Gold

In Keystone, it was common for prospectors to name important discoveries after wives and daughters, and William Franklin continued the tradition when he discovered gold in 1894.

While seemingly a sweet gesture, Mrs. Franklin was less than thrilled to find out he hadn't named it "Jenny," but instead christened it "Holy Terror." She was most likely appeased, however, when the discovery turned out to be one of the richest lodes in the southern Black Hills. Holy Terror at times produced over \$70,000 a week in gold—which is roughly the same as \$2 million today. Its success continued for a few years, but by 1903 ceased operation due to a combination of underground water, deaths of several miners and numerous claims lawsuits.

While not as profitable, nearby Big Thunder Gold Mine was both safer and longer lived than Holy Terror. Initially started in 1892 by German immigrant miners, Big Thunder was an attempt to tap into the vein of nearby Lucky Boy Mine. When the vein was intercepted in 1907 they were disappointed to find that it had narrowed to merely inches—this was certainly not profitable, and the mine was shut down. The mine had a second chance in 1909 when a new vein parallel to Lucky Boy was discovered, and Big Thunder reopened. In 1913 their hard work paid off, but it would prove to be short lived. With the onset of WWI in 1914, the federal government ordered any mine not producing war metals or minerals to cease operation. Big Thunder was the safest mine in Keystone's history, however, and was used as the town's designated bomb shelter during times of war. Big Thunder and Holy Terror Gold Mines are privately owned; please do not trespass on private property.

Keystone owes its existence to one thing: gold. There are two forms of gold found in the area: placer gold, and lode gold.

PROFILE

Carrie Ingalls Swanzey

While not as famous as her sister Laura Ingalls Wilder, Carrie was a land owner and career woman when it was rare for women to do either. She was a true South Dakota pioneer.

Born in Kansas and raised in De Smet, South Dakota, Carrie Ingalls Swanzey originally pursued work as a school teacher. After a short time teaching, she decided it wasn't her calling and set out to find something new. Ingalls had several odd jobs throughout her 20s, but she flourished as a typesetter. She eventually worked up to being both a printer and a journalist. She became skilled in writing and publishing, but also in binding and melting lead into the letters used in printing presses.

Her skills landed her a job with E. L. Senn, the owner of several newspapers throughout South Dakota. Senn had a knack for acquiring papers in small mining towns, and would often send Ingalls to run them in his stead. He sent her to Keystone in 1911 to manage the Keystone Recorder and the nearby Hill City Star.

It was here in Keystone that Ingalls met local gold prospector David Swanzey and shortly married him. She retired from her newspaper career at the age of 41 to raise his two children. After Ma Ingalls passed in 1924, Ingalls' sister Mary moved in with the Swanzey's until her passing in 1928. Ingalls herself lived in Keystone until she died in 1946, and was buried in the Ingalls family plot in De Smet.

While she is remembered in relation to her famous older sister, Carrie Ingalls Swanzey left a mark on South Dakota's history as an accomplished pioneer in her own right.

David Swanzey was there in 1884 when Mount Rushmore got its name. Swanzey and Bill Challis took Charles Rushmore around the hills. When he asked the name of an imposing granite rockface, Swanzey said "we will name it now, and name it Rushmore."



PROFILE

Ben Black Elk

Ben Black Elk was both an education advocate and a welcoming face to the millions that visited Mount Rushmore.

For 27 years, Ben Black Elk was the unofficial greeter of Mount Rushmore. Known locally as “the fifth face of Rushmore,” he had his picture taken by visitors to the memorial upwards of 5,000 times a day. He wore traditional Sioux clothing, and for those that took the time he would share tales from his own life, his family and his ancestors. He left an irreplaceable mark on the Keystone community through his tireless advocacy and endless repertoire of stories.

Beyond his time at Mount Rushmore, Black Elk was an interpreter for John G. Neihardt’s profile of his father in “Black Elk Speaks,” and starred in Hollywood’s “How the West Was Won.” He was also an advocate for preservation of native tribes’ culture, testifying front of Congress on the importance of teaching native children the traditions of their ancestors.

The Ben Black Elk Award was created to honor individuals for achievements in the tourism industry.



South Dakota State Historical Society Digital Archives

PROFILE

Orville Francis Salway

Known as the goodwill ambassador for Keystone and South Dakota, he spent 48 years as the official greeter for visitors to Keystone.

