



Crazy Horse legend lives on

Silently, the 12-year-old Oglala Sioux crept up on the horses, while a small band of Crows slept and dreamed of their next buffalo hunt. A sudden clatter of hooves and crackling branches turned the camp into chaos as Curly fled with the stolen horses.

Although the Crows raced after them, they were unable to keep up with the galloping steeds. Curly had no fear, whooping and laughing as he tore away with his conquest.

Born in the Black Hills of South Dakota, he was not named at birth, but as he grew into a boy, he acquired the pet name of Curly because of his wavy thick hair. At the age of 13, Curly had a vision of a great warrior with long hair riding a splendid horse; his father interpreted the vision as the man Curly would one day become.

Curly was later named Tashunka Witco (translated as "the horse is crazy"). His father and those before him were all named Crazy Horse, which was bestowed upon them when they were proven brave warriors. In 1858, Curly fought fiercely against the savage Arapaho warriors, thus earning him the predestined name, Crazy Horse.

A great leader, Chief Crazy Horse was highly respected by the Oglala people, one of seven bands of the Lakota Tribe, largest tribe of the Great Sioux Nation. With no respect for the Native Americans, neophyte American explorers encroached on their land, while greatly decreasing the buffalo herds. As the white men invaded the Sioux territory, Crazy Horse battled valiantly to save the land of his people and defend their rights.

Eventually outnumbered and defeated, the Native Americans were rounded up and placed on reservations. In September of 1877, Crazy Horse was deceptively captured by soldiers and about to be imprisoned. Two of the soldiers held Crazy Horse as he struggled to get free, while another impelled him with a bayonet.

It was a cowardly act, since Crazy Horse carried no weapon and the injury shortly led to his demise. Right up until his death, as a young man in his 30s, he was still trying to negotiate with the white people to preserve the lands of his people.

To honor this prominent Native American leader, an extraordinary memorial of the image of Crazy Horse is being carved in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The formidable task began in 1948, with a gigantic blast on Thunderhead Mountain, a 600-foot monolith.

Korezak Zhalkowski, a famous sculptor who was born in Boston, was 38 years old when he undertook the ponderous challenge. In the initial stages of the project, the mountain was strategically detonated with explosives. Korezak carefully delineated his design by painting 6-foot-wide lines, using 176 gallons of paint. Working independently, he drilled and carved utilizing only a gas-operated jackhammer.

An injury from a fall was sustained in the first year of work and it was not his last accident. In the early 1950s, a cable broke, resulting in a severe back injury for Korezak. After that, he bought his first bulldozer to

Star gazers

Local amateur astronomers set up shop in Livonia lot

BY LAURA COLVIN
STAFF WRITER

Every Thursday night, area stargazers converge on Rider's Hobby Shop in Livonia to marvel at the beauty and vastness of the universe.

Amateur astronomers from all over metro Detroit bring out the telescopes, everything from sophisticated \$6,000 scope to a pair of binoculars on a tripod, and set up shop in Rider's parking lot as the sun goes down.

"Astronomy is a way to put life in the world in perspective," Farmington resident and business owner Mike Nowak said. "When you're investigating things that are hundreds of millions of miles away, it really is a peaceful escape."

Nowak is one of many area astronomy buffs who sometimes show up at Rider's. They are men and women, young and old, but they all have a contagious enthusiasm for astronomy and they love to talk to curious folks who stop by.

"We get a lot of people coming by from next door at Blockbuster," said John Kirchhoff, general manager of Rider's Livonia store and one of the area's leading authorities on telescopes and astronomy. "Kids and parents are in and out of there all the time, and some of them have never looked through a telescope before. It's fun to show somebody the moon for the first time, or a planet for the first time."

Students from Grant Elementary stopped by a few weeks back, and Kirchhoff was thrilled to give the kids a tutorial.

"We would love to have more teachers assign our meetings as extra credit," Kirchhoff said. "The more the merrier."

The Livonia Rider's store has been hosting the Star Parties on clear Thursday nights for the last four years. Kirchhoff can often be found helping to set up a newly purchased telescope, no charge, or pointing out an object in the distant sky.

Other times, he's happy to stand around and chat about the latest advances in telescope technology or help beginners decide on the right scope for a great view of the heavens.

"You never know what you're going to see next," he said. "The next comet, the next real-

AT A GLANCE

■ Join astronomy enthusiasts every Thursday evening in Rider's front parking lot at dusk for a tour of the universe (7 p.m. in winter)

■ Receive expert advice on using your telescope, or look through one of theirs.

