Assorted Clippings Concerning
The Crawford Historical Society
&
The Crawford City Park Museum

Compiled by the Crawford Historical Society, 2012.
Historical Society Organized Here

A meeting was held this week to form a Historical Society in Crawford. The primary purpose of this organization is to preserve the history of this area, by the erection of a museum in the City Park. Those present, agreed to call the organization, “The Crazy Horse Historical Society.”

There is available to this organization an original log school house for the nucleus of the museum.

Although a large amount of funds will not be necessary, a certain amount of money will be needed to erect this museum. The group intends to raise this money by selling $5.00 memberships into the organization to interested parties. Expenditure of the funds can be held to a low figure, if enough voluntary labor can be obtained for foundation construction, removal of the log house from the present location and re-erection at the Park site.

As soon as the museum is erected, the Society will then be interested in obtaining any items that the public may have, relative to the history of this area for public display. These items will be marked as to their ownership and will be considered the property of the donor.

Membership cards are being printed and will be available from any of the members of the Society. Officers are as follows:

President—John P. Davis
Finance—Jim Ivins, Harris Snyder
Publicity—Gaylon King

Other members are Don Williams, Archie Davis, Howard Dodd, Charles Rawhauser, Bob Morrow, Wright Lathrop, Lloyd Pipher and Harlan Rubottom.

Log Cabin Museum to be Erected at Park

The Crazy Horse Historical Society is going ahead with their plans for a museum in the City Park. The Park Board has approved a site for the erection of the log cabin for the museum.

Pat Davis has asked all members to meet at the Antlers Grill, Sunday morning, August 29th at 9:30, and bring a hammer, or crowbar, if you have one and they will go out and dismantle and move the cabin to the City Park for erection.

The group will also need pickups and trucks to haul the material. Anyone, who has a truck, its use will be greatly appreciated.
Historical Museum To Open in City Park

The Log Cabin Museum in the Crawford city park which was moved there by the Crazy Horse Historical Society of Crawford, under the leadership of John P. Davis, several years ago, has finally been completed with Loren Pickering doing much of the construction work.

The building was formerly the old Pine Top schoolhouse, which stood 19 miles northwest of Crawford, and was taken down and brought to the Park and rebuilt for the Museum.

The first term of school in this building was taught in 1886, by Chas. Grove, now living in California. Other teachers were Hattie Carey Grove, Cova Smith Cooper, now living in California; Mr. George Smith and Ada Arner. Families who lived in that area whose children attended this school were A. C. Cullers, J. A. Raum, Eli Sowers, Warren Carey, John Howard and many others. Arch Cullers, who was the only boy of the Crawford community to lose his life in World War I attended this school.

It is hoped that this building will be of interest in preserving some of the history of Crawford and vicinity.

Anyone having articles that have a historical background of this particular area and wish to display them in the Museum are asked to contact Don Williams, Loren Pickering or KCGR in Crawford. An effort is being made to keep this Museum open during the Rodeo Days in Crawford, July 2, 3 and 4th. You are not asked to donate your historical treasures, but just put them on display at the Museum in the Park. They will be well taken care of as they are all displayed in locked cases.

Log Museum In City Park Open

The Log School House Museum at the Crawford City Park, built by the Crazy Horse Historical Society of this city will be open every Sunday, Thursday and Friday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 by members of the Crawford Woman's Club.

Log Cabin Museum Open Sundays in Park

The Log Cabin Museum at the Crawford City Park will be open to visitors Sunday afternoons for the rest of the summer. The Museum could and should be kept open some week days through the summer tourist season, if more people would volunteer to help keep it open.

There has been an average of 40 visitors each afternoon the Museum has been open and about 150 people registered the afternoon of July 24th.

Any person wishing to help us keep the Log Cabin Museum open, please contact Gaylon King or Don Williams.
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Log Cabin Museum
Closed For Season

The Log Cabin Museum at the Crawford City Park has closed for the season. It will be opened by request. If anyone wishes to see it, they should contact O. L. Pickering, Phone 238W.

The Museum is attracting more visitors each season. At this open only Sunday afternoon, around 500 viewed the displays. Over half of these were from out of town and state.

