

# THE DOCKET



Quarterly Publication of the Custer County Historical Society and 1881 Courthouse Museum

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2017

## MUSEUM BOOKSTORE TO BE EXPANDED & RELOCATED

Denny Hickok, Chairman of the Museum Bookstore Committee announced that the bookstore will undergo a complete revamping before the 2017 season opens May 5.

Hickok and the Bookstore Committee Members: Wanda Wheeler, Diane Geeting, and Karen Glover, are busy planning the layout of the new space and installing display cases, bookshelves and counter space ready for opening day.

The bookstore will be re-located on the main floor just to the left of the front door in what has been the “Pioneer Home Work Display”. The antique washing machines, ironing boards, sewing machines, heating stoves, and other household appliances dating back to the 1800’s, will be replaced by a greatly expanded selection of historic books and current book titles from local and area authors, plus gifts, souvenirs, and other unique items designed to add to the enjoyment of tourists and local customers alike.

This year the Bookstore will also feature a greatly expanded selection of wooden toys for children. A selection of wooden antique trains, beautiful cutting boards, wooden assembly kits, wooden hand crafted rocking horses, and many more children’s books will be added to the inventory this year.

Chairman Hickok said, “The move to the larger room was brought about because of the need for expanded space created by the improved sales records of the bookstore over the past couple of years, and the desire to offer our visitors a wider selection of items. The convenience of the customers is also a factor”, according to Hickok.

As in past years, the Bookstore offers local artisans the opportunity to have their products displayed for purchase by Museum visitors. Individuals wishing to have their handicrafts considered by the Bookstore leadership can call the Museum at 605-673-2443 or e-mail at [1881courthousemuseum@gwtc.net](mailto:1881courthousemuseum@gwtc.net)

The bookstore hours will coincide with the Museum hours. May and September hours 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Hours for June – July & August 10:00 am. to 7:00 pm.

MARCH

HISTORICAL

SOCIETY

PROGRAM

**Saturday March 4**

**CINDY REED**

of Cascade, SD

will be the featured speaker. Her subject will be the story of how Claude Barr, a rancher from Fall River County, became an expert on flowers and gardens.

**PROGRAM WILL BE HELD AT THE “PINE ROOM” IN THE CUSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX BEGINNING AT 2:30 PM**



**Delmer Brown at Museum**

## **Delmer Brown 1938-2016**

The historical community of the Black Hills is mourning the passing of local historian Delmer Brown. Mr. Brown was born May 3, 1938 to Elmer and Elfrieda Brown in Lexington, NE. He graduated from Custer High School in 1955. He received his bachelor of science in geological engineering in 1959 from SD School of Mines and Technology. He received his Master of Science degree from Colorado School of Mines and Technology in 1962.

After military service in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Delmer devoted his professional career to geological engineering, exploration and gemology. In 2004 Delmer returned to Custer where he tended to the health needs of his aging parents. Delmer was a familiar figure at the Custer Senior Center and the 1881 Courthouse Museum. His dedication to compiling the history of the families and businesses that built Custer and the Southern Black Hills, was widely known and appreciated. He devoted his time to researching the rich history of Custer and the surrounding environs. Delmer will be forever remembered for his knowledge and accuracy of the history of this entire region. He was a true asset for the Custer County Historical Society and 1881 Courthouse Museum.

He passed away peacefully at the Custer Regional Senior Care, December 12, 2016. Burial was at the Brown Family plot in the Custer Cemetery following services at the Custer Lutheran Fellowship on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

In his Last Will and Testament, Delmer set aside a fund and an extensive collection of local history manuscripts for the 1881 Courthouse Museum. The fund and historical collection will be used to establish the "*Delmer Brown Memorial Library and Research Center*" at the Museum.

The Museum Trustees have approved the appointment of a Special Committee to undertake the task of organizing the materials and establishing the "Research Center" in the Museum during the coming months. Appointed to the Committee are Mary Myers, Chairperson, Paul Horsted, Chuck Cochran, Tom Martin and Oonagh Wood, members.

## NEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

Sue Knudtson named President of the Custer County at the January meeting. Sue replaced Bruce Doughty who assumed the office of Vice President. Sue has been very active in Museum activities over the years. She serves as Chairperson of the annual "Old Time Country Fair", and has been active in implementing the Museum Assessment Program and is a regular volunteer in the Museum's Preservation and Collections Committee

Other Officers include Ralph Sowder, Treasurer, and Rachel Nepper, Secretary. Board of Directors include R.E. "Dusty" Dustman, Edie Dustman, Betty Souder, Don Mitchinson, and Keith Katsch.

Monthly membership meetings begin at 2:00 pm  
On the first Saturday of the month with refreshments  
Served at 2:15 pm and programs beginning at 2:30 pm.



War II.

**Sue Knudtson**

## 2017 PROGRAMS

**APRIL 1 – ARLEY FADNESS**  
Custer area author and clergyman will present a program about the outlaw Cole Younger.

**MAY 6 – KEITH JOHNSON**  
Rapid City leader of "Custer's Trail Riders". He will present a program on the 41 year history of that organization.

**JUNE 3 – TOM TSNOW**  
Ft. Meade Museum Director will Present a program on the historical characters connected to Ft. Meade.

**JULY – AUGUST –**

**No programs presented**

**OCTOBER 7 – KATIE SMITH**  
Katie will present her family's history and life during the pioneer years in Custer County.

**NOV. 4 – JUNE STENDER**  
June will share her research on Peleliu Island during World

*Enjoy your summer more:*

*Volunteer at the museum!*

Dozens of Custer residents enhance the enjoyment of living in this community by spending a couple hours a week volunteering as "hosts/hostess" at the 1881 Courthouse Museum. Each year this museum hosts several thousand people from all 50 states and more than 20 foreign countries who take time out of their vacation travels to enjoy learning about the colorful history of Custer and the Black Hills.

You can be a part of this experience by adding your name to the list of volunteers already

## v.i.p cards

The 1881 Courthouse Museum and the Black Hills and Badlands Association will kick off the summer months this year by renewing the ‘volunteer/employee’ training, known as the VIP Program.

Each volunteer receives the VIP Card which offers reduced charge or FREE admission to several dozen Black Hills attractions. The program is a part of BH&B organization’s effort to help those who work in the tourism industry to learn how other attraction employees/volunteers greet and serve their customers/visitors. There is no charge for this program which is offered to all 1881 Courthouse Museum volunteers.

## OLD TIME COUNTRY FAIR

Mark your calendar for the 2017 Old Time Country Fair. This year’s event will be held at the 1881 Courthouse Museum grounds beginning Saturday July 1 – Sunday July 2 – Monday July 3 & Tuesday July 4. Several new vendors will be added to this years event which is open to the public from 10 am to 7 pm.

The Annual Kid’s Parade will be held on Tuesday July 4<sup>th</sup>. This very popular event hosts youngsters from throughout the Custer area who dress up in red, white and blue colors, decorate their bicycles and wagons, and march proudly down Custer’s Main Street, leading the Patriotic Parade beginning at 10:00 am. All participants meet at 9:00 am at the “Sk8” (skate park) just west of Lynn’s Dakotamart.

Anyone who would like to help prepare the kids for the parade is asked to contact the 1881 Courthouse Museum at 673-2443 (or e-mail [1881courthousemuseum@gwtc.net](mailto:1881courthousemuseum@gwtc.net) to volunteer for this two-hour task.

## MEMBERS OF 1881 COURTHOUSE MUSEUM TRUSTEES

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