

Museum Reports Fence Exhibition Huge Success

The Pioneer Museum of McKenzie County and the Long X Visitor Center reports the six week (March 14th – April 25th) showing of the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition *Between Fences* was a resounding success.

The Pioneer Museum of McKenzie County was expressly chosen by the North Dakota Humanities Council to host the exhibition as part of the Museum on Main Street project – a national/state/local partnership to bring exhibitions and programs to rural cultural organizations. *Between Fences* is now on view at the Barnes County Historical Museum in Valley City, ND. The exhibition will continue to tour North Dakota with one more stop (after Valley City) between now and the end of June.

Through a selection of artifacts, photographs and illustrations, *Between Fences* delighted record breaking audiences with its exploration of the multiple meanings behind this everyday icon. Whether made of split rails, decorative white picket fences, or tall chain link, audiences learned how a fence conveys information about the people who built it, how they view and use their property and the nature of their relations with their neighbors. Complimentary local programs included A Picket Fence of Painted ND History, 4th grade WCES students; How do we Build Our Fence? – Art Contest, WCHS Art Class; A Fence Quilting Challenge Display, Prairie Rose Quilting; The Fence in History & Contemporary Life, Dr. Barbara Handy Marchello; ND Reads, Dr. John Helgeland; and various in house museum displays.

“We are thrilled with the community’s reaction to *Between Fences*,” said Jan Dodge, local coordinator. “By hosting a Smithsonian exhibition at our institution, we were able to increase our attendance numbers and garner more exposure for the Pioneer Museum, the Long X Visitor Center and our community. We were also able to help create additional commerce for our community when we had many individuals, organizations and school classes tour the museum from other communities and visit entities when in Watford City.” “By working with the North Dakota Humanities, local organizations and school teachers we were able to offer a wide variety of educational programs for the entire community.” “We hope to build on these experiences in future program plans”

The Pioneer Museum McKenzie County and the Long X Visitor Center would like to extend special thanks to all who participated through gifts and donations, various programs, volunteering, and attendance.

Notes of comments from visitors were as follows! Enjoyed the student drawings; Inspirational; It was Fantastic; Uh-Mazing; Enjoyable walk in the past; Awesome Center!; Informative Staff; Great Photos; Fascinating; I had fun here; Terrific Experience; Fabulous; Nice people; Very Well Done; Delightful; Wonderful-Thank You; Great Community Involvement; Great help here-Thank You; Beautiful Addition to Watford City!