

MFT EXPRESS #14

July 2012

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Museum of the Fur Trade for its Members

Gun Book Receives National Award

Volume I of the Museum's planned Encyclopedia of Trade Goods was selected as the best reference work published in 2012 by the Independent Book Publishers Association. Director Gail Potter and Jim Hanson and his wife Ann traveled to New York to receive the award on June 4th. They also had time to see the National Museum of the American Indian's exhibit center in the Old US Customs House. It was exciting to view such artifacts as Sitting Bull's drum and Crazy Horses' war shirt.

Chadron Fur Trade Days

Always the second weekend in July, this year, it will be July 13-15. The muzzleloaders host a primitive muzzle-loading rendezvous six miles south of the museum and you can set-up as early as Thursday the 12th. Activities in town include a parade, flea market, softball tournaments, and carnival. In honor of Chadron's fur trade heritage Director DeBuse Potter presents "Flags of the Fur Trade" which illustrates the history of North America through the flags that have flown over this continent. They represent every country and every company that was involved. It is a remarkable story.

Green River Rendezvous Days

The Museum of the Mountain Man at Pinedale, Wyoming will be holding its annual celebration that same week, July 12 to July 15. There are all kinds of exciting things for kids and adults to do. Fur trade historian Dr. Fred Gowans will speak the evening of Thursday, July 12 on early Indian battles of the Upper Missouri. The next volume of their wonderful publication, the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal, will be out, and this year's authors will present lectures. They include Clay Landry, James Auld, John Eldridge, journal editor Jim Hardee, and our own editor, Jim Hanson, whose presentation concerns the extensive involvement of the Spanish/Mexicans/New Mexicans in the fur trade of the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains.

Beaver Club Trip to Hudson Bay

This exciting excursion of a lifetime will take the participants to the earliest scenes of the venerable Hudson's Bay Company's origin. We will experience three days in Churchill, Manitoba spent on the tundra buggy viewing polar bear and other Arctic wildlife. e- Polar Bears. Accommodations. Ecotour. Costs.

The cost of the trip includes the Polar Bear Safari, round trip transportation from Winnipeg to Churchill, all lodging, the "Grand Dinner," all meals, all gratuities, and all refreshments. Your transportation to Winnipeg is not included. The trip cost is \$5,800 per person based on double occupancy; it includes a \$500 donation to the Museum of the Fur Trade. Please contact the museum if you would like to participate, 308-432-3843.

Museum closing date firm

Because the next exhibit renovation project needs to be completed well before we open for the 2013 season, we will close for the season at 5 p.m. on October 31. Demoliation of the next portion of the exhibits will begin on November 1, as a result we will not be able to accommodate off-season tours. Anyone interested in helping with the demolition, please contact Gail DeBuse Potter, 308-432-3843. We estimate it will take about one week to remove this section of the old exhibits.