

THE SAGE PAGE

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Bohemian Cowboy Rides into L.A

By Dianne Oberhansly

Many people simply try to cope when faced with a tragedy, but Raymond (King) Shurtz did more than that. After his father, (Raymond) Dean Shurtz, inexplicably disappeared in the Nevada desert in late 2005, and after extensive searches came up with nothing, the younger Shurtz turned to his long-time craft of play-writing, composing a kind of tribute to his father. The result was his one-man show, *Bohemian Cowboy*, which recently closed a six-week run at the Elephant Lab Theatre in Los Angeles.

Raymond, now returned to Boulder, not only wrote the play, but performed it as well. Through monologue, guitar, song and a montage of overhead video photographs, Raymond describes the man and father he knew--a hard-living cowboy, an oftentimes remote and distant parent, a musician and romantic figure of sorts, while at the same time, a "disappearing specialist." The play's portrayal is tender, yet honest. Other family members appear--brother, mother, grandfather--in loosely told vignettes which help to more fully render the essence of the elder Shurtz and to ponder some of the questions that will never be answered. In this play, as Raymond puts it, "Nostalgia becomes an art form."

Raymond's father was born and raised in Escalante.



Reprinted with permission by Raymond Shurtz.

His mother, Gerry King, grew up in Boulder. When the two of them married, they lived in Salt Gulch, although they later moved around the West a good bit. Raymond (junior) was born in Los Angeles, but his family frequently returned to Boulder, even after his parents divorced, so this has always been one of his homes. After an early career as a gymnastics coach and a later one as a theatre teacher in Phoenix's Metro Arts High School, he resigned his job and has returned to Utah, living in his father's trailer under the big cottonwoods in Lower Boulder.

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Dates to Note:

- ◆ May 23 County Shed Volunteer Clean-up
- ◆ Jun 5-7 Birding Workshop
- ◆ Jun 21 Raymond Shurtz, Boulder Performance
- ◆ July 4 Fourth of July celebration
- ◆ July 16-18 Boulder Heritage Festival

Bohemian Cowboy Rides into Los Angeles (cont'd from page 1)

Although Raymond has worked in theatre since he was 26, he admits to frequent jitters while performing *Bohemian Cowboy*. He says, "Doing a one man show is like going through rapids alone with a very small paddle." However, he also believes that people have to do what frightens them "to optimize experience."

The play's director, Kurt Brungardt, is Raymond's long-time friend as well as a fellow playwright who knows Raymond's work and "doesn't let him get away with anything." Even after rehearsals started in L.A., Raymond continued to revise the play, and that artistic perseverance paid off when some very fa-

vorable reviews were published. Critic F. Kathleen Foley of the *Los Angeles Times* wrote: "Tormented by a tale interrupted, the storyteller son, also a talented singer/guitarist, weaves a campfire ghost story with a Bergman-esque overlay." And the *L.A. Weekly* noted that, "Shurtz performs . . . with gentle, wistful intelligence while avoiding the morose or the melodramatic."

Even with his successful L.A. run behind him, Raymond continues "tweaking" the play. His plans are to add more video and multimedia effects to the production as well as to build a background set that he can travel with. He intends to take the show back out

on the road after some planning and preparation. In the meantime, however, he wants to bring *Bohemian Cowboy* full circle by performing it in Boulder where it made its debut last September at Anselm Spring's small outdoor amphitheatre. Raymond has chosen--quite fittingly--June 21, Father's Day, for a repeat performance. Watch for upcoming announcements with details and time.

With all of the challenges and energy required to perform *Bohemian Cowboy* for six weeks in Los Angeles, Raymond says that all of his expectations were exceeded and that he is left "with bags and bags of gratefulness."

Boulder Businesses, Town Start Recycling

By Bobbie Cleave

You can now recycle in Boulder! The following items can be dropped off at the centralized, public recycling center west of the Fire Station:

- **Cardboard**
- **Mixed paper:** newspaper and inserts; junk mail and flyers; office paper; cereal boxes; phone books; magazines and catalogs; and products made from 100% paper
- **Plastic products:** items with codes 1-7; plastic bags; milk jugs; pop/water/juice bottles
- **Glass-** all colors, unbroken
- **Aluminum and steel** cans
- **Tetra/Aceptic packaging** (for example, milk and juice boxes)

To prepare articles for recycling, please remove lids and rinse all containers, crush plastic and aluminum, and break down cardboard boxes.

Currently, Red Rock Recycling, from Escalante, in collaboration with the Pro Baler Group are handling the pick up of Boulder's recyclable materials.

At its April meeting, the Town Council agreed to help fund the effort during its 3-month trial period, subject to reevaluation. Between April and July a group of volunteers will assess participation in the program, as well as consider other options to keep it going.

Thanks to all who have attended meetings to help establish a recycling program, to the Town Council for approving the funding, to the business owners who have started their private pick up contracts, and special thanks to Tim Mutcher for preparing the drop off site.

