

The Docket

A quarterly newsletter for Friends of
The Custer County 1881 Courthouse Museum
and Members of the Custer County Historical Society

April 2015

Contact us at cchstsoc@gwtc.net or 1881courthousemuseum@gwtc.net
www.1881courthousemuseum.com

Museum Opening Date

The 1881 Courthouse Museum will open for the 2015 season on Friday May 8th, according to Gary Enright, Director.

The opening date has been selected for two reasons; first the date coincides with the observance of Mother's Day, and secondly the predictions that all indications by the tourism industry point to a record-breaking year for visitors to South Dakota this summer. "Opening in early May allows the Museum to accommodate the first wave of tourists who will come to this area to visit Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Monument, Wind Cave National Park, and Jewel Cave National Monument, all within easy driving distance from Custer," according to the Museum Director.

"This is the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the 1881 Courthouse Museum." Enright stated. Coupled with the observance of the 140th Anniversary of the establishment of Custer City, this should be an exceptional year for the tourism business." Enright stated.

Enright added, "Volunteers have been working all winter to prepare the Museum for what looks to be a busy season. Downtown and area businesses in and around Custer are already geared up for this season, offering convenience and attractive products and services to the visiting public. Representatives from Custer Chamber of Commerce, Black

Hills and Badlands, and the South Dakota Department of Tourism have all reported that pre-season interest in this particular region is exceptionally high. All are predicting a record year."

The Museum is preparing for the changes which will be implemented to accommodate the automobile and motorcycle traffic on Mount Rushmore Road during this season. In addition we have lined up an outstanding group of vendors and craftsmen who will be featured during the "Old Time Country Fair" over the Independence Day Holiday.

"Again this year, the excellent record of a large number of volunteers here at the Museum has pleased the Board of Trustees and those responsible for operating and maintaining this facility. Without these volunteers, it would be impossible to operate the Museum and make it available to those who visit this historic area and facility." Enright concluded.

Visitor Hours Schedule

May 8th – 31st

Mon. – Sat. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sundays 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

June 1st – Sept. 6th

Mon. – Sat. 10:00 am – 7:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Sept. 7th – Oct. 4th
Mon. – Sat. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sundays 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Volunteer Orientation Scheduled

Two volunteer orientation sessions have been scheduled prior to the opening of the 1881 Courthouse Museum on May 8th, 2015, according to Marilee Bobzien, Museum Volunteer Coordinator.

The first session will be held Monday April 27th at 1:00 pm. For those who cannot meet in the afternoon, the second session will be held on Thursday April 30th at 10:00 am. Both sessions will be held in the Dakota Territory Courtroom on the top floor of the Museum. A third orientation session will be scheduled late in May for those volunteers who won't be returning to the Custer area until later in the season.

Museum Director Gary Enright added that there will be additional information made available at each of the Volunteer Orientation sessions including a walk-through of both the Military Room and the adjoining "Custer County Community" Room, both located on the top floor of the Museum. Several changes are being made to those displays and volunteers will be updated on new information for our guests to enjoy.

Marilee announced that she has developed a volunteer information package which will be made available to every volunteer who will be greeting our guests during the summer of 2015.

The Volunteer Orientation will be conducted by Marilee and Mr. Enright along with Joani Houlihan who will present information on changes and additions to the bookstore inventory this

year as well as a review of the selling procedures.

No advance notice is needed for those attending the Orientation sessions.



Children's parade.

Old Time Country Fair

The annual Old Time Country Fair will be held July 2, 3 and 4, Thursday through Saturday, from 10 AM until 7 PM. We will have a variety of arts and crafts vendors on the grounds surrounding the Museum, and also yummy food vendors. We will again be selling Schwan's ice cream products throughout the fair. There will be demonstrators on the grounds, and also some antique vehicles. And of course, we will have the children's parade on the 4th of July at 10 AM.

This is a very important fund raising event for the Museum, as we charge booth rental fees and make a nice profit on the ice cream products.

Again this year, we will be calling volunteers to assist with back door admissions and selling ice cream products. If you are called, please say "yes". It takes a lot of volunteers to make this event work.

And don't forget, the Old Time Country Fair is a great time to do some shopping.



Concrete pad being installed.

