



Theodore Roosevelt
MEDORA FOUNDATION

FALL
2015

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50 YEARS OF THE

Medora Musical™

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
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50th Anniversary Medora Musical photo by TRMF Marketing Intern Paul Tharalson. For more of Paul's photos of the 50th Anniversary show, see pages 6-7.

Harold. Rod. Wade. Sheila. Fifty Years!



Randy Hatzenbuehler
TRMF President

All year long we have been talking about our 50th anniversary season, particularly the July 1 performance on the actual anniversary date. But it was not until 5:57 p.m. that evening that it really hit me – “tonight is a big deal.” Honestly, up to that point, my mindset was much like it is every day. “Check the numbers for the fondue

dinner; check the numbers for attendance at the show; check the radar to see if there was any concern for the show; enjoy meeting people who are happy to be in Medora.”

I was preparing to go up to the hill for the show, and was walking to the Rough Riders Hotel, and noticed it was 5:57 p.m. when I saw Senator John Hoeven and Senator Heidi Heitkamp. Earlier in the day I had given Governor Jack Dalrymple and his guest, South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard, a tour of Medora. I had already seen former Governor Ed Schafer and visited with Sheila Schafer, Sandy Tjaden and show producer Curt Wollan, all of whom were going to share memories of the first 50 years of the *Medora Musical* during a pre-show celebration that night.

Suddenly, the reality that four governors, two United States Senators, and two of the most important ladies in the 50 year history of the *Medora Musical* had a way of making the importance of the evening make me feel simultaneously excited and very nervous. And there were about 2,000 people coming to the Burning Hills Amphitheatre on a Wednesday night.

I am glad the emotional moment happened for me while I was walking alone. My eyes welled. Harold. Rod. Wade. Sheila. Fifty years! I was thinking about a lot of people and changes over the years. The show

has always stood for good things, and the fact that it was celebrating a 50th anniversary made me feel proud and grateful to be one of the folks that would be able to make a few remarks on that evening.

Thank you to Governors Dalrymple and Schafer, Senators Hoeven and Heitkamp, Curt Wollan, Sandy Tjaden and Sheila Schafer for helping us celebrate, on July 1, a night to remember in Medora. Your remarks and presence spoke to the significance of the evening.

Putting a live show on in the outdoors means you have to accept the whims of Mother Nature. It was fitting that on that night, the skies decided the Badlands needed some moisture after we completed the first half of the show. No one seemed to mind; I think they all felt they were part of history.

One of our managers correctly said, “The July 1 show is important and historic, but it is no more important than the show on August 1 or September 12 or any other night, to the guests in attendance on those nights.” He was right, and it is why the *Medora Musical* is so good. I hope you get a chance to come back to Medora again before our last performance of the 2015 season on September 12.

MEDORA 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Visit www.medora.com for event details)

August 21	Marquise De Mores Birthday Celebration
August 22	Badlands Trail Run
Sept. 6	Wade Westin Music Fest
Sept. 7	U.S. Navy <i>Country Current</i> Band Labor Day Concert
Sept. 11-13	Dakota Skies Astronomy Festival
Sept. 12-13	Medora Hot Air Balloon Rally
Sept. 12	<i>Medora Musical</i> and Pitchfork Fondue Season Finale

Medora's Buzzing About Our New Life Skills Center

The Life Skills Center construction is underway and beginning to look like a building. We eagerly await the ribbon cutting next spring, but in the meantime continue to need to raise \$2.5 million to complete funding for the project. Call if you want to help. Ron, 701-471-7741





Under Harold's Hat

TRMF's Founder and First Board Chairman Harold Schafer was well-known for a faded old felt hat covered with pins and buttons from people he had met and places he had been. A lot of wisdom emanated from under that hat, and each issue we bring you some of that, from Harold's extensive files and those of his Gold Seal Company.

Work

Note: some of Harold's philosophy shows through in this letter to Gold Seal employees in the September-October 1969 issue of WORK

Walking down the street this morning in the gentle rain, I commented that it would be nice if it rained for the next three or four days. My companion said "I hope not. I have a golf game Thursday."

The above incident took place Wednesday morning.

The Good Lord makes it rain, the world needs the rain, and yet, we men sometimes do not like to be disturbed with weather elements. Here in the same town, in the same rain, two of us men had totally different thoughts on exactly the same subject.

