



Theodore Roosevelt  
MEDORA FOUNDATION

SPRING  
2015

# ROUGH RIDERS REVIEW

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A TON OF FUDGE



Theodore Roosevelt capturing the thieves who stole his boat from the Elkhorn Ranch. This is one of a number of original sketches by Frederic Remington in Rolf Sletten's new book *Roosevelt's Ranches*, published by the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation and featured on pages 6 and 7.

**MEDORA SUMMER  
CONCERT SERIES  
PRESALE TICKETS  
ON SALE NOW!**

**—DETAILS ON PAGE 8!**

Photo by Bill Kingsbury



# It's A Big Summer In Medora!



**Randy Hatzenbuehler**  
TRMF President

**T**he urge is to shout from the page about the many special events planned for Medora's 2015 summer season:

- Opening night of the *Medora Musical* is June 5.
- The 50th Anniversary show is July 1st and it will

be commemorated with dignitaries and a P-51

Mustang Fly-by to start the show.

- A magnificent Veterans Day event is planned for July 12.
- We are expecting more than 100 former Burning Hills Singers for a reunion on July 25 – can't wait to see all of them on stage together!
- Five concerts are booked throughout the summer (Tigirlilly, Jesse Veeder, Kat Perkins, Gwen Sebastian, and the US Navy Country Band)
- And more—much more. Stay tuned!

OK – that actually felt a little like shouting, but we are truly working to make it the best season ever for you. Future newsletters and our website will provide more in-depth information about this milestone season. Right now though, I am most pleased to share an update on our new **Bill and Jane Marcil Life Skills Center**.

The project was bid in December 2014 and contracts were signed in January for the \$5.8 million project. Construction of the Life Skills Center will begin this spring; the scheduled completion is April 2016. Contractors have been hired. General contractor is Capital City Construction, Bismarck; electrical is

Denny's Electric, Dickinson; and mechanical is CA Contracting, Dickinson.

We have considerable work ahead of us during the construction period and to complete the capital campaign. But at this time we simply have to pause to say **THANK YOU**. To date 48 individuals and businesses have accepted the invitation to help with this project that will have a tremendous impact on the people who work and volunteer in Medora, and ultimately on the visitor. We would not be in the position to move forward without the generous leadership commitments already made by the following: **Bill and Jane Marcil; Pat and Bev Altringer; Kay York; Herman "Sparky" Gierke; Harold Newman (deceased); Wanzek Family Foundation; Harlan Klefstad; The Tom and Frances Leach Foundation; Joanne Hubbard; and Emil and Marcia Baranko along with Baranko Brothers Inc.**

In previous communications we have shared details about how the spaces will be used, so I won't repeat all of that information. The primary purpose is to serve the employees and volunteers who work in Medora with spaces dedicated for:

- Work and life skills training
- Dining
- Recreation and fitness
- Online coursework
- Administration
- Museum archives
- General storage
- Indoor rehearsal space for the *Medora Musical*

The physical structure is important. However it is the intentional programming and training that we will be able to do even better in the future that we are most eager to begin. I recently received a letter from a former employee, Sara Peterson Vollmer, which I want to share with you. It represents the reason we are so looking forward to completion of the Life Skills Center. **We really do believe in our vision to connect people to Medora for positive life changing experiences.**

Over the last seven years, we have made \$28 million of capital improvements in Medora. Nearly all of those have improved guest services and facilities, and restored, saved or reconstructed important historic properties. Those investments have revitalized Medora and we will continue to make greater improvements in the future. The Life Skills Center is the most significant investment we have ever made to take care of the people who serve the visitors.

2015 will be a great year for Medora. Please make plans to visit us this summer, and if you have time, stop by to see the Life Skills Center going up. If you have any questions about this project or other activities at the TR Medora Foundation, please give me a call.



February 10, 2015

Randy Hatzenbuehler  
Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation  
PO Box 1696  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1696

Dear Randy,

I am writing to thank you. Thank you for an opportunity that has long since happened but still holds a very special place in my memory. This letter is long overdue and seems difficult to put on paper. From some persistent encouragement by a mutual friend, Clay Jenkinson, I write these words of gratitude for a summer job that like many, I was lucky enough to experience.

