

Wyoming History News

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POST OFFICE TO POWERHOUSE

Celebrating 50 years of the small but mighty town of Wright, WY

by Lain Prior

Tucked away in the heart of the Powder River Basin, Wright, Wyoming is one of the newest municipalities in Wyoming. It was incorporated in 1985 but was a settlement long before then. The Wright family decided to homestead in the area around 1911. R. A. Wright quickly opened a post office to service his fellow ranchers.

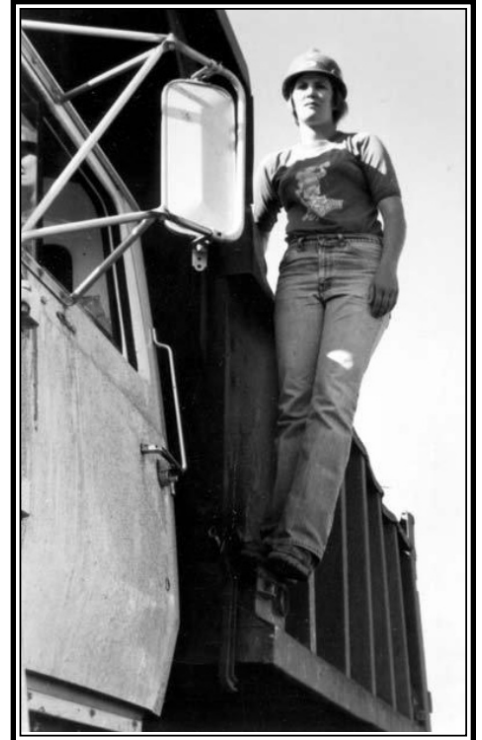
In the spring of 1949, as Wright began to take shape, the Wyoming Department of Transportation established the Reno Junction Maintenance Camp. This was 2.5 miles south of the junction of WY highways 59 and 387 on land acquired

from Harlie Cosner. The harsh winter of 1949 underscored the need for a dedicated crew to handle snow removal and road maintenance, relieving past difficulties faced by crews from Gillette, Douglas, and Midwest. The original camp featured a large Quonset shop and two small houses. These structures combined Quonset and frame construction, which were considered well-built for the time, and were rented to full-time personnel for \$35 per month. The camp's water supply came from a hard water well powered by a Dempster windmill.

By 1990, Wright had shown its growth with a population of over 1,000 people. Soon the Three-Way Gas Station opened at Reno Junction, fulfilling the need of a pit stop between one of the longer isolated stretches of highway in Wyoming.

The fueling facility still functions today, though now as a Sinclair station. Its four pumps standing proud under a rebuilt canopy.

To the south, Hank's Roadside Bar and Grill offers



Brenda Eastling, a heavy equipment coal miner, standing on the side of her truck on May 8, 1982.

(COURTESY WYOMING STATE ARCHIVES)

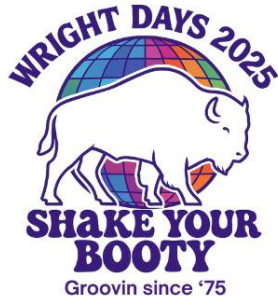
a spot for travelers to relax, its wooden sign fitting in well with the remote atmosphere. In its prime, there was likely a quiet buzz of activity: locals stopping for a quick fill-up or strangers passing through, pausing to stretch their legs. The gravel lot was probably once filled with trucks and cars, their engines rumbling as families and travelers

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WRIGHT DAYS 2025



Thursday June 19

5-7 Family Movie-Community Center

Friday June 20

10 3 on 3 Basketball-Rec Center

11-2 Belles Bingo-Community Center

11:30 Lunch available at Senior Center \$5-10

4-6 All Class Reunion-High School

5-8 "Taste of Wright"/Jump house -Ag Bldg (Adult Beverages catered by Hank's)

5-9 DJ Lew Vasquez -Ag Bldg

Saturday June 21

7:30 5K Fun Run/Walk-Community Bldg

8-9 Pancake Breakfast- Community Bldg

10 Parade-Wright Blvd

Immediately Following Parade:

Root Beer Floats & Sawdust Money Pit-Museum and Campco

11-2 Napa Kids Games, Laser Tag, Cotton Candy, Cornhole-Rec Parking Lot

Food Trucks, Vendors, Dunk Tank-Rec Parking Lot

2-3:30 Adult Softball-Baseball Field

2-5 Food Trucks-Ag Complex Parking Lot

3-6 Jr Bull Riding-Ag Outdoor Arena

5-7 Community Dinner-Ag Building

5-9 DJ Lew Vasquez/Jump house-Ag Building

5-10 Beer Cart by Rusty Nail

6 Thoughts by Gov. Gordon, other guests

9:15-10 Fireworks-Behind Town Maintenance/Ag Parking Lot

Sunday June 22

9 Four Person Scramble-Hay Creek Golf Course

12-4 Tractor Pull-Behind Town Maintenance

12:30-1 Tornado Commemoration-Spike Tree, 48 Little Thunder Dr

1-3 Mud Volleyball-Behind Town Maintenance

3-3:30 Power Wheels Derby-Behind Town Maintenance

3:30 Tug of War-Behind Town Maintenance

Stay up to date on our Facebook page!

"Wright," continued from page 1

sipped sodas, catching brief moments of respite before continuing their journeys.

Wright is best known, however, for its involvement in one of the most productive coal mines in the United States: The Black Thunder Coal Mine. Wright is only twenty minutes from this coal mine. Both Warren Buffett and Bill Gates felt the need to visit the mine in 2010. The small town really felt the economic boom of 1976. The mine opened in 1977, run by ARCO Coal until it was acquired in 1998 by Arch Coal. The Black Thunder Mine was, for most of its existence, the largest mine in the country (by production), but it was overtaken by the nearby North Antelope Rochelle Mine, thirty minutes south of Wright. In 2009, when Arch Coal, Inc. purchased Rio Tinto's Jacobs Ranch mine, it again took the title of most productive coal mine in the US.

Wright, Wyoming, may be a small town, but its history is in the land and the industries that have shaped it. From its early days as a homestead settlement to its modern-day status as an incorporated town near one of the nation's largest coal mines, Wright continues to play an important role in the region. The town's economy



U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue and Governor Mark Gordon visit an open-pit coal mine, in the Thunder Basin National Grassland, near Wright, Wyoming, on July 29, 2019. The mining truck's 3,400 h.p. engine drives generators that power electric motors to propel the truck with a nominal load of 372 tons. Scan the QR code above to take a short virtual tour of the Thunder Basin Mine. (PHOTO COURTESY LANCE CHEUNG - USDA)

has evolved, from the rise of the coal industry to its current quieter pace.

The 50th Anniversary Celebration of Wright occurs June 19-22, 2025. The theme for Wright Days 2025 is "Shake Your Booty - Groovin' since '75."

If you haven't already signed up for Wyoming

Historical Society's 71st Annual Trek happening just south at the same time, mark your weekend down for this "groovy" event. And if you are attending the Trek, note that Wright 's 50th Celebrations go all day Sunday, enabling you to stop by as you leave Converse County.

WYOMING HISTORY DAY WINNERS

The University of Wyoming American Heritage Center and Wyoming Historical Society held the 2024 Wyoming State History Day Competition on Monday, April 29, 2025, in Laramie, WY. Over 160 students from across the state of Wyoming came to participate in the 45th Wyoming History Day competition. Students participated in year-long research projects based on the National History Day theme - Rights and Responsibilities in History.

First and second-place winners from Wyoming History Day move on to the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland in June.

William H. Barton Award for the most outstanding entry for the use oral histories, sponsored by the Wyoming Historical Society.

The Double V: Jobs, Rights, Responsibilities of African Americans in WWII

Anneke Bradley

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8X6uKEMY0Xw

Jackson Hole High School
Teacher: Jeff Brazil

The **Clara Jensen Award** is given for the best overall entry on Wyoming History.

Ivinson Home for Ladies: Philanthropy as a Right and a Responsibility

Community Youth Historians -
Laramie Chapter:

Addison Hennebry, Juniper
Mason, & Leela Keller
Teacher: Meredith McLaughlin

The **Wyoming Historical Society Scholarship** (\$1,000) is a scholarship for a junior or senior in high school planning to attend a college in Wyoming or the University of Wyoming.

Agent Orange and the Lasting Effects on Everybody

Kaydence Mosley & Nora Reid
Worland High School
Teacher: Rick Dorn

The Family History Award for the best use of family history or genealogy, sponsored by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Wyoming.

Fighting for Friends over Country: A First Person Account of the Vietnam War

Dagny Lee, Cody Middle School
Teacher: Gretl Class

Jim Gatchell History of Science Award for an outstanding project in the history of general, medicinal, technological, or veterinary science, sponsored by the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum.

