



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

March 2016

Volume 63, Number 2

Heard on the Historical Trail



WSHS member **Barbara Bogart** tells us that the online oral history database will soon be linked to the Society's website. More details will be shared as this project evolves.

Welcome to Erica Duvic, the new CLG coordinator for the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office. For those of you who have preservation commissions in your county she can be reached by telephone at 777-3418 or e-mail to erica.duvic@wyo.gov.

Laramie County Historical Society Chapter members enjoyed an informative presentation about the Capitol Renovation project presented by Suzanne Norton. In March they will hear from Shane Smith who will discuss the history of the High Plains Horticultural Center. For details e-mail mehartman@bresnan.net.

On Sunday, March 20th the **Fort Bridger Historical Association** will sponsor "American Indian Women: A Historical and Cultural Perspective" presented by Mary Hipol.

(continued on page 3)

Estelle Reel

In celebration of Women's History Month we salute Estelle Reel. Miss Reel served as Wyoming's Superintendent of Public Instruction from 1895 to 1899, and later as National Superintendent of Indian Schools, appointed by President McKinley.

WSHS member **Kerry Drake** wrote a wonderful piece on Miss Reel for the Society's



online encyclopedia WyoHistory.org. He notes that after fighting hard to obtain the Republican nomination for Wyoming superintendent, she became the first woman Wyoming voters ever elected to a statewide office. Her performance as Wyoming superintendent caused some to encourage her to run for governor. In an interview with the *New York Sun* she said, "The idea of a woman running for governor of the state of Wyoming is not worthy of serious consideration." She later became the first woman to be confirmed for a federal office by the

Senate (Superintendent of Indian Schools), which confused her contemporaries as to why Wyoming's most successful woman politician of her time wouldn't consider running for governor.

Born in Illinois in 1862, Reel came to Cheyenne in 1886 after being educated in Boston, St. Louis and Chicago. Obviously a strong-willed person, Kerry noted that her employment as a teacher in Cheyenne was threatened by criticism from some. She emphatically let them know that they had no right to dictate where she went to church, bought her clothes or boarded.

According to Kerry, Miss Reel's achievements as a pioneering woman elected official made her highly sought after by others who wanted advice about how to spur the suffrage movement. "She spoke her mind," which often wasn't what other women wanted to hear," he said.

Kerry's full article can be viewed online at www.wyohistory.org. Additionally, the Wyoming State Archives holds many of her papers in its collections, along with numerous photographs. Miss Reel died in 1959.

(Photo courtesy Wyoming State Archives)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tamsen Hert, President, SE Rep.
460-3135 wyshspresident@gmail.com
Sylvia Bruner, NE Rep.
684-9331 registrar@jimgatchell.com
Jessica Clark, 2nd VP, At Large
382-1864 jclark@wwcc.wy.edu
Carl Hallberg, Secretary, At Large
778-8577 Carl.hallberg@wyo.gov
Joe Fabian, Treasurer, At-Large,
331-2586, studio@dancewyoming.com
Trey Sherwood, At-Large, 760-3355
treysherwood@gmail.com
Steve Roberts, SW Rep, 713-1947
steveroberts@netscape.com
Rick Robbins, At Large, 331-3024
rarob@wyomingwisp.com
Doug Cubbison, NW Rep.
472-1857 douglas.cubbison@wyo.gov

Executive Secretary and Editor
Linda Fabian, 322-3014
linda@wyshs.org

**All correspondence, membership
issues and questions
should be addressed to:**

Wyoming State Historical Society
Linda Fabian, Executive Secretary
P. O. Box 247
Wheatland, WY 82201

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 members and friends!

Many landmark anniversaries are being celebrated this year – several at the national

level having ties to Wyoming's history. The first of these is the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). With my research focusing on structures that have been lost, I thought it important to share with you why this significant legislation should be celebrated.