Named “Paha Ska” by Ben Black Elk, Salway dressed in traditional garb and took pictures with locals and visitors alike. His humble but friendly demeanor made him approachable and memorable to everyone he met. He was also an accomplished horseman, and for many years his mare, Kippy, accompanied him in photos.

Orville Francis Salway was inducted into the South Dakota hall of fame in 2007.

Paha Ska was also an acclaimed artist. His unique talents won him numerous awards and invitations to guest lecture on Native American art around the United States and Europe. He sold over a quarter million prints and paintings, and his works can be seen in museums around the world. A tipi painted by Paha Ska is part of the collection at the Indian Museum of North America at Crazy Horse Memorial. The traditional Lakota dwelling depicts the spiritual vision of Lakota Holy Man Nicholas Black Elk.

In recognition of his service to Keystone, May 24 was declared Paha Ska Day in 1997.



Keystone Historical Society/Keystone Historical Museum

PROFILE

"Wild Horse" Harry Hardin

If there was ever someone that embodied the spirit of Keystone, it was Harry Hardin. He had the sort of grit that got our small town through some of our toughest times, but also a sharp wit and a big heart.

Harry was a Navy veteran who spent his time in the service working with horses, which may explain why he was rarely seen without a trusty steed by his side. He owned a few mining claims in the area, but never saw much profit from mining them. What Harry became known for was a different sort of prospecting operation: that of greeting visitors to Keystone and occasionally relieving their pockets of their coin.

Harry was a yarn spinner — and we don't mean the kind you knit. His endeavors were good natured, and he never charged people money. Harry simply enjoyed being around people and sharing stories. When friends would ask how much truth was in his tales, he was known to quip, "There ain't no sense in messing up a good story with the truth."

Later in his life, Harry became known as the Old Prospector here in Keystone. With his long white beard and wide-brimmed hat, he looked the part of the miners who came to the Black Hills seeking their fortune. In the early 1980's, Landstrom's Jewelry started featuring Harry in their advertisements. The image of Harry holding up a gold nugget on the banks of the creek became an icon, and even after his death Harry's likeness lived on as the face of Landstrom's for many years.

Harry passed away in 1984, but his spirit lives on here in Keystone. Many locals still remember his tall tales, and will probably share one or two if you ask.

Harry had several burros throughout his years in Keystone, which were given to him by Custer State Park. The most famous was Sugar Babe, who appeared with Harry in the ads for Landstrom's Jewelry.



PROFILE

Nick Clifford

Most of us have our first job by 17, but only one man had the distinction of being recruited as a driller and baseball player at Mount Rushmore at that age.

South Dakota native and Keystone local Nick Clifford was recruited to carve the mountain and play baseball in 1938. It was a job that officially made him the youngest person to work on Mount Rushmore. Clifford not only participated in the creation of Mount Rushmore, he also spent many years later in life at the monument talking to tourists about how it came to be.

Mr. Clifford was often asked about the techniques used in carving. He would explain how the majority of Mount Rushmore took shape with the skilled use of one of South Dakota's favorite tools: dynamite. Powdermen would set precise charges of dynamite to remove exact pieces of rock until only 6 inches of granite remained over the final surface. Carvers would then be lowered down to begin the next step: a process called honeycombing. They created small, closely spaced holes in the rock to soften it enough to be shaped into faces. The final step used bumper tools to smooth the granite into the facade we see now.

It wasn't all work and no play on the mountain, however. Clifford recounted some of the pranks workers would pull, many of which focused on him due to his youth. They would take personal items left laying around—shoes or hats for instance—and nail them to wooden structures on the mountain for their owners to claim. When there was a baseball game on, Lincoln Borglum would park his car close enough the hoist house operators could hear the radio. They would phone scores up and down the mountain to the workers.

Nick Clifford left us in 2019, but his charm and wit live on in his book, "Mount Rushmore Q & A," which can be found at gift stores throughout Mount Rushmore and Keystone.

Few things are as American as baseball, and our nation's favorite pastime found a home at Mount Rushmore for a time. Borglum recruited workers who could drill and play ball—with an emphasis on the latter. The team was known as the Rushmore Drillers, and took third at the state amateur baseball tournament in 1939.



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