

A lifetime of stories

Howard woman shares insights

By Jesse Christen

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HOWARD - Everybody has a story to tell.

Even if you don't live in a major metropolitan area, never made millions of dollars or been a star of stage and screen, life can be downright interesting—even to others.

The stories written by Delores Walter, of Howard, are interesting enough to have been regularly featured in two area publications. Plus, she has just published her second book, "Under the Ring Bologna & Above the Fresh Carnations."

"I just write things when they come to mind," Walter says.

Walter must have an extraordinary amount of thoughts that come to her mind. "Under the Ring Bologna" is her second book. It's 179 pages of her observations, news from around Howard and stories of life in eastern South Dakota.

"I want to express my appreciation to all those responsible for making this book a success and a lot of fun," she says. "I hope readers will enjoy my observations about daily life and family with humor, inspiration and remembrances."

The title for the book stems from when she held a book signing for her first book, "D's Country Diary," at the former Sunshine grocery store in Mitchell.

Sunshine ran an ad with information about her in-store appearance underneath an ad for ring bologna. Forever an optimist, she also noticed her spot was placed above the fresh car-

nations.

With a triple dose of humor, humility and optimism in the title, "Under the Ring Bologna" contains some of her columns from *The Daily Republic* and *South Dakota Union Farmer* magazine from 1994 through 2004. Her book also features original poetry, eulogies for family members and herself and stories of farm life.

"Farm life can be pretty drab," she says. "You have to make it beautiful. Seeing a new calf with a cow is a beautiful sight."

Walter says she started writing at a young age. She wrote stories and poems about her father and everyday life.

"I just wanted to write things down for my kids to remember," she says.

"Under the Ring Bologna" is filled with interesting information and photos from all stages of Walter's life. The book dedicates space to when she taught school for several years at country schools, despite not having a college degree.

She says hiring a qualified teacher during the WWII years was difficult.

"I was hired to teach only after they couldn't find someone with a teaching certificate," she says. "During the war there was more money in factory work, so teachers were scarce. I had a high school diploma, so I got the job."

Walter says her stories relate to most everyone.

“People say they can see themselves in all my stories,” she says.

Walter has received fan mail from far away places like Florida, Washington, Texas and New York. She even says she has a fan in Belgium.

Her first book sold well enough that a second printing was required for a total of 750 copies.

When asked why she writes, Walter responds with a valid reason.

“No one ever listens to me,” she says with a chuckle. “Now they have it down in black and white.”

When asked how she writes, Walter says her ideas often come to her at night and she writes a rough draft. She makes her corrections in the morning when her mind is clear. She also says that having a deadline coming up causes her to work more prodigiously.

“I get more done if I have a column due in a couple of days rather than a month,” she says.

Walter says her husband LaVern, is helpful with her writing.

“He’s my proofreader,” she says.

For “Under the Ring Bologna,” Walter has held two book signing in Howard. She will hold a book signing at Coborn’s in Mitchell on Saturday, Aug. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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