

Dinosaur Park hasn't changed - thankfully

**NOTE: Former Rapid Citian
Mari Richard Davis sent us this
story about returning to
Dinosaur Park.**

Returning to Rapid City
this year, my husband and
I were fortunate enough
to bring with us our
daughter Jannifer, her husband and
our grandkids.

Prior to leaving, I spent time
getting my grandkids acquainted
with the Hills and Rapid City. "This
is a magical area. There are
dinosaurs on hills, faces on
mountains, waterfalls in caves and
needles that cannot be threaded."

I wanted them to anticipate the
uniqueness of the Black Hills so
they would fall in love with the area
as Ron and I had.

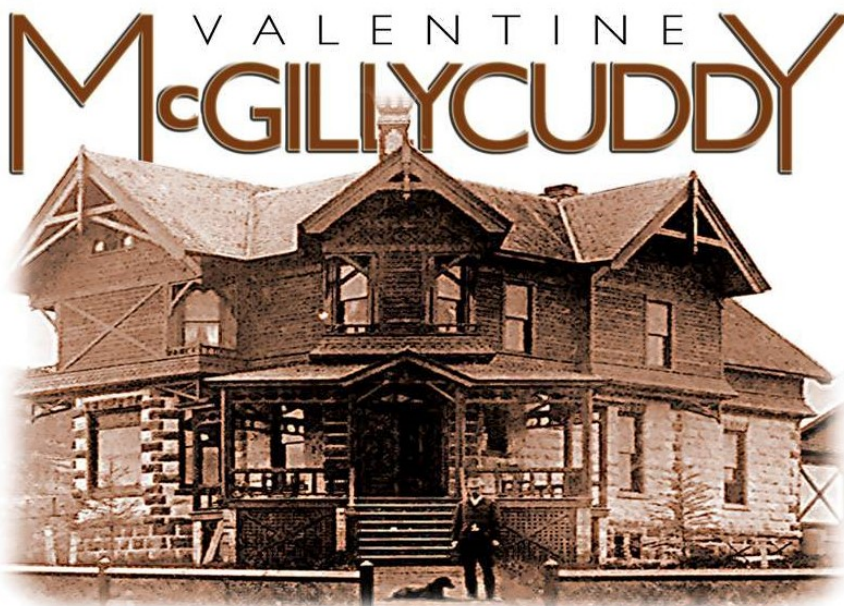
When we arrived, I worried that
I would find myself reminiscing
about places that no longer existed,
and although that was somewhat
true, Dinosaur Hill had changed
little – same stairs, same dinosaurs,
same souvenir shop.

I didn't have to explain to them
how to interact with the concrete
creatures, just as no one told me
how in the 1950s; I had only to
relax and watch kids being kids.

In the 1970s my nephew started
a family tradition by having a photo
taken of him with his foot caught in
the mouth of one of the souvenir
shop dinosaurs, so we each
recreated that moment for him.

As my husband and I scanned
the vistas from the hill, I could see
the hospital where I was born, my
high school, my college and the M
on the next hill that I had
reluctantly helped whitewash.

This hill, these dinosaurs, these
vistas imprinted on my heart a long
time ago and thanks to the
stewardship of Rapid City, there is
a place that is less hectic and less
crowded that opened a lightness of
spirit for us and for our children.



The home. The man. The life.

A Rapid City Cultural & Historic Preservation Project

Valentine Dance



**Saturday, February 10, 2018
6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

at the

Hotel Alex Johnson

- Desserts
- Cash Bar
- Live Auction with Mike Modrick
- Silent Auction
- Door Prizes
- National Dance Clubs (formally Gotta Dance)

Ticket cost \$25.00 or two for \$45.00

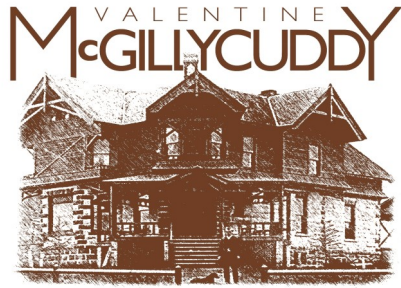
Sponsored by

Historic Rapid City

Tickets available at Andy Ainslie-State Farm Insurance,
Black Hills Bagels, Victoria's Garden, or by calling 341-5398.

Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

**All proceeds benefit the McGillycuddy House Rehabilitation
Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial is matching
the first \$2,500.00 raised.**



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A Restoration Project of Historic Rapid City Inc.

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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:

historicrapidcity.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Movin' on in!

With reconstruction of the porch and vestibule finished, the McGillycuddy house rehabilitation project is movin' on into the house.

This past summer, volunteers located the original footings for the porch and markings on the sandstone walls, which helped us identify where the vestibule and porch were originally located.

Another find or clue was a photograph showing the porch floorboards and how they were constructed. After an excursion to various historic homes with porches, we're confident the house vestibule and porch look pretty much like they did when built. Movin' on in means work has started on the second floor inside, where all that is left of original historic fabric is the floor. Researching historical floor plans and finding evidence of lower wall plate areas, we were able to piece together the various rooms, closets and door openings. In addition, we found wire grooves in the floorboards used for electricity.

We are now framing, insulating and sheet rocking the walls along with installing electrical and fire sprinklers.