Before the NHPA came the Historic Sites Act (HAS) which became law on August 21, 1935. With this act, a national policy was established "to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States." Intended to increase the preservation powers of the National Park Service, the HSA enumerated a number of powers and responsibilities. Among them: collection and preservation of drawings, plans, photographs and other data of historic and archaeological sites, buildings and objects; conduct a survey of historic and archaeological sites, buildings, and objects for the purpose of determining which possess exceptional value; conduct research to obtain accurate historic and archaeological information related to those significant sites, buildings, and objects; "restore,

reconstruct, rehabilitate, preserve, and maintain historic or prehistoric sites, buildings, objects and properties of national historical or archaeological significance and where deemed desirable, establish and maintain museums"; and erect and maintain tablets to mark or commemorate historic or prehistoric places and events of national significance.

According to a 2014 article in *History News*, "Fifty Years of the National Historic Preservation Act," even with this legislation, historic properties continued to be destroyed.

It was President Lyndon Johnson that declared his desire for national preservation legislation. In 1966, the Special Committee on Historic Preservation issued the report, *With Heritage So Rich*, which highlighted the variety of historic places across the country. Lady Bird Johnson provided the foreword in which she stated, "I was dismayed to learn from reading this report that almost half of the twelve thousand structures listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service have already been destroyed." This report recommended that legislation be enacted to "affirm a strong national historic preservation policy." President Johnson signed into law the National Historic Preservation Act on October 15, 1966. This act set forth critical policy related to historic preservation in addition to establishing the National Register of Historic Places; the State Historic Preservation Office; the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Section 106 Review Process.

(continued on page 4)

(Heard on the Trail continued from page 1)

For details about the aforementioned program and dinner please contact the Fort Bridger Historical Association at 782-3842 or email ftbridgetr@yahoo.com.

Members of the **Natrona County Historical Society** recently enjoyed a program about the history of road construction in Wyoming by **Becky Steensland**, who is a fourth generation resident of Casper. On March 24th, member **Peggy Brooker** will provide chapter members with an update on the history of two National Register Districts downtown that have been in the works for several years. And on April 28th the chapter will co-host the annual OCTA dinner.

Congratulations to the **Sheridan County Historical Society and Museum** who hosted a very successful fundraiser featuring the Simpson brothers! More than 240 people attended and more than \$25,000 was raised in ticket sales, sponsor support, and a live auction.

The **Hot Springs County Historical Society** will host a program titled "Wyoming Paleontology: Fossils That Inspired a Nation" on March 12th at 2 p.m. in Thermopolis. Presented by Dr. Laura Vietti, the program is free and open to the public. For details call chapter president (and mother of the distinguished presenter) **Barb Vietti** at 921-1551.

All chapters have been enjoying special viewings of Wyoming PBS "The Storm of the Century: The Blizzard of 1949." To find out how you can purchase the documentary contact Wyoming PBS at 857-6944.

Nominations for 2016 Wyoming's Most Significant Artifacts ceased the end of February. Once judges select the top ten,

then public voting will open. Watch our Facebook page and this newsletter for more details.

The **Platte County Historical Society** recently enjoyed a presentation by Marirose Morris based on the life of her grandmother, Princess Blue Waters.

Special thanks to Wyoming Representative Dan Kirkbride and Senator Brian Boner for distributing the 2016 Calendar of Wyoming History to legislators on our behalf.

WSHS member **Sam Mihara** will be presenting his popular program about the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Rock Springs on March 15, and in Evanston the next day. If you have not seen this first person program please don't miss it. It is something you will never forget. In Rock Springs contact WSHS board member **Jessica Clark** at jjclark@wwcc.wy.edu. For details about the Evanston program contact **Kay Rossiter** at museum@nglconnection.net.

Special congratulations to our WSHS president, **Tamsen Hert**, who was featured in the recent UWYO magazine. Tamsen is head of the Emmett D. Chism Special Collections at the University Libraries, and ensures that Wyoming's historical and cultural publications are accessible to the public.

Did you know that you can post public events on Wyoming Public Radio's on-line events calendar? Just go to wyomingpublicmedia.org and click on the link "Events Calendar." If you have questions contact Diana Denison at 766-4240.

