



Theodore Roosevelt
MEDORA FOUNDATION

SUMMER
2017

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MEDORA
VOLUNTEERS

Welcome Back To Medora

FROM THE CAST OF THE 2017

*Medora Musical*TM



NEW: Medora Book For Kids

SEE PAGE 9!



Ready. Set. Go. It is Summertime!



Randy Hatzenbuehler
TRMF President

It is our season. Buffalo, buttes, prairie dogs, wild horses, elk, golf, mountain bike rides, TR, homemade ice-cream, and steaks on a pitchfork. Medora is eager to welcome you, and summer, back to the Badlands.

This summer the excitement is all about the shows and the improvements to the facilities that host them.

As I write this, the cast of the *Medora Musical* has completed its rehearsal in Minneapolis and has begun rehearsal in Medora. They are so grateful to have first class indoor rehearsal space in Medora in the new Bill and Jane Marcil Life Skills Center. Opening night is June 2.

It is fun to have several new faces in the show this year; even more exciting, we have five cast members and one band member from North Dakota! It will be a season-long celebration of Bill Sorensen's healthy return to the show and on June 28th, co-host Chet Wollan will mark his 1,000th performance in the *Medora Musical*! Producer Curt Wollan has hinted that they plan to "rearrange the furniture" for the show – can't wait to see the 53rd edition of one of America's greatest, longest running outdoor shows! You will appreciate the expansion of the restroom facility and you'll notice the start of the seat replacement campaign too!

Next up for the Burning Hills Amphitheatre is ALL NEW SEATS! Remember the excitement 25 years ago when we offered seat sponsorships for \$1,000? Well, we're doing it again! On page 11 of this newsletter, and in the *Medora Musical* program, you'll find sponsorship forms to sponsor your seat. Or do it now by calling me on my cell phone, at 701-872-6633, or our Development Director, Ron Stromstad, at 701-471-7741.

Now, more big news! Town Square Showhall. Say it with me three times. Town Square Showhall, Town Square Showhall, Town Square Showhall. The *Medora Gospel Brunch* debut season was such a hit last year that it will play four days a week this year, and it has demanded its own dedicated space. So, the former "Chuckwagon" has been repurposed and renamed, "Town Square Showhall" for this wonderful show and brunch. Don't miss Emily Walter and the Gospel Quartet!

Downtown Medora has more first-class entertainment at "Jared Mason Live" and Joe Wiegand's portrayal of Theodore Roosevelt, both playing in the beautifully restored and expanded Old Town Hall Theater.

There is no better place to be during the summer than North Dakota. And Medora is one of the most beautiful spots in our state. Plan your visit soon by calling 800-633-6721 or visit us online at medora.com.

My personal goal for the summer is to survive the 50-mile section of the "Maah Daah Hey 100 Mountain Bike Race" on August 5. The organizers expect nearly 500 competitors – it is

quite a sight to see that many riders on the trail. Wish me luck!

Final note, we are going to Cuba and giving you plenty of time to plan for this amazing cruise. Join Joe Wiegand and me October 11-18, 2018 on a trip that includes a visit to Santiago, Cuba. Every night at the *Medora Musical* the Rough Riders re-enact the battle of Kettle Hill at San Juan. It will be a thrill to visit the site that catapulted TR's public life.

See you in Medora.