You most likely do not remember me, but back in 1993 you graciously gave me a job in the Rough Rider Dining Room. I was not on the usual track of getting a job in Medora as I called you on the phone after the official start of summer had begun. I had some life changing events which ultimately brought me to western North Dakota and Medora. I was young and in great need a place of focus that was safe, welcoming, and reassuring. I found that and more that summer.

My life is now split between working on a cattle ranch with my husband and children near Wing and my work at Bismarck State College, where I met and now work with Clay. I am blessed beyond words for a life that is full, rich, and rewarding.

Although a summer is a very short time in one's life, it is oftentimes those experiences that hallmark our lives. I speak fondly of Medora and all those I encountered there. You have no idea what that summer job meant to me or to many others like me, but do know that TRMF makes a very large footprint on the youth that are lucky enough to call Medora their summer home.

Best regards,

*Sara Vollmer*  
Sara (Peterson) Vollmer





# 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.

From The *Bismarck Tribune* 50 years ago:

"This is one of the places in the state that I have loved since childhood. I have often thought that if I ever did anything for my home state, Medora would be near the top of the list."

"It's surprising how natural ideas come to you when you're on the immediate scene of a project like this. When we get our hands together out here problems seem to solve themselves."

"Restoring Medora is a worthwhile project. It will be good for the area, state, and entire Midwest."

"I just love the place."



## MEDORA 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Visit [www.medora.com](http://www.medora.com) for event details)

<b>May 23-24</b>	Dakota Cowboy Poetry Gathering
<b>June 5</b>	50th Anniversary <i>Medora Musical</i> begins
<b>June 6</b>	Bully Run
<b>June 7</b>	Theodore Roosevelt National Park
	Annual Bird Walk and Breakfast
<b>June 14</b>	Flag Day All-Horse Parade
	Marquis De Mores Birthday Celebration
<b>June 19-20</b>	N.D. Cowboy Hall of Fame Induction Weekend
<b>June 20-21</b>	Cowboy Mounted Shooters Event
<b>June 26-27</b>	Medora Antique Classic Car Show
<b>July 4</b>	Annual Independence Day Parade and Fireworks
<b>July 12</b>	Veterans Day in Medora
<b>July 25</b>	National Day of the Cowboy
<b>August 7-9</b>	Sperry Horse Sale
<b>August 8</b>	Day of the Plains Horse People
<b>August 21</b>	Marquise De Mores Birthday Celebration
<b>August 22</b>	Badlands Trail Run
<b>Sept. 6</b>	Wade Westin Music Fest
<b>Sept. 7</b>	U.S. Navy Country Current Band Concert
<b>Sept. 11-13</b>	Dakota Skies Astronomy Festival
<b>Sept. 12-13</b>	Medora Hot Air Balloon Rally
<b>Sept. 12</b>	Medora Musical and Pitchfork Fondue



Each year we invite North Dakota's Legislators and State Elected Officials out to Medora for a day, to experience all the wonders of North Dakota's #1 Tourist Destination. This year, as an official invitation to join us for the *Medora Musical's* 50th Anniversary Season, we delivered bottles of Mr. Bubble, signed by Sheila Schafer, to the Capitol, as a fun, official way to invite our elected officials. Great River Energy helps us sponsor this wonderful event, which includes golf, kayaking, hiking, dinner and the *Medora Musical*.



# TR Will Throw Out The First Pitch



Joe Wiegand as  
President Theodore  
Roosevelt

Did you hear the big news in baseball? Thanks to Minnesota Twins President and Bismarck native Dave St. Peter, in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the *Medora Musical*, our own Medora Theodore Roosevelt (aka Joe Wiegand) will throw out the first pitch and entertain baseball fans at the June 7 baseball game between the Minnesota Twins and the Milwaukee Brewers at Target

Field in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In preparation for his June appearance at the national pastime, T.R. joined the Twins at their Spring training camp in Ft. Myers, Florida, warming up with a first pitch at Hammond Field on Wednesday, March 11, when the Twins took on the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Our Medora fans have posed a couple of questions for Teddy. We wanted to share his answers here.

