

Custer County Historical Society Monthly Program

Lois Wells – Program Director

Rachel Nepper -- Recorder

“Our National Parks Yesterday and Today”

Mr. Paul Horsted – November 7, 2015

Following the refreshment period, Lois introduced Paul Horsted, noted photographer, who had been working in various National Parks for his newest book. Paul said that this project had yet to be completed and he was working on the new presentation with this audience. His National Parks photos would be a compilation of historic photos along with his photos matching site and hopefully lighting/weather/etc. He had started with the Custer Expedition, then did one on the Black Hills and followed with one on Yellowstone Park. He was not doing all of the National Parks but was working on those before 1935. He tried to use the oldest photos he could find to match with. Some of the parks he had been photographing were Zion, Arcadia, Olympia, Bryce, Arches, Mesa Verde, Badlands, Grand Teton, Yellowstone (different photos of this one than his previous book), Death Valley, Big Bend, Hawaii Volcano, Haleakala, Petrified Forest, Yosemite, Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Glacier, and Grand Canyon. He showed slides on then and now at various parks. The over-crowding at some parks now was unbelievable. He showed the audience how he trekked into remote areas with various equipment and camping gear. He told how he found old photos using the Library of Congress, USGS, and E-Bay and how he scanned them. He demonstrated how he match sites through landmarks and using maps/Google Earth until he could get to matching a landscape from where he stood with a photo on his laptop. He had not found all the sites he wished to photograph. It was a difficult, time-involved, labor-intensive task to find them. He felt he had at least another year of photographing and hoped to get to Denali, Rocky Mountain, Crater Lake, Smokey Mountains, Mount Rainer, and others before publishing in 2017. An appreciative audience was looking forward to the book.