Randy

MEDORA 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 2 | <i>Medora Musical</i> opens – through Sept. 9
Pitchfork Steak Fondue opens – through Sept. 9
Teddy Roosevelt Salute to Medora–Town Hall
–3:30 pm – through Sept. 8
Medora Riding Stables opens – through Sept. 9 |
| June 9-10 | Tip and Twirl-Kids Watercolor Party
– Von Hoffman House—1-4 pm |
| June 10 | Family Fun Center opens – through Aug. 13
Bull Moose Mudder—Mud run and obstacle
course—1 pm |
| June 14 | Flag Day All-Horse Parade 5:00 pm |
| June 17 | Gospel Brunch opens – through Sept. 10
– 9:30 am - W, F, Sa, Su |
| June 23-24 | Medora Classic Car Show |
| June 26 | Bill Sorensen Special Revue opens – through
July 4 - 1:30 pm daily |
| June 28 | Kat Perkins Rising Star Music Camp - through
July 1 |
| July 1 | Kat Perkins Legends Tribute – BHA – 3:30 pm
Independence Day Parade
53rd Anniversary of <i>Medora Musical</i> |
| July 4 | Independence Day Parade and Fireworks |
| July 8 | Jared Mason Live opens – Town Hall – through
Aug. 19 – 1:30 pm |
| July 9 | Military Appreciation Day In Medora |
| July 10 | 1964: The Tribute – A Beatles Celebration
– BHA – 7:30 pm |
| July 14-16 | 4th Annual Gathering of TRs |
| July 15 | Tiger Lily concert – BHA – 3:30 pm |
| July 29 | Maah Daah Hey Trail Run |
| Aug. 5 | Maah Daah Hey 100 Mountain Bike Race |
| Aug. 12-13 | Cowboy Mounted Shooting |
| Aug. 21 | The Highwaymen LIVE! – BHA – 7:30 pm |
| Sept. 3 | Wade Westin Music Fest – Town Square
Showhall – 2 pm |
| Sept. 9-10 | Hot Air Balloon Rally & Badlands Kite Fest |
| Sept. 15-17 | Dakota Nights Astronomy Festival, TRNP |
| Sept. 30 | National Public Lands Day-Free TRNP Entrance |

**EVENT DETAILS AT
MEDORA.COM/EVENTS**



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. Here's a story written in 1979 by Patricia Fix, a Bismarck Tribune reporter.

Loan Money To Harold Schafer? Not On Your Life

A Bismarck bank wouldn't give Harold Schafer a loan.

Now if you know who Harold Schafer is, you'd wonder about that bank's marbles.

But it was in the 1940's, when Schafer was just founding the Gold Seal Co., and to the bank he was probably just another Joe looking for \$800.

Even though Schafer had modest checking and savings accounts at the bank, they were not about to dole out that amount of money to someone peddling floor wax.

So he approached the rival downtown bank where he'd never banked before, (we won't mention names) with his \$800 request. They asked why he didn't get the money at his bank. When he told them their rival had turned him down, they gave him the loan.

"I'm sure that's the only reason they did," Schafer jested, speaking to local business people, including the two banks above, at a Business Executive Seminar Thursday at Mary College.

One would think the days of disappointment would be long past for a man of Schafer's position, but his application for a VISA credit card was turned down recently, according to a story his wife Sheila tells.

The couple decided a VISA card would be convenient during foreign travel, but the VISA company rejected the application because he had no credit rating. (It seems he hasn't borrowed much money lately.)

He got his card, however. The company later looked into Schafer's overall financial situation and issued his VISA with unlimited credit.

Chairman of the board of the largest home-owned business in North Dakota, Schafer spoke of some of his travels abroad and said each time he returns he sees America as "the flower garden of the world."

He and his wife have seen the meager rice farms of Japan and

then come back to a land where "you think you have to have a combine with a swath the size of the Missouri River."

They saw tiny homes made of sod and manure in Africa.

"You talk about turmoil, you don't know what you're talking about," he said, in a country in which "we're going to be more prosperous than we've ever been," with more jobs and more and more people wanting to live in America.

He later commented about big business, big labor, big education and the fact that America itself is getting too big. But as far as big business goes, "it will crumble of its own weight if it's supposed to be smaller," he said.

It is a privilege for a child to grow up in North Dakota, Schafer said, because her children have a great affection for the land and feel a closeness with the old country. That closeness is like a link with civilization, he added.

The tanned, grey-haired Stanton native started the Gold Seal Co. operating out of his home in Bismarck. The business currently maintains regional offices in Atlanta, Houston, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York.

Schafer led the company into restoring and developing the historic town of Medora in western North Dakota.



Nobody loved a parade—especially a Medora parade—more than Harold and Sheila Schafer, seen here riding their horses past the Rough Riders Hotel. This year's Medora All-Horse Parade takes place at 5 p.m. on June 14, Flag Day.

Popular 'Harold Bus' Trips Offered Again This Year

Back, by popular demand, just the way Harold did it more than 50 years ago, we've rented the buses and are offering "Dinner and a Show" in Medora again this year. It's a tradition Harold and Sheila started—renting charter buses and filling them up with curious folks for an evening in Medora.