## ***"Did you play baseball? Did you ever throw out the first pitch when you were President?"***

The answer is "no" on both counts. While I enjoyed watching my boys, especially Kermit and Quentin, play "the nine" on the South Lawn of the White House, both my eye sight and temperament were ill suited to the game. It was William Howard Taft who began the tradition of a President throwing out the first pitch. He did so in 1910, tossing the ball from his box seat to the famed pitcher, Walter "Big Train" Johnson at a home game for the Washington

## ***Veterans: Ten Hut! Forward, March! Come to Medora!***

Each summer, the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation designates one day as "Veterans Day" in Medora. This year, we welcome all veterans and their families on this special day as we honor their service to our country on July 12.

Veterans receive free *Medora Musical* tickets. Other events include a keg social at the Tjaden Terrace at 4:30 p.m., where President Theodore Roosevelt will be on hand to welcome fellow veterans, followed by a flag retiring ceremony at 6:45.

Two special events are planned this year in the Burning Hills Amphitheatre. The North Dakota VFW Color Guard will present the colors prior to the *Medora Musical*, and a WWII P-51 Mustang will do a fly-over of the Amphitheatre.

Veterans can reserve their free Musical tickets as well as Pitchfork Steak Fondue tickets by calling 1-800-MEDORA-1.



As the Medora Foundation's "Official TR," Joe Wiegand makes presentations at many schools throughout the year. After an appearance at Divide County High School in Crosby, ND, Joe was handed two sketches made during his presentation by a young artist in the audience named Cheyenne Acord. Joe liked them so much he shared them with us. We liked them so much we're sharing them with you.

Senators. In 1908, I continued a tradition, begun by President Grant, when I hosted three baseball teams, the Senators, the Cleveland Naps, and the New York Highlanders, soon to be renamed the Yankees, at the White House.

## ***"You are familiar with Florida and the Devil Rays, are you not?"***

I first ventured to Florida in 1898, with the Rough Riders. A century before, my great grandfather, General Daniel Stewart, had fought in Florida in the First Seminole War. While we trained and awaited orders in Tampa, our ultimate destination, and perhaps my own destiny, was in Cuba. In Florida, during my administration, I declared the first Federal Bird Sanctuary, Pelican Island, and the first national forest east of the Mississippi, then termed forest reserves, in Ocala. In late March of 1917, I had my last great hunting adventure, harpooning the manta ray or devil fish, off the coast of Captiva. I'm delighted to see at Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge nearby on Sanibel, and throughout Florida, many a Minnesotan, North Dakotan, and families from other northern climates follow the migratory fowl and the baseball players to thaw out after a long winter.

When winter is through, I hope you will make your plans to join me for summer fun and the sporting life in Medora!

# Medora Musical Cast and Crew Reunion July 24-26

By Emily Walter



**W**hat a special and exciting summer we have coming up in 2015: 50 years of the *Medora Musical*! 50 years of music and dancing, stunts and horses, laughter and magic moments. The *Medora Musical* has delighted audiences through five decades of western family fun!

I was chatting with a friend who saw the 2014 version and what stood out for them was the wholesome, patriotic, American values at the core of the Musical. I told him that it was exactly what Harold Schafer would have loved to hear, as it was his vision from the very start. This summer, as we celebrate that vision, we invite those involved with the show over the last 50 years to join us for a reunion July 24-26. Over 500 Burning Hills Singers have graced our stage, feature acts from all over the world sharing their talent: animals, acrobats, comedy, magic and more! Backstage, the list is endless from set work, concessions and tickets, to management and technicians. I couldn't even begin to calculate the hours put into each season of the *Medora Musical*.

The weekend of July 24-26, who knows what stars you'll see on the streets of Historic Medora? I do know that on July 25, at the Burning Hills Amphitheatre, we will end the show with all the former performers onstage singing "Dakota" together. Imagine what fun you'll have, seeing old friends who share a love for these Badlands. Imagine all the signatures you could collect in your new 50th Anniversary Souvenir *Medora Musical* Book available this summer!

Make your reservations at 1-800-Medora1 and join us. If you are a cast member, contact me at [EmilyWalter@aol.com](mailto:EmilyWalter@aol.com).

