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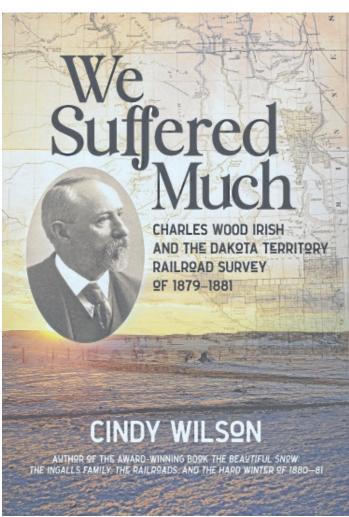
'WE SUFFERED MUCH'



DRONE PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE DEVORE

This image shows a series of ridges that Charles Wood Irish had identified that could bring railroad tracks from the divide between the Bad River to the south down to the Cheyenne River, just upriver from the Forks (where the Belle Fourche joins the Cheyenne). From there, the original plan was to follow the Belle Fourche valley up towards Sturgis and Deadwood (or, Sturgis then skirt the Hills to the north and on towards the gold fields of Montana and Idaho, with the idea of a spur to Deadwood), according to Cindy Wilson, author of "We Suffered Much."

New book follows railroad surveyors' journey across South Dakota



COURTESY

"We Suffered Much," a nonfiction retelling of railroad surveyors in South Dakota, was released in March.

Traveling across South Dakota could have been very different if the Chicago and North Western railroad's grand plans had become reality. The little-known renaissance man who led a team of railroad surveyors across the state is the focus of a newly

released book, "We Suffered Much." Award-win-

author

Wil-



Wilson

the true story surveyor Charles Wood Irish and the creation of the railroad from Tracy, Minn., to Pierre, S.D., as well as the survey west of the Missouri River for the Chicago and North Western Railroad. By gleaning material from diaries, personal letters and contemporary newspapers, Wilson pieced together

leading the survey. "This was such an amazing project," said Wilson, who lives near Mankato, Minn., and frequently visits South Dakota.

and tells of Irish's experiences

Please see RAILROAD, Page A2



CINDY WILSON

This image shows railroad tracks built 25 years after the survey expedition described in Cindy Wilson's new book, "We Suffered Much." Chicago and North Western railroad company followed Irish's survey as far as modern Philip. Then, instead of following Irish's route, the railroad instead skirted to the south, towards the Box Elder Creek valley, which as seen was much less challenging.

Titanic law may cap ship owner liability

ETHAN M STEINBERG, CHRIS DOLMETSCH AND MATTHEW GRIFFIN **Bloomberg News**

The owner of the ship that rammed into a Baltimore bridge could face hundreds of millions of dollars in damage claims after the accident sent vehicles plunging into the water and threw the eastern U.S. transportation network

But legal experts said there is a path for reducing liability under an obscure 19th-century law once invoked by the owner of the Titanic to limit its payout for the 1912 sinking.

At the center of the legal fallout will be Singapore-based Grace Ocean, owner of the container ship Dali that crashed Tuesday into the Francis Scott Key Bridge at the start of a voyage chartered by the shipping giant

The company could face a bevy of lawsuits from multiple directions, including from the bridge's owner and the families of six workers who were presumed dead after a search in the Patapsco River.

Damages claims are likely to fall on the ship owner and not the agency that operates the bridge, since stationary objects aren't typically at fault if a moving vessel hits them, said Michael Sturley, a maritime law expert at the University of Texas at Austin's School of Law.

But an 1851 law could lower the exposure to tens of millions of dollars by capping the ship owner's liability at how much the vessel is worth after the crash, plus any earnings it collected from carrying the freight on board, said Martin Davies, the director of Tulane University's Maritime Law

The law was passed initially to prevent shipping giants from suffering steep and insurmountable losses from disasters at sea. An eight-figure sum, while still hefty, would amount to "considerably less" than the full claims total, Davies said.

