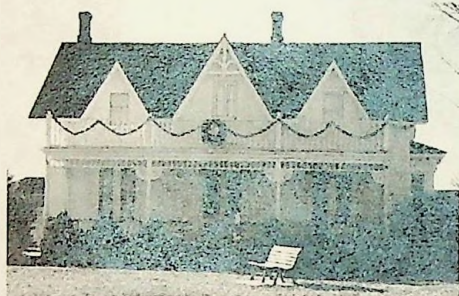


Buffalo Tales

January/February 2013

Silver Rails: 25 Years of Christmas Trees

By Katherine Wieleschewski



November and December are special times at the Trails & Rails Museum. The Depot fills with the smells of popcorn and hot apple cider, there is Christmas music in the air, and the clatter and clank of coins hitting the bottom of cans can be heard in every building.

The annual Christmas Tree Walk and Penny War is a great event to spread holiday cheer to everybody who visits the museum and to encourage some friendly competition between area organizations and businesses, all while benefiting the Trails & Rails Museum.

The theme for 2012 was "Silver Rails" which celebrated the 25 years of the Christmas Tree Walk. With sixteen trees in six different buildings, area organizations were able to show the public how they interpreted the theme.

Here is a look at some of the Christmas trees from the past 25 years.



Trees from 1991:
Patriotic tree (above)
Buffalo Co. Extension Club (right)





Elm Creek Garden Club- "Christmas on the Prairie" (left)



1994: BCIS- "Winter Wonderland" (right)
1994 (both lower right pictures)

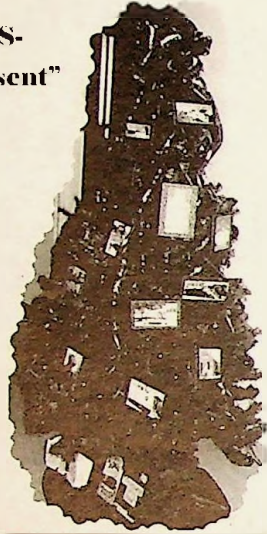


2005: Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church- "Past & Present"

2005



**2005: BCHS-
"Past & Present"**



**2006: Nebraska
Woodcarvers- "White
Christmas" (below)**



2006



**2011- "Reflections of
Christmas"**

2012- BCHS- "Silver Rails"



This is a list of past Christmas Tree Walk themes that we have. If you happen to know any of the missing ones, we would love to hear from you!

2012- Silver Rails (25th Annual Christmas Tree Walk)

2011-Reflections of Christmas

2010- Father Christmas

2009- Christmas Memories

2008-North Pole Party

2007-Nature's Wonderland

2006-White Christmas

2005-Past and Present

2004-Hometown Christmas

2003-Christmas on the Platte

2002-A Christmas Story and Home for the Holidays (Jennifer found a letter stating one and a booklet saying the other. If you know which is the actual one, please let us know!)

2001-Victorian Christmas

2000-Christmas Carols

1999-?

1998-Retell the Stories of Christmas

1997-Twelve Days of Christmas

1996-Night Before Christmas

1995-?

1994-Winter Wonderland

1993-Christmas on the Prairie

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Phone: 308.234.3041 Email: bchs.us@hotmail.com

Katherine Wielechowski, Editor

2013 Annual dues, payable January 1, are:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Individual..... | \$35.00 |
| Family..... | \$40.00 |
| Institutional Membership..... | \$50.00 |
| Supporting Membership..... | \$75.00 |
| Silver Engineer..... | \$125.00 |
| Gold Engineer..... | \$250.00 |

We have replaced the word 'Basic' to 'Family'.

Directors

Term expiring June 1, 2013: Vicki Bissell, Chad Henning, Lynn Rauner, Lance Hehner

Term expiring June 1, 2014: Mary Beth Lowe, Sharon Martin, Duane Muhlbach, Mike Peak

Term expiring June 1, 2015: Corene Philips, Dan Speirs, Gary Straatmann, Bernie Hascall

Officers (1 year term)

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| President..... | Gary Straatmann |
| Vice-President..... | Mary Beth Lowe |
| Secretary..... | Sharon Martin |
| Treasurer..... | Sharon Mason |

2013 Calendar of Events

February 29: Don't Come Event

Sunday, April 21 from 1-3 pm: BCHS Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 9: 6th Annual ½ Marathon/5K: Buffalo County Stampede—Reg. @ 6 am. Race @ 7

Saturday, June 29 from 10-2 pm: 28th Annual Wagons West Celebration

Tuesday, August 27th from 6-9:30pm: 7th Annual Trivia Contest & Dinner

Saturday, Oct. 26 (time TBD): 3rd Annual Old-fashioned Halloween Party

All of November: Christmas Decorating (during regular business hours)

Saturday, November 30 from 12-1pm: Members Only Preview of the 26th Annual Christmas Tree Walk

First two weekends in Dec. (Nov. 30/Dec.1 and Dec. 7/8) from 1-5 pm: Open to the public: 26th Annual Christmas Tree Walk

Education notes:

Ghost Hunting classes with the Midwest Paranormal Investigators

Fabulous Fridays will continue to be held on the 2nd Friday of each month.

Kearney Public Schools have the museum reserved for two weeks in May 2013!!

Volunteers, chairpersons, and sponsors are still needed. Please contact the office for more information on supporting your Buffalo County Historical Society!

PO Box 523, 710 W. 11th St., Kearney, NE 68848
(308) 234-3041 www.bchs.us bchs.us@hotmail.com

We hope you enjoy these stories about Buffalo County. We would love to have a stock pile of Buffalo Tales ready so they can go out in a more timely manner. Please submit your memories and stories to us by e-mailing them to bchs.buffalotales@hotmail.com or sending them to the post office box: BCHS, PO Box 523, Kearney, NE 68848.

We appreciate your support!

Director's Report

-Her View from Home at the World Theater...we had a booth there on Thursday evening, reaching a sold-out crowd of women.

-The 2012 Christmas Tree Walk was cold the second weekend, but successful. We had \$144.14 donated in the Penny Wars. 1st place winners were the Central Nebraska Woodcarvers with 3398 cumulative votes. 2nd place went to Cimmaron Court with 3012 cumulative votes and the Blacksmith shop had 2574. Fourth place with FKGS with 507.

-Kearney Public Schools are already preparing for their two weeks our here. The donors that they found have it covered for at least the next two years (2013 and 2014). More money will need to be found to continue the program, though.

-A member contacted me about our building plan and Dan and I went to chat with her. A \$10,000 check was in the mail to us from her within a couple days.

Be sure to join the Buffalo County Historical Society group or the Buffalo County Historical Society/Trails & Rails Museum fan page on Facebook!



Trails & Rails Museum

Buffalo County Historical Society

710 West 11th St. P.O. Box 523

Kearney, NE 68848-0523

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www.bchs.us

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