

# Bow Valley Prepares To Celebrate Schuetzenfest

BY JAMES COOPER  
For the Plain Talk

In the history of the USA, German immigrants play a large role.

In the Midwest, many areas were settled by Germans and towns populated by them. Over time, these Americans have kept their cultural traditions alive through community activities. Whether you have German roots or not, say guten Tag to Bow Valley's 2015 Schuetzenfest, planned for August 2.

Celebrated every five years, Schuetzenfest is dedicated to recognizing and remembering local German heritage through food, dancing, music, and a shooting contest resulting in the crowning of a Schuetzenfest King.

The day starts early with a 5k walk/run at 7:30 a.m., then "progresses to a special German Mass," says Julia Kleinschmit, a representative of the Bow Valley Park Association.

At 11 a.m., there is a parade where, "kids should bring their bags for candy, because there's quite a bit thrown out there," followed by food and games.

The highlight to the day

is the shooting contest beginning at 1 p.m.

A local man crafted a large wooden duck from cottonwood that will be perched atop a pole, then "members of the honor guard that have been training for this take turns shooting at the bird until the person who drops it becomes the King."

After the King chooses a Queen there is a talent show featuring local stars of all ages. The night ends with a dance and the lowering of Old Glory.

Putting together such an event is no small feat.

Kleinschmit says, "One of the neatest things about Schuetzenfest these days is that it's almost completely organized by the young people in our community and a number of young farmers."

It is definitely heart-warming to see that a community can continue its traditions without relying solely on the older generations to do it.

This celebration of German heritage and culture will no doubt be a worthwhile adventure for those from the Vermillion community who choose to soak it in.



COURTESY PHOTO

Diane Gubbel spent hours creating this work of Art for the Bow Valley Schuetzenfest. This Quilt will be up for Auction late in afternoon on Aug 2.



## IN THE WORDS OF THE DAKOTA REPUBLICAN

An ordinance was initially proposed in 1915 and was passed by the Vermillion City Council in 1916 to pave Market St from Kidder St south to Main; Main St east from the Clay County Court House to University St; and University St. north from E. Main St. to Clark St. Prior to this, all of the streets in town were dirt or gravel and traffic either created a bunch of dust when it was dry out or got stuck in the sloppy mess that ensued from the muddy streets after wet weather. All of this changed once the streets were paved. Between 1917 and 1920, these streets along with many of the secondary streets downtown and the primary residential streets leading off of Main St. were paved as well. While the dust and mud were no longer problems, a new one emerged from the progress that was made: speeding. It has been a persistent issue for law enforcement in Vermillion ever since then.

Dakota Republican – June 10, 1920

Like unto the police forces in the large cities, Chief of Police Walz has declared war on the speedsters and others who are caught violating the automobile traffic ordinance. There has been entirely too much of this fast and reckless driving going on in the city during the past few weeks, and Chief Walz went out and gathered in a few of them last week, and has a watchful eye out for more who may have an inclination to disregard the speed limit and burn up the gas in an endeavor to establish a speed record. He hauled in one fellow that he captured in the act on Wednesday of last week. The fellow was a real game sport, and when he came up before Judge Copeland he acknowledged that he had been going faster than the ordinance allowed, that he had no business doing it, and that fast driving was a menace. He paid the fine willingly, and immediately offered his services to Chief Walz in an endeavor to capture other speedsters. He took the chief out in his car and in a very short time they rounded up a young lady driver that was doing some thirty or more miles an hour on the pavement. Lady drivers, and all, take notice. The cops are after you and you had better watch your speedometer and keep the indicator down to the proper figure.

INFORMATION COMPILED BY TOM THADEN  
Past President, Clay County Historical Society

## This Weekend At Newton Hills

This weekend at Newton Hills we are celebrating South Dakota Culture. On Friday, July 24th, at 8:30 p.m. we will be showing a movie at the amphitheater. Saturday, July 25th at 10 a.m. we'll start out with a history hike departing from our swinging bridge on lower road. Then at 1 p.m. stop over to the double shelters for an interesting look at Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota culture as we dig into the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center's educational kit. At 3 p.m. we will take a look

at South Dakota Past Times where we will be playing a game and follow with a craft. Then at 4pm grab your chairs and watch as the show cars parade through the campground during the Canton Car Show Poker Run! You can find more info on the Car Show and other Canton events at [www.cantonarcacarshow.com](http://www.cantonarcacarshow.com). At night we will show a movie at 8:30 at the amphitheater. On Sunday, July 26th, Newton Hills welcomes you to join us in a non-denominational worship service at 9 a.m. at the amphitheater. Come as you are; all are welcome; refreshments will be provided.

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