

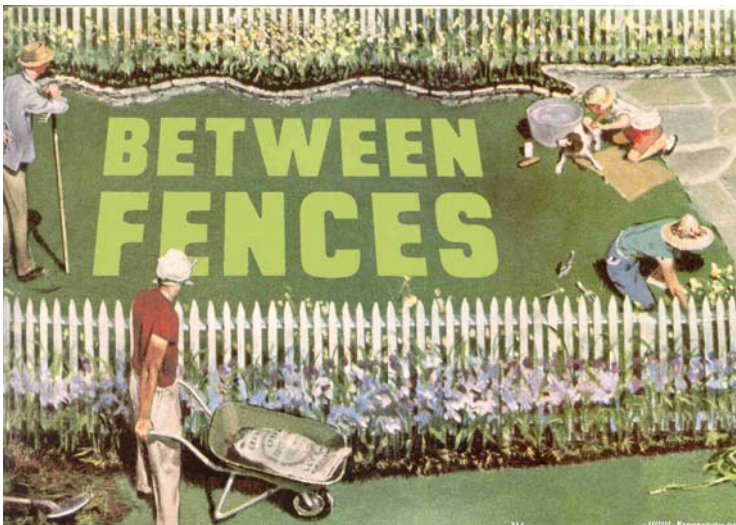


Spring 2008  
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# THE W. H. OVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

Friends of the W. H. Over Museum, 414 E. Clark St, Vermillion, SD 57069-2390  
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## W. H. Over Museum Preparing to Host Smithsonian Exhibit



The W. H. Over Museum has been selected as the first of six institutions in South Dakota to host the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit "Between Fences".

## W.H. Over Museum Held a Chess Tournament Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>

The 2008 W.H. Over Museum Chess Tournament was held February 9<sup>th</sup> with forty-seven players in three sections participating. The rated section drew players from as far as Moorhead, MN and Omaha, NE. The Pierre Indian Learning Center sent a bus load of chess players who had the opportunity to view the exhibits and learn more about South Dakota history between rounds.

*Chess continued on page 5*

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"Between Fences" is a visual cultural history of fences and land use that examines how neighbors and nations divide and protect, offend and defend through the boundaries they build. Focusing on every region of the United States, the exhibition examines human relationships on an expanding scale: neighbor versus neighbor, gated communities, and the Mexican and Canadian borders of the United States.

*"between Fences" continued on page 4*



Lenaire Azure from PILC writes down her opponent's move at the inaugural WH Over Chess Tournament held in February.

## FROM PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings,

I hope that all of the Friends of the Museum are enjoying a healthy and productive Spring. If you have recently visited the W.H. Over Museum, I know that you appreciate the hard work of the staff and volunteers. We continue to strive to make the Museum an exciting place to visit by adding new exhibits and presenting quality programming.

I would like to thank the Friends for electing me as President for the coming year. I consider the position to be both an honor and a challenge and I hope that I can contribute to the overall success of our organization. I think it is important to thank our outgoing President Maxine Johnson and all of the Board members for their hard work. I realize that many of us also contribute our time to other organizations in the community and your generous gift of time and resources is appreciated. I would be remiss if I did not mention our wonderful group of volunteers also, as they continue to support the success of the W.H. Over Museum and keep it as one of the finest museums in our state and region. I hope to recognize each and every volunteer at the fundraising dinner, so that we can all thank them for their continued hard work.

The Board continues to tackle the challenges associated with the stewardship of the building, the collection, and the organization. Although money is always an issue, our Treasurer Dr. Chuck Estee reported that we were in the black for the 2007 fiscal year. However, Dr. Estee continues to urge us to be thrifty with our outlays, while emphasizing the importance of generating new sources of revenue. We definitely have a focused list of new projects in the planning stages including new indoor and outdoor lighting and the purchase of lawn equipment to maintain the grounds. If undertaken, these new projects will increase our financial obligations, but will greatly improve the facility while decreasing utility costs. As many of you know, we are still paying down the debt incurred from the installation of the new heating and cooling system. Nevertheless, we have enjoyed a significant decrease in our utility costs, which is an important consideration considering the recent astronomical increases in prices of oil, gas, and electricity. But all of these efforts come at a cost. Consequently, we are in the planning stages of a fundraising campaign to pay for the heating and cooling improvements as well as these new planned improvements.

