



Born: May 1873, Vermillion, SD

Died: 1965, Rapid City, SD

Rose Bower was raised in a musical family that performed as the Bower Family Band. Her father's parents were abolitionists. The Bowers moved west to the Black Hills in 1885. Rose went to school for music in Chicago and Boston. She worked as a teacher and librarian.

Bower started her advocacy for suffrage in 1907 through the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the S.D. Equal Suffrage Association. She gave public speeches and wrote editorials for the newspaper. For campaign speeches and events, Bower often contributed music by playing cornet and whistling.

In 1909 and 1917, Bower went with others to the state legislature in Pierre to advocate for putting a suffrage amendment on the next public ballot. In the 1910 census, she gave her occupation as "woman suffrage lecturer." For amendment campaigns in 1910, 1914, and 1916, she did "field work" traveling miles and miles around the state to give speeches and play music, and she wrote about suffrage for the newspapers. In 1914, she went to a lot of rural areas -- on the Fourth of July, she spoke in Harding County on top of Lodge Pole butte in a field surrounded by sheep.

She also shared her musical talents by traveling to help suffrage campaigns in Chicago and Ohio in 1912, and New York and New Jersey in 1915.

In October 1917, after her father's death, she took over care of her mother and running the family ranch in Custer County. In 1927, she moved to Rapid City where she played with the civic orchestra and choral club, and she advocated for women to be allowed to join the municipal band.

Based on photo in Perth Amboy News (NJ), Oct. 5, 1915

Rose Bower



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