

## ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:***

### ***Meeteetse Museums' Concert to Feature Gypsy Cowbelle and Clay Gibbons' Historic Arland Presentation, July 20, 6 PM***

### ***Historic Double Dee Ranch Tour/Amelia Earhart Presentation Set for July 22***

#### **Outdoor Cowbelle Concert/Historic Arland Presentation**

Miss V, the Gypsy Cowbelle, will perform an outdoor concert at Meeteetse Museums starting at 6 pm on Friday, July 20, 2018. Miss V will perform original songs and cowbilly favorites that relate to homesteading and the heritage of Wyoming. Teaming with the Cowbelle this year is Clay Gibbons, who will present his popular "Story of the Ghost Town of Arland." Admission is free. Delicious chili by the Meeteetse Senior Center will be available for purchase during the event, so come hungry! All proceeds will go to help the Senior Center.

Miss V has been performing her brand of "genuine cowbilly music" around the country and Wyoming for years. In addition to musical performances in 25 states, "V" hosts workshops nationwide and in 2013 completed her debut documentary, "*The Modern Day Homesteader*." She has produced five CDs, performed at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, is endorsed by the Wyoming Arts Council, and has been featured in books, magazines, videos, television shows, newspapers, and radio interviews coast to coast since 1995. Much of her life experience came from spending fourteen years on a remote Wyoming ranch where she picked up homesteader skills, such as haying and logging with horses, sewing clothes on treadle machines, building tack and banjos with hand tools, hunting, canning, brewing herbal medicine, trailing cattle and leading pack strings through the mountains. Her homesteader lifestyle is very apparent in her music.

Joining the Cowbelle this year is Clay Gibbons. For years, Clay presented his history of Arland on location for the Meeteetse Museums but will now tell its story on stage as part of the Outdoor Concert. Clay's interest in history reaches well beyond Arland. He was instrumental in the placement of five historical markers, which designate key Wyoming places and events. He also recently played "The Sheriff" in the film *Absaroka*.

Clay's presentation focuses on Arland, a rough frontier settlement formerly located up Meeteetse Creek. It was founded in 1884 by Victor Arland, a French businessman, and John Corbett, a buffalo hunter. At its zenith, the town of Arland had a store, saloons, a post office, a two story hotel, blacksmith shop, and a red light district. A mail and passenger stage ran through Arland every week, which helped the town become a trade center for the area ranches and a draw for cowboys and other tough characters. Unfortunately, with the nearest law 150 miles away in Lander, there was no one to keep the peace and violence soon reared its head. On February 22, 1888, Vic Arland shot and killed Broken Nose Jackson in self-defense at a dance in Arland. In revenge, Jackson's friend, Bill Landon, shot and killed Vic Arland at Dunivan's Saloon in Red Lodge, Montana. After Victor Arland's death, the town of Arland devolved into a hangout for outlaws. Black Jack Miller, Butch Cassidy, W.A. Gallagher, Blind Bill Hoolihan, Rose Williams,

Sage Brush Nancy, and Belle Drewry (aka the “Lady in Blue”) were just some of the characters who hung out there. When all was said and done, a number of the above (and some others) ended up dead, all part of a web of lawlessness, romance, and murder.

Today, nothing remains of Arland but the stories, many of which will be told by Clay Gibbons on July 20! Be sure to come out then for some authentic pioneer music, exciting old west history, and to get some of the Meeteetse Senior Center’s delicious chili!

## **Historic Double Dee Ranch Tour/Amelia Earhart Presentation**

Meeteetse Museums will host its annual tour of the former Double Dee Guest Ranch on Sunday, July 22, as part of Cowboy Day in Meeteetse celebration. This year, the tour will be led by an array of folks, including Byron Bennett, whose family lived at the Double Dee for a number of years, Doug Johnston of the Forest Service, museum staff, and Camille Anderson (whose great grandfather, Carl Dunrud, started the Double Dee and operated the guest ranch, mostly during the 1930s). Among the Dunrud’s guests was Amelia Earhart.

The tour will gather at Meeteetse Museums and will leave at 8:30 a.m. sharp. Those wanting to meet the tour on site and not travel with the group must arrive at the Double Dee by 10 a.m. There is no charge for the tour, which will begin at 10:30 a.m. Individuals may drive their own vehicles or arrange to carpool at the museum. Vehicles should have high clearance. Participants should also bring a picnic lunch, water, and appropriate clothing in case of a mountain shower.

**A special appearance and talk by “Amelia Earhart” outside of Amelia’s Double Dee cabin will also be included in the tour!** The Double D was a favorite of the famous aviatrix, who stayed at the ranch during July 1934. Earhart became close friends with owner Carl Dunrud and the family. Participants will visit the actual cabin where Amelia and her husband, George Putnam, stayed. Earhart enjoyed the area so much that she had Carl Dunrud begin construction of a summer cabin for her just above the old ghost mining town of Kirwin, at that time also owned by the Dunruds. Construction ceased when Earhart disappeared over the Pacific Ocean.

In addition, during lunch, participants will enjoy a live musical performance by Miss V, the Gypsy Cowbelle. Miss V will perform her own brand of cowbilly music, including some of her original songs.

Depending on the flow of the Wood River, participants with high clearance may continue the tour to Kirwin (on their own) and then hike one mile to Amelia’s proposed cabin. Please note that the water in the Wood River crossing may be higher than normal due to above average rain and snow melt. A representative from the US Forest Service will be at the Double Dee Tour to update participants on the condition of the river and road to Kirwin.

For additional information about this event, call 307-868-2423 or email [info@meeteetsemuseums.org](mailto:info@meeteetsemuseums.org).