

Custer County Historical Society Monthly Program

Lois Wells – Program Director

Rachel Nepper -- Recorder

“Mounted Archery Techniques”

Mr. Jay Red Hawk – February 7, 2015

Lois introduced Jay Red Hawk, a well-known speaker on Native Americans. Mr. Red Hawk began his program with slides on hunting for buffalo on horseback with bow and arrow. In order to hunt buffalo, one had to know them. The American bison had the shortest turning radius of any animal he explained and it was the cows one had to watch out for especially those with calves. The buffalo was considered another Lakota; it had the soul of a person.

He showed slides of items made from buffalo that his family had done. He demonstrated a 70-pound bow and used a 30-pound bow demonstrating how it was used while riding bareback along a herd of buffalo. He spoke of the relationship of the buffalo with the plains people. He told one story of the Lakota chief, One Horn, and the artist, Caitlin, regarding the giving of gifts, and what was considered the prize possession and not to be given away since it had been given to One Horn by his father.

Mr. Red Hawk then demonstrated the courting flute, which he had made, by playing it. He had many items for display including an elk antler and leather quirt, flintlock and percussion cap rifles, and many other hand-made articles. The audience spent time viewing the many items Mr. Red Hawk had brought to the program.