

April
2024

Vol. 06 Edition 2

HOW TIME FLIES...

Monthly News & Events

HIGH PLAINS WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER  SPEARFISH, SD



Volunteer Profiles:

Ed and Linda Shimp: HPWHC Volunteers

by Larry Miller

Ed and Linda Shimp of Spearfish first visited the High Plains Western Heritage Center about three years ago to visit Danny Fabricius, a cousin who had been working at the museum; they wanted to visit him – and take a look through the museum.

“That’s when we discussed becoming volunteers. We tried it and we were hooked!”

The Shimps are natives of South Dakota. Ed was born in Belle Fourche. His parents raised cattle and grew sugar beets near Fruitdale. The youngest of three children, he had two older sisters.

Linda Beeman was born in Pierre, the older of two Beeman daughters. When Linda was three, the family moved to Belle Fourche where her father took a job at the bentonite plant.

Ed and Linda went to the same church and were classmates through school years. Ed recalls often visiting the A&W Drive-Inn where Linda worked! They began dating and ended up at the Junior-Senior Prom together. Both were 1969 graduates of Belle Fourche High School.

In 1970, Ed joined the Army National Guard and went to Basic Training at Fort Ord, California, becoming a radio operator. For about six months in 1971, he worked road construction in Wyoming before moving to Denver, taking a job in home construction.

“The National Guard was a good experience,” Ed recalled. “Our unit was activated and provided assistance to Rapid City during the 1972 flood.”

Linda was enrolled at Black Hills State University from



Ed and Linda Shimp

June 1969 through August 1971 before she, too, went to Denver and worked as a secretary. Ed and Linda returned briefly to Belle Fourche to get married at St. James Lutheran Church on January 29, 1972. Linda recalls “We had a one-night honeymoon at Little America near Cheyenne on our way back to Denver!”

In June 1973, Ed was hired as a cable splicer with Mountain Bell Telephone Company in Denver. Ed and Linda’s first child, Brendan, was born the following year. Sisters Leah and Natasha followed in 1976 and 1979.

After nearly a decade in Denver, Ed was transferred by Mountain Bell to Durango as a lineman in 1980. Linda went to work for the Principal at the Elementary School in nearby Ignacio, Colorado in 1984, remaining with the school 13 years.

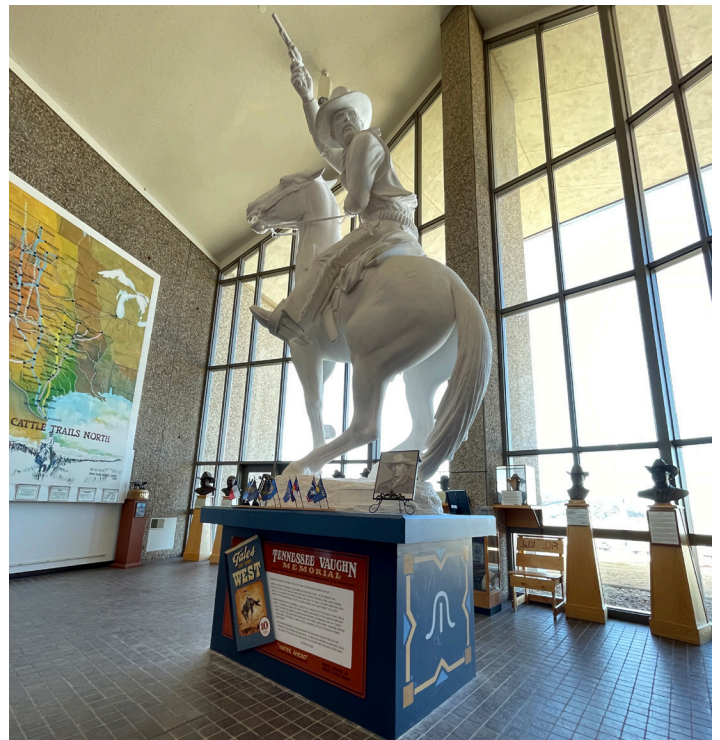
In 1997, Ed was transferred to Phoenix with the telephone company, which had become “Quest.” He worked for two more years – was credited with an additional two years for retirement purposes – giving him a total of 30 years when he

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SPRING HOURS

Welcome back to the High Plains Western Heritage Center! We are open during the month of April on Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9am - 4pm. Our summer hours will resume in May. We can’t wait to see you again!