Repairs Underway at the Museum

A concrete pad in the rear of the 1881 Courthouse Museum is the first step in sealing the ground around the foundation of the rear of the building from rainwater and snow runoff. For several years the basement of the Museum has had leakage which deteriorates the foundation walls and causes excess moisture especially in the area of the Dakota Territory Jail in the basement of the building.

A matching grant from the Deadwood Preservation Fund, in the amount of \$13,000, is helping pay for repairs to the foundation and roof of both the front and rear of the historic structure. The Museum's Board of Trustees has put aside an amount equal to the Deadwood Grant to match the cost of the repairs.

Once the concrete cures, the contractor will re-install the wooden handicap entry ramp leading to the back door of the building. All areas of the building where rainwater and runoff is a factor, will now be sealed from leaking moisture.

In the coming weeks, work crews will be tackling the roof over the porticos at the front and rear entrances of the building as well as the cornices and roof lines which are presently leaking.

Tom Martin, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Said, "The Museum leadership has done a remarkable job of maintaining and repairing the 134 year old structure and is grateful to the South Dakota Historical Society and the Deadwood Preservation Fund for cooperating in providing matching funds for necessary repairs."

From our Volunteer Coordinator

I am excited to be working with all of our volunteers again this summer! If you are a returning volunteer, you should have either been contacted by phone or received a voicemail or email from me. If I have not contacted you, please give me a call at 673-5305. We have new volunteers this year and I am looking forward to seeing both new and returning volunteers at our orientation sessions that we will schedule for late April. For you snowbirds who won't be back until May, we will schedule another session sometime around the middle of May. The volunteer schedule will be posted on the museum website as soon as I hear back from the volunteers I have contacted. If you have not signed up as a volunteer and are interested in a once a week, once or twice a month, being on our substitute list or volunteering for special events, please give me a call today at 673-5305 or email me at marilee.bobzien@gmail.com!

Gary Enright has done a fabulous job of creating exciting programs and events for the museum to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our beautiful museum!

Thank you and see you at the museum!
Marilee Bobzien

Bookstore/Gift Shop

Many changes are in store for the Bookstore/Gift Shop at the Museum this season. We will have displays in the main hallway as well as the actual Bookstore.

Our book selection will still focus on area history and interests such as minerals and wildflowers, with some new titles. We have a large selection of cook books, including the recently published “Cooks In Parks”. We also carry books by local authors including Linda Hasselstrom, Paul Horsted, Peggy Sanders, Jessie Sundstrom and children’s books by Gary Enright and Cheryl Smith.

We have two original paintings of the old Sylvan Lake Hotel by Ron Backer, one painted specifically for the 40th anniversary of the Museum. We also have an original painting of Mt. Rushmore by John Harris. These paintings have been donated to the Museum Bookstore/Gift Shop.

Local artisans who have items for sale include Meta Dewald Baker, Angie Krierleber, Gary Kucher, Joy Maddox, Dixie Metz, Kaye Chard Nichol, Lisa Pickford, Camille Riner and Susie Weber.

We also carry photo notecards, commemorative postage stamps, framed photos of early Custer and other interesting items. And, for the 40th anniversary of the Museum, special anniversary coffee mugs.

The Museum Bookstore/Gift Shop is a great place to add special items or books to your own collections, or to purchase presents such as “Our Black Hills and Badlands” or “Pioneer Girl”.



Jay Red Hawk demonstrating proper spear throwing technique to children.

“Kid-Stop” Program Successful

Starting in January and repeating every month of the year, over three-dozen children from Kindergarten through Grade 5, have participated in a special program sponsored by the Museum. The students are participants in the YMCA “Kid-Stop” Program situated at the Elementary School in Custer.

“Kid-Stop” Coordinator Erica Van Horn brought the program request to Gary Enright, Museum Director who developed the monthly series as a part of the Children’s Program based at the 1881 Courthouse Museum.

Beginning in January, the program featured a 90 minute presentation by Jeannine Gould of Pacer Corporation. The subject, “Mining in the Black Hills”. That presentation involved tours of the Mineral Room Display at the Museum as well as demonstrations and a display of mining equipment and various types of ore samples.

In February, former Museum Director Sandy Ackman coordinated a Valentines Day Project which entertained the students who made old-fashioned Valentines for their families.

The March Program featured Jay Red Hawk, a Custer resident who presented a 90 minutes program relating Native American History and Legends and a demonstration of how his people hunted with spears.

The April Program features Bonita Ley of Rapid City who is a Laura Ingalls Wilder re-enactor. She tells stories about the history of the Midwestern popular author and her stories of the Dakota and Great Plains Homestead Days.

The May “Kid-Stop” Program will occur on Opening Day, when not only the youngsters but their parents and the general public will be able to enjoy a presentation by Joyce Jefferson of Rapid City. She is a re-enactor who portrays Sarah “Aunt Sally” Campbell , the pioneer who accompanied General Custer on the 1874 Black Hills Expedition.

The remainder of the summer and fall will feature nature walks in Custer State Park, a ride on the 1880 Train, a visit to Crazy Horse Monument, a visit to the Permanent Camp historical site east of Custer and seasonal celebrations of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

A grant from the Oswald Family Foundation in the amount of \$2,000 funds the expenses of sponsoring the “Kid-Stop” Project.

Equipment Ready for

Newspaper Scanning Project

Helen Carney, head of the 1881 Courthouse Museum Preservation Department, announced that new equipment has been received which will allow access to the microfilm copies of early Custer County newspapers. The project is made possible through a grant from the Mary Chilton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution Foundation which contributed \$10,000 toward the purchase of the ProScanner

microfilm reader, computer, and microfilm data of available newspapers. The newspapers currently available on microfilm include those of the Custer County Chronicle, the Black Hills Weekly and the Custer Weekly.

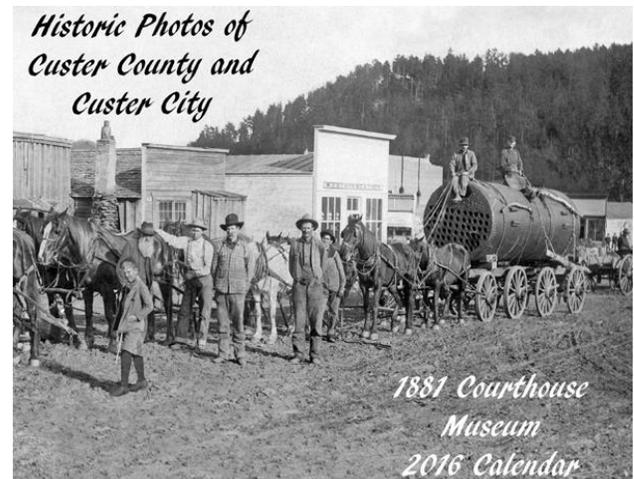
This project and the DAR Grant enhances the Museum’s purpose of being the official repository of the history of this region. Ultimately researchers, authors, historians, local citizens will have access to this information.

Let’s Grow the Historical Society

Membership Chairperson Needed

If you have a passion for spreading the word about the Custer County Historical Society, have organization skills, and would like to help the Historical Society keep track of its members and come up with ideas for recruiting new members, please contact the Historical Society at 673-2443 or statmaven12@outlook.com

Thanks so much for your consideration!
Cynthia McCahon
President, Custer County Historical Society



2016 Historic Calendar

2016 Historic Calendar

The Museum's historic calendar for 2016 is at the printers, and should be available in May. Please stop by the Museum after we open on May 8th to see the new issue, with lots of wonderful historic pictures from around Custer County.

Custer County Historical Society Program Schedule - 2015:

The Pine Room in the Custer County Courthouse Annex

(adjacent to the Custer County Library)-

First Saturdays @ 2:00 p.m.

April 11th (2nd Saturday)

“Remembering a WWI Hero from South Dakota” – Arley Fadness’s 8th book (*Balloons Aloft*), includes a story of a balloonist from Huron, SD, who used his skills to help win WWI. A retired minister living in Custer, Dr. Fadness is a frequent speaker for historical groups.

May 2nd -- (1st Saturday) “If You Have To Grow Up, It Might As Well Be In A Small Town” – Phyllis Schrag, of Sioux Falls says, “Growing up in a 1950’s small town has some unique advantages that modern children will never experience. This story-telling style of lecture explores commonalities found in South Dakota small towns. Details of lessons learned from a child’s point-of-view will evoke many individual memories among audience members.” Schrag is a speaker from the South Dakota Humanities Council.

June 6th “The Polio Epidemic Here” – Cindy Messenger of Hot Springs, a librarian, will tell how the epidemic during the 1950’s & 1960’s was handled by the West River Polio hospital. Nine doctors and an army of physical therapists and nurses worked with the victims – 521 cases in just the first 11

months. In these difficult times, i.e. the Ebola crisis, the polio epidemic should be studied.

October 3rd “As Good as Remington and Russell”, Ed McGaa Eagle Man’s varied career includes that of fighter pilot, surviving 110 combat missions for the Marines. He is the author of numerous books. His law degree is from the University of South Dakota. His new interest is in the artist Charles Schreyvogel, whose paintings illustrated the Mongolian style of riding for the RedCloud/Crazy Horse warrior, allowing both hands free for aiming a rifle on the run. All though Eagle Man lives in Hill City, he is a frequent lecturer at Crazy Horse and in Europe.

November 7th “Our National Parks Yesterday and Today” – Paul Horsted of Custer will return and share his experience in re-photographing historic photo sites in 25 National Parks across America, including several in the Black Hills area. Paul, his wife Camille, and daughter Anna Marie collaborate in the planning of the many Horsted publications. This program will be a sneak peak at his next book, not yet released.

Hermosa Arts and History Association – HAHA

It has been a very productive late Winter and early Spring at the Hermosa Arts and History Association (HAHA).

We wish to especially recognize members Beverly Brophy Groth, Bonnie Rittberger Miller, Pam Borglum, Kathy Svoboda, Bert Upton and Linda Hasselstrom for all of the time-consuming work they have accomplished on the



Volunteers working on the Hermosa Museum.

inventory on the HAHA museum holdings, plus a complete re-organization of the office.

On the building, a new ADA-compliant bathroom and utility addition is well underway with the talents of Dan Martin, Jerry Ellerman, Jerry Upton, Delmar Clarke, Sean Weller and sons, plus several contractors. Thank you to all of our contributors, and to our special donor Gloria Olawsky of Hermosa.

And coming on April 25th, HAHA proudly announces an evening of music and patriotism at a special “A Hermosa Saturday Night” to benefit the Hermosa Museum at the Hermosa School Gym.

With a meal prepared and served by HAHA members and music by Stringbean Swenson and family, Hermosa’s American Legion Post 303 will offer the Presentation of Colors. The Pledge of Allegiance will be lead by a group of students from the Hermosa School, and programs by WWII veteran Chuck Childs and Vietnam War Veteran Marvin Bishop will follow. A special display of “Fallen Heroes” Banners will be on display and accompanied by Honor Guard members Ryan Wiley and Will Preston

The Hermosa Museum’s evening of food and music includes a homemade supper

beginning at 5:00pm, silent and live auction items in addition to the music and program. Free admission for all, and inspiring for the entire family!

Rick Mills

HAHA now has a website – the address is below. Please check it out to find out all that these folks are doing in Hermosa.

<http://www.hermosahistory.org>

Fairburn Historical Society

The Fairburn Community and Historical Society are planning their annual fundraiser for June 20, 2015

On Saturday, the 20th, there will be a Pork Dinner for \$8.00 at the Community Center/Museum.

This fundraiser will be in conjunction with the Fairburn Agate Swap Days which is scheduled for June 19th, 20th, and 21st. In addition, the Methodist Church will have its annual Ice Cream Social on the evening of the 20th.

A large crowd is expect for the Second Annual Rock Swap. So make a day of it and enjoy all the festivities.

Nelda Carroll

Fairburn Museum

The museum does not have a regular staff so if you would like to take a tour contact Sally Nordstrom at 255-4807 or Marie Gruwell, 255-4758 to arrange a time to visit.

Friends of the Museum and Capital Improvement Campaign Donors

**A complete list of these donors is
available at the museum.**

Fund Raisers

**Lynn's Dakotamart's We Care Program
Bring your Lynn's Dakotamart
Receipts to the Museum and we can raise
money with them.**

Foundations Who Have Donated to the 1881 Courthouse Museum

**Deadwood Historic Preservation
Commission South Dakota State
Historical Society's Deadwood Fund
Grant**

**Outside of Deadwood Fund
Oswald Family Foundation**

**Adams Mastrovich Foundation, Mary
Mastrovich**

**Mary Chilton DAR Foundation
South Dakota Community Foundation/
First Interstate Bank**

**South Dakota Community Foundation
South Dakota Re-Grant
First Interstate Bank**
