



Wyoming History News



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Heard on the Historical Trail



The Sheridan County Historical Society recently enjoyed a program about the history of the old Sheridan High School, presented by Richard Urbatchka. The school was built in 1925 and was used as both a Junior High and High School. Mr. Urbatchka was a teacher there for ten years before moving to the new Sheridan High School nine years ago.

Congratulations to Boy Scout Brandon Jaggi of Lyman who is working to preserve the cornerstone markers of the original boundaries of Fort Bridger as part of his Eagle project. So far Brandon has located all four markers and preserved three of the cornerstones.

At this year's OCTA conference several WSHS members were recognized for their efforts. Green River's Fern Linton served as convention co-chair; Rob and Martha Hellyer, along with Clint Gilchrist, all from Lander, received the Friend of the Trail Award. Dr. Phil Roberts received the Educator Award, and Sam Drucker of Pinedale received the Distinguished Service Award. And, Pinky Ellis retired from the board just in time to be appointed to the Society's Foundation Board of Directors!

(continued on page 3)

First Annual Convergence Successful!

More than 100 people from across Wyoming 'converged' on Cody the first weekend of October. Sponsored by the Wyoming Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources, the purpose of the conference was to leverage efforts by Wyoming's creative, cultural and historical resources. Participants represented a broad range of individuals whose interests ranged from art to libraries to local and state history to education and business. The topics were geared toward increasing cooperative planning across communities and to gain an understanding of what our common goals are. The information was valuable in that we had an opportunity to listen to what others are doing in their communities — what some of the challenges are that they face, and whether or not cumulative efforts could be taken to a higher level for the good of the whole. Participants were able to share resources, learn from others and generate partnerships to improve statewide cultural outreach. It was generally agreed that by pooling our efforts we all have a better chance at success — whether it be with legislative matters, or just helping others learn the value of what is commonly termed 'quality of life' issues.

UW president, Dr. Tom Buchanan, kicked things off, followed by a keynote speech by Dr. Pete Simpson. One of many highlights was listening to what other communities are doing. More than nineteen community 'bright spots' were featured, including our own Tom Rea who spoke about the Society's WyoHistory.org project. The topics were presented in a fast-fire method, all having only five minutes each to talk about and/or show what is happening locally and statewide that draws attention to these types of resources. Several panels were held, led by individuals with a wide range of experience, with the focus on what is cultural heritage tourism, and how can you discover what your community's creative vitality is. Tours were provided to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, the brand new and very powerful Interpretive Learning Center at Heart Mountain, the historic Irma Hotel and the Buffalo Bill Dam. Discussions are continuing about where we go from here. In the meantime you can learn more by going to www.convergencewyoming.com. Conference materials, audio presentations and PowerPoint presentations are on the site now. Thank you to everyone who attended, and especially to those who worked so hard to make the conference a success and reinforcing that there is power in numbers.

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The Wyoming State Historical Society's vision is to insure that Wyoming's past remains accessible to present and future generations.

The Society's mission is to educate, support and foster the study of Wyoming history.

Visit www.wyshs.org

From the President. . .



Dear friends,

Due to a death in my family I was unable to attend the recent "Convergence Conference" in Cody. However, I've heard nothing but good things resulting from the event, including methods we can all use to leverage our cultural efforts to develop thriving communities. If you would like to participate in a continuing discussion please e-mail wyo2cnet@yahoogroups.com.

It's that time of year when we start to think about giving. I know that there are so many organizations and interests out there vying for your donations, but please consider the Wyoming State Historical Society-Wyoming Historical Foundation long-term endowment. Your contribution will aid the Society in its work to present and preserve Wyoming history by protecting the Society's long-term sustainability. The endowment's goal is to raise \$100,000 over a two-year period of time. According to Foundation president, Mike Jording, more than \$10,000 has been raised so far.

Many of the chapters have either already made a donation to the endowment, or are discussing it. Please know such a contribution would be very much appreciated.

It has been a busy year for the Society and its chapters. You are all doing a great job of preserving and promoting your local history. Many of the chapters are in the process of taking this time to review their bylaws. It would be helpful if you would mail a copy of your bylaws to Society headquarters at P. O. Box 247, Wheatland, WY 82201. Considering that chapter officers constantly change it is a good idea to have a copy of your bylaws on file and readily available should you need them.

By now the chapter treasurers have received the year-end financial report form required by the Internal Revenue Service. These are due to headquarters no later than November 15th. If you have any questions about how to fill out the form, or why you need to, please call our accountant's office and ask for Amy Stoneking. Her phone number is 234-7800.

