

Wyoming History News

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MOMENTUM GATHERS AT ANNUAL MEETING PRIMARY SOURCES ARE ABOUND IN WESTON COUNTY



Dean Johnson, long-time employee of True Ranches at the LAK Ranch outside of Upton, shares stories of his life at the ranch in front of the house he grew up in.

by Lucas Keeler

Paha-Sapa: The Black Hills. Home to thousands of years of human history, and recent home of the 71st Annual Meeting of the Wyoming Historical Society. As the western gateway to the Black Hills, this year's host chapter, Weston County, wants to thank all of you who were able to attend this four-day event. Friendships began or were renewed, but more importantly, it was an opportunity to share our history with one another along with our vision for the future.

The 2024 annual meeting kicked off on September 5 with

a reception for the leadership of the Wyoming Historical Society, Wyoming Historical Foundation, and the Weston County Historical Society. Held at the historic Antlers Hotel, fellowship was exchanged, and lasagna was consumed in tasty, and hearty portions. To conclude the evening's event, **Lucille Dumbrell** and **Mike Jording** presented a program entitled "The Schwiering Project." Named after renowned Wyoming landscape painter Conrad Schwiering (August 8, 1916-January 27, 1986), the Schwiering Project was a grassroots effort that started in 1988 to raise money for the Wyoming

Historical Foundation and the Wyoming Historical Society. Funds totaling \$100,000 initially established the Schwiering Trust to support History Day, \$10,000 established the Maurine Carley Historic Preservation trust, and additional funds were used to support the operations of the Wyoming Historical Society (formerly known as the Wyoming State Historical Society).

Friday began with a meeting of the Executive Committee as the upcoming budget cycle and potential changes to the Society's Bylaws were discussed. Committee reports were heard,

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Looking "up" in Upton at the Red Onion Museum, attendees had a taste of the modern and the antique.

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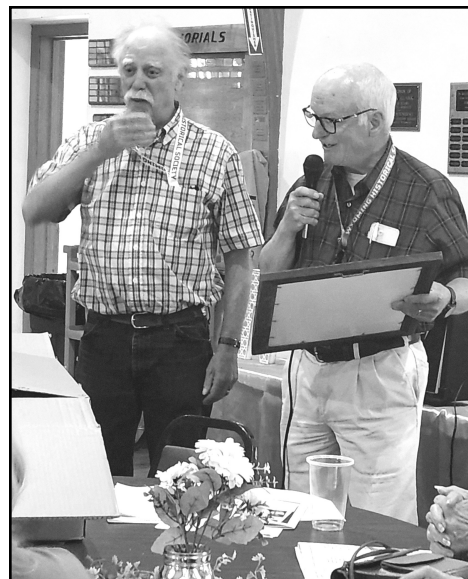
and it was announced that the new EC members for the upcoming year are **Beki Speas** of Sheridan, **Dean King** of Hot Springs, and **Deb Davidson** of Goshen Counties. The afternoon activities featured a program and tour of historic downtown Newcastle led by local historian and author, Leonard Cash. Those not partaking in the downtown tour hopped on a bus and were taken on a guided tour of the "Stockade Beaver Creek Loop." Long time Weston County resident Walt Soper and I led the tour which featured discussions on Tubb Town, the Jenney Stockade, LAK lake, former U.S. Senator Keith Thomson's childhood home, grizzly bear attack victim Hank Mason, the robbery at Canyon Springs, the Soviet Union's Black Hills seismic station, and the historic Flying V Cambria Inn.

Following these afternoon events, members journeyed to nearby Upton and were greeted by staff of the Red Onion

Museum along with local historian and preservationist Sam Haptonstall. Haptonstall has been instrumental in preservation efforts of many historic structures in northeastern Wyoming, and his efforts can be seen at "Old Town," also site of the Red Onion Museum.