The Right to Die: Balancing Individual Rights and Societal Responsibilities in History

Alex Wise and Nora Strike
Lander Middle School
Teacher: Stacey Polson

Mark A. Greene Excellence Award for an entry for an outstanding demonstration in the use of primary sources, sponsored by the American Heritage Center.

Nature's Last Stand: Protecting Our Right, Fulfilling Our Responsibility

Emily Mai
Community Youth Historians -
Laramie Chapter
Teacher: Meredith McLaughlin

Outstanding Women in History Award for the project demonstrating outstanding women in history, sponsored by the Wyoming Historical Society and Daughters of the American Revolution.

Temple Grandin: Voices of Ability

Gretta Kassens
Shoshoni K-12 School
Teachers: Kelsey Brown and
Jordan Becker

Pieces of the Past Award for a project that explores a topic related to archaeology and what we learn from ancient objects and places, sponsored by the Wyoming Archaeological Society (WAS) and the Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists (WAPA).

Japanese Internment Camps

Willow Peterson
Poison Spider School
Teacher: Dana Curtis

The **Wyoming Voices Award**, sponsored by WyoHistory.org, honors an outstanding senior division History Day project that showcases exceptional research, storytelling, and insight into the history of Wyoming.

Ruthless Warriors and Damsels in Distress: Did Bill Cody Have a Responsibility to Portray Native Americans and Women as Multi-Dimensional?

Lilla Beaulier
Laramie Homeschool

The Gerald and Jessie Chambers Scholarship (\$1,500) is for an outstanding entry for a high school junior or senior student attending a college in Wyoming or the University of Wyoming, sponsored by the American Heritage Center.

Tears in the Rain

Jack Pharaoh
Greybull High School
Teacher: William Thomas

The George and Linda LaBarre Scholarship (\$3,000) is for an outstanding entry for a high school junior or senior student attending a college in Wyoming or the University of Wyoming, sponsored by the American Heritage Center.

Dust Bowl: A Man-Made Ecological Disaster

Tanner Lowry
Worland High School
Teacher: Rick Dorn

Junior Group Documentary

1st Place: *The Right to Die: Balancing Individual Rights and Societal Responsibilities in History*
Nora Strike & Alex Wise,
Lander Middle School
Teacher: Stacey Polson

2nd Place: *Lewis Hayden's Fight for Rights*
Ava Kendrick & Natalie Kim
Cody Middle School
Teacher: Gretl Class

Senior Group Documentary

1st Place: *The Children's March*
Decker Normington &
Otis Leniger, Pinedale HS
Teacher: Rose Robertson

2nd Place: *The Trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg*
Charlotte Hawke &
Cale Dauwen, Pinedale HS
Teacher: Rose Robertson



Tizah, Kenley, and Tilly preparing to show thier Senior Group Documentary.

(PHOTO BRYCE MIDDLESTAT, WYOMING HISTORY DAY)

Junior Group Exhibit

1st Place: *Gidion vs Wainwright (Let there be Lawyers)*
Kade Mallen, Nick Barlow,
& Rocco Oldani
Jackson Hole Middle School
Teacher: Gregory Poduska

2nd Place: *Elizabeth Cady Stanton*
Ellasyn Keisel, Josephine Boyer,
& Reagan Vigil
Greybull Middle School
Teacher: Michelle Stebner

Senior Group Exhibit

1st Place: *James Reeb: Fighting for the Right to Vote*
Mylie Morrison &
Lillian Hudson
Kelly Walsh High School
Teacher: Paula Volker

2nd Place: *Mendez v. Westminster*
Peyten Wilhelm and Enrique
Amaro Vazquez
Kelly Walsh High School
Teacher: Paula Volker

Junior Group Performance

1st Place: *Power, Politics, and the Press, Eleanor Roosevelt and Nancy Reagan Making Headlines*
Emma Crowley, Drew
McDaniel, & Jaylen Kaufman
Wheatland Middle School
Teacher: MaryJo Birt

2nd Place: *Rosa Parks Takes a Seat Against Segregation*

Temperance Olsen, Juliet Olsen,
& Camille Croft
Worland Middle School
Teacher: Deborah Keller

Junior Group Website

1st Place: *"Party in the Park Tonight" - Birmingham Children's March 1963 - Stand for Rights and Responsibilities*
Addalynn Souza
& Eliana Bellinger
Wheatland Middle School
Teacher: MaryJo Birt