Thank you all for your kind condolences upon the death of my sister, Lindi.

Rick

(Heard Along The Trail continued from page 1)

The Albany County Historical Society recently enjoyed a talk about the Willie Handcart Company, based on research by WSHS member Gary Long. This month they will learn more about Wyoming's role during world War I, presented by Sean Hayes.

Belated congratulations to WSHS members Mr. and Mrs. Dale Wright and the McCreery Family (all in Campbell County) on being designated Wyoming Centennial Ranches. The program is sponsored by the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office to recognize families whose ranches have been operating for over a hundred years. Thanks also to Arlene Saunders, Campbell County Historical Society, who helped promote the program.

Members of the Weston County Historical Society recently enjoyed a program about the Story of Bluegrass Music in commemoration of the life of Bill Monroe. They also successfully hosted another "Barn Tour."

The Campbell County Historical Society recently co-hosted a country and bluegrass music concert featuring Bryan Ragsdale. The chapter is heavily involved in efforts to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Campbell County, and have been successful in doing so.

WSHS/Laramie County Historical Society member Jack Mueller, recently presented a history of rural schools in Wyoming. In November Marirose Morris will talk about her grandmother, Princess Blue water, a member of the Cheyenne Frontier Days Hall of Fame.

WSHS/Albany County Historical Society member, Mac Blewer, entertained members of the Platte County chapter with his theories about Butch Cassidy.

The Historic Bishop Home in Casper has a new coat of paint thanks to many volunteers. They celebrated with a "Hallo-Wine & Spirits" party. Halloween was on the minds of many and presented an opportunity to explore community cemeteries. The Uinta County Museum and the Converse County Historical Society were among those hosting cemetery tours. The Fort Bridger Historical Association hosted its annual Ghostly Trick or Treating at the site. This event brings up to 400 people who show up just to get a scare or two.

Congratulations to WSHS member John Shields who wrote the introduction to the Library RoundUp's recent article about Elwood Mead. John is available for programs and can be reached at john.shields@wyo.gov.

Special thanks to our webmaster Stephen Boss who has been working hard reviewing the quality of recently scanned *Annals of Wyoming* (through 2005). You can review these issues at <http://www.archive.org/details/universityofwyoming>.

Congratulations to WSHS members Carol Price Tripp, Linda Graves Fabian, Julianne Couch, Ryan Thorburn and Starley Talbott who were guest authors at a book signing event held at the University of Wyoming over homecoming weekend!

(continued on page 4)



THE EXCHANGE

Tracks Across Wyoming has a new website <http://www.TracksAcrossWyoming.com>. The site features a calendar of events, a page dedicated to the Lincoln Highway Association and a slide show of Randy Wagner's photographs.

You might also enjoy exploring <http://rockartifacts.com/ACM/index.html>. The Virtual Museum project was created by Patty Kessler, a Homsher Grant recipient, and features the Araphao Cultural Museum. This project provides resources that teachers, scholars and others can use in researching the Northern Arapaho people or related topics.

Congratulations to Mike Strom who has been named manager of the Wyoming State Archives (Wyoming Dept. State Parks & Cultural Resources). Mike comes to Wyoming from Texas Christian University. Mike replaces Roger Joyce who retired last year.

There is a new organization taking shape. Justin Gaskin, director of the West Texas Trail Museum in Moorcroft, tells us that the Great Western Cattle Trail Association has been successful in establishing chapters in Texas, Montana and North Dakota. Their hope is to establish a chapter in Wyoming. The idea of the group is to preserve the history of the cattle trails by placing markers at pertinent places along highways, towns, historical landmarks and the like. To find out more about this venture please contact Justin at 756-9300 or wttmdirector@rtconnect.net.

Check out the new DVD featuring an aerial view of Yellowstone National Park. To find out more visit www.aboveyellowstone.com.

