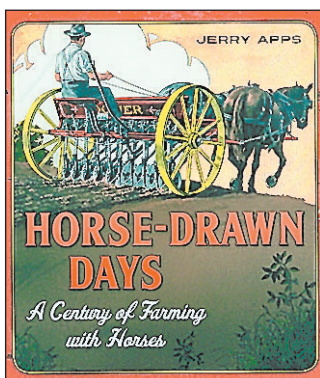


THE BOOKWORM:

You Will Be Drawn To Farming



"Horse-Drawn Days: A Century of Farming with Horses" by Jerry Apps, 2010, Wisconsin Historical Society Press, \$24.95, 199 pages.

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You must've driven by the lot six or seven times before you stopped, before the gleam of that machine drove you in for a look-see. You don't need a tractor but sometimes life is all about want, not need.

And you want that tractor. Its engine is guaranteed to start in cold weather and the PTO has exactly what you require for farm work. It's got enough horsepower, too, and there's a deluxe leather seat in the air-conditioned cab. Wouldn't Great-Grandpa be surprised?

Probably, since he got his horsepower in the form of horseflesh, as you'll see in the new book "Horse-Drawn Days: A Century of Farming with Horses" by Jerry Apps.

Long before that gleaming tractor was a gleam of an idea, horses were the main mode of transportation, plow-pulling, wagon-hauling, and snow-clearing. Everybody, town and country alike, had or used a horse or three to do heavy work.

It wasn't always that way. Oxen were the original "team", but farmers learned that horses were quicker than a pair of ponderously-moving bovines — even though the oxen ate less and could be eaten themselves. Mules, too, were sometimes found behind a plow, but horses were much more popular. In 1915 — before cars took over the roads — nearly a million horses lived and worked in Wisconsin alone. Apps says that in that year, 94 percent of Wisconsin farms utilized horses.

Despite that horses lightened a farmer's workload, just getting a team ready was a chore. Harnessing itself took several careful steps before the real work started. Then a farmer could look forward to a long, dusty day walking or pitching, loading or unloading, hauling and stacking. And who to the farmer whose horses spooked ...

But it wasn't all bad; in fact, there are reasons why old-timers smile wistfully at the memory of farming with real horsepower. Horses were pets, friends, family members, partners, and helpmates, as well as the occasional GPS for a tired farmer on his way home. They were wonderfully, cheaply fuel-efficient: hay in, fertilizer out. Unlike that tractor you're drooling over, a horse always started in cold weather. He never needed expensive gas or oil, he ran quietly without a computer chip, and he never "broke down" when you needed him the most.

Know somebody who loved to horse around in the fields? Do you love the smell of horse and old leather? Then this book will be a pleasure.

Author Jerry Apps, himself a former farm kid, can tell a story like nobody else — and he does it here aplenty. Using personal stories, old photos, magazine ads from bygone days, trivia, and recollections from former farmers, Apps practically chats with his readers in this book. That, and the easy images Apps evokes, gives "Horse-Drawn Days" the comfortable feel of a neighborly visit or an across-the-fence jaw-session.

For re-creationists, back-to-nature sorts, horse lovers, former farmers, or anybody who longs a time when life was slower, "Horse-Drawn Days" is a perfect read. If you've got any horse sense at all, you won't miss it.

ART FORMS

Mighty Mo Photos Take Over Gar Hall

BY PAM MEYLOR

Executive Director Yankton Area Arts

Today at the G.A.R. Hall Art Gallery the 2010 Mighty Mo Photo Show opens and features the work of area photographers. This is an annual photo competition designed to compliment Yankton's yearly Riverboat Days / Summer Arts Festival celebrations and to recognize the talents of area photographers. Yankton Area Arts will be hosting a reception and award presentation on the evening of Friday, August 6 at the G.A.R. Hall.