Congratulations to students across the state who are participating in Wyoming History Day. The state comp is April 11th in Laramie.



THE EXCHANGE

NOMINATIONS

SOUGHT: The WSHS is seeking nominations for its prestigious awards program. The Award criteria can be viewed online at www.wyshs.org or by contacting headquarters at 322-3014, linda@wyshs.org. Awards must be postmarked on or before April 30th.

RUDY MUDRA: WSHS member **Kathy Ogle** is trying to find photographs of saddle maker Rudy Mudra. If you can help please contact her at pkrogle@aol.com or call 634-5603.

PRESERVE WYOMING 2016. This annual conference will be held September 22-24 in Rock Springs. Watch for details.

SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT. Plans are in the work between several entities to facilitate a major celebration in the year 2020 to foster broader recognition of female suffrage, and the first vote by a woman in 1970. For details contact Robin Hill at rkayhill@gmail.com.

SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECTS: If you're interested in participating in the youth program at the Western History Center (Lingle) contact George and Geri Zeimans at ggzzk@embarqmail.com or call 575-2010.

Wyoming History CALENDAR

February 29—Application deadline for Homsher Research Grants. For details contact registrar@jimgatchell.com.

March 9—**Sheridan.** “Wahb: Biography of a Grizzly.” Details to be announced or call 675-1150.

March 10-Wheatland. Regular meeting of the WSHS Executive Committee to be held via conference call. Call 322-3014 for details.

March 12 -Thermopolis. The Hot Springs County Historical Society features “Wyoming Paleontology.” for details call 921-1551.

March 12—Casper. Grand Opening of the Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum exhibit on the Mexican Border Deployment. Programs begin at 10 a.m. Call 472-1857 for details.

March 15-Rock Springs. Sam Mihara will present “Heart Mountain.” For details e-mail smihara@socal.rr.com. **And in Evanston on March 16th.**

March 20—Fort Bridger. Program (American Indian Women), and dinner. Call 782-3842 for details.

March 20—Cheyenne. Laramie County Historical Society program about the High Plains Horticultural Center. Email mehartman@bresnan.net.

March 24-Casper. Natrona County Historical Society meeting and program. For details e-mail maryhein@tribcsp.com.

April 11—Laramie. Wyoming History Day. Contact rkean@uwyo.edu for details.

April 28-30-Casper. 2016 Annual Meeting of the Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums. For registration details visit www.cwam-us.org.

April 30—Deadline for WSHS Award Nominations. Call 322-3014 for details.

June 10—Wheatland. Annual WSHS Trek hosted by the Platte County Historical Society.

Note: Area Code for all Wyoming phone numbers is 307

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.

(Continued From the President, Page 1)

The report noted that Wyoming had supported preservation for 50 years! No doubt the work of Grace Raymond Hebard and numerous others who advocated for the protection of our cultural heritage. It is imperative that Wyoming citizens continue to advocate for the preservation our historic structures. It concerns me when the agency responsible for preserving our nation’s heritage dismisses or ignores structures that are significant to Wyoming’s history. After all, the NPS should protect and interpret important landmarks of our history and work with Wyoming to insure the preservation of same.

At our November board meeting we agreed to help the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office with the production of this year’s historic preservation poster. The Lake Hotel in Yellowstone National Park, recently listed as a National Historic Landmark, will be the subject of the poster as we celebrate its 125th anniversary. On May 13, 2016, there will be a public event celebrating her landmark status. I hope you can join us.

Tamsen

An Update on IRS Issues

As has been previously reported we continue to work with the IRS regarding our nonprofit status. Thanks to Senator John Barrasso we were appointed a tax advocate. After several conference calls between staff, the accountant and the tax advocate we were thrilled to find out that the IRS was going to restore our non-profit status retroactively without making us file mounds of paperwork. Unfortunately, although the IRS initially agreed to reinstate our status, it has since determined we must reapply. Special thanks to our accountant, Scott Buckingham, with Lenhart and Mason, for all of his efforts in putting together the required paperwork. We expect to submit the information prior to your getting this newsletter, and have been assured that the application will be expedited. This is beyond frustrating but thanks to input from various Society members in the know, Jamie Gronski at Senator Barrasso’s office, and Miss Gene Casper, our taxpayer advocate, we will see final results very soon. Please continue operating as you have. If we require additional information from chapters we will contact you immediately.

