

Medora

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 eptember 1888, immediately then in 1898 with the land, and invested in cattle
 raising. He would eventually own two large ranches — the Maltese Cross,
 about seven miles south of Medora, and the Elkhorn, about 35 miles north
 of town. In 1901 Roosevelt, at age 42, became the youngest president in
 U. S. history, serving until 1909. He called his years in the Badlands "the
 romance of my life," and often credited his Dakota experiences with enabling
 him to become president.

Other notable individuals have also called Medora their home. The three
 Eaton brothers began entertaining eastern visitors at their Custer Trail Ranch
 about five miles south of Medora in 1883, and the first "dude ranch" in the
 United States was soon in full operation.

Tom Mix, who became a great western movie star, married Miss Olive
 Stokes at Medora on January 10, 1909.

James W. Foley, Jr., whose father was caretaker of the Chateau de Mores
 for many years, grew to manhood and taught school at Medora. It was here
 that he began writing poetry that would make him a nationally acclaimed
 literary figure and North Dakota's Poet Laureate. By the time of his death in
 1939 Jim Foley had published more than a dozen volumes of poetry.

As the seat of Billings County, Medora continued to be an active community
 following its flamboyant early years. It has always been a cattle town, with
 countless thousands of cattle being shipped out over the years. From the
 1920s to the 1940s, three large coal mines operated in the vicinity, and from
 1934 to 1941 the Civilian Conservation Corps maintained a base camp near
 Medora. After much landscape and restoration work by the CCC, the 128
 acre Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, including De Mores City Park, was
 opened to the public on August 7, 1941. The modern Interpretive Center is
 open daily throughout the summer, with guided tours available through the
 refurbished 26 room Chateau.

The CCC also built many roads, signs, and structures within what is now
 Theodore Roosevelt National Park, which was established on April 25, 1947
 and encompasses some 110 square miles in its North and South Units. The
 Park and its modern Visitor Center are open all year, offering many interpretive
 programs, hiking and nature trails, and a 36 mile scenic drive through the
 South Unit. Roosevelt's Maltese Cross ranch cabin now sits behind the
 Visitor Center.

In 1958, the theatrical production "Old Four Eyes," a dramatic retelling of
 Roosevelt's life in the North Dakota Badlands, was initiated in the specially
 constructed Burning Hills Amphitheater a mile west of Medora. The drama
 ran every summer until 1965, when the nationally renowned Medora Musical
 began production. This lively variety show is held every evening from early
 June through Labor Day.

In 1962, entrepreneur Harold Schafer and his Gold Seal Company began
 a restoration and modernization of the old western town, developing many
 additional attractions. Their efforts, now managed by the Theodore Roosevelt
 Medora Foundation, and the efforts of many independent business people
 have helped make Medora one of the premier family entertainment destinations
 in the country.

Three churches serve the Medora community: St. Mary's Church, the
 oldest Catholic church still in use in the state of North Dakota; the Medora
 Union Congregational Church; and the Medora Lutheran Church.

The North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame opened in June 2005 focusing
 on ranching, rodeo & the Native American lifestyle.

*Medora offers you and your entire family spectacular scenery and
 dozens of indoor and outdoor activities to make your visit a modern
 "Old West" experience that you will not soon forget.
 Make Medora an annual destination!!*

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