

Guided Notes (Teacher)

Ah! Vacation time. There's never a shortage of South Dakota recreation. Probably none of these vacationers are thinking about these two facts, but they're important to know. First, **tourism**—hosting visitors—is South Dakota's second biggest money maker...ranking only behind **agriculture**.

That changed when American workers organized...and sometimes talked and sometimes fought...with employers to limit work time per week to **40 hours**. In other words, usually eight hours a day, for five days...creating what we call the weekend—time for relaxation. Over the years, more and more factories and other workplaces granted employees a week or two of vacation time each year.

About the same time Hot Springs started promoting its water and air, Mitchell began drawing train loads of visitors wanting to see one of America's most unusual buildings—the **Corn Palace**.

In fact, pheasants are the very symbol of South Dakota in many visitors' eyes. However, the bird wasn't found here naturally. Ringtails were imported from **China**, first by private citizens in the 1890s. The state Game, Fish, and Parks department began releasing pheasants in 1911.

The trout grew and lured fishermen from all over. Among those to pull trout from South Dakota creeks was the President of the United States...**Calvin Coolidge**. In the summer of 1927 the President spent three months amid deer, elk, and bison in Custer State Park. His visit did a lot to make Americans aware of the Black Hills. He spoke at a ceremony that marked the start of blasting and carving on this mountain...a mountain that, 14 years later, would look...like this.

In 1936 Dorothy and Ted Hustead guessed that hot travelers would consider stopping by their drugstore in Wall for **free ice water**...if they put up a few signs along Route 16A. Their hunch proved right, and most people bought a few items in addition to drinking water. Before long, the little drugstore was anything but little.

While Interstate 29, running north and south...and **Interstate 90**, running east and west, are the highways most South Dakotans think about when planning to cross the state...there are other routes to consider.

A little to the north, highway 14 is the Black and Yellow Trail, established in the 1920s to bring visitors west from **Chicago**...to the Black Hills...and **Yellowstone Park**. The Black and Yellow Trail passes through Brookings...the state fair city of Huron... past the state capitol in Pierre...and over the Missouri River and into West River prairie country before reaching the Black Hills.

There are always new reasons for tourists to come to South Dakota. In 1998, another face carved into a mountain was unveiled—that of **Crazy Horse**...part of a vast mountain sculpture created to honor all American Indians. Korczak Ziolkowski started carving in 1947...and his family continues the work today.

Of course, as most South Dakota kids know, you don't have to be from out-of-state to be a tourist here. And you don't have to be an adult to work in tourism. Because so much of it happens in summer, lots of South Dakota young people get their first jobs as hosts to our travelers.