

Medicine Hat Cowboy Life



Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry
and Western Music Show:
October 7, 2023

September 2023 Official Newsletter for Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry Foundation

Eli Barsi Headlines Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry and Western Music Show

Eli Barsi, (Pronounced EE-lye BAR-see) Singer, Songwriter, Musician, Yodeler, and Award-Winning Recording Artist, isn't shy about her country roots.

For over three decades she has shared her down-home music all over North America. She has been the recipient of many awards on both sides of the border including CCMA nominations, Album of the Year awards and her most recent, the Wrangler Award at Oklahoma City at the National Cowboy & Western Museum.

Eli is also a talented painter and multi-disciplinary artist with her own Prairie Girl Gallery and Gift Shop in Moosomin, SK. On her website at www.EliBarsi.com, you can view videos of her songs, see examples of her art, follow her show schedule, purchase her books, music and art, and get to know Eli.

The Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry and Western Music Show starts at noon on Saturday, October 7, 2023 at the Medicine Hat College Theatre. Local poets musicians, storytellers and junior poets will share their country perspectives with you. Then by popular demand, Meliora Service Dogs demonstrate the amazing skills of their life-saving canine friends.

New for 2023 is a beef stew, biscuit and pie supper. Tickets must be ordered in advance. *Continued Pg 2*



www.MHCowboyLife.com



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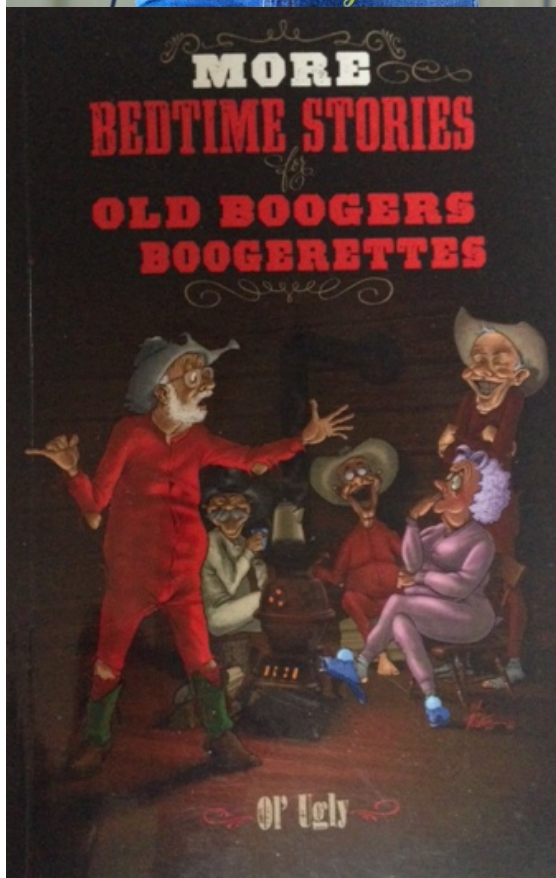
(Continued from Page 1) The supper is a great opportunity to rub shoulders with the performers from the afternoon and evening shows.

The evening show starts at 7 PM. We're so happy to have Ol' Ugly Storyteller, Author and Comedian on our program this year. (We tried before!)

His real name is John Clawson, his real hometown is Nanton and his wife's real name is Donna, but in his stories she's Chubb. The rest of his characters are imaginary (like Aunt Tilly and her 86-year-old boyfriend, Creaky Olson) and he has them getting into all kinds of hilarious predicaments. You can find him traveling around Canada and the US making people laugh at his wild jokes and barnyard clean stories. Many of his tales for 'Old Boogers and Boogerettes' are told in the fictitious Grub Box Cafe. Watch for his books for sale on the 7th of October.



Stew Supper tickets must be pre-ordered by October 1. Contact Jen at MHCPpresident@gmail.com



Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry Foundation 2023 Souvenir Coaster. Get yours free with a 2023 foundation membership!





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From my Perch on the Corral:

MHCP has lots that's new to share in the 'news'letter this month. My new perch was shot (with Cheryl's camera) in the yard of Bud VanCleave's daughter. It was windy in Taber that day, and it's been a whirlwind the past few months. The Book Launch, the 100th Anniversary Celebrations of Schuler and Hilda as well as the Medicine Hat rodeo are but a sample of happenings. It's been a natural ease into our new theme "Hat's Off" with the request to interview and video Bud VanCleave. Our plan is to interview more western folks to highlight their lives, awards and contributions. As always, we'll share what was learned about each with a biography and a poem; we may even unearth interesting tidbits you didn't know about them. With Cheryl Dust's videos, MHCP will make it possible for you to 'meet' some of them on our website. For some that have gone to the range beyond the blue, we'll also bring to light their lives and achievements.