Here's this year's schedule

- Bismarck—One-Day Trips, June 2, July 1 (the 52nd anniversary of the *Medora Musical*!), August 18 and September 9
 - Fargo—Overnight trip, July 21-22
 - Minot—Overnight trip July 14-15
- You can reserve your seats on the bus, at the Pitchfork Steak Fondue, and the *Medora Musical*, online at Medora.com, or by phone at 1-800-MEDORA 1. Sign up early—these trips were sellouts last year!

TRMF & President Roosevelt On The Road



Joe Wiegand as
President Theodore
Roosevelt

Our own Theodore Roosevelt, Joe Wiegand, had a busy winter, representing us in appearances at high schools, assisted living centers, rotary clubs, foundation banquets and even the prestigious American Bus Association Rendezvous,

traveling to Arizona, Ohio, Nebraska, Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, Texas, Missouri, Nevada, and Washington, D.C.

To cap off his travels, he was joined by Randy Hatzenbuehler and Bill Sorensen from the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, making more than 25 appearances in 14 days in Minnesota and North Dakota.

During their road trip, fourteen Foundation supporters from Sartell, Minnesota, to Medora, North Dakota, hosted events in their homes, inviting friends and neighbors to get to know President Roosevelt and the Medora Foundation.

"The goal of our 14-day trip was to share Theodore Roosevelt with the people of our region," said TRMF President Randy Hatzenbuehler. "Theodore Roosevelt is a big part of what we do in Medora, and these events helped us connect people to Medora who might not know a lot about him, or about our Foundation."

Along with the evening house parties, Joe, as President Roosevelt, made appearances at many senior citizens and assisted living centers



A beautiful Medora cake awaited President Roosevelt and TRMF staff members at the Lana and Warren Schlect home in Ellendale, where the Schlects invited friends and neighbors to get to know TR and the Medora Foundation.

during the day.

"Those events were so rewarding," Joe said. "We were able to remind people of the gifts TR gave to us. In a lot of places, we talked with Depression and World War II babies, people who are aged and can't come to Medora. So we took a little bit of Medora to them."

And the trip ended on a dusty road to Joe and Sandy Frenzel's ranch north of Medora, which included a trip through the national park named for our 26th president, where Joe remarked on the things he could see there—the bison, antelope, prairie dogs, and golden eagles.

And a stop in Medora to see the world's largest buffalo skull. Everyone agreed, TR would have liked that. Bully!

World's Largest Buffalo Skull



There's a new place to have your picture taken in Medora this summer, and our own TR, Joe Wiegand, was the first to take advantage of it. The giant buffalo skull metal sculpture, 24 feet long and weighing 2 ½ tons, by Montana artist Benji Daniels, showed up in Medora this spring. It will be on display all summer (unless someone buys it) next to the new Roosevelt Outpost Store, across from the Cowboy Hall of Fame. Bring the kids and the camera—you never know when TR might show up for another photo op!

Specialty Acts Add To The Fun At The Medora Musical

Four new Specialty Acts, never seen in Medora before, will take the stage at the *Medora Musical* this summer.

Playing By Air

The award-winning performers of Playing By Air will bring their joyful fusion of music, juggling and circus performance to the stage June 2-July 8. The troupe has shared their absurd comedy, playfulness and breathtaking feats with adults, children and families all over America.

John Cassidy

John Cassidy, a professional comedian, magician and balloon artist who holds several Guinness World Records for balloon sculpting speed, will entertain from July 9-21. With his original blend of clean comedy, fun magic and amazingly intricate balloon feats, Cassidy has been a featured guest on Conan O'Brien, Martha Stewart Living, The Weakest Link and the Today Show and has performed at the White House five times.

AntiGravity

From July 22-August 15, it's AntiGravity, America's premiere aerial and acrobatic company. These Olympics and X-Games athletes will amaze you with talents that defy the laws of physics and stretch the limits of human achievement. You may have seen them at the 2002 Olympics, on the MTV Video Music Awards, The Academy and Grammy Awards, or opening the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Now you can see them in Medora.