"It's a very unusual casualty in one respect, particularly because of this footage of the whole bridge falling down," Davies said. "But in many ways, it's not unusual, because ships collide and there's damage and there's injury all the time."

Lawrence B. Brennan, an adjunct professor of law at Fordham University School of Law in New York and an expert on admiralty and maritime law, said he assumes the Dali's operator will shortly begin a proceeding in the U.S. under the 1851 law, which was cited by the Titanic's owner in a Supreme Court case more than a century ago.

The ship owner's insurance would help the company through the legal risks. About 90% of the world's oceanbound cargo is insured by an arm of the International Group of Protection and Indemnity Clubs, which oversees the 12 major mutual insurance associa-

tions for ship owners. A key to determining any insurance claims will be proving whether the accident was caused by negligence, and if so by whom, or mechanical failure, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. The ship is insured by the Britannia Protection and Indemnity Club, which is a mutual insurance association that's owned by shipping companies. It's one of the dozen clubs that make up the International Group of P&I Clubs.

That gives the policies related to the Dali a total insured limit of about \$3 billion, a sizable sum but one that "would be very manageable for the global reinsurance market," Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Matthew Palazola and Charles Graham said in a note.

"We are working closely with the ship manager and relevant authorities to establish the facts and to help ensure that this situation is dealt with quickly and professionally," Britannia P&I said.

Bloomberg Intelligence also said Maersk may not be liable as the Danish company had no crew on board and the ship was operated by a charter company.

Please see BRIDGE, Page A2

HILLS HAPPENINGS

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Good Friday Gospel Concert: "His Love is Greater," 7 p.m., Faith Temple Church, Rapid City, This will be an evening of gospel music. Free; a freewill offering will be taken.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7 p.m., Open Heart United Methodist Church, Rapid City. This service is part of an Easter mini worship series "Discover How Love Has Already Won.

Live dramatization of Leonardo Da Vinci's "The Last Supper," 7 p.m., Homestake Opera House, Lead. Free admission. This performance gives the audience a look into the Last Supper as the 12 apostles speak their minds to themselves and to others after hearing the words from Jesus, "One of you will betray me.'

Good Friday Service, 5-6 p.m., Hills View E-Free Church, Piedmont. Information: hillsview.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

Bingo, 1-3:30 p.m., Canyon Lake Activity Center dining room, Rapid City. Doors open 12:30 p.m. \$1 per card. 50/50 and extra games available.

Friday night fish fry, 5-7 p.m., VFW Post 1273, Rapid City. Hand-battered walleye, French fries and homemade coleslaw for \$12 per person. Family-friendly.

LIVE MUSIC

MANIA - The Abba Tribute 50th Anniversary Tour, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Theater. The Monument, Rapid City, Tickets and information: themonument.live/ events/detail/mania24

Randy MacAllister, 8-10 p.m., Tinderbox, Rapid City

Brad Johnson, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Firehouse Wine Cellars, Rapid City

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Easter Eggstravaganza, 10 a.m., Star Village near the Star Village leasing office, Rapid City. Easter egg hunt and family fun activities including bunny hop race, face painting, yard games, potato sack races and a chalk art contest. plus music, prizes and food. Sponsored by City of Rapid City Community Relations Commission and Rapid City Police Department's Community Outreach Team.

Community Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m., Harvest Time Free Will Baptist Church, Box Elder. All ages welcome.

Annual Sturgis Optimist Club Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m., Sturgis City Park, Sturgis

FUNDRAISERS

Spaghetti dinner fundraiser, 5-7 p.m., Moose Lodge 1137, Rapid City. By donation spaghetti dinner, bake sale and 50/50 raffle. Proceeds benefit Hugs From Above, a nonprofit that provides care packages and support to parents who suffered a miscar riage or stillbirth. Information: hugsfromabove.org

LIVE MUSIC

Dance with music by The Wilt Brothers, 7:30-10:30 p.m., Viking Hall gym, Canyon Lake Activity Center, Rapid City. \$6 per person. Alcohol and smoke-free environment: refreshments provided.

