

7-1-09

## Branson Chamber Chatter

### Encouraging Kids To Read

Belle, a character who was the heroine of Disney's "Beauty and The Beast," will be reading excerpts from children's classics throughout July at the Titanic Museum Attraction. It's part of the owners' mission to reinforce children's reading and learning skills, said Titanic's co-owner Mary Kellogg.

One special book in the program is "Polar the Titanic Bear." Polar was a Steiff bear, the property of seven-year-old Douglas Spedden who was on the Titanic with his parents. When the American family was rescued from a lifeboat, they left the bear behind, but a crew member returned it to the boy, their only son.

A year later, his mother wrote the story of Polar for the boy. Decades later, a relative published the manuscript after he discovered it in a trunk that was about to be discarded.

The World's Largest Titanic Museum Attraction has welcomed more than 1.3 million guests since opening nearly three years ago. The 17,000-square-foot ship-shaped structure is a half-scale of the original Titanic. A 90-minute self-guided tour covers 20 galleries on two decks displaying more than 400 artifacts that belonged to Titanic passengers or crew. Call 800-381-7670 or 417-334-9500 or visit [www.titanicbranson.com](http://www.titanicbranson.com).

### Boys and Girls Club Benefactors

Branson Masonic Lodge 587 recently contributed \$300 to Boys and Girls Club of the Ozarks, proceeds from their annual bowling marathon, said Mason Herb Terrill. During the past two years, they have donated more than \$1,000 to the club.

Mason Billy Rader is Operations Manager for the clubs in Branson, Forsyth and Reeds Spring. They expect to open a second location in Reeds Spring soon. The Masons also have provided pool tables and other equipment.

The Masons also partner with Boys and Girls Club in the Missouri Children's Identification and Protection Program in which children are fingerprinted, photographed and have dental impressions made and placed on a CD so that parents can provide that information quickly if a child is missing, Rader said. Call the Boys and Girls Club at 417-335-2089 or visit [www.gbcozarks.org](http://www.gbcozarks.org).

### **“A Sharp Place To Shop”**

That’s the motto of Never A Dull Moment, the knife shop on Branson Landing across from Arvest Bank owned by Joseph and Karen Duaine. The shop that opened in March recently had some celebrities stop by. On the weekend of the Branson Airshow, they were thrilled to greet members of the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team, Joseph Duaine said.

They carry several brands of knives including Benchmade, Ka-Bar, Spyderco, Cold Steel and Case. They also have sporting, camping and outfitter supplies. For “Survivor” wannabes, they carry magnesium fire starters. “We have a range of prices with something for everyone,” Karen Duaine said. Call 417-239-1122.

### **A Special Birthday Gift**

On June 17, the musical Horn family at the Circle B Theatre celebrated the ninth wedding anniversary of singer and guitarist Michael Horn, and his wife, Leah Horn, who is the sound and light technician. They also celebrated the birthday of mandolinist John Fullerton, who has been a huge fan of The Sons of the Pioneers and Roy Rogers since he was a child.

Roy “Dusty” Rogers, Jr.—Roy Rogers’ son—gave Fullerton a vintage shirt from the 1960s that had been worn by the Sons of the Pioneers’ guitarist Lloyd Perriman. Dusty Rogers sings with his son, Dustin Rogers, in the Happy Trails Theatre at the Roy Rogers-Dale Evans Museum.

Fullerton said he plans to have his photograph taken wearing the shirt and then put it under glass in his extensive collection of Sons of the Pioneers memorabilia.

### **Chuckwagons Coming**

In October 2010, the Circle B Theatre will host the Chuckwagons of the West Jamboree with top national cowboy music and comedy acts plus special guests, and they anticipate sold-out shows.

The Horn Family brought Circle B’s brand of cowboy music and chuckwagon dinners to Branson six years ago from their Circle B Ranch in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The Jamboree started more than 50 years ago, and is held in a different city every year. Other association members will come from chuckwagon shows in South Dakota; Wyoming; Durango and Colorado Springs, Colo., and New Mexico. Visit [www.CircleBshow.com](http://www.CircleBshow.com) or call 1-800-678-6179.

Kathryn Buckstaff is membership public relations manager for the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. Send your news, happenings and upcoming events for Branson Chamber Chatter to [kbuckstaff@bransoncvb.com](mailto:kbuckstaff@bransoncvb.com). Check “Chatter” archives at [www.bransonchamber.com](http://www.bransonchamber.com) in Chamber Info—News.