Is it possible that rain, in itself, cannot please everybody? Somehow or another, these thoughts brought my mind to this business. All customers are not going to buy our products. We owe the responsibility to those who do buy our products, of making a good product that will do a good job where it is supposed to be used.

Yes, in this modern world, we are required, if we want to be successful and stay in business, to have attractive packaging, responsible advertising, fair pricing, quick delivery, and a hundred other requirements to each and every unit of every product we sell. Doing that fifty million times a year is a big job—and you are doing it well.

Thank you.

Harold

Music in Medora on Labor Day Weekend

There's a big weekend of music in Medora over Labor Day weekend. In addition to the Medora Musical every night, visitors get two big free daytime musical performances as the summer season draws to a close.



Former Burning Hills Singers Kat Perkins and Wade Westin lit up the stage in the Medora Musical in 2003. Wade's great contributions to Medora are recognized each year at the Wade Westin Music Fest, this year on Sunday, Sept. 6. Kat has gone on to music fame as a performing and recording artist.

Musical. Music will happen from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Members of the Burning Hills Singers and Coal Diggers band from the *Medora Musical* will perform all afternoon. It promises to be a lively afternoon. Free will donations are being accepted for a charity to be announced.

Wade Westin Music Fest

On Sunday, Sept. 6, you're invited to sit on the Chuckwagon Patio and enjoy the music of the Wade Westin Music Fest, featuring members of the cast and band of the *Medora Musical*.

The Wade Westin Music Fest pays tribute to the life of the former Burning Hills Singer and host of the *Medora*

Country Current

The U.S. Navy Band *Country Current* will present a free concert at 2 p.m. on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7 on the stage in the Burning Hills Amphitheatre. *Country Current* is the Navy's premier country-bluegrass ensemble and has been entertaining the Navy and the nation since 1973. *Country Current* specializes in music from America's heartland and is the oldest established country music ensemble of all the major service bands. The group consists of seven musicians and is nationally renowned for its versatility and exceptional musicianship, performing a blend of modern country music and cutting-edge bluegrass. The concert is being sponsored by The Dickinson Press and the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation.



The U.S. Navy Band *Country Current* performs in a free concert at the Burning Hills Amphitheatre at 2 p.m. on Labor Day, Sept. 7.

Historic Preservation Efforts

It probably would have been cheaper just to build some new houses. That thought crossed our minds a few times as we got deeper and deeper into our historic preservation project—restoring a number of Medora’s historic homes and buildings over the past five years.

But a number of buildings, which at one time looked as if they were nearing the end of their lives, warranted saving. Several were built during the first ten years of Medora’s existence, others added within the next few decades, and they were all part of the Medora story—the story Harold Schafer intended to tell when he first began his restoration efforts here.

“Our Foundation’s Historic Preservation Committee, led by Board Member Jay Clemens, not only gave us the go-ahead to take on as many projects as we could financially handle, but they urged us to take on as many as possible,” says TRMF President Randy Hatzenbuehler. “Business has been good, and our donors have been very generous, and so far we’ve found the funds to tackle nine projects, with more to come in the future, as resources allow.”

Of critical importance are the period homes in the downtown area, which are providing housing for permanent staff. Three historic homes along Broadway Avenue, across the street from the Medora school, now have historically accurate exteriors. All of the original homes, the Rasmussen House, the Byrd House and the Vanvig House, were built in the 19th century, according to Kinley Slauter, the Foundation’s unofficial historic preservation officer.

“The idea behind the home restorations is that none of these will stand out or drastically call attention to themselves, but they’ll let people feel that they are in a real town, not at a carnival,” says Slauter. “Medora was a town that people lived in, and that was our goal with that block—to just make it look like a town people

lived in again, because we do. Our year-round staff here is part of the community, and Harold bought those houses back in the 1960’s with the intention that people would live in them.”

The major recent restoration project is the von Hoffman House, which the Marquis de Mores built for his wife Medora’s family, the von Hoffmans of New York. The home was built in 1884. The house has been restored inside and out, to look as it did in the 1880s, complete with some of the original furnishings, and is now a free museum interpreting life in Medora in that period.