Many thanks to the Young Women's group who donated their time for spring-cleaning the Town Hall. It was a "gross, disgusting" job—as their summary report suggests. But the legions of people who will be using the Town Hall this spring and summer thank them for their efforts: Marina LeFevre, Sarah Gardner, Kayenta and Willow Ryan, and "delegators" Kristen Barsch and Kandice Larson.



New Foodies Grilling Up Goodies

By Bobbie Cleave

If you are into food, the new folks in town running the Burr Trail Grill will be of interest to you. They describe themselves as “into FOOD”—growing it, reading about it, experimenting with it, cooking it, and serving it. Ed and Jen have just moved to Boulder to run the Burr Trail Grill, and they hope people in Boulder and those passing through will stop by and try their menu. They moved here from Salt Lake City where they worked at Liberty Heights Fresh. Before that they lived for a long time in Kentucky and between them have worked in and run restaurants for 40 years.

They decided to move to Boulder because of the beauty here, the interest in gardening alive in this town, and the opportunity to run the grill. They are very excited about hearing from the community. They like to create great food and welcome feedback of what people like and don't like, so go by and visit. They have goals to increase the use of local products and supply the restaurant with local produce. Anyone who has produce, eggs, meat, or other good stuff should stop by and visit. The business hours are everyday from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30



Jen and Ed Vaughn, new proprietors of the Burr Trail Grill.

p.m. for lunch, and 5 :30 to 9 p. m. for dinners Thursday through Sunday. (However, people can come in during the closed hour at 4:30 if they need to, because Ed says they will always try to feed hungry people). This first year, they want to just listen to people and get used to being here, so stop by and have a talk and some good food.

Town Grounds Prepped for Sod, Shelter

By Tom Jerome

With spring weather came renewed activity on the Town Grounds. Projects include building the shed roof shelter on the north side of the fire house, installing the sprinkler system prior to laying the sod lawn, placing pathways and borders, finishing work on a parking area/recycling station west of the fire house, con-



structing the “new and improved” play area, and more planting. A certain urgency prevails with the Park Committee’s goal of finishing this new community space in time for this year’s July 4 celebration.

Tim Mutcher has been tireless in volunteering innumerable hours and a generous amount of material towards completion of these projects; Alfred Jepsen’s backhoe has been on loan to the town for this work. Many others have assisted, or offered future assistance, and are at the ready for laying sod and planting.

This winter, Boulder Town purchased and procured use of sufficient water shares to irrigate the grounds and Town Park areas. This water will also provide a meandering stream and a series of pools for the park that will connect with the nature area north of the Boulder Mountain Lodge. This will be a unique area for watching birds and other wildlife in the center of town.

Egg Hunters Leave No Snowpiles Unturned

By Claire Meghan Johnson



Mackay Spalding displays his egg cache.
(Photos by Emma Spalding)

This year's Easter egg hunt was welcomed by a white blanket of snow, but everyone still had a great time. We searched for eggs, and everyone really seemed to embrace the Easter spirit! Four-year-old Noah Thorn said, "I had a great time and it don't matter if it snowed." The eggs were filled with silly putty, fun dip, jelly beans, suckers, money, stuffed animals, notepads, sweet-tarts, chocolate, and many other yummy treats. If you were lucky---like Larkin Brody--- you could find up to \$10 dollars in one egg!

There were three fields for different ages. The first field was for kids four and under, the second field was for kids five to eight, and last but not least, was the field for kids from eight to twelve. For some people, climbing under the damp bushes searching for eggs was the best part, but for others the treats inside of the eggs were the best part! There weren't just locals who participated. There were guests from the Lodge who came over spring break with their kids to search for the eggs. After everyone was damp, and there weren't anymore eggs, we retired to the commons area of the Lodge to drink hot apple cider and enjoy the wonderful muffins and cookies supplied by the Hells Backbone Grill. All of the kids looked over their glorious loot and dug into the yummy candy.

I would like to thank the Boulder Mountain Lodge for setting this up every year and making sure everyone has a great time no matter what weather it is! I also would like to thank the Hells Backbone Grill for supplying us with the wonderful treats! I hope next year we will have better weather, but even if we don't we'll still have the best time!



2009 Easter Egg Hunters faced a beautiful, (typical) snowy spring morning. Boulder Mountain Lodge and Hells Backbone Grill sponsored the event and provided welcome shelter and treats for all.



Upper left: Matt and Elijah Thorn;
Top: Noah Thorn; Middle: Mary Feiler,
Laura Demay, and Carson; Bottom:
Blake and Emma Spalding.

The article was written by *Sage Page's* newest and youngest correspondent, Claire Johnson. Claire, daughter of Sue Fearon and Grant Johnson, is 12 years old and in the 7th grade.

Emma Spalding contributed these photographs.

