



HOMES ON THE RANGE: *The New Pioneers*

A Feature Length Documentary about Caregiving in Wyoming to Premiere FREE at the WYO THEATER, Sheridan, WY, November 21, 2014 at 6:00 PM, a Friday.

October 29, 2014. Santa Monica, CA and Sheridan, WY: The 90-minute film, *HOMES ON THE RANGE: The New Pioneers*, will have its world premiere at the WYO Theater on Sheridan's Main Street, free of charge, on Friday evening, 6:00 PM, Nov. 21, 2014. All members of the community are invited. Before and after the showing, there will be refreshments and discussion with the film's producers from Santa Monica and the Sheridan community task force. The film documents the ten-year journey of a group of passionate citizens in the Sheridan community who established the first grassroots effort to create a nonprofit skilled nursing facility with the Green House philosophy in the United States. It was not connected to any established nursing home or corporation. Scheduling of this premiere in November brings attention to the urgent issues of eldercare, caregiving, and health care discussed throughout National Caregivers Month. Sheridan asked itself: How does a community care for its elders and its frail? Their answer is revealed in the film.

The film will have its television premiere on WYO PBS at 9PM on Tuesday Nov. 25. In 2015, the film will be distributed across the country to many public television stations for a period of three years.

The film will also be screened in advance for the residents of the Green Houses and others within the Sheridan community, including the high school. All Wyoming senior centers, newspapers and some radio stations have been notified of the WYO PBS broadcast and have been sent advance copies of the film. *HOMES* represents an example of what a community can do to work together, to build coalitions, and to change values. It may start a national conversation about how to get things done locally. The producers of the film, Dale Bell, Harry Wiland and Beverly Baroff, will be videotaping aspects of the premiere screenings in Sheridan, with the assistance of Leon Schatz of Wayward Films.

The origins of the film, *HOMES*, are found in the 2002 two-hour PBS special on caregiving, *AND THOU SHALT HONOR*, produced by Wiland, Bell, and Baroff. It features Dr. Bill Thomas, one of the country's leading geriatricians. In 2003, Dr. Thomas invited the producers to document the very first model of The Green House Concept he had been developing with his wife, Jude, and Mississippi Methodist Senior Services President, Steve McAlilly, in Tupelo, MS. That short film launched The Green House Project nationally. When shown to members of the Sheridan Senior Center in 2003, it inspired the vision of community building that led to the Sheridan Green Houses. Dr. Thomas's vision of creating alternatives for the nursing home is traced in *HOMES*, celebrating the 10th anniversary of The Green House Project. Shorter videos derived from the larger media initiative will be available on demand in 2015.

For *HOMES ON THE RANGE*, Dale Bell is the producer/director and cinematographer; Harry Wiland is co-executive producer with Bell; Beverly Baroff is producer, writer, and editor; Leon Schatz helped Bell as additional cameraman. Bell is a producer of the movie, *WOODSTOCK*, in 1970. Bell and Wiland are Ashoka and Purpose Prize Fellows, and co-founders of the Media Policy Center. They hope that *HOMES* will inspire other communities in Wyoming and nationally to *change the face of their local eldercare and caregiving*. Bell worked as a ranch hand in Sheridan in the summer of 1955 and spent his 1956 summer hitchhiking and rail-riding throughout Wyoming, working job to job. Please contact: DALE BELL. Email: dale@mediapolicycenter.org; cell: 818-398-4562.



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