

If this newsletter is not displaying correctly, [click here](#) to view it online.

CUSTER COUNTRY

M O N T A N A

[PDF Print Out](#)

E-Newsletter July 2010

[Download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

1. Note from the Custer Country Corner
2. Custer's Last Stand – a Far East Perspective
3. Happy 125th Ekalaka!
4. What's **Really** Hot in Custer Country
5. Matthew Quigley Buffalo Rifle Match

Sample the wonders of Custer Country. Plan your dream vacation. Please visit our website at www.CusterCountry.com



Chief Plenty Coups State Park

NOTE FROM THE CUSTER COUNTRY CORNER

1

The school bells are now on hiatus, announcing to all the summer season is here! But during the summer months, let's not forget the ABC's and 123's that are found throughout the region of Custer Country. In the next two Notes from the Custer Country Corner, I'd like to share some of my own ideas for the ABC's and 123's of our unique area. Feel free to come up with your own alphabet of fun this summer, as you and your guests explore southeast Montana.

"A" – American Indians – Explore the new visitor center at Pictograph Cave State Park or enjoy a picnic at Chief Plenty Coups State Park. Each of these parks provides insight into Native American life. Whether it's prehistory or recent history, a day wandering through these two parks is a great, free (to Montanans), outing.

"B" – Bighorn or Big Horn – No matter how you spell it, an adventure awaits you. For example, take in the Little Bighorn Battlefield history, the Bighorn Canyon's amazing vistas and the Bighorn River's outstanding fishing; all of these, and more, are found in Big Horn County.

"C" – Culture – Custer Country contains a copious capacity for



Check out the TypeRider website! We hope you make TypeRider your go-to site for planning the perfect trip to Montana and Wyoming. This website is about real people – couples, families, and friends – who've had unique experiences on the roads and in the cities, on the water and in the saddle as they spent 2-5 days in this amazing area of the country. Bookmark this website, watch for what's new, and let us hear from you. Please visit our website at

www.thetyperider.com



CUSTER'S LAST STAND – A FAR EAST PERSPECTIVE

2

For a battle severe as Custer's Last Stand, the historical importance of this event in the development of the Wild West is undeniable. It is impossible to ignore such an event in any American history text book, even in a place as far east as Taiwan.

Before I came here, the vague impression I had of this tragic battle was that Custer's Last Stand was just one more challenge faced by the U.S. military in their efforts to extend their homeland. I knew it was a tragic event. I knew it was one in which a lack of caution on the part of the Cavalry led to a sad loss of life.

However, during my time at Custer's Last Stand Reenactment, through the visual presentation of the actors, hearing the Native Americans' version of the battle from the host of the Reenactment, gave me, who before had only received a diluted, academic description of both Native American and European American versions of the battle, a completely different perspective of this historic event.

After visiting the battlefield and seeing the Reenactment, I was finally able to understand the lessons I had learned. It was as if my teachers in Taiwan had painted me a picture of the event, but that picture was blurry and static. Now that I have seen the rolling plains and felt the heat of the eastern

culture. (How's that for the C's?) Whether it's the stark black and white images of photographer Evelyn Cameron at the Cameron Gallery in Terry, the *Shakespeare in the Park* plays found in 11 communities from Birney to Wibaux or a hands-on exploration of Billings' history at the Western Heritage Center, culture is alive and well in southeast Montana.

"D" – Dinosaurs – Celebrating 6 years, the 15 facilities of the Montana Dinosaur Trail offer unique paleontology displays for the young and young-at-heart. Custer Country offers up 3 stops -- the Makoshika Dinosaur Museum, the Makoshika State Park and the Carter County Museum. For a different perspective on dinosaurs' origin, the Glendive Dinosaur and Fossil Museum presents its case with creation-based exhibits. Whether off the beaten path or sticking to the interstates, this area is full of delights and discoveries.

So go ahead. Finish the alphabet. Then take a road trip across Custer Country and Montana, completing your own ABC list. Next month, we'll work on our 1, 2 and 3's.

Susan Buhr
Montana Office of Tourism



HAPPY 125TH EKALAKA!

3

Montana prairie in June, that picture has sprung to life.

The thing I found most interesting during my time here is how different the Native American way of life was from the European settlers and cavalry at that time. Everything from the battle music they play to their marching formations, their riding styles to their clothing, is completely different. Even their differing style of making war set them apart. If I could summarize my observation in two phrases, it would be Passionate Abandon vs Regulated Routine.

Everything associated with Native Americans seems very bold. For example, powerful music has no clear starting point or end. Elegant feather headdresses and bright moving colors exhilarate people. The tornado way of entry and horses riding style also give people the feeling of being free and unrestrained. The sound, color, and energy seem to nurture the culture of the wide earth echoes.

In contrast, the U.S. military songs and rhythm, their plain clothing as worn in the field all make me wonder whether patterns and habits are bred by culture or bound by geography.

Even more profound is the impression left on me after the show ends; performers take pictures with everyone, I have wonderful time taking photos with local Indian children and receiving a gift from General Custer which is his bullet casing. The hospitality of this place "Montana" leave such unforgettable memories for me.

Guest Columnist Chengyin (Michelle) Liu had been in the United States, in Montana, for only 1 week when she attended the Reenactment of the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 2010.

