



Theodore Roosevelt™

MEDORA FOUNDATION

ROUGH RIDER REVIEW

1-800-MEDORA-1

NOVEMBER 2008

www.medora.com

Thank You...

Medora sits twenty-five miles from North Dakota's western border. Yet it is at the center of the state's tourism appeal. Medora has a population of less than 100 people, and the population within a 75-mile radius is more appropriately measured in the number of cattle and oil rigs. Still, state leaders find their way to the little town for patriotic parades and important celebrations, and congressional delegates hold town hall meetings here. Medora has no billboards or neon signs to announce that it is near as you travel the interstate. It is a wonder how three million people have discovered this place to enjoy the *Medora Musical* over the years.

In 2008, gas prices rose over \$4 a gallon and nationally tourism declined 13%; yet, Medora had a good year. The Musical was down 3.5%; the Pitchfork Fondue was up 2.8%; room occupancy was up; overall business was up close to 6%. Annual members and season pass holders totaled over 600 for the first time! We are immensely thankful for the season just completed and for our loyal Medora visitors.

What an amazing season it was! Job Christenson, the *Medora Musical's* featured singer, left audiences breathless with his vocals and dancing. We celebrated 50 years of shows on June 30th with the grand opening of the beautiful new Medora Musical Welcome Center. Volunteers occupied the new "Spirit of Work Lodge". In September, we proudly presented "Legendary TR" featuring Clay Jenkinson. It was an outstanding presentation of authentic history in a most entertaining style – we look forward to more special productions of this format. Quietly, work has begun on one of our most significant projects ever – refurbishing the Rough Riders Hotel and Dining Room and the expansion that will feature 68 new guest rooms, conference facility and beautiful new kitchen.

This summer the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foun-

dation (TRMF) was honored to invite Mrs. Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States of America, to visit North Dakota. Special thank you to Nancy Schafer and US Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer for the suggestion! That invitation led to an historic visit in early October that included a private dinner hosted by the Medora Foundation at the University of Mary's Harold Schafer Leadership Center attended by twenty-one guests including Governor John and Mikey Hoeven, Nancy Schafer, TRMF Chairman Frank Larson and TR National Park Superintendent Valerie Naylor. It was a privilege for me to attend as well.

Our own Job Christenson entertained with his stirring renditions of "Medora" and "Come Home to North Dakota". The First Lady was so taken by Job's performance that she invited him to come to the White House on October 27 to perform the same two songs at the official 150th birthday celebration for Theodore Roosevelt. Laurie and I (*photo below with President George W. Bush and Laura Bush*) were part of the North Dakota delegation in attendance to hear Job perform, accompanied by former TRMF board member Joel Gilbertson on the piano.



I titled this article "Thank You." The thanks are for a good 2008 season. They are also personal thanks for the opportunity to be part of exciting projects and events.

In September, I celebrated my 20th anniversary of working for the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. It has been most enjoyable. The landscape out here does something to you – it captures you the moment you enter it and it places you in a good state of mind. And the people

who work for us are special; they love taking care of our visitors. There is no question that is part of the legacy left by Harold Schafer and Rod Tjaden.

Hope to see you back in Medora in 2009.

Randy Hatzenbuehler, President

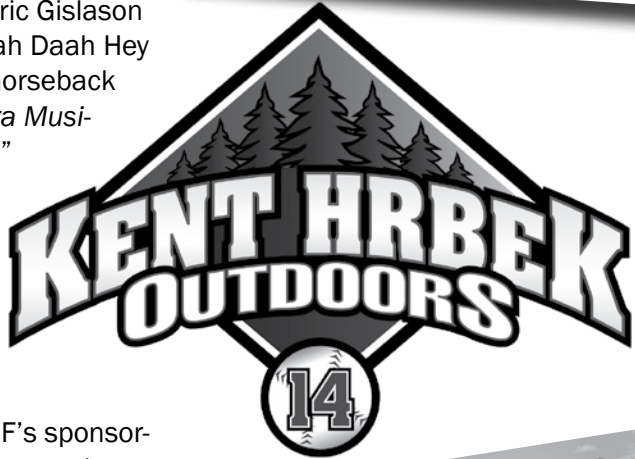
Baseball Hero Enjoys Historic Medora

One of the all-time favorite players for the Minnesota Twins, Kent Hrbek, paid a visit to Historic Medora this summer. The two-time World Series Champion spent several days with his production crew of *Kent Hrbek Outdoors* exploring the wide range of outdoor activities Medora offers for visitors.

In the spring of 2009, *Kent Hrbek Outdoors* will dedicate an entire episode to Historic Medora. Viewers will see Kent Hrbek and the show’s producer Eric Gislason golfing at Bully Pulpit, mountain biking the Maah Daah Hey Trail, cooking steaks at the Pitchfork Fondue, horseback riding in the badlands, and enjoying the *Medora Musical*. “We kept them busy while they were here,” notes Wade Westin, Marketing Director for TRMF. “They had a great time in Medora and especially enjoyed the Bully Pulpit Golf Course.” Both Hrbek and Gislason indicated that they would love to come back to Medora with their families.

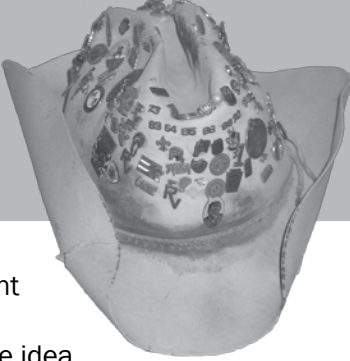
Hrbek’s visit was prompted by the TRMF’s sponsorship of *Kent Hrbek Outdoors* in 2009. While the popular show typically focuses on hunting and fishing, a handful of episodes are geared toward tourism. “Since Medora is full of unique outdoor experiences, *Kent Hrbek Outdoors* seemed like a good sponsorship opportunity,” explains Westin. “We hope to attract outdoor enthusiasts from across the upper Midwest.”

TRMF will send an e-mail to anyone signed up for the Medora Minute, our online newsletter, once a date has been chosen for the Medora episode. To register for the Medora Minute, go to our website, www.medora.com.



Under Harold's Hat

Sharing information about Harold Schafer and his vision and ideas for Medora.



As work progresses on the rebuilding of the Rough Riders Hotel for the second time, we thought you might enjoy these excerpts from a Bismarck Tribune story on June 29, 1963, when the hotel was being rebuilt for the first time. On that day, the historic hotel looked much as it does today—the outside walls were standing, but everything inside had been stripped out in preparation for a total reconstruction. The Tribune reported: “The two-story structure is being taken apart piece by piece and brick by brick.” This was the beginning of Harold’s involvement in Medora. My, how far we’ve come in 45 years!

“The hotel project is the first project on our list,” Harold Schafer said. “When we rebuild it, we hope to use as much of the old hotel as possible.”

Schafer, who has businesses going nation-wide, is attacking the Medora project with the same verve and determination that built his renowned multi-million-dollar-a-year Gold Seal Co. He visits Medora frequently and when there supervises much of the work his present 10-man crew does. “It’s surprising now natural ideas come to you when you’re on the immediate scene of a project like this,” Schafer said. “When we get our hands together out here problems seem to solve themselves.”

The Bismarck benefactor to western North Dakota has no idea how much money he will spend there. He said the expenditure will probably be about \$50,000 this year. “Next year it may reach \$200,000” he said. “I don’t know, we may end up spending a million out here.”

