

Moore's David Lloyd will be Jan. 17 featured author

by PATTI FARLEY
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Montana authors have everything available to entice them to put their fingers to the typewriter keys and write — glorious scenery, ocean-blue skies, authentic cowboys, herds of cattle sprinkled across the prairie, wild animals and all the stuff that makes readers fall into the middle of the 'wild west.'

But most of all, these authors have families that settled this great state of Montana, and those families have passed down the history and pictures that authenticate their stories.

The Friends of the Lewistown Public Library are proud to present David Lloyd, who is an author of that quality. Reading his set of four novels makes the historically accurate early history of the West come alive before the eyes of every reader. Inside, on the pages of each book, the reader is transported from the end of the Civil War, where two Confederates meet and become friends, through the next four generations.

The first book in the series, "The Rebel," takes these two war-weary men West so they can try to make a new start in life, according to Lloyd. They travel to many states along the way, working as rangers, hunting buffalo, and finally to Montana for gold and the gold camp experiences.

"The Pardners," set in the early 1880s, finds these two men, Frank and Matthew, still in Montana with a son they have adopted named Toby. Still trying to make a living, they try to start a horse ranch on the Yellowstone

River but run into a gang of horse thieves that complicate matters and make selling horses to Fort Keogh's Calvary exciting and dangerous.

By the third book, "Toby Grounds," the adopted boy begins to make a life on his own. He finds work on the ranch of Teddy Roosevelt in North

Dakota and eventually follows him to Cuba into the Spanish-American War. Toby becomes attached to this life, participating in the Philippines Campaign and to China for the plight of the American Missionaries there and the Boxer Rebellion, after a failed love affair leaves him bitter.

"T.S. Grounds" is complete only after Toby returns to Montana's south country for the love of ranching, but the need of money drives him into some bounty hunting there.

Last in the series, "Home Ranch," continues the family saga into the 1960s era when Toby's son Gable struggles to pursue his father's dream of ranching along the Yellowstone in Montana, interrupted by the Korean War where love finds him. He brings his love, a native Montanan and a nurse in the Korean War, back to Montana. The love of the land and a strong will to survive instilled within him by his father keep the reader turning pages to the end.

Lloyd relates these books, covering the span of time in

Montana's history from 1882-1965, following the dream of each preceding generation; the dream of a home place in the Yellowstone Valley. Readers have written to Lloyd telling him of the pleasure they have gotten 'becoming a part of the frontier west, through the mid-1960s' while reading these novels. The pencil art of Don Greytak in "Home Ranch" and Hoffman in "Pardners" compliment the text with beautiful pictures of the times.

Starting out as a rancher in the Yellowstone Valley and a native of Rosebud, Lloyd ultimately left that environment and replaced it with an education that began a teaching career in Forsyth. Over the years he has also been an elementary school principal and superintendent. Currently, Lloyd lives with his wife Donna in Moore and is the superintendent/principal of the school district there.

In the 1970s Lloyd began writing science fiction. By 1978 he was writing historical fiction. His first book was "Partners." Comments from readers more interested in the frontier stories encouraged him to write "Rebels," the last written of the series, but placed first in chronological order of the four books.

During the years of writing and trying to be published, Lloyd has begun his own system from start to finish because he has had to endure less quality than he expected from some of the bookbinders he has used. With his wife, he copies his books, binds them and makes a leather cover for all of them, a process he learned in Colorado from a master in this field. Through a procedure called 'hot foiling' he can stamp the title and his name, as author, on each cover. The color of leather can be chosen if a reader is especially fond of one.

The Lloyds have been in Lewistown, where their books are well received, at the Chokecherry Festival, The Gun Show, Cowboy Christmas, and Cowboy Poetry.

Plan to join David Lloyd as he presents at Lewistown Public Library on Saturday, Jan. 17 at 2 p.m. in the upper meeting room. The experience will be informational in relationship to self-publishing, binding and leather cover making skills that have made writing, for Lloyd, an enterprise of complete book production and distribution; a hobby full of relaxation.

If unable to use the steps at the Main Street entrance, someone can open the Seventh Avenue entrance for access to the second floor of the library.

David Lloyd of Moore will be the featured author at the Lewistown Public Library's next Author! Author! session slated for 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17.

Photo by Annette Hayden

