

Buffalo Tales

July/August 2014



Days of Summer Meet the Summer Staff of Trails & Rails Museum

"The object of this Society shall be to bring together those people interested in history, and especially the history of Buffalo County and the State of Nebraska. Understanding the history and preservation of the history of our community is basic to our democratic way of life and gives us a better appreciation of our American heritage."

-Buffalo County Historical Society Mission Statement

As the summer wraps up, I like to look back at all that we have accomplished during the busiest season of our year. We had some great events and projects completed by our amazing staff and I wanted to spotlight them- to recognize them for all that they have accomplished this year.

My staff and I appreciate the support that you give us throughout the year and we look forward to working with you in the years to come.

-Jennifer Murrish, Director

Ann has been working at the Trails & Rails Museum for 5 years and has been involved in numerous events. This year was the first year that she organized the Wagons West event. She was responsible for contacting sponsors to help support the event and exhibitors to come out the day of the event. She was also in charge of making sure that everything went smoothly the day of. She said that the most difficult thing about organizing the Wagons West event was contacting sponsors and her favorite thing was *"...the actual day of the event. It was like all of these abstract plans came together into a tangible result. It was really neat seeing everyone show up and enjoy the event."*



Teams competing during the 2013 trivia contest

In addition to being a tour guide at the Trails & Rails Museum, Ann has also organized the Trivia

Contest and worked on organizing accession numbers with donor sheets. She said that her favorite thing about working at the Trails & Rails Museum is *"seeing the children who come into the museum that are so excited about learning! It's really cute!"*



People enjoying activities at the annual Wagons West Celebration

Ann is a student at UNL during the school year

where she is an English major. She also hopes to open a cookie shop in Lincoln some day.

Ashley is working as an intern at the Trails & Rails and has been here for two months or 249.25 hours. She is about to graduate with a degree in Travel and Tourism with a minor in Spanish from UNK and is spending her summer learning about how a museum operates. She works closely with Director Jennifer Murrish to learn about scheduling, budgets, committee meetings, among other tasks that make up a museum director's job.

She has also been helping organize the Wild Science Friday event where children come to the museum for a few hours every Friday and learn about science by doing experiments. Ashley is responsible for researching the

topic (which she said is the most difficult part of her project), creating history presentations, and making handouts for the kids to tie their science topic of the day with Buffalo County history. She enjoys the learning process of her internship, all the experiences she has had at the Trails & Rails, and she loves seeing the smiles on the kids faces every week. Ashley also works as a tour guide at the museum.



Dropping Mentos into Coke during the "There She Blows!" class. Wild Science Fridays, 2014

When Ashley is not at the Trails & Rails, she also works at the Big Apple Sports Bar and enjoys playing on her sand volleyball team. When asked what her favorite part of working at the Trails & Rails, she responded *"I love the people and the friendly workers."*

August 2014 marks Grace's one year anniversary with Trails & Rails

Museum. She has had a busy year helping with the 2013 Trick or Treating Around the Trails & Rails Halloween event, Christmas Tree Walk, and ½ Marathon and 5K. She has also helped organize and catalog books that were donated by the Buffalo County courthouse, worked with the pictures for the Family Fresh Market, and *"the normal office work[:] Phone calls, tours, cleaning, [and] having a blast!"* Her favorite thing about the events she helped with was working with the community and how she helped bring history alive for those who visited. Grace said that the most challenging thing for her was developing new and interesting ways to use Buffalo County history at events and getting everything done on time.

Grace's favorite thing about working at Trails & Rails was the hands-on experiences she got to have with historical artifacts and being surrounded by history. *"it's a place that I learned hands on about historical items that I wouldn't have gotten anywhere else."* She enjoyed hearing the stories people told about Buffalo County history and getting to see what they brought in to donate to the museum. She also loves the people she works with at the museum.

Grace is just about to begin her junior year at UNK where she is majoring in organizational and relation communications with an emphasis in general business. Working at Trails & Rails has helped Grace decide her future career path in event planning specifically for fundraisers for non-profit organizations. Grace also works as a cashier at Hy-Vee.

