

May
2021

Vol. 04 Edition 3

HOW TIME FLIES...

Monthly News & Events

HIGH PLAINS WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER ~ SPEARFISH, SD



Setting the Stage

From Exec.
Director
Karla Scovell

May flowers are blooming, and it is a wonderful thing to see! April showers brought the green grass and moisture we needed and some activity to the Heritage Center!



We enjoyed a K-8 school group from Elm Springs School and an energetic group of 3rd & 4th graders from Belle Fourche Elementary. It was also a pleasure to host the Candidate Forums for the Spearfish City Council and the School Board elections. The community was very much engaged with the elections this year and a nice crowd attended each forum.

In addition to hosting events for others, we of course held our own Saturday Movie Matinees which brought in some new folks this year. Paul Higbee presented his book "First Strike" to an eager audience largely of veterans. There were 57 on hand and it almost gave you a chill to hear Paul describe the Doolittle Raid knowing that at that very moment 79 years ago it was really happening (April 18th). Having News Center 1 cover the event was great PR for us too. We were greatly honored by a special guest at the event, Mr. Jack Weller, a delightful 96-year-old WWII Veteran!

May will be a quiet month for the most part from an event standpoint. We will begin welcoming back bus tours. Be sure to check in to our website for any surprise events that might come in. And, speaking of the website, we have had record traffic to the site over the past 4 months. Thank you!

Be sure to keep us in mind for the Cowboy Supper Show and other summer events listed on the Calendar in this newsletter.

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers out there and thank you to all Veterans and active duty military personnel- we honor you on Memorial Day!

Summer Hours in Effect Open Mon - Sat 9am - 4pm Sun 1pm - 4pm

Board Member Spotlight

Artist Mick Harrison's Deep Appreciation for History

Harrison has been elected to another term as HPWHC Board President. Feature by Larry Miller.

Western artist Mick Harrison has always loved old cars. Really old cars from a hundred years ago – the 1920s and '30s. That's a favorite era when the country transitioned from horse-drawn wagons and farm implements to tractors, pickups, and sleek new automobiles. One of his favorites was the 1941 Plymouth Coupe. My.... How Time Flies!

These days, Mick drives a hefty GMC pickup as he traverses the country, and he's seen a lot of our world since his birth at Mobridge in October 1945, just weeks after World War II ended.

"My mom and dad raised four kids. I have two brothers and a sister. It was shortly after I started school, maybe second grade, I remember using crayons to sketch Woody Woodpecker."

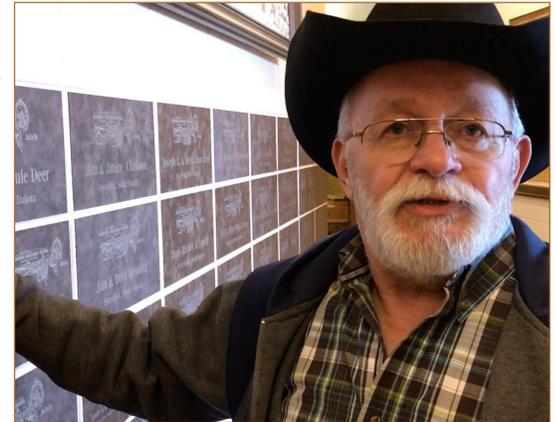
The other kids thought it was cool, and Mick began getting hooked on art.

"Dad was a salesman, and my grandfather Harrison had a ranch west of Mobridge. That's where I spent a lot of time as a kid." Harrison was no stranger to fixing fences and performing the many other chores that beset country kids of that era.

All of his school years were in Mobridge. While he participated some in sports, "I'd rather been throwing bales on the ranch than running track," he recalls, and he did like to draw.

A mechanical drawing class in high school complemented Mick's interest in art. He graduated from Mobridge High in 1963 with an eye on enrolling at the Los Angeles School of Art and Design in California, but the distance and dollars were too overwhelming.

After a short stint at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, he went to work for the State Highway Department until the fall of 1965 when he enlisted in the Army. Basic training was at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Advanced



Board President Mick Harrison stands next to the Donor Block wall project he spearheaded in 2019.

Infantry Training in South Carolina, followed by a specialized artillery school at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

"In late 1966 they sent me to Germany, where I was stationed at Merrill Barracks near Nürnberg. I was there for over a year working with 8-inch artillery. Then they began looking for soldiers to go to Vietnam and I volunteered, arriving "in country" during the "Tet Offensive."

