

Gray's book captures history of Haxtun and northeast Colorado

Written by Denny Dressman

It may seem a bit odd to begin a book review with a reference to the book's ending, but in this case, Jean Gray's final passage in "Homesteading Haxtun and the High Plains" captures the power of this fine history of a hearty northeastern Colorado town.

Quoting from Wayne C. Lee's book, "Scotty Philip: The Man Who Saved The Buffalo," Gray compares Philip's observation of the survival instincts of buffalo in a Plains blizzard with the sturdy determination and teamwork of the early settlers who founded Haxtun and surrounding towns:

"That same spirit of 'standing together' allowed the pioneers to tame the High Plains, and it still happens in rural areas and small towns across America today."

A Kansas native who became publisher of Haxtun's weekly newspaper, The Herald, Gray knows and appreciates the depth of the heritage of Haxtun and small towns all across rural America.

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