■ Groups and students welcome

■ Rider's Hobby Shop
30991 Five Mile Rd. (one block east of Merriman)

■ For more information call
(734) 425-9720
www.riders.com

ly good northern lights display. For this particular year, Mars is really going to be an interesting target to watch."

This summer, Mars comes closer to Earth than it has in nearly 60,000 years.

"Every year there's some big event and if you miss it, you miss it," said Dan Wellbaum, a Livonia resident and astronomy photographer who also works at Rider's. "It could be the opportunity of a lifetime."

Prudence Kirchoff of Farmington Hills heard about the Thursday night gatherings through a stranger at Barnes and Noble, and came to check it out for the first time.

"My family just bought me a new telescope for my birthday as extra credit," Kirchoff said. "I've always had a passion for astronomy," she said. "You look up and you just wonder. It's all so far away."

Newcomers and novices are more than welcome to attend, as the usual attendees are more than happy to share a view through their telescopes, as well as their knowledge.

"Don't go to Wal-Mart or Kmart to buy a telescope," said Jim Moschke, who drives from Allen Park to attend the gatherings. "People buy the cheap telescopes from a department store and they say, 'It's too hard of a hobby, I can't figure it out.'"

Tom Cokley drives from



Farmington Hills resident Nancy Smith looks at the Moon in front of Riders Hobby in Livonia.

Kirchoff: How to buy a telescope

Want to buy a telescope? It's important to do your homework before plunking down a lot of money. Read books and magazines, visit Web sites and talk to people in the know.

"A very important question you have to ask yourself is how big a telescope you want," said John Kirchhoff, general manager of Rider's Hobby Shop in Livonia. "The magnification aspect isn't nearly as

important as the diameter of the lens of mirror."

The larger the lens or mirror, he explained, the more light the telescope can gather, allowing more detailed viewing of faint and distant objects.

Several other factors come into play, as well, he said. "You're buying an optical system," he said. "Telescopes have to be good on the lens, you have to have a good stur-

dy mount and you have to have good eye pieces. If any one of those three factors don't measure up to the rest, you're not going to have a good experience."

A good telescope, Kirchhoff said, makes for a better viewing of the usual astronomical delights such as the moon, planets, and stars, and it is indispensable when something out of the ordinary comes up.

Waterford for the Star Parties, he said, as well as the expert advice he gets at Rider's.

"Every hobby store I went to I found that I knew more about astronomy and telescopes than the people work-

ing there," he said. "Finally I found this place."

For those who attend the Thursday gatherings, the universe is a mystery to behold. "I just love the numbers," said Cokley, gazing upward

through a pair of large binoculars. "The time, the distance, and how insignificant we really are."

After all, it may be a small world, but it's a big universe. Really big.

Speaker rallies troops against women in combat

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Elaine Donnelly's efforts to protect women from combat began years ago, when concerns about her daughter prompted her to join the battle against the proposed Equal Rights Amendment.

"The reason I became involved in the Equal Rights Amendment was, I didn't want my daughter to be drafted," she told an audience of some 75 Bloomfield Republican Women's Club members at a recent luncheon.

While the Equal Rights Amendment was defeated, the Livonia resident now has a related cause - reversing recent decisions that allow women to serve in front line combat positions.



Bloomfield Republican Women's Club luncheon speaker Elaine Donnelly (left) enjoys lunch with event planner Alice Berberian Haldosian and club president Joan Grindel of Farmington Hills.

When in March, world headlines reported the three U.S. enlisted women captured or missing in Operation Iraqi

Freedom, "People kept asking me, 'I thought there were laws against women in combat,' she said. "Well, guess what,

thanks to the Clinton years, not only are there no laws against women in combat, there are few regulations."

Donnelly is president of the Center for Military Readiness, an independent, nonprofit educational organization specializing in promoting sound personnel policies in the armed forces. She founded it in 1993.

Before that, in the 1980s, she had served a three-year term on the Pentagon's Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, and she served on the 1992 Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Services.

Her luncheon message, entitled *Leadership, Morale and Morality in the U.S. Military*, was well-received by the audi-

ence of women and some men at the Forest Lake Country Club in Bloomfield Hills.

"Of course I agree with Elaine 100 percent," said Violet Vestevich of Bloomfield Hills. "She provided us information that we really don't get to hear. We are very proud of our military, and we want to keep it that way."

Edith Simmons of Southfield said, "She's a very knowledgeable patriotic American. She inspires us to become involved in the workings of our military and our government."

DIFFERENCES EVIDENT

Donnelly said that in 1994, then-Secretary of Defense Les