You can also check out our page at [www.facebook.com/MedoraMusicalReunion](http://www.facebook.com/MedoraMusicalReunion)

The 50th Anniversary of the *Medora Musical*. The 50th Anniversary of Harold's dream...

We can't wait to see you there!

Your Host,  
Emily Walter, "Queen of the West"



## 1965 Medora Musical!

These young men and women appeared on stage in the Burning Hills Amphitheatre in the very first *Medora Musical* on July 1, 1965. Help us celebrate our 50th Anniversary season this summer! The season kicks off on Friday, June 5!

## U.S. Navy Band *Country Current* to Perform in Medora on Labor Day

**M**ark this date on your calendar right now, and watch for details in our next newsletter: Labor Day, Sept. 7, 2015. That's the date of the concert, in the Burning Hills Amphitheatre, by the U.S. Navy Band *Country Current*.

*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 one audio engineer. Instrumentation includes banjo, fiddle, pedal steel guitar, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, electric bass and drums. Several members of the band perform as vocalists.

*Country Current* is nationally renowned for its versatility and exceptional musicianship, performing a blend of modern country music and cutting-edge bluegrass.

Best of All: IT'S FREE! The concert is being sponsored by The Dickinson Press and the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. Free tickets will be available from the sponsors

later this summer. We'll let you know exactly how to get them as soon as we know more details. The starting time, probably around 2 p.m., will be announced in our next newsletter.

**DON'T MISS THIS EXCITING CONCERT! MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**





# Rolf Sletten's New Badlands Book



ROLF SLETTEN

Rolf Sletten has done it again. His new book, *Roosevelt's Ranches: The Maltese Cross and the Elkhorn*, is a spectacularly illustrated, concisely written history of Theodore Roosevelt's four years in the Badlands, when he established himself as a Dakota rancher.

Close on the heels of his first book, *Medora: Boom, Bust and Restoration*,

Sletten once again shares with us his deep love for the Badlands and Medora, and its first hero, Theodore Roosevelt. The first book is in its second printing, and probably headed for a third. This one will likely follow the same path.

It's another "coffee table book," oversized and wildly artistic, but it is much more than that. Sletten has dug deep into Roosevelt archives and uses his sometimes almost lyrical story-telling ability to trace Roosevelt's trail through the West and examine the rise of a young eastern dude into the ranks of "true cowman," the description of himself that Roosevelt most desired.

Sletten presents much graphic and literary material to readers for the first time, despite the fact T.R. is one of the most written-about of our presidents. Of its 220 pages, more than 100 are full page photos and illustrations accompanying text dealing with some aspect of Roosevelt's time on his two ranches. The color photographs from a bevy of well-known modern-day Badlands photographers are stunning. With special permission, the author illustrates a number of the stories with original artwork by Frederic Remington, sketches commissioned by Theodore Roosevelt himself to accompany stories he had published in eastern magazines and in his books on the West.

More importantly, the book contains 20 original photographs taken by Theodore Roosevelt himself during his years in the Badlands, mostly at the Elkhorn Ranch where, as the author points

out, archeological records indicate he maintained a photo lab or darkroom in his cellar. And Roosevelt's photographs are accompanied by photographs taken during the same time period by the great western photographer L.A. Huffman.

Roosevelt's western adventure is well-known. He came here to hunt, fell in love with the land, bought the Maltese Cross Ranch and some cattle and became a rancher, then returned a year later and bought more cattle, and started another ranch, the Elkhorn. He divided his time between those two ranches and his home in New York, where he served in the State Assembly, for about four years.

Of particular literary interest are T.R.'s letters from the west, especially to his two wives (you'll recall his first wife died shortly after giving birth to their daughter, Alice, when the young couple were both in their early 20s). Sletten has found a letter written near the end of that very first trip, in the fall of 1883, to his wife Alice:

