



The town of Medora was founded in April of 1883 by a wealthy French nobleman, the Marquis DeMores. In 1882 the Marquis married the daughter of a New York banker, Medora von Hoffman, for whom the town is named.

Before the coming of the Marquis and the town of Medora, the Badlands Cantonment, a military camp, was established to protect surveying parties, railroad construction workers and the settlers. The Pyramid Park Hotel was completed near the Badlands Cantonment to serve as an outfitting point for hunting parties. Newspapers publicized the area as a hunter's paradise. The Northern Pacific Railroad cooperated in publicizing the region through its tourist brochures and endeavored to change the name of the region along its right-of-way from the "Badlands" to "Pyramid Park."

Little Missouri, a town on the east side of the river, faded away on the arrival of the Marquis and the establishment of Medora. In January of 1884 the Glendive Times (Montana) commented on the situation: "Little Missouri is fast gaining a very unenviable reputation. It seems as though what little law does exist in the place cannot

be enforced, and the better class of citizens being in the minority, a committee of safety is out of the question."

By the later part of 1884 the Marquis had established various enterprises including a brickyard, a packing plant, a stage line, several stores and saloons, St. Mary's Catholic Church and his Chateau. At this time the population of Medora was 251 residents.

The Marquis' ventures were short lived and ended in failure, and during the Fall of 1886 the Marquis and his wife Medora returned to France. Today all that remains of the Marquis' efforts are the chimney of his meat packing plant, St. Mary's Church, and the von Hoffman home and Chateau (open to visitors). Collapse of the Marquis' business ventures meant economic death for the community of Medora. The Marquis never stopped dreaming; he proposed construction of a railroad from Vietnam to China, entered French politics, fostered a Franco-Islamic alliance to drive the British from Africa. He was finally killed by Touareg natives on the Sahara Desert.

The history of Medora was considerably enriched during the years the town was being established by the arrival of Theodore Roosevelt, who later became the 26th President of the United States. Roosevelt came to hunt but before returning to New York, he invested a considerable amount in the cattle industry and bought a partnership in the Maltese Cross Ranch. Later, he established the Elkhorn Ranch, 34 miles north of the town. Roosevelt was an active rancher who loved the outdoors and when not engaging in

ranching, he spent much of his time hunting. He terminated his interest in the ranching business in 1898 when he led the "Rough Riders" to Cuba.

North Dakota poet, James Foley, grew to manhood in Medora. Jim, as he was commonly known, wrote many poems and songs, the most noted of which are "Letter Home" and "North Dakota Hymn". Jim's father, J. W. Foley, was the caretaker of the Chateau for many years after the Marquis returned to France.

Howard Eaton is credited with starting an early ranch in the area which was later turned into a dude ranch and thus became one of the first dude ranches in the United States.

Before the cattle industry developed, Indians, trappers, traders, hunters, adventurers and soldiers, including Generals Custer and Sully, camped along the Little Missouri River near Medora.

The cattle industry was well established in the Medora area by 1885, but the severe winter of 1886-1887 dealt a near death blow with many ranchers losing 75 percent of their herd.

Medora then went into a long sleep and was not awakened until 1958 when the Burning Hills Amphitheatre was constructed and the outdoor drama "Old Four Eyes" was presented in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of "Teddy" Roosevelt's birth. The famous Medora Musical now plays nightly from mid-June through Labor Day weekend.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park entrance lies adjacent to the town. The park is open all year. You are

invited to attend the Park's summer interpretive programs, campfire programs and guided walks. Ask at the Visitor Center for times and locations. An extensive system of back-country trails covers the park. A small herd of wild horses may occasionally be seen. Buffalo herds are also roaming the Park with a wide variety of wild life in their natural habitats. A petrified forest is accessible by hiking or horseback. The Theodore Roosevelt National Park covers about 110 square miles.

Medora again starting bustling with construction activity and tourists in 1962 when Harold Schafer, president of Gold Seal Company, started the restoration of the town. Medora has become a major tourist attraction featuring Old West celebrations, shopping, parades, camping, rodeo and ranching activities, mini-golf, tennis, trail rides, multi-media shows, site seeing, museums, wildlife, hunting, picnic facilities, wilderness areas, hiking, back packing, canoeing, river floating, biking, swimming, dancing, a variety of family attractions, with fine motels, good food, and a selection of entertainment for young and old. A new major community facility provides a gymnasium, kitchen, meeting rooms and multi-media theater for meetings and conventions, large and small.

Medora offers you an opportunity to enjoy the Old West; it's a place where the West kicks up its heel and welcomes you to have a "good old time".

