



Alice R. Gossage

Dakota Images

One of the leading women editors of the state was Alice R. Gossage, editor of the *Rapid City Daily Journal* for thirty-four years. She was born Alice Bower on a farm near Lodi, Wisconsin, on 4 November 1816. The family moved to Vermillion in 1870. At the age of fourteen Alice acquired a first grade teacher's certificate and began teaching school near Vermillion.

However, she had always wanted to be a newspaper woman, so she went to work setting type on the *Vermillion Standard*. There was not enough typesetting on one paper to keep her busy, so she worked three days a week on the *Standard*, two days on the *Dakota Republican*, and spent one day at home washing and ironing for a family of eight brothers and sisters. She also went to Parker, Dakota Territory, in 1880 and worked on the *New Era*, owned and operated by the veteran editor, Charles F. Hackett.

On 6 June 1882 she married Joseph B. Gossage, owner and publisher of the *Rapid City Journal*. Five years after their marriage Joseph became ill, so Mrs. Gossage started setting type again. Then in 1890, because of the continued illness of her husband, Mrs. Gossage assumed the management of the paper, and later on, she succeeded R.B. Hughes as editor. From that time on, she was manager, editor, reporter, proofreader, foreman of the job rooms, and anything else to make the wheels go around. Mrs. Gossage was always a believer in equal suffrage and in prohibition, and she quietly worked through her paper toward these ends. She lived to see both policies enacted into the laws of the state. She died on 9 June 1929 and a monument was erected in her memory along Skyline Drive overlooking Rapid City.

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