“The money we spend on the area is not the important thing,” the founder of the Gold Seal Company said. “The whole idea behind the plan is to get people to come to Medora and establish residences so that the town can be run in a modern fashion and offer visitors what other tourist attractions offer.”

“This is one of the places in the state that I have loved since childhood,” the Stanton-born businessman said. “I have often thought that if I ever did anything for my home state, Medora would be on the top of the list.”

“Restoring Medora is a worthwhile project,” Schafer said. “It will be good for the area, state and entire Midwest.” Schafer explained that the town will always be an expenditure for him. “I don’t care how much I spend here,” he said. “The idea is to get young ambitious people to come to the area to live and do for the state what should have been done a long time ago.” “I’ve been trying to get something like this done out here for years,” Medora mayor Walter Ray, a 74-year-old native of Billings County, said. Ray said he once went to see former Gov.

John Davis while Davis was in office, seeking aid in creating interest in Medora, and Davis told him “Walter, what you need is an angel with a million dollars . . .”

Mayor Ray smiled: “He was right, and now we got one.”

Note: As the current renovation project began, long time Medora resident Bruce Northrop showed up at the hotel to take a look. Bruce was one of the “ten man crew” the Tribune referred to in 1963. Bruce pointed out the original wood from the 1885 Rough Riders Hotel and Joe Ferris Store that had been used in the 1963-64 reconstruction. TRMF’s maintenance foreman John Hild had his crew save much of that original 123-year-old wood, and it will be used once again on an interior wall in the newly renovated hotel, which is slated to re-open in June of 2009.



Group Sales Department 2008

By Sara A. Chorne
Group Sales Director

Each year, our spring and fall shoulder season for group events continues to grow. In 2008, our first group arrived in April and the last group was on the 18th of October! Throughout the entire 2008 season, we arranged approximately 408 groups and events. We saw a huge variety of groups come through Medora, from 500 CANDISC participants biking throughout western North Dakota to the Hunting Dakota with Roosevelt event, our final October group in which individuals had the opportunity to hunt with Tweed Roosevelt.

With the new Rough Riders Hotel Project underway, the group sales department is preparing for year-round events and groups. It is an extremely exciting time and the “buzz” about our new facilities is definitely being heard. We already have groups interested in our new facilities for 2010.

The end of the summer also marked a huge change. Laurie Hatzenbuehler resigned her position as the Group Sales Director. She will certainly be missed, but we are sure she will make plenty of visits and will remain a familiar face in Medora.

Our Mission

PRESERVE
PRESENT
SERVE

the values and traditions of the Old West embodied in the pioneer cattle town of Historic Medora and the “Bully Spirit” of Theodore Roosevelt.

opportunities for visitors to relive their patriotic heritage and be educated and inspired through interpretive programs, museums and attractions that focus on the Old West and the life of Theodore Roosevelt in the Badlands.

the traveling public, providing for their comfort while visiting Historic Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park.



TRMF Continues to Grow



Mike Beaudoin has recently accepted the position of Rough Riders Hotel General Manager and Hospitality Manager for TRMF properties. Born in Dickinson and raised in Bismarck, Mike currently lives in Dickinson and has spent the past 22 years working for Republic Beverage. He is looking forward to moving to Medora and excited for the challenges that lie ahead with TRMF and the new Rough Riders Hotel expansion project. The Medora connection is strong in the Beaudoin family – Mike’s wife Kathy has served as TRMF’s food service director since 2005, and son Brandon and daughter Chivas both worked in Medora in 2008. Outside of work, Mike enjoys golfing and hunting.



Sara Chorne is excited to step into the role of Group Sales Director for TRMF. A seasonal employee since 2001, she looks forward to the challenges the new Rough Riders Hotel lodging and conference center will present. Sara earned a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of North Dakota and pursued her master’s degree in public policy from Birkbeck College University of London. Prior to her master’s studies abroad, Sara interned with a member of parliament with the British Government in London. The daughter of Donovan and Judy, Sara grew up in South Heart and is the youngest of four. Sara is an aspiring seamstress who loves to cook and is famous for her great cheesecakes and love of shoes.



Ann Hill has taken on the duties of receptionist and administrative assistant in TRMF’s Bismarck office. Ann holds a degree in communications from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Originally from Minot, Ann and husband Brian reside in Bismarck with their three children – Hanna (6), Holly (4), and Henry (1). She says her hobbies include cleaning up after kids, driving kids around town, and changing diapers! Ann has really enjoyed her time at TRMF so far and finds everyone to be friendly and welcoming. The Hills had a wonderful family trip to Medora this summer and look forward to many more in the future.



Luke Hoerig has enjoyed his first season as assistant superintendent of Bully Pulpit Golf Course. Luke hails from Tiffin, Ohio, and holds a degree in turfgrass management from Ohio State University. Before coming to Bully Pulpit, he served two years as golf course superintendent at Red Hawk Run Golf Course in Findlay, Ohio. Seeing Bully Pulpit for the first time this spring was an unforgettable experience; at that point Luke knew Bully Pulpit would be a major step in his career. Luke is the son of Mike and Theresa and is the youngest of three siblings. He is also a huge sports fan, having played and coached sports for several years. He’s especially dedicated to Ohio State football – Go Buckeyes!



TRMF is pleased to bring on **Craig Johnson** as a full-time employee. A native of Williston, he has been a Medora seasonal employee since 2002 and has served most recently as manager of the Pitchfork Steak Fondue. Craig will continue managing the nationally-recognized Fondue in the summer and will work as maintenance personnel in the winter months. He now resides in Dickinson with his wife Tina, former Controller for the Medora Foundation. They are expecting their first child in November! A family man, Craig still makes time to play golf and watch the Nebraska Cornhuskers.



Chad Wade is one of the newest additions to the staff at Bully Pulpit Golf Course. Chad has been working as a foreman and irrigation technician on the course since April. He graduated from high school in his hometown of Baker, Montana, and earned a bachelor’s degree in Horticulture Science from Montana State University. After college, he worked briefly in the oil field before accepting his current position at Bully Pulpit. Chad has three siblings: older brother Ryan, younger brother Jason, and little sister Marni. Chad really enjoys working in Medora and is a fan of most sports, hunting, and “good clean fun”.

2008 Scholarship Winners

The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation is proud to announce the 2008 Scholarship Recipients. This year, thirty-two scholarships for a total of \$24,000 were awarded to deserving student employees. Thank you to all of the people who make this possible! Please log on to our website to learn the story behind the scholarships, and meet the donors who made them possible, at: www.medora.com/employment/scholarships.html.

Tjaden Educational Assistance Fund

This year, TRMF awarded twenty-five \$500 Tjaden scholarships to seasonal student employees. Students must demonstrate leadership skills, outstanding job performance, and the ability to positively affect co-workers and visitors to Medora. The fund was established in honor of Rod and Sandy Tjaden.