Randy MacAllister, 8-10 p.m., Tinderbox, Rapid City

Brad Johnson, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Firehouse Wine Cellars, Rapid City

SUNDAY. MARCH 31 EASTER

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Easter Sunrise Celebration, 7-9 a.m., Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Easter Sunday service, 10 a.m., Open

Heart United Methodist Church, Rapid City. This service is part of an Easter mini worship series "Discover How Love Has Already Won.

Easter Egg Hunt, 11 a.m., United Methodist Church, Sturgis

Easter services, 8:15 and 10 a.m., Hills View E-Free Church, Piedmont. Information: hillsview.org

ONDAY, APRIL 1

SPECIAL EVENTS

Farmer's Table, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Minneluzahan Senior Center, Rapid City. Enjoy a cup of coffee while meeting new friends. Information: 605-394-1887

Shuffleboard, 11:30 a.m.; bunco, 2 p.m., Minneluzahan Senior Center, Rapid City. Information: 605-394-1887

"Medicare Monday," educational session for current and soon-to-be-eligible Medicare beneficiaries, 5:30 p.m., Canyon Lake Activity Center, Rapid City. Free. Presented by Dean Henzlik, a certified senior advisor.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

SPECIAL EVENTS

Gardening in the Black Hills, 6-9 p.m., South Dakota State University Extension building, Rapid City. Cost \$40; pre-registration required. Classes limited to 50 participants. Gardening in the Black Hills is a six-week series Feb. 27-April 2. Each week, Certified Master Gardeners, Extension personnel and qualified local individuals present two topics on horticulture subjects. Snacks and beverages provided. Registration and information: Mary, mtrykoski@rap.midco. net or call 605-341-0810.

VEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

SPECIAL EVENTS

1903 Reader's Theatre Company auditions for its short spring mystery/comedy,

"Mystery ... at Max's," 6-8 p.m., Tri-State in Belle Fourche. Play will be performed Museum and Visitor Center, Belle Fourche. Roles available for eight women and four men. Inspired by Tri-State Museum's mini exhibit, "What's on the Menu?" the play features fictional characters, historical menu items and mentions of places and events in Belle Fourche. Play will be performed April 19 and 20. Information: 605-723-1200

Bingo, 12:30 p.m., Minneluzahan Senior Center, Rapid City. Information: 605-394-1887

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

SPECIAL EVENTS

78th Annual Sturgis Chamber Awards Banquet, 5 p.m., Loud American Roadhouse, Sturgis, Social time 5-7 p.m. with music by The Lucas Olson Duo; dinner and awards, 7 p.m. Tickets and information: sturgisareachamber.com/events/signature-events/ annual-chamber-awards-banquet/

61st annual Cultural Expo. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.. Surbeck Center's Beck Ballroom, South Dakota Mines, Rapid City. International students from South Dakota Mines and a variety of community groups will celebrate their cultural diversity with food, entertainment and displays. Event open to Mines students and faculty and area schools.

Armchair Travelers Book Club, noon, Lushbough Room, Sturgis Public Library, Sturgis. Book topic: "Magic Realism." Information and book recommendations: dapulscher@gmail.com

1903 Reader's Theatre Company auditions for its short spring mystery/comedy, "Mystery ... at Max's," 6-8 p.m., Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center, Belle Fourche. Roles available for eight women and four men. Inspired by Tri-State Museum's mini exhibit, "What's on the Menu?" the play features fictional characters, historical menu items and mentions of places and events April 19 and 20. Information: 605-723-1200

LIVE MUSIC

Dance with live music by Kim and Dan, 1-3:30 p.m., Minneluzahan Senior Center, Rapid City. \$5 per person. Information: 605-394-1887

Open acoustic bluegrass jam every Thursday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., The Gaslight Restaurant and Saloon, Rockerville

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

SPECIAL EVENTS

Bingo, 1-3:30 p.m., Canyon Lake Activity Center dining room, Rapid City. Doors open 12:30 p.m. \$1 per card. 50/50 and extra games available.