Katherine has worked at the Trails & Rails Museum for five years and has helped with a number of different events and projects. This year is the second year she organized the Don't Come Event which was designed as a conference with different panels featuring people from Buffalo County's history. She also organized the beard contest at the Wagons West Celebration and has been the editor of Buffalo Tales for about four years. She said her favorite thing about organizing the Don't Come event was *"the sky's the limit. I have a lot of creative license with it and I'm allowed to make it as goofy and over the top as I can"* and the most difficult thing about working on Buffalo Tales is always hunting for more stories and having to come up with some on



Students preparing for the cannon ball battle, Wild Science Fridays, 2014



Kids waiting in line during the costume contest, Trick or Treating Around the Trails & Rails

her own when they don't have any contributed. She also hates deadlines. Katherine said her favorite thing about working at Trails & Rails is *"the people I work with and getting to be surrounded by history all day. I am always seeing things around the museum that I have never noticed before."* Other events Katherine has helped with are the Fiddle Contest, Celtic Festival, and the ghost hunting classes. Katherine also works full time at Cabela's and in her spare time she enjoys reading, writing, and is working on getting published.

This is Madalyn's second summer at the Trails & Rails Museum. She has been busy assisting everybody with their events, being a tour guide, and doing general tasks around the museum. She has also helped with donations accepted by the collections committee and indexed parts of the Cope Collection.

Madalyn says the most difficult part of her job is making sure everything she works on runs smoothly but she enjoys helping and seeing people happy. Her favorite thing about working at Trails & Rails is *"going on a tour and seeing the people's faces light up and hearing people's stories [from] back in the day."*

Madalyn is a sophomore at Kearney High where she plays the violin in the symphonic orchestra. She is also a member of the Kearney High soccer team.

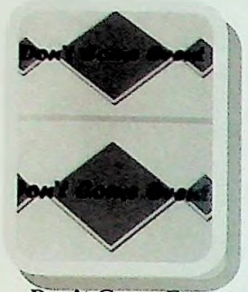
Ross has worked at the Trails & Rails museum for three years and has done a variety of different jobs. He has served as a tour guide, done landscaping around the museum grounds, helped with all of the big events at the museum, and written articles for Buffalo Tales. He is also working on digitalizing the A. T. Anderson photo collection. Ross says the most challenging thing about working at the museum is having good interpersonal and communication skills due to the diversity of people who visit the museum every day but he enjoys hearing the stories that they share when they come to the museum. *"I am most intrigued by patrons' historical stories, but the event I'll most remember is the young man who visited with his pet*

dog that he treated like a parrot. Yes, he even kept the K-9 perched atop his shoulder for the duration of this stay."

In addition to working at the museum, Ross has also taught American History at the University of Nebraska- Kearney for the past four years.

Taylor has worked at the Trails & Rails Museum a little over a month and, when she is not guiding guests on tours, she has been working on organizing the 2014 Christmas Tree Walk. She is responsible for contacting organizations in Kearney to see if they would be interested in decorating a tree or adopting a train car or the gazebo to decorate. She is also contacting area church choirs to entertain guests during the Christmas Tree Walk. The Christmas Tree Walk is also where the annual Penny War happens when people use pennies to vote for their favorite tree or organization and use silver coins to vote against others.

Her favorite part of organizing the walk is when she hears back from organizations with a "yes", that they want to participate but she hates *"just waiting around for a response. I don't like playing the waiting game."* Taylor's favorite thing about working at Trails & Rails is the people she works with. She said that *"everyone is easy to get along with and joke with! I'm always laughing and having fun..."*



Don't Come Event
2013



Christmas Tree Walk
2013

Taylor is an incoming junior at UNK and is double majoring in History Education and Speech Education with a minor in Theater, in addition to also working at the Nebraska Fire Fighter’s Museum. When Taylor is not busy with work or school, she loves reading and *“buying shoes is my kryptonite.”*

Todd started at the Trails & Rails Museum four years ago as an intern while he was working on his recreation management degree and has been working here since. Todd has been the co-chair/chair of the 1/2 Marathon and 5K for four years. He said that his favorite thing about organizing the event is race day, when he gets to see all of his hard work and the people who came to run all come together. The most challenging thing is making sure everything is done by race day. Todd also volunteers as a tour guide at the museum in addition to helping with other projects and doing research for people in the archives.



1/2 Marathon & 5K
2014

Todd’s favorite thing about working at Trails & Rails *“is the people I work with. We are always joking around and having fun.”* Todd recently started working in sales for Prairie View Roofing and Development and enjoys his new position as it gives him more freedom than his previous job and allows him to interact with more people.

Letter from the Editor

When Jen came to me with the idea of featuring the wonderful staff at the Trails & Rails, I thought it was a great idea. She and I worked closely together to design a survey for everybody to answer so we could hear about their jobs in their own words.

I have had fun compiling their answers and learning more about my coworkers in the process. I work with an amazing group of people who put their heart and soul into Trails & Rails every time they walk through the gates.

I hope this has helped you get to know us all a little better. Enjoy these last days of summer, fall is just around the corner!

-Katherine

BUFFALO TALES is the official publication of the Buffalo County Historical Society, a non-profit organization, whose address is P.O. Box 523, Kearney, NE 68848-0523.

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Katherine Wielechowski, Editor

2014 Annual dues, payable January 1, are:

Student.....	\$10.00
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, 2015: Corene Philips, Dan Speirs, Gary Straatmann, Bernie Hascall

Term expiring June 1, 2016: Dr. Roger Davis, Lance Hehner, Matt O’Callaghan, Jan Rodehorst

Term expiring June 1, 2017: Kelly Krier, Mary Beth Lowe, Mike Peak, Dr. Jinny Turman

Officers (1 year term)

President.....	Lance Hehner
Vice-President.....	Dan Speirs
Secretary.....	Corene Phillips
Treasurer.....	Mary Beth Lowe

2014 Calendar of Events

All of November: Christmas Decorating (during regular business hours)
First two weekends in Dec. (Dec.6/7 and Dec. 13/14) from 1-5 pm: Open to the public: 27th Annual Christmas Tree Walk *** Saturday, December 6 from 12-1pm: Members Only Preview of the 27th Annual Christmas Tree Walk***-check out dozens of trees decorated by area not-for-profits that tie their mission into this year's theme. Each theme is announced at the end of the current year's Tree Walk.

Education notes:

Listen to Mardi Anderson on KGFW 1340 AM at 9 am on the last Friday of each month for a fabulous story about Buffalo County!

Fabulous Fridays are held on the 2nd Friday monthly at 2 pm. Locations vary, so check the web site.

January: Friendship Quilts

February: Dowsing

March: Jacob's Sheep and Spinning

April: Early Electricity in Buffalo County

May: Aprons - Now and Then

June: One Room Schools

July: Early Kitchen Utensils

August: Horse Shoeing

September: Apples

October: Old Time Musical Instruments

November: Hand Corn Husking

December: Christmas Traditions

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

Do you ever wonder who works at the Trails & Rails Museum and what they do all day long? Many people wonder what I do down at 'the old depot'. A myth about museum workers is that they just sit around dusty artifacts hoping someone walks in to give them something to do. In actuality, we are quite busy. Many times, we are wearing numerous hats at one time. I currently have dozens of projects in different levels of completion. Sometimes, a project is stalled for permission from a donor or waiting for another part of the project to wrap up so this part can move forward.

For instance, here is the to-do list sitting on my desk today: update Engineer database; contact Membership Committee to prep this year's letter; finish a new blacksmith brochure insert; prepare grant information for shelving for the new building; work on the Fall Work Study schedule; send out completed summer schedule for next week; send Senior College contact information to a professor; find a volunteer to help with the overgrown garden between the school and hotel; ask the Maintenance Committee to look into gutters for two different buildings to assist the Eagle Scout project starting in the next couple weeks; and contact a group to see if they are interested in participating in the Christmas Tree Walk; finalize the order for a new monitor and computer; and double check on the blind that needs worked on in the depot.

We have been so very blessed with amazing summer staff and awesome work study students that help during the off season. Each staff member is assigned a project to work on in between guests and phone calls. I hope you enjoy this glimpse into the Museum's staff and their work.

-Jennifer

Be our friend on Facebook: "BuffaloCounty HistoricalSociety"



Trails & Rails Museum

Buffalo County Historical Society

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