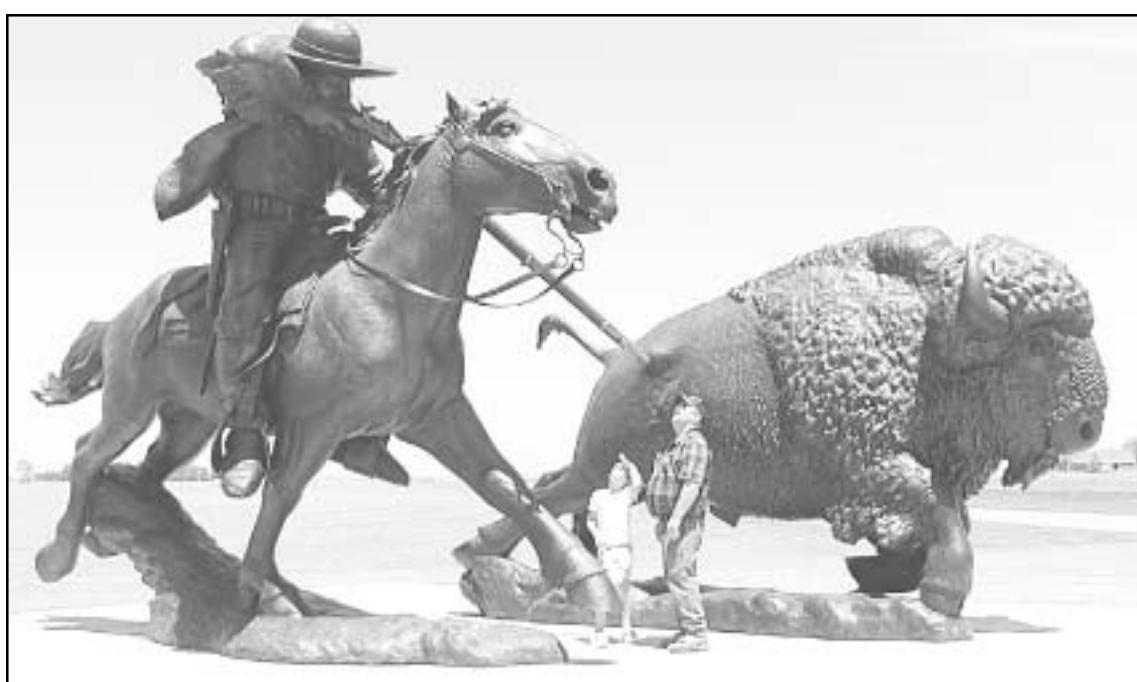




The detail on the statue is tremendous, including the words on the rifle. Pat Norton, wife of the sculptor, said Saturday that more than 60 people worked on the statue at a foundry in Loveland, Colo.



Kenneth York and his daughter Mariah of Healey were among the people stopping on U.S. 83 to see the new Buffalo Bill statue. Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Statue alive on hill at Oakley

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

A slice of the Old West returned to northwest Kansas Saturday in Oakley with the dedication of a bronze depicting William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody hunting down a buffalo.

The weekend featured a parade with horses, re-enactors and more, the dedication on Saturday, a hot air balloon festival and displays at the Fick Fossil and History Museum.

Lewis Evins, president of Farmers State Bank in Oakley, kicked off the dedication with a speech revealing some of Cody's history and the efforts to bring the statue to the community.

"Cody is a person any county would be proud to claim as an icon," he said.

The bronze features Cody

mounted on his favorite horse, Brigham, along with his rifle "Lucretia Borgia," running down a buffalo. Evins said Cody was a buffalo hunter for the Kansas Pacific Railroad in 1868, making \$500 a month which was a hefty sum for the time.

He said Cody spent much of his time as a hunter in Logan County, where he also took part in a contest that earned him the nickname "Buffalo Bill." To see who would keep the name, Evins said Cody went up against another hunter named Bill Comstock to see who could kill the most buffalo in one day.

The winner would keep the name.

Cody won the contest, bringing down 69 bison to Comstock's 46.

Evins told the crowd the idea for a statue in Oakley started back in 1995 after he first heard about the buffalo hunting contest and also made a trip to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyo., where a bronze was erected in 1924 as a memorial to the town's founder.

Sculptor of the Oakley statue, Charlie Norton and his wife Pat of Leoti, were at the ceremony also.

"This started with a dream, and this is the end of a long journey," he said.

Pat Norton said more than 60 people worked on the statue at a foundry in Loveland, Colo.

student of the week



memories that I've made with my friends.

Activities involved in at school: Peer Counseling, volleyball, basketball, fast pitch softball, Dance Team, National Honor Society and Girls Athletic Association President.

My choice of movies, books, and games: My favorite movie is Save the Last Dance, I like all kinds of music and my favorite game is Malarkey.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: attend K-State and major in nutrition and exercise science

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: Starting a family and influencing many people in my career.

Favorite Quote: "What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters of what lies within us."

Name: Cortney Schields
Parents: Brad and Dana Schields

Grade: Senior
Age: 18

We've nominated this student because: Cortney has a pleasant personality, a good work ethic as well as good time management skills.

Student Comment: I have really enjoyed playing sports throughout high school and I will always remember the special

Tom Hellerud
A.R.N.P.

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for Goodland Activities Center
June 12

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