Historically, Yankton Area Arts holds an opening for a new exhibit during the week it opens; however, we are changing the schedule around just a bit. The change comes from the work our exhibit committee has been doing with the other Yankton galleries to coordinate a monthly art night. You may have noticed that in the past few months there have been a few evenings promoted as "Yankton Art Night". Those events have received wonderful feedback and the local galleries have decided to make it a regularly scheduled evening called "First Fridays".

Yankton Area Arts will be celebrating the inaugural First Friday by hosting our 2010 Mighty Mo Photo Show reception and awards ceremony that evening. This year the incentive for photographers to display their best work has been expanded. Bank 360, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, National Park Service and University Art Galleries at USD will each present a Promise-to-Purchase award for the Mighty Mo Photo Show. As award presenters, these sponsors are invited to preview the show and select photos, which they can use to adorn their facilities or give as a gift. Harold's Photo and Lily Crest Cottage have agreed to award gift certificates again this year. The reception will kick-off at 5:00pm with the awards ceremony to recognize the photographers beginning at 5:30. As always, the public is invited to attend.

The River City Area Woodcarvers will also be joining us in the gallery on First Friday. This group formed in August of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Join Yankton Area Arts Tuesday night August 3, for the next Summer Pops Concert at Riverside Park Amphitheater where Poker Alice iss perform a free concert that is open to the public.

last year and has been growing ever since. They will host an open house at the G.A.R. Hall Art Gallery during the evening and then again from 1:00-3:00pm on Saturday, August 7. This group has created some amazing works and they will be on hand at the gallery to visit with guests about their beautiful carvings. This is a great opportunity for those of you interested in learning more about the River City Area Woodcarvers to visit with the members of the group.

It is hard to believe that summer is drawing to a close. There are just two concerts left of the Summer Series. There's good news though still, as next Tuesday's show features Poker Alice out of Vermillion. This wonderful group plays

western swing, jump blues, old-time pop and country, led by Nick Schwebach (vocals/guitar) and Owen DeLong (fiddle). Please plan on spending Tuesday night enjoying the music in the park before the series comes to an end.

Incidentally, we are already looking forward to the 2011 concert season, so be sure to let me know if there are any favorites you would like back next season! In the meantime, you can check out our website at www.YanktonAreaArts.org for a complete schedule of the remaining shows — plus more information on the Summer Pops Concert Series, the Mighty Mo Photo Show and most anything having to do with the arts in and around Yankton!

YANKTON AREA ARTS CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Now through Sept 7 - Mighty Mo Photo Show featuring area photographers at the G.A.R. Hall Art Gallery Reception and awards from 1:00-3:00 pm. Free to the public.

August 3 — Summer Pops Concert featuring Poker Alice 8 p.m. at the Riverside Park Amphitheater; free and open to the public.

August 6 — First Friday Art Night — local art galleries from 5-7 p.m. G.A.R. Hall — "Mighty Mo Photo Show" reception and awards presentation

August 6 — One Ten Gallery — featuring the works of potter Dan Bartos and glass artist Steve Kaczmarek

August 6 — The Art House Gallery — "The Lacey Lee Weaver Painting Exhibition"

August 6 — River City Area Woodcarvers - Open House 5:00 — 7:00pm at the G.A.R. Hall located at 508 Douglas Avenue, Yankton.

August 7 — River City Area Woodcarvers - Open House 1:00 — 3:00pm at the G.A.R. Hall located at 508 Douglas Avenue, Yankton.

August 10 — Summer Pops Concert featuring South Dakota Jazz Orchestra 8:00 pm at the Riverside Park Amphitheater; free and open to the public.

August 20 through 22 — The 26th Summer Arts Festival in Riverside Park, for more vendor information please visit our website.

The G.A.R. Hall Gallery and Yankton Area Arts are located at 508 Douglas Avenue, Yankton. The gallery is open to the public free of charge 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 1-3 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information contact the office (605) 665-9754, info@YanktonAreaArts.org or visit the website at www.YanktonAreaArts.org.

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