Welcome New Members and Thank You Donors

At Large

Susan Mark, Cheyenne
Kari Walker, Cokeville
Dawn Munro, Fort Collins, CO
Jessica Lippincott, Thermopolis
Big Horn Basin Foundation, Thermopolis
Bryan Ricupero, Laramie

Carbon County Historical Society

George and Tammy Postlethwaite, Rawlins

Fremont County Historical Society

Virginia Purdon, Lander

Goshen County Historical Society

Mary Houser, Torrington
Nancy Zimmer, Lingle
Shelby Martindale, Torrington

Natrona County Historical Society

Pat and Darcy Holsher, Casper

Park County Historical Society

Karen Devenyns, Cody
Alice and Ray Mentock, Cody
Clarice and Gary Boring, Cody
Pat Stuart, Powell
Frances Clymer, Cody
Marjorie Messenger, Thermopolis
Don Nafus, Billings, MT
Vayda and Leslie McNeil, Cody

Platte County Historical Society

Celia Hermann, Wheatland

Sheridan County Historical Society

Pamela Hardigan, Plantation, FL
Chris and Alice Sherwood, Sheridan,

Star Valley Historical Society

Orval Harrison, Salt Lake City, UT
Victor and Deanne Bradfield, Afton
Steve and Vera Cook, Afton

Wyoming Historical Foundation

Donations to the Foundation go to the long-term endowment for the long-term sustainability of the Society.

Harry Konkel, Portland, ME
Judy Musgrave, Sheridan
John Hines, Gillette
Richard Kutz, Windsor, CO
Marguerite Herman, Cheyenne
Terry Winchell, Jackson
Sam Forbes, Arvada, CO

WyoHistory.Org

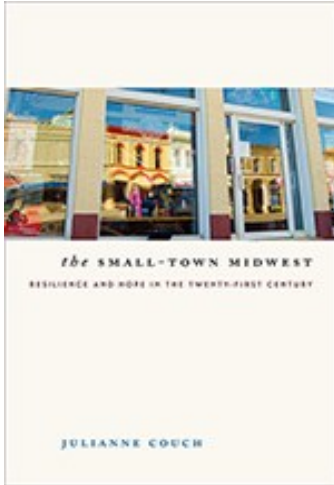
Joanne Snook, Wheatland
Patty Myers, Buffalo
Carol Chidsey, Lander
Judy Musgrave, Sheridan
Carl Hallberg, Cheyenne
Dan and Judy Neal, Casper
Hal Corbett and Katie Curtiss, Sheridan
Fort Caspar Museum Association, Casper
Levida Hileman, Truth or Consequences, NM
Fred and Fern Linton, Green River



And on a quick side note special thanks to the Legislators for approving a “study” for Special Districts. Such an entity would help small museums across the state. Thanks to the WSHS Legislative Committee for keeping on top of this.

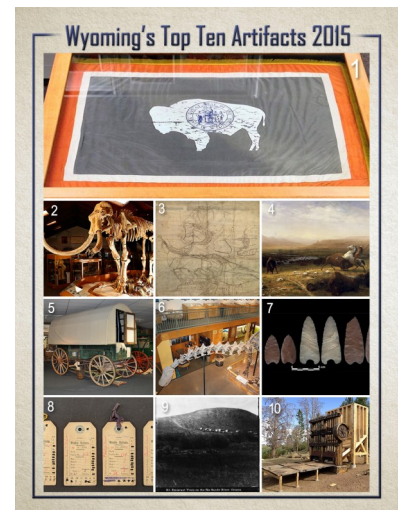
On the bookshelf...

