

Meeteetse Museums Newsletter

Ferret Discovery Site Tours

Dennie Hammer will lead organized tours to the ferret discovery site on Saturday the 24th and Sunday the 25th of September. It was Hammer who first located the colony of ferrets after the discovery by John and Lucille Hogg's dog, Shep. For additional information on the tours please contact the Meeteetse Visitor Center at 307-868-2454

September 24-26, 2011

30th Anniversary Celebration of the re-discovery of the Black Footed Ferret

“Made In Meeteetse”

Come and join the Meeteetse Museums September 24-26, 2011 for the 30th anniversary of the rediscovery of the black-footed ferret. This town-wide celebration will include a live three day appearance by the black footed ferrets, a new museum exhibit, live music and a dance on Saturday night, food vendors, kids activities, and a panel discussion at the Meeteetse School. The highlight of the festivities will take place on Sunday the 25th when animal experts will take part in a

panel discussion about the black footed ferret and other related wildlife issues. Those individuals who were instrumental in the rediscovery and rehabilitation of the ferret population will take part in the discus-



sion. The public is invited to join in a question and answer session and meet the panelists following the panel dis-

cussion. Exact times and locations for all the events will be made available at a later date.

For more information please call the Museum at 868-2423.

Meeteetse Museums to Create New Ferret Exhibit

Meeteetse Museums is currently designing a new exhibit to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the rediscovery of the Black Footed Ferret which occurred on September 26th, 1981. Governor Matt Mead

has been invited to come and dedicate the exhibit September 26th during the “Made in Meeteetse” celebration, which is scheduled for September 24-26, 2011. The exhibit itself will include information

about its rediscovery near Meeteetse and the effort made by wildlife experts to save the species from extinction. (cont. page 2)

Legendary Brands Grace the Meeteetse Museums Boardwalks

On July 16, 2011 the Meeteetse Museums invited residents from the past and present to bring their brands down to the Meeteetse Museums and “brand” the boardwalks. Brands serve as identification for livestock such as cattle and horses. Many local brands such as the Double D, Thunderstorm, Pitchfork, Y8, Cloverleaf, Palette, Box K and Flying U as well as many, many others are represented. This event was put together as part of the

“American Day of the Cowboy” in conjunction with the ranch rodeo and barbeque held later that evening at the Oasis Motel. A talk on the Meeteetse Cowbells was also given by Lili Turnell. A special thanks to the Board of Directors of the Museum for organizing this event. Come by and see a part of



Meeteetse’s history as you stroll along our historic boardwalks.



Captive Breeding Program for the Black-Footed Ferrets

In order to save the species, black-footed ferrets were removed from prairie dog colonies outside of Meeteetse, Wyoming. The fate of the black-footed ferret was now solely in the hands of captive breeding. There are currently six facilities

which help to manage the reintroduction and breeding of the Black Footed Ferret. Since 1986 there have been 7,100 kits born into this captive breeding program. All ferret kits produced are entered into a studbook. The studbook contains individual

animal information (birth, death, transfers & transponder chip) as well as the pedigree of each animal. This year there have been 299 kits born into this program. (www.blackfootedferret.org)

New Ferret Exhibit (cont.)

This exhibit will be an exciting one. There will be interactive learning components for young and old alike and video interviews with those involved in the rediscovery of the Black-Footed Ferret. There will also be a special appearance by a live



Black-Footed Ferret Rehabilitation Center picture by R. Haggerty/USFS

Black-Footed Ferret. Come and join us in learning more about this once considered extinct creature.



Otto Von Franc

Think of the word “museum” and often “art” comes to mind. Although the Meeteetse Museums is a history based institution, we have our own art collection which includes work from local artists, often imaging our geographical area. Recently, we had two images relevant to Meeteetse framed and hung for our visitors to enjoy.

The first person known to have painted the Black-

Collector's Corner

Footed Ferret was John James Audubon....when he couldn't sell his birds to Americans, he documented the four-legged animals of North America. While visiting the undeveloped frontier in what is now the Mid-West, he made hundreds of paintings of animals there. Our museum has recently acquired a print of this Black-Footed Ferret image. It is framed and hanging in the front gallery next to the Black-Footed Ferret exhibit.

We are often asked why we don't have a photo of Otto Franc. We pulled the only one we have of this founding father and had it cleaned and conserved. It also can be seen in the front gallery near the bookstore. Preparing these objects for our community is one of the best things about my job here at the museum. Come in to look at “your” new art. We enjoy visiting with you and appreciate your comments. Happy Trails!
Linda Orrell

A terrific hand-made doll collection belonging to the late Alice Medina of Meeteetse will be on exhibit at the Meeteetse Museums from July 9 to October 7, 2011. Born in Riverton, Wyoming in 1918 to Guda-

The Dolls of Alice Medina

lupe and Lucinda Montoya, Alice moved to Meeteetse in 1939. She married Frank Medina Sr. in Lander, Wyoming. Mrs. Medina was a student of Wyoming history and was active with the Meeteetse Museums for

years. The dolls on exhibit consist of those she personally made throughout her lifetime. We hope you stop by to take a look at this fine collection of Alice Medina's dolls.

Oral history is a history built around people. It thrusts life into history itself and it widens its scope. It allows heroes not just from the leaders but from the unknown majority of the people.

Paul Thompson, *Oral History: The Voice of the Past*

Throughout the past few months, I have had the opportunity to interview and record the “Oral Histories” of some of Meeteetse's residents. Many interviewed have asked, “Why me? What can I possibly have to say that would be of interest?” It con-

Why Oral History?

tinually amazes me as I visit with our seniors just how much information they have to share about their lives here in Meeteetse. I am constantly surprised at the stories, and recollections that are freely shared in this process. These oral histories are

being recorded in an effort to remember our past from personally unique perspectives. I look forward to visiting with more of our community members as this project continues. Best Regards,
Susann Kreitzer

Oral Historian

MEETEETSE
MUSEUM DISTRICT
1947 STATE STREET
P.O. BOX 248
MEETEETSE, WY.

We're on the Web!

www.meeteetsemuseum.org

Meeteetse Museum Bookstore

The Meeteetse Museum Bookstore is open every day providing the community with books about Meeteetse and the American West. We have fiction, non-fiction, and a wide variety of children's books for ages 0-16. Whenever possible, we discount books to encourage our community to buy them here rather than on-line or in other towns in the Big Horn Basin. We carry books from authors and try to seek out books that are not found in the surrounding communi-

ties. Please come into browse. If you have a book that you would like us to get for you contact Linda Orrell at the museum at (307) 868-2423.

