



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

April 2017

Volume 64, Number 3

Heard on the Historical Trail



May is National Historic Preservation Month. This is the perfect time to highlight the work you're doing in your community to the general public and elected officials. If you have questions contact Erica Duvic at Erica.duvic@wyo.gov. She is the Community Preservation Coordinator for the Wyoming SHPO and would be very interested in any activities you plan.

It's also time to consider nominating a family-owned and operated ranch for the Centennial Ranch program. Again, contact Erica for details.

Members of the **Western Wyoming Community College Historical Society** enjoyed a presentation by Amanda Benson about Sweetwater County. Amanda is the curator at the Sweetwater County Museum.

The Sheridan County Historical Society and Museum will host their annual fundraiser titled "A View from the Governor's Mansion" on May 13th in Sheridan.

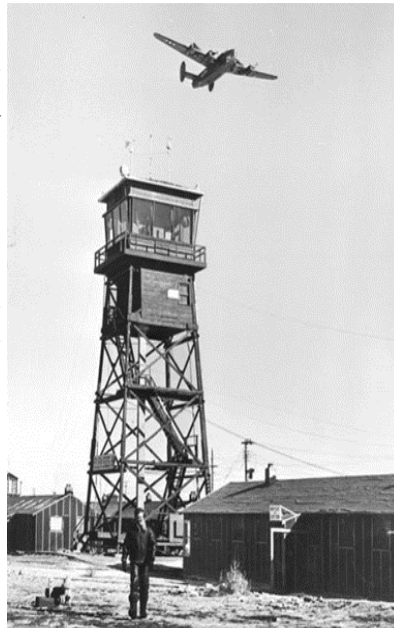
Explore Historic Natrona County

The **Natrona County Historical Society** will host the Wyoming State Historical Society's 2017 Trek on the weekend of June 23-25, 2017 in Casper, Wyoming. This year's trek will begin at the Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum with Friday afternoon driving and walking tours of the World War II Casper Army Airbase (today's Casper/Natrona County International Airport). Friday evening WSHS/Natrona County Chapter member **Johanna Wickman** will present a program on "Hollywood in Wyoming" following a dinner at the Casper Country Club. Saturday morning we will take buses following the Black Gold Byway to visit the Salt Creek Museum and Salt Creek Oil

Field in Midwest, a World War II B-24 bomber crash site at Edgerton, and the Teapot Dome Oilfield. On the return trip to Casper we will pass through the first

(1929-1949) Natrona County Airport, Wardwell Field at Bar Nunn. After lunch at Three Crowns Golf Course, WSHS member **Lisa Thalken** will present a walking tour of the Sand Bar Red Light District in Casper. That night we will have a country dance at the Banner Family Ranch, a Wyoming Centennial Ranch originally owned by Wyoming Governor B.B. Brooks. Sunday we will begin at the Fort Caspar Museum, and conclude with optional driving tours to Hell's Half Acre or the Tom Sun Ranch at Devil's Gate.

The official registration from will be in the May issue of Wyoming History News. In the meantime, hold this weekend open!



A B-24 flies over Casper Army Air Base, ca 1944. Courtesy Wyoming Veterans

Did you know: Natrona County was named for the deposits of [natron](#) that are found in the area.

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linda@wyshs.org

The Wyoming State Historical Society, a non-profit, membership driven organization, encourages the study of Wyoming history. We believe to study the past is to understand the present and prepare for the future. Our vision is to insure that Wyoming's past remains accessible to present and future generations.

Visit www.wyshs.org and "like" us on Facebook

From the President...



Spring Greetings to our members and friends! You can always tell it is Spring in Wyoming because the weather influences your travel plans. We had to postpone the WSHS Board meeting in February due to a major statewide storm. Spring also marks the beginning of our major activities. On April 10th it will once again be time to gather in Laramie for Wyoming History Day. I wish all participants the best as they present their research in various formats in this important program.

Two other programs are well underway as well. WSHS member **Doug Cubbison** is in charge of the Homsher Research Grants this year and they have received several excellent applications! It is always interesting to see what new areas of Wyoming's history are yet to be uncovered. And, our newest program, *Wyoming's Top Ten Artifacts*, is also moving ahead. The panel of judges are reviewing the nominations and will be reducing these to a pool of 15. From what I have heard, all nominations were qualified and this reduction is going to be difficult. I do want to say that we did not receive as many nominations as in the first two years of this program. I always have hope that we will get something from all qualifying institutions.

