



The home. The man. The life.  
A Restoration Project of Historic Rapid City Inc.

1015 12th St., Rapid City, SD 57701

## Deadwood Grant to help next phase

The next project for the McGillicuddy House is restoration of the front porch to its original look. Historic Rapid City has received a \$15,000 matching grant from the Outside Deadwood Grant Fund.

In 1887, Valentine McGillicuddy designed a house with the northwest corner at a 45-degree angle from the rest of the house. That corner, windowed on top with a front door and porch on the main floor, offered a sweeping view of the area between downtown Rapid City and the hogback ridge now known as the Gap.

The Deadwood money is in the form of a matching grant. HRC will be actively fund raising and recruiting the donated services of contractors and volunteers to raise \$15,000 in cash and in-kind services.



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April 2016 Issue

## Corner house is going, going, gone!

The McGillicuddy House restoration project took a major step forward recently when the South Dakota Department of Transportation agreed to buy and raze the two small houses that stand on either side of the historic home.

The corner house will likely be torn down in April, part of the next phase of the Mount Rushmore Road reconstruction project. The house east of the McGillicuddy House will be removed at a later date.

DOT designers must improve sightlines and visibility where Mount Rushmore Road meets South Street. As the intersection is now -- sharp angle, view-blocking hill and a pedestrian-unfriendly stairway -- it is one of the more problematic points along Mount Rushmore Road. The state's engineers needed to acquire about a third of the corner lot. However, the remaining land was too small for off-street parking, which HRC will need. So DOT bought the house to the east for parking.

When the project is completed, the McGillicuddy House will be the only building between Mount Rushmore Road and the alley. The yard to the west will be landscaped and gently sloping. To the east, a parking lot for visitors. The entire



parcel will be owned by Historic Rapid City, the nonprofit that is restoring the McGillicuddy House.

HRC acquired the small house several years ago with the idea of removing it. That would allow the McGillicuddy front porch to be restored to its original configuration.

"This is the best possible outcome," said Jean Oleson-Kessloff, HRC president. "The McGillicuddy

House will once again be a breath-taking sight, and the parking area will make it functional for a variety of uses."

"The end result will be an impressive display of the McGillicuddy House. And from the front porch, visitors will have a sweeping view of Mount Rushmore Road -- much the same view that McGillicuddy likely had," added board member Fred Thurston.

### Thank-You Notes

We don't say it enough, but we on the Historic Rapid City board are truly grateful for the help we continue to receive from the business community. Your time, materials, labor and services have kept this project going.

**One-Hour Heating and Air Conditioning** of Blackhawk, for mechanical work inside the house.

**North Western Warehouse Co.** of Rapid City, for the ongoing storage of the Clift House furniture collection, which will be moved to the McGillicuddy House when the restoration is complete.

**Malon Insulation Service** of Rapid City, for insulating the McGillicuddy House attic and walls.

**South Dakota Department of Transportation**, for being willing to work with us on the land acquisition process, making sure we had adequate off-street parking.

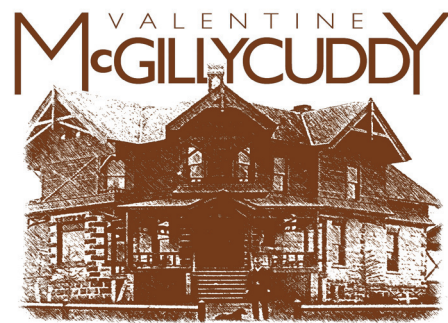
### Become a member of Historic Rapid City Inc.

Just tear this out, fill it out and send it in. You can help us in a number of ways, from pulling nails to writing a check to simply letting the community know you understand and support this important historic preservation project.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### SEND TO:

Historic Rapid City Inc.  
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### Historic Rapid City Inc.

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Advisory Committee members: Melody Jacobsen, Dave Stafford.

### April 2016, Issue 5

The McGillicuddy House Newsletter is published by Historic Rapid City Inc. If you have questions, concerns or comments, contact Jean Kessloff at [jeank@rap.midco.net](mailto:jeank@rap.midco.net) or 605-341-5398

Historic Rapid City Inc. is a 501(c)3 corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

### Stock donations:

If you would like to give stock or other securities to the project, contact Michelle Sterkel or Sandra Shaw at RBC Wealth Management. They can explain the best way to do that. The telephone number is 605-343-7720. Donations are tax deductible, and the capital gains are not taxable.

### Learn more online:

[historicrc.org](http://historicrc.org)

[facebook.com/mcgillicuddyhouse](https://www.facebook.com/mcgillicuddyhouse)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

## Furnishings, papers tell us a lot

The furniture to be placed in the restored McGillicuddy House has a significant history all its own. The collection came from Francis and Lorraine Moore, former owners of the Clift House at 1205 West Boulevard. The Clift House, until last year, was probably the only remaining intact home of its era in Rapid City.

William W. Clift came to the area in 1886, and established a hardware store at 617 Main St. Originally from Vermont, and having served as a Union soldier in the Civil War, Clift settled in Iowa with his wife, Emma, and children Arthur and Carrie before moving to Rapid City.

Clift and his Congregationalist belief in public service played a key role in the development of Rapid City. He held a seat on city council and, after closing his business, worked as City Assessor.

The Clift home later was home to daughter Carrie and son Arthur and Arthur's wife, Inez. Upon their death, the house was bequeathed to the Congregational Church and was subsequently purchased by the Moore family. Preservation of the Clift furniture embodies the Moore family's legacy to Rapid City history.