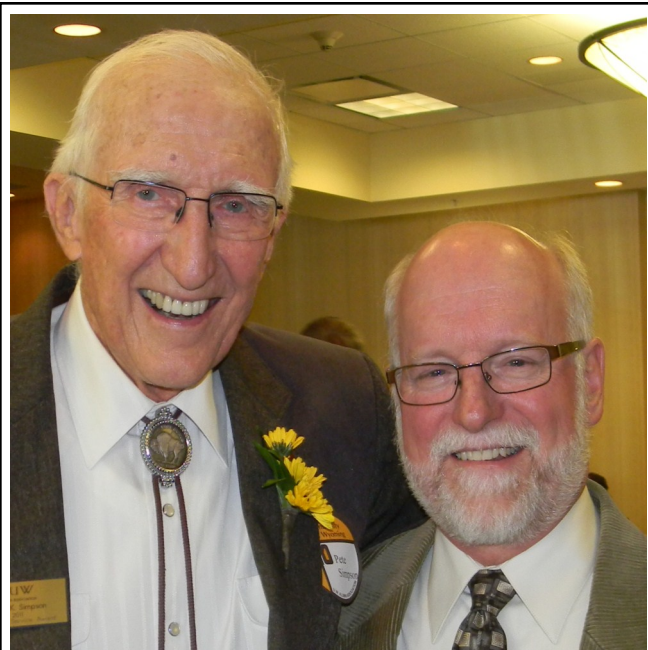
2012 Calendars of Wyoming History are going fast. Call 322-4237 or linda@dancewyoming.com.

Arcadia Publishing is still looking for someone to write Casper, Riverton, Jackson Hole, Rawlins, Torrington, Worland and Newcastle. Contact Coleen Balent at cbalent@arcadiapublishing.com for specific details.

(Heard Along the Trail continued from page 3)

The Grand Encampment Museum was recently named "Attraction of the Year," by Wyoming Travel and tourism. WSHS member John Farr is president of the museum association and said they have 17 buildings that have been moved to their location from surround ranches that they use to interpret Encampment's history. This would be a good field trip!

If your chapter is looking for program ideas please contact Ashley Rooney at 777-7566 or ashley.rooney@wyo.gov. Ashley has put together a speakers list that includes a broad array of topics. She will be happy to provide you with the list.



Congratulations to WSHS members Pete Simpson and Mike Jording who were recognized by the University of Wyoming on October 14th for their distinguished careers and service to the citizens of Wyoming. Pete received the prestigious Medallion Service Award and Mike received the 2011 UW Distinguished Alumni award.

(Photo by Linda Fabian)

HISTORY DAY 2011-2012

Teachers and students from across Wyoming are gearing up for History Day by working together to develop ideas for this year's theme, *Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History*. History Day is a national academic competition for students in grades 6-12, and Wyoming students have been participating since 1980. The program begins in private, public and home-schools, and culminates by participating in district, state and national level competitions. In Wyoming the program is administered by staff of the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming, and sponsored by the Wyoming State Historical Society and the Wyoming Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources.

A day-long workshop was recently held for educators and mentors in Casper. Don't worry if you missed it. Just call state coordinator Dick Kean for details. He can be reached at rkean@uwyo.edu or 766-2033. This program is an opportunity to help your students develop skill sets that serve them throughout their lives. You might also consider visiting the AHC website and search "Wyoming History Day." There you will find a wonderful video where students describe their personal experiences, and also deadlines. The state competition is scheduled for Monday, April 16, 2012 in Laramie, with district competitions being held throughout the state prior to that day. Judges are needed at all levels of the competition. The above-mentioned website also includes contact information for district coordinators. If you are interested in judging at the state level contact Dick Kean direct.

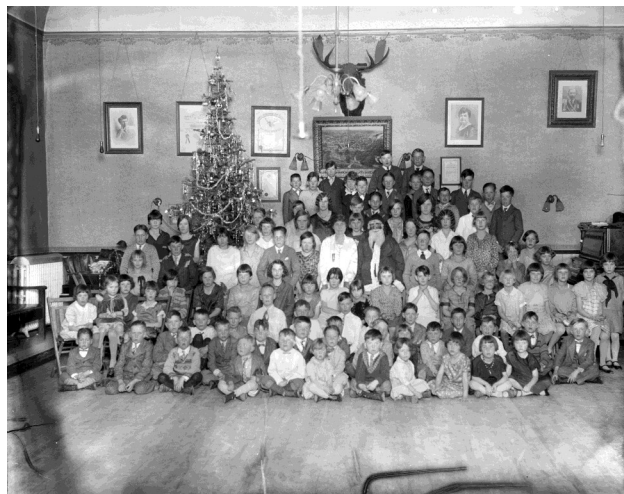
Wyoming History CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 4—Laramie. Dedication of the Laramie, Hahns Peak and Pacific Railroad sign. 5:30 p.m., Laramie Railroad Depot, 1st and Kearney.

November 7—Wheatland. Training for Monuments and Markers stewards. 6:00 p.m., Platte county Library. Call 777-7566.

November 11—Georgetown, CO. CWAM Oral History Workshop. RSVP to kerri@atterine.com.

Please note that the area code for all Wyoming phone numbers listed in the newsletter is 307. Wyoming is one of fourteen states that still has only one area code!