*President' Letter continued on page 7*

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## USD Donates Sign

A new sign, “W. H. Over Museum: Museum of Natural and Cultural History,” has been placed on the southeast corner of the museum grounds. The sign, similar to signs used to identify facilities on the USD campus, was donated to the Friends of the W. H. Over Museum and erected by the University of South Dakota through the unceasing efforts of FOM 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Maxine Johnson. The sign is appreciated and will help visitors identify and find the museum.

## Special Guest Exhibits at the W H. Over Museum

Four area residents have parts of their collections on display at the W. H. Over Museum in Vermillion. Four prints (two circa 1880s) by Rosa Bonheur (1822–99), from Ms. Karen Kaeberle’s collection, are on display in Sletwold Hall and will remain there until the end of April. Ms. Bonheur, a French painter of farm life and a minor heroine in women’s art history, was trained by her father to produce anatomically accurate renderings of animals.

The North Gallery Guest Collection Exhibit is featuring a collection of miniature John Deere farm and construction equipment from Hubert Gregoire’s massive collection. The hand-made trucks and wood items produced by Marvin Walz has been held over, by popular demand, for one more month. Both collections will be on display through April.

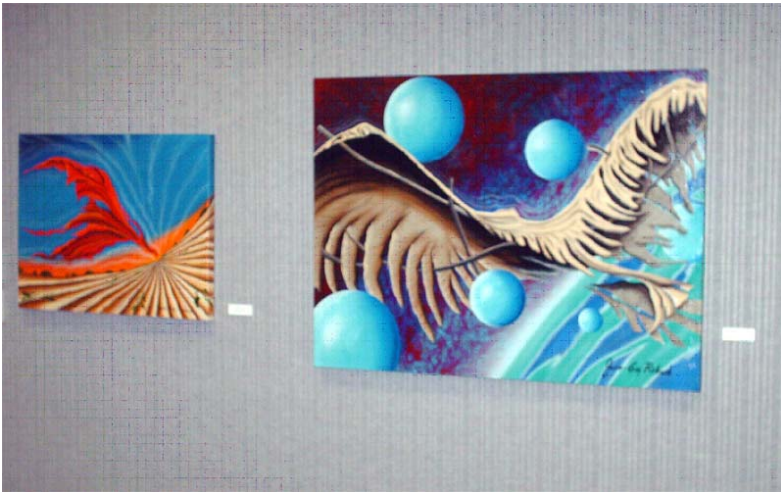
And, woodturnings and boxes produced by Josh Brower are on display in the Lobby Guest Collection Exhibit case. His creations are produced using bent wood techniques and on a wood turning lathe. Objects exhibited were donated to the museum for fundraising purposes.



*Hubert Gregoire's Tractors*

Individuals wishing to have their collections on display on a short-term loan basis should contact the museum at 605-677-5228. Everyone is welcome to visit the museum from 10 AM to 4 PM on weekdays and Saturdays. Schools and organizations of all types are encouraged to schedule tours of the museum by contacting Shirley at the above number.

## The Paintings of Jean Guy Richard



The art of Jean Guy Richard graced the walls of Sletwold Hall at the W. H. Over Museum. Over 70 people attended the reception for the artist as the show came to a close in late October. John Day, USD Art Department Chair, was able to schedule the show and coordinate USD Art students in their efforts to hang the art work. Richard's bold use of color and shape immediately captures the viewer's attention. It certainly captured the eye of museum visitors and those who attended events in Sletwold Hall the Fall. Once again, the USD College of Fine Arts and the W. H. Over Museum were able to join together to bring a quality cultural event to southeast South Dakota.