One of the most interesting of the restoration projects is the historic Hyde House, located across the street from the Shooting Gallery. Now restored to serve as guest lodging, the house is probably the oldest building the foundation owns, dating to 1883. Over the years it served first as a dwelling, then, after Harold bought it along with the Rough Riders Hotel in the early 1960s, it was a small, walk-in museum, before becoming what most Medora visitors today remember it as—the Bake Shop, which

sat next door to the Rough Riders Hotel and provided breakfast treats for visitors for many, many years. With the expansion of the Hotel, the building was moved to its eventual home and refurbished as guest lodging. Some visitors tell us the scent of fresh-baked buns still lingers.



Give New Life To Old Buildings



The old Medora Town Hall was a major early restoration project by the Gold Seal Company, and has hosted a variety of theatrical presentations over the years in its new incarnation, The Old Town Hall Theater.

Two of our newer retail stores—Cowboy Lyle's Candy, and the Made in USA Mercantile—are also restored historic buildings. The Made in USA store is in what used to be the Medora Livery Barn, built in about 1905. The candy store building next door was originally the office of the Red Trail Coal Company, and it has some of the original interior features. Medora's construction crew, headed by carpenter Doug Johnson, assisted by some of John Hild's maintenance staff, found 1919 newspapers stuffed, as insulation, into the siding of the building during the restoration project, which provided some evidence of when it was built.

All around town, you'll see evidence of other, earlier restoration projects—the brick Ray House on the city's east side, under the bluff, the Old Town Hall Theater, the Dakota Cyclery Bike Shop, which was once the Red Trail Garage—all original buildings that are being maintained to preserve their historical integrity.

"Harold Schafer's original intent when he came here was not just to entertain tourists, but to rebuild the town so people would move here, raise families here, and preserve the history of this important Old West town," says Randy Hatzenbuehler. "We're pleased to continue to work toward achieving that dream."

And there's more to come, says Slauter. Plans are underway for work on the Joe Ferris Store and the old Stockmen's Bank building, now the Fudge and Ice Cream Parlor.

"As funds become available."



Von Hoffman House Open To The Public

The historic von Hoffman House, located at 485 Broadway, was built in the fall of 1884, at the request of Athenais von Hoffman, so she and her husband, the Baron von Hoffman, would have a place to stay when they visited their daughter Medora and her husband, the Marquis de Mores, in Medora. The home is one of only two buildings veneered in local brick that remain, the other being St. Mary's Catholic Church.

In 1885, the father of future North Dakota Poet Laureate James W. Foley Sr. moved into the house with his family and began serving as manager of the Marquis' holdings in Medora. From that point until sometime in the mid-20th century it was known as the Foley Lodge. Medora Vallambrosa and her sons gifted the house to the Foley family in 1914, and three generations of the family lived in the house while continuing to serve the Marquis de Mores. Local residents looked after the house when the family moved out during World War II.

In 1969, Harold Schafer turned it into the Medora Doll House. Harold had visited a doll museum in the Black Hills, and thought it might be a good addition to his new tourist enterprise in Medora. When Harold created the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation in 1986, he gifted the von Hoffman House and doll collection to the Foundation, who continued to operate it until 2010, when the Foundation's Board of Directors, as the beginning of a historic preservation and restoration initiative, decided to work to restore the house and interpret the story of the home, involvement of the Baron and Mrs. Von Hoffman in the founding of Medora, and the Foley family story.



Jim Davis with a piece of original furniture in the von Hoffman House.

It was our great fortune to learn that some of the original furnishings from the house, dating to November of 1884, still existed. Jim Davis of Bismarck, a great-grandson of James W. and Gertrude Foley, possessed the furniture which was removed from the house by his family when the home was sold in 1963, and graciously returned the furnishings to Medora for display.

There are two stories told in the house: that of Medora and her parents, who provided much of the

financing necessary to support the Marquis de Mores' business activities, and the story of the Foley family, who began by working for de Mores and continued serving the community in numerous capacities for sixty years.

The Von Hoffman House, with its displays and furnishings, is open to the public free of charge from noon to 5 p.m. during the summer months.



Joining TRMF President Randy Hatzenbuehler, left, and First Lady of Medora Sheila Schafer, at the podium, in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Medora Musical, were Governor Jack Dalrymple and U.S. Senators John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp.



Cowboy Chet Wollan is a crowd favorite this year, reprising country hits from decades past.



North Dakota's U.S. Senators presented TRMF a flag which had been flown over the United States Capitol.