2nd Place: *Salem Witch Trials' Influence on the United States Constitutional Judicial System*
Hazel Moser & Maslyn Edmiston
Jackson Hole Middle School
Teacher: Gregory Poduska

Senior Group Website

1st Place: *"Lip..Dip..Paint" - The Radium Crisis*
Hannah Kaiser & Taylor Wickham
Pinedale High School
Teacher: Rose Robertson

2nd Place: *Grace Raymond Hebard: Engineering Rights and Responsibilities in Wyoming*
Beatrix Buchanan & Maiya Brown
Community Youth Historians -
Laramie Chapter
Teacher: Meredith McLaughlin

Junior Individual Documentary

1st Place: *Fighting for Friends over Country: A First Person Account of the Vietnam War*
Dagny Lee, Cody Middle School
Teacher: Gretl Class

2nd Place: *The Homestead Act*
Brogan Crimm, Shoshoni Schools
Teachers: Jordan Becker & Kelsey Brown

Senior Individual Documentary

1st Place: *Tears in the Rain*
Jack Pharaoh, Greybull HS
Teacher: William Thomas

2nd Place: *The Birth of Misrepresentation: Through The Birth of a Nation and Racist Media*
Silvia Kim-Miller, Jackson Hole HS
Teacher: Jeff Brazil

Junior Individual Exhibit

1st Place: *Radiant Faces: The Tragic Story of the Radium Girls*
Alyssa Good, Shoshoni Schools
Teacher: Anthony Truempier

2nd Place: *Nature's Last Stand: Protecting Our Right, Fulfilling Our Responsibility*
Emily Mai, Community Youth Historians - Laramie Chapter
Teacher: Meredith McLaughlin

Senior Individual Exhibit

1st Place: *The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire: The Rights and Responsibilities of Safer Working Conditions*
Ayla Toolson, Jackson Hole HS
Teacher: Jeff Brazil

2nd Place: *Dornans and Grand Teton National Park*
Ruthie Dornan, Jackson Hole HS
Teacher: Jeff Brazil

Junior Individual Performance

1st Place: *Every Right Implies a Responsibility: John D. Rockefeller Jr.'s Grand Teton National Park Land Donation*
Roma Beaulier
Laramie Homeschool

Senior Individual Performance

1st Place: *Ruthless Warriors and Damsels in Distress: Did Bill Cody Have a Responsibility to Portray Native Americans and Women as Multi-Dimensional?*
Lilla Beaulier
Laramie Home School

2nd Place: *All Women's Town Council Of Jackson Hole; Taking Responsibility for Their Town and Influencing the Fight for Women's Rights*
Hennessy Van Gelder
Jackson Hole High School
Teacher: Jeff Brazil

Junior Individual Website

1st Place:
Temple Grandin: Voices of Ability
Gretta Kassens, Shoshoni Schools
Teachers: Jordan Becker & Kelsey Brown

2nd Place:
But I'm An American Too: Rights Denied Executive Order 9066
Addison Williams
Wheatland Middle School
Teacher: MaryJo Birt

Senior Individual Website

1st Place:
Power of the Press: The Rights and Responsibilities of the Media
Ida Lantier, Jackson Hole High School
Teacher: Jeff Brazil

2nd Place: *Redefining Gender and Sports: The Lasting Impact of the Battle of the Sexes on Women's Rights and Responsibilities Today*
Annabel Millham, Jackson Hole HS
Teacher: Jeff Brazil