Dan St. Paul

Comedian Dan St. Paul has opened for such superstars as Jerry Seinfeld, Natalie Cole, Dwight Yoakum, Smokey Robinson and Vince Gill and, in a testament to the class of his act, he even opened for the San Francisco Symphony. He appeared in the movie *Flubber* with Robin Williams, and will close the season for us with his one-man show "What's Funny After 50?" on the *Medora Musical* stage August 16-September 9.



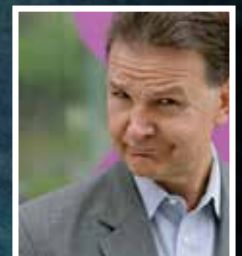
Playing By Air



John Cassidy



AntiGravity



Dan St. Paul



Happy Birthday Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Theodore Roosevelt National Park turns 70 this year. On April 25, 1947, President Harry Truman signed legislation creating Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, the only national memorial park in the country. It remained as a memorial park until 1978, when it achieved full national park status, with the support of the National Park Service, which said "The park contains the best example of badlands topography with related plant and wildlife associations to be found in North America." North Dakota photographer Dave Bruner of Grand Forks took this award-winning photo of "Sunset Over Wind Canyon" in 2014, and was named winner of the park's annual photo contest that year.

'Discovery Walk' Leads To A Career In The National Park Service

To help celebrate the 70th birthday of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, we want to share with you a story about a young woman named Neysa Dickey, whose experience as a summer seasonal ranger in Medora in 1976 led to a career in the National Park Service.

Thanks to Medora volunteers Dick and Claire Wilson, who met Neysa last winter and shared her story with us, via a 1981 essay that Neysa had written for a college class. In the essay, Neysa talked about a "Discovery Walk" she took one evening in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and the impression the events of that day had on her. As she walked up the hill toward the Medora Overlook, she wrote,

"I approached the scenic overlook near the hilltop, and I paused to catch my breath and to gaze out over the little town of Medora and the park headquarters. As usual, I felt rather powerful up there and almost possessive. This was my town, my park, my territory. The wind tousled my hair and I drew a deep breath of relaxation. Just as I was deciding this air was the cleanest I'd ever had in my lungs, I glanced to my right and saw him."

"To my amazement, I shared the overlook with a bobcat. As soon as that realization hit home I froze, stopping all tiny movements, nearly holding my breath. He sat at ease, perhaps thirty feet away, totally unaware of me. He couldn't have seen me approaching, because of the nature of the hill. Sound and smell were of no use to him because I was downwind. My adrenaline began pumping and time stopped. My sight seemed so keen I could observe it all: the smooth coat, the intense gaze, the camouflaging spots, even individual hairs on his tufted ears. It seemed to me that he, too, was taking inventory of his territory,

his park, his corner of this relatively wild place. It might have been an hour, but it was more likely five seconds, before he cocked his head, spotting me—then he froze too. Time began again, and I could almost feel the blood pulsing faster through his system; then he was gone."

"It was suddenly clear that this incident would make a lasting impression on me. It explained why I coveted a permanent job with the Park Service, why I believed in national parks. It was not some vague, altruistic plan to serve the public helping some little old lady find the restroom. It was not some sense of duty, protecting the wildlife from poachers and the wildflowers from pickers. It was not even the hope of exciting a young child to learn more about bison, or stars, or herself."

"Although I hoped to succeed in all those things, my more primitive need was revealed: to know and experience places still wild enough to support cougars and grizzly bear, pronghorn and bighorn sheep and moose, eagles and falcons and ptarmigans and, of course, bobcats."

Neysa spent a long career with the Park Service, returning from time to time to visit Medora. Dick and Claire Wilson will be back in Medora as volunteers this summer. Maybe their paths will cross again.



Park Ranger Neysa Dickey took President Bill Clinton and his family on a tour of the Grand Canyon on the Yellowstone River.

Welcome News! **Thompson, Gurholt Gift Lines At The Ladies**



Jean Guy



Sheila Schafer

Jean Guy and Sheila Schafer will be smiling down from Heaven during the intermission on the opening night of the *Medora Musical* this year. For many years, Jean, the former First Lady of North Dakota and a longtime TRMF board member, and Sheila, the First Lady of Medora, were concerned about the long lines at the women's restrooms at the Burning Hills Amphitheatre.