Coming To Me

By Ed Schafer TRMF

When Randy called and asked if I could attend a special presentation at the *Medora Musical* on July 1st to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the show, I thought it sounded fun. I cleared the date with Nancy's schedule and we made plans to attend. The special show would highlight a half century of Harold Schafer's dream of presenting to the traveling public a musical and entertainment extravaganza focused on the Badlands, it's historical characters and the spirit that one absorbs in the area. I didn't think much more about it until we were headed west on that Wednesday, and I started to contemplate the magnitude of fifty years.

For half a century, the *Medora Musical* has been bringing family fun and joy to people's hearts as they, too, headed west—or east, south and north—to visit western North Dakota. My Dad knew a lot about traveling from his days as a salesman, driving all over the region and finding the beauty in a grinding, dull and difficult job. He once had one of my uncles install a 55 gallon drum in his car for extra gas so he could drive more miles without having to find a fueling station. He learned that people on the road need places to stop for gas, food and lodging. And after a lot of hard work, isn't it always nice to find a little entertainment to soothe the soul?

Since his imagination was always larger than the big skies of Montana, he wanted something extraordinary for people to enjoy. And for fifty years now, his dream has been realized over and over and over again by those who jump in a car and head toward Medora. I will always remember sitting behind someone at the *Musical* one night who seemed to be a bit grumpy, turned off by the whole deal and maybe just not wanting to be there that evening. By the end of the show, she was clapping her hands, laughing and totally enjoying being alive! That is what Harold Schafer was looking for when he said that he wanted to do something special in the Burning Hills Amphitheatre. As his dear Sheila said at the birthday ceremony, "Harold said, 'I want a show that you can take your grandmother and kids to, a Western musical with horses and flags, a gospel number and a specialty act, lots of singing and dancing, a patriotic ending and always something about Theodore Roosevelt.'" She noted that now, 50 years later, that would still be



Hundreds of kids at the show received a free bottle of Mr. Bubble as a keepsake.



Bill Sorenson, the Old West Prestidigitator, took a picture of all the kids on stage to put in the time capsule, which will be buried, and opened on the 100th anniversary of the Musical.

Anniversary of the *Medora Musical*!



The 50th anniversary Medora Musical entertained a full house of visitors.



Miss North Dakota 2015 and former Burning Hills Singer Delanie Wiedrich enjoyed the show.



Joining the elected officials on stage were Sandy Tjaden, former TRMF board member and wife of longtime TRMF President Rod Tjaden, Medora Musical producer Curt Wollan, and Sheila and Ed Schafer.

Coming Home to Medora

Board Chairman

the show the audience could trust they would see. From the very first Medora Musical and every night in the summer from then until now, those values have been consistent, and that has brought about the permanence of the *Medora Musical*.

I asked my sister, Dianne, what brought her back for the anniversary show and she said, "You know, there are places in your heart that you just don't have words for! We come back to Medora to connect with family, history, and God's beauty of the land and nature. There is a lot of happiness, energy and healing here and I want to be a part of it!" My sister Joanne, another family member who has been involved in the Medora experience from the beginning, reflected this way; "The 'formula' of hard work, a genuine commitment to serving the visitors, and a positive reflection on the history and peoples of our country and state have been the hallmark of the *Musical* for fifty years—for everyone who has been a part of it, or has simply attended and enjoyed it. We are proud of what Dad accomplished."

Our family has been involved in Medora for all these years, so when I ran into someone on the Chuckwagon Patio who said "As a Schafer family member you must really be proud to be here today," it was easy for me to respond, "Indeed!" And then Nancy and I walked across the street to the pizza parlor and we heard another musical: Chatter, laughter and the voices of family and friendship. Happiness was in the air!

It was at that point that I realized that after 50 years Medora for me has transformed from a place of work and entertainment to a place of meaning and purpose. In the finale of the *Musical*, voices comment that the state of North Dakota has the "footprints of those who preceded us." I know the Badlands have absorbed the voices and footprints and now wait silently and permanently to help give meaning and beauty to our lives. As we tread upon the land where millions of years of erosion has exposed its inner soul, we can see a land of different colors, shapes and sizes where nature endures in a harmony that brings us a spirit of peace. I think the words to the song were written just for me: "Wild and free she waits for me, coming home to Medora!"



Former North Dakota Governor and current TRMF board chairman Ed Schafer recalled the very first night of the Medora Musical 50 years ago.

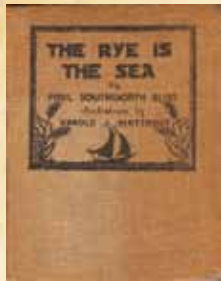


The whole gang—the Burning Hills Singers and the Coal Diggers Band.