Assigned to "I" Corps near Chu Lai, Harrison was assigned to a "jump battery," working in the Fire Direction Center for the 105mm Howitzers. When his three-year Army tour ended in October of 1968, he returned stateside to California for a time before becoming a house painter in Portland, Oregon for about two years. Portland is where he met his wife, Noreen Sessions. In 1972 Mick accepted a job with Rockwell International in Cedar Rapids, Iowa as a staff artist dealing mostly with schematics. He and Noreen were married in 1974. Although Rockwell paid well, his heart just wasn't in it.

On the side, Mick continued working at his passion – western art. After True West magazine bought one of his paintings for \$100 – that was it. The Harrisons decided to move back to South Dakota, where Mick could pursue his art. His career in western art had begun!

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High Plains Events

Sunday June 13th 2pm

High Plains Live!

Gospel concert with Orion & Stacey Potter
Donations accepted at the door

Coming in June

2021 Cowboy Supper Show

5:30pm Chuckwagon Buffet Supper
6:15pm Spirit of the American Cowboy Show
With Gordy Pratt & Dalcyce Sellers
2021 Cowboy Supper Show (cont'd)
Dinner features all the best cowboy fixin's catered by Cheyenne Crossing & served from the back of our authentic 1800's chuckwagon.
The show is also available for booking for groups of 30 or more.

Cowboy Supper Show

2021 Dates:

Tuesdays: June 15, 22, 29, Sept. 7, 14, 21.

July 24th, 2021

Day of the American Cowboy

Reserve Saturday July 24th for our annual observation of the "National Day of the American Cowboy." Visit our exhibits, learn about great American cattle drives and the role the cowboy played in establishing our local economy. Head to our theater for a special program featuring the awesome duo of Allen & Jill Kirkham with their award winning show "The History of Traditional Western Music." Donations suggested for the show.
Show time 1:30pm

Sun. July 25th 2021 3pm

High Plains Live!

Joey Leone - "The History of Blues"
We're going to stretch out wings a bit and enjoy the history of another genre of American classic music - blues. Joey Leone and company will take the Bruce Miller stage for a very special presentation on the "The History of Blues in America." They cover the history, influence and impact of American blues music through stories and historical facts. Joey has toured with artist such as Etta James, The Coasters, Wilson Pickett and many more.

October 8-9 2021

West River History Conference

HPWHC will host- details coming



825 Heritage Drive | Spearfish, SD 57783

HARRISON From Page 1

Mick Harrison has created hundreds of western paintings that have been exhibited in every western state and across much of the country. He's done countless caricatures, and earlier in his career, he created the cartoon series "Good Ol' Girls" for the Tri-State Livestock News. For some 25 years, he created editorial cartoons for the Mobridge Tribune, and his "Buckaroo" cartoons were picked up by a calendar company for several years.

Mick's western art work has been featured in numerous western magazines – many as covers. They include True West, Western Horseman, Today's Horseman, and Beef magazine, among others.

Across his career, he's collected a bevy of prestigious awards, including the

Old West Trails Foundation William F. Cody Award for Art. One he particularly treasures is the very first Nick Eggenhofer Award for Western Art presented to Mick in 1985 at Cody, Wyoming. Harrison had become acquainted with Eggenhofer, a seasoned German-born American artist much admired throughout the western art community – and by Mick Harrison. The Eggenhofer Award was presented to Mick shortly before Eggenhofer died.

Mick and Noreen Harrison have lived in Belle Fourche nearly 25 years. They have two grown daughters, Jaime in Glendive, Montana and Joey in Chandler, Arizona. And the Harrisons delight in having three grand-daughters and two grandsons!

Mick has served on the Board of Directors for the High Plains Western Heritage

Center since 2012. He was tapped as President in 2016 and was just re-elected last month to a third term. Several pieces of his work are on display in the museum, and we're proud that his How Time Flies artwork continues to serve as our museum logo and is prominently displayed in the entry to the museum – as well as on our letterhead!

In addition to his leadership role, Mick Harrison continues to give of his valuable time and talent in support of our museum. Thank you, Mick Harrison, for all you've done on behalf of the High Plains Western Heritage Center!

May Newsletter Contributors:
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