

Volunteer Spotlight

From the Dakotas, to California and Illinois Orin Bader has found his way back to the days of the “Old West” at the HPWHC.



Orin Bader began volunteering at the High Plains earlier this year.

Orin Bader has always had a hankerin’ for the ways of the “Old West.” Volunteering at High Plains Western Heritage Center is one way he scratches that itch!

Raised on a small farm near Clear Lake, South Dakota, where he graduated from high school in 1957, Orin attended college at Brookings for a year before taking an apprenticeship with Behrens Funeral Home in Rapid City.

“I’d always had an interest in becoming a funeral director, and working at Behren’s was a good start.” After about a year, he enrolled in mortuary school in Los Angeles. It was in California that he met his future bride, Marilyn. They were married in 1962 and moved to South Dakota the following year.

“As a California girl, she had a little

trepidation about moving to South Dakota,” notes Bader, “but it all worked out.” Bader was about 24 years old when he bought a funeral home in Sisseton, operating it for some 23 years. It was in Sisseton that the Bader’s raised their family of two girls and one boy.

In 1986, they sold the business and Orin took a job with West Funeral Home in Fargo, North Dakota, where they remained for a decade or so.

The lure of the Black Hills took hold and the Baders returned to South Dakota, buying a parcel of land and building a home on the west edge of Spearfish.

“I managed to keep busy doing a variety of things, which included working with the 2000 Census and driving for Prairie Hills Transit and Dakota Bus.”

Sensing that their senior years were sneaking up on them, the Baders decided it would be good to live near their children. So in 2013 they moved to Sycamore, Illinois, to be near their son. While living there, Marilyn became sick. She passed away last year.

The “Old West” again beckoned Orin, and earlier this year he returned to Spearfish, settling in a townhouse near Spearfish Creek. Already familiar with HPWHC, it wasn’t long before he found his way to the museum as a volunteer.

Welcome back to Spearfish, Orin, and thanks for choosing to contribute your time and talent as a volunteer at High Plains Western Heritage Center!

Setting the Stage

From Exec. Director
Karla Scovell

Wrapping up August, we brought to a close the public portion of our Cowboy Supper Show with Gordy Pratt & Dalcyce Sellers along with our caterers Old West Dutch Oven Catering and Cheyenne Crossing.

Our expectations were exceeded with more than 500 in attendance for the season. We are already planning and looking forward to next year when we will expand our show dates.

This coming month we are honored to once again welcome several bus tour groups including Wendt Tours, Fairway Tours from Canada, Deadwood Gulch and the return of Collette Tours, Diamond Tours and The Institute for Educational Travel (Road’s Scholars)!

September will also see the return of “High Plains Live!”. We open the season Thursday night, September 20th with Kerry Grombacher and Aspen Black for what will be an enjoyable and relaxing evening of traditional Cowboy and Western folk music. Look for details on page 2 of our newsletter.

As always, we are extremely grateful to our volunteers who give their time and energy to make sure that all of our visitors have an educational and enjoyable stay here at HPWHC. They continue to go above and beyond the call of duty!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, volunteers and staff - thank you for your on-going support of HPWHC!



A Very Special Visitor!



Gayle (Blair) Urban, granddaughter of one of our founders, Harry Blair, stopped in for a visit while here for her father George Blair’s 97th birthday. To hear her message, check out our Facebook page.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GEORGE!!!

Rodeo Artist Jim Sayre’s Work on Display at HPWHC

The Western Heritage Center is fortunate to have several pieces of original western artwork done by Jim Sayre. For many years in the 1950s and 60s, Jim made his living as a professional bull rider. He supplemented his income by arriving a few days before a rodeo and painting rodeo related scenes on storefront windows. By the end of the 1960s, Jim decided that he was done with bull riding and he became, among other things, a miner, bartender and house painter.

In 1968, Jim moved to Deadwood, South Dakota, where he started making a living



“A Friend in Need” from western artist Jim Sayre.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

September:

Thursday, September 20 – 7:00pm

High Plains Live – Featuring:
Kerry Grombacher & Aspen Black

Tickets: \$10

*Tickets available by phone, in person or
online at HighPlainsLive.org*

October:

Sunday, October 21 - 2:00pm

High Plains Live – Featuring: Kim Plender
& Buffalo Grass Band

Tickets: \$10

November:

Saturday, November 10– “Miss Rodeo

South Dakota NFR Sendoff” – 3:00pm

Featuring: Trunk and Fashion Show with
area Rodeo Queens and light
hors d'oeuvres .

Sunday, November 11- Veterans Day

Event - 1:00pm

Featuring: The Potter Family Live - 2:00pm

Suggested Donation - \$10 at the Door for
Spearfish Veterans Monument

Friday, November 30 – The Potter Family

Christmas Show – 7:00pm

Details TBA

December:

Saturday, December 15th – Annual 2018
“Friendraiser” –

**Featuring Spearfish's Very Own
Gary Mule Deer Live!**

5:30-6:30pm: Social Hour - hors d'oeuvres
by Cheyenne Crossing

6:45pm: Gary Mule Deer Live
Seating Limited. \$50/person –

Reservations Required



825 Heritage Drive | Spearfish, SD 57783

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with his paintings. Most of his early work depicted rodeo scenes such as those in our collection. The paintings are on loan from Jim Aplan, who himself, was involved in many aspects of the rodeo life including bull riding and working as a rodeo clown and bullfighter. Sayre and Aplan have been friends since 1954. Jim Aplan and his wife have loaned the High Plains Western Heritage Center many other wonderful artifacts which you can see throughout the museum including a 1918 championship saddle on display in the Rodeo Room and many antique firearms which can be seen in the Cowboy Hall.

Jim Sayre's paintings are displayed in our recently revised Rodeo Room. In the corner where we feature specialty acts, “A Friend in Need...” (pictured on page 1) depicts a cowboy who is hung up on a bull and is being rescued by a rodeo clown. Jim Aplan is the clown in the painting. On the opposite wall is another Sayre painting - portrait of Pete Gay at Cheyenne Frontier Days. Pete and his brother Don are world famous bull riders and their father, Neal, was the founder of the Mesquite Rodeo in Mesquite, Texas. We invite you to stop in and enjoy Jim Sayre's artwork along with the rest of the displays at the Center.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER



**Kerry Grombacher &
Aspen Black**

Sept. 20th 7:00PM

Tickets \$10