New Pedestal Artwork Complete



Our iconic 17-foot statue of cattle boss James A. “Tennessee” Vaughn is now adorned with brand new pedestal artwork. The artistry was completed by Tim Peterson at Flat Earth Art. It features the story of this famous trail boss. The project was funded by a gift from Lois (Vaughn) and Daniel Nikodym.



We received \$2,000 from the Spearfish Community Foundation! Thanks to the work of Sue Konstant and Kari Engen we are able to purchase an automated external defibrillator (AED) unit for the Heritage Center and the training that will be needed. THANK YOU to all of the Directors of the Spearfish Community Foundation

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday April 6 - 1:00PM

HPWHC Speaker Series

Dr. David Wolff presents

"Landmarks in Black Hills History: Pioneer Cabins: Stories that May or May Not be True"

Admission by donation at the door.

Saturday April 13 - 1:00PM

HPWHC Speaker Series

Book presentations by western authors

Dawn Newland and Kimberly Kaye.

"We Pen the West"

Presenting character portrayals of significant moments in their novels.

Admission by donation at the door.

For additional events check our website:
WesternHeritageCenter.com/upcoming-events

Saturday April 20 - 1:00PM

HPWHC Speaker Series

Mike Madler presents

"The Axelbee Gang and the Feb. 14, 1884 Gunfight at Stoneville"

Admission by donation at the door.

Sunday May 19 - 2:00PM

High Plains Live! - Allen & Jill Kirkham

An Afternoon of Cowboy & Gospel Music

\$10 General / \$15 for Reserved

Sponsored by: South Dakota Arts Council and Perkins Family Restaurant

Tues. June 11 & Tues. June 25 5:30PM

Cowboy Supper Show 2024!

Chuck wagon buffet and cowboy music

Featuring Orion & Stacy Potter

\$35 Call (605) 642-9378 for Reservations

Sunday June 23 - 2:00PM

High Plains Live! - Carol Markstrom

Award-winning western musician and singer

\$10 General / \$15 for Reserved

Sunday June 30 - 1:30PM

Debra Christofferson Movie Career

Presentation & Reception

This will be a day to highlight the movie career of Spearfish's own Deb Christofferson. Hosted by Paul Higbee. No Admission Charge

Sunday July 21 - 2:00PM

Annual Day of the American Cowboy

Featuring cowboy musician Paul Larson and cowboy poet Ken Cook.

Stay tuned for additional details!



825 Heritage Drive | Spearfish, SD 57783

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retired from the company in 2001.

Ed and Linda then bought their own carpet cleaning business, Desert-Chem-Dry of Mesa, which was a profitable venture,

but they grew weary of big city life and chose to move north to Kingman, AZ, the community to which Linda's parents had retired. Ed and Linda lived in Kingman for 13 years, then decided to return to the

Black Hills and Spearfish in 2016.

The Shimps have six grandchildren: four grandsons and two granddaughters. Son Brendan in Spokane has a boy and a girl; daughter Leah lives in Gilbert, Arizona and has two boys and one girl; and Shimp's younger daughter, Natasha, resides in Phoenix and has one adopted son.

During their Colorado years, the Shimps enjoyed boating and water skiing. Ed also dabbled with ultra-lite aircraft and also earned his pilot's license.

Now, in addition to their volunteering at High Plains Western Heritage Center, Linda has become deeply involved in church activities. Ed and Linda are members of Connection Church in Belle Fourche.



Thank you once again to our longtime supporters from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The Mary Thybo chapter donated another beautiful high-wind resistant American flag for us to display proudly on the flagpole in front of the center. We are grateful to be the recipients of their generosity and patriotism!

April Newsletter Contributors:
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