- ^ Aaron Axvig—Bismarck, ND

^ Vanessa Grabinger—Jamestown, ND
- Jaclyn Bauer—Carpio, ND

Simon Fisher—Fargo, ND
- Andrew Beske—Anoka, MN

Lisa Green—Glendive, MT
- Melissa Brown—Washburn, ND

Alexis Harstad—Stanley, ND
- Melissa Cherrey—Fairview, MT

Laura Heide—Dickinson, ND
- Alyssa Dishon—Sidney, MT

Justin Keller—Wahpeton, ND
- Patrick Doyle—Rapid City, SD

Mary Jo Krile—Forest River, ND
- Kristan Faul—Max, ND

Benjamin Kubik—Dickinson, ND
- * Mathew Larson—New Rockford, ND

Tyler Maasjo—Valley City, ND
- Jacquelyn Matejcek—Lakota, ND

Laura Odland—Velva, ND
- Jessica Schmitz—Perham, MN

Richard Siegel—Abercrombie, ND
- Erica Sponsler—Thompson, ND

Julie Stoen—Valley City, ND
- Elizabeth Weiss—Hartland, WI

^Denotes Tim Johnson Award - an award given in honor of Tim Johnson to student workers who positively influence guests and co-workers through courage and humor and exhibit leadership.
*Denotes Winston Satran Award - an award given in honor of Winston Satran to a student worker who demonstrates leadership through compassion, patience, and, most of all, hard work.

Don Hubbard University of North Dakota Awards

This scholarship is provided through the Tjaden Educational Assistance Fund and is financed by Joanne Hubbard. The scholarship is in the amount of \$1,500 each and is given to two students attending the University of North Dakota each year.

- Caitlin Draper - Fargo, ND
- Darrick Thorson - Fargo, ND

Minot State University Board of Regents Awards

A joint scholarship program established by the Minot State University Board of Regents, the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, and Minot State University. This scholarship funds up to four \$1,500 scholarships to Minot State University students employed in Medora.

- Jacob Braaten - Thermopolis, WY
- Sarah Meduna - Plaza, ND
- Kayla Sell - Knox, ND
- Jeremiah Swenson - Stanley, ND

Sheila Schafer “Sunshine Award”

This \$1,000 scholarship is given in honor of Sheila Schafer and funded by Madge Rieke. The winner of this scholarship is a student worker who is a true “day-maker” - someone who enriches the lives of co-workers and guests through a positive attitude, energy in their work, and genuine kindness.

- Nicholas LeTang—Colstrip, MT

1-800-MEDORA-1

Bunkhouse Package

- 1 Night Lodging for two at The Bunkhouse
- 2 *Medora Musical* tickets
- 2 Pitchfork Steak Fondue tickets

Starting at
\$159 plus tax
subject to availability
additional on weekends

1-800-MEDORA-1

Badlands Package

- 1 Night Lodging for two at the Badlands Motel
- 2 *Medora Musical* tickets
- 2 Pitchfork Steak Fondue tickets

Starting at
\$219 plus tax
subject to availability
additional on weekends

1-800-MEDORA-1

Maltese Cross Ranch

By Steph Tinjum
Personnel Director

A fifteen-minute drive south of Medora over winding gravel roads will lead you to the Maltese Cross Ranch. The first of two ranches owned by Theodore Roosevelt in Dakota Territory, the Maltese paints a serene scene – badlands buttes frame the horizon in every direction, wild turkeys strut through a grove of trees, and the only audible sound is the breeze rustling the crisp fall leaves.

The Maltese Cross Ranch does not, however, sit vacant. John Hild has spent his entire life on this ranch and hopes to stay there until the end of his days. Hild, Maintenance Director for the Medora Foundation, has owned the ranch for more than a quarter-century and runs a herd of nearly 200 Black Angus cattle on the 1,100 acre spread.

The Maltese passed through a handful of private owners after TR's departure from Dakota Territory. Hild's father Joe purchased the ranch in 1958, the year John was born. When on the ranch, Joe developed a keen interest in Theodore Roosevelt's life and amassed a collection of books by and about Roosevelt. (The collection is now located in the Masonic Lodge in Belfield). The Hilds also acquired items of interest from members of the Roosevelt family throughout the years including original contracts between Roosevelt and Joe and Sylvane Ferris.

From San Juan Hill to Medora

In the early 1940s, long time Badlands rancher Palmer Nelson (*photo below*) was a teenager living with his family on a farm near Mobridge, South Dakota. Palmer's father, a World War I veteran, was hospitalized in a Veterans' Hospital in Chicago after a severe accident, and Palmer, then 16, was the "man of the house," helping look after his mother and four siblings, all younger than him.

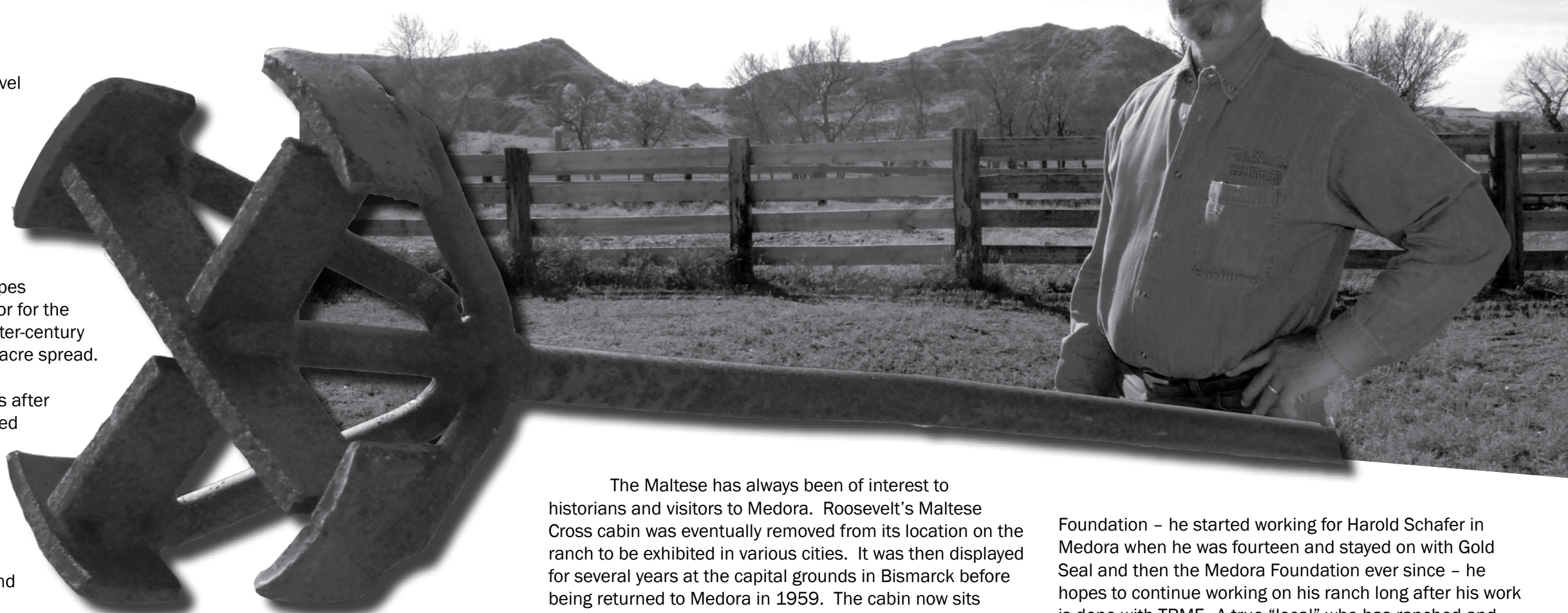
Because of his injuries, Palmer's father wasn't able to write, so his roommate at the hospital, a fellow by the name of E.R. Millard, wrote letters for him and sent them back to the family in Mobridge. Palmer's father died from his injuries in 1942. Nearly ten years later, Palmer enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was going to boot camp and machinist's mate school at Great Lakes Naval Station near Chicago. He looked up Mr. Millard, by then a very old man, and went to see him at his home in Chicago.