It is also time to begin looking toward our summer festivities. The March issue of *WHN* mentioned the recent Wyoming additions of National Historic Landmarks and the "Save the Date" information for the festivities celebrating this achievement for the Ames Monument. Our annual Trek will be in Natrona County and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

The Executive Committee held its quarterly meeting in Rock Springs on March 25th. We extend a very special thank you to board member **Jessica Clark** and her team of amazing students (WSHS/WWCC members **Savannah McCauley Megan Lord, Jorden Pitt and Kathy Wegner**, who helped coordinate the meeting at Western Wyoming Community College. Having our meeting there gave us the opportunity to see the outstanding results of their efforts to transition into a new chapter, the Western Wyoming Community College Historical Society. Their mission to plan, promote and sponsor educational programs for the chapter and general public on historic subjects pertaining to Southwestern Wyoming has been hugely successful thus far, and we expect it to continue to do so. If you have any questions about the chapter please don't hesitate to ask. We'll direct you to the right person.

Meeting in Rock Springs also gave us a chance to visit with Lincoln County chapter officers, **Dennis and Donna Oden**, and from the Fort Bridger Historical Association, **Martin Lammers**. It was a delight getting to hear from each of you.

Enjoy the beautiful Spring season in Wyoming. . .

Tamsen

(Heard on the Trail continued from page 1)

The benefit will feature past Wyoming Governors Michael Sullivan, James Geringer and David Freudenthal. You do not want to miss this evening which is sure to be educational and fun! For details contact the Sheridan County Historical Society and Museum at 675-1150.

The **Laramie County Historical Society** will host WSHS/Laramie County Historical Society member **Marietta Dinneen** on April 23rd in Cheyenne. For details contact Mary at mehrtman@bresnan.net.

Platte County Historical Society members enjoyed yet another program on the upcoming "Great Total Solar Eclipse" presented by Roger Spears, a professor at Eastern Wyoming Community College.

The Campbell County Rockpile Museum and the **Campbell County Historical Society** reported a hugely successful oral history workshop presented by WSHS member **Barbara Bogart**.

Congratulations to WSHS member **Brenda Roberts** on being named Acting Executive Director of the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum.

Members of the **Hot Springs County Historical Society** enjoyed a presentation by Kevin Skates, Supt. of Hot Springs State Park titled "Hot Springs State Park: Flowers, Buffalos, Nudes and other Challenges!" Kevin has been at the state park since 2006.

WSHS member **Sam Mihara** says this year's pilgrimage at Heart Mountain will be one of the best ever with a gathering of the country's best talents for education and entertainment in one weekend. See page 4 for contact info. They're also looking for sponsors and/or individuals willing to support scholarships.

Several chapters are taking advantage of social media and have started Facebook pages. Two off the top of my head are the **Crook and Platte County Historical Societies**. It's always a good resource for getting information out.

Congratulations to **Converse County Historical Society** for hosting a successful Prohibition fundraiser last month in Douglas.

A hearty thank you to the following volunteers from the **Campbell County Historical Society** who spent a total of 27 hours working on the "Non-Event Gala" mailing. They are **Sandra Holyoak, Myrna Sharp, Susan Kirk, Nola Wallace, Diane Hackett, Jeff Busk and Charlene Busk**.

The **Fort Bridger Historical Association's** annual James Bridger Birthday Celebration was held March 19th and was a huge success by all accounts.

Back issues of *Annals of Wyoming* (taking up approximately 1,900 square feet of space) have now been inventoried, thanks to the help of **Alex Lockman** of Wheatland. See "The Exchange" if you need to round out your collections.

WSHS member **Cheryl O'Brien**, author of Camp Dubois in the Autumn 2015 issue of *Annals*, continues her research which includes contacting US military personnel and German officials who were assigned to the camp, and may still be living. She was recently contacted by German officials advising they have located one former German POW from Camp Dubois and he does wish to be contacted. That's great news! We'll look forward to hearing the "rest of the story."

Members of the **Albany County Historical Society** recently enjoyed a presentation by Jennifer Lawrence who spoke about the history and living conditions of army laundresses.

The State History Day competition is coming up fast (April 10). To find out more visit www.uwyo.edu/ahc/historyday/.

WSHS member **David Wolff** reminds us that there will be a symposium in South Dakota on June 1-3 titled "Forts, Wars and Treaties on the Northern Plains." For details call him at 605-642-6361.



THE EXCHANGE

PLEASE: When you forget to tell us your new address it costs the Society \$5.69 for the post office to return your *Annals of Wyoming*, and \$2.64 to return *Wyoming History News*.

2017 HEART MOUNTAIN PILGRIMAGE-July 28-29: If you are interested in sponsoring this event, or supporting a scholarship for students to attend please contact WSHS member **Sam Mihara** via email to smihara12345@gmail.com.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SOUGHT: The Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum is seeking applications for the position of Executive Director. Resumes should be sent to jkhunt@gmail.com by April 30.

