



Setting the Stage

From Exec. Director Karla Scovell

Greetings! Hope everyone is well and staying healthy. It is always good when you can see the light at the end of the tunnel and there's a good feeling that



we're about to the end of our COVID closure. The board has met and decided that we will open to the public on June 1st. Most other area museums are also observing that date. We, of course, will follow the best guidelines we get from the state and local authorities to keep everyone safe and virus free.

Having said that, the HPWHC bookstore and gift shop is available now if you give us a call in advance, we'll welcome you in. We are offering 25% off all purchases this month!

We have been busy cleaning and re-organizing during the closure. In the second part of his article this month Don Petersen gives us more details on what has been going on the second floor as we have re-oriented our homestead kitchen and parlor. Be sure to read his story to the right this column.

In May we will have two live events in the theater! For each event we are limiting the ticket sales to 50 so please call us to make a reservation (605-642-9378). The two events are Paul Higbee's book presentation on "The Doolittle Raiders" May 16th at 1pm and *High Plains Live!* on Sunday, May 17th at 2pm with "Forever Fifties" featuring Orion and Stacey Potter. Paul will have a PowerPoint presentation and additional information to deliver and Orion and Stacey are simply amazing with their 50's music presentation! Since the audience size is limited, we are making preparations for our first ever Facebook Live video streaming of both events. If you can't make it live, be sure to tune in to Facebook on the 16th and 17th!

Because of the coronavirus we have had all of our buses and tours canceled until

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Second Floor Improvements Continue

Work is progressing nicely on our redesigned homestead display on the second floor. The divider wall has been moved, giving us an extra hundred square feet of display space. Our focus is on how women played an important part in settling this part of the country. The time period we chose to portray is the 1870's to 1933, the end of the Great Depression. We have divided the space into several areas. In one section, we display items from typical kitchens of the era. A beautiful oak Hoosier Cabinet has been donated by Bill Melius and now graces this space. We have reorganized the kitchen table to incorporate a small display of how religion played an important part in homestead life. We also learned that our 1890's era baking table is actually called a Possum Belly Table, due to the two tin storage bins that hang from the bottom of the table. Although space is becoming very limited, we are hoping one of you may have a small oak icebox you would be willing to donate to this display. Since many ranches didn't get electricity until the 1940's or even 1950's, the icebox was integral to the farm kitchen for many years.

Other areas of the new display feature sewing and other handcrafts, child rearing and education items, displays showing how women contributed to the finances of the farm by raising chickens for their eggs and processing milk and cream to sell in town. We also included displays of how the family stayed entertained on those cold winter nights. We would love to acquire



an old pair of work pants with patches on top of patches on top of patches to display next to our treadle Singer sewing machine. Frugality was everything on the homestead!

In addition to the musical instruments previously on display, we have added a Victrola phonograph donated by Gene & Marilyn Secrest to go with the earlier Edison cylinder phonograph we already had on display. Thomas Edison is credited with inventing the phonograph in 1877. In the 1890's, flat discs replaced the earlier cylinder versions of the device. The earliest discs were made of wax, but those were eventually replaced by plastic. The discs were cut or pressed with grooves which, when played, sent vibrations through a needle to a diaphragm and then to a flaring tube or sound cone which amplified the sound. Power was provided by a hand crank and an internal mechanism fashioned after watch springs and gears. By the 1940's phonographs were electrified, for the first time providing volume control.

Mike Madler, one of our volunteers found some interesting information on the Toomey mill which operated in Spearfish in its earliest years. Mike produced an excellent poster showing the mill and an early map showing the mill's location. The poster now hangs with the two Toomey Mill flour sacks in our display.

We look forward to revealing the new display in the near future.



(Left) The Bill Melius Hoosier cabinet and (right) the Secrest Victrola. To hear the Victrola go to our HPWHC website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note:
ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
For updated information go to:
WesternHeritageCenter.com/events

Speaker Series
Sat. May 16th 1:00PM
"The Doolittle Raiders" featuring author and speaker Paul Higbee.
50 Tickets Available - please call.
Sponsored by: Ameriprise Financial with Jon Pochop

MAY
High Plains Live!
Sun. May 17th at 2:00pm
Orion & Stacey
"Forever Fifties!"
50 Tickets Available - Please call us.

MAY
Speaker Series
Sat. June 6, 2020 1:00PM
"The German Russians" featuring author Dr. William Bosch.
Suggested Donation \$5 at the door

JULY
Day of the American Cowboy
Sat. July 25th at 1:00pm
Allen & Jill Kirkham
As part of our annual celebration of "Day of the American Cowboy" the Kirkhams present their program of the "History of Traditional Western Music."
Tickets: Reserved \$15
General Admission \$10
Sponsored by the SD Humanities Council

SUMMER OF 2020
All New - COWBOY SHOW!
Dates in June, August and September
Once again our cowboy show returns. This year with Orion & Stacey Potter!

FALL OF 2020
High Plains Live!
Date: TBD
Shrine of Democracy Chorus
Present their program "Country Classics" *in barbershop style!*
Tickets: Reserved \$15
General Admission \$10

For those who cannot attend in person, the May 16th and May 17th events will be live-streamed on our HPWHC Facebook page.



825 Heritage Drive | Spearfish, SD 57783

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the end of July (at this point). As you can imagine that has put a dent in our income. So, if you feel you can, we appreciate any donation you can make to support the mission of the HPWHC. We have several ways to do that including tax-deductible contributions, our Buy-a-Block wall, your purchase of a Spearfish Canyon book, our rifle raffle and a few others. Check out our website for more information and ways you can donate online.

Let's think Spring and look forward to re-opening and welcoming everyone back!

Watch the video newsletter!

Log on to:
WesternHeritageCenter.com/now

Support the Center During the COVID Shutdown

HERITAGE WALL!

Join many others who have already purchased a block on our NEW Heritage Wall! Each block is beautifully laser engraved on faux leather with either your name or the name of someone you wish to honor, and their hometown. A full block is \$500 and a half block is \$250. They will be on permanent display in the entrance to our Bruce Miller theater.



RIFLE RAFFLE RETURNS!

Call us at the HPWHC to secure your ticket for our 2020 rifle raffle drawing. Once again Dr. Tom Matthews has generously donated a rifle - a Winchester Wells Fargo Commemorative Edition 30-30 Model 94 Carbine. Tickets are \$25 dollars and only 200 will be sold. Drawing later this year!



May Newsletter Contributors:
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