Friday night fish fry, 5-7 p.m., VFW Post 1273, Rapid City. Hand-battered walleye, French fries and homemade coleslaw for \$12 per person. Family-friendly.

FUNDRAISERS

21st annual REALTORS® for Kids benefit auction, 6 p.m., Lodge at Deadwood. Disco-themed event starts with silent auction, 6 p.m., with live auction, 7 p.m. Storyboards of families sharing their stories and the positive effects REALTORS for Kids has had. Realtors® For Kids strives to build stronger communities by creating opportunities for the children. Information: realtorsforkids.org.

LIVE MUSIC

First Friday's Emerging Performing Artists Program featuring freelance musician, producer and composer Jonathan Jackey. 6 p.m., Bruce H. Lien Cultural Cafe and Gallery, Dahl Arts Center, Rapid City. Free. Open mic to showcase local emerging talent, 6-7 p.m.; Jackey performance 7:15-8 p.m.

■ **Online:** *Submit your events* to the calendar at bhj@rapidcityjournal.com



KARL MERTON FERRON, THE BALTIMORE SUN

Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed early Tuesday after a support column was struck by a vessel.

Bridge

From A1

"Maritime insurance will likely cover some of the costs, yet uncertainty around the total liabilities and who will pay for Maersk's spreads in the Kovatchev, a credit analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence.

While have jurisdiction over marof the bridge strike could cally injured, said Sturley,

potentially seek damages under a clause of the U.S. Constitution that allows those injured in accidents at sea or who have property claims to pursue lawsuits in state court, said Charles A. Patrizia, who heads an American Bar Association them will likely weigh on committee on marine law.

In cases like these, businear term," said Stephane nesses often sue for interruption, claiming economic losses. Those cases are rarely successful due to federal courts a law that largely limits the award of monetary damages itime disputes, any victims to people who were physi-

the UT Austin professor. And what will become of the ship itself, which has been managed for Grace

Ocean by Singapore-based

Synergy Marine Group?

The ship's owner may want to get it out of the U.S., but the Maryland Transportation Authority will likely seek to keep it under "arrest" while it pursues claims—and possibly until damages are resolved, said Brennan, the Fordham professor.

"The ship isn't going anywhere for awhile," he said.

Railroad

From A1

of years in the entire South Dakota halt. They were about halfway be- in the development of the northhistory that has been lost, that has tween Fort Pierre and the modern ern plains." relevance still. I'm really excited town of Philip when the survey

for people to read these stories." was called off. From 1879 to early 1881, Irish and his team surveyed for a possible railroad. Irish was the lead surveyor, and he was the conduit between officials with Chicago and North Western and the men

on the survey team. "He did an excellent job of it," Wilson said. "He was professional and competent."

The surveyors explored across the Great Sioux Reservation, looking for a way to get a railroad line from Fort Pierre to the Forks, where the Belle Fourche empties into the Cheyenne, and on to

Deadwood, Wilson said. Wilson describes the surveyors' journey as one of work, extraordinary adventures, sickness, hardiness and extreme circumstances. Over the course of their expedition, the surveyors sometimes endured heat of more than 100 degrees in the summer and "mosquitoes by the millions night and day," according to Irish's diaries, Wilson said.

The surveyors also weathered an October blizzard in canvas tents while camped north of Wall. The survey expedition ended during the harsh winter of 1880-1881 - famously chronicled in Laura Ingalls Wilder's book "The Long Winter."

"I can't even imagine what it

that blizzard," Wilson said. "The plan had been to continue survey-"There's so much about that set so awful the survey got called to a often-than-not overlooked time

> In the 1800s, Wilson said Chicago and North Western railroad company had envisioned a railway system across South Dakota. According to Wilson's research, Chicago and North Western imagined Sturgis would become the hub in the Black Hills.