50 years of Badlands sunsets never disappoint our audiences. Our 50th anniversary night was no exception.

The Prairie Poetry of Paul Southworth Bliss



Paul Southworth Bliss loved North Dakota, and he loved the Badlands. Though he's been dead 75 years, his poetry still rings true, because it's about what he saw, what he felt, what he thought as he traveled the back roads of North Dakota.

Bliss published nine books of poetry between

1929 and 1939. Much of that time he was employed by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Works Progress Administration in North Dakota. In those capacities he traveled pretty much every highway in the state, in every season, and what he observed and felt during that windshield time was the subject of his poetry. An excerpt from his poem *Blue Heaven*:

Under the torture
Of 47 degrees below,
The air of McKenzie County
Is pure
As the soul
Of Christ.

That poem is in *Cirrus From The West*, a book of prairie poetry published in 1935, one of three of Bliss' books set completely in North Dakota. At the bottom of each page of the book Bliss gave an explanation of the poem—generally the date and the location of the place he stopped to write it—and often a short paragraph expanding on what he wrote. At the bottom of the page featuring *Blue Heaven*, for example, he wrote: "January 23, 1935. McKenzie County, ND. Arriving at Watford City from Williston, I was told that farmstead thermometers in the valley of Cherry Creek registered 47 degrees below this morning. Cleansed by this pain-spasm, the air was utterly clear; and the blue of the sky was worth the wait of a lifetime. The car leapt at the scurrying hills with uncommon zest and when it pointed upward, revealing an ocean of blue at the hilltop road's end, I would have been content to go hurtling on into the stratosphere."

All three of Bliss' North Dakota books—*Cirrus From The West*, *Spin Dance* and *The Rye Is the Sea*, are available from online booksellers amazon.com, abe.com and alibris.com. Long out of print, the prices for the pre-owned books range from \$15 to \$300. They're small books, less than 100 pages, each with 50 or so poems about North Dakota. The most interesting

and most fun to own (and most expensive) is *The Rye is the Sea*, which was printed and bound here in North Dakota in a very limited edition, using recycled farmers' burlap bags for the covers. In his introduction, Bliss writes "Attention is invited to the physical appearance of this book. *The Rye is the Sea* could be produced from a farm village. The burlap binding is the gunny sack of agriculture. The bag of which this binding is a part has held in its time wheat and corn. The paper used is ordinary

wrapping paper." Here's a sample poem from the book, written on April 26, 1936, at Mandan, ND:

Southwind In April

Southwind in April stirs
Marsh elders in the lane;
Kinghead and cockleburrs
Are white in the rain.

Red willows in the river,
Deep flooded but warm;
Gray cottonwoods a-quiver
In the April storm.
Southwind in April—how
It draws winter's sting!
Southwind in April, now
I know it is Spring

Bliss adds a note at the bottom: *Comes the southwind, blowing the tumbleweeds up the ditches—strong yet gentle of touch.*

All three books are illustrated with linoleum cuts by Texas artist Harold Matthews.

If you're a fan of the Badlands, and of the prairie, you'll like Bliss' books. Shop carefully, because these are all very old

books, and the conditions vary, as do the prices from website to website. Generally, the price reflects the condition of the book. You might even find them in North Dakota used bookstores. Also, most North Dakota libraries have a copy of Bliss' North Dakota books. If yours doesn't, ask your librarian to get them via inter-library loan from one that has them. The Bismarck Public Library, for instance, has all three.



Black Butte

Squat on the prairie,
Scowling,
Sits Black Butte,
Mightiest Rock-chief of them all.

The west lowers purple curtains:
Behind them, the sun,
Donning ceremonial raiment,
Stands forth in Indian splendor.

The brow of Black Butte glistens,
The hard face is softened,
And the rock lips
Break into a long, bitter smile!

Poet's note: Near Amidon, N.D., there stands a hard-browed reach of rock-drowned butte, (once thought to be) the highest point in North Dakota—Black Butte, elevation 3,448 feet.

Volunteers: Save The Date!

TRMF Volunteer Appreciation Events will be held in Medora on October 6th and in Fargo October 8th. Invitations will be sent out in early September. All current and former volunteers are welcome!