Thanks to a couple of Medora supporters with skills, tools and resources, the restrooms at the Amphitheatre underwent a complete makeover this winter, doubling the capacity of the women's restroom and expanding the area for the men as well. And that would make Sheila and Jean very happy.

"When the phone rang, and it was from Randy, he didn't even have to tell me what he was calling about," said Mark Thompson, owner of H.A. Thompson and Sons, a plumbing contractor in Bismarck. "I've got a wife, two daughters and three granddaughters, and we've been to the Musical many times. They've told me many times, the restrooms are too small."

When Randy asked Mark if he would help update the restrooms, as a gift to the Foundation, Mark didn't hesitate for a minute. First, he called his longtime Bismarck friend and (mostly) retired general contractor, Paul Gurholt, and asked if he could do the structural work, also as a gift to the Foundation. Paul said "Sure."

The two had traveled to Medora many times with their wives and families, and they were eager to take on the project.

And so they went to work this winter. First, Paul took the insides out of the existing bathrooms, including the walls, ceiling and concrete floors, and started over with just the shell of the building. A small addition to the back freed up more room inside, and as Paul was completing the last sheet-rocking this spring, Mark's plumbing crew moved in and doubled the number of stalls in the ladies room and also increased the capacity of the men's room.

Together, the two, who have worked together on many projects in the Bismarck-Mandan area, probably donated around \$150,000 in materials and labor.

"Paul and I did this because we both love the Badlands and Medora, but we also love what the Medora Foundation has done in promoting that family feeling that Harold and Sheila Schafer brought to Medora, making a trip to Medora almost a spiritual event," Mark said.



Paul Gurholt at work in Medora this spring. Paul donated hundreds of hours of his time this past winter to completely rebuild the restroom building on the plaza in the Burning Hills Amphitheatre.



This iconic photo of the original H.A. Thompson and Sons building in Bismarck is well-known to North Dakotans. We are grateful to Mark Thompson for his generous donation to rebuild the restrooms at the Burning Hills Amphitheatre. Mark's father, H.A. Thompson Jr., and Harold Schafer were friends and business associates for many years.

t Means Shorter ies Room



Mark Thompson, left, and Paul Gurholt discuss the restroom project at the Burning Hills Amphitheatre.

The Foundation is deeply appreciative. "It's hard to believe, but the Amphitheatre is 25 years old, and we've known for years we needed to do this," said Randy Hatzenbuhler, Foundation President. "Thanks to Mark's leadership and Paul's dedication, our audiences will greatly appreciate their contributions."

And Jean and Sheila will smile every summer night.



Never Too Young To Start Golfing!

Bully Pulpit's PGA Golf Professional Casey Moen offers lessons for golfers of all ages. If you need a tune-up lesson, or just want to make a tee time and hit the links, call the Pro Shop at Bully Pulpit, 701-623-4653. We hope you enjoy our time at one of North Dakota's premier golf courses.

More North Dakotans Than Ever In This Year's Medora Musical!



Bill Sorensen

Everybody's favorite *Medora Musical* song, "Come Home To North Dakota," will take on a real "North Dakota Flavor" this summer. Five members of the Burning Hills Singers, co-host Bill Sorensen, and Coal Diggers drummer Zach Schmitz all call North Dakota home, and are back in their home state to perform for you.

Newcomers Alyssa Scott from Fargo and Taylor Leet from Bismarck are excited to be performing as Burning Hills Singers in the *Medora Musical* for the first time. They'll join Klayton Hinshaw from Dickinson (2 years), Damon Fichter, also from Dickinson (4 years) and crowd favorite Misti Koop from Grand Forks (5 years) on stage with Bismarck's Bill Sorensen, back for his second year as co-host, and Mandan's Zach Schmitz in his second year with the Coal Diggers band.



Alyssa Scott



Misti Koop



Taylor Leet



Klayton Hinshaw



Damon Fichter



Zach Schmitz

The Invisible “Green Vesters”!

BY DENIS MONTPLAISIR
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

You’ve seen them, everywhere in Medora. You take the kids to mini-golf, they greet you, lending a hand. Later they’re smiling and serving ice cream, and then, it’s a friendly “Hi again,” at the Musical. Every Monday for 15 weeks, twenty-four amazing new volunteers, wearing those Green Vests, come to Medora from across the country to serve you.

