



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

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Heard on the Historical Trail



WSHS member Denice Wheeler from Evanston was a special guest of the Platte County Library recently where she discussed her new book “The Lonely Life: Basque Shepherders in Wyoming.” Along with co-author Lila Bond, the pair interviewed sheepherders, ranchers and others to share the memories and background on the Basque. For details call Denice at 789-3655.

Congratulations to the Wyoming Pioneer Museum on the recent acquisition of a sculpture by Jerry Palen. “Runnin’ with the Big Boys” is a larger than life bronze featuring two antelope and a jack rabbit. The piece was installed on the grounds of the museum this past fall.

The Albany County Historical Society continues to feature strong programs of local interest each month (the third Tuesday). November’s program will focus on historic preservation and energy development in Wyoming.

(continued on page 3)

Simpson Family to present “John Brown’s Body”

Spontaneous Theater Productions, a company created by WSHS members Pete and Lynne Simpson 40 years ago, will present the American literary classic, “John Brown’s Body” at various locations across the state. The epic poem by Stephen Vincent Benet won the Pulitzer prize for literature in 1929, and was produced for the theater in 1953. It tells stories about the Civil War from John Brown’s raid of Harper’s Ferry to the Battle of Gettysburg near the end of the conflict. The year 1862 was the bloodiest for the north but was also the year Lincoln issued the emancipation proclamation. In the readers’ theater production these events are intermingled with intimate and moving stories of soldiers and their sweethearts and families, making a pageant of history expressed in beautiful language and song. The country has been commemorating the 150th anniversary of America’s Civil War since last year. The production stars the

entire Pete Simpson family who take the parts of the characters in the story: a northern and southern soldier and their loved ones, president Lincoln, General Lee, and others. This one-time event features the entire family (below left to right) Pete Simpson, Jr., Maggie Simpson-Crabaugh, Lynne Simpson, Pete Simpson, Sr., and Milward Simpson. As the case of “John Brown’s Body” they represent 205 years of professional experience. The presentation will be performed in Cody on 11/13/12; Casper 11/14/12; Cheyenne 11/15/12 and Laramie 11/16/12. Each production will be accompanied by a local choir. For specific details please go to www.johnbrownsbody.org or call 307-889-1206.



(Special thanks to Anne Dramko for the information and to Dewey Vanderhoff for the photo)

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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

Visit www.wyshs.org and
www.wyohistory.org

From the President. . .



Dear friends,

Some of you may not be aware that in the last few years many books have been written about various Wyoming communities and some historic sites. These photographic histories are being done by Arcadia Publishing in South Carolina. Arcadia contracts with local authors who tell the stories of their towns and cities in 128 pages, along with up to 200 historic photographs.

All parts of the state are represented. They range from Evanston in the southwestern corner to Cheyenne in the southeast, Cody in the northwest, and Weston County in the northeast. The Weston County book, by Mike Jording and Shelly Rithaler has not yet been published, but will be out in late November. Three of the historic sites covered are Fort Laramie, Fort Yellowstone, and coal camps in Sweetwater County.

There are thirty-four books about Wyoming

already printed or soon to be printed, including one on Cheyenne Frontier Days which has been submitted by Linda Fabian and Starley Talbott. I also have a personal interest in these publications, since Tamsen Hert and I just completed work on a book about the University of Wyoming, which will be on sale in early December.

Jeremy Johnston, who just went off the WSHS executive committee, wrote the book about Powell, and Lynn Houze, just elected to the executive committee, wrote two books about Cody. Many (if not most) of the books have been written by members of the Wyoming State Historical Society and/or its chapters. This says much about the members themselves — each one understanding the value of saving our state and community heritage!

Thanks to all the authors who have contributed to the history of their communities.

Rick

[Editor's note: Arcadia Publishing is also an active member of the Society and we appreciate their efforts that result in these wonderful books].

(Heard on the Trail continued from page 1)

The historic UP steam engine 844 is scheduled to be in Cheyenne on November 8th. For a full schedule search "Living Legend #844." Steam Locomotive No. 844 is the last steam locomotive built for the UPRR.

The Natrona County Historical Society enjoyed a "spooky" program presented by Rachel McBride titled "Paranormal Investigating." Rachel is part of a group that investigates paranormal phenomena and works to document that activity.

The creature known as a 'tribble' now has a name thanks to some clever individuals who entered a contest sponsored by the American Heritage Center! You trekkies out there realize that a tribble is a small creature from the Star Trek series. Not all of us knew that, or are willing to admit it. Found in a collection of items donated by science fiction publisher Forrest J. Ackerman, it was quickly decided that finding a name for the tribble would be a good way to help celebrate National Archives Month. There were more than 454 entries in total, but the most popular name chosen by the judges turned out to be "Furry Ackerman." If you have a strong desire to know more please visit the AHC's Facebook page. (Photo on page 7).

The Sheridan County Historical Society will host an unveiling and dedication of their new "E. W. Gollings" monument in front of the museum. A reception will follow. Call 675-1150 for details. On November 14th they'll enjoy a program by Helen Laumann who will discuss her research on Sheridan's many early neighborhood grocery stores and ice houses.

Congratulations to WSHS member Elizabeth Byrd, retired educator and Laramie County legislator, who was recently named a distinguished UW alumni. Also to the family of the late Joe Meyer, long-time public service and most recent state treasurer.

Members and guests of the Weston County Historical Society recently enjoyed participating in the chapter's annual Barn Tour.

The Campbell County Historical Society continues hosting a number of great programs. In December Ann Turner from the local newspaper will discuss the history of that paper and its role in the development of Gillette and Campbell County. For details call 682-5723.

Hearty congratulations to WSHS/Carbon County Historical Society member John Farr for winning the National BBQ News nationwide meat "RUB" contest. John's chicken rub was named first in the nation and his beef rub came in 2nd!

Goshen County Historical Society members recently enjoyed a program about county post offices presented by chapter president Robert Melonuk. Robert also announced that the next annual meeting of the WSHS will be hosted by the Goshen County chapter in September, 2013.

WSHS member Michael Kassel was the presenter of a program for the Laramie County chapter. Michael is a curator at the Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum. His talk was about Wyoming's daring pioneers, especially those who helped establish the U.S. Air Mail Service.



The Exchange

Order Now: The 2013 Calendar of Wyoming History is now available. You can place your orders by contacting Society headquarters at 322-4237 or linda@dancewyoming.com. The Society will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2013 and several pictures in the calendar bring back many wonderful memories from past events.

History Books Available While They Last:

The Campbell County Public Library has acquired some wonderful Wyoming books that need a home. Selling the books will help raise funds for the Library Endowment Fund. For more information contact Patty Myers at patty@ccpls.org.

2013 History Day Theme: "Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events." For details visit the American Heritage Center website and click on the link "History Day."

Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund:

The revised WCTF grant application will be available on their website as of January 1, 2013. For more information contact Renee Bovee at 777-6312.

Museum Training: The Wyoming Museum Training Network will hold a series of workshops on disaster preparedness. For more information call 760-7427.

Wyoming History

CALENDAR

December 6—Casper. Annual Christmas dinner for OCTA and Natrona County Historical Society members. For details contact Robin at robinlbroumley@gmail.com.
December 6—Sheridan. Annual Christmas dinner, program and auction. For details call 675-1150.
December 7-9—Sheridan. Annual Museum Open house. Call 675-1150 for details.
December 10—Wyoming Day as designated in 1869 by Governor John Campbell.

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.

WyoHistory.Org to Launch in Spring 2013

The Society's on-line encyclopedia, WyoHistory.org, under the direction of WSHS member Tom Rea, is getting ready for a public launch of the site next spring in celebration of the Society's 60th anniversary.

At the recent annual meeting Tom reported that as of today 129 articles have been posted, 28 essays, 13 oral histories and 106 field-trip suggestions. Tom contracts with various writers to have all 23 county histories completed in time for the launch, along with initial education packages for teachers and students, build around Oregon Trail sites and subjects. He said, "We want to make sure we have an adequate amount of material on the site before we start the publicity campaign." Tom invites you to check out the site and send us feedback about what you think is working, and what you might think is missing.

The project is strengthened not only by the participating authors, but also by an advisory board. Historical photographs are from the collections of both the Wyoming State Archives/Dept. of State Parks & Cultural Resources and the American Heritage Center, and about two dozen other small museums and archives around Wyoming. "WyoHistory.org continues to grow steadily, and its prospects are bright," said Tom.

Funding for the project has come from several sources, including the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund which has granted us three rounds of funds. Other contributors have included the Casper An-

tique Collections Club, the Wyoming chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association, Natrona County School District, Natrona County Recreation Joint Powers Board, Sublette County Historic Preservation Commission, Zimmerman Family Foundation, Laura Musser Fund, Newell Sargent Foundation, City of Green River, Rocky Mountain Power Foundation, Wold Foundation, Homer Scott Foundation. These funds are used to pay authors and administer the website. At the Society's recent annual meeting \$6,000 was budgeted to pay for a part-time development officer for the site, at \$500/month for 12 months.

Tom said, "Raising funds, not surprisingly, continues to be a challenge. The Wyoming Dept. of Education this summer turned down a request for support of the education enhancements, plus general expansion of the content." He added that in the next few months he will approach the Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) programs in both Natrona and Sweetwater counties for the same purposes."

"WyoHistory.org encourages deeper exploration of Wyoming and its past," said Tom. "It is useful not only as an academic resource, but also as a tool for promoting tourism, serving as an engine for economic growth across the state."

Editor's Note— If you are interested in learning more visit www.wyohistory.org. If you would like to contribute to this specific project send your donations to WSHS/WyoHistory.Org, P. O. Box 247, Wheatland, WY 82201.

December 10—*Wyoming Day*

WSHS member and archivist Cindy Brown said that when she thinks of Wyoming Day she thinks of the photo below. Verna Keays (pictured) entered a contest sponsored by the Wyoming Daughters of the American Revolution in 1916. Hers was the winner out of thirty-six entries. She received \$20.00 for her efforts. The flag, with Miss Keays' award winning design was adopted by the 14th Wyoming State Legislature on January 31, 1917.

On December 10, 1869, John Campbell, Governor of the Wyoming Territory, approved the first law in U.S. history explicitly granting women the right to vote. Wyoming State Statute 8-4-103 states that in recognition of the action of the Wyoming Territorial governor on December 10, 1869, in approving the first law found anywhere in legislative history which extends the right of suffrage to women, December 10 of each year is designated as "Wyoming Day." The day shall be observed in the schools, clubs and similar groups by appropriate exercises commemorating the history of the territory and state and the lives of its pioneers, and by fostering in all ways the loyalty and good citizenship of its people. Section 8-4-103(b) states that the governor, not later than De-

ember 1 of each year, shall issue a proclamation requesting the proper observance of "Wyoming Day" as outlined above.

If your school or organization hosts a special event for Wyoming Day please let us know.

Back to the flag for an interesting tidbit..seems like Miss Keays designed the



flag with the bison facing out "toward the plains to represent how it once roamed free through the state." According to previous articles in *Annals of Wyoming* and the *Casper Journal*, it has been reported that Dr. Grace Raymond

Hebard didn't think the design had proper composition and balance so she made the decision (as organizer of the contest) to turn the buffalo toward the pole, instead of away from the pole. Despite the official adoption of the original design by the legislature, the flags are still manufactured as Dr. Hebard determined.

(Photo courtesy of the Wyoming State Archives/Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(Note: Asterisk * denotes formerly At Large Member)

At Large

Denice Wheeler, Evanston
Sister Pauline Ingram, Sinsinawa, WI
Eric LaPointe, Chubbock, ID 83202

Platte County Historical Society
Leander Mausbach, Wheatland

Thank you for donating above and beyond the normal dues structure

Frank Bertagnolli, Kerryville, TX
Lee Coffman, Sun Lake, AZ

For your holiday gift giving you might consider:

- **Gift Membership**
- **Schwiering Print (Autumn Magic signed by Wyoming's five living governors at the time)**
- **Paulley Prints (Custer's Troops at Floral Valley or Portugee Phillips Arrives at Old Bedlam, Fort Laramie)**
- **Wyoming: A Pictorial History**
- **Jukeboxes & Jackalopes**
- **Elka of the Wind River Indian Reservation**
- **2013 Calendar of Wyoming History**
- **Donation to the Endowment**

To order contact the Society at 322-3014 or linda@dancewyoming.com

To contribute to the long-term endowment please send your contribution to

Lucille Dumbrill, Treasurer
Wyoming Historical Foundation,
203 Grandview Drive, Newcastle, WY
82701

To contribute to WyoHistory.Org, the Society's online encyclopedia please send your donations to WSHS, P. O. Box 247, Wheatland, WY 82201.

All donations are tax deductible.

Chapter Treasurers: Year-End Financial Report due November 15, 2012, along with a list of contact information for current officers. If you did not receive your forms in the mail please call 322-3014

Send to:
WSHS P. O. Box 247
Wheatland, WY 82201

IN MEMORY

Our condolences to the family of **Colonel Robert Edwards** who passed away at his home in October. Col. Edwards was a member of the Johnson County Historical Society and lived in Buffalo at the time of his death. For many years he worked at the Gatchell Museum as their educational director. He was an avid historian and the author of several books. Col. Edwards is survived by his wife, Robyn, and several children.

Mines in Laramie. Mrs. Carpenter, a native of Hanna, is now living in Cheyenne. Park County Historical Society member **Mary Louise Taggart Greever** died in May, 2012. Mrs. Greever worked at the Cody Hospital for many years and especially enjoyed her years as a volunteer doctor at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. She is survived by her five children and their families, three sisters and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Also to the family of **Harry C. Carpenter** who died this past June in Laramie. Mr. Carpenter, along with his wife, Beth, have been members of the Society since 1983. Mr. Carpenter lived in Wyoming for about sixty-five years, raised a family, worked as a Chemical Engineer for the Bureau of

[Editor's Note: Thank you to everyone who remembers to send me obituaries of our members]

What is the secret to your chapter's success?

- Charlene Busk— *“The Campbell County Historical Society has formed working relationships with the library and the Rockpile museum. We work together to promote the area and its history. Regular programs and contact with members is our biggest success story.”*
- Elvira Call— *“The Platte County Historical Society sells cards, calendars and co-hosts a biannual historic ranch tour. Plus we have exciting monthly programs that attract lots of people. We draw new members by participating in bazaars, belonging to our Chamber and getting involved in the community.”*
- Clara Varner— *“The Weston County Historical Society hosts an annual barn tour highlighting the historic barns in the county and lend encouragement to the ranchers and owners in preserving them for the future.”*
- Judy Musgrave— *“The Sheridan County Historical Society keeps a high profile by providing information about events at the Sheridan County Museum, which we own and operate. We host annual treks to local historic sites, provide members of the chapter and museum with a quarterly newsletter, The Log, and are lucky to have a phenomenal director who is informed, young and enthusiastic!”*

(Send your chapter secrets to linda@dancewyoming.com)



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Judges for the American Heritage Center's "Name The Tribble" contest were (left to right) Rachael Dreyer, Shaun Milligan, Keith Reynolds, Melissa Suek and Emily Christopherson. They went through 454 entries and finally agreed upon "Furry Ackerman." Furry is shown here in proper party attire and is an official part of the Forrest J. Ackerman collection. Mr. Ackerman was credited with inventing the term "sci-fi." (Courtesy Photo)