



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

August 2012

Volume 59, Number 7

Heard on the Historical Trail



Congratulations to WSHS/Platte County Historical Society member Nancy Curtis, publisher of High Plains Press, for receiving the “2012 Lariat Award” from Western Writers of America.

WSHS members Julianne Couch and Ron Hansen were spotted at Cheyenne Frontier Days signing their popular book, *Jukeboxes & Jackalopes*. The book, published by the Society, is a photographic companion to *Wyoming Bars & Backways*. The book signing was held in cooperation with the Wyoming First Program, of which the Society is associated. The Wyoming First Program is administered by the Wyoming Business Council.

WSHS member Reba Teran was in Wheatland recently to pick up copies of her book *Elka of the Wind River Indian Reservation*. Reba will be participating in the annual Shoshonean reunion in Jackson, sharing stories about Elka.

(continued on page 3)

Wyoming’s Upper North Platte Valley Site of 2012 Annual Meeting

The fine folks of “Good Times Valley” are excited about hosting the 59th Annual Meeting of the Wyoming State Historical Society. Lodging information is on page three.

Hosted by the Carbon County Historical Society, the Grand Encampment Museum and the Little Snake River Museum, the weekend of September 21st is going to be an opportunity for you to explore the valley and all it has to offer.

The general assembly meeting will take place on Saturday the 22nd, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Platte Valley Community Center in Saratoga. Business of the Society will be discussed, ballots will be counted and changes to the Constitution and Bylaws will be voted upon. Following the meeting will be the highly anticipated annual awards luncheon. Awards Committee chair, Judy Musgrave, reports that

eighty two nominations were received from affiliated chapters and individuals WSHS members. The awards will be announced at the luncheon so make plans now to attend.

The registration form can be found inside. Please send it to Tina Hill, 614 5th Street, Rawlins, WY 82301 no later than September 3rd.



It is irony or coincidence that the Society will be in Saratoga exactly 100 years to the day of this celebrated fish fry, September 21, 1912. (Photo courtesy Wyoming State Archives/Wyoming Dept. of State Parks & Cultural Resources)

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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

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

From the President. . .



Dear friends,
Cheyenne Frontier Days is now going on which always means to me summer is more than half over. Looking ahead slightly, the annual meeting of the Wyoming State Historical Society is now less than two months away. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend the meeting to be held in Saratoga and Encampment this year. It certainly looks like it will be an enjoyable weekend.

Executive committee member Tami Hert recently came across two articles in the July 25, 1924, issue of the *Branding Iron*, the University of Wyoming's student newspaper, which speak to the importance of the mission of the Wyoming State Historical Society. One article is titled "Why We Should Teach Wyoming History" by Myrtle Froman, Midwest, Wyoming. She begins the article: "Stop roaming, try Wyoming, Healthy, Wealthy, Growing Wyoming." The other story, which ties in with the first one, talks about one hundred teachers enrolled in history classes during the summer term. It begins: "The teaching of Wyoming History to the children of the state, the training of Wyoming boys and girls to consider Wyoming as their future home, the implanting in the minds of the state's future citizens of the needs of Wyoming and her great

possibilities, will more than any other one thing help to unify the state's citizenry for its future well-being and progress."

The article ends: "When we one hundred teachers go back into the schoolrooms we should teach Wyoming history to apply the knowledge gained while here; to teach the children proper attitude toward the state and nation, let them know the things we expect them to stand for when they become voting men and women, that Wyoming may keep Healthy, Wealthy and Growing!"

One of the main missions of the WSHS is to promote the study of the state's history so we and future generations can understand and appreciate the efforts taken by those who created, settled, and developed Wyoming. This is important to the state and I thank all of you who have assisted (and continue to assist) in that effort.

Chapter participation in the annual meeting is very important. We hope you send a representative and also invite guests. Registration information can be found on page five. We thank the local planning committee for their efforts that have been ongoing since January! Hope to see you in Saratoga and Encampment in September.

Rick

(Heard on the Trail continued from page 1)

The theme of this year's reunion is "Shoshoni Homelands: Always Remembered, Never Forgotten." The Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum is featuring an exhibit of the Shoshone and Bannock tribes.

The always popular Calendar of Wyoming History is now available for 2013. It can be purchased at the following retail outlets:

Casper – Natrona County Historical Society, 234-6366

Cheyenne – Wyoming State Museum

Cody – The Thistle

Douglas – The Whistle Stop

Gillette – Rockpile Museum

Lander—Fremont County Historical Society, 332-9499.

Laramie – Grand Newsstand and the UW Bookstore

Lusk – Stagecoach Museum

Powell – Powell Office Supply

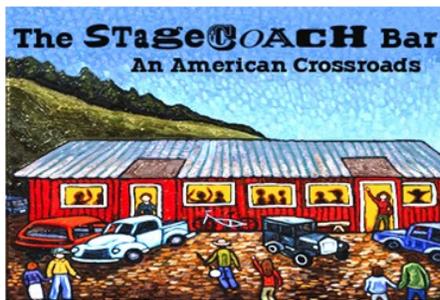
Rock Springs – Rock Springs Historical Museum

Sheridan – Best Out West and the Sheridan County Historical Society and Museum

Vendors and/or chapters interested in selling the limited edition calendar should contact Society headquarters. Chapters report the selling of calendars as a successful fundraiser.

If you're visiting Powell in August don't forget to stop by the Homesteader Museum. They are hosting a special exhibit celebrating 85 years of homesteading on the Shoshone Reclamation Project, Willwood Division. Call 754-9481 for details.

WSHS member Jennifer Tennican, and the Jackson Hole Historical Society & Museum, recently completed an hour long documentary about The Stagecoach Bar in



Wilson. The premier was held at the Center for the Arts in Jackson to a sold-out crowd. The documentary film paints an intimate portrait of a roadhouse in Wilson, Wyoming. The Society is proud to have been one of many sponsors for this project. For more details about the film and an upcoming DVD visit <http://thestagecoachbarfilm.com> or e-mail jtennican@gmail.com. [Editor's note: Artwork by Anika Youcha]



Film producer Jennifer Tennican was the recipient of a 2011 Homsher Grant which helped to make the debut of "The Stagecoach Bar" possible. *(Photo by Jake Nichols)*



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.

Wyoming State Flag Stamp to be issued on August 16th. The official First Day of

Issue ceremony will be in Sacramento, California along with five other state flag stamps. Watch for details about an unveiling in

Wyoming! If your community is interested in hosting its own unveiling please contact David Rupert, 303-313-5134 or via e-mail david.g.rupert@usps.gov.

Annual Meeting Lodging in the Saratoga/Encampment area:

- *Hacienda Hotel—326-5751
- *Riviera Lodge-326-5651
- *Saratoga Resort -326-5261
- * Hotel Wolf-326-5525
- *Lazy Acres Campground-327-5968

For more choices visit www.saratogachamber.info

Wyoming History CALENDAR

July 29—Laramie. Alliance for Historic Wyoming board meeting. 10 a.m., Cooper House.

July 29—Evanston. 100 years of the city's Roundhouse and Railyards heritage. Events throughout the day. Call 783-6301 or www.evanstonwy.org for more details.

August 16—Unveiling of Wyoming State Flag Stamp in Sacramento, California. Watch for details about unveilings in your

area. "Flags of our Nation" is sponsored by the United States Postal Service.

September 5—8, Pinedale. Fur Trade Symposium. Call 367-4101.

September 21-23—Saratoga/Encampment. WSHS Annual Meeting. Deadline for registration is September 3, 2012.

Thanks for sending in your ballots!

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.

Society's Constitution Update...

At the upcoming annual meeting in Saratoga the general membership will vote on the following change to the Society's Constitution:

Current constitutional Article IV, Section 1

Section 1: The Society shall meet annually during the weekend in September following Labor Day.

Recommended change for Article IV, Section 1

Section 1: The Society shall meet annually during the weekend in September following Labor Day. The Executive Committee may change the designated date with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the board members.

According to the current Constitution and Bylaws, any changes have to be provided to the general membership up to thirty days in advance of the annual meeting. The meeting is scheduled for September 21-23 in Saratoga and the surrounding area. The proposed change has been submitted by the Constitution, Resolution and Bylaws Committee. Members include Patty Myers, chair, Gillette; Robert Melonuk, Fort Laramie and Dave Taylor, Casper.

Editor's Note—After the annual meeting the president of the Society will be seeking volunteers willing to serve on a variety of committees. If you are interested in learning more visit the website at www.wyshs.org, click on the 'about' link and scroll down to 'committees,' or contact headquarters at linda@dancewyoming.com.

Registration Form—Copy and Mail by September 3, 2012

Wyoming State Historical Society 59th Annual Meeting
Saratoga/Encampment, Wyoming – September 21-23, 2012

Registration - \$80.00 per person – due by September 3rd. – The price is all-inclusive. The committee regrets they cannot break-out prices if you cannot attend the entire event.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Number of Attendees: _____

Total Amount Enclosed (\$80.00 per person): _____

Friday, 9/21:

Noon to 5:00 p.m. Registration at Platte Valley Community Center, Saratoga (lunch voucher included for Bellas Bistro but only until 2:30 p.m.)

1:30 p.m. – WSHS Executive Committee Meeting. Platte Valley Community Center, Saratoga.

Tours of the Saratoga Museum and the Grand Encampment Museum

3:30 p.m. – *Kit Carson* presented by John Farr, Platte Valley Community Center, Saratoga.

6:00 p.m. – Dinner and entertainment at the Medicine Bow Lodge

Saturday, 9/22:

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Registration at Platte Valley Community Center

Breakfast on your own (for those staying at the Hacienda breakfast is included).

9:00 to 11:30 a.m., General Assembly Annual Meeting, Platte Valley Community Center, Saratoga.

Noon to 2:00 p.m., Annual Awards Luncheon, Historic Grand Encampment Opera House, Encampment.

Tours of the Little Snake River Museum, Savery; Grand Encampment Museum; Saratoga Museum.

Open evening.

Sunday, 9/23

Breakfast on your own (for those staying at the Hacienda breakfast is included).

Please tell us your special dietary needs _____

Mail registration form and check payable to Carbon County Historical Society no later than 9/3/12:

**WSHS Annual Meeting, % Carbon County Historical Society,
614 5th Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301**

Hotel Information on Page 3 – Make your reservations now!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(Note: Asterisk * denotes formerly At Large Member)

At Large

Rita Donham, Cora
Dave Giles, Mesquite, NV
Robert Montoya, Casper

Laramie County Historical Society

Charles and Julia Burke, Cheyenne

Sheridan County Historical Society

Robert Deline, Denver, CO
Christopher Morton, Big Horn

Thank you for donating above and beyond the normal dues structure

Anne Whitehead, Manville
Turner Rivenbark, Wallace, NC
Richard Knight, Nashville, TN

*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.

Thank you for your contributions to the Wyoming Historical Foundation Endowment

Campbell County Historical Society
in memory of

**Leonard Swanson and
Nadine Ketterling**

Natalie Miller and family, Kansas City, MO in
memory of

Neal Miller

Janette Chambers, Glendo, Steve Cotherman,
LaPoint, Wisconsin; Tom Hill, Darlys Pexa and
family, Laramie; Governor Mike and

Jane Sullivan, Casper
in memory of

Gladys Graves Hill

and a general donation from

Sue Castaneda, Cheyenne

Chapter Secretaries: Annual Activity Report due by September 1, 2012

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

All chapters should be represented please. Thank you.
Questions: 307-322-4237

IN MEMORY



Wyoming historian and WSHS past president, **Neal Miller**, died in Casper on June 21st. A veteran of WWII, Neal served with the 13th armored division in the US Army. After the war he graduated from UW in 1949, and later worked for Wyoming state government, serving as

director of the Wyoming State Archives, Museums & Historical Department where he was instrumental in creating the Wyoming Humanities Council and an art gallery within the department. Later he worked for the Employment Security Commission in Casper. Upon his retirement, Neal devoted time to his love of Western and Wyoming history, adding to his extensive collection of beautiful books. Neal was two-time president of the Carbon County Historical Society and president of the WSHS from 1964-66. He was a member of the American Assn., for State and Local History and the Society of American Archivists. Neal is survived by his daughter, a son, several grand and great-grandchildren, and his dear friend and caregiver Robert Montoya. Memorials in Neal's honor can be made to the Wyoming Historical Foundation, P. O. Box 247, Wheatland, WY 82201. His contributions to Wyoming history and to the development of the Society will long be remembered.

Condolences also to the family of life-long Wyomingite **Leonard Swanson** who died June 14th. The WSHS/Campbell County chapter member grew up running the family dairy farm where they produced Swanson Eggs—a favorite in local grocery stores. An active member of the Farm Bureau he worked hard to represent Wyoming's best interests and helping the youth understand the value of farming. Leonard served both as a 4-H and Boy Scout leader, and was instrumental in bringing modern telephone service to rural Campbell County. He is survived by his wife Merna, four children, a sister and numerous grandchildren.

Long time Casper resident and advocate of Wyoming history, **Edna Kennell** died on June 29th. Edna was born in Buffalo, graduating from Johnson County High school and later attended the University of Montana. Edna and her late husband, James, were married for 43 years until his death in 2004. Together they raised six children. Edna was a tireless advocate for anything having to do with a sense of community. She worked for the downtown Casper association and the Casper chamber of commerce. She also worked with the Casper Historic Preservation Commission. Edna was an active member of the WSHS and the Oregon-California Trails Association.. In the late 1980s she began a personal quest to establish the National Historic Trails Center. For more than a decade, at every meeting conceivable, you could count on Edna to be there with updates and a request for support. She was able to forge a relationship between the BLM and others to create the internationally recognized facility that is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Memorials can be sent to the Edna Kennell Memorial, % National Historic Trails Foundation, P. O. Box 397, Casper, WY 82602.



WSHS/Sheridan County Historical Society member **Douglas Ryan** died June 28th in Sheridan. In 1946 Doug enlisted in the Army Air Corps where he served until an honorable discharge in 1949. While in the service Doug completed training at the U.S. Army Radio School and continued that path after his discharge when he came to Sheridan to work as a radio engineer for KWYO, a post he held for 30 years. He was a huge advocate for the community and supported a number of civic organizations, many of which recognized him with their highest honors. He was preceded in death by his wife, and is survived by his children and their families, along with several sisters and brothers, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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

National Fur Trade Symposium: 200th Anniversary of the Astorians

Following on the heels of Lewis & Clark, the leading fur trader and richest man in the country, John Jacob Astor, established the Pacific Fur Company with the goal of creating a trading operation on the west coast. This venture resulted in the first transcontinental expedition after Lewis and Clark, Fort Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia River and foreshadowed the Rocky Mountain fur trade that would follow a decade later.

The 1811 west bound expedition, led by Wilson Price Hunt, included the first documented use of Union Pass. The 1812-1813 east bound expedition, led by Robert Stuart, included the first documented use of South Pass and pioneered much of the route that would later become the Oregon Trail. Both expeditions crossed through the Green River Valley and what is now Wyoming.

The four day symposium in Pinedale, Wyoming will examine the significance and ramifications of the Astorians with presentations by leading scholars of the fur trade; living history demonstrations and camp by the American Mountain Men; a historical tour of Astorian and rendezvous era sites in the Green River Valley; a historical reenactment of the "Astorian Seven" struggles through Wyoming in 1812; and a recreation of the 1812 Crow Indian sun dance lodge documented by Robert Stuart.

More details and registration information can be found at www.MMMuseum.com or a registration package can be requested by calling 307-367-4101.

Mark your calendar now:

September 5-8, 2012



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

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Address Service Requested

Register Now For Annual Meeting. See Page 5.
Chapter Reports Due September 3rd.