Junior Paper

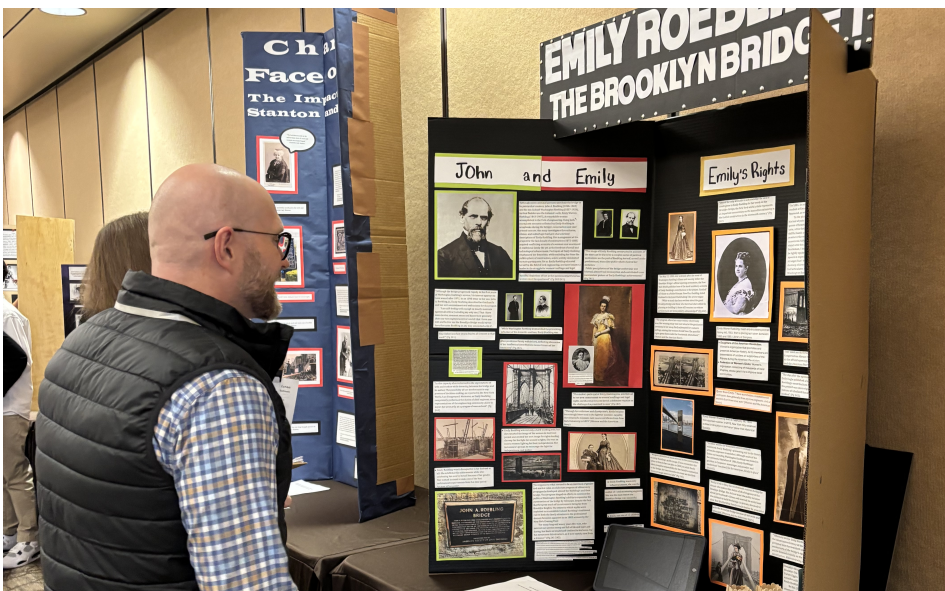
1st Place: *The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act: Children's Rights and Adults' Responsibilities*
Sandra Reed, Jackson Hole MS
Teacher: Gregory Poduska

2nd Place: *The Battle of Gettysburg*
Dietrich Otto, Greybull MS
Teacher: Michelle Stebner

Senior Paper

1st Place:
The Juxtaposition of Rights and Responsibilities with the US Selective Services Act of 1917
Jacob DeMott
Cheyenne Homeschool

2nd Place: *Margaret Chase Smith - Rights and Responsibilities in the Red Scare*
Shane Johnson, Kelly Walsh HS
Teacher: Paula Volker



[LEFT] Judges evaluating a junior group exhibit titled, "Emily Roebling, The Brooklyn Bridge"
(PHOTO BRYCE MIDDLESTAT, WYOMING HISTORY DAY)

WHS BLAST FROM THE PAST

Thelma Gatchell Condit: First Woman President of the Wyoming Historical Society

by Nancy Tabb, Current Johnson County Historical Society President

Thelma Gatchell Condit was born October 11, 1901, in Buffalo, Wyoming to Mr. and Mrs. T.J. "Jim" Gatchell. She graduated from Johnson County High School in 1920. She married Clark Condit and for twenty-one years they made their home in the Hole-In-The-Wall country in southern Johnson County. She taught school in the Barnum, Kaycee, Sussex and Mayoworth communities.

Mrs. Condit was a well-known historian and was especially interested in the history of the Hole-In-The-Wall country. She had several very detailed and well-written articles about that subject printed in the *Annals of Wyoming*. She had collected Johnson County history

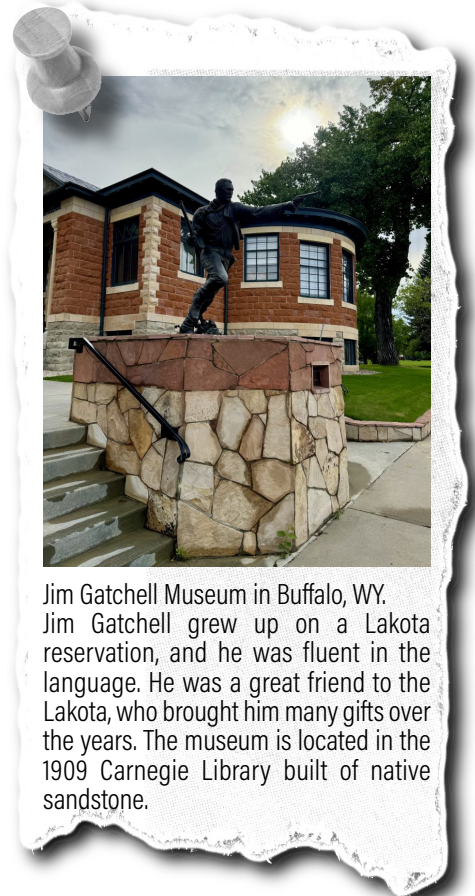
for many years, just like her father. Thelma had the distinction of being elected the first woman president of the Wyoming State Historical Society and was the past president of the Johnson County Historical Society.

Mrs. Condit helped raise funds for the construction of the Johnson County Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum, which is named in honor of her father and houses his huge collection of western artifacts. She served as the secretary of the Pioneer Association of Sheridan and Johnson counties and as secretary of the Chamber of Commerce where she oversaw the Rangeland tours conducted each summer.