It was then, Palmer said, that Millard told him stories of being at Cuba's Battle of San Juan Hill with the U.S. Army Infantry in 1898. Since Millard was in the infantry, and Theodore Roosevelt in the cavalry, Millard did not remember their paths crossing, but remembered the battle and the day well, Palmer said.

Efforts are underway to determine if E.R. Millard is any relation to Candice Millard, author of the best-selling book *River of Doubt*, about Theodore Roosevelt's trip through the South American jungle.

Palmer, meanwhile, left the Mobridge area when the family farm was flooded by the waters of Lake Oahe in the 1950s, and settled on a ranch in the North Dakota Badlands west of Grassy Butte, a ranch he still owns. He has since moved to Dickinson, and is a supporter of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation.



The Maltese has always been of interest to historians and visitors to Medora. Roosevelt's Maltese Cross cabin was eventually removed from its location on the ranch to be exhibited in various cities. It was then displayed for several years at the capital grounds in Bismarck before being returned to Medora in 1959. The cabin now sits behind the Theodore Roosevelt National Park visitor center. The Hild family gave permission for a sign to be erected on the ranch marking the cabin's original location. Visitors are welcome to drive up to the cabin site and look around; John keeps the guest book his father started, which includes visitors from 47 U.S. states and 13 Canadian provinces.

John purchased the ranch from his father in 1981 and worked for several years to secure the Maltese Cross brand for use on his own cattle and horses. He felt it was important to tie the brand to the history of the land.

Hild clearly appreciates the Maltese's significant history, but is even more taken by the land itself. Standing at the ranch, he sweeps his arm over the landscape. "I own everything you can see," he says with a grin, "...so I still have some space." John loves ranching in the badlands and finds it to be a stress-reliever from his job as maintenance director in town. While Hild enjoys his job with the Medora

Foundation – he started working for Harold Schafer in Medora when he was fourteen and stayed on with Gold Seal and then the Medora Foundation ever since – he hopes to continue working on his ranch long after his work is done with TRMF. A true "local" who has ranched and hunted the area his entire life, Hild is often looked to as a knowledgeable hunting guide, a resource for locating property lines, and an unofficial historian.

When asked about the future of his ranch and others', John recognizes that more and more area ranchers are getting out of the business. Many area families are selling land to out-of-state residents looking for recreation and hunting property.

While he can certainly relate to new-comers' desire to purchase land in the beautiful badlands, he hates to see land once passed through family generations divided up. Hild would like to see his children take over ownership of the Maltese Cross Ranch when he's gone; however, John doesn't plan to go anytime soon!

**"I own everything you can see,
... so I still have some space."**



46,000 steaks!

By Bryce Haugen
Operations Manager

Imagine serving an average of over 460 people in less than an hour for 100 nights straight, all while listening to toe-tapping music performed by band and cast members of the *Medora Musical*. The famously delicious Pitchfork Steak Fondue held at the Tjaden Terrace did just that from May 30th through September 6th this year. It was a tremendous summer up on the bluff that overlooks the Little Missouri River, the town of Medora, and the North Dakota Badlands.

Cargill Inc. of West Fargo generously donated all of the NuSun sunflower oil used to cook the 46,000 steaks. The oil is heated to nearly 400 degrees to cook the steaks which TRMF purchases from Mandan based company M&W Meats.

Another welcome donation for the Fondue was made by Brian Weigel who had a desire to place benches along the walkway surrounding the Tjaden Terrace. Brian donated



The Shirley Family enjoys a meal at the Pitchfork Steak Fondue.

funds to purchase five benches for the site in 2008. They were utilized and enjoyed by many throughout the summer.

The combination of a fantastic product put out by an excellent staff in a unique location has made the Fondue very popular with guests from all over the world who visit Medora.

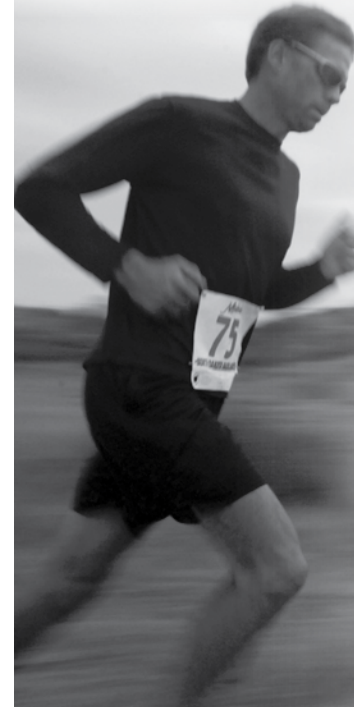


TRMF President Randy Hatzenbuhler and Brian Weigel sit on one of the benches Brian donated to the Pitchfork Steak Fondue this summer.



TRMF President Randy Hatzenbuhler accepted a gift this past summer from the estate of the late Alwin Carus which will help fund a library area in the new Rough Riders Hotel and Dining Room in Medora. Representing the Carus estate were Dickinson attorney Bruce Howe, center, and Edward Carus, nephew of Alwin Carus, right.

Trail Run A Thing of Beauty



The breath-taking beauty of the Maah Daah Hey Trail was highlighted on September 6th at the 3rd Annual Badlands Trail Run hosted by the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. The challenging 5K and 10K event attracted nearly 130 participants from North Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nevada, Oregon, and California – as well as the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario.

Starting at the Tjaden Terrace, runners and walkers headed west and were soon running and walking the single

track of the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Many positive comments were heard about the course. "As a runner who has participated in hundreds of races, I really enjoyed this race immensely," noted Bryan Wetch of Bismarck. "The beauty and serenity of the Badlands really made this race special." Several runners from the Fargo area were delighted by the opportunity to run a more rugged course than the usual terrain of eastern North Dakota.

The 4th Annual Badlands Trail Run will take place on Saturday, August 29, 2009.

Bully Run • Saturday, June 6, 2009
Badlands Trail Run • Saturday, August 29, 2009

Home for Christmas



*Job Christenson
and
Joel Gilbertson's
New Christmas CD*

**For more information
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701-223-4800**

Medora's Old Fashioned Cowboy Christmas



Friday, December 5, 2008

- 4:30 PM Oyster Stew at Cowboy Café
- 6:30 PM Wreath Ceremony, Streets of Medora ends at Medora Community Center (MCC)
- 7:00 PM Jamboree at MCC, Military Veterans Award
- 8:30 PM Dance at MCC, Music by Thunder Road

Saturday, December 6, 2008

- 10AM - 3 PM Hay/Wagon Rides at MCC
- Quilt Show @ Americlnn
- 10AM - 4 PM North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame Activities, Cowboy Poetry
- 9AM - 5 PM Chateau de Mores Activities
- 11AM - 2 PM Eats on the Streets All About Town
- 1 PM Fowl Fling at MCC
- TR National Park – Activities
- 4 PM Mass at MCC
- 5 - 7 PM Christmas Dinner at MCC
- 7:30 PM Winter Wonderland Fireworks, Bluffs east of MCC
- 8:00 PM Christmas Dance at MCC, Music by Thunder Road

More information: contact the Medora CVB at 701-623-4829



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- ★ Medora Musical
- ★ Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- ★ Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- ★ General Medora Gifts



2008 Medora Musical: A Milestone Season!

By Kinley R. Slauter
Amphitheatre Manager

The 2008 *Medora Musical* season will be remembered as a special year for the show and its home—the Burning Hills Amphitheatre. This season marked the 50th summer of entertainment at this one-of-a-kind venue. We started the season by opening the all-new Medora Musical Welcome Center which tells the story of the Burning Hills Amphitheater and Medora. Features include costume displays, large photo exhibits, an archival video, and models of both the original theater and the reconstructed version. As they toured the building, countless grandparents could be overheard telling their young grandchildren of the days when a long climb up scoria stairways was the only way out of the theater. We celebrated the 50th year milestone throughout the season but special events were held on June 30th to mark the occasion.