*Smithsonian Exhibit* from page 1

"Between Fences" tells American stories through diverse fence types. Nancy Hodgson, Education Coordinator at the W. H. Over, is program director for this exhibit in Vermillion. Steve Bucklin, History Professor at USD, serves as state scholar for the tour in South Dakota.

"Between Fences" will open on September 24, 2008 at the Over Museum in Vermillion and run through November 1. A local planning committee is currently developing public programming to complement the theme of "Between Fences." The Executive Committee of Nancy Hodgson, Barb Gauger, and Gayla Koerting have already lined up most of the speakers. We plan to have one public program a month leading up to the exhibit and one each week the exhibit is here. There will be a number of contests and activities featuring art,

photography, poetry and essay writing, drama, fence painting, and possibly a mystery fence contest. Area schools and community groups of all ages will be encouraged to participate. Programs and tours for community groups will be available. Watch for further announcements of programs and activities.

The showing of "Between Fences" has been made possible in Vermillion by the South Dakota Humanities Council. "Between Fences" is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress. The W. H. Over welcomes community sponsors to provide additional support.

### "Ones trash is another's treasure"

Bring your items to the museum for the annual WH Over rummage sale to be held sometime this summer. All items welcome except clothing.

## Discovery Room Play Area

A play area was added to the newly redecorated Discovery Room. Items for the play area and sand box area were acquired through grants from the Vermillion Area Community Foundation and Pamida. Activity and comments from those who have utilized the new areas support current survey findings reported in recent museum literature, kids love play areas, parents support play area facilities, and most large museums provide play areas for children.



*Chess Tournament* from page 1



The two unrated sections had trophies and medals for prizes. There was only one player in each section that won all their games. Those players were Serif Suljic from Sioux Falls in the open rated, Jordan Waters from Pierre in the K-8 unrated, and Donald Abraham from Elk Point in the unrated open section. More details and games about the tournament can be found at: [www.sdchess.org](http://www.sdchess.org)  
The following teams and individuals won prizes in the tournament.

### Open Rated:

Serif Suljic, Sioux Falls 4.0 \$80  
Ben Ryan, Omaha, NE 3.0 \$20 + \$10 (best game prize)  
Ash Loudon, Vermillion 2.5 \$8  
Alan Kingsley, Sioux Falls 2.5 \$8

### U800 K-8 Section Individual Standings:

Jordan Waters, Pierre – 4.0 – 1st Place Trophy  
Jess Buckman, Pierre – 3.5 – 2nd Place Trophy  
Mark Helenurm, Vermillion – 3.5 – 3rd Place Trophy

### U800 K-8 Section Team Standings:

1<sup>st</sup> Place (Gold medals and trophy)  
Pierre with 13.5 points on the top 4 boards  
Jordan Waters (4.0)  
Jess Buckman (3.5)  
Evander Patterson (3.0)  
Shanda Poor Bear (3.0)  
Zach Poor Bear (3.0)  
Tracie Cross Dog (3.0)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Silver medals and trophy)  
Vermillion with 11 points on the top 4 boards  
Mark Helenurm (3.5)  
Sowmya Ragothaman (3.0)  
Robert Erikson (3.0)  
Kevin Helenurm (1.5)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place (Bronze medals)  
Garretson with 6 points on the top 4 boards  
Thomas Boland (3.0)  
Zachary Boland (2.0)  
Nathaniel Boland (1.0)

### Unrated Open Section Individual Standings:

Donald Abraham, Elk Point 3.0 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Trophy

## New Educational Kits on Display and Available for Loan

Children in grades K–12 have 35 new educational kits and displays to interact with on the museum floor, the Discovery Room, or in their own classrooms. The kits and displays were researched and created by 130 students enrolled in South Dakota Indian Studies last fall and this spring for a project called “Early Education on the Plains.” Dr. Mary L. Jones designed the project to give visitors at the museum an opportunity to experience a bit of what life might have been like for Native children in the past.