The Society is thrilled to highlight the works of its members. We encourage you to shop your local bookstore first. If they don't carry these books perhaps your inquiry will serve as an enticement to do so!



“*The Small-Town Midwest*” by WSHS member Julianne Couch. To research this narrative non-fiction story of the contemporary rural small town, Julianne traveled to nine communities in six states, from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. No town she visited is larger than 4,000 people, while the smallest, Centennial, Wyoming, is just a few hundred. Through her storytelling, Julianne explains that while population loss, globalization, and large scale farming are challenges in rural America, many people have stayed put in their communities and are finding ways to sustain them. Mary Swander writes, “This book should be on the shelf of everyone who cares about the fabric of richness in rural life.” Published by University of Iowa Press.

The Top Ten postcards were SO popular that the Society has now created notecards. The set of 10 notecards w/ envelopes can be purchased by contacting headquarters at linda@wyshs.org. The notecards, perfect for touching base with friends or writing thank you notes, are \$10.00 plus sales tax where applicable and shipping.



The Society is proud to announce that it has republished “*Locating the Iron Trail*” by Edward Gillette. First published in 1925, the book chronicles Gillette’s journey to explore and expand the American West through railroad surveys in the late 1800s. In his own words, Gillette describes the challenges as he and his crew went through what is now New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Nebraska, Wyoming and Alaska. The book can be purchased by contacting your local book stores or the Society at linda@wyshs.org. It sells for \$19.95 plus sales tax where applicable and shipping.



2016 Trek Hosted by the **Platte County Historical Society**. Registration details will be in the May issue of *Wyoming History News*. The dates are June 10-12, with a meeting of the Executive Committee taking place early Friday, June 10th. Blocks of rooms have been reserved for arrival as early as June 9th. Book your rooms now, they will go fast. Other hotels/motels are also located in Guernsey. Campgrounds can be found by visiting the Platte Chamber of Commerce website.

Torchlite Best Western
 1809 N. 16th Street
 \$99.99 plus tax
 Full Complimentary Breakfast
 Non smoking

Super 8
 2401 N. 16th
 \$83.00 plus tax
 Muffins and coffee
 Non smoking

Motel 6
 95 S. 16th
 \$76.29 plus tax
 Coffee only
 Non smoking

The above hotels have been blocked. The block expires May 25th. You can also call the Bunkhouse Motel in Guernsey at 836-2356 and, again, visit the Platte County Chamber of Commerce website for additional options. More details about the Trek will be in future issues, including the registration form.

Wyoming State Historical Society Membership Report by County

At Large	703	Platte County Historical Society	112
Albany County Historical Society	70	Sheridan County Historical Society	141
Campbell County Historical Society	35	Star Valley Historical Society	24
Carbon County Historical Society	20	Sweetwater County Historical Society	45
Converse County Historical Society	27	Uinta County Historical Society	5
Crook County Historical Society	13	Weston County Historical Society	30
Fort Bridger Historical Assn.	21		
Fremont County Historical Society	26		
Goshen County Historical Society	25		
Hot Springs County Historical Society	22		
Johnson County Historical Society	41		
Laramie County Historical Society	68		
Lincoln County Historical Society	8		
Natrona County Historical Society	62		
Park County Historical Society	66		



Wyoming State Historical Society
P.O. Box 247
Wheatland, WY 82201

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cheyenne, Wyoming
82201
Permit No. 71

Address Service Requested

IN MEMORY...

Condolences to the family of **Mr. Donald DeLapp**, a member of the Sheridan County Historical Society for many years. Mr. DeLapp, a long-time resident of Sheridan worked on his father's dairy ranch, and at the Jersey Creamery. He retired from Decker Coal after twenty-four years of service. He died on Sunday, February 14th .

The chapter also lost **Mr. Arnold Jacobson** who was 98 years old when he died on January 5th. An avid fisherman, Mr. Jacobson invented the "spin-allure" in 1955, and later the "Stream-a-lure and the wobbler. In 1956 he launched Spin-A-Lure Mfg., which is still owned by the family.