Why? To fulfill our Vision, “*To connect people to Medora for positive life-changing experiences!*” But there’s another group of volunteers you don’t see, hundreds of them. Have you ever thought to yourself, “How is it that Medora is so clean, the buildings and fences so freshly stained/painted and kept up? How in the world do they get the stores prepared, with all of that inventory; the cleaning, dusting, sorting, folding, and counting? And the beautiful flowers, the hanging plants, the mowed lawns and trimmed bushes and hedges? That’s where those hundreds of unseen volunteers come in—Every Spring, and every Fall.

We call them “The Invisible Green Vesters.”

Let’s start with this Spring. On March 27 our first group arrived. Six brave souls, and like in the original “*Mission Impossible*,” their mission, “if they choose to accept it,” is to “Spring Clean” (for the first time ever) the boys’ and girls’ dorms. How did they handle it? With smiles, amazing diligence and dedication.

They concluded the week tired, but with the hopes of returning to do it again, wishing they could be around to hear the comments as the hundreds of seasonal employees arrive and enter their sparkling freshly cleaned summer “homes.”

Then, it was five weeks of “Spring into Retail” volunteers, another 30 volunteers assisting us in all of our retail outlets,

taking inventory, folding, hanging, sorting and arranging thousands of pieces of clothing and merchandise. Husbands came along to do maintenance, at the amphitheatre and downtown, replacing seats, fixing fences, tearing up carpet, readying cabins for new flooring, and repairing steps and siding. Another group, on very short notice said, “We’ll come!” and spent a few days in the cold and wind working at Bully Pulpit to catch up.

When they were done, they knew that all summer long, thousands of visitors and guests, whom they would never see, would have a “positive life-changing experience” in Medora.

Then, on May 1, our Pre-Season and Early Birds arrived, another 68 volunteers to do even more to help us get ready for guests. Those are our “Invisible Green Vesters.”

More visible are our end-of-season and late-season volunteers, who come starting in mid-August through the end of September, to work virtually everywhere, as our seasonal employees return to home and school. Retail shops, restaurants, maintenance, Bully Pulpit, they too are everywhere, sometimes tripling the number of volunteers already in Medora.

A guest once remarked during this time, “Boy, you sure hire a lot of old people!” We laughed and said, “They are volunteers, and throughout the year, we absolutely could not survive, much less thrive, without them!” We are now talking thousands of hours of work.

Next time you see the smiling face of a hard-working man or women in Medora, you may have just met an “Invisible Green Vester!” Want to join them? Give us a call!

‘Hello Medora’ Kids Book Author



As a little girl growing up in Wimbledon, North Dakota, Bethany Orn hoped that one day she’d take the stage in Medora as a Burning Hills Singer. But she worried she was too shy.

“We went to the *Medora Musical* every year, and I never once went up on stage when they called the kids up,” Bethany says. “I was just too shy. But I saw Michele Huber, from my hometown, as a Burning Hills Singer up there on the stage, and from then on I dreamed of being in the *Musical*.”

Bethany’s dream came true in 2006, when she joined her college sweetheart, Levi Andrist, as a Burning Hills Singer. And a dream summer it was. Levi proposed in Painted Canyon, and she happily accepted. The next spring they were married just two days before the opening of the 2007 *Musical*.

Now, Bethany Andrist, a mother of three living in Bismarck, has written a book about Medora for kids—small kids. It will be published this summer by the Theodore



Bethany Andrist reads to her family from her new book, *Hello Medora!* while husband Levi looks on. The children, from left, are Teddy, 6, Gwendolyn, 9 months, and Arthur, 3.

Roosevelt Medora Foundation and first distributed to Foundation members attending Rough Riders Roundup in June.

“It had been in the back of my mind that I wanted to

Banks Show Interest in Medora

Harold Schafer said that everything he did in Medora was “a gift to all North Dakotans.” This year, the first week of May brought an incredible group of volunteers from Gate City Banks across the region. Now in their seventh year, these bank managers, with the encouragement and support of their company, spend 5 days “doing whatever we’re assigned,” and “can’t wait for next year” in their recent words.