In 1962 she was chosen as the "Woman of the Year" by the Buffalo Business and Professional Women's club. She was also a member of the Friends in Council, Goldenrod Chapter No. 13, OES, Cow-Belles, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Republican Women's club.

In Kaycee, she was past president of the American Legion Auxiliary, B&PW club, Kaycee Republican Women's club and the Kaycee Woman's club and served as a member and treasurer of District No. 10 school board in Kaycee.

[LEFT] Cover of the 1960 *Annals of Wyoming*, which her submission on Hole in the Wall was featured.



Jim Gatchell Museum in Buffalo, WY. Jim Gatchell grew up on a Lakota reservation, and he was fluent in the language. He was a great friend to the Lakota, who brought him many gifts over the years. The museum is located in the 1909 Carnegie Library built of native sandstone.

She and her husband had three children; two sons, Dick and James, and one daughter, Carolyn. As we can see, our Thelma was never one to let dust bunnies gather under her feet, especially in the matter of things pertaining to Wyoming History.

Information for this article gleaned from Thelma Gatchell Condit's obituary from the Buffalo Bulletin dated December 22, 1966.

Learn more about the history of the Wyoming Historical Society in our on-going feature "Blast from the Past" in the subsequent issues of the *Wyoming History News*.



HOMSHER AWARDEES

WHS HONORS LOLA HOMSHER'S LASTING LEGACY THROUGH RESEARCH GRANTS

by Aley Philp

"We are incredibly excited to announce this year's Lola Homsher Research Grant awardees. Their projects represent the very best of Wyoming historical inquiry, and we eagerly anticipate the fresh insights and engaging stories they will bring to light," exclaimed **Hailey Sorg**, chair of the 2025 Wyoming Historical Society's Projects Committee.

The committee recognizes amateur and professional historians through these grants that support the Society's mission to make Wyoming's past accessible to present and future generations. Sorg stated, "The Lola Homsher Grants are a cornerstone of our efforts to foster historical understanding across Wyoming. We believe that by supporting these researchers, we are directly investing in the public's access to, and appreciation for, the unique history that shapes our state."

"Lola Homsher's vision for preserving Wyoming's history lives on through these grants. We are proud to support these dedicated researchers who, through their meticulous work, are not only expanding our collective knowledge but also ensuring that the narratives of our past remain vibrant and accessible for generations to come" continued Sorg.

Grant monies are drawn from a fund established by the late Lola Homsher, a

noted historian and state archivist. One of Homsher's most significant contributions to preserve Wyoming history came when she spearheaded establishing the Wyoming State Historical Society in 1953. After her retirement Miss Homsher made a major donation to the Society that has been used as an endowment to help fund Society programs.

The total amount awarded for 2025 was \$7000. The five recipients of Homsher research grants for 2025 are:

Brian Beauvais - Cody, WY for "Thomas Jaggar Rephotography Project"

This project is a historical rephotography initiative focused on the Absaroka Mountains of northwest Wyoming. It builds on the work of geologist Arnold Hague and his assistant Thomas Jaggar, who documented the region during geological surveys in the 1890s. Jaggar's photographs and field notes, preserved at the U.S.G.S. Library, offer invaluable insight into the historical landscape of the Yellowstone Park Timberland Reserve, now Shoshone National Forest. Beauvais has been working to locate and rephotograph Jaggar's original vantage points during hiking excursions, producing a GIS map of photo locations and a published newspaper article on the endeavor. This project was supported by the Lola Homsher Endowment Fund in 2024 and was selected again in 2025 to aid Beauvais in finishing this project.

“Connor Mullen - Laramie, WY for "A Voice in the Wilderness: Ending the Cold War in Grand Teton National Park"

A Voice in the Wilderness: Ending the Cold War in Grand Teton National Park is a creative research project that explores a little-known but historically significant moment in Wyoming's past – when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met in Grand Teton National Park in September 1989 to lay groundwork for ending the Cold War. Against the striking backdrop of the Tetons, their conversations on nuclear arms control and global diplomacy were shaped not only by politics but by the calming influence of the natural landscape. This project uses archival research, oral histories, and artistic collage techniques to reconstruct and interpret these events, highlighting the unique role Wyoming's wilderness played in international peace-keeping. Through interviews, photo documentation, and creative storytelling, the project will culminate in a public exhibition and presentation- reviving a forgotten moment of diplomacy and honoring Wyoming's place in global history.

Joseph Esparza - Bozeman, MT for "Landmark Mountains: Empire, Experience, and Popular Imagination in the Making of a Vