

PRISON FUDGE • STURGIS SPINOFFS • ARTIFACT THEVERY

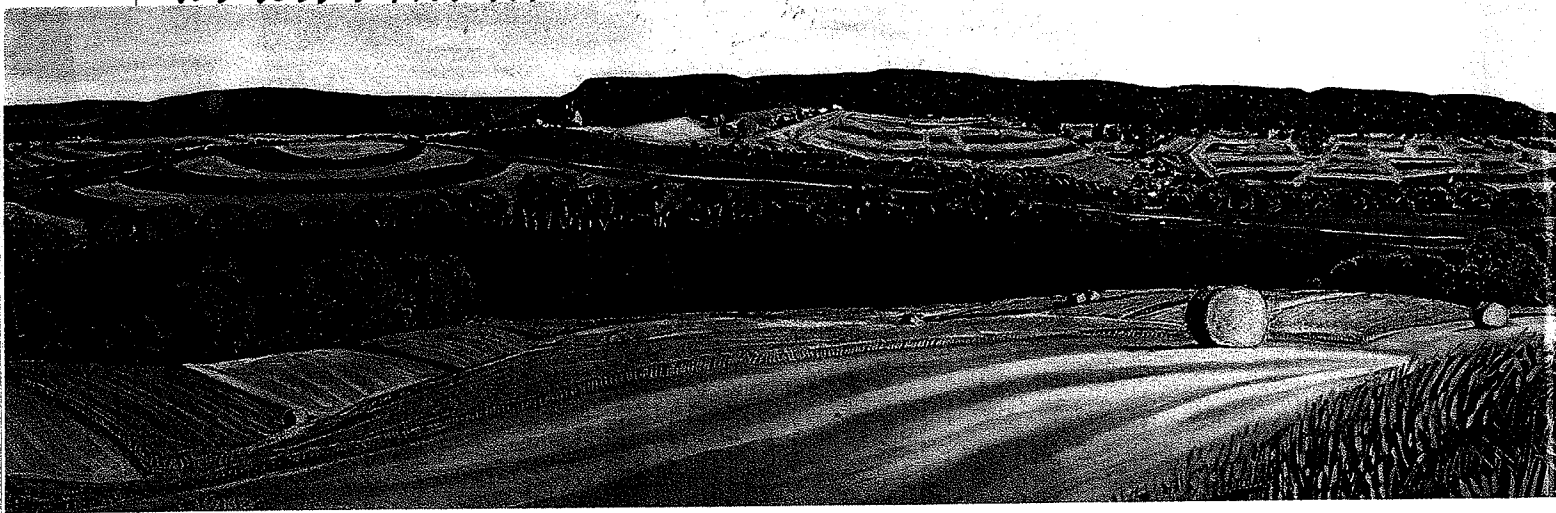
SOUTH DAKOTA

MAGAZINE

WORTH WILD



IN A BRIEF 150 YEARS WE'VE TAMED
THE PLAINS — BUT WHAT HAVE WE LOST?



Capitol Art ... "Hillside Hay Bales," oil on canvas by Spearfish artist Jenny Braig, is one of 14 new paintings and photos that will hang in the capitol and other state buildings in Pierre. The South Dakota Arts Council selected the works in the annual Art for State Buildings program, which seeks to beautify the bureaucracy and create a permanent collection of artwork created by South Dakotans.

SETH BULLOCK'S antics as the first sheriff of Lawrence County are well documented. To end a mining strike, Bullock famously pumped burning sulfur into a gold mine, flushing out striking workers who otherwise refused to budge.

But it's his role in promoting and developing the Black Hills that David Wolff discusses in his new book, *Seth Bullock: Black Hills Lawman* (South Dakota State Historical Society Press). Besides maintaining law and order in rough and tumble 19th century Deadwood (and despite the book's title), Bullock was also a businessman, rancher, town founder, politician and conservationist.

Bullock and his business partner, Sol Star, built a hardware store after Deadwood's gold rush and Bullock entered banking and mining, though each venture failed. He became president of a bank and founded two mining companies that gave him more headaches than profits.

He also expanded his ranch, where he raised crops, cattle, thoroughbred horses and was among the first

BULLOCK'S BLACK HILLS

The legendary lawman thought outside the box to maintain order and develop the Hills in his unique way.



Adams Museum

in the area to introduce alfalfa. He convinced the Elkhorn railroad to build a spur to his spread, which helped develop the town of Belle Fourche. Bullock raised money for a courthouse and four years later Butte County voters moved the county seat there from Minnesela. Excited townspeople rode to Minnesela, stormed the courthouse and stole all county documents. A posse retrieved them, and Belle Fourche

residents waited until the appointed day to take over county seat status.

A chance meeting in 1892 and shared service in the Spanish-American war cemented Bullock's friendship with Theodore Roosevelt. It led to Bullock's appointment as superintendent of the Black Hills Forest Reserve in 1901 and U.S. marshal in 1906. Though back in law enforcement it was Bullock's business acumen that shaped the Black Hills.