2012 Calendar of Wyoming History available statewide or by calling 322-4237, or e-mail linda@dancewyoming.com.

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

What Are You Waiting For?

Explore Wyoming's Past Today

Wyoming Archives Month October 2011

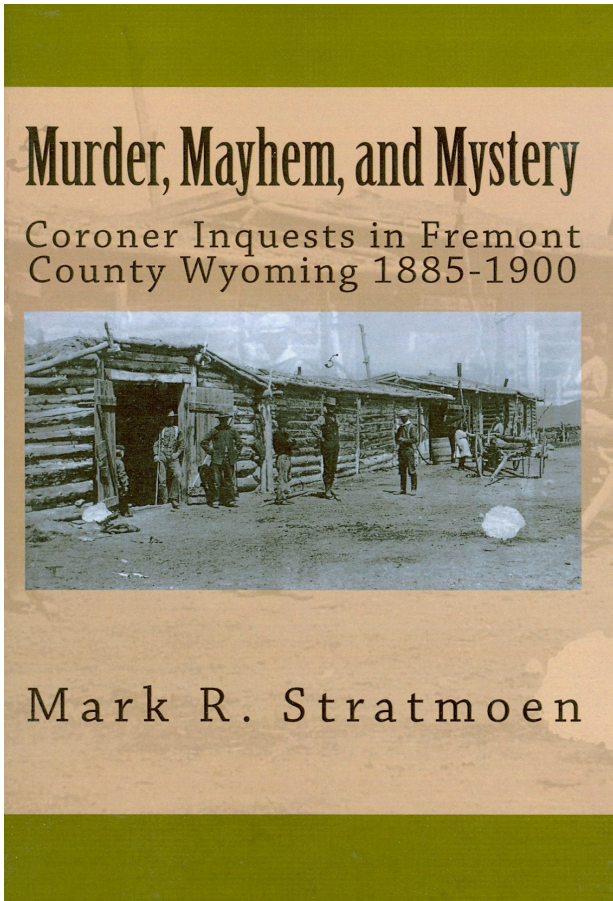
Promoting the preservation
of documentary history &
honoring our cultural heritage.

Raising the American flag for the dedication of the Fetterman Fight Monument, Ft. Bugler. Pabloski, Lt. Wheeler, William Murray, William Daley, General H.B. Carrington, S.S. Gibson, Mrs. H.B. Carrington, J. Stawin, S.S. Peters and J. Owen. Near Fort Phil Kearney, July 4, 1908.
(Wyoming State Archives, Sub Neg 9938)

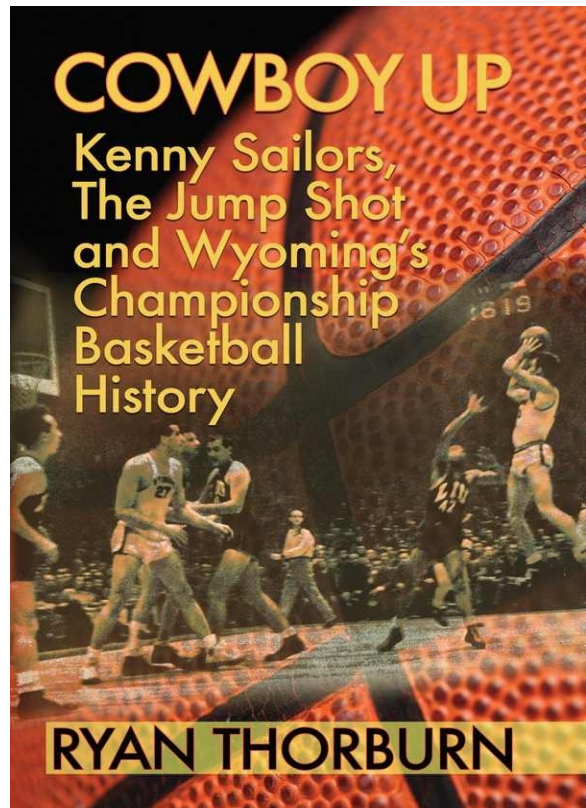
Wyoming State Archives
Wyoming State Historical Records Advisory Board
National Historical Publications and Records
Commission, National Archives

Editor's Note: With apologies to the Wyoming State Archives for not getting their poster in the newsletter in a timely manner. Nevertheless, it is such a great poster and the message remains the same. Archives staff is available to help with a host of issues, ranging from answers to your research questions to finding the perfect historical photograph. Don't forget to think of the Archives when you are involved in an oral history project. They maintain a nice collection of oral histories and would welcome yours. They can be reached at 777-7826.