Plans are being made to have the Museum open more days a week and adding new displays.


Pioneer Museum
Will Open May 3rd.

May 3rd is the opening day for the Crawford Pioneers Museum in the City Park according to an announcement from Loren Pickering, curator of the Museum.

Plans to date are to have it open on Sunday afternoons as in previous years unless additional help is secured.

Mr. Pickering said, "Going through the register for 1962, we find that about 540 visitors went through the Museum and signed the register, but there were many who didn't bother to sign."

"In a break down of the attendance we show 202 local visitors and 243 out of town and 95 out of state visitors. This would seem to indicate that the Museum has been a fair attraction in the Park for travelers and tourists."

Mr. Pickering said there will be some small changes in the displays this year, but there isn't any room for any large articles inside the Museum as all the space is utilized. He would like to get an old stock saddle that has belonged to a well known Crawford rancher.

Any offers of help to keep the Museum open, even if it is just one day during the summer, would be appreciated by Mr. Pickering. He can be reached by calling 434.
**Historical Society Elects Officers**

The Crawford Historical Society held their annual meeting Saturday night at the city hall and elected officers for the coming year.

All present officers were re-elected. They are: Howard Dodd, president; John Mader, secretary and Don Williams, treasurer.

Society members are reminded that dues are now payable and are $1.00 per year. Anyone who would like to belong to the organization, who is either a present member or is interested may do so by contacting Don Williams.

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**Museum Closed**

The Crawford Pioneer Museum in the City Park closed for the season Sunday.

Loren Pickering reports that over a thousand visitors toured the museum this summer. Business was slow the first part of the summer but picked up rapidly after the 4th of July. Registration showed visitors from many different states and attendance slightly higher than last year. Oct. 5, 1967

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**Pioneer Museum to Open Sunday**

Crawford’s Pioneer Museum will open for the 1967 season this Sunday, April 30 according to Loren Pickering who donates time and efforts to keep the popular tourist stop open for the public.

The Museum, located in the Crawford City Park will have some minor changes in displays this year including a couple of additions. A collection of buffalo and cattle horns from the William Souther estate, and a 1,000-page history of Nebraska and Nebraska families presented to the museum by Charles Guggemos.

The museum will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. each Sunday afternoon through the spring and summer. No other plans to keep it open now are being considered unless there are additional volunteers to man the museum. Mr. Pickering will open the museum for groups at other times if notified.

The Pioneer museum was started as a project of the Crawford Historical Society and anyone who would like to become a member of the society may do so by paying dues of $3.00 to Don Williams or Howard Dodd. The $3.00 also makes you a member of the Nebraska Historical Society and all members receive the monthly state bulletins and the quarterly magazine of the society.
Cheyenne Outbreak Historical Marker To Be Dedicated Sunday

Dedication services for the Cheyenne Outbreak Historical Marker will be held this Sunday, October 13, at the marker west of Fort Robinson.

The program will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the marker about three miles west of Fort Robinson on Highway 20. The marker was recently put up through efforts of the Crawford Historical Society, with contributions also from the Harrison Community Club and the Crawford Chamber of Commerce.

Howard Dodd is in charge of the program and invited guests include District Highway Engineer Charles Nuttor, Jack Pollock of the Historical Land Mark Council; Marvin Kivett of the State Historical Society; Dr. Bertram Schultz of the University of Nebraska; Senator George Gerdes of Alliance, and Paul Henderson of Bridgeport, noted authority of Oregon Trail History. Gerdes and Henderson have confirmed they will attend. Replies had not been received from the others by Tuesday.

Master of ceremonies for the program will be Bob Morris with Ellis Hale giving the Invocation and Vance Nelson, Curator of the Fort Robinson Museum, presenting the history of the Cheyenne Outbreak in January of 1879. Dodd will also speak briefly and urges all interested persons to attend the dedication services at the marker. The marker is a culmination of many months of work by the Crawford Historical Society with several state agencies to get permission to place the marker. The cost was paid from the contributions from Crawford and Sioux County residents.