They included:

- Ribbon-cutting and press conference to celebrate the opening of the Medora Musical Welcome Center. Cast members from the Burning Hills Amphitheatre’s premiere production, “Old Four Eyes”, served as honored guests and joined in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Guests included Merle and Rose Marie Aus, John Olsrud, John Gengler, Charley Tibor, and Roswell Henke. Patricia Decker, representing her late son, Kester, also joined.

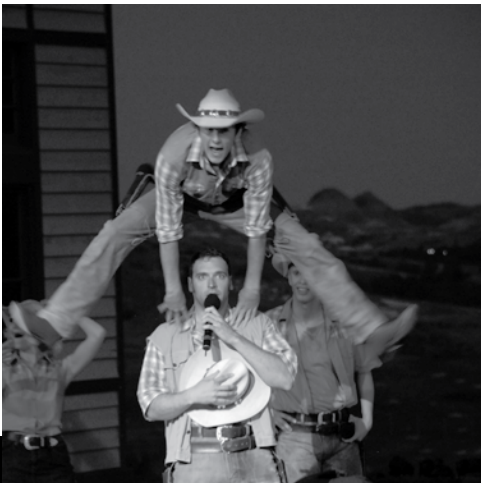
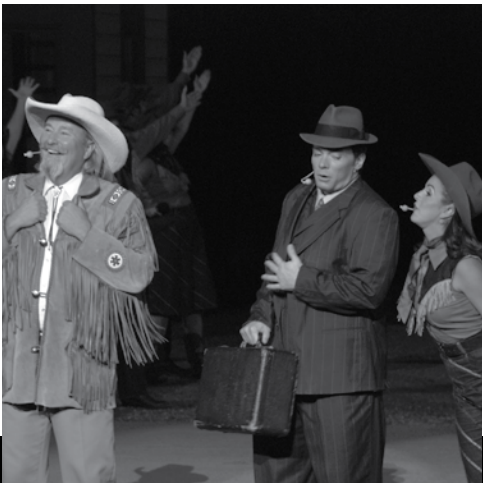


- KFYZ-TV, North Dakota’s NBC affiliate of Bismarck, broadcast live from the Burning Hills Amphitheatre stage.
- Everyone joined in the celebration – the audience was treated to birthday cake as they entered the amphitheatre.
- A pre-show presentation recognized original cast members of “Old Four Eyes” and thanked all whose dedication, imagination, and work started the theater and aided through the years.

- Following the performance a professionally produced fireworks spectacular capped off the memorable evening.

Throughout the summer, audiences were delighted by the professional performance of the cast of the *Medora Musical*. Job Christenson singing “You Raise Me Up”, incredible instrumentals by our band, the Coal Diggers, solid entertainment by comedian George Casey, and consistent top notch performances will likely be remembered as the 2008 highlights by the staff and audiences alike.

The Burning Hills Amphitheatre is definitely a unique place and the *Medora Musical*—with its patriotic and family values—is indeed rare. Perhaps our most important and valuable asset is our loyal audience. Without this dedicated family the past fifty years (not to mention the next fifty), such a unique experience would have been impossible. Thank YOU!



Another great summer at *Bully Pulpit*

By Dave Solga
Golf Operations Manager

If I had to sum up the 2008 season in just one word it would be “Awesome” - one of the best seasons ever. The golf course has matured into one of the finest venues in the upper Midwest. Golfers from all over the nation continue to come to golf in North Dakota because of what they have heard about the course through word of mouth or national publications.

The open, dry winter of 2007 posed some challenges for several golf courses in the region, and Bully Pulpit was no exception. We experienced grass loss on several putting surfaces at the start of the season. The maintenance staff diligently implemented recuperative efforts to recover from this condition and by mid-season the greens were rolling exceptionally smooth. My hat comes off in appreciation to Golf Course Superintendent Kyle Fick and his crew for a job well done. The entire course looked and played the best it ever has—something like that just doesn’t happen on its own.

Groups and outing rounds exceeded the anticipated budgeted rounds. Across the board, we had a profitable year by achieving the set revenue goals.

The fourth annual Rod Tjaden Memorial Golf Tournament, sponsored by Jerry Meier of Valley Imports of Fargo, was very successful and raised just under \$30,000 for TRMF’s scholarship fund. We enjoyed a full field of players with great sponsorship participation. We even witnessed a hole-in-one made during the event on number twelve, a par 3, playing 173 yards. Dustin Moore of Dickinson won a 2008 Harley Davidson Motorcycle with his ace! Craig Larson’s Starion Financial team was the gross winner and Jerry Meier’s team won the net. This event continues to grow and we strive to make it even better in years to come.

Future baseball hall-of-famer Kent Hrbek of the two-time World Series winning Minnesota Twins brought his traveling TV show *Kent Hrbek Outdoors* to Medora and Bully Pulpit this year. Kent and his staff filmed and enjoyed playing 18 holes of golf and experienced Medora for the first time. They were pleasantly surprised. Kent was quoted as

saying “Bully Pulpit is the best I have ever played, and I have played a lot of them”. The show is due to air in the spring of 2009.

I’ve always said, “Bully Pulpit is one of those courses that the more you play it, the more you want to play it again”. We have created some exciting opportunities for golfers to play multiple times in a season with a chance to save and be rewarded as a loyal customer. The new Bully Pulpit Players Card qualifies players for savings on green fees and merchandise. We started selling them this fall and they are already a hit.

For 2009, we will be offering creative saving opportunities through our website. Players will be able to print coupons from the website and save. Be sure to check out our website at www.medora.com for these great offerings—discounts will only be available online. In addition, if you are interested in making tee time reservations, receiving a tournament packet, purchasing a gift card or triple challenge card, or have further questions, please call 1-800-633-6721.



For the 5th consecutive year, former TRMF Board Member Clem Weber brought his busloads of golfers from Bismarck to Medora in September to play Bully Pulpit Golf Course and to take advantage of special group rates on green fees and lunch, and. This year, two buses with 112 golfers came to spend a day golfing in the Badlands. Pictured here on a beautiful fall day are Clem Weber, Tim Herman, Gary Buck and Jim Gaarder.



“Come Home to North Dakota” Medora Alumni Homecoming 2009 Sunday, July 5, 2009

Calling all past employees of the Gold Seal Company, the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, and *Medora Musical* cast and crew! Come home to Medora for an Alumni Reunion Event. This will be a great opportunity to remember your time working in Medora, reconnect with past employees, and enjoy Medora in 2009. Schedule of events and RSVP form are available online at www.medora.com/alumni or by calling 1-800-633-6721.

Help us spread the word to friends and family who have worked in Medora!

New – “Alumni News”: Let us know what you have been up to! Submit personal and professional milestones to personnel@medora.com, attn: Alumni News. This will be a new feature in our biannual newsletter.



Construction begins on the Rough Riders Hotel Dining and Conference Center

Forty-five years ago, Harold Schafer started his restoration of Medora by taking down the dilapidated but historic Rough Riders Hotel and, under the watchful eye of a historical architect and the careful attention to detail of a few local carpenters, rebuilt it to recreate a piece of Medora’s history. It was the beginning of an effort to build a visitor destination for North Dakotans that continues to this day under the care of a foundation Harold created, the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation.

Today, that process is underway again. In early September, again under the eye of an architect, the interior of the hotel Harold gave us was removed and a total renovation of this historic structure began. By the time we’re done with phase one next spring, we’ll have eight historic rooms re-created on the second floor above a brand new dining room, lounge, kitchen and spectacular lobby full of historical displays. We’re call-

ing that part of the project our Historic Inn, and it will be a significant piece of the preservation of Medora’s history. By spring of 2010, we’ll have added a meeting and banquet center with space for groups of up to 200 people, and 68 new guest rooms.

When we’re done, we’ll have spent \$12.5 million on a modern facility with a historic feel, a visual and economic enhancement to the work already done by Harold and the Foundation he created. It’s the biggest project ever taken on by the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. It’s fun to watch the work in progress. Please stop by and visit us this winter and spring for a quick tour of the project. We’re eager to start showing it off! We’ll have the official ribbon cutting on the restoration of the historic hotel at our Rough Riders Roundup next June 20-21. Mark your calendars now!

**ROUGH RIDERS HOTEL
AND DINING ROOM
MEDORA, N. DAK.**

Legendary Theodore Roosevelt

By Wade Westin
Marketing and PR Director

This year marked the 150th Birthday of Theodore Roosevelt and the 125th Anniversary since he first arrived in the North Dakota Badlands. These two milestones were cause for a day-long celebration of Roosevelt’s legacy on September 13th in Historic Medora.

The event kicked off at the Old Town Hall Theater with a re-enactment of Roosevelt’s presidential inauguration. Nationally-acclaimed humanities scholar Clay Jenkinson portrayed Theodore Roosevelt, while Don Ehli, an accomplished actor with Medora’s *History Alive!* program, presided over the inaugural event as the Honorable John R. Hazel. In true Roosevelt fashion, a press conference was held immediately following the Oath of Office enabling any audience members in the standing-room-only theater to ask questions of the 26th President of the United States.

Following lunch, enthusiastic history buffs ventured over to the new Chateau de Mores Interpretive Center for Haunting Memories. Accomplished *History Alive!* performer Karen Nelson brought Madame de Mores to life, recalling her life from the French Riviera to Dakota Territory. In these recollections, the Marquis de Mores was brought to life by another talented *History Alive!* actor, Lance Rustand. Due to the large

crowd in attendance, an extra performance was added. This September day was unusually cold and wet with continual rain showers. The main event of the day, the *Legendary Theodore Roosevelt*, was scheduled to be held at the Burning Hills Amphitheatre. In quick fashion TRMF employees swarmed to help move the production to the Medora Community Center. With only short delay, more than 700 people were seated comfortably inside the Community Center’s grand hall for an outstanding performance.

The *Legendary Theodore Roosevelt* began with a wonderful welcome on behalf of the State of North Dakota from Lieutenant Governor Jack Dalrymple. Accompanied by pianist extraordinaire Joel Gilbertson of Bismarck, *Medora Musical* standout Job Christenson delighted the audience with his beautiful tenor voice and his rendition of “Come Home to North Dakota/ Medora”. Then the entertainment shifted gears to the old cowboy culture that Theodore Roosevelt experienced here in the North Dakota Badlands. Clay Jenkinson captivated the audience with his portrayal of Roosevelt, describing with colorful detail the stories, adventures, and life-changing experiences that shaped our 26th President. Bill Lowman, local rancher and nationally-known cowboy poet, brought to life cowboy poetry from T.R.’s era. The authentic cowboy culture continued with traditional cowboy songs of the Old West cattle trail performed by Merrill Piepkorn, Prairie Public Radio personality, and accomplished musician Greg Temple. Gilbertson and Christenson capped off the event with a stirring patriotic medley that brought the entire audience to their feet. An original David Humphreys Miller painting was given to Clay Jenkinson by Sheila Schafer in special recognition of his dedication to Medora and North Dakota, and in appreciation for his continual study and promotion of Theodore Roosevelt. Following the presentation, the TRMF Food Service staff quickly transitioned the room for a feast that included buffalo pit barbeque. The TRMF Maintenance staff had worked through the previous night slow cooking buffalo roasts dug in a pit near the Tjaden Terrace.

A special “Thank You!” is extended to a number of sponsors who helped make the celebration possible- Prairie Public Broadcasting, Reiten Television, Inc. and the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, along with the First State Bank of Medora-Beach-Golva, Medora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, and State Historical Society of North Dakota. A “BIG Thank You!” also goes to Clay Jenkinson, who had the grand vision for the celebration. Clay produced a phenomenal program that really captured the essence of Theodore Roosevelt and the cowboy culture he experienced during his time here in the North Dakota Badlands.

Employee Spotlight

Richard Siegel

Richard Siegel’s culinary internship this past summer was the result of some leaps of faith. Originally from La Mesa, California, Richard worked as a 911 Emergency Services Dispatcher for the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department. When he suffered significant hearing loss from a phone system malfunction, he was medically retired. Always one to make lemons into lemonade, Richard decided to pursue his interest in culinary arts.

His first leap of faith: enrolling in the culinary program at North Dakota State School of Science in the fall of 2007. Though he misses home, Richard does not regret the move to Wahpeton. “North Dakota is so different! I am still trying to get used to no traffic...North Dakotans are friendlier and have a greater sense of community [than what I’m used to in California].” Mentored by Chefs Kyle Armitage and Mary Uhren, Richard has learned quality food preparation, service techniques,



organizational skills, and has been exposed to all aspects of the food industry while attending NDSCS.

Leap number two: the decision to complete an internship in Medora. After learning about Medora at a tourism and hospitality fair, his interest was sparked. Richard had never been to Medora, but in conversations with other North Dakotans he soon realized there was something special about Medora. When he arrived, he dove in head-first: “As the culinary intern, I enjoyed the exposure to all aspects of the food service operation in Medora. What a challenge!”

Richard relished countless parts of his first summer in Medora, most significantly team spirit, going the extra mile for guests, invaluable training in a real-life setting, and working closely with food service director Kathy Beaudoin. A highlight of Richard’s summer came at the 44th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, where he placed 4th in the nation! Richard is excited to join the TRMF team after graduation in May 2009 and looks forward to working in the Rough Riders Hotel’s new kitchen and all the challenges it will entail.

Ellen LeTang

Summer retail employee Ellen LeTang first worked in Medora in 1975. Ellen’s uncle worked for Harold Schafer’s Gold Seal Company and encouraged her to apply; he always talked about what a great opportunity working in Medora was. Ellen worked at the Chuckwagon and the Rough Riders Hotel Dining Room between 1975-77. When asked about the impact of her early summers in Medora, she says, “Medora was my first job and it gave me the confidence to make it on my own. With the money earned along with college loans, I paid for college without the help of my parents.”



Ellen went on to spend nearly 30 years working for Colstrip Public Schools in Colstrip, Montana, where she lived with her husband Myles and sons Adam and Nick. During a family vacation one summer,

Nick met Kathy Solga at Bully Pulpit Golf Course and was encouraged to apply to work in Medora. He was only sixteen at the time – too young to live in the dormitories on his own.

Ellen and her husband talked it over and decided to give Nick an opportunity of a lifetime in 2005: she and Nick would work in Medora and live in their family’s RV. They have both worked in Medora ever since. The decision was one of the best she could have made. Ellen feels the Medora experience helped Nick make an effortless adjustment to college life in 2007. She quotes Nick as saying, “Medora is the best thing that ever happened to me”.

Much has changed in Medora since Ellen’s first summer: many new stores and restaurants, the transition from the Gold Seal Company to the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, and scholarship and intern opportunities for young employees. Ellen has become one of TRMF’s most experienced retail employees and enjoys being involved in the entire aspect of running a store. Most of all, she enjoys meeting employees and guests from all over the world, as well as making friends for a lifetime.



ND Tourism Continues to Forge Ahead

By Jim Fuglie
Development Director

Medora Musical. The Lewis and Clark Riverboat. Fort Mandan. Custer House. Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. National Buffalo Museum. International Peace Garden. Bonanzaville. North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame. Dakota Dinosaur Museum. Norsk Høstfest.

The names on this list have two things in common: They comprise most of North Dakota’s major tourist attractions and they are all owned and managed by non-profit foundations.

If you add to the list the government-owned attractions like forts, parks, fairs and zoos, you’ve got a comprehensive list of vacation destinations in North Dakota. In a state with a fairly short tourist season and no major metropolitan centers, it’s pretty hard for private sector tourist attractions to thrive here. Indeed, most of our private sector tourist industry is centered around tourist services, such as food, lodging, fuel, and shopping.

But foundations like the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, and our friends at Fort Lincoln, Fort Mandan, the Peace Garden and others, continue to provide major attractions to our residents and visitors because we are able to rely on supporters—like those of you reading this newsletter—to provide us the financial support we need through your philanthropic gifts.

This year, all of us at tourist attractions started out by saying “Yikes!” to over \$4 gas prices. “What will that do to our visitation?” we wondered. Well, we survived that. And just when we were breathing a sigh of relief after Labor Day, we said “Yikes!” again, as the stock market dove into terri-

tory unfamiliar to us in our recent memory.

“Yikes!” because those of us at non-profit foundations rely on our donors to provide annual gifts to support our attractions and help us expand and improve what we offer to the traveling public, and because our donors are staring at shrinking portfolios this year. And yet we know we’ll survive this too. In fact, we’ll not only survive, but we’ll forge ahead, growing and expanding, and continuing to provide a better and better experience for our visitors.

At Washburn, for example, the Fort Mandan Foundation is diversifying by publishing books, producing films, and holding symposiums. At Dunseith, the International Peace Garden is plunging ahead on a new \$7 million Interpretive Center—the foundation has been poured. In Bismarck-Mandan, the Fort Lincoln Foundation is the new owner of the Lewis and Clark Riverboat. And here in Historic Medora, construction is underway on the renovation and expansion of the Rough Riders Hotel, a \$12.5 million project.

You’ve heard North Dakotans in the past boast that “we don’t participate in recessions.” Certainly those of us in the non-profit tourism world believe that. We’re counting on our loyal philanthropic supporters like you to continue helping us to move forward. Your help can start today. You’ll find a 2009 membership application form on the last page of this newsletter. Your early membership gift sends us a signal that you’re still there, believing in a strong North Dakota economy, and that you want to continue to support good causes and help provide the best possible visitor experience for North Dakotans and all our visitors.

The front pages, business pages, and news reports might be full of gloomy news, but here in Medora, and in the non-profit tourist industry in North Dakota, we’re done saying “Yikes!” and are instead saying “Let’s get going!” With your help, we will.

Roughrider Co-Op Visits Medora

Board members and managers of the Roughrider Electric Cooperative held their summer meeting at the Rough Riders Hotel in Medora this year, and then attended the Pitchfork Steak Fondue and Medora Musical. The co-op is an annual major sponsor of the Medora Musical, sponsoring Kids Day at the Musical. Kids are free at the Musical on Wednesdays all summer long, thanks to our Kids Day sponsors. Pictured in front of the historic Rough Riders Hotel are (from left) Don Franklund, Bismarck; Dave Swenson, Halliday; Bruce Darcy, Golden Valley; Troy Sailer, Golden Valley; Clayton Hoffman, Hazen; Darrell Herman, Beulah; Gary Scheid, Hazen; Dean Oe, Belfield; Ervin Binstock, New England; William Retterath, Center; Dan Price, Hensler; Alfred Dassinger, Gladstone; Roger Kudrna, Dickinson; and Greg Steckler, Dunn Center.



What a difference a year makes! The Spirit of Work Lodge One year later...

By Denis Montplaisir
Volunteer Coordinator

A year ago in October, with the air cooling and the leaves falling, a construction crew from Dickinson arrived in Medora to begin work on our newest facility: the Spirit of Work Lodge, a home for our Medora volunteer program.

One year later, we have realized the power and value of having this common living area we call the Lodge; we’ve experienced growth in relationships and camaraderie among our summer volunteers, a greater sense of comfort and renewal for them, and improved communication and sharing about lives and work. From the early risers to the “night owls,” it is clear that the Lodge is a very special place, able to meet a variety of needs and preferences for our most special summer guests, our volunteers.

Sure, there were a few adjustments to be made and items to fix. The AC remotes, doors and locks, lost or forgotten keys, carpeting, and the Canada geese that roamed the premises and left telltale signs of their presence made for some exciting times. Heck, we even had the fire and ambulance personnel there twice in one day for a plumbing related problem! However, good suggestions were made by many and by the end of the first few weeks, most of the bugs were either ironed out or trapped, and we were in high gear.

A Parking Lot Attendants Club was formed by the



make it their temporary “home.” At night, after some very long but gratifying days, everyone falls asleep under the warmth of a donated, beautiful handmade quilt!



In eleven short years, consider where we have grown to in 2008: 465 volunteers (chosen from a pool of 800 applicants) from 23 states and one Canadian province; over 25,000 hours in donated labor; and more than \$400,000 donated by the volunteers themselves—one half of the dollars raised to date for the Lodge. And in all that time, the number one hope at the start of each week continues to be, “Will I be able to come back next year?”

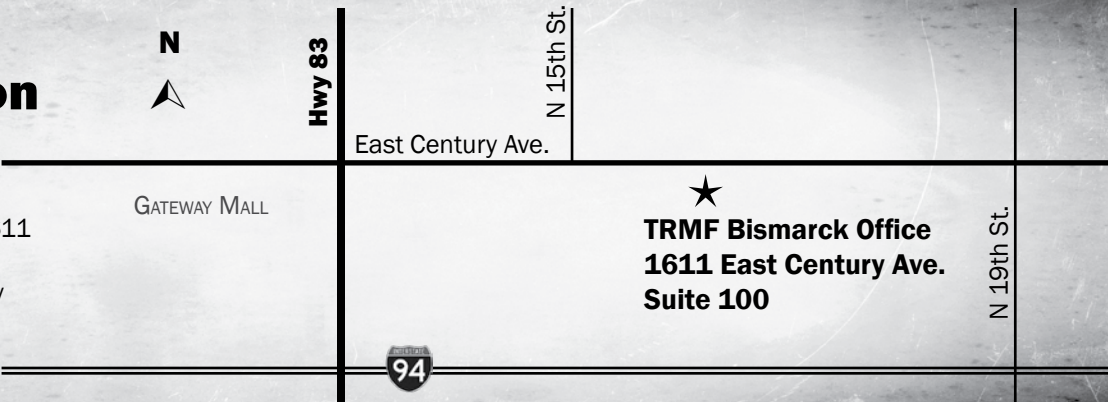
The Spirit of Work Lodge is a tangible, bricks and mortar statement that the Medora Summer Volunteer program is alive and well and is here to stay. A room is waiting for you! See you next summer!

Top: Randy and week-long volunteers June 30 - July 7 in SOW Great Room. Bottom: Volunteers Sept. 1 - 6

Our New Bismarck Location

The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation’s Bismarck office location has moved. We are now located at 1611 East Century Avenue, Suite 100, on the west end of the Great River Energy building.

Come and visit!



Foundation Carries On Harold’s Dream

As most of our readers know, when Harold Schafer sold his Gold Seal Company in 1986, he split off the Medora as-sets of the company and gave them to a brand new public foundation he established to carry on his dream for Medora. Since then, North Dakotans and others who love Medora have contributed more than \$20 million to the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation to help Medora grow. There are many ways you can help us continue to carry on Har-old’s dream, and here are a few of them:

Annual Memberships

Hundreds of Medora supporters make an annual gift by be-coming annual members of the Medora Foundation. Mem-ber-ship dues are \$250 per year and each annual member-ship comes with two Season Tickets to the *Medora Musical* as well as other benefits.

Scholarships

Each year, the Medora Foundation gives college scholar-ships to more than 30 of our best summer employees. Between their summer jobs in Medora and the scholarships they receive for their exemplary work here, many students are able to pay a good deal of their college expenses. The main fundraiser for the scholarship fund is the Rod Tjaden Memorial Golf Tournament held at Bully Pulpit Golf Course each June, but many Medora supporters give gifts directly to the scholarship fund established to honor our longtime Foundation President, Rod Tjaden.

Capital Campaigns

Nearly 4,000 supporters have contributed to the capital campaigns of the Foundation in the last 22 years. Their gifts have built the Burning Hills Amphitheatre, the Tjaden Terrace, the Bully Pulpit Golf Course, the Children’s Park, the Medora Musical Welcome Center and the Spirit of Work Lodge; now we’re at work on the \$12.5 million dollar Rough Riders Hotel and Dining Project.

Deferred Gifts

The North Dakota Legislature in 2007 added an incentive for individuals to give deferred gifts such as gift annuities to their favorite charities. Now individuals can receive a direct state income tax credit of 40 percent of their deferred gift, up to \$10,000 for an individual or \$20,000 for a couple. As a result of this law, a gift annuity with a charitable value of \$25,000, when coupled with federal income tax deductions, can actually cost the giver as little as \$11,000.

TRMF Endowment

The 2007 Legislature also passed incentives for North Dakota businesses to help their favorite foundations grow their endowment funds. Now a business that gives a gift to a qualified endowment, such as the TRMF

endowment, can receive a North Dakota income tax credit of 40 percent of their gift, up to a maximum of a \$10,000 annual credit.

Gifts of Stock

Many of our donors have appreciated stock and find gifts of that stock can both assist the Foundation and help cut their tax liability.

Memorials

When a loved one passes, memorials are always appropri-ate, and many North Dakotans choose TRMF as the recipi-ent of those memorials.

Bequests

If Medora has been a special place for you all your life, you might want to consider making the TRMF a beneficiary in your will. Gifts of cash, property and minerals have been given to the Foundation over the years. If you include us in your will, be sure and let us know so we can recognize you in your lifetime.

More Information

If you’d like more information on making a gift to the Theo-dore Roosevelt Medora Foundation this year, call Randy, Jim or Denis in Medora at 701-623-4444 or in Bismarck at 701-223-4800.



TRMF board members John and Hannelore Davis and hot air balloon pilot Tom Tollefson of Fargo, right, took an early morning balloon flight over the Badlands during the Badlands Balloon Festival in Medora in September.

Board of Directors

Our Values

Harold Schafer, Founder (1912-2001)

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- **Integrity** in all we do
- The importance of **family**
- **Excellence** in products and services
- **“The Medora Experience”** enhances the character of our employees and customers
- Inspiring American **patriotism**
- **Stewardship** of all resources
- **Respect** for all people
- **Education**, especially to youth
- **Innovation** in thought and action
- The value of **work**

“The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people”
-Theodore Roosevelt

Focus on a Value: The “Medora Experience”

By Steph Tinjum
Personnel Director

One of the Medora Foundation’s stated values is “The ‘Medora Experience’ enhances the character of our employ-ees and customers.” The Medora Experience is a difficult thing to describe. Most everyone who has worked in or visited Medora has their own visualization of what the Medora Experience is to them. I will attempt to describe it from my perspective.

For guests, the Medora Experience is the magic creat-ed by a combination of Medora’s beauty, history, and people. We are fortunate to have such an interesting and rich history in a location with a stunning western landscape. However, it’s the energy of the 16-year-old ice cream scooper, the enthu-siasm of the behind the scenes tour guide, the dedication of the grounds crew member who tidies up trash on the street day after day, the care the Musical’s golf cart ride operator shows his passengers...it’s those things that turn a “nice” vacation destination into an unforgettable experience.

For employees, the experience of working and living in Medora for a summer can be character-enhancing, even life-changing. A TRMF supporter recently referred to Medora as a “leadership bootcamp” – an accurate description! It’s not uncommon to watch an employee just out of high school

develop into a thoughtful seasonal manager after a few years. Leadership is demonstrated by managers on a regular basis, from Randy vending water at the Musical on a 90 degree night to Kathy helping in the Chuckwagon dish room dur-ing the lunch rush. Employees see that a leader does what needs doing, and they rise to the occasion by modeling their leader’s behavior.

Another way that employees show and grow their character is through interactions with fellow employees and guests. Another TRMF value, “respect for all people”, sums up how we strive to treat one another. If there’s one thing we expect from employees, it’s treating people with genuine kindness and appreciation. No matter how great the Fon-due steaks are or how well the cast of the Musical performs, none of it matters if our guests don’t feel special and valued as people. The smallest gestures – asking where a guest is from, making an effort to accommodate a visitor who’s had a difficult day, trying to see a situation from a co-worker’s perspective – all show that people in Medora function beyond friendly hospitality: we really do care.

I like to think the ripple effect spreads the character of our employees to our guests, and even to the world beyond. While taking in a round of golf or a morning trail ride, visitors are not only impressed with our attractions. They are wowed by how they are taken care of. They leave Medora thinking, “These people work hard and have fun – you can see it on their faces. They care about what they do and they made me want to care, too. What a great place to be!” That, to me, is the Medora Experience.





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Become an Annual Member

Rough Rider Review is the official publication of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, public charity foundation.

Become a TRMF Annual Member! Your annual membership gift supports general operations and is used to make smaller, but very important and needed, improvements. Updates to the sound and light systems and enhanced fireworks displays at the Musical are examples of how annual membership support is used.

Membership benefits include:

- Listed as a patron in printed materials for the 2009 *Medora Musical* (if gifts received by May 15, 2009)
- An invitation to the annual Rough Rider Roundup on June 20-21 in Medora
- Receive publications of TRMF - *Rough Rider Review* newsletter, *Generations* newsletter, and Annual Development Report
- Charitable tax deduction to the extent allowed by the IRS
- Up to two season passes to the 2009 *Medora Musical* (your charitable deduction will be reduced by \$64.50 for each pass)

Enclosed is my annual membership donation of \$250. Please select one of the following options:

- ☐ I want the full charitable deduction of \$250 and decline any season passes
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