

Museum opens doors for students



ANN MINER/Prairie Museum of Art and History

Authors Lowell May and Evelyn Hoyt Ward (above) chatted with visitors at the Writer's Roundup on Nov. 19. Artist Bonnie Stasser (right) talked with Roxie Yonkey at her reception while "Young at Heart" sang holiday tunes.



November has been a busy month around the museum.

For three days during the first week of the month, we helped Colby Middle School eighth graders with research on local history topics. These members of the Internet generation learned there are these things called "books" from which they could extract all kinds of information on their subject.

Completing their research earned them the opportunity to photograph artifacts that related to their topic of interest. Historic photographs and, in some cases, video clips rounded out the materials they could use in completing their "Museum in a Box" projects.

Chris Griffin has been busy researching and labeling artifacts obtained at the Sod Town auction in October. Among these are several branding irons, which have led her to the Thomas County registry and others in the quest to match brand with owner. She has succeeded in identifying most of them, but still has a few mysteries to solve.

Another ongoing project nearing completion has been a book on the museum's collections. Over the years, one of the most frequent requests from visitors has been for a book of collection highlights through which to remember their visit and share their experience with others. With photographs selected and text completed, the book is almost ready to send to the printer. It won't be out in time for this holiday season, but will make a great gift next year.

Our first *Food for Thought* program featured a very patient audience of 35, who enjoyed soup and conversation while waiting for Sand Creek Massacre Site Park Ranger Eunice Petramala to arrive. She had forgotten about the time change between here and her home base at Eads,



Ann Miner

• Around the Museum

Colo., and was about a half hour late.

Once here, she gave an animated talk on the clash of cultures that occurred when the engine of westward expansion and settlement squeezed the Cheyenne and others who called the Great Plains their home. Some

of the Colby High School teachers had asked that she speak on this topic with the juniors, so she headed to the high school after she was done visiting with audience members here.

About 50 people came out for the second annual Writer's Roundup and Holiday Happening to meet the authors and look over their books, meet Bonnie Stasser and view her photographs and paintings, and hear Young at Heart sing holiday songs. There is a lot of talent in the region, and it was great to see so many different forms of it in one place.

As a reminder for those who were unable to make this event, several of our regional authors' books are available in the museum gift shop, and Bonnie Stasser's photographs and paintings will be on exhibit and for sale through December. The Museum Mart has Badash crystal at 50 percent off, Armetale metalware discounted 25 percent, and offers already made up or self-selected Christmas baskets. If you are looking for a unique gift, come out to the museum and have a look around.

Jim Gray will speak at our next *Food for Thought* program. Coming from Ellsworth, he has no time warp to worry about so will most likely be here at the appointed hour. His talk will be on the conflicts between settlers and cattlemen, and will start just after noon on Thursday, Dec. 15.

Ann Miner is the Education Director at the Prairie Museum of Art and History.

Photo exhibit planned at Logan museum soon

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum is pleased to present "Gordon Parks: Crossroads" an exhibition that features 45 memorable photographs drawn from all aspects of Parks' storied career will be on display Dec. 23 through Feb. 5.

In 1938 Parks purchased his first camera at a pawn shop. He pursued taking pictures with gusto and within months his probing portraits of African-American women were exhibited in the windows of the Eastman Kodak store in Minneapolis. While Parks pursued numerous hard-hitting documentary assignments for Stryker, he also accepted commissions in fashion and glamour photography, initially for Midwestern department stores, and soon for *Vogue* and *Glamour* magazine.

Parks became the first black staff photographer at *Life* magazine in 1949, where he would remain on the masthead for a quarter century. With his first two photo-essays for *Life* — on the gang wars of Harlem, and

on the latest Paris collections — he announced his remarkable range. His intimate photo essays on the Black Panthers, the nascent Black Muslim movement, and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death remain classics — "My sentiments lay in the heart of black fury sweeping the country," he later wrote — but equally classic were his extended photo-portraits of cultural icons as varied as Barbara Streisand, Langston Hughes, Alexander Calder, Duke Ellington and Muhammad Ali. "Success among whites never made Parks lose touch with black reality." Malcolm X wrote in his autobiography.

All photographs are courtesy of the Gordon Parks Foundation and the Howard Greenberg Gallery.

Museum hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, extended to 5 p.m. Saturday. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays and holidays.

For information, go to www.hansenmuseum.org.

Mississippi hunter bags odd trophy

By Bobby Cleveland

The Clarion-Ledger

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — When he first saw the antlers, taxidermist Ellis Soloman called it "a pineapple rack."

And Mark Clay says trying to measure the buck his son Will Clay, 14, killed on the opening morning of the youth gun season Nov. 5 "is like trying to score a briar thicket."

The 15-point fits all those descriptions, and more. It has antlers sprouting in seemingly every direction.

Its left main beam, where most of the atypical growth is located, is difficult to discern.

It has not been scored, but, nonetheless, it is a trophy, and a story worth sharing.

Using hay bales for a make-shift blind in the middle of a five-acre pasture on family land in Madison County, father and son were hoping to see the big buck Mark Clay had spotted during scouting.

"I never got a great view until a few days later ... four bucks, a nice 6-point, a really nice 8-plus ... and, the man," Mark Clay said. "He had horns that went everywhere, like a briar thicket on his head."

"I go home and tell my wife Dixie and son Will about it, and this is what she says: 'You really need to go get your glasses checked.'"

That one look at the big one was all he would get, but it was enough to bring him and Will to the field on opening morning of the youth season. They hid in the bales, with dad watching south and son watching north.

"At 7:30, I was just looking around the field when I saw some horns sticking out from behind a little group of trees," Will Clay said. "I quickly got dad awake, though he claims he wasn't sleeping, and looked back to see this nice, young 8-point eating some of the new rye grass."

Realizing the 8 qualified as a shooter, he looked away to find his range finder.

"I looked through the range finder to the shock of my life," he said. "Standing not 10 feet from the 8-point is a monster buck that I have never seen. This deer was so weird looking I had to stare for a minute before I was sure he was there."

The bucks were 100 yards away. Dad was now looking.

"I looked through the binoculars and see the 8, and told Will, 'He's a nice 8, you can take him,'" Mark Clay said. "He said, 'No dad, the big one to the right.'"

"As soon as I looked at him he looked at me so I froze and thought to myself, my son is about to shoot my deer."

Since that was the intent, he quickly told

Will to get his gun ready. The commotion had not gone unnoticed. Both bucks were now looking.

"All I could think was, 'Oh — they are gonna spook,'" Will Clay said. "Thankfully, a plane passed by just close enough to draw their attention away from our blind, and I quickly brought up my rifle and sighted in right on his front shoulder."

"Just when I thought he was going to step into a good shot, the 8-point ran back into the woods, and he was turning to follow suit. Before I knew what I was doing, much less warning dad, I lined up behind the front shoulder and squeezed the trigger. To my and dad's surprise he stumbled about 2 yards and dropped."

Said dad: "I thought Will was going to jump out of his skin. He had the biggest grin on his face mirrored by mine. I was amazed at how he calmly threw up and squeezed off a shot all in the blink of an eye. The look on his face was worth giving up my trophy buck. I was pretty proud too!"

The guys loaded the buck in the truck, took a few photos and then had one more thing to do: Get Dad some vindication.

"We went home to show Dixie and so I could show her that I did not need new glasses," Mark Clay said.

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