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Review of *Beyond Mount Rushmore: Other Black Hills Faces* edited and introduced by Mary A. Kopco

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In 2010, the South Dakota State Historical Society celebrated its fortieth year of publishing the award-winning journal, South Dakota History. Over the years, South Dakota History has published about 500 articles, an impressive number. As with most journals, once an article appears, it soon disappears into past volumes, almost forgotten. But good articles can have a second life, and Beyond Mount Rushmore provides that for ten articles that appeared in South Dakota History between 1993 and 2009. These essays relate to the Black Hills, a popular topic among book buyers, but what ties them together is their focus on the human experience, either through personal accounts or biographies. The subtitle Other Black Hills Faces
relates to this human element, while the title *Beyond Mount Rushmore* is really a foil, meant to draw readers into the book. A more accurate, but undoubtedly less appealing title would have been “Stories about Black Hills People.”

Of the ten essays, four begin near the time of the gold rush, while the remainder run from 1885 through 1973, the book essentially covering one hundred years. Topics vary from a first-hand account of the Custer Expedition to a story about a reformist newspaper editor in Deadwood; Mary Kopco’s fine introduction ties the ten essays together. Some of the standouts include Jim McLaird’s account of journalist Leander P. Richardson’s visit to the Black Hills in 1876 (as McLaird states, Richardson’s observations “deserve a significant place among accounts of Deadwood”) and the essay by Susan L. Richards and Rex Myers on Thomas J. Grier, a Homestake mine superintendent for twenty-nine years. As the authors demonstrate, Grier at times extended the “velvet-gloved hand of compassion,” while at other times acted as a “vengeful angel.” Several other essays also shine, while only one, on the involvement of Mount Rushmore in Alfred Hitchcock’s film *North by Northwest,* falls flat.

*Beyond Mount Rushmore* is an enjoyable grouping of essays, effectively demonstrating *South Dakota History*’s high quality over the past forty years.

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