

Siouxland Heritage Museums

200 West Sixth Street
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57102

June 7, 1982

Spaces 1804
North Van Ness Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90028

Dear People:

Although I have just read that you have completed your survey, I have one more entry to tell you about. There is an area in Wyoming that you might be interested in.

On Casper Mountain, 10 miles south of Casper, Wyoming, a group of people celebrate Mid Summer's Eve. The celebration begins with a bonfire on a butte and is followed by a tour of what they call shrines. A story is told at each shrine, and they are dedicated to such creatures as Shawn the Leprechaun, Undine, the Homesick Sea Witch, the Tin Owl, and the Seven Witches, who in the past, inhabited the mountain. (The witches are in reality more like elemental spirits or sprites.)

The entire celebration is finished up with coffee, cocoa and cookies. The celebration was started in the 1940's by Neal Forsling, a woman artist and poet who homesteaded that part of Wyoming. The shrines evolved from stories she told first to her own daughters, then later to those of us who are second generation mountain children.

As more of the people in the area have become interested, the attendance has grown and now sometimes numbers up to 500 people. Although Neal died in the early 1970's, her daughters have continued the tradition. Her land is now a county park. Her home, a log cabin filled with her paintings, hand crafted woodwork and collections from years of travel, has become a museum open summers with a part-time curator. If you need more information or have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hunt

Rebecca Hunt
Curator of Education
Siouxland Heritage Museums

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