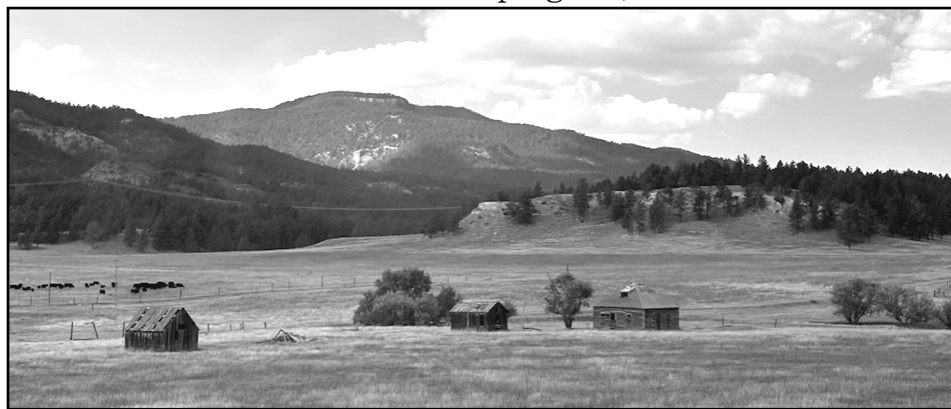
Following Saturday's general membership meeting and awards banquet, the program "Cheyenne River Cowboys and Cowgirls" was presented by National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame honoree, author, and historian Rhonda Sedgwick Stearns. Stearns brought a lifetime of rodeo and ranching stories and experience to the program and is a true treasure not only to Weston County, but to all of Wyoming. Also featured was a program that I was happy to give that pertained to the rock art and history of Weston County's Whoopup Canyon. Whoopup Canyon is a major petroglyph site in North America and features approximately 150 rock art panels dated as far back as 12,000 BCE.

The President's Banquet wrapped up the events of the day and featured award-winning author and photographer Paul Horsted as the keynote speaker. His program, "Exploring with Custer: The 1874 Black Hills



Tom Rea was surprised by a presentation of a framed poem and drawing by **Mike Jording** from the **Hein family** in honor of his impending retirement from Editor of WyoHistory.org.

Expedition," featured excerpts from his book of the same name. Paul's ambitions for his Custer project have been to locate the sites photographed by General George Armstrong Custer's expedition photographer, William H. Illingworth, and replicate them by returning on the same day of the year and often same time of day. Illingworth's and Horsted's photographs are compared side by side and illustrate what has changed and what has remained the same in the Black Hills over the course of the last 150 years. As I spoke to Paul after the program, excitement could still



One of the beautiful views during the Friday bus tour of the Stockade Beaver Creek Loop.

be seen in his eyes. He thanked me for all the effort put into the evening by the WHS, but more importantly wanted to praise the audience. Presenting to our membership was like nothing else that he had experienced: the intensity, professionalism, and appreciation for his work was felt in the air, and Paul was able to feed off it throughout the evening. So, from Paul Horsted to you, thank you for your love and appreciation of Black Hills history.

Sunday morning concluded the events with an Executive Committee meeting followed by a tour and program of the historic LAK Ranch. Located along the banks of Stockade Beaver Creek and at the former site of the Cheyenne to Deadwood Stage Line's "Jenney Stockade," the LAK has been a working ranch since its inception in 1877. The presentation of the ranch and area history was given by former LAK manager, Dean Johnson and local LAK and Cambria historian, Jan Farella. Dean and Jan's knowledge of the ranch captivated the audience throughout the morning.

As the 71st Wyoming Historical Society Annual Meeting has drawn to a close, change is in the air on many fronts within our organization. The need for increased utilization of social media to draw in the younger generations continues to be at the forefront. Also, the use of these same social media platforms to educate all ages has become critical as more events such as chapter treks and programs are receiving the positive publicity that they deserve. The Society's partnership with WyoHistory.org remains strong,



The FY 2025 Wyoming Historical Society Executive Committee at the conclusion of the 20205 WHS Annual Meeting in Weston County: (l-r) **Dean King, Jessica Flock, Beki Speas, Lucas Keeler, Deb Davidson, Heidi McCullough.** Not pictured Nancy Tabb, Andrea Lewis, and Bud Alley.

and our future together is one of exciting possibilities. However, the most notable change in the air coming out of the annual meeting is the end of the two-year term of our president, **Cindy Brown.** Cindy's professionalism, knowledge, and calm demeanor (despite what she would probably say) is unmatched and she will be missed. She has brought outstanding leadership to her roles with the WHS, and she will continue to do so in whatever her future endeavors bring. Thank you Cindy for all that you have done.

Our new president, Jessica Flock, brings her enthusiasm and experience to the role as the seamless transition from Cindy begins. As your 1st Vice President for this upcoming year, I am excited to work alongside Jessica and am looking forward to meeting more of you at upcoming events and trek across Wyoming.

Lucas Keeler

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Publications: Non-Fiction Books

1st Place

*The Yellow Classroom:
60 Years of Field Science*

by Robin Beaver & Terry Logue, WA.

2nd Place

*Bighorn Visions: The Photography
of Jessamine Spear Johnson*
by Tempe Javitz, CA.

Publications: Self-Published Work

1st Place

*Steam, Steel, and Silence:
The Story of the Cole Creek Train Wreck*
by Con Trumbull, Casper.

Honorable Mention

Emigrant Tales of the Platte River Raids
by Janelle Molony, AZ.

Publications: Biography

1st Place

Backtracking
by Fred K. Gray, Buffalo.

Publications: Reference WY Locale

1st Place

*Passaic: The Forgotten Community
in Sheridan County, WY*
by Leland H. Sanders

Publications: Newsletter

1st Place

Sentry
by Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum,
Buffalo

Publications: Fiction

1st Place

Ice Cave Mystery
by Eugene M. Gagliano, Buffalo.

Publications: Poetry

1st Place

The Dog's Pancake
by Rod S. Miller, Cheyenne.

Publications: Magazine

1st Place

*"Otto Franc: Cattle Baron of the Big Horn
Basin"*
article in the *Annals of Wyoming*
by Brian Beauvais, Cody.

Publications: Pamphlet

1st Place

*Cheyenne River History:
Western Section Weston County*
by Weston County Historical Society.

Publications: Newspaper

1st Place

Buffalo Bulletin
by Jennifer & Robb Hicks, Buffalo.

Publications: Brochure

1st Place

*Early Homes and Historical Sites
of Bedford & Tunerville, WY*
by Karen Fluckiger, Bedford.

Publications: Calendars

1st Place

2024 Calendar of Star Valley History
by Claudia and Ron Anderson, Afton.

Tours

1st Place

*Johnson County Cattle War Tour,
Bozeman Trail Tour,
Hole in the Wall Tour*
by Hoofprints of the Past Museum,
Laurel Foster, Curator, Kaycee.

2024 AWARD WINNERS RECOGNIZED

Activities

1st Place

Homesteader Museum Traveling Trunks
by Homesteader Museum, Powell.

Audio / Visual: Professional

1st Place

Bozeman Trail Videos
by Dave McKee, Sheridan

Audio / Visual: Non-Professional

1st Place

History of the U.S.S. Wyoming
Tim Velder, Sundance.

2nd Place

*Newcastle Army National Guard, the
Newcastle Armory, and the
Newcastle Cavalry Barn*
by Weston County Historic
Preservation Board and Lucille Dumbrill,
Newcastle

Website

1st Place

*Park County Archives
Clickable Online Map*
by Brian Beauvais, Cody.

Fine Arts

1st Place

Newcastle History in Art Project
by Susan Love

2nd Place

Kudlock Homestead
by Ron Sample

Young Historian: Grades 3 to 5

1st Place

The Medicine Wheel & Frank Finkel
by Taylor Tystad, Newcastle.

2nd Place

George "Big Nose" Parrott
by Robert Rogers, Newcastle.

3rd Place

Fort Fetterman
by Liam Gregory, Newcastle.

Young Historian: Grades 6 to 8

1st Place

Anna & Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851
Liberty Skalicky, Sheridan.

2nd Place

*Upon the Summit of Freedom:
Turning Oppression into Opportunity*
Emma Crowley & Jaylen Kaufman,
Wheatland.

3rd Place

Wyoming's Paintbrush
Shelby Smith, Newcastle.

Junior Activities Grades 3 to 5

1st Place

Wagon Box Fight
by Kinley Redding, Newcastle

2nd Place

Buffalo Jump
by Kade Wilson, Newcastle.

3rd Place

Native American Tribes
by Mindi Wollsey & Upton 4th Grade,
Upton.

Junior Activities Grades 6 to 8

1st Place

"If These Walls Could Talk"
Trail End Junior Curator Camp
Kalea Miller
Clara Berrett
Joel Walker
Elizabeth Keegan
Hadley Finn
Maia Whitehead
Gavin McClintock
Coordinator Lindlay Mayer

2nd Place (Junior Activities, 6-8)

Buffalo Bill Dam
Nathan Smith, Newcastle.

3rd Place

Cambria
Dominic Lanctot, Newcastle.

Collegiate Historian

1st Place

Kick Off Your Boots & Stay Awhile:
*A study of North American
Cowboy Culture, 1860-1910*
by Kayci Krumhim, Casper.

2nd Place

Interpretive Ranger and Fort Phil Kearny
by Jacob Brien, Crow Agency.

3rd Place

*The Bracero Experience in
California, Wyoming and Texas*
by Luis E. Perez, Laramie.

Mabel Brown

Cumulative Contribution Award

Dick Perue, Saratoga

Judge & Mrs. Percy Metz

Memorial Award

Dolly Fraley, Buffalo.

L.C. Bishop Award

Charles E. Luxmoore, Sheridan.

Wyoming Historical Society

Chapter Award

1st Place

"Bits and Pieces"
Weston County Historical Society

Clara M. & Henry E. Jensen

Outstanding Wyoming Teacher

Tiffany Songer, Buffalo High School

Maurine Carley Memorial

Historic Preservation Award

*Preservation of an original
Carnegie Library*
Jim Gatchell Museum, Buffalo

Outstanding

Historic Preservation Project

*Anna Swanson Recognition
and Memorial Ceremony Project*
Kristen Trumbull & Shelly Trumbull

Annual Services Award

Bernie Terry, Newcastle
Weston County Historical Society

UPCOMING EVENTS

6th - Cemetary Tour

The Douglas Historic Preservation Commission will be hosting the 16th Annual Cemetary Tour.

Refreshments to follow.

5:00 PM

Douglas Park Cemetary
501 S 9th Street - Douglas, WY

11th - Book Launch of "Life and Times of Charles J. Belden, Cowboy Photographer"

Brook Roddan will be launching their book "The Life and Times of Charles J. Belden, Cowboy Photographer."

5:00 PM

Buffalo Bill Center of the West
720 Sheridan Ave, Cody, WY

Please send events for this calendar list by the 10th of each month prior to lainprior.wyshs@gmail.com.

The **Natrona County Historical Society** hosted The College Inn Bar Tour on August 21 in Douglas, WY. "Owner Jacey gave a great tour." commented **Becky Steensland**. Photo below by Becky Steensland via Facebook.



Heard Along the Historic Trail:

Your Place for Local News

Historian and archivist **Rebecca Keays** gave presentations on her grandmother Verna's life and legacy, featuring the Wyoming State flag design on September 9th and 12th at the Natrona County Library, and on September 17th to the **Albany County Historical Society**.

...

Park County Historical Society, Park County Historical Society hosted Dr Erik P Kvale and his presentation "What's in your Backyard? Cool Geology in the BigHorn Basin, Wyoming.

...

The Trail End State Historic Site in Sheridan hosted a Vintage Car Show on September 21st.

...

The WHS had booths on Sept. 14th at the Fiber Arts Festival in Riverton and the Apple Fest in Lander. Traditional ways of preparing natural fibers for clothing and arts and vintage games were enjoyed by attendees of all ages. (PHOTOS BELOW & RIGHT)

The Broadway Theater in Rock Springs hosted "An Evening with Butch and Sundance" celebrating the 55th anniversary of the movie "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" on Sept. 21st. Butch Cassidy's great nephew Bill Betenson will give a presentation on the movie's historical accuracy. The event was in part promoted by WHS member **Dick Blust**.

...

Northern Arapaho Tribal Member Sheyl McLaughlin will gave a demonstration on Sept. 21st to participants about Traditional Native American Beadwork Demonstration at the National Historic Trails Center.

...



FROM THE PRESIDENT: NEW OFFICERS ACCEPT THE REINS OF LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends:

As I write my first column for the Wyoming History News, I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as the President of the Society during the next year. I'd like to thank Cindy Brown, outgoing President, for her leadership and commitment to the society during the last two years as we experienced many changes and challenges. Your calm demeanor and breadth of knowledge will be missed. I'm hopeful that I'll be able to guide the Society in a positive direction like the many presidents before me. I am excited to serve alongside the other eight members of the executive committee and look forward to what we might accomplish.

Earlier this month, members of the Wyoming Historical Society spent three days in Weston County for the Society's 71st Annual Meeting. We explored historic sites and museums throughout the county including Old Town and the Red Onion Museum in Upton and the LAK Farm near Newcastle. We greatly appreciate the members and leadership of the Weston County Historical Society for hosting us. Thank you!

During the membership meeting on Saturday, September 7, we approved the budget and voted on a couple revisions to the

Society's By Laws. Most notably, soon the Society will offer a digital membership option for folks who prefer to receive both Wyoming History News and the Annals of Wyoming electronically. Over the past year, we experienced a net gain of 150 new members to the Wyoming Historical Society. We hope to continue that positive upward trend with continued outreach efforts and the addition of the digital membership.

In 2010, Tom Rea asked the Wyoming Historical Society to consider the addition of a special project to our efforts with the creation of WyoHistory.org, an online encyclopedia focused on the unique events, places and people in Wyoming's history. At that time, the project was accepted by an enthusiastic board and WyoHistory.org went live in May 2011. Since then, Tom has served as the editor and committed countless hours to its success. Currently, there are over 700 articles, 70 oral history interviews and dozens of lesson plan ideas for K-12 educators. At the 71st Annual Meeting, Tom Rea announced his plans to retire and Kylie L. McCormick will take over as editor. We remain eternally grateful to Tom for spearheading this ambitious project. It is an incredible addition to the breadth of resources which cover



Wyoming history. Thank you! We look forward to the ongoing success of WyoHistory.org under the leadership of Kylie.

As I ponder my role and the goals of the Society over the next year, I hope to spend some time on the road visiting local chapters and museums. Our long roads and wide-open spaces provide ample opportunity to witness the diverse landscapes and plethora of historical sites throughout Wyoming with relative ease. I look forward to seeing these sites and hearing from the membership about both challenges and successes in their counties as we consider the future of the Wyoming Historical Society. I am grateful for the chance to lead an organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Wyoming history.

Sincerely,

Jessica Flock



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

At Large: Aileen Gronewold-JOPLIN, MO
Robert Hutchins-RIVERSIDE, CA
Kathleen Michael-MONTEREY, CA

Albany: Caroline Johnson
Johnson: Judd & Becky Gardiepy
Laramie: Bruce Thomson
Natrona: Connie Jacobson
Platte: Lynn & Kay Todd

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