Neal Forsling began creating the characters of Crimson Dawn in 1929 and they continued to evolve throughout her lifetime. As her stories developed, she utilized the distinctive landmarks within her homestead to create character shrines and earth art. The characters and situations in which they find themselves are directly related to Neal’s own experiences on the mountain top. The park’s shrines are representations of her most prominent stories or are very personal in nature. More can be learned about Neal’s folklore through her book Crimson Dawn, The Story of the Casper Mountain Witches or by reading the plaques located at each shrine on Crimson Dawn’s main trail.

Almost a century ago, Neal began telling her tales of witches, elves, leprechauns, and other forest spirits on June 21st to celebrate the summer solstice. What was once a small gathering of family and close friends has grown into an annual community event. Hundreds of participants come to enjoy the park and follow the Storyteller on a journey through Neal’s beloved forest. Children especially enjoy meeting Neal’s characters and receiving trinkets. As the sun sets below the beautiful red butte, family and friends gather around the bonfire where they make their wish for the coming year as they throw red earth into the flames. Then we gather for cookies and cocoa as we bid farewell to longest day of the year.

Crimson Dawn is a historical homestead located at the top of Casper Mountain. This site is unique in that it is an environmentally protected sanctuary for wildlife and a culmination of one artist’s literature and homespun fairy tales. The park is opened June 15 – September 15 and Neal’s cabin, now a museum of her art and artifacts, is open weekends throughout the season. The Woodland Theater is available to rent for rustic occasions and performances. Crimson Dawn Park and Museum is a wonderful place for family day trip, picnics, walking your dog, and enjoying one of the most beautiful vistas in Natrona County.

For more information about Crimson Dawn Midsummer’s Eve Celebration or how you can support the park, please visit our website at www.crimsondawnmuseum.org and like us on Facebook.