PLACES OF INTEREST

- 63. Public Restrooms
- 38. Public Restrooms
- 73. Chateau Visitor's Center and Chateau DeMores
- 50. Demores Meat Packing Plant Site and Picnic Area
- 10. Medora Doll House
- 44. Museum of the Badlands
- 52. Theodore Roosevelt Information and Cabin, Park Entrance
- 5. Billings County Museum & Tourist Info
- 77. Burning Coal Vein
- 78. Columular Junipers
- 75. Maltese Cross Ranch
- 79. Elkhorn Ranch

THINGS TO DO

- 61. Burning Hills Arcade
- 68. Live Country Entertainment
- 59. City Basketball & Tennis Courts
- 60. Buffalo Dunes Golf Range
- 41. Frontier Foto
- 72. Medora Musical
- 1. Medora Trail Rides
- 9. Mini-golf course
- 51. Park Tours
- 54. Peaceful Valley Ranch, Trail Rides, Horse Boarding, Guide Services, and Interpretive Programs

- 65. Rodeos
- 31. Shooting Gallery
- 57. City Swimming Pool
- 45. Buggy Rides
- 32. Rough Rider Time Machine
- 56. Trout Pond
- 27. Playground
- 26. Badlands Bumper Cars

GIFT SHOPS

- 46. Country Store
- 34. Dakota Arts & Crafts
- 20. Rough Rider Gift Shop
- 29. Hitching Post
- 7. Kite Heights
- 19. Corner Corral
- 47. Northern League Sports Cards
- 21. Teddy Bear Barn
- 36. Teddy the Sharp Shirter
- 23. Ol' Four Eyes Gift Shop
- 24. Todd's Photo
- 42. Stage Barn
- 30. Geno's Travel Center
- 68. Red Trail Campground
- 49. Chateau Nuts
- 48. Badlands Boutique
- 80. Purrfect Gifts

LODGING

- 2. Badlands Motel
- 6. Dietz Motel
- 69. Medora Motel
- 18. Rough Rider Hotel & Dining Room
- 52. Halliday Well Group Campground (Reservations Required)
- 68. Red Trail Campground
- 70. Sully Creek Campground Primitive State Park
- 76. Logging Camp Ranch
- 55. Medora Campground
- 66. Exit 10 Best Western Motel and Campground
- 53. Cottonwood Campground

TREATS & EATS

- 35. Ice Cream Depot
- 22. Ice Cream Parlor
- 49. Chateau Nuts
- 17. Badlands Bake Shoppe
- 48. Badlands Boutique
- 25. Teddy's Tropical Treats

RESTAURANTS

- 61. Burning Hills Drive-In
- 37. Chuck Wagon
- 12. Cowboy Cafe
- 28. Little Missouri Dining
- 39. Pizza Palace
- 18. Rough Rider Hotel & Dining Room
- 76. Logging Camp Ranch
- 67. Trappers Kettle 24 hr. Restaurant

GROCERY STORES

- 43. Ferris Store
- 68. Red Trail Camp Grocery
- 62. Medora Convenience (Sinclair)
- 55. Medora Campground

SALOONS

- 40. Badlands Saloon
- 28. Little Missouri Saloon
- 64. Iron Horse Saloon (A Cowboy Bar)

SERVICE STATIONS

- 30. Geno's Travel Center (Conoco)
- 62. Medora Convenience (Sinclair)
- 58. Medora Standard
- 68. Propane Bottles Filled at Red Trail Campground

CHURCHES

- 11. St. Mary's Catholic Church
- 14. Congregational Church
- 8. Lutheran Church