Through this whole process, volunteers were instructed to watch for any piece of wood, brick, sandstone, metal or any object that did not seem to be in a proper place. So we now have a closet full of clues just waiting for us to find a home for them.

The National Park Service has a section called Technical Briefs. Essentially, they help with understanding and applying the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. Brief 35,



Stones that were part of the original foundation.

“Understanding Old Buildings: The Process of Architectural Investigation,” walks you through the whole process from top to bottom. Investigation, evidence and record-keeping are a few of the items covered. Sounds complicated, but it can be a whole lot of fun. Finding doorknobs, parts of stained glass and window sash locks help a lot when piecing together what the house looked like. Throw in an empty pack of Lucky Strikes and more than a few empty alcohol bottles in the walls, and you have a good idea the workers enjoyed themselves.

Investigation also meant that we needed to know more about who designed the house and built it. Four years of research led to an 1887 Black Hills Weekly article. Primarily about the South Dakota School of Mines, the last sentence referred to a Thomas Henning who “is now constructing a residence of stone, brick and frame for Dr. M’Gillycuddy.” (sic) Research of Thomas Henning has yet to reveal who he was and where he came from.

— JEAN OLESON KESSLOFF
President
Historic Rapid City

Sweet homecoming for former owners

When newlyweds Daniel and Ruth Stanton, with their two dogs, Nani and Ruby, and cat, Scooby, left the McGillicuddy House heading for Boston, it was for all the right reasons. Daniel was invited to attend MIT to study for an advanced degree in Supply Chain Management, a specialized area of logistics. This was too valuable an opportunity, even if it meant leaving this house that they wanted so badly to help protect and restore.

Daniel knew all too well when he bought the house in 2001, two years before he and Ruth were married, that Dr. Valentine McGillicuddy once grand house was seriously dilapidated. It was slowly being destroyed with no regard to its historical value or its meaning to the citizens of Rapid City and the Black Hills.

Daniel had researched the story of Dr. Valentine McGillicuddy, knew of his accomplishments and his importance to Rapid City. Photos from David Strain's gem of a book about Rapid City's history showed just how beautiful the house had once been. This house deserved to be saved.

Daniel immediately began making valiant efforts at restoration, but it soon became clear that this would be an expensive undertaking. Ruth joined him in 2003. For a young couple, just starting out in life, it was beyond all possibility. And then MIT beckoned.

After a few years, Historic Rapid City bought the property and took over the project. With the efforts of some very dedicated volunteers, they began to raise funds and gather resources to restore the McGillicuddy House.

It took massive amounts of



Gramma Ann with the girls at the Journey Museum's McGillicuddy exhibit last summer.

commitment, but it was beginning to take shape. The rundown houses on either side were removed, and Mount Rushmore Road was being repaired and beautified. Once again the attractive McGillicuddy House stood out, proudly facing the north, but overlooking a very different downtown Rapid City than that which Dr. McGillicuddy had viewed.

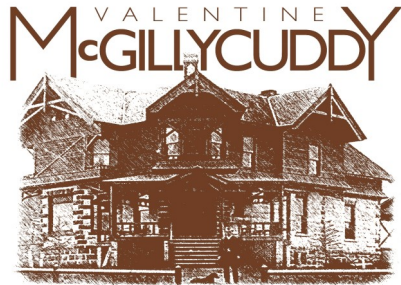
In July Daniel and Ruth returned for a visit to Rapid City, this time with their three little girls, Kayla, Aliya, and Mayah. What a happy surprise it was to see their dream materializing. It took a little imagination to remember this as the same house that the young Stantons had left.

The girls thought it was great fun, especially Aliya, the 4-year-old owl enthusiast, who was

presented with the pigeon-chasing pretend owl that wasn't keeping any actual pigeons away anyway. Seven-year-old Kayla's souvenir was a few rusty old square nails from the project. She was a bit puzzled as to why they were such a big deal -- Gramma Ann is keeping those nails for when she is a bit older. Two-year old Mayah, cute as a little button, likes whatever her big sisters like, and just had a good time.

The Stanton family appreciates what it will take to restore the McGillicuddy House to its former glory, on its way to becoming the crown jewel of Rapid City's historical preservation projects.

— ANN STANTON



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1015 12th Street
 Rapid City SD 57701

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Thank-You Notes

Thanks to Gayle Opie, Fred Thurston, West River Masonry, Bodensteiner Beam Works, Weather-Tite Exteriors and members of Black Hills Historic Preservation Trust for your help building the front porch. Also, we can't forget Kerry and Kelsey Connor, Bill and Kathy Reishus and Brett Whealy for help in removing the previous porch.

Thanks to Malon Insulation, Conrad's Big "C" Electric, Hi Tech Mechanical, Hydraulic Solutions, Horst Acoustical, Agan Drywall Supply and A&E Plumbing for making it possible to heat the McGillicuddy House. Also:

- West Blvd. Neighborhood Assoc.
- Richard Bray
- Mike Wilson
- Barbara Thurston
- Rob & Lorelle Fenton
- Adriana Saltonstall
- Dan Daly
- Modern Woodmen
- Gorenflo Family
- Andy Ainslie-State Farm Insurance
- VFW Post 1273
- Western Mailers
- Brian Fisher
- Mark Skogerboe
- Gotta Dance



The crew from Black Hills Historic Preservation Trust.