
Sheridan College library to host Hemingway author for cocktail hour

FROM STAFF REPORTS

SHERIDAN — On July 17, 2022, at 5:15 p.m., Sheridan College's Kooi Library will host former Sheridan resident and author of "Cock-eyed Happy: Ernest Hemingway's Wyoming Summers with Pauline," Darla Worden for a presentation on the on-again-off-again friendship between Ernest Hemingway's first two wives, Hadley Richardson and Pauline Pfeiffer.

After the presentation, Worden will field questions, sign copies of her book and mingle with participants of the 2022 Hemingway Conference and community members in a casual cocktail hour.

LIBRARY: Cocktails

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The presentation and cocktail hour are free and open to the public. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

"Cockeyed Happy," published last year, revolves around the six summers Ernest Hemingway and Pauline Pfeiffer spent in the Bighorn Mountains and the complex journey of the couple's relationship. Worden will give a formal presentation on her research at Sheridan College during the Hemingway Conference before making her way to Kooi Library for the 5:15 p.m. cocktail hour. Kooi Library, named after Mary Brown Kooi, who donated her large book collection to the college in 1950, strives to promote lifelong learning for the campus community and beyond.

"We are beyond excited to partner with Darla and spotlight local literature and history," said Sheridan College Dean of Arts and Sciences Sarah Heuck Sinclair. "This is a special opportunity for our community to learn about the place we call home and see what Kooi Library has to offer."

The library is in the Griffith Memorial Building (Room 160) east of the Whitney Building. Parking Lot F will be available for use during the event.

STILL STANDING:

Many Sheridan establishments mentioned in Ernest Hemingway letters still in business nearly a century later

1928: Ernest Hemingway arrived in Sheridan and found that the town was a vibrant scene with two movie theaters, a grand hotel and a bustling rail center with a passenger train depot. It was Prohibition, so those who were thirsty had to be stealthy doing business with local bootleggers, and even though you couldn't find a drink there, the Mint was a good place to play poker.

The area was a mecca for dude ranches, offering a way for cattle ranches to add to their bottom lines by bringing in visitors, often from the East Coast, to sample the Western lifestyle.

While doing research for "Cockeyed Happy: Ernest Hemingway's Wyoming Summers with Pauline," I noticed some of the local establishments he mentions in letters to friends are still standing nearly 100 years later.

The Mint Bar: With its iconic neon bucking bronco sign, the Mint has been a favorite watering hole for generations. No trip to Sheridan is complete without a tour of the bar and its astonishing rattlesnake collection. Hemingway visited while staying at the Sheridan Inn, taking a break from writing to play poker. He met the local newspaper editor here who introduced him to area bootleggers — a

kindness, as newcomers were viewed with suspicion as possible federal agents. 151 N. Main St., mintbarwyo.com.

The Sheridan Inn: Built as part of the railway extension program, this stately hotel opened in 1893. With its broad porch inviting folks to sit awhile, Hemingway found it a great place to write letters. He and his Folly Ranch friends came into town for lunch here, and later he checked into the hotel, looking for a quiet place to write. It wasn't quiet, however, so he moved to Lower Folly at the base of Red Grade. 856 Broadway St., sheridaninn.com.

Sheridan Passenger Depot: Built in 1912, the brick depot replaced Sheridan's original 1892 wooden depot to cater to growing passenger train travel. The depot has been restored as Welcome Market Hall, a community gathering space of restaurants and event spaces. 841 Broadway St., welcomemarket-hall.com.

Folly Ranch: Although privately owned, the cabins where Hemingway and friends gathered around the piano to sing songs, and the site of Eleanor Donnelly's annual party, still stand.

Red Grade: The road to Spear-O hasn't

changed much. Driving up Red Grade (Sheridan County Route 26) with its sheer drop-offs as described by Hemingway's friend Bill Horne, can be just as hair-raising as it was to Hemingway and Horne in 1928.

Spear-O-Wigwam: Senator Willis Spear founded the dude ranch in 1923 to serve as a high-country camp for guests. Ernest and Pauline Hemingway stayed here while Ernest finished the first draft of "A Farewell to Arms" in August 1928. Today, the guest camp is open for business and guests can see the cabin where Hemingway worked. Red Grade Road, spearowigwam.com.

Big Horn Mercantile and Old Post Office: Hemingway picked up his manuscript, mailed by Pauline from Piggott, Arkansas, at the Big Horn Post Office, then located in the town's false-front mercantile building. The post office has since moved to an adjacent building but the mercantile still does a bustling business. 210 Johnson St., Big Horn.

DARLA WORDEN grew up in Sheridan and now resides in Denver, Colorado, where she is editor in chief of Mountain Living and Colorado Homes & Lifestyles magazines. Her book "Cockeyed Happy: Ernest Hemingway's Wyoming Summers with Pauline" is available at Sheridan Stationery, Books and Gifts.



COURTESY PHOTO | THE WYOMING ROOM,
SHERIDAN COUNTY FULMER PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Big Horn Mercantile, pictured in 1920, was where Ernest Hemingway picked up his manuscript.

Local author leads two Hemingway Conference events in Sheridan

Attending Sheridan High School in the '70s, I wasn't aware of Ernest Hemingway's visits to the area. It was before the internet and information was found in newspaper articles or at the library, not by typing in search words and hitting "enter."

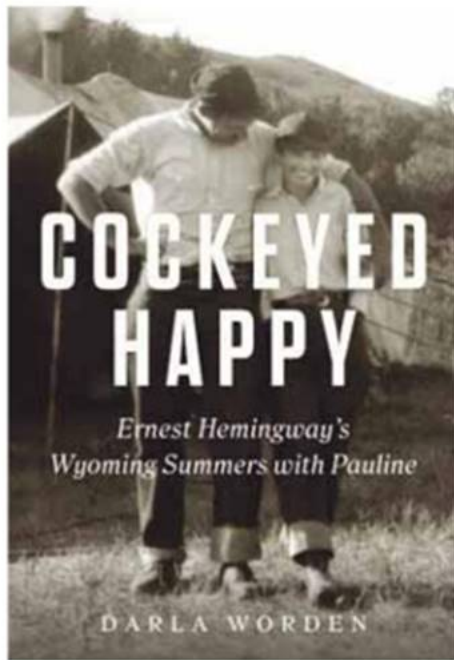
Only after stumbling upon Hemingway's Big Horn, Wyoming, return address on a letter to his friend Waldo Peirce written in 1928 did I realize not only had Hemingway spent time in Sheridan and Big Horn, but on his way up Red Grade he likely drove right past the Big Horn home where I was living when I made the discovery. Curious, I began the research that would become my book "Cockeyed Happy: Ernest Hemingway's Wyoming Summers with Pauline" (Chicago Review Press).

When I started writing the book, Sheridan had not yet been selected as the site for the 19th International Hemingway Society Conference. What an honor for our Sheridan community to host the event — and for me to have the opportunity to participate in two events on the opening Sunday of the conference, one of them free and open to the public.

Sunday, July 17, 4-4:45 p.m., Sheridan College Atrium. "Cockeyed Happy: Ernest Hemingway's Wyoming Summers with Pauline," author reading, Q&A and book

signing for conference attendees.

When I began writing *Cockeyed Happy*, I started chronicling Ernest Hemingway's summers in Wyoming, but kept noticing another person central to the story and to his time in Wyoming, his second wife, Pauline Pfeiffer. As I read their letters from the time, I realized the key role she had played during those years as his editor and typist — a role that



had been largely overlooked by history — and also how much she had given up to be with him. That was when I started writing a different book than the one I'd begun to write, with Pauline sharing the limelight, and the arc of their marriage providing a plot worthy of a novel over the course of the six summers they spent in Wyoming.

I look forward to meeting with the scholars and enthusiasts at the Hemingway Society Conference and sharing the little-known details of a special time and place in the author's life — from the perspective of a Wyoming native. While this event is part of the conference for Hemingway Society members, the society has opened up non-member conference registration to Wyoming residents at hemingwaysociety.org/wyoming.

Sunday, July 17, 5-7 p.m., Sheridan College Kooi Library. "Frenemies": Cocktail hour with Darla Worden. Free and open to the public.

For this happy hour event, which is free and open to the public, I'll briefly discuss the topic of "Frenemies" as it relates to the relationship between Hemingway's first two wives, Hadley Richardson and Pauline Pfeiffer, and the unlikely friendship they developed.

In addition, it will be my pleasure to introduce award-winning artist Tyrel Johnson



COURTESY PHOTO | POVY KIDENAL, ATCHISON

Darla Worden grew up in Sheridan and now resides in Denver, Colorado.

who will unveil his just-completed sculpture "Santiago's Plight," inspired by Hemingway's famous novella "The Old Man and the Sea." Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. I hope to see you there.

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