

Guided Notes (Teacher)

As we've discussed in other programs, there are many ways South Dakotans stay connected. Roads, for example. And customs we share. Another way is by keeping up with our state's news... through newspapers... radio and TV... and the Internet.

The first newspaper in what's now South Dakota was published at Sioux Falls in 1858. Named the Dakota Democrat, it lasted only about four years.

Many of today's South Dakota newspapers date back to the 1800s, when they got off to profitable beginnings because of homesteaders who filled the land. The law said homesteaders had to buy five newspaper ads, telling the public when they had lived on the land long enough, and made enough improvements, to claim it as their own.

What news did Dakotans of the 1880s read? The big story was whether or not the territory would become a state. For a while that looked likely in 1883, and again in 1885.

The next year South Dakota papers were full of emotional views about whether Huron or Pierre should be the state capitol. In a November election, Pierre won, meaning it would always be in the news... Especially each winter, when legislators come to town to make laws.

Beginning in the 1920s, newspapers had competition: an invention called radio. Because weather and crop prices could change suddenly, and radio could update its news instantly, farmers and ranchers who had electricity listened regularly.

WNAX, a Yankton radio station, got its start in 1927 and South Dakota farmers quickly came to trust D. B. Gurney, station president and farm reporter

This just in. It's official. Gladys Pyle of Huron is South Dakota's first woman United States Senator.

KELO of Sioux Falls was the state's first TV station, going on the air in 1953.

That same summer George McGovern, from the Mitchell area, won the Democratic Party's nomination for President of the United States. He lost the election in November, though.

In 1973 the town of Wounded Knee made news. About 150 members of a group called the American Indian Movement—AIM for short—took over the town to protest conditions on the Pine Ridge reservation.

As the 21st century began, people were getting news over their computers. Now South Dakotans living or vacationing anywhere in the world can stay connected to their home state with the click of a mouse.