Red House Farm Marks New Boulder Venture

By Dianne Oberhansly

Brynn and Scott Brodie, residents of Boulder since 1999, have recently embarked on a new adventure with their purchase of a five-acre Boulder plot and house, which they have named the Red House Farm. Originally built in 1948 by Nethella Woolsey Griffin, the house and surrounding property, as well as workshop, barn, silo and root cellar, will be mainly dedicated by the Brodies to encouraging local food production. Purchased from Cliff Fuller last October, the property lies on the south side of Highway 12 and has Boulder Creek running through it.

With economic and ecological trends stressing the importance of more locally acquired food, the Brodies wanted to be pro-active in their community. In addition, the growing and preserving of foods here is a tradition they wanted to continue.

With those goals in mind, Red House Farm:

- **Held an Old Orchard Tree Pruning Workshop** last February 28. Wayne Hanks, Orchard Manager from Capitol Reef, gave a Q & A session at the Jepsen Ranch in Lower Boulder. Fruit is a valuable

resource here, and since there are already many fruit producing trees, it seems advisable to maintain them rather than nurture new ones for years before they bear. Wayne did a drive-by of most of the older orchards and thinks the trees here are still vigorous but need to be maintained soon to prevent decline.

- **Offered mushroom compost for sale** at cost. This is very rich and particularly good for newer gardens or those that have had minimal fertilizer inputs.
- **Co-hosted a seed saving meeting** with Constance Lynne on March 25. They would like to encourage Boulder gardeners to save their seed so a seed stock suited to Boulder's unique environment can be preserved.
- **Hosted the Bosworth/Cleave Bee Club release workshop** on April 25.
- **Purchased two Allis Chalmers All Crop Combines** so that wheat/grain can be grown and processed here.

Although the Brodies are still getting to know the place and what it lends itself to, their aim is to make Red House Farm a working farm. Chicks have been purchased for egg production and a garden planted so that excess produce can be sold at the Boulder Farmer's Market. They are investigating additional venues for income as well.

Managing daily farm operations and living on-site are Josh Ellis and Jill Trombley. Josh came to Boulder from Oregon and has farming and animal husbandry experience; Jill, from Wyoming, is gifted with an artistic flair and a penchant for working with children.

Future plans/events for the Red House Farm include a food drying workshop, cold frame workshop, children's art classes and a Spring Open House sometime in May. They will be seeking grant funding to help support their vision. Because of its setting and central location in town, Scott and Brynn think the farm will be an attractive venue. Contact Jill at red-housecollective@gmail.com if you are interested in programs or seek more information.



Boz Bosworth shakes out the first box of Boulder bees at the Red House Ranch bee installation demo. Photo by Peg Smith

Maintenance Shed Clean-up Party

Rachel Levinson, owner of Full Moon Farm (Martina's old place), is hosting a clean up of the old highway maintenance building, followed up by a potluck. Bring your gloves! BCA will provide dust masks for those who want them.

Clean-up is scheduled for **Saturday, May 23, from 11-4**. Details will be emailed later.

Poetry Reading (and Chocolate) Bring in the Crowds

By Peg Smith

"No one's going to come," I remember Dianne saying, two days before her Boulder debut poetry reading on April 11 at the Anasazi Museum.

Dianne Oberhansly is a published author of fiction and short stories (recipient of the Flannery O'Connor award for one of her books, among other distinctions). Her new volume of poetry, "*After*," is a fairly new foray for her, into the world of poetry.

Guess what? Over 75 people on a Friday evening in Boulder crowded into the museum's conference room—a space comfortable for maybe half that number—to listen to an hour of poetry. An astounded Di said, "Even in Salt Lake, there wouldn't be 78 people here."



Maybe and maybe not. Dianne doesn't just read her poetry; she performs it. And this evening, she did so in an unusual way, by combining the poetry with music, titling it, "*A Celebration of Words*." She opened by having a friend douse the lights, and with a flashlight shining up on onto her face said, "In the beginning there was the word. . ." and proceeded to have a bit of fun with the pretenses often found in poetry. Accompanied musically by Tim Clarke, Sage Sorenson, and Curtis Oberhansly, she then delighted the audience for an hour with a mixture of poetry, comedy, music, and as a grand finale to the evening—a chocolate reception.



It was a full house at the Anasazi Museum, listening to "*Celebration of Words*," a poetry recital by Dianne Oberhansly, accompanied by musical friends. A chocolate reception—no, extravaganza—followed.

The poems she selected ranged from "After Watching Farlan's Cows" to the rather lengthy "Poop", featuring toads, bears . . . and jewelry. Between poems she interwove her thoughts on poetry —origins, styles and accessibility, always with a light and humorous touch. Her take on poetry is that it doesn't have to be exclusionary and pedantic. Poetry *is* music and rhythm. And words, fun words, descriptive words, playful words, exotic words. And to entice her audience to stay for the reception (as if!) she included her Mae West routine as a closer.

But back to the chocolate. Dianne and friends had prepared that week around 20 intensively chocolate recipes, or, as someone dubbed the spread that covered two full tables: 16 feet of chocolate.

It was hard to resist and most didn't. Why? It was a night of celebration—words and chocolate.



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