ANNALS OF WYOMING: The Society has numerous copies of back issues if you are interested. They are \$6.00 each plus postage. To order send an e-mail to linda@wyshs.org. Several volumes/issues are available for the following years:

- 1921 to 1968
- 1992 to 2006
- 2008 to current.

This is a perfect opportunity for libraries and individuals to round out their collections.

CHAPTERS: Easy fundraiser...*Wyoming: A Pictorial History and Schwiering Prints*. Contact Society headquarters for details at linda@wyshs.org.

Wyoming History Calendar

April 8-Casper. Wyoming Veterans Museum reception for “Wyoming in the Great War.” Contact douglas.cubbison@wyo.gov for details.

April 8-Torrington. Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Proceeds benefit Homesteaders Museum and Western History Center. Call 575-0333 for tickets.

April 10-Laramie. Wyoming History Day.

April 13-Casper. Spring dinner with OCTA and the Natrona County Historical Society.

April 19-Green River. WWCC chapter will host Dr. David Tate. For details e-mail wegner13@msn.com.

April 23-Cheyenne. Laramie County Historical Society hosts Marietta Dinneen.

April 30—Deadline for Society Award Nominations.

May 13-Casper. Wyoming License Plate Society annual event. Call 210-326-1645 for details.

May 13-Sheridan. “A View from the Governor’s Mansion.” For tickets contact the Sheridan County Historical Museum.

June 1-3-Fort Meade. “Forts, Wars and Treaties. For details email david.wolff@bhsu.edu.

June 23-25-Casper. Natrona County Historical Society will host the annual Trek.

July 7-8-Laramie and Ames Monument. National Historic Landmark Dedication. Call 777-7696 for details.

July 28-29-Powell. Annual Heart Mountain Pilgrimage. Register online at shopheartmountain.org/pilgrimage. If you’re interested in being a sponsor of this event e-mail smihara12345@gmail.com.

August 21-Total Solar Eclipse. Glendo and Casper are planning huge celebrations. Watch your local calendars for details.

September 8-9-Cody. WSHS Annual Meeting hosted by the Park County Historical Society.

Note: Area Code for all Wyoming phone numbers listed throughout the newsletter is 307

**BOOK NOW FOR THE TREK
Ramkota Hotel—\$84.99—307-266-6000**

Courtyard Marriott—\$83.00 307-473-2600

Wyoming History News welcomes information about events of interest to the general membership and others. Information should be sent at least a month in advance and should reach the WHN editor by the 15th. Send items to Editor, Wyoming History News, P. O. Box 247, Wheatland, WY 82201.

This past fall the Ames Monument in Albany County in Wyoming was designated a National Historic Landmark. The large pyramid, which has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1972, honors brothers Oakes Ames and Oliver Ames, Jr., who were instrumental in the construction of the first transcontinental railroad. There will be a celebration July 7-8 in honor of this designation in Laramie and at the site. Call 777-7696 for details.



If you can identify where this winter wonderland picture was taken (hint: a popular state historic site) send an e-mail to linda@wyshs.org to receive a special gift. Note: Certain people are not eligible to answer — you know who you are.

Welcome New Members and Thank You Donors

At Large

Bob Ruby, Mesquite, UT
John R. Olson, Sheridan
Ed McAusian, Riverton
Joel Ivey, Riverton
Katherine Kasckow, Laramie
Atlantic City Historical Society
Jim and JoAnn Kearns, Laramie
Frederick Drake, Ten Sleep
Ken Steele, The Woodlands, TX

Albany County Historical Society

RoseMarie Aridas, Laramie
Albany County Tourism Board, Laramie
Linda Waggener, Laramie

Carbon County Historical Society

Gilberta Funk, Rawlins

Converse County Historical Society

Mark Nelson and Veronica Holmes, Douglas
Carolyn Morin, Douglas
Alicia Malcomson, Douglas
Sherri Mullinex
Margaret Farley
Jody Young

Fort Bridger Historical Association

Sara and Brian Hooten

Hot Springs County Historical Society

Rick Hudson, Thermopolis

Laramie County Historical Society

Morgan Martin, Cheyenne
Richard McKee, Cheyenne
Lloyd Eisenhauer, Cheyenne
Karen and Edwin Gibson, Cheyenne
Mr. and Mrs. David Hansen, Meriden
Claudia and Dale Wilen, Cheyenne

