

# ABERDEEN AMERICAN NEWS

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**Caption:** Baker Book House book cover

South Dakota trek: Adam and Ashley Arlington uncover mysteries wherever they go. Their fourth adventure brings them to South Dakota. Courtesy photo

Author: **Bob Schaller**, author of "South Dakota Treaty Search," was an award-winning sports writer and newspaper editor. He is the author of the Olympic Dream and Spirit series, covering Mary Lou Retton, Dan O'Brien, Andre Agassi and Dominique Moceanu. The Colorado Springs, Colo., resident is currently writing a biography of Olympic swimmer Amy Van Dyken.

## Well Worth the Read

By Don Hall

Arts and Entertainment Editor

The Arlingtons -- mother Anne, father Alex, daughter Ashley (17), son Adam (16) -- from Washington, D.C., are vacationing in the Black Hills.

At Crazy Horse Monument's gift shop, Ashley spends \$50 of her baby sitting money for an original copy of Mari Sandoz's biography of the Indian warrior.

The sales clerk tells Ashley, "One of the elders from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation got a box of these books when they were printed way, way back. The man died in 1945, and his family boxed up his belongings and left them in a garage on the reservation. His granddaughter -- she's also Sioux, of course -- brought them in just today for us to sell. You know, for the Monument."

That night, reading her new/old book, Ashley discovers "a piece of badly worn paper... much thicker than the book's pages."

It turns out to be a piece of a treaty that begins, "On this 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 1875... America and all American Indians agree... This treaty finalizes all arrangements..."

No sentences are complete. But a clue: It is signed by General George Crook.

What unknown treaty is this? Where are the other pieces? Why was it torn up? If it had gone into effect, how would it have changed history? Would there have been Custer's Last Stand in 1876? Crazy Horse's stabbing in 1877? The Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890?

The Arlingtons set off to put the pieces together, literally and figuratively.

Their search takes them to Wind Cave, Mount Rushmore, Rapid City, Scenic, Wounded Knee, Hot Spring and Pierre. Even Aberdeen, where they met General Crook's learned descendant who gets into the act; our Storybook Land gets a mention. So do Mobridge and Lake Oahe.

"South Dakota Treaty Search," by Colorado Springs author Bob Schaller, is another "X-Country Adventure." The Arlingtons have previously discovered mysteries in "Adventure in Wyoming," "Crime in Colorado Cave," and "Message in Montana" – all published by Baker Book House, selling for \$5.99 each.

Don't let the typically teen front cover illustration fool you. I'm glad the back cover calls this little book "Fiction – ages 9 and up." All the way up, adults and seniors included.

Schaller smoothly feed his readers a sugar-coated message on tolerance, respect and patience – a good pill for all.

After the Arlington adventure, two pages of books and Web sites are listed for those who will want to learn more about our state and our people. And an eight-page tab-file lists interesting things about South Dakota (Okay, we all know Harney Peak is our highest elevation; what's our lowest?)

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