

South Dakota: A Bicentennial History

By John Milton

Because South Dakota stretches across three different kinds of land, it serves as a transition from the Middle West farms to the Far West mountains. As such, its identity is sometimes muddled, its labels confusing. The most certain fact is that it is a rural state. One city stands at each end, Sioux Falls a kind of gateway to Minneapolis and Rapid City a gateway to Denver, each of the South Dakota cities somewhat resembling in attitude and atmosphere the larger city it "faces." Although only six states do not have any cities as large as Sioux Falls, the combined population of Rapid City and Sioux Falls is over one-sixth of the total for the entire state. Between these two sentinels there are many open spaces.