Pioneer Museum To Open Sunday

The Crawford Pioneer Museum in the Crawford City Park will open for the 1969 season Sunday, May 4, according to Loren Pickering who maintains the Museum for the Crawford Historical Society.

Pickering said that the Museum will be open most afternoons after Sunday. He notes that the Museum is kept open by volunteers and anyone who would like to help is certainly welcome. Pickering said that some displays need rearranging as well as people needed to keep the Museum open.

Persons who would like to help are urged to contact Pickering. Several thousand visitors go through the Museum each summer.

Historical Society

The Crawford Historical Society met April 23rd for their monthly meeting. Vance Nelson was present and explained the advantages of belonging to the American Association for State and Local History and the Nebraska Organization for History. Both serve the purpose of helping local chapters with ideas, plans, etc. Membership was taken out in both. The Society is interested in finding places in the Crawford area of historical significance so they can be marked. Anyone knowing of such places, please contact a society member.

Plans were made to have June, July and August meetings as historical tours.

After the business meeting Bill Dodd and Howard Dodd displayed articles for the show and tell period.

Bill Dodd had boards taken out of a cupboard in the Frank Dodd home, apparently made from a packing case, addressed to Mrs. Coyle; Cheyenne; Wyoming Terr., a 1908 Montgomery Ward Catalog and an old buggy lamp.

Howard Dodd had the original “Tootenany”, a device made by a sheep shearer to aid in sharpening shears.

The next meeting will be May 28. At this time Roy Viele and Paul Zerbst will bring items for show and tell.

Historical Society

The Crawford Historical Society will meet Wednesday evening, September 24th, at 8 p.m. in the City Hall. At this time a decision will be made as to the time and place of the next picnic and tour.

At the last meeting a letter was read in regard to marking spots of National Historical Interest. John Mader is researching the monument at Montrose and Harrison Warren is researching the Black Hills Treaty Tree near Crawford to see if they qualify.

Oct. 10, 1968

Sept. 18, 1969
Historical Society

The Crawford Historical Society met Wednesday, March 25, at the Neighborhood Center. Reports on plans for the State Historical Society meeting in this area were given. The dates are May 23rd and 24th. People in the area and in Crawford are urged to attend these functions and welcome our visitors.

During "show and tell" Walter Arner showed an old mustache cup brought here by his parents in a wagon pulled by oxen. It is a very beautiful cup and delicately made. He also showed a chain used to hitch oxen to anything they pulled.

Lottie Zerbst showed an old deed signed by Grover Cleveland, citizenship papers and a snuff box made from a cow horn, and brought from England to Canada by her grandfather in 1850. He was a wheelwright by trade, and the box has a wheel engraved on one side, and his name on the other.

Joy Buckley showed old photos of the first section crews on the C. & N. W. railroad at Andrews and Harrison.

The Society will meet Wednesday evening, April 22, at 8 pm, at the Neighborhood Center. This is an important meeting, and a good attendance is required.

At Spring Meeting Saturday

Historical Marker To Be Dedicated

Between 250 and 250 persons are expected this weekend for the 1970 Spring Meeting of the Nebraska Historical Society to be held Saturday and Sunday at Fort Robinson.

The spring meeting is being jointly sponsored by the local Crawford Historical Society and the State Society. Local publicity chairman, Harrison Warren, urges everyone who can to attend, and that you don't have to be a member of either group to attend. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday morning at Ft. Robinson.

Dedication of the "1874 Fort Robinson Marker" at Fort Robinson will be one of the highlights of the meeting. The dedication will be held on the parade ground at 3 p.m. Saturday. It will be dedicated to Howard Dodd, longtime Crawford Historical Society. Howard D o d d Memorial Funds helped pay for the marker.

A cowboy breakfast will be held in the Crawford City Park Sunday morning with Rev. Billy Richardson giving the service. It, like all other events, are open to the public. The program for the 2-day meeting includes:

SATURDAY —
9:30 a.m. Registration
10:00 a.m. State Historical Society Board Meeting.
12:00 noon Luncheon: Howard Dodd room.

President: Charles W. Martin, president Nebraska State Historical Society.

Invocation: Father Robert O'Neil, Crawford

Welcome: Mrs. Betty Norgard, President of Crawford Area Chamber of Commerce, Crawford.

Remarks: Gene Thornton, President, Crawford Historical Society.

Remarks: Marvin F. Kivett, Director Nebraska State Historical Society.

Address: Father Peter J. Powell, Director St. Augustines Center, Chicago.

"The Cheyenne at Fort Robinson — Morning Star's People are Killed".

5:30 p.m. Dedication of Fort Robinson Marker on the 1874 Parade Ground.

Address: Vance E. Nelson, Curator Fort Robinson Museum Complex.

4:00 p.m. Tour of Fort Robinson. Tour of Crawford Pioneer Museum, Crawford City Park.

SUNDAY —
7:00 a.m. Cowboy Chuckwagon Breakfast, Crawford City Park.
7:30 a.m. Visititation by the Circuit Riding Preacher of the 20th century, Rev. Billy Richardson.
8:30-12:00 Guided Tours of Historic Sites in Area. Choice of several tours that may be taken.
Historical Society

The Crawford Historical Society met at the Neighborhood Center August 26th at 8 p.m. A decision was made to give the Chamber of Commerce $50 toward the brochure printed last summer.

A fence will be placed around the Butte Country Marker on Highway 20. A paper pertaining to the fact that the Walton Arner homestead was the last one proved up on in Nebraska was presented. Vance Nelson will get it verified and have it placed on record.

An effort is being made to find places of historical interest in and around Crawford. Anyone knowing about some of these points of interest please contact Vance Nelson.

The next meeting of the Society will be September 23rd at 8 p.m. at the Neighborhood Center. Visitors and interested persons are welcome.

Historical Society

The Crawford Historical Society met Wednesday, Feb. 28 at Marv's banquet room.

Officers were elected for the next year. Wm. Dodd, chairman; Harrison Warren, vice chairman; John Mader, secretary; Mrs. Paul Zerbst, treasurer; Roy Viele, historian; and Joy Buckley, Loren Pickering and Vance Nelson to the board of directors.

Vance Nelson suggested several things that the Society might do to aid in the centennial of Fort Robinson next year. A membership drive will be held to help raise funds to carry out some of these suggestions.

The next meeting will be Wednesday evening, March 28, at 8 p.m. at Marv's banquet room. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings.
TREATY TREE RELOCATED — The historical Black Hills Treaty Tree now rests in the Crawford City Park, near the Pioneer Museum. Shown at work relocating the main trunk of the tree are Melvin Miller, on top of his truck, and Ellis Hale and Buzz Wallker (right) watch. A couple of years ago the Crawford Historical Society discovered the tree had fallen, and began making plans to have it brought into Crawford. Due to the untiring efforts of Don Williams the mission has been accomplished. The Society will make an effort to preserve it, and see that it is properly marked. Miller and Hale went out to the tree's former site Friday and brought it in, on Miller's logging truck.
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Pine Top Log School Now Houses Marx

By Sue G. Saunders
Tribune Co-Publisher

A transplanted schoolhouse has flowered into a delightful and interesting museum, tended regularly now by Roy Viele and open for community enjoyment.

The Pioneers Museum in the City Park was opened this summer when Viele volunteered to staff it on Fridays through Mondays. Not only has he been around to open the door and answer questions, but he also has unearthed a number of displays.

Unique feature of the off-overlooked museum is its origin; few towns can claim an authentic log school house built before the turn of the century as their museum.

Built originally as Pine Top School, about 12 miles northwest of Crawford and north of Rimrock Ranch, the museum was built as a school house in Sioux County by names still known to area residents—the Cullers, Raum, Vieles.

Viele has his hands full what with the Kids and in the museum.

A Crawford Museum

Kenne Konnes, a member of the Crawford Street, the last resident.

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The exhibits are collected and arranged with taste and legibility. The store of Crawford, filled with supplies at one time, is now a well-sold, second book.

somethin' else!
Many Relics from Crawford’s Past

A postcard from W. Howard Glaze, states he went “to school here in this building in 1892.” And recently unearthed by Viele was a list of the class of 1900.

Visiting the museum Monday was E. A. Cullers—whose points delightedly to the class list where his father, Ira, and his grandfather’s name, A.C., are listed as a student and parent in 1900. Another student’s name was the late Cora Sowers, who “taught four generations of Cullers,” Mrs. Cullers said. Her husband attended classes in the historic building in 1918.

Want a real trip through time? Watch Viele wind up the Edison phonograph and hear melodic and clear tones fill the room in waltz-time.

Viele would love to have more area residents visit the museum, particularly as he attempts to identify and label items. A lamp owned by Lee Abbott has Viele curious as to how it was used and what kind of globes were needed.

A saddle owned by Carroll A. Kennedy, father of Crawford’s Bud Kennedy, carries with it a photograph of the owner and an amusing story about the saddle’s theft from 136 Linn Street about 1905—and its discovery in the attic in another house “of ill repute”.

A saddle owned by Carroll A. Kennedy, father of Crawford’s Bud Kennedy, carries with it a photograph of the owner and an amusing story about the saddle’s theft from 136 Linn Street about 1905—and its discovery in the attic in a house “of ill repute” elsewhere on Linn Street.

The museum is not all antique exhibits, but includes such items as a collection northwest Nebraska agates and animal oddities—two calves, one with two heads and the other with eight legs. The stuffed calves were born north of Crawford and purchased by Dr. Jim Ivins, president of Crawford State Bank at one time, and loaned by the bank.

Items around the museum include a well, similar to the first one that supplied all of Crawford’s water at Second and Main, the treaty tree and old vehicles used here.

The museum is packed with a variety of items, including clothing, dishes, ranch equipment and such strange things as a “stove cleaner” that is guaranteed to make everyone thankful for self-cleaning ovens!

A quick glance at the registration books shows almost 275 visitors since Aug. 1—and a list of states that includes California, Florida, Arizona, Nevada, South and North Dakota.

Viele delights in company, he points out, and if you haven’t been to the museum lately, you’re missing a must!
CRAWFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Crawford Historical Society has been fortunate to be centered in a setting of Indian History, trails history, military history and settler history. Chief Red Cloud picked with a little nudge from the military, the buttes west of Crawford for the first agency stop. This brought the military, the freight trail from Sidney, and later the settlers. The trail to the gold fields in the Black Hills also added to the setting. It crossed the Ft. Pierre to Laramie trail right on the future site of Crawford.

The Crawford Historical Society was formed in 1962 with the express purpose of capitalizing on this historical treasure. During the years many historical sites have been located and marked. The late Howard Dodd was the early leader who pushed hard to make sure the sites were authentic. Over the years on the Sidney to Black Hills trail all the stage stations in Dawes County with dates and names have been marked with heavy steel markers set in concrete. The Cheyenne Outbreak marker was placed west of Fort Robinson and the 3ute Country marker east of Crawford commemorates the Grand Council when the officials of the Government tried to buy the Black Hills. The Society also helped dedicate several of the markers on Ft. Robinson and the Crawford marker on the edge of Crawford.

For many years group field trips by the Society and guests were made to selected sites often as far away as Hat Creek stage station on the Cheyenne to Deadwood stage line. Loren Pickering and Roy Viele were dedicated members who spent many years as caretakers for the Pioneer Museum in the Crawford Park.

Although it is as recent as 1983, the most important task the Society has taken on is trying to get a museum building built for the two mammoth skeletons which were found with their tusks locked in death. These skeletons were found on the Moody ranch about 15 miles north of Crawford. To date, the society has employed an architect to make drawings of the building, and preparations have been formulated to request funding assistance from foundations. The society is relying on the cooperation of the entire Crawford area for support because it will take a very large effort on everyone's part to bring about this very worthwhile project.

Mrs. Lottie Zerbst was on the board of directors when this project started and now the directors are; William H. Dodd, Wm. J. Mader, Lorenzo Norgard, Barbara Ferguson, Perry Moody, Frank Barcel and Cecil Avey. Past Presidents in order were; Vic Krizter, Howard Dodd, Gene Thornton and Bill Dodd who is president at the present time.

by John Mader