NEW books by Mark Stratmoen and Ryan Thorburn—Congratulations!



Written by WSHS member Mark Stratmoen, Chief Deputy for the Fremont County Coroner’s Office. Margaret Coel, author of the Wind River Mystery Series says “Conspiracies, legends, scandals, cattle kings and political chicanery are all here in this wonderfully entertaining and informative book.” To find out more e-mail stratmoen@wyoming.com. The book is available from Amazon and other book distributors.



WSHS member Ryan Thorburn’s third book focuses on Kenny Sailors who captured the attention of the country and led the University of Wyoming basketball program on an astonishing run to the NCAA championship. Contact Ryan at 303-913-3488 or rt@ryanthorburn.com. His book is available at Amazon or through the publisher at happypoet@hotmail.com.



Images of Weston County Historical Society’s annual Barn Tour. Left: Mariah Warden and Patti Davidsmeier from Gillette. Right: A view from inside Kennedy Kimsey’s hayloft.

(Photos by Mike Jording)



IN MEMORY

Our sincere condolences to the family of **Clyde Louis Stephens** who died in Green River on August 15, 2011. Clyde was a member of the Society/Sweetwater County Historical Society since 1985, and a past president of the chapter.

Georgia Etta Close, a dear friend of Art Kidwell, died at her home on the Clarks Fork River on September 23, 2011. Mrs. Close was a retired teacher whose first job was at the Marquette III rural school at the Bert Black sawmill camp on Carter Mountain near Cody.

Laramie resident WSHS member **Frances Froidevaux** died September 30, 2011. Frances was accomplished in so many ways, and was passionate about family history. Most recently she was in the process of completing a sequel to *Lady's Choice*, a book published in 1994 chronicling the courtship of her paternal grandparents John and Ethel Love, and their life raising a family on the love Ranch in central Wyoming.

A WSHS/Sheridan County Chapter member since 1994, **Stella Mae Barker** died October 1, 2011. Stella was raised on the family's Badger Creek Ranch. She loved ranch life and would do anything to work outside as much as possible.

WSHS/Natrona County Chapter's **Joanne Deal** died on October 3 in Casper. A member since 1983, Joanne enjoyed genealogy and had retired from a career with the BLM.



Mary Alice Gunderson died in Casper on October 3, 2011. Mary Alice was a member since 2003, and a recipient of one of the Society's Homsher grants. A retired teacher, Mary Alice was also a writer and active in Wyoming Press Women. She was born and raised in Sheridan.

Lindi Ewig, sister of Rick Ewig, Society president, died on October 14th. Lindi had lived in Cheyenne for the past several years and will be sorely missed by her family.

And lastly condolences to the family of WSHS/Platte County Historical Society member **Mary Kay Schwope**. A former legislator, Mary Kay died on

October 18th in Wheatland where she had lived for the past several years. Mary Kay was a native of Rock Springs and served in the Wyoming House of Representatives from 1975 to 1991 (representing Laramie County). She sponsored bills on hunter safety, charity pull tabs and snowmobile registration fees for trail grooming. She was a huge proponent of law enforcement and veterans, and helped to establish the Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery in Casper. Mary Kay leaves a lasting legacy of community service to her family. Mary Kay was named the 2000 Wyoming Woman of Distinction by the Wyoming Women's Council and a host of other honors. For several years, prior to moving to Wheatland, Mary Kay had lived in Sheridan.



[Editor's Note: The Society has lost so many wonderful friends over the past several months. We extend our thoughts of sympathy to all the family members of these wonderful people. Please, if you know of a Society member who has died, let us know. The only way we can recognize these fine members is if you alert us to the fact that they have died. Also, memorial donations in memory of your loved ones and friends are always appreciated and can be made to the long-term endowment established by the Wyoming Historical Foundation. Thank you.]

**Thank you DONORS. . .
for your contribution to the
WSHS/WHF Endowment:**

Converse County Historical Society

Platte County Historical Society

**Joe and Linda Fabian, Wheatland (in
memory of Mary Kay Schwope and Lin-
di Ewig)**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

** denotes formerly At Large*

At Large

Ben and Sylvia Bruner, Buffalo
Edgar Morsman, Jr., Deephaven, MN
Steve and Alexandra Foster, Denver, CO
Mark Stratmoen, Riverton

Albany County Historical Society

Mac Blewer, Laramie

Fort Bridger Historical Association

David Clark, Lander

“Have you invited someone to join today?” Don’t forget the holidays. A membership in the Wyoming State Historical Society is a wonderful gift for that relative or colleague who has everything...well, almost everything!



Wyoming State Historical Society
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