

OUR TOWNS Cedar County

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Schuetzenfest Celebration Set For Sunday In Bow Valley

BY JUSTIN RUST
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BOW VALLEY, Neb. — Schuetzenfest has been a tradition in Bow Valley, Neb. for the past 114 years.

The celebration takes place every five years, and this Sunday, the community of Bow Valley will continue the German tradition.

The Schuetzenfest "shooting fest" started when German men would leave home and fight in wars. When they would come home, they would have a shooting competition. Once the king was determined, the celebration would begin, and as Schuetzenfest committee member Randy Noecker said, the forefathers knew how to celebrate.

"It's held every five years because it takes five years to recover," Noecker joked.

Noecker said there are a couple reasons why the festival is still fun after 114 years.

"Number one, it's a community reunion; it's a pretty powerful thought to bring the surrounding communities to an event that isn't yearly," he said. "Secondly, it's my personal feeling that it's a way of honoring our members of the military. The festival was created to honor those who were off at war. I don't think we do that as much as we should, and this is a way to do that."

The festival starts at 8 a.m. Sunday with a 5K Fun Run, followed by Sunday Mass at St. Peter & Paul Church at 10:30 a.m.

Then at 11:30, and there is a service honoring departed members.

A parade will start at noon with about 100 enterants, and the flag raising and national anthem at 2 p.m.

Right after, the shooting of the legendary wooden bird will start, which also determines who is named the King of Schuetzenfest for the next five years.

Fifty-two shooters are lined up for this shoot, and last time in 2005, it took 182 shots to take down the bird. Brian Lange was the lucky participant who finished off the bird.

The bird was made by Kyle Hochstein and the feathered animal it will portray is a turkey and is a little bigger than a basketball. The bird is placed 75 yards away and is on a 40-foot high wooden pole.

Noecker said they have tried to keep the shooting of the bird tradition as close to the original as they could.

"We use a 30/30 rifle, which is still a popular caliber today," he said. "We use a full metal bullet on the first shots, so it's almost impossible on the first round. We switch to a regular bullet, and that's when the bird gets some damage. Then after about an hour to an hour and a half, we get a new king."

Noecker said there are 10 or so guns in the rotation, so the guns won't get too hot and they can keep moving down the line and continue shooting.

The last time around, specta-

tors were allowed to buy tickets on who they thought would win the contest. The proceeds will go to the people who pick the correct shooter, the shooter and is also a fundraising event for the town's baseball fields.

There will also be a raffle for one of the 30/30 rifles, which will be stainless steel and engraved.

After the king is determined, he will pick out a queen.

"The king will pick his wife or girlfriend if he knows what is good for him," Noecker said.

Lange followed that philosophy and picked his wife, Stephanie.

After the king and queen are coronated, a German Dancing performance will start at 4 p.m.

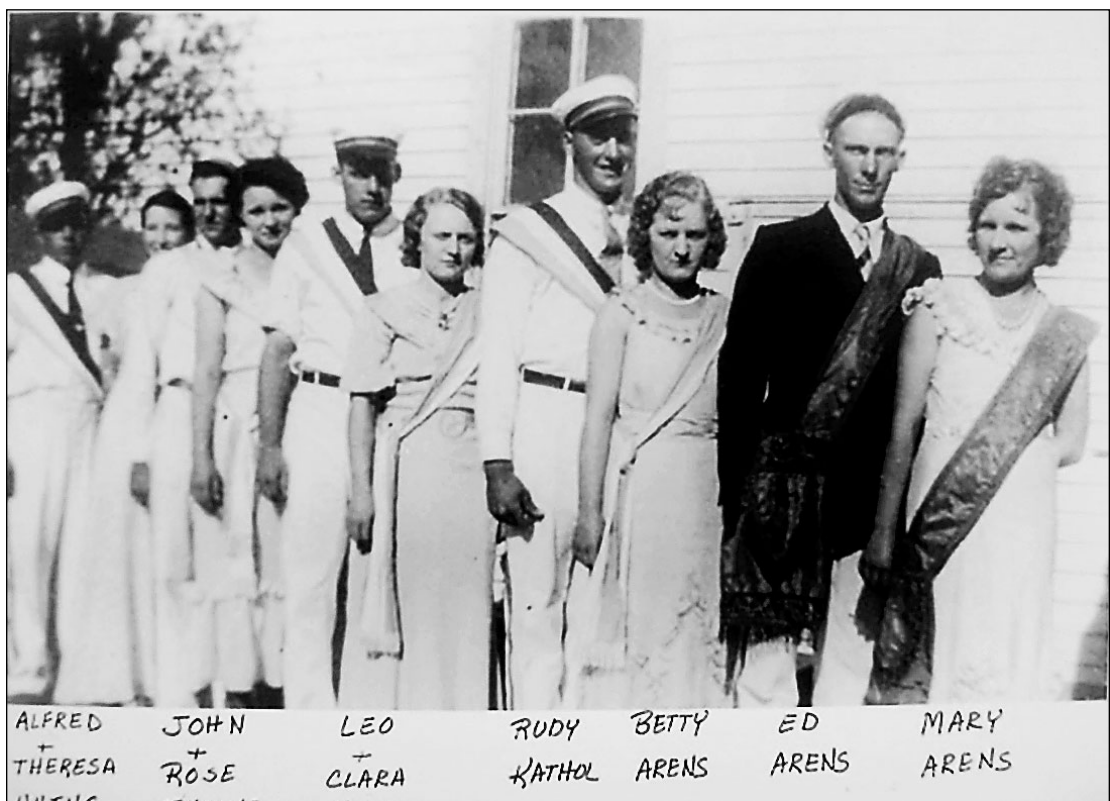
This is a new tradition which started at the last Bow Valley Schuetzenfest.