Natrona County Historical Society

Wayne and Sue Clements, Casper

Platte County Historical Society

Henry Poling, Wheatland

Sheridan County Historical Society

Jeanne Konkell, Sheridan

**Western Wyoming Community College
Historical Society**

Kaitlynn Snell, Rock Springs
George Eckman, Green River

**Wyoming Historical Foundation
(The long-term endowment)**

Michael and Marion Jablin, Billings, MT
Lynn Sutton, Stockton, CA
DeeBee Worthington, Gillette
Del and Sandy Tinsley, Wheatland
Tom and Betsy Bradley, Spokane
Bertha Ward, Laramie
Art Kidwell, Clark
David and Linda Kathka, Loveland, CO
Jodale Russell, Wheatland
Chuck and Katie Brown, Wheatland
Dave Foreman, Cheyenne
Peter Colley, Casper
Kim Nelson, Benicia, CA
Robert Murray, Beaverdam, VA
Lucille Dumbrill, Newcastle
Ken and Tamsen Hert, Laramie
Robert and Beth Melonuk, Fort Laramie
Jonita Sommers, Pinedale
Benjamin Roman, Story
Sandra and Wayne Holyoak, Rozet
Jeff and Charlene Busk, Gillette

Wyoming History Day

Jeanette Chambers, Glendo
Alan and Ann Simpson, Cody
Bertha Ward, Laramie
Dave Foreman, Cheyenne
Virginia Capron, Ralston
Lucille Dumbrill, Newcastle
Mary Ostlund, Cheyenne
Robert and Beth Melonuk, Fort Laramie
Jonita Sommers, Pinedale

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Bertha Ward, Laramie
Vincent Szafranko, Denver
Nancy Curtis, Glendo
Dave Foreman, Cheyenne
Lucille Dumbrill, Newcastle
John Voight, Chugwater
Robert and Beth Melonuk, Fort Laramie
Jonita Sommers, Pinedale

Homsher Research Grant Project

Bertha Ward, Laramie
David and Linda Kathka, Loveland, CO
Ken and Tamsen Hert, Laramie
Robert and Beth Melonuk, Fort Laramie
Jonita Sommers, Pinedale

Continued on Page 6

Donors

(Continued from Page 5)

Wyoming Historical Foundation

- Campbell County Historical Society
- Chuck and Mary Engebretsen, Lost Springs
- Scott Alston, Tulare, CA
- Kenilynn Zanetti, Rock Springs
- Tom and Barb Rea, Casper
- Patsy Parkin, Wheatland
- Carol Seeger, Gillette
- Rick Ewig, Cheyenne
- Barbara Abrahamer, Albany, NY
- Ronald Hansen and Julianne Couch, Bellevue, IA
- Judy Musgrave, Sheridan
- Darwin Pace, Cheyenne
- The Esther J. Murray Trust, Cody
- John and Diana Marie Waggener, Laramie
- Robert and Kathleen Ahrens, Sheridan
- David Ebertz, Gillette
- Louise Raimondi, Cheyenne

History Day

- Campbell County Historical Society
- Myrna Sharp, Gillette
- Dona Bachman, Carbondale

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- Campbell County Historical Society
- Tom and Barb Rea, Casper
- Judy Musgrave, Sheridan

Homsher Research Grant Project

- Campbell County Historical Society
- John Shields, Boulder City, NV
- Tom and Barb Rea, Casper
- John and Diana Marie Waggener, Laramie

Editor's Note: Thanks to everyone who participated in our "Non-Gala" event by donating. You are very much appreciated.

NOMINATIONS FOR SOCIETY AWARDS ARE DUE APRIL 30TH

The updated Awards Manual for 2017 has been mailed to chapters statewide. It is also available at www.wyshs.org or by contacting Society headquarters at linda@wyshs.org.

Nominations must be postmarked on or before April 30th to be eligible for consideration. One exception are the Youth Awards which are to be postmarked by June 1. Certificates, plaques and (in some cases) monetary awards will be presented at the Society's annual meeting in September, hosted this year by the Park County Historical Society.

The Awards Committee consists of WSHS members **Jessica Clark**, Chair, Rock Springs; **Ruth Lauritzen**, Green River; **Jane Gebhart**, Gillette, and **Cindy Brown**, Cheyenne. The committee will meet in July to judge the nominations.

