

the Nemo Buzz



The Newsletter for Nemo SD and surrounding areas. Issue 2, November 2012

A Bit of Nemo History

1970 National Christmas Tree

South Dakota's Christmas Gift to the nation was a Black Hills Spruce cut near Nemo. It was wrapped and loaded for its journey to the White House as the 1970 National Christmas Tree. In November of 1970, a blue ribbon logging crew plucked the spruce from its side and laid it aboard a truck cradle. It was transported to Rapid City, SD, and put on display before being shipped to the Capitol by rail. With the tree safely on its way, the site along Boxelder Creek, a mile west of Nemo, was marked with a fence around the stump and a sign provided by the union carpentry program of the Boxelder Job Corps Center. On the Black Hills National Forest land, the site of the tree was within the Historic Case No. 1 timber sale area, that in 1898 was the first U.S. Forest Service timber sale in the nation. Homestake Mining Company was the buyer.

When the tree was lifted from its stump a ring count revealed it to be 73 years old. This means it was germinating about the time the Black Hills National Forest was being established and getting its roots down during the Case No. 1 logging operation.

The national tree had attained a symmetrical 78 feet high and a 30 foot branch spread. Its stump measured 20½ inches in diameter.

Work on the cutting began ahead of time when the Job Corpsmen cleared the site of bush and other obstructions.

Equipment was brought into place by Homestake Mining Company and house movers from Rapid City. Cables were adjusted around the tree and rigged to a large crane so that when the sawing cut was made the tree would swing clear, then be turned on its side and lowered easily.

A second tree, located about 300 feet from the one shipped to the National Capitol, was cut and the boughs stripped from the trunk and packed with the 78 foot spruce and used for fill in branches.

In Washington, D.C. a special National Park Service crew prepared the tree by December 16, 1970 for the traditional lighting ceremony to be presided over by President Nixon.

The White House Christmas Tree from the Nemo area survived two train derailments and a windstorm with gusts of 54 miles per hour toppling it. In spite of all the hard luck it was one of the most beautiful Christmas trees ever.

Reference: The Rapid City Journal, Nov. 1970 and Norma Adams



Letter from the Editors

The Nemo Buzz is an opportunity for residents to discuss local issues, learn about our history, announce upcoming events and advertise our items for sale or services that we provide. The buzz is currently being distributed to over 1200 residents along Nemo Road. The buzz has been well received in the community and we want to thank you all for your positive feedback.

If you would like to contribute an article or an ad to the paper, feel free to contact us via email at admin@nemobuzz.com, or by phone at 858-8418 or 413-5551. All ads are free to Nemo residents. Space is limited.

Thank you,

Your Editors, Zibby and Traci

Carla's Corner — Touring the Black Hills

One of the best kept secrets in Deadwood is a place called Mt. Roosevelt. It is located off high-way 85 North just outside of Deadwood (turn in to the Lodge at Deadwood Casino and take an immediate right and follow the signs to Mt. Roosevelt). You will feel as though you are on top of the world. There is ample parking, picnic tables and trails to the summit. From one side of the mountain you can view Deadwood and Lead. You are able to see Harney Peak, Terry Peak, and Custer Peak. Harney Peak is the highest mountain in the United States east of the Rockies. You can also see Deadwood Gulch which was the site of the mining camp during the 1876 gold rush. All this you can see from the trail on the way to the Friendship Tower.

The Friendship Tower or better known as "*The Castle in the Hills*" was constructed between March and July 1919 and made from native stone. This was a tribute to Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt by friend, rancher, and entrepreneur Seth Bullock to commemorate President Roosevelt's life and death. Seth Bullock died just three months after the dedication ceremony of Mt. Roosevelt Memorial. The tower was recently restored and repaired with the help of Boxelder Job Corps students.

Mt. Roosevelt was deeded to the U.S. Forest Service by the Society of the Black Hills Pioneers in 1966. There is a wonderful place to sit and overlook the valley. From the look out on the face of the mountain, you can see North Dakota and the Orman Dam also known as the Belle Fourche Reservoir. To the northwest are the Bear Lodge Mountains and Devils Tower. You can see all this from the wooden lookout which is located on the front side of the mountain. Continuing on the path you will get a wonderful view of Sturgis, Ft. Meade and Bear Butte.

Presently, the Northern Hills Ranger District is working in this area bucking and limbing trees to remove the pine beetle trees there. They had a "moon walk" event in early October that was open to the public. Mt. Roosevelt is a great



place to come to picnic, take a short hike, relax and enjoy the fall foliage. It's not to be missed!

Living With Nature by Mariah

As Thanksgiving gets closer we start planning our holiday meal, inviting guests for dinner and looking forward to seeing relatives and friends that we haven't seen recently. It is the time of year that we give thanks to a higher power for all that we have reaped during the year. Sometimes we forget to thank our family members and friends for being in our lives and tell them how much they mean to us.

The turkey has become the symbol of Thanksgiving dinner. In fact, Benjamin Franklin wanted to change the national bird from the Bald Eagle to the wild turkey.

Gifting a turkey to the President of the United States started in 1947 with Harry S Truman being the first president to pardon a turkey.

Each spring wild turkey toms, sometimes called gobblers, and hens mate. The toms puff their bodies, spread their tail feathers, grunt, make gobble-gobble sounds, and strut to attract as many hens as possible for mates.

After mating, the hen makes a nest, and lays about 18 tan and brown speckled eggs, one egg per day, before she starts to brood. Incubation takes about a month. In this part of the world we often have a hard freeze during this time of the year and not all of the eggs survive. For the first



two weeks of life, baby turkeys, poults, are unable to fly so the hen roosts on the ground with them. After that, every night at dusk, the hen chases each poult off the ground and onto a tree branch where they roost until dawn the next day.

Turkeys eat seeds, small insects (especially grasshoppers) and wild berries. I have seen them stand beneath a chokecherry tree, fly/jump 10 feet straight up and grab a berry.

1 2

Nemo Buzz Christmas Crossword Puzzle

The crossword puzzle grid contains the following numbers:

- 1 (Across)
- 2 (Across)
- 3 (Across)
- 4 (Down)
- 5 (Across)
- 6 (Across)
- 7 (Across)
- 8 (Across)
- 9 (Across)
- 10 (Across)
- 11 (Across)
- 12 (Across)
- 13 (Across)
- 14 (Across)
- 15 (Across)
- 16 (Across)
- 17 (Across)
- 18 (Across)
- 19 (Across)
- 20 (Across)
- 21 (Across)
- 22 (Across)
- 23 (Across)

Jim Ramey: South Dakota Cowboy....and more! by Marilyn

Maybe Jim Ramey speaks for every cattle rancher when he answered these two questions: What's the best part of being a cowboy? He answered: The freedom. What's the worst part of being a cowboy? He answered: Calving season.

Jim was born in 1917 on a ranch in Haakon County, east of Sturgis, where his folks had homesteaded. In 1933, when Jim was 16 years old, the family moved to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation where his dad leased 30,000 acres southwest of Wanblee. On that move they drove 300 cows and 75 horses on a trip that took ten days.

Jim went to high school in Wall. In his senior year he won the state speech contest in Brookings and received a scholarship from Dakota Wesleyan in Mitchell. He majored in Speech/Communications and was on the school's debate team. One of his teammates was the late George McGovern.

By the time he'd finished college in Mitchell he had been accepted into a new government program that hired selected ranchers to furnish qualified horses for use in the war effort (W.W.II) in Europe. Jim bred his mares to thoroughbred stallions provided by the U.S. Cavalry. He broke and trained the colts and sold them to the Cavalry when they were 4 years old. Each horse sold for a minimum of \$200.00. He continued this work until the end of the war.

It was at a dance in Wanblee where Jim first met Myrtle Alden. They were married in the fall of 1939 and they drove to Denver for a honeymoon. But soon after they arrived Jim got a message from his dad. They needed him at the ranch to get some cattle to the railroad station. So they headed back and Jim hired 5 cowboys to help drive 300 yearling heifers on a 3 day trip to Interior. Myrtle had driven a team only once before but she pitched right in and drove the bed wagon and did the cooking. "And she wore white slacks!" Jim said. After all, she was still a new bride.

They lived in a tent on the ranch that first winter. Jim remembered, "Myrtle was a good shot-better than me-and she shot all the game we ate that winter."

Jim became well known and respected during those years on the ranch and in 1950 he was elected to the South Dakota State Legislature. He served as a Senator for 10 years. Some of his civic activities included membership on the State Banking Commission and the State Fair Board. In the Senate he became a power on the appropriation and livestock committees.

In 1960 the Ramey's bought a ranch near Belle Fourche where they ran 2000 steers. He retired from the cattle business in 1982. Seven years later they bought the place on Elk Creek Road where he lives now. Jim and Myrtle had 4 children. Myrtle passed away in 2007.

Jim is 95 years old. "All I can do now is talk about the memories," he commented. But that's okay, Jim. When you live a full life there are lots of stories to tell!



Nemo Crossword — ACROSS

- 1 Guide for the Three Wise Men
- 3 Christmas song
- 5 Stylish, elegant (slang)
- 6 Christmas goodies
- 7 What kids want
- 9 Old Nemo Store company name
- 12 "We Three ____"
- 15 Curved lines
- 16 ____ upon a time
- 17 Hung by the chimney with care
- 18 With ribbons
- 19 Author of "A Visit From St. Nicholas"
- 20 To Washington in 1970
- 21 Santa's helper
- 22 The man in red
- 23 Illuminated reindeer

Cliche Corner



Norma Kraemer by Faye

Norma Kraemer was born in Hawaii and moved around a lot being she was an Air Force brat. She grew up thinking everyone knew how to fly. She saved up her money and earned her pilot's license when she was 25 years old. She moved to Rapid City in 1976. She met her husband Vern, also a pilot, in 1982 at a Spearfish Air Show. She liked his yellow J3 Cub plane and told him she would like to fly it. Vern worked as an airplane mechanic and he fixed Norma's plane when it needed it. They got married in 1995 and moved to the home in Nemo that she is living in now. Verne passed away this year on June 20th. He was known as a pioneer of South Dakota aviation and received numerous aviation awards throughout his life.

Their home was originally the first Box Elder Ranger Station that was built in 1910. The Ranger Station started out with just one ranger for the entire area, and gradually more men joined to become rangers. Just down the road from their home going towards Rapid City, is a park/picnic area where you can read about Case #1 on an informative sign. The Homestake Mines brought timber from the Ranger Station to timber the mines, as well as built places for the men to live who were working in the saw mills and mines. Nemo was the company town. In 1933 the Box Elder Ranger Station was sold to Adolph and Paulina Kraemer (Verne's parents) and the Kraemer family has been living there ever since.

Adolph Kraemer liked making things out of concrete, a hobby of his. He made a full sized statue of Calamity Jane holding a rifle and two bust-sized statues; one of Wild Bill and the other of Sitting Bull. These statues were all located near the house, but people would come around and take pieces of the statues away with them, so now one is hidden and two are safely tucked away in the barn.

Norma and Verne built an airstrip on their property and had 3 planes, one of which Norma built from blueprints under the supervision of Verne. Verne did most of the major welding, but Norma welded some, as well. The fabric work and wings she did all by herself. People have called her asking if she wanted to sell the planes and she said no.

Lastly, I asked her what planes she had flown and she has flown single planes, a B52 Bomber, a SAAB 106 which is a trainer jet for the Swedish Air Force, a replica of the Spirit of St.

Louis, a 1928 Ford Tri Motor plane and the largest plane that she ever flew was the Zepelin NT. It is 15 feet longer than a Boeing 747, has three engines and flies slower than anything she has ever flown. It cruises at the same speed as a J3 cub which is 70 miles per hour.



Norma and the Corben Jr. Ace that she built



Julie (a fish biologist visiting from Washington State) caught an 18 inch trout at an undisclosed Nemo location.



Sue's Clues

Cleaning glass pans or oven racks: To scrub baked-on food off glass pans or oven racks, use a ball of foil in place of a steel-wool soap pad. It's a great way to recycle those clean but used pieces of foil!

Test the Powder: Baking powder begins to lose potency after 6 months. Put 2 tsp. into 1 cup water. If it foams and fizzes immediately, it's good. If reaction is delayed, buy another can!



Adolph's Statue of Sitting Bull

Nemo Crossword — DOWN

- 2 A messenger of God
- 3 Manger scene
- 4 An air or melody
- 5 It ran through town
- 8 Christmas season
- 10 They fly!
- 11 Winter flakes
- 13 Will melt by Spring
- 14 Nemo used to have one
- 18 Ring ring

