

Section B

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PHOTO BY JEREMY HOECK/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

Mickey Harris, a world-renowned airbrush artist, does detail work on a sign for Modern Body Shop in Yankton this past May. Harris, who also painted the mural at The Walnut Tavern in Yankton, is in the process of making Menno his home. He and his wife, Laura, currently live in Tennessee, but the couple has grown fond of the area and, in particular, Menno.

After Working In Region, Harris Ready To Make His Home In Hutchinson Co.

By randy dockendorf randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

make the town his home.

MENNO — When worldrenowned airbrush artist Mickey Harris previously visited Menno, he came for work reasons. Now, he's coming back for good to

Harris and his wife, Laura, currently live in Tennessee. But after repeated lengthy stays for work in Menno, they have grown to love the Hutchinson County town of about 600 residents so much that they are moving there for

When are they making the

"Today, if I could. Seriously. We are really looking forward to it," he told the *Press & Dakotan* in a phone interview. "We are anxious to be there now. There are great people there. There's people like Darrell Livingston (in Yankton). I met him while I was doing the (80-foot-long mural) for the Walnut Tavern in Yankton."

The Harrises are looking for housing in Menno while at the same time finding renters for most of their Tennessee property. However, they aren't cutting all ties with the Volunteer State.

"I have some property, a couple of small houses, a large house and an apartment above my studio," he said. "We will rent out the large house and apartment and one of the (small) houses. We will keep the other (small) house if we want to come back to Tennessee in January and February, if we decide we would like a little change. We have that option, especially if the weather turns bad."

So what about those bitter South Dakota winters? Actually, Harris jokes that he enjoys them.

"Honest, I look forward to the wintertime. I like the idea of snowmobile riding. I have never ice fished," he said. "I was there once in February, it was cold and there were 15-foot drifts. People would plow through it, and I would walk through drifts 12 to 15 feet high. That was cool, and (the drifts) didn't collapse. For

me, it was interesting.' For Harris, the warm hearts of Menno residents far outweigh any cold winters in South Dakota.

Harris' first visit to Menno came after he was approached by two Menno residents attending one of his airbrushing seminars in Niobrara, Neb. Harris accepted the men's invitation to work in their body shop to illustrate the hood of an Olivet resident's clas-

"These guys asked if I could come up to Menno. I said, 'It's not that far away, so I wouldn't mind it at all," he said. "I really didn't have any ideas of staying (in Menno), but I fell in love with the place.'

And, as they say, the rest was

"I guess I was a bit of a celebrity for the town. Everybody came by and said hello," he said. "They introduced themselves and just hung out. They were really friendly. People asked if I would paint for them. I started coming back up here (to Menno) every year and got to be friends with people."

Harris soon realized he and his wife were considered one of

"I'm kind of like the Prodigal Son," he said, referring to the Biblical wayward son who returned home. "When we came to town and they first met us, that first year, it was like, "Wow!" They talked about you and pointed you out. Now, you come into town, and it's like, 'Mickey, you're back!' Everybody is used to seeing me."

Making The Move

The Harrises decided to move to Menno when Laura joined Mickey on his visits.

"Laura fell in love with the area," he said. "She also has allergy problems, and we think South Dakota would be better for her than Tennessee.

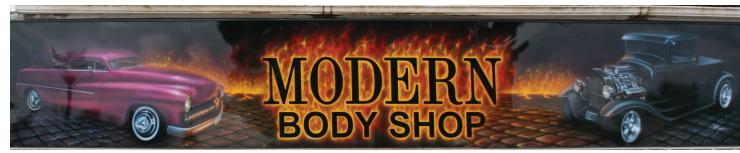
Harris said he and his wife love the small-town South Dakota

"That's what I love the most about South Dakota — the people," he said. "They are good, hard-working, honest people."

Harris appreciates the rela-

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tively safe and crime-free atmosphere in Menno.



Harris' finished sign at Modern Body Shop.



YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C. IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ASSOCIATION OF Leann Maska, M.D.

Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Board Eligible in Rheumatology

Dr. Maska is a graduate of Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD. She completed her Internal Medicine residency training, at Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota, Sioux Falls, SD; and her Rheumatology Fellowship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. Dr. Maska is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Board Eligible in Rheumatology.

Dr. Maska will treat arthritis, including rheumatoid, osteoarthritis and complex forms such as gout; certain autoimmune diseases, such as lupus and vasculitis; as well as musculoskeletal pain disorders such as fibromyalgia.

The Clinic is pleased to bring a Rheumatologist to our medical community as well as to the many patients she will serve.

Dr. Maska will begin seeing patients at the Yankton Medical Clinic on July 2, 2012. For an appointment please call 605-665-1722.



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