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CAVALRYMAN CELEBRATES 40th ANNIVERSARY WITH WEEKEND OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Local institution commemorates its history and looks to future trends in food and wine

February 23, 2010, Laramie, WY – The Cav at Ft Sanders (also known as the Cavalryman Supper Club) announced today that March 1st 2010 marks the 40th anniversary of its founding. The restaurant is celebrating this “Founder’s Day” weekend with three days of special events, including talks by area authors and historical experts as well as local food, wine and beer tastings and discussions with the artisans that make them.

Keynote speaker Joseph Wheeler is a retired military colonel and lifetime anthropology enthusiast. He is currently conducting a survey of the site of Fort Sanders as part of his graduate school studies in Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Wyoming. His talk will focus on his discoveries of life along the Laramie River during its early days.

The Cav’s owner for 30 years, Marion Griffin, will share stories and history of the restaurant’s founding and early years. The events will also include presentations by historical preservationist Mary Hopkins, local authors Alyson Hagy and Julianne Couch, poet Robert Roripaugh, and local gardening and food experts as well as regional wine producer Table Mountain Winery.

In addition to the guest presentations, the event will include historical exhibits, local beer, wine and food tastings on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and a cooking demonstration by the Cav’s chef. On Monday night, in honor of the 40th anniversary, the restaurant is hosting a historical re-enactment of Mr. and Mrs. Ivinson by local history experts Mary Mountain and Ronald Olsen during dinner service. The complete schedule is being updated daily and is available on the restaurant’s website at www.laramiesteakhouse.com.

“Reinventing a western steakhouse with a 40 year history has been a challenge,” said Pope. “Honoring the property’s positive legacy while acknowledging and correcting its failings has required slower progress than we would have liked, especially given our limited budget for facilities remodeling. However, the food, drink and service are now being delivered with a consistency and creativity that makes us proud. It’s easily the best restaurant in the region. If you haven’t tried it in a while, get ready to be surprised.”

The Cav’s property includes artifacts of historic Fort Sanders, which was constructed in July of 1866 to protect the Overland and Lodgepole Creek emigrant routes, the Denver-Salt Lake City stage route, and the construction crews for the Union Pacific Railroad. It also includes the remnants of a 9-hole golf course, pro shop and other buildings from the first Laramie Country Club. The Cavalryman is housed in the historic clubhouse, which was built in 1925.

Robert and Betty Gerard founded the Cavalryman on March 1, 1970 in the old Laramie Country Clubhouse located near Fort Sanders south of Laramie just past the county

fairgrounds. The Cavalryman quickly gained national recognition as a premier Wyoming steakhouse. From 1975 to 2005 the restaurant was owned and operated by Marion Griffin, a local entrepreneur. In January 2006, The Blue Sky Group Inc. and its partners purchased the restaurant. Blue Sky's subsidiary, Blue Sky Restaurants LLC, operates the business.

"With the 40th anniversary and our new food menus and service standards, we're simultaneously honoring this restaurant's place in the local history and launching it into the modern food and wine era," said Blue Sky president and CEO Dr. John M. Pope. "It's our intention to insure that this restaurant thrives for at least another 40 years."

Since its inception, the restaurant has provided the traditional western steakhouse experience including steaks, prime rib, and lobster. Over the past four years, the Cav has expanded its food menu to include fresh fish and modern cuisine and expanded its wine menu to include 128 bottles from around the world. In 2008 and 2009, the restaurant was awarded the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence, which also identified the Cav's wine list as "inexpensive".

About the Cav

The Cav is located near historic Fort Sanders, established in July of 1866. Blue Sky Restaurants, LLC has been operating the Cavalryman Supper Club (nicknamed the "Cav" in fall 2009 when the restaurant opened lunch service) since January 2006 when The Blue Sky Group Inc. organized a small group of investors to purchase the facility and its operations. The restaurant regularly plans events designed to help local food and wine enthusiasts learn about and sample a variety of foods unavailable in the region. Individuals interested in being notified of upcoming events can email manager@laramiesteakhouse.com to join the restaurant's e-Club. More information about the Cav is available online at www.laramiesteakhouse.com.