A VIEW FROM THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION



With past Wyoming Governors Michael Sullivan, James Geringer, and David Freudenthal

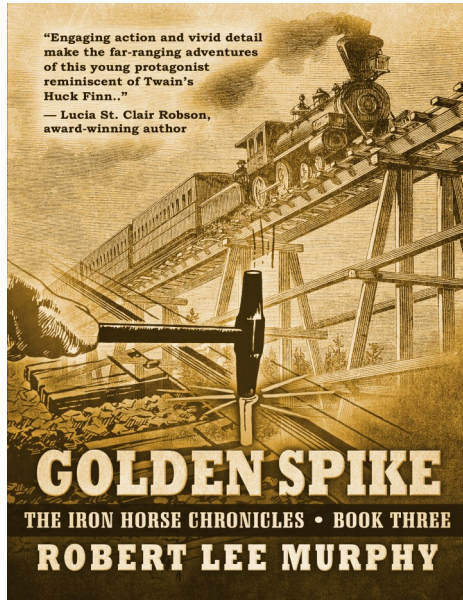
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017
SHERIDAN HOLIDAY INN BALLROOM
SHERIDAN, WY

CASHBAR/SILENT AUCTION 5:30 PM
DINNER - 6:30 PM
PROGRAM TO FOLLOW

TICKETS ARE \$75 & AVAILABLE AT THE SHERIDAN COUNTY MUSEUM & WYO THEATER BOX OFFICE

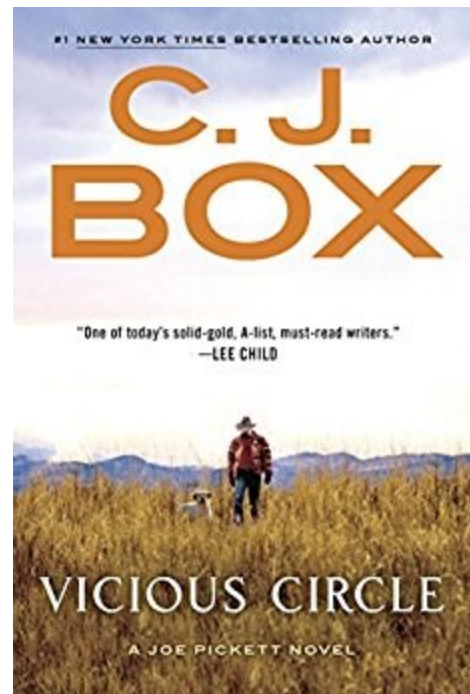
To Benefit the Sheridan County Historical Society & Museum

On the Book Shelf... Please support your local booksellers first. If they don't have what you want ask them to order it.



WSHS member **Robert Murphy** continues his trilogy “The Iron Horse Chronicles” with the publication of “The Golden Spike.” Robert’s previous publications have been recognized by the Society in recognition of the outstanding accomplishments and contributions to Wyoming’s legacy. Robert is an avid outdoorsman, railroad aficionado, and history buff. In conducting research for his trilogy Robert traveled the route of the railroad, from Omaha, Nebraska to Sacramento, California, visiting museums and historic sites along the way.

WSHS member **C.J. Box** is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of more than twenty-two novels including the Joe Pickett series. A proud Wyoming native, C.J. has won numerous awards for his works which have been translated into 27 languages. In his latest novel, “Vicious Circle,” the past comes back to haunt game warden Joe Pickett and his family with devastating effect. *Tidbit: Did you know that C.J. donates all his papers to the American Heritage Center and that’s where he kicks off his newest works?*





Wyoming State Historical Society
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IN MEMORY....



The WSHS/Carbon County Historical Society lost a dear friend when **Joan Lawrence** died on February 5th. Joan joined the WSHS/Carbon County Chapter in 1987. In 1994 she signed the chapter bylaws as president, and served in that capacity again (and treasurer) from 2007 to 2010. Joan was a *strong* advocate for Fort Fred Steele State Historic Site, and the Wyoming History Day program. Plus, she probably sold more Calendars of Wyoming History than anyone else in the state! Joan was well-known for her exquisite photography which led her to be named “Wyoming Photographer of the Year.” She leaves behind four children, six grandchildren and six great-grand children.

The Sheridan County Chapter and all of Wyoming lost a good friend with the death of **John D. (Jack) McDermott** who died on New Year’s Eve, 2016. Friend and fellow historian, Lee Noyes, wrote “Jack will be remembered for his notable contributions to the study of the Plains Indian Wars, as well as his distinguished federal government service. Few have matched his impact on so many.” Jack joined the National Park Service in 1960 as chief historian at Fort Laramie. Twenty-six years later he retired as policy director of the President’s Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C. and moved to Sheridan. He became a friend and an advisor to the Fort Phil Kearny/Bozeman Trail Association and helped write the state’s first master plan for those sites. He also served as president of the Sheridan County Historical Society, and more. Jack’s reach will be remembered in his books, and all of his many contributions to Wyoming’s history.