ASK PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT



Joe Wiegand as
President Theodore
Roosevelt

What's it like having so many Theodore Roosevelts in one place at the same time?

The Second Annual Gathering of TRs was a smashing success. The highlight above all was an acting class called "Acting Like Theodore Roosevelt" taught by Marty Jonason, a theatre professional who played TR in "Old Four Eyes" at Medora's Burning Hills Amphitheatre in 1964.

By Godfrey, our bully time together reminded us of the wisdom of the Proverb: "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

Edith Roosevelt, was a big hit with the men as well. She said to me after all the other Theodores had departed, "I believe the recent gathering of Theodore Roosevelts answered Shakespeare's great question 'Can one desire too much of a good thing?' But one husband is more than sufficient, especially when that husband is Theodore Roosevelt."

So, did Mrs. Roosevelt ever really visit Medora?

My wife, Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt, made just one visit to Medora and my Elkhorn Ranch. As a young wife, she longed to see the people and places of my colorful stories. Edith and my sisters, Anna and Corinne spent a week in the Badlands during the early fall of 1890. They rode with the cowboys, ate beef and hominy biscuits from the round up wagon, and marveled at the beautiful landscape. I later wrote of the trip that I had "rarely seen Edith enjoy anything more."



Nine Theodore Roosevelt re-enactors gathered on the stage of the Old Town Hall Theater in Medora in August for the Second Annual Gathering of Theodore Roosevelts. They were joined by Edith Roosevelt, the President's wife, portrayed by Julia Marple. The Medora Foundation's own TR, Joe Wiegand is in the white suit at the center of the stage. His show "A Teddy Roosevelt Salute to Medora and the National Parks" will continue to be presented daily through September 6 in the Old Town Hall Theater.



Mrs. Edith Roosevelt, portrayed by Julia Marple, hosted visitors to Medora at "Tea With Mrs. Roosevelt" each weekend during the summer in the von Hoffman House gardens, discussing the important role of tea parties in the political and social circles of early twentieth century Washington D.C.

'The Perfect Place To Be Working'



Billy Weiss

Billy Weiss considers himself a very lucky young man. Fresh out of college, he found the perfect job, one which partners his educational training with his passion for helping young people explore their spirituality.

Billy began his job last summer with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation as the Foundation's Accounting Manager and

Spiritual Liaison.

"I'm feeling very blessed and excited about my job," Billy said one summer morning from his office in the TRMF's office building. "My family has a long history of association with Medora, so this is the perfect place for me to be working."

Billy recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse with an accounting degree. He'd spent the summer in Medora as a part of Cru, the U.S. Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International, in 2012. But he'd been to Medora many times before. He's the grandson of Rev. John Nicolai, longtime pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck, and his wife Lorraine, who were longtime supporters of Medora and TRMF, and he came here often as a kid with his parents and grandparents.

"This job gives me a chance to use my accounting degree, and also to do ministry, so it's the perfect setup," Billy said. "It's a natural fit for me."

He'll be working with both Cru and the staff and students who come to Medora as part of A Christian Ministry in the National Parks each year, serving as a liaison between TRMF and those two groups. He'll meet with them weekly and help plan and coordinate events for them. In addition, his office will serve as a welcoming place for young people who just want to visit about their faith, a place where he might be able to help young people find answers.

Billy will be a year-round resident of Medora, mostly wearing his accounting hat during the off-season and sharing his time with his ministry duties in the summer.

"I'm doing what I want to do, in a place where I want to be," Billy says.

Join TRMF On A Magical Caribbean Cruise With Bill Sorensen!

Friends of TRMF can celebrate Valentine's Day on board a cruise ship and enjoy a week-long cruise that will include four delightful Western Caribbean ports. The group will visit Ocho Rios, Jamaica; George Town, Grand Cayman; Cozumel, Mexico; and Great Stirrup Cay, Bahamas.

Your TRMF host Bill Sorensen (the Old West Prestidigitator in the Medora Musical) will present some magic of his own, as well as an update on

the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation and Medora. The ship also features an "Illusionarium" with magic acts. Many will recall Bill's humor and magic from the 4-M Review.

The cruise ship Norwegian Getaway is only a year old and has many sparkling features. The group will overnight February 13th in Miami, before sailing February 14-21.

Contact the TRMF office at 701-223-4800 for further information.

Spreading the Word

TRMF summer volunteer David McConnell REALLY loves Medora. So when he got back home to Virginia from his summer stint in Medora last year, he ordered a new license plate. Anybody else have one like this in any other state?