*"I have been making up my mind to go into something more important than hunting. I've taken a great fancy to the three men, Merrifield and two brothers named Ferris, at whose ranch I have been staying several days, and one of whom has been with me all the time. I've also carefully examined the country, with reference to its capacity for stock raising; and the more I have looked into the matter – weighing and balancing everything pro and con, as carefully as I know how – the more convinced I became that there was a chance to make a great deal of money very safely in the cattle business. (Today's cattlemen might snicker a bit at the use of the word "safely.") Accordingly I have decided to go into it; very cautiously at first, and if I come out well the first year, much more heavily as time comes on. Of course it may turn out to be a failure; but even if it does I have made my arrangements so that I do not believe I will lose the money I put in; while if it comes out as a success as I am inclined to think it will, it will go a long way toward solving the problem that has puzzled us both a good deal at times – how I am to make more money as our needs increase, and yet try to keep in a position from which I may be called at some future time to go into public life or literary life."*

Roosevelt was but 24 years old when he wrote that. He had inherited a substantial sum, for those days, and ended up, Sletten says, gambling about half of it on his western adventure, and ultimately losing about half of that. One of Sletten's great observations as he narrates the four years TR spent in the west is that he was a very young man, and his associates were young men as well. Several times, writing of TR and his hired men, Sewall and Dow, he uses the phrase "three young men," and that is significant, because, as Sletten is softly pointing out (and it would be easy to forget), they undertook great adventures, operated a substantial business, and made life-threatening and life-changing decisions on a regular basis, despite their young age.

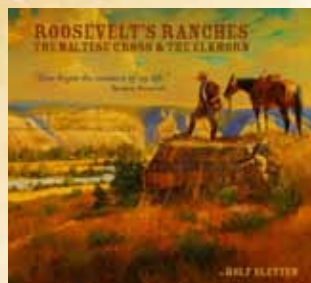
So Roosevelt made his investment in the fall of 1883, returned home, and that winter his wife and mother died in the same house on the same day. In the spring, he returned west, to his Maltese Cross



Theodore Roosevelt took this photo of his veranda, his favorite spot on the ranch.



# Will Hit the Shelves This Summer



Ranch south of Medora, and before he set out to establish a second ranch, he wrote this tribute to Alice, gone just three months:

*"She was beautiful in face and form, and lovelier still in spirit; as a flower she grew, and as a fair young flower she died. Her life had always been in the sunshine; there had never come to her a single great*

*sorrow; and none ever knew her who did not love and revere her for her bright, sunny temper and her saintly unselfishness. Fair, pure, and joyous as a maiden; loving, tender and happy as a young wife; when she had just become a mother, when her life seemed to be just but begun, and when the years seemed so bright before her – then, by a strange and terrible fate, death came to her. And when my heart's dearest died, the light went from my life forever."*

The West ultimately put the light back into his life, and Sletten's book walks us through the rest of that great western adventure, including Roosevelt's return trip to North Dakota when he was President of the United States, when he stated unequivocally that if it had not been for the time he spent in North Dakota he never would have become President of the United States. Sletten offers a unique explanation of that quote. We have generally perceived it to mean that his experience here changed him into the man who would become President. But Sletten writes:

"It's not just a great quote. When Roosevelt made that statement he meant that but for the experiences he had on his Dakota ranches he never would have raised the Roughriders. Because of his fame as leader of the Roughriders he was elected Governor of New York. Had he not been Governor of New York, the politicians would not have made him Vice-President of the United States and had he not been Vice President then he would not have become President."

"It may be so," Sletten writes, "but his statement was made during a speech in Fargo and so it will always be clouded by the suspicion that T.R. might have been pandering to the hometown crowd."

There's one more unique aspect to this book: Sletten apparently solves the hundred-year old mystery of whether the photos Roosevelt took of the capture of the thieves who stole his boat from the Elkhorn Ranch actually were taken on the trail, or were carefully staged later to illustrate the story he was writing about that adventure. Sletten presents the photos Roosevelt took, including T.R.'s hand-drawn crop marks. Historians have debated whether they were real or



Roosevelt guarding the boat thieves, an original photo taken with T.R.'s own camera by one of his hired men. Real or staged?

staged since T.R.'s death, but Sletten has done "boots on the ground" research, and believes he knows the real story. It's an interesting sidebar.