> Instead, over time Rapid City became the major city in the Black Hills. In her research, Wilson found articles written by reporters who spoke with Chicago and North Western executives about the railroad's big plans to expand west that ultimately never hap-

pened. "There had been a negotiation that took place with the Lakota that allowed the (railroad) survey to happen west of the Missouri in 1880. That agreement only covered a survey. Chicago and North Western didn't have permission to actually build any tracks, and Congress was really slow in ratifying anything," Wilson said. "That was a really hard time for the Lakota."

Chicago and North Western was not anxious to push for access to lay tracks but they still wanted to expand into the Black Hills. The railroad finally came north out of Nebraska instead of crossing western South Dakota.

Rick Mills, curator and histo-

Railroad Museum in Hill City, describes "We Suffered Much" ing all winter, but the winter was as "a masterful look at a more-

Retracing the surveyors' path

To research "We Suffered Much," Wilson retraced Irish's journey. She sleuthed out camp locations, explored sites with modern landowners, gained ac-

cess to rare maps, and more. Wilson is an avid hiker and bicyclist who particularly enjoys the Mickelson Trail and hiking near Hill City. As she read Irish's diaries and descriptions of where the surveyors traveled and camped, she set out to explore more of South Dakota to

find the locations. "I became really curious about where that campsite was (where they spent the October blizzard) and what it was like and what they experienced, and there's a whole odyssey," Wilson said.

Some locations described in Irish's diaries are now on privately owned land. Wilson said she traveled all the way across South Da-

"I scoured the entire route, and some places I wasn't sure where he was. (I did) lots of wandering because the descriptions (in Irish's diaries) weren't clear enough," Wilson said.

"I did a lot of on the ground walking around camp locations where the men were all along the

and being invited onto property. There's a couple of research moments where we were hoping to owner's pickup being taken to the adventurous and capable. foundations of a building," Wilson

follow the surveyors' path. William Anderson, author and historian, praised "We Suffered Much" as a latter-day Lewis and Clark expedition narrative.

'Renaissance man'

Wilson spent four years researching and writing "We Suffered Much," and as she did, Wilson gained great admiration for Irish. She describes him as a Renaissance man of varied talents and interests.

"He was smart and articulate and curious. He loved the sciences," Wilson said. "If he learned about something, he would go and explore more and he wanted to understand it. He's fascinating and wonderful."

She first "discovered" Irish while researching her first book about the winter of 1880-1881, and she came across Irish's diaries in a library in Iowa City, Iowa. His collection of diaries cover a couple of decades, Wilson said. She focused on reading about two years' worth of diaries that cover the era of the survey expedition.

"They were so fascinating. He seems to run into a lot of the who's who of the early pioneer era," Wilson said. "The story was just so good. I wanted to flesh it out more. ... Those diary entries Long Winter."

was like for them to experience rian at the South Dakota State route. I was meeting homeowners are so fascinating and intriguing to me. That's where this whole book bloomed from."

Irish was also a devoted famsee where (a campsite or location ily man who had a wife and two was) and I ended up in a ranch daughters Wilson describes as

"He had two daughters who said, describing her own efforts to were in their early 20s. They are almost as fascinating as he is. They had strong personalities and were independent and were every bit as comfortable in society as they were riding horseback on the Dakota plains," she said.

"He was not your typical Victorian-era father," said Wilson, noting a letter in which he counseled one of his daughters not to "saddle yourself with a husband

for the sake of a husband." "We Suffered Much" can be purchased through ItascaBooks. com and other online retailers. Go to cindywilson-author.com for more information. Readers can meet Wilson at the 2024 History Conference of the South Dakota State Historical Society on April 5 and 6 at the Ramkota Hotel in

Pierre. Wilson is working on her next book, which will document the history of the Stockman House in Mason City, Iowa, where she works as a tour guide. The 1908 structure was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. It is considered a prime example of his Prairie School Style. She is also the author of "The Beautiful Snow: The Ingalls Family, the Railroads and the Hard Winter of 1880-81," which documents the true story of the winter described in "The

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