REAL LIFE STORIES

Increase Income, Bypass Capital Gain with Charitable Remainder Unitrust

Howard and Lynn were age 55 when they purchased some land outside of town. They thought it would be a good investment that they could later sell for a higher price. Over the years, development from town has moved toward the property and their land is now next to a large commercial store. They now rent the property to the commercial store for overflow parking.

Howard: "We have owned this property for over 10 years. It has been a good investment and increased in value. We have received just enough rental income in the last few years to pay the taxes. However, we now would like to sell."

Lynn: "It would be nice if we could sell without paying a large tax. Our tax advisor has told us that if we were to sell, there would be a large capital gains tax. We also could use some tax deductions this year."

The good news is that Howard and Lynn were able to create a special trust called a charitable

remainder unitrust and receive three very nice benefits.

- Bypass capital gain
- Increase income
- Charitable deduction

Howard: We are delighted with our unitrust. With our unitrust, we saved about \$36,000 in capital gains tax and almost \$18,000 in income taxes. That is over \$54,000 in tax savings!

Lynn: Plus, we increased our income. The land was producing almost no income before. Now, we receive over \$12,000 in income each year. This increased income is one of my favorite parts of the plan.

(The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation has helped many couples establish Charitable Remainder Unitrusts. Call Randy, Ron, Bill or Denis at 223-4800 for information on how we can help you avoid capital gains tax and generate additional income.)

Theodore Roosevelt™

MEDORA FOUNDATION

As a Theodore Roosevelt Foundation Member, you will be recognized in the *Medora Musical* program and our annual Development Report. You also receive an exclusive invitation to special "Members Only" events in Medora and Arizona, all TRMF publications, and a "I'm With Teddy" vehicle decal.

Personal Member (\$250) Benefit Options

- A. Two Season Passes to the *Medora Musical*
- B. Two Rounds of Golf at Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- C. Shoppers Delight: A \$125 Retail Shopping Spree at TRMF Stores

Business Member (\$1,000) Benefit

Four *Medora Musical* Season Passes and Four Rounds of Golf At Bully Pulpit!

Personal & Business Members

Enclosed is my membership gift. My choices are as follows:

- ☐ Enclosed is payment of \$250. I want the full charitable deduction of \$250 and decline any membership benefit options
- ☐ Enclosed is payment of \$250. I would like the membership option A: (charitable deduction of \$125)
Names on passes: _____
- ☐ Enclosed is payment of \$250. I would like the membership option _____ from the list above. (charitable deduction of \$125)
(choose letter B or C)

Business Membership

- ☐ Enclosed is payment of \$1,000. I would like the Business Member option of Four *Medora Musical* Season Passes and Four Rounds of Golf at *Bully Pulpit*. (charitable deduction of \$500)
- ☐ Enclosed is payment of \$1,000. I want the full Business Member charitable deduction of \$1,000 and decline any membership benefit options.

Name(s) _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Method of Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card
Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date: ____/____ Verification code: _____
(3-4 digits)
Authorized Signature _____

Sign up now for your 2015 membership in the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation.
Mail your completed membership form to: TRMF, Box 1696, Bismarck, ND 58502.
If you have any questions about our membership program, call us at 701-223-4800.

Values

We show **respect** for people and place.
We deliver **excellence in hospitality**.
We **work** with creativity and integrity.
We are a family who values **family**.

Vision

We connect people to Medora for positive, life-changing experiences.

Board of Directors

Harold Schafer, Founder (1912-2001)

Ed Schafer, Chairman
Greg Tschetter, Vice Chairman
Don Clement, Treasurer
Gretchen Stenehjem, Secretary

Dr. Bill Altringer
Claudia Anderson
John M. Andrist
Jane Angerer
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Marlene Hoffart
David Kack
Karen Krebsbach
A. Kirk Lanterman
Dr. Tracy Martin
Barry Schafer
Medora Sletten

Staff Officers

Randy C. Hatzenbuehler, President
Ron Stromstad, Development Director

Mission Statement

Preserve the experience of the badlands, the historic character of Medora and the heritage of Theodore Roosevelt and Harold Schafer.

Present opportunities for our guests to be educated and inspired through interpretive programs, museums and attractions that focus on the Old West, our patriotic heritage, and the life of Theodore Roosevelt in the badlands.

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