Historic Rapid City purchased the remaining Clift estate: 11 pieces of

furniture, 2 portraits, 3 oil paintings, several rugs, and a large tea box of records dated from the 1890s to 1910. And a 1 ton square grand piano.

HRC contacted the Midwest Arts Conservation Center, Minneapolis, to examine the collection. Restoration specialist Neil Cockerline -- to our surprise, was less interested in the furniture than in the box of papers.

"Furniture is furniture, paintings are paintings, but this box contains someone's life: What they bought, what they ate, how they lived and even how they died. This is invaluable," he said.

The tea box also contained political musings and commencement speeches written by Carrie Clift in her later years. Carrie was the first registered nurse in this area. She was also very much involved with the prohibition movement.

Tony Thomas from the Black Hills Piano Gallery helped us move the collection, including the one-ton piano. Jason Koppman of North Western Warehouse moved the collection into storage, which he has graciously donated for the last two years.

-- Jean Kessloff

## Help wanted (needed) for restoration work

Even if you have no construction skills or money to give, you can help restore the McGillicuddy House.

We need volunteers who can assist us with interior demolition, painting, sanding and hauling old building materials from the house.

A great deal of skilled work has been donated by area contractors, not to mention materials and equipment.

"We've received tremendous support from contractors, builders and remodeling companies," said Fred Thurston, Historic Rapid City board

member. "But there's a lot we can do on our own -- no skill need, just a willingness to help out."

It's not glamorous, but this kind of assistance will greatly reduce the amount of cash, grants and contractor donations needed to complete the project. It all helps, and your reward will be an up-close look at the McGillicuddy House as it takes shape.

If you would like to help out, please contact a board member or post a note on the McGillicuddy House Facebook page.

## Valentine's granddaughter joins our board

Adriana Gianturco Saltonstall has a great personal story. Born in California, she grew up Back East. In 1976, a friend from her University of California-Berkeley days, newly elected Gov. Jerry Brown, appointed her to serve as head of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). She served seven tumultuous years.

But it was Adriana's heritage that brought her to Rapid City. She is Valentine McGillicuddy's granddaughter. She and her brother, the late Dale Gianturco, first traveled to Rapid City in 2010 to see the house their grandfather built.

Today, Adriana serves on the board of Historic Rapid City, replacing Dale, who passed away in 2015. She participates in board meetings by telephone, and maintains an avid interest in the McGillicuddy House.

Adriana said she grew up hearing stories about her grandfather, but she was not aware of his role in Black Hills history.

"I never heard he was in Rapid City until I became involved in your organization," Adriana said during a recent visit to Rapid City.

### Valentine's second life

A lot has been written about Dr. Valentine McGillicuddy. He was with the 1875 Newton-Jenny expedition to the Black Hills. He was the first non-Native to climb Harney Peak. (His ashes are buried there.) As an Army doctor at Camp Robinson in Nebraska, he treated Crazy Horse as the Lakota leader lay dying from a soldier's bayonet wound.

McGillicuddy later served as Indian Agent, president of the School of Mines, mayor of Rapid City and delegate to the South Dakota State Constitutional Convention. In 1887, he and wife Fanny built a grand house on South Street in Rapid City. Fanny died in 1896, and McGillicuddy went West.

During his time in Pine Ridge, he befriended a young girl, Julia Blanchard. She had a crush on the doctor. In fact, she asked if she could



Adriana Gianturco Saltonstall at the Alex Johnson Hotel during a recent visit to Rapid City. She traveled from her home in Sacramento to participate in a fundraiser for the McGillicuddy House.

marry him when she grew up.

Julia did grow up, and in 1899 she did marry him. In 1905 Julia gave birth to a daughter, Valentine T. McGillicuddy -- Adriana's mother.

Adriana was born in June 1939 at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley, Calif. The very next day, her 90-year-old grandfather, Valentine McGillicuddy, died at the same hospital. "My grandmother thought that was significant," Adriana said.

### The Gianturco family

Adriana, Dale and their sister, Manuela, didn't stay long in California. The Gianturco family moved Back East when the children were still in school. Adriana graduated from high school in Philadelphia, and went on the Smith College, the University of California at Berkeley and Harvard graduate school. She worked in urban planning and transportation.

So when newly elected Gov. Jerry Brown tapped the 36-year-old academic to head Caltrans, she was qualified for the job.

Qualified perhaps, but not prepared for the firestorm of criticism that followed. She was, according to a Los Angeles Times story several years later, "besieged,

vilified, crucified." She received hate mail, obscene phone calls and even death threats.

Why? Most of public ire, especially in car crazy Los Angeles, was caused by the creation of carpool lanes on California's busy freeways. This was just three years after the Arab Oil Embargo, and American was in an energy crisis.

To encourage energy efficiency, Caltrans set aside one lane, dubbed the Diamond Lane, for cars with multiple occupants. Adriana, as the agency's chief, became the focal point of the public outcry. She points out that the Diamond Lane idea was in the works before she took office.

"It was the first time in LA's memory that basic freeway freedoms had been tampered with," according to the LA Times story. Finally, an LA city councilman filed a lawsuit to get rid of the carpool lane, and won.

The irony is that carpool lanes are today an uncontroversial fixture on California's freeways.

However, they are called HOV (high-occupancy vehicle) lanes, not Diamond Lanes. The reason, a Caltrans official told the LA Times in 1994, was that the term was still associated with Adriana.