

Lost art of storytelling revived at '87 Flatwater Festival

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the underground railroad, the good ol' Uncle Remus fables, were not soon forgotten by America's youth. Though seen as demeaning to the black people of today Torrence, a jaded, large black lady, said the stories are a "great chunk" of the American heritage.

"The Story Lady" will perform Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. in the College of Business Administration and, for the late-night ghost story fanatics, at the Sheldon Sculpture Garden from 9:30 to 11 p.m.

Bobby Bridger: From the bloodlines of the original mountain man, Jim

Bridger, descendant singer-writer-actor and flatlands tour guide, Bobby Bridger tells stories of mountain men and Native Americans that comprise so much of Nebraska's heritage.

Bridger tells of more than just legend, however. His stories are laden with the Native-American Indian philosophy of harmony and reforming the social order.

Bridger said that the phrase "social order" frightens people who don't understand what he implies.

"A new order is a world where people work in harmony rather than conflict," Bridger said in an interview with the Omaha World-Herald.

Though Bridger normally combines his stories with an excursion over wilderness terrain, he will pull into the Flatwater Festival for an hour or so at 3 p.m. on Sunday inside CBA.

Kathryn Windham: Because of "Jeffrey" the benevolent poltergeist nestled in her Selma, Alabama cottage, Ms. Windham, then a working photo journalist, took to the typewriter and began to chronicle the appearances of Jeffrey and 13 other Alabama apparitions; thus, her first book of the same title and an onset into the art of telling ghost stories.

Windham, accompanied by Torrence, will hurl the yarns of the supernatural

on what will probably be a hot and muggy or hot and rainy Saturday evening at 9:30 p.m.

Roger Welsch: Definitely a local favorite, Welsch has been in and out of the academe of the university, written columns for the Lincoln Star, and has written a number of books including "You know you're a Nebraskan," "Cather's Kitchen," "Catfish at the Pump," and "Mister, You Got Yourself a Horse." Welsch's forte lies in the tall tales of western and Nebraskan folklore.

Taking a short break from the restoration of his house in Dannebrog, Welsch will perform for an hour or so in the CBA auditorium Saturday at 1 p.m.

Bob Manley: Residing as the senior historian at the Stuhr Museum, Manley, in contemporary style, relates to young and old audiences the maladies of the frontier travelers who tried to sell the potential of Nebraska to the East coast. Though often described as snake-oil salesmen — con artists — Manley, through years of research, discovers that the people selling the wild Nebraska Territory were not as shifty as had been recorded. But the rest is for him to tell.

Manley will turn the charm of the 1880's traveling salesmen loose on the audience of all ages Saturday at 3 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m.



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