"The German American Society came up from Omaha (Neb.) last time and performed an authentic dance," Noecker said. "They are going to come back this year and will be prepared. It will be quite the dance, and the dance hall should be packed."

A talent contest will follow at 5 p.m. on an outdoor stage, and Noecker said there is no limit on what talent can be performed.

"The sky is the limit," he said. "If it's a talent that is appropriate, then we have no problems with it."

Then at 6 p.m., a dance will start, and it will have a variety of music.



ABOVE ARE PAST ROYALTY OF SCHUETZENFEST. THE FESTIVAL STARTED IN BOW VALLEY, NEB. 114 YEARS AGO AND TAKES PLACE EVERY FIVE YEARS. SCHUETZENFEST WILL GET UNDERWAY SUNDAY AT 8 A.M. WITH A 5K RUN. THE SHOOTING OF THE WOODEN BIRD WILL TAKE PLACE AT 2 P.M. FOLLOWED BY THE CORONATION OF THE NEW KING AND QUEEN. ADMISSION TO SCHUETZENFEST IS FREE.

There will also be a variety of games not only for children, but also for adults throughout the day, along with many different types of food and beer that will be served.

One place that has honored Schuetzenfest's history is Clayton's restaurant in Bow Valley.

"They have transformed their restaurant into a Schuetzenfest royalty," Noecker said. "They have found photos back to the 1896 festival and are plastering their walls with the photos."

At sunset, there will be a lowering of the flag.

"The flag will come down, but I am sure there will be parties going all throughout the evening," Noecker said. "It's free admission, and we just want to have a good time."

Cuban-Born Artist Finds Inspiration Everywhere

BY JULIE BLUM
Columbus Telegram

COLUMBUS, Neb. — Mario Arango can see art everywhere.

From a common scene of someone sitting on a bench reading a book, to dangerous winds that sweep across Nebraska during the summer, Arango can be inspired by it all.

The Cuban native has been sketching and painting since childhood. Several of his works have been on display at the Columbus Art Gallery.

Arango has lived in Columbus for two years. He emigrated to America with his wife and two children in 2006. They are here on a visa.

They left Cuba for a better life and came to this area for work. His English is still a bit rough, something he apologizes for.

Arango's artwork, though, speaks for itself. There are stories behind each painting and sketch, but whether the viewer has knowledge of the story is irrelevant to Arango. He just wants people to feel whatever emotion they might when looking at his paintings.

"When you see something in his paintings, even if it isn't what he sees, it is still a triumph for him," said his daughter Yanni Arango, who was translating for her father.

He doesn't put himself in a box when asked about his style.

"A real artist doesn't have one style," Arango said. "Having just one would be like eating the same food day after day."

His style might be best described as figurative art with native art influences. Bold color is also a big part of his work.

Arango can remember first discovering art when he was 3. His grandfather bought him comic books, and he was soon drawing what he saw in those strips. In school, his attention was more focused on art than other subjects. He found himself getting in trouble for drawing when he should have been attentive to the teacher. He enrolled in art school when he was 11.

Arango went to teach at the San Alejandro Academy of Fine Arts in Cuba. Several of his paintings have been in exhibits in Cuba. He had to leave his paintings behind when he and his family moved to America.

Although he is away from his birth nation, some of his past can be seen in his paintings. Some have wheels, which is because of Arango's father, who was in a wheelchair.

Members of his family are the inspiration of some pieces. "My Son in Columbus" was born from seeing his son sitting on a bench outside the Columbus Public Library, his nose buried in a book.

MEETING

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someone with a disability.

One of the words Grant mentioned was handicapped, and how a person with a disability doesn't want to be known as handicapped.

"The word is disabled, because you only have a handicap in golf, racing and bowling," Grant said. "So a person is not given a handicap."

Changing the terminology of handicapped to a person with a

disability is part of the People's First Language.

"The People's First Language helps people use terms that are more acceptable," Roth said.

Other examples of the First Language are instead of saying a person is crippled to saying that person has a physical disability or a mobile impairment, and instead of saying a person has a birth defect, he or she has a congenital disability.

Grant said Roth has been a big help in her goal to make Yankton more friendly to people with a disability.

"I was constantly on the phone, but the committee is a lot easier," she said. "I couldn't

do this without Krista (Roth). I have come to her with my ideas and she has really helped me."

Roth said her first experience dealing with people with a disability wasn't until she took her job with ILC two years ago.

Now she wants to help make the rest of the city aware.

"We have the small town feel to it, and I haven't had a lot of people come to me with change, so I am kind of wondering if they are under the frame of mind it's not going to change," Roth said.

Roth did say the city as been very supportive of the committee's ideas.

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