## The Badlands Cowboys

*"They are as hardy and self-reliant as any man who ever breathed. Peril and hardship and years of toil broken by weeks of brutal dissipation, draw haggard lines across their eager faces, but never dim their eager eyes nor break their bearing of reckless self-confidence. A cowboy . . . possesses . . . few of the emasculated milk-and-water moralities admired by the pseudo-philanthropists but he does possess, to a very high degree, the stern manly qualities that are invaluable to a nation . . . Meanness, cowardice and dishonesty are not tolerated. There is a high regard for truthfulness and keeping one's word, intense contempt for any kind of hypocrisy, and a hearty dislike for a man who shirks his work."*

The author finishes his book with a paean to the ranches and their impact, especially the Elkhorn, which he has visited many times and is now a part of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, often threatened by encroaching development:

"By his own declaration, T.R. valued the time he spent on his ranches more than he valued his experiences in the White House and more than he valued his time with the

Roughriders . . . These are very special places indeed – places to be cherished, jealously protected and carefully preserved for all time."

"The Elkhorn is a special place for many reasons: its unspoiled serenity, the unique beauty of this corner of the Badlands, the fact that it was the home of one of our most beloved and effective Presidents, its place in the history of the open range cattle industry and its very special significance as the cradle of conservation in America. In the words of historian Douglas Brinkley, this is a place of 'extreme solitude and historical sanctity.' North Dakota humanities scholar Clay Jenkinson writes of the sense that here, the embrace of the surrounding hills creates an almost sacred aura. Theodore Roosevelt's biographer Hermann Hagedorn simply said 'There is no more beautiful place in the Badlands.' It is so."

The book, published by the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, is due from the printer about the time the summer season begins in Medora. Like Sletten's first book, it will be available on Amazon.com and in Medora stores, and if you order it from the Medora website, [www.medora.com](http://www.medora.com), it will probably come shipped in a pizza box from the Badlands Pizza and Saloon.



# MEDORA

## Summer Concert Series

Take in the excitement of our summer concerts in the unmatched setting of the Burning Hills Amphitheatre!

Upstart sensations like Tigirlily and Jessie Veeder, to Kat Perkins and Gwen Sebastian, the North Dakotans who took the nation by storm on NBC's TV singing competition, "The Voice."



**Tigirlily**

Friday, June 26



**Jessie Veeder**

Saturday, July 18



**Kat Perkins**

Friday, July 31



**Gwen Sebastian**

Saturday, August 29

**ALL CONCERTS START AT 3:30 PM MDT.  
PRESALE TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW AT [WWW.MEDORA.COM](http://WWW.MEDORA.COM)**



## VOLUNTEER CORNER

# Two Volunteer War Vets Still Telling People Where To Go!

By Denis Montplaisir, Volunteer Coordinator

**A**ge has no limitations for two of our Medora volunteers, Harry Vadnie of Bismarck, a WWII vet and Kenny Siegel of Mandan, a veteran of the Korean War. Both of their major tasks in Medora have been to “tell people where to go,” Medora-wise, giving people directions and information about Bully Pulpit and Medora.

Kenny, father-in-law of TRMF President Randy Hatzenbuehler, has volunteered for TRMF in Medora and Bismarck in countless ways over the years. One of his favorites is a two-day, sometimes colorful journey around the state, delivering thousands of Medora Magazines that are then distributed by dozens of other volunteers throughout their communities and region. The last couple of years, he has been accompanied by John Schmidt, another volunteer from Mandan. If you know Kenny, then you know that he and John always have a few “stories” to tell about their adventure. Their hard work and time saves thousands in shipping costs, and not surprisingly, Kenny jokes that “they don’t pay us enough to do all that work!”

Harry, a retired businessman, volunteered full-time as the Starter at Bully Pulpit for 8 summers, responsible for the smooth flow of the tee times and organizing golfers as they began their round on this world class course. A former officer, he was known then and now to “run a tight ship.” With a quick wit and wry sense of humor, he often times caught people off guard with his sometimes brusque manner; he liked to keep them guessing as to whether he was serious or not. His favorite word, according to his



Kenny Siegel



Harry Vadnie

much loved “boss” Kathy Solga, was “Delightful!” So by the time the golfers reached the first tee, they knew they had

made a friend in Harry.