In the wind is our upcoming annual event. The evening show will feature music and poetry from the best: Eli Barsi and our own Shelley Goldbeck. Ol' Ugly is sure to throw caution to the wind, and have us in stitches with some of his outlandish stories. The afternoon entertainment is free and it's all home grown, with some that are trying-out the genre and some that will take the stage by storm. Again we look forward to the Meliora Service Dogs demonstration. Now get wind of this: there's stew with biscuits and pie for all those that buy/reserve tickets beforehand. To take it all in, just e-mail me (MHCPpresident@gmail.com) or approach any of our Medicine Hat board members, who deserve



Jen Zollner, President,
Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry Foundation

our applause: Carol Eisenbarth, Donna Moore, and Jacquie Noerenberg.

I'm pleased to welcome two new board members: he was CHAT's weatherman; Harv Speers is now on our board.

Also joining our board is Noel Burles. He's not new to organizing cowboy gatherings, having been involved in the Pincher Creek gathering for 25 years and served on the board of Willow Creek Cowboy Gathering in Stavely, AB for 20 years! He is also a formidable performer!

You don't want to miss the western gathering in Medicine Hat on October 7th at the Medicine Hat College. Deadline for supper tickets is October 1.

Medicine Hat Cowboy Life is the official newsletter of the Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry Foundation, (a registered Society in the Province of Alberta), published four times per year by Shelley Goldbeck, DTM, Vice President and Webmaster of MHCP. Our mandate is to preserve, promote and celebrate cowboy traditions and country living in the Medicine Hat area. If you wish to submit articles or information of interest to our readers, please email MHCPPresident@gmail.com subject: Newsletter.



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Hot off the Press

Medicine Hat Cowboy poetry's latest book is called "Paws and Poems". To announce its birth, there was a Book Launch at the MH Library. Honored guests were some folks (and three service dogs) that are featured in the book. After individual introductions, their comments helped us appreciate service dogs: their training, the vital role they play in coping with PTSD, diabetes, etc. Tidbits about their story helped pique the interest of audience members to read 'the rest of the story' in the book. Honoured guests went home embracing their complimentary copy of "Paws and Poems". Novelty "spudnuts" in the shape of steer heads and oxtails were served.

For \$20 you can have a copy, too. Contact Jen or any board member. These books make great Christmas gifts for that hard-to-buy-for person in your life!

Paws and Poems

A collection of stories and poetry about service dogs in the Medicine Hat area



Top Hand by Gena LaCoste



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More Book Launch



Book Launch Photos by Cheryl Dust



Previous page: Meliora Dogs and Handlers

Above: Jen Zollner's famous Steerhead Spudnuts

Left: Josie Federer with Jamie Billings' Service Dog, Indigo. Josie and Jamie's stories are in "Poems and Paws".

The poem on Page 6, Missing Piece of my Heart also appears in Paws and Poems.



L to R: Carol Eisenbarth, (Treasurer), Jacquie Noerenberg, (Board Member), Cheryl Dust, (Secretary), Jen Zollner, (President), Donna Moore, (Board Member), Louise Maier, (Friend of MHCP)



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The Missing Piece of My Heart

by Jen Zollner

The story in this poem is universal for veterans who came back with PTSD after experiencing the horrors of war in places like Bosnia and Uganda.

I'm nothing but a sad and troubled soul,
Could this puppy make me happy, make me whole,
I was desperate as could be,
I chose you and you chose me,
Could it be that you will help restore my soul?

Somewhere along the way my heart was broke,
I lost peace, I lost my will, a heavy yoke,
Was it really meant to be,
Can you heal this injury?
Fill the emptiness within this wretched bloke?

Ch 1:

When I found you, I hoped you are the one,
In my darkest hour I hoped that light would come,
That the past be done and gone,
And now we're going home
To make a brand new start and mend my heart.

You're more beautiful than ever I have seen,
I am close to you as anyone I've been,
Oh, your life might be sublime
But it's you that saved mine,
We are partners no one else can come between

Ch 2:

Since I found you, we have proof you are the one,
In my darkest hour you got the light to come,
Now the past is dead and gone
I'm thankful I moved on,
A brand new start, a peace within my heart.

Ch 3:

Since I found you, my life's the best I've ever seen,
You've made me more than I ever could have been,
Bless the day I promised to
Always take good care of you,
And never be apart, when I found you, when I found you
I found the missing piece of my heart.

See video of this song: www.MHCowboyLife.com/ see Paws and Poems





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Western Entertainment at Wellington

It was rodeo week in Medicine Hat and the Recreation Director, Juanita, wanted poetry and western music to go along with their western decor. Everyone remembered Harv Speers from his radio announcing days. He presented his original poetry, and Jen shared stories in song and rhyme that she wrote. Everyone joined in the sing-along number "Stable Flies" as they 'whacked' a fly at the end of each chorus. Jen 'rode' into the dining hall to help everyone celebrate the July birthdays of Wellington residents. Cheryl, Jen and Donna 'rode' out the door on their stick horses.



Harv Speers, New MHCP Board Member



Photos by Cheryl Dust



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Bob and Betsy

Meet the newest members of Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry, so named by Louise Maier, the one who dreams up the wonderful decorations for our event. Betsy is a Princess and Bob is a Prince, the proof of which is written on their hat bands. Betsy and Bob used to go to Senior Homes with us to dance around and 'talk' to the folks as part of the "Sing 'n Strings" sing-along entertainment. They've found new purpose as MHCP mascots. Betsy sports a bright red western skirt that's styled so you're sure to notice her authentic riding boots. Her fancy 'belt' matches her bracelet and earrings. Bob's jeans are held up (but he does have a problem with that) by an authentic western belt. He has an 'exercise watch' on his arms and a cell phone (that's outdated) in the pocket of his plaid shirt. They are planning to have a family, so keep your ears open for news about that.



Stories from Seniors

A collection of stories and poetry by and for seniors who've lived and worked in rural areas around Medicine Hat



Cover Art: Preacher and Parson
by Gena LaCoste



Hale
Hearing

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Stories from Seniors and Country Stories books available for only \$15 each. To purchase contact Jen at MHCPPresident@gmail.com Watch the accompanying videos on our web site. Search stories. www.MHCowboyLife.com

Country Stories

A collection of stories and poetry by and for seniors who have lived and worked in rural areas around Medicine Hat



Three Heads are Better Than One
by Gena LaCoste



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Parades to Celebrate

The communities of Schuler and Hilda had reason to celebrate because it's been 100 years since the railway arrived in their towns. And someone turned up the heat for them on the July 1st and July 22nd weekends.

MHCP participated with a 'float' that Pam Zollner drove, with Bob in the passenger seat looking out the window. Betsy sat on the roof with Jen Zollner helping her wave to all the present and former Schulerites lined up along the streets (yes, there is more than one street!) They were crowded in shaded spots, fanning themselves, trying to keep cool.

Sitting on the car roof at the Hilda parade, Bob and Carol joined Betsy and Jen to announce our upcoming event. Four horses bobbed as they watched the parade with their heads stuck out of the back windows. Burlap signs and 'streamers' decorated the car; colorful bandanas on wheel rims went round and round. Our many-talented, Cheryl Dust, was the official photographer capturing the many activities at Hilda's 100th anniversary festivities.





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Hilda's Historical Barns

Watch for barns from the Hilda district being featured on our website (www.MHCowboyLife.com) under "Barn Stories". As Jen interviewed barn owners, they remembered pieces of barn history (and Hilda history) that Jen was able to document. Even though some stories weren't even related to barns, they are interesting pieces of personal history that will also become part of the Hilda Centennial History Book. Most of the photos on file were taken by Cheryl Dust and Cindy Straub as her husband, Ross took us on two photo-shoot tours around Hilda. Examples of the treasures are these barns that pioneers built out of mud, stone and wood. One was built into a hill so a team of horses would pull a load of feed into the loft.



Photos by Cheryl Dust





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The Infamous Bud VanCleave

Coming soon is our video covering Jen Zollner's interview of this 93-year-old cowboy from Taber, Alberta. Hat's Off to him; his house is chock full of trophies and awards, evidence of having been a Champion Calf Roper and a top Steer Decorator. A sample trophy saddle is set up in his living room (out of the 14 he won).



Photos by Cheryl Dust except Rodeo Below:
Photo courtesy Bud VanCleave.





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Guide Dogs from the Lion's Club

A member of Richmond's Lion's Club knows the visually impaired person we interviewed as part of our "Paws and Poems" project. Norman Fedrau has received not one, but four guide dogs from the Lion's Club International. Once a year the Richmond club has a BBQ fundraiser at M&M Meats in Medicine Hat and MHCP was asked to contribute Cowboy Poetry. A host of Live Music Club members supplied enjoyable music.

Jen also entertained, as did two fellows all the way from Fort McLeod and Lethbridge, Bud Stewart and Dean Oseen. They are scheduled to be on stage during the afternoon "homegrown" portion of our event on October 7th.



Below: Left: Dean Oseen
Right: Bud Stewart



Above, L to R: Dean Oseen, Jen Zollner, Bud Stewart