If children can't come to the museum, the museum will come to them in the form of teacher trunks. The trunks can be mailed to the schools for use in the classrooms. The Discovery Room kits are left in the museum for use during the visit and the floor displays encourage students to interact with the materials while surrounded by history and culture displays.



Pei-Lun Tsai, a doctoral student at USD School of Education, has been working with Jones and the students to create a system of recording the content of the kits and the dissemination of marketing information to the schools. Tsai is from Taipei, Taiwan and is excited about the opportunity to work at the museum this semester. “It’s great to see how the museum has preserved the Native American artifacts and how children can now experience the culture and life from hundreds of years ago.” Watching teachers encourage students to play in the tipi, sit on the storytelling blanket, or learn to make a necklace out of shells is a very positive experience. “The students are eager to touch things!”



*Pei-Lun Tsai recording the contents of the kits*



## Finding Pictures for the New Vermillion History Book

Museum volunteers Dr. Larry Bradley, Dr. Robert Freese, and Tom Thaden have been searching through the museum's photo collections to find photographs and negatives for use in publishing a new History of Vermillion book as part of the Sesquicentennial (150 Year) observance scheduled for 2009. Photographs were scanned using a high resolution scanner to provide high quality originals for photos without negatives. Mr. Thaden has stated that many NEW pictures will be included in the new history book which is being prepared through the efforts of the Clay County Historical Society.

*President' Letter continued from page 2*

If you have recently visited the Museum you will likely have noticed much activity in the North Gallery. Several new exhibit cases have been completed and older exhibit cases have been refurbished. Ken Wurtz and Gene Iverson (and others I'm sure) have really done a beautiful job with these exhibits. I especially like the new case for the sea turtle in the Visitors to the Plains exhibit. We expect to see some additional large changes in the North Gallery with the traveling Fences exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution this fall and the planned exhibits for the Vermillion Sesquicentennial in 2009 and the rotating Vermillion Organizations exhibits. Our exhibits committee should be commended for all their hard work. Our collaboration with the Lions Club and the Vermillion Historical Society to bring the Dakotas First Schoolhouse to the Museum grounds is also progressing well.

Lastly, I again request your moral and financial support. The Museum is always in need of volunteers and money. If you are interested in helping please contact Shirley Andersen at 605-677-5228. Please remember that although we continue to enjoy support from the both the City and County as well as many local charitable organizations such as the United Way and Civic Council, much of this funding must be earmarked for new programs. Therefore, we continue to request your financial support through gifts, annual membership dues, and attendance at fundraising events to continue to keep our doors open and delivering the best Museum and programming we can.

God Bless and see you at the W.H. Over, Bob Noiva

## Vermillion Lions Club Paint Front of Museum

Members of the Vermillion Lions Club scrapped, primed, and painted the siding on the front of the W. H. Over Museum building this fall as one of the Club's service projects. The painting crew was led by Bob Pratt and included Dick Stensaas, Dave Stockland, Allen Johnson, Carl Carlson, and Jerry Porart. Allen Johnson and Sam BeGay moved ladders, drop cloths, and supplies to and from the museum's front patio for use by the painting crew. The Vermillion Lions Club hold its regular meetings in Sletwold Hall at the museum and conducts an annual Biker and Traveler's Pancake Breakfast fundraiser at the Homestead Rest Stop and donates the proceeds to the museum.



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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.usd.edu/whover](http://www.usd.edu/whover)

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**Gift Shop Phone:**  
605.677.5277

**Calendar of Events & Exhibits at the WH Over**  
(check the website for additions and/or changes)

June 26 – July 13. Lloyd Menard's "Frogman Show" (art).

September Rummage Sale

September 20 – November 2. Traveling Art Show "Between Fences" from the Smithsonian Institute.

November 3 – 30. Veteran's Display.

*"Individuals wishing to have their collections on display on a short-term loan basis should contact the museum at 605-677-5228."*

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