Unique to his experience is that he began his full-time role at the age of 83, in a time soon after the difficult loss of the love of his life, Mary, after fifty nine years of marriage. He credits Sheila Schafer with the chance to work at Bully Pulpit. She told him he had to “stop moping around and get a job,” so she called Randy, and weeks later things started to happen.

“I was in bad shape and doing this did way more for me than it did for the Foundation.” He credits working with the guests and the staff for rejuvenating his life and restoring his hope. Arriving in the spring and staying until fall, he often was the first to arrive at the course, working all day outside, ready and willing to do anything they asked of him. Although sometimes difficult, he loved all of it, allowing him to “retire” from his role at 91 years young!

So this summer, don’t be surprised if you see Harry, Ken, or maybe one of the other 500-plus volunteers, working hard and having a blast, while taking care of the many guests. If asked, they will gladly tell you where to go too!

## Lots at Sully Creek Subdivision

**H**ousing has long been a problem in Medora. This fall, the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation began offering lots for sale at Medora’s newest housing development, Sully Creek Subdivision, located a mile south of Medora, between Sully Creek State Park and Bully Pulpit Golf Course. Ranging in size from two to six acres, the lots are ideal for permanent or vacation homes. Call Randy or Clarence if you are interested in learning more.



**For more information:**

**Clarence**  
**701.541.7777**

**Randy**  
**701.872.6633**



## Serving Up A Lot of Fudge And Ice Cream

**J**im Muckle says he is going to make more than a ton of fudge this summer. It won't be the first time. Last year his total was 2,532 pounds—more than a ton and a quarter.

Jim and his wife Donna are co-managers of the two businesses in Medora that sell ice cream and fudge—the Medora Fudge and Ice Cream Depot, and the Medora Ice Cream Parlor and Bake Shop. Jim makes the fudge, Donna makes the ice cream. Last year, Donna froze up 6,400 gallons of ice cream.

The Muckles, who have made and sold ice cream and fudge in Medora for almost 20 years, are looking forward to an even bigger summer in 2015.

“With the increase in oil activity, we’ve seen a dramatic increase in business,” Jim says. “For a few years, it was mostly just the men who came here to work in the oilfields. But now they’re coming in with their families.”

“We love the look on the faces of the kids when they come in the door and see the ice cream cooler, with all the different flavors lined up,” says Donna.

Last year, the biggest sellers were the Pecan Praline Ice Cream and the Chocolate Walnut Fudge.

Jim and Donna, Sentinel Butte residents who have been married 39 years this summer, started coming to Medora regularly when their kids became seasonal workers, then decided to give summer work here a try themselves in their retirement years. Jim worked in the Old Time



Donna and Jim Muckle behind the counter at the Medora Fudge and Ice Cream Depot.

Photo Shop, Donna in the laundry. They moved over to the Fudge and Ice Cream Depot full time in 2001.

They’ve stuck around because they “like the atmosphere” in Medora, and also enjoy working with the young seasonal workers. “We’ve had great seasonal help,” Donna says, “and it’s really neat when they come back year after year.”

By the time you get this newsletter, they’ll be making regular trips to Medora getting ready for a new season, getting the kitchens ready to go and placing orders for supplies. It takes a lot of sugar to make a ton and a quarter of fudge and 6,400 gallons of ice cream.

## Cross Your Fingers— No More Flooding at Bully Pulpit!

**A**fter several years of flooding from Davis Creek at Bully Pulpit Golf Course, our engineers and John Hild’s maintenance crew have helped us solve the problem. Last fall we installed this big box culvert and a control structure to help us speed water through the course on its way to the Little Missouri River, without the creek spilling out of its banks onto the course. Bully Pulpit opens soon—we’re taking bookings for tee times now! Call 1-800-MEDORA-1





# 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  
Jay C. Clemens, Vice Chairman  
Don Clement, Treasurer  
Gretchen Stenehjem, Secretary

Dr. Bill Altringer  
Claudia Anderson  
John M. Andrist  
Jane Angerer  
Rich Becker  
Twylah Blotsky  
Al Christianson  
Bruce Furness

Marlene Hoffart  
David Kack  
Karen Krebsbach  
A. Kirk Lanterman  
Dr. Tracy Martin  
Greg Tschetter  
H. Patrick Weir

### 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.