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

- 3. Community Center
- 4. Courthouse
- 16. Post Office

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC SERVICE

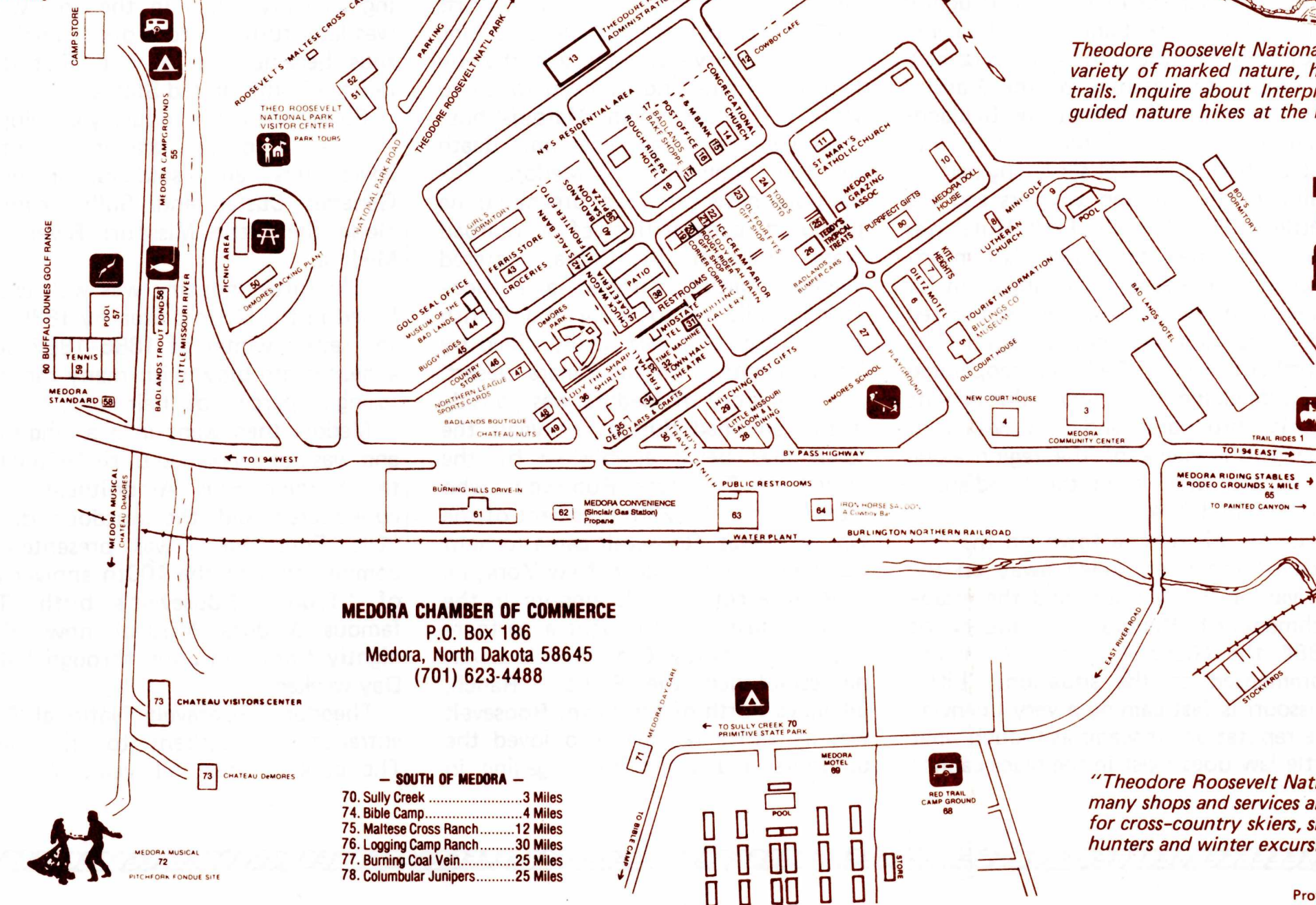
- 15. Medora Farmers & Merchants Bank
- 33. Fire Hall
- 70. Horse Boarding
- 54. Horse Boarding
- 44. Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation
- 13. Theodore Roosevelt National Park Administration Building
- 27. DeMores School & Playground
- 58. Dump Station - Medora Standard
- 68. Dump Station - Red Trail Campground
- 68. Laundry - Red Trail Campground
- 55. Laundry - Medora Campground
- 71. Medora Day Care
- 5. Tourist Info & Billings Co. Museum

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- Fire623-4848
- Police623-4333
- Sheriff's Office.....623-4415
- Park Ranger623-4466 or 623-4379
- Ambulance.....623-4415 or 623-4480
- ND Highway Patrol.....800-472-2121

Historic Medora, and Theodore Roosevelt National Park WELCOMES YOU

- THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK**
- 1. Cottonwood Campground5 Miles
 - 2. Peaceful Valley Picnic Area.....6 Miles
 - 3. Peaceful Valley Ranch.....6½ Miles
 - 4. Halliday Wells (By Reservation)7 Miles
 - 5. Wind Canyon11 Miles
 - 6. DeMores Beef Corral.....9 Miles
 - 7. Buck Hill.....18 Miles
 - 8. Burning Coal Vein.....16 Miles
 - 9. Painted Canyon.....7 Miles
 - 10. Petrified Forest.....Hike In Only
 - 79. Elkhorn Ranch35 Miles
- Inquire at Visitor Center for campfire programs, guided and unguided nature hikes, demonstration programs, and wildlife viewing.



Theodore Roosevelt National Park offers a wide variety of marked nature, hiking, and trail ride trails. Inquire about Interpretive Programs and guided nature hikes at the Park Visitor Center.

Thank You for visiting our area!

MEDORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
P.O. Box 186
Medora, North Dakota 58645
(701) 623-4488

- SOUTH OF MEDORA —**
- 70. Sully Creek3 Miles
 - 74. Bible Camp.....4 Miles
 - 75. Maltese Cross Ranch.....12 Miles
 - 76. Logging Camp Ranch.....30 Miles
 - 77. Burning Coal Vein.....25 Miles
 - 78. Columular Junipers.....25 Miles

"Theodore Roosevelt National Park and many shops and services are open year around for cross-country skiers, snowmobilers, hunters and winter excursions."