Not only do they accomplish much, they’ve become closer as friends and co-workers, we’ve become friends and they, too, know they make a difference. And, when they return later in the summer with their family and friends, they, like all of our volunteers can proudly say, “we did that, fixed this, built those, hauled all of that stuff,” and on and on.

Inspired by Gate City’s experience, we also had a first-ever group of volunteers from the Bank of North Dakota this Spring, wanting to give back to this place that is truly one of the state’s



Gate City Bank employees hard at work during their Medora Volunteer Week, from left, Greg Ellwein, Tim Brumfield, Marcus Boykin, and Sherri Smith.



Bank of North Dakota Employees Todd Steinwand, on the scaffold, and Tim Porter apply a fresh coat of stain to the Schafer Cabin during their volunteer week in Medora.

treasures. How did it go? They vow to return and increase their numbers to hopefully fill a week in the spring and the fall.

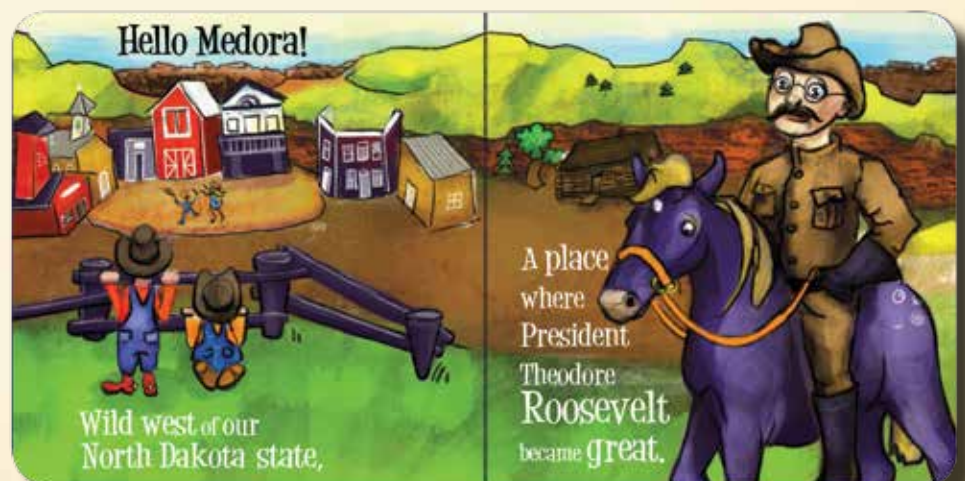
Both groups feel that it is a gift to them to be able to share their time and talents in order to make Medora an even better place for individuals and families to experience this Wonder-Full place. We join their voices in shouting, “Thank you, Harold and Sheila!”

Is A Former Burning Hills Singer

write a book about Medora for small children,” Bethany says. “We love books at our house, and we read all the time, so I’ve written this book dedicated to my kids.” (Those kids, by the way, are great-grandchildren of TRMF Board member John Andrist.)

Hello Medora! is a 14-page board book, written by Bethany and vividly illustrated in bright colors children will enjoy by McCal Joy of Fargo. It starts out “Hello Medora! Wild west of our North Dakota state . . . A place where President Theodore Roosevelt became great,” and goes on to highlight the *Medora Musical*, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, wild horses, bison, prairie dogs, wild flowers and the Little Missouri River.

Bethany and McCal donated their time and talents to bring the book to the Medora Foundation as their gift



to kids everywhere, in hopes that the book will build enthusiasm in young children even before they visit Medora for the first time.

The book, which will sell for just \$10, will be available in Medora gift shops this summer.

Growing Up in Medora, and Remembering Dad

BY MARTIN FREDRICKS IV

The front porch of our little, off-white stucco house in Medora was a magical place to be on hot, muggy summer evenings.

I'd sit on Dad's lap while he rocked in his chair, watching heat lightning writhe across the buttes that form a high wall on one side of town. The clouds seemed to gather on the ridges and the sparks would start to fly. There was thunder, too, but it would be a long way off and not very loud. No rain, though. If you're seeing heat lightning you're a long way from the rain, but there's a great show of flashing pirouettes and sashays accompanied by drawn-out drum rolls.

