



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

March 2014

Volume 61, Number 2

Heard on the Historical Trail



At the September membership meeting votes will be taken to elect new members to the Society's Executive Committee. Three seats will be available. If you are interested in learning more about what it takes to serve please call headquarters at 322-3014 or e-mail linda@wyshs.org.

WSHS/Natrona County Chapter member Con Trumball shared his love of the Civil War with members recently. Con travelled to Gettysburg last summer to participate in the re-enactment of the 150th anniversary of that battle. In February the group enjoyed a talk by Bruce Berst about historic weapons and re-enactments.

The Green River Drift has been formally listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property. The nomination was prepared by WSHS member Jonita Sommers and SHPO staff.

(continued on page 3)

Irish-Americans in Wyoming

Irish-Americans have long played a role in Wyoming's history. Donal McAuliffe, publisher of "The American Irish" magazine is inviting Society members to submit an article that would focus on those Irish-Americans who played significant roles in aspects of Wyoming's social, economic, political or cultural life. The emphasis should be on local personalities and the style should be informative and entertaining.

Irish-Americans in Wyoming have been soldiers, railroad workers, miners and owners of ranches and farms. Their presence has been felt all over the state, including Rock Springs, Reliance, Cheyenne and other communities. In Gordon Hendrickson's "Peopling the High Plains" the discussion is held about the Scotsmen and Irishmen who raised sheep in the Casper and Rawlins area. "Sheep wintered near Casper were trailed to summer ranges in the Big Horn Mountains along a route nicknamed the Irish Highway." There was also a concentration of Irishmen in the Natrona County sheep industry that led to an area of the Big Horn Mountains to become known as

Little Ireland. In Rock Springs and Cheyenne the Irish celebrated Labor Day and, of course, Saint Patrick's Day. After one such event the Cheyenne newspaper reported about a ball given by the Fenian Brotherhood saying "...*this party given for the glory of Old Ireland was a complete success and honor to the Brotherhood, as well as a credit to Cheyenne.*"

General Philip Sheridan, of Irish ancestry, served in the United States Army and was a Union general in the Civil War. He had a long and distinguished military career, having fought in the Indian Wars of the Great Plains, and was also instrumental in the development and protection of Yellowstone National Park. While General Sheridan didn't actually reside in Wyoming his presence was felt and, in fact, the town of Sheridan and Sheridan County was named in his honor.

Anyone interested in learning more details should contact Donal McAuliffe directly at dpma@eircom.net.

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issues and questions**

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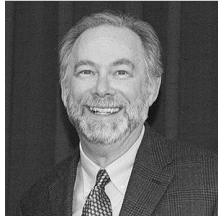
Wyoming State Historical Society
Linda Fabian, Executive Secretary
P. O. Box 247
Wheatland, WY 82201

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.

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From the President...



Dear friends,

We are already into March which means it is time for many Wyoming students to participate in the Wyoming History Day program. The state regional competitions are being held this month all across the state. I am sure many students are wrapping up their research and preparing their exhibits, documentaries, performances, websites, and papers to be judged. If any of you are asked to serve as a judge at the regional or state levels I hope you will be able to volunteer your time for such a worthy effort. If you have not been asked and would like to judge please call Dick Kean at 766-2300 as soon as possible.

The state contest will be held Monday, April 7 at the University of Wyoming. Rooms in the American Heritage Center, the Student Union, and the UW Conference Center in the Hilton Garden Inn are all reserved and waiting for the students. This year, Dick

Kean, the state coordinator for Wyoming History Day, has been able to add a few more special awards to be presented at the state contest. The University of Wyoming College of Engineering and Applied Sciences has agreed to fund two \$500 awards, one for the junior category and one for the senior category, and the UW School of Energy Resources agreed to fund two \$300 awards, again one for each category. A full list of sponsors is available on the Wyoming History Day website.

Wyoming History Day has long been an important outreach program of the Society. We sincerely appreciate that the program is administered by the American Heritage Center along with support from the Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources Department. I hope as many of you as possible will assist the program this year and in coming years.

I'll look forward to seeing you at the Trek in Jackson this June, and at the annual meeting in Gillette this September.

Rick

(*Heard on the Trail continued from page 1*)

Long-time WSHS member Lee Underbrink of Casper has been writing a series of historical articles for the Casper Journal. You can view "Humor on the Trail." View by searching "Casper Journal" and following the link to "columnists."

Members of the Goshen County Historical Society recently enjoyed a program by Elsie Rose about the now defunct town of Empire which was on the Nebraska/Wyoming border.

On February 22nd the Weston County Historical Society will host a lunch and slide show featuring Barns of Weston County. Call Mike Jording for details at 746-2113. This program features a review of five years of research and touring of Weston County's historic barns and ranches.

In February, WSHS/Laramie County chapter member Dorothy Richardson spoke about the history and creation of the Robert Burns statue on Randall Avenue in Cheyenne. Burns was a well-loved Scottish poet. WSHS member and professor of History, Phil Roberts, will speak to the chapter in March about the history of the Society.

Congratulations to WSHS member Jim Davis upon his recent retirement as Evanston's City Clerk. Jim was dedicated to the preservation, restoration and renovation of Evanston's buildings throughout his distinguished career.

Don't forget the deadline of June 30th if you are interested in submitting a paper for the Society's conference "Our Place in the West...and Beyond: Wyoming at

125." For details contact Tamsen Hert at ynp@bresnan.net or email linda@wyshs.org.

The Fort Bridger Historical Association recently held their annual meeting. Archaeologist David Johnson gave a talk about the location of Jim Bridger's first trading post. On March 23rd the association will hold its 19th annual Jim Bridger Birthday Party. For details call 782-3842.

The Wort Hotel in Jackson has been named best historic hotel in the U.S. by Historic Hotels of America.

Chapter presidents — did you know that in accordance with the Society's Bylaws and Constitution you are a voting member of the Resolutions/Bylaw Committee? For more details contact committee chair, Patty Myers at pattyshistory@gmail.com.

Veronica Hagemann of the Wyoming Girls School recently spoke to members of the Sheridan County Historical Society about their project to archive and preserve historical items found on campus.

Four Wyoming properties were recently listed to the National Register of Historic Places. They are: Powder Wash Archaeological District, Sweetwater County; Fossil Depot, Lincoln County; Clay Butte Lookout Tower, Park County, and Beaver Creek Ranch, Johnson County.

"The Hispanic Influence in Wyoming" will be on display at the Fort Caspar Museum through April 5th. Call 235-8462 for details.

Congratulations to WSHS/Albany County Historical Society member Dicksie Knight May up-

on receiving Laramie's Community Service Award.

Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites & Trails is seeking history lovers to be camp hosts at various State Historic Sites. A two-month minimum commitment is required. Contact Ashley Rooney for information at 777-6560 or you can e-mail ashley.rooney@wyo.gov.

The Sheridan County Historical Society is seeking an Executive Director for the Sheridan County Museum. The position will remain open until filled. For details please call Katie Curtiss at 672-2762 or e-mail kcurtiss@sheridan.edu.

In May 2014 the Nebraska State Historical Society will award up to three research grants of \$1,000 each to support research on some aspect of history or archaeology of Nebraska or the Great Plains. Applications must be post-marked by April 2014. For details visit <http://nebraskahistory.org/publish/grants/resgrant.htm> or email david.bristow@nebraska.gov.

Wyoming History CALENDAR

February 22—Newcastle. “Barns of Weston County” lunch and program. Call 746-2113.

March 11—Laramie. Author CJ Box will talk about and sign his newest novel “Stone Cold” at the AHC beginning at 1:30 p.m. Call 766-6385 for details.

March 13—Cheyenne. Continuing lecture series every Thursday at the Wyoming State Museum.. Call 777-7021 for details.

March 14—Casper. WSHS Strategic Planning for the Future. Call 322-3014 for details if you would like to participate.

March 23—Fort Bridger. Annual Jim Bridger Birthday Bash. Call 782-3842.

April 7—Laramie. State History Day Competition. Call 766-4114 for details.

April 30—Deadline to submit nominations for Society’s awards program. Call 322-3014.

May 8—Cody. Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums’ annual meeting. Call 777-7021 for details.

June 20—Jackson. Society’s trek for members and guests will be in Jackson. Mark your calendar now and watch for more details.

June 30—Deadline to submit proposals for Society’s conference *Our Place in the West . . . and Beyond: Wyoming at 125.* Call 322-3014 for details.

September 5—Gillette. Society’s annual meeting for chapters, members and guests. Mark your calendar now.

September 11-13-Powell. Annual Preserve Wyoming Conference. Watch for more details.

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.

Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund Awards

In 2013 the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund awarded over \$1 Million in grant money to organizations throughout the state for cultural and heritage projects. In the most recent round the Society received \$12,000 to help with the publishing of “Wyoming Revisited: Re-photographing the Scenes of J. E. Stimson” by WSHS member Mike Amundson. The Society partnered with the University Press of Colorado for this project which will result in a book demonstrating the 1903 works of Union Pacific photographer Joseph E. Stimson and the photographs that Mike took during two separate journeys, once in 1988, as a grad student, and again in 2008 as a profes-

sor at Northern Arizona University. Through Stimson’s photographs and the two sets created by Mike, we will see the changing landscape of Wyoming that have taken place not only since the early twentieth century, but also over the past two decades.

Other recipients of grants included the Crook County Museum District, also a member of the Society, who received funds to replace windows in Old Stoney. To learn more about this resource contact administrator Renee Bovee at 777-6312 or renee.bovee@wyo.gov.

Welcome New Members and Thank You Donors

At Large

Dorothy Butler, Georgetown, KY
Jeffrey Nielsen, Dayton
Glenn Myers, Jackson
Jerry Johnson, Lander
Dr. Robert Murray, Beaverdam, VA
Linda Hanlon, Cheyenne
Ellen and Jerry Cromack, NY
Jane and Robert Cabes, Houston, TX
Ann and Tad Herz, Englewood, CO
Jerry and Sherma Cundall, Wheatland
Jefferson Glass, Evansville
Richard Gray, Lake Forest, IL
Doug Estes, Rapid City, SD
Bob and Rhonda Ruwart, Wheatland
Dick Perue, Saratoga

Albany County Historical Society

Harmony Savioa, Laramie

Carbon County Historical Society

George Bagby, Rawlins
Heather Coverly, Rawlins

Natrona County Historical Society

Ted and Beebe Leik, Casper
Jim Anderson, Casper

Hot Springs County Historical Society

Pennie Anderson, Thermopolis
Ed Eberbach, Thermopolis
Rick Tudor, Thermopolis
Sally Wesaw, Riverton

Park County Historical Society

Mark Bruscano, Powell
Ned and Jeannie Dunn, Powell

Platte County Historical Society

Candy Wright, Wheatland
Del and Sandy Tinsley, Wheatland

Star Valley Historical Society

Joan Martin, Afton
Kent and Polly Erickson, Smoot

Sweetwater County Historical Society

Christine Williams, Green River

Wyoming Historical Foundation

(The long-term endowment)

Harry Konkel, Portland, ME
Mike Jording, Newcastle
Judy Musgrave, Sheridan
Anne Whitehead, Manville
Richard Kutz, Windsor, CO

In Memory of Don Cundall

Jerry and Sherma Cundall, Wheatland
Darrel and Elaine Curry, Wheatland
Wallace and Delores Hulseman, Guernsey
Sam and Florabell Carroll, Torrington
Larry and Ruth Cundall, Glendo
D.E. and Billie Tatman, Wheatland
Doug and Barbara Frederick, Guernsey
Chuck and Mable Frederick, Guernsey
Pauline Ruckle, Casper
Benson and Julia McClarren, Delta, OH
Jim and Katy Carmin, Wheatland
Randy and Linda Kieser, Torrington

In Memory of Don Parkin

LeAnn Siebkin, Douglas
Joe and Linda Fabian, Wheatland

WyoHistory.Org

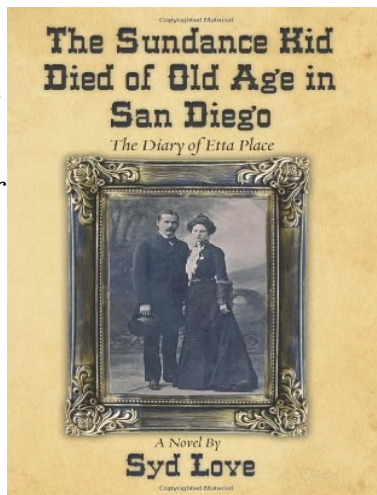
Peter and Jean Jorgensen, Jackson
Casper Chapter, Wyoming Archaeological Society
Judy Musgrave, Sheridan
Vickie Zimmer, Torrington
Lynn Houze, Cody
Katie Curtiss and Hal Corbett, Sheridan

Above and Beyond Dues Amount

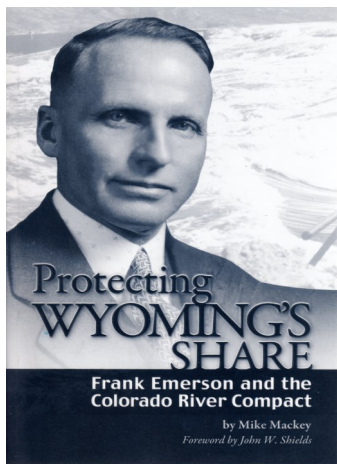
Col. Frank Bertagnolli, Kerrville, TX
Deryl Novak, Encampment, WY
Terry Winchell, Jackson
Michael Messenger, Thermopolis
James Storey, Cheyenne

ON THE BOOK SHELF....

“*The Sundance Kid Died of Old Age in San Diego: The Diary of Etta Place*” is a fictional tale by WSHS member and author Syd Love of San Diego, CA. He recently noted that this in no way



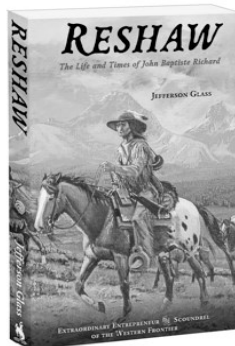
qualifies as an historical novel — just a novel. “I even gave full life to Etta Place, of whom almost nothing is known.”



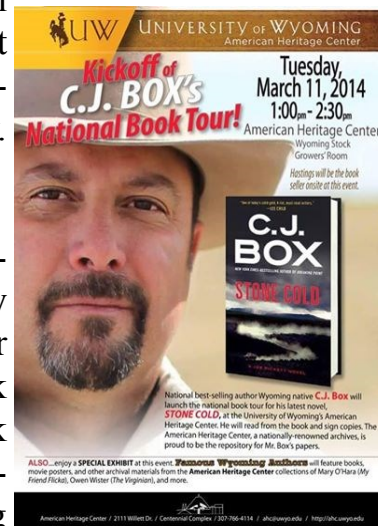
WSHS member Mike Mackey of Sheridan recently completed “*Protecting Wyoming's Share: Frank Emerson and the Colorado River Compact.*” This

book provides a glimpse into the development and ratification of the Colorado River Compact. Mike received a Lola Homsher Research Grant to help with this project which is just one of several books by the Wyoming author.

WSHS member High Plains Press (publisher Nancy Curtis) recently published “*Reshaw: The Life and Times of John Baptiste Richard*” by author Jefferson Glass of Casper. This is a story



about the man behind Richeau Creek and Richeau Hills in Natrona County. The Wyoming author said he lives only a few hundred yards from the site of Reshaw’s Bridge and became curious about the man who built it and his bicultural family.



WSHS member and nationally recognized author CJ Box will kick off his latest book tour at the University of Wyoming American Heritage Center on March 11th at 1:30 p.m. “*Stone Cold*” is the author’s new Joe Pickett Novel. The American Heritage Center is proud to be the repository for CJ’s papers.

[Editor’s Note: If you wish to contact these authors about presenting a program call Society headquarters at 322-3014 or e-mail linda@wyshs.org for more information. All images courtesy of various publishers].

Wyoming History Day

Numerous organizations from across the state sponsor special awards and scholarships to students participating in the State History Day competition held annually in Laramie at the University of Wyoming.

State History Day Coordinator Dick Kean said more than twenty-four categories exist for students whose work represents criteria required for a special award. For instance, a student whose project is based on homesteading might be eligible for the Fred & Flossie Graves Homesteading Award or the Florence Sommers Jensen History Award. Then there is the Jurisprudence Award sponsored by the Wyoming State Bar Association for the project that best deals with legal issues. Several colleges at the University of Wyoming sponsor awards, including the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Several impressive scholarships are also available including the American Heritage Center/UW Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000. Or the Taco John's International Scholarship that is \$3,000, and the Wyoming State Historical Society's Scholarship that is up to \$2,000.

Dick noted that participating in Wyoming History Day has numerous benefits, not the least of which is winning a special award. Teachers and students can learn more about these awards by searching Wyoming History Day and then following the links to Scholarships and Awards. Or call Dick Kean at 766-2300 or e-mail dkean@uwoyo.edu. The State History Day competition is April 7th in Laramie.

Executive Committee Plans for the Future

The Society's Executive Committee, members of the Foundation and others will participate in a Strategic Planning Session on Friday, March 14th in Casper at the National Historic Trails Center. All members and chapter representatives are encouraged to attend the session which will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Society president Rick Ewig noted that it has been ten years since such an exercise was done. "In 2004 we developed a plan that advanced our mission to educate, support and foster the study of Wyoming history," he said. "Many of our goals were reached and we look forward to discussions that will help us discover the ways and means to continue our progression."

Chapters are an integral part of the Society's governing framework and it is hoped that officers and/or members of local chapters will consider participating. To find out more contact Society headquarters at 322-3014 or email linda@wyshs.org.

"A goal without a plan is just a wish."

[Antoine de Saint-Exupéry](#)



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IN MEMORY...

Don Parkin, a member of the WSHS/Platte County Chapter died in Wheatland on December 31st after a long illness. As an educator Don's first teaching position was in Brewster, Nebraska and later in Crawford. In 1970 he became the high school math and physics instructor in Veteran and that is where he met his future wife, Patsy. In 1975 they moved to Wheatland where he established the Farmers Union Insurance office and for many years maintained a successful career in the insurance industry. He was an active member of the Platte County Historical Society and will long be remembered for his winning smile and quick wit. The family and friends of ***Don Cundall*** recently donated funds to the WSHS Foundation in memory of Don who died in Wheatland on December 10th. Don was a lifelong resident of Wheatland where he and his wife, Doris, ranched and raised four boys. In 1973 he took some time away from his ranch duties to serve in the Wyoming Legislature. For the next fifteen years he held a variety of positions including Majority Floor Leader and president of the Senate. Don was a member of the Wyoming (and Platte County) Stockgrowers, and served on the Soil Conservation Board for many years. WSHS member ***W. Hudson Kensel***, an experienced and revered Western American historian, died in Edmonds, Washington on January 16th. After graduating from high school Mr. Kensel served in the US Army during WWII. He later went on to receive a Ph.D. in history at Washington State University. His distinguished teaching career covered a span of 37 years where he loved sharing his passion for history. Mr. Kensel authored several books, including "Dude Ranching in Yellowstone Country: Larry Larom and Valley Ranch, 1915-1969," for which he won an award from the WSHS in 2011. Other works have been published by the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, and he also published numerous book reviews and articles on the Pacific Northwest. Our condolences also to the families of ***Marian Campbell*** and ***Dora Kaphengst***, long-time members of the WSHS/Laramie County chapter, and to the family of ***Jacqueline Waters***, a member of the Sheridan County Historical Society.