The story goes that an old buffalo hunter once decided that opening a saloon for parched cowboys would be more lucrative and possibly more interesting than chasing buffalo across the grasslands of southeastern Montana. So, he picked a location, cut a load of logs to build his new establishment, and set out across the prairie. At a point in his arduous journey, he found himself bogged down in a mud hole in the creek later named Russell Creek. "Any place in Montana is a good place for a saloon!" he exclaimed, and he unloaded and built 'er right there. And, that was the beginning of the town of Ekalaka. Folks in Ekalaka are proud of their vibrant history, and like most hard-working Montanans, they never pass up an opportunity to have fun. This summer is special however, and this hearty community of almost 400 people has a special reason to celebrate—it's their 125th anniversary, and the party will be held during the annual [Days of '85 Celebration!](#)

The Carter County Fair grounds will be bustling August 12-15, 2010. Events include live music, art festivals, and an all American rodeo. The 7th Calvary Drum & Bugle Corps will perform along Main Street, and the Carter County Fair will have livestock and crafts on display.

Some people call it a Wild West attitude—that "something" that makes Ekalaka great today. You'll find it at the Days of '85 Celebration. Make plans for a getaway in southeastern Montana and experience Ekalaka. Stop in at the saloon while you're there!



**Biggest fireworks display in the state, Laurel*

WHAT'S REALLY HOT IN
CUSTER COUNTRY

4



**MATTHEW QUIGLEY
BUFFALO RIFLE MATCH**

5

If you followed the smoke on June 19 (like we suggested last month) you would have arrived at the largest rifle shooting event in Eastern Montana since the Custer Massacre. The 20th Annual Matthew Quigley Buffalo Rifle Match was held in Forsyth, Montana, on June 19-20, 2010.

This year's competition was unrivaled—a record year with a total of 631 shooters competing at the line, aiming at a variety of targets—offhand, buffalo, hexagon, postage stamp, diamond, and rectangle. Another record 183 Straight-Eight Pins were awarded to shooters who hit all 8 shots on an individual target. The Quigley has gained international recognition and shooters come to Forsyth from all corners of the world, and they keep coming back. Because this year's event was the 20th Annual, personalized caps were given to 6 shooters who were recognized for participating in all 20 Matches—5 competitors from Montana - Al Lee and Rick Smith from Forsyth, Dennis Vardon from Rosebud, , Dan Walker from Billings, and Glen Kapitzke from Miles City; and 1 shooter from Wyoming – Mark Sackett of Sheridan.

For 20 years the gracious folks in Forsyth have made the shooters of the Mathew Quigley Buffalo Rifle Match feel at home. Whether you are a participant or a spectator, this Old West event is a must for your summer calendar.

July 2-5

Valley of the Chiefs Pow Wow and NPIRA Rodeo in Lodge Grass . . . Art and culture in the parade, Indian dancing, and authentic costumes; combine with the dust and sweat of the rodeo to make this a traditional weekend to remember. Camp in your tepee or come for the day; it's a real Montana experience.

July 2-5

RIDE Fireworks & T. Graham Brown Concert in Roundup . . . Extend your 4th of July weekend! Headlining the Friday night show will be *Vigilante Theatre*; Headlining Saturday is the *T. Graham Brown Show* with Hall of Fame Dee Jay, Lonnie Bell announcing a stunning fireworks display. Stroll the River Walk between shows!

July 4

Biggest fireworks display in the state blasts off in Laurel . . . Independence Day starts with a hearty pancake breakfast served bright and early at 6:00 am and made to order in Fireman's Park. Then at 11:00 am the Grand Parade begins, featuring antique cars, floats and live music. And, be sure to head to Thompson Park at dusk and settle in for the biggest & best fireworks display offered in Montana!

July 8 –
August 26

Alive After 5 in Billings . . . Street party every Thursday night! Live music and great food in a different location each week in downtown Billings —*Nye Express* at Tiny's Tavern on 7-15, *Downtime* at Bin 119 on 8-12, and the *Mid-Life Chryslers* at Dean Wright CPA on 8-19 – just to name a few!

July 17 & 18

Summerfair in Billings . . . More than 10,000 people enjoy art booths, food court, live entertainment, art demonstrations, and kids' art activities during this exciting 2-day event at Veterans Park. With a Summerfair stamp, you're admitted free to the Concert in the Park with *Black Velvet Undercover*. Entrance to the Concert without a stamp is \$2.

Contact Information

Custer Country Tourism Region
PO Box 200533, Helena, MT 59620
Toll-Free: 1-800-346-1876
e-mail : custer@visitmt.com
www.CusterCountry.com

Produced with Accommodations Tax Funds

To stop receiving the Custer Country E-Newsletter,
[click here](#)

July 23-25

Clark Days at Pompeys Pillar National Monument . . . Listen 'round the campfire as Sergeant Pryor relates his tale of floating down the Yellowstone to the Missouri River aboard a bull boat made from buffalo hides. Hear how Crow Indians captured Clark's entire horse herd. And, maybe even hear from the ghost of Cruzatte!

August
13-21st

MontanaFair in Billings . . . Yes, It's a Go!
Top-notch concerts: Jason Aldean - August 13th, *Scorpions* - August 14th, and *Hinder with Finger Eleven* - August 15th! Plus Supercross and 3 nights of PRCA ProRodeo! Over 10,000 exhibits, great fair food, and big thrills from the Mighty Thomas Carnival! For just the price of gate admission, you can see check out live music, *The Extreme Canines*, *Splash Dogs*, extreme motorcycle stunts and beach volleyball! It's a Really Big Deal! For special deals and more information: www.montanafair.com

Want to know more about the haps in Custer Country? [Click here:](#)