I was about 5 years old, and it was father-son time. I'd lean back, feel the strength in his chest and the arm around me, enjoy the cracking of peanuts in one of his big hands or the aroma of tobacco as he puffed at his pipe from time to time.

I've never been sure if the tobacco was Velvet or Half and Half or Prince Albert, but it came in a tall, skinny, red tin with a thin oval base and lid. Smelled wonderful. He gave up his pipe not long after that, but over the years, I'd catch the scent from somewhere else and smile.

I was in a Men's Hair House a while back and asked about something to make my prickly beard a little less rough. My stylist showed me an oil that's supposed to tame that kind of thing. Came in three scents. Didn't like the first one. Took a whiff of the second and was back on that front porch again, far-off rain and Dad's pipe tobacco in my nostrils.

Prince Albert.

* * *

Martin C. Fredricks III was a huge man to this 5-year-old. Six-foot-five and 240 in his prime, broad shoulders, Herculean arms and the longest stride in the world. Rooms shrank when he entered them.

He worked maintenance and did whatever else needed doing for the Gold Seal Co., which pretty much owned Medora except for the National Park Service homes and facilities on the far end of town.

Living there was a nearly unique experience shared by only about 100 souls who made it home year-round. Thousands of tourists all summer, but come fall, through the winter and into the spring, it was quiet, fresh and amazing in ways that only the North Dakota Badlands could be, with the clanging of a two-room schoolhouse bell and white tails walking down Main Street at dusk.

For a son who idolized his father, it was perfect.

I went with him everywhere. I'd pull myself up onto the floor of the big Ford pickup he drove and climb onto the couch seat right next to him. I tagged along to the *Medora Musical* when he took tickets and saw Teddy and his Rough Riders charge up San Juan Hill dozens of times. I took in the sights, smells and sometimes bawdy talk down at the shop. We caught catfish out of the Little Mo', and he taught me how to pick Orion out of the night sky. He explained the burning



Martin Fredricks III and IV

coal veins and took me across a spring-flooded creek that could only be negotiated in a hand-drawn cable car. On frigid Saturday afternoons we sat downstairs in front of the fireplace watching hockey games and Peter Puck cartoons between periods.

One of his jobs was feeding the zoo animals during the off-season. I loved watching the wolverines snarl and foam at the mouth when he slid food into their cage. And I couldn't wait to go feed Joey, a young antelope buck who was all alone in his pasture, no other bucks to butt heads with or does to impress.

Joey answered to the name Dad gave him, ate from his hand, then begged to push his head up against Dad's thigh. I always thought Joey's desire or need had something to do with his development, antler growth, maybe, but the North Dakota Game & Fish Department tells me it was simply playful behavior, an invitation to "fight" just like dogs who nip at each other. Dad obliged.

A few months later we'd be on the porch again, enjoying the heat lightning.

* * *

Dad died in 2003.

I'll always think of him as huge, even though he was never as physically imposing as he appeared to that 5-year-old out in Medora. It was the wide, crooked, ever-present smile on his face, underscoring the twinkle in his smiling blue eyes. It was his massive capacity for love and infinite time for the people he loved. The limitless reserve of time and patience for others. The gigantic laugh. And his immeasurable devotion to doing the right thing.

I bought the beard oil, but trimmed my beard short again not long after. Turns out I don't need it anymore.

But I still need Dad. So on Father's Day, just like every other day, I'll rub in some oil.

And for just a moment, I'll hear the far-off, rolling thunder.

Martin Fredricks is a former newspaper editor and a free-lance journalist who grew up in Medora and now lives in Fargo.

GET YOUR SEAT!

What a project it was! In 1992, we were tightening bolts on the new seats as guests were riding down the escalator. It is incredibly exciting. Harold Schafer was beaming. We knew this day would come eventually, but who knew it would come so quickly? After 25 years, it is time to replace the seats in the Burning Hills Amphitheatre.

Now is the time to put your name on a new seat! We are proud that the original seat sponsors are permanently recognized on the Burning Hills Amphitheatre Wall of Honor. Our goal is to have new seats installed in the lower level in time for the 2018 season.



Put your name on a seat(s) with a tax deductible contribution of \$1,000 per seat.

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Name(s) as you would like them to appear on each seat (limit to two names per tag):

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Vision

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

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.

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**.



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