

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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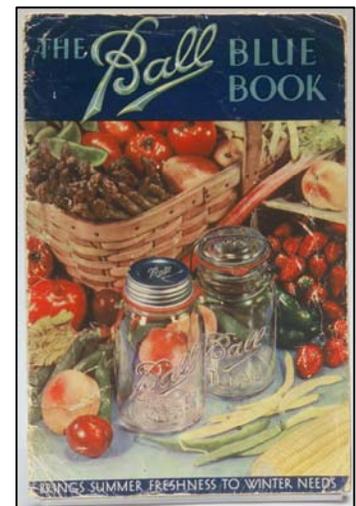
Farm Life: A Century of Change Exhibit **Opens April 6th at Fort Caspar Museum**

Casper, Wyoming – Fort Caspar Museum is hosting a traveling exhibit, *Farm Life: A Century of Change for Farm Families and Their Neighbors*, from April 6 – May 25, 2011. This exhibit examines what it means for a family to live and work on the land and offers visitors a view into life on a working farm.

The twentieth century brought profound changes for farm families and their neighbors. In 1900, 42% of the U.S. population worked in agriculture, but by 2000, less than 2% of the population was involved in farm production. Still, through generations of dramatic economic and social change, some families have maintained their connections to farming, their land, and the rural communities in which they live and work.

Instead of focusing on the technology of farming, the exhibit explores the social, cultural and economic connections to family and community. Photographs, artifacts, text and hands-on materials tell the story of life on a farm.

Two special programs are scheduled in April.



Saturday, April 9th at 10:30 am and 2:30 pm

***From Buckboards to Flatbeds: Five Generations of Wyoming Ranching*
with Con Trumbull**

Trumbull will discuss his family ties to the ranching community in Natrona County. He is the great-great-grandson of B.B. Brooks. The presentation will include photographs from the family ranches including the Banner Ranch, the Buzzard Ranch and the V-V Ranch. Con Trumbull was born in Casper and grew up on the family ranch. He spent much of his childhood exploring and working with his grandfather. Con received an A.S. in Geology from Casper College and spent his free time volunteering at the Tate Museum and Fort Caspar Museum. He is currently working towards a B.S. in Geology at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, CO.

Saturday, April 23rd at 2:00 pm

***Hard Work and Big Music: Basque Immigrant Life in Northern Wyoming*
with David Romtvedt**

David Romtvedt married into a Basque family and spent ten years as a sheep ranch hand. His presentation focuses on his personal experience and daily life, from chores to the sharing of stories and music traditions. Currently, he teaches in the MFA program for writers at the University of Wyoming and serves as the state's poet laureate. He lives in Buffalo, Wyoming with his wife, the potter Margo Brown.

Activities in May include family programs, the planting of an heirloom garden at the fort, and an instructional program on tree planting and care. More information will be available soon.

In addition, Fort Caspar Museum is hosting a series of Teacher Workshops during this exhibition. Through partnerships with the American History Cowboy Coalition with the Natrona County School District and the Western History Center at Casper College, this series of workshops will encourage teachers to incorporate oral histories in the classroom. Teachers will learn the basic principles of using oral history as a primary source, strategies for conducting oral histories, and develop lessons that build content knowledge through oral history.

Farm Life: A Century of Change for Farm Families and Their Neighbors has been made possible by NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibit was originally developed by the Chippewa Valley Museum in Eau

Claire, Wisconsin and is based on a larger exhibition permanently installed in their galleries. It is brought to you by the Mid-America Arts Alliance. Local sponsorship is provided by the Natrona County School District Discover Program and Fort Caspar Museum Association. A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities supports the public programs.

For more information about this exhibit and its programs, call Fort Caspar Museum at 307-235-8462 or check our website at www.fortcasparwyoming.com.

In April, the Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Admission fees are: Children 12 & Under are FREE, Youth 13-18 are \$1.00 and Adults are \$1.50. Fort Caspar Museum is located at 4001 Fort Caspar Road, Casper, WY 82604.

Photo Credits:

Above: The calf pen is a hands-on interactive component found in the *Farm Life* exhibition.

Below: The Ball Blue Book cookbook. Courtesy Chippewa Valley Museum.



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