

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Melodee Pedersen

A Panhandle Christmas

The Nebraska Humanities Council, the Platte County Historical Society Museum, and the Friends of the Columbus Public Library are pleased to present Otto Rosfeld's "A Panhandle Christmas" program on Sunday, November 7th at 2:00 p.m. at the Platte County Historical Society Museum. Mr. Rosfeld rejuvenated his audience at the library the last time he was here, in February of 2009, and we're sure this time will be no different.

Otto Rosfeld, poet, balladeer and storyteller, was born and raised in Rushville, Nebraska and has a bachelor of music from Chadron State College. He now lives in Valentine, Nebraska. After more than 30 years as a public school music teacher, Otto retired to pursue his love for the performing arts. He has been performing his programs since the early 1990s. Otto was featured on Nebraska Public Television with a program called "Sandhills Song", and has been a guest performer on "River City Folk", hosted by Tom May, for National Public Radio. Along with several other folks, Otto helped set standards for the Nebraska Cowboy Poetry Gathering at Valentine, Nebraska. He has performed in six different states.

All but three of the songs in "A Panhandle Christmas" were written by Mr. Rosfeld. Most of the songs in his programs reveal or teach something about our senses and the past, our roots in rural America.

Mr. Rosfeld says, "Performing and entertaining gives me the freedom to say what I think needs to be said. Also, when audience members become entranced in their thoughts, it is of great satisfaction to me. Vocalizing with rhythm making and movements are tension relievers." We of the Friends' Board think those who attended his program a year and a half ago will recall singing along with him on the "whoop do's," definitely a great tension reliever.

When asked what he wanted audiences to gain from his programs, Mr. Rosfeld said, "I wish to have my audiences renew their senses which sometimes seem to have become (generally speaking) jaded, dulled, and slow cooked because of the pace at which we live our lives and the media and advertising tactics in use at the present time." As those who have seen Mr. Rosfeld perform, we can say his energy and enthusiasm were contagious. Our board found his program to be delightful and are pleased to have the opportunity to bring him back.

Fans of Nebraska public television might be interested to know Ron Hull will give the program for the Friends' annual meeting on January 30. Mr. Hull has been affiliated with NET since 1955. He is a member of the Nebraska Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame and in 2010 was given the Nebraska Broadcast Pioneer Award. His program will explore 50 years of Nebraska history told through the experiences of Mari Sandoz, John Neihardt, Sandy Dennis, Frank Morrison, Terry Carpenter, Bob Kerrey, Johnny Rodgers and more. More will be shared about his program in January.

As a "thank you" to our wonderful members and an encouragement to those who have not yet joined, everyone who renews their Friends of the Columbus Public Library membership or joins for

the first time, at or before the annual meeting, will have their names placed in a drawing for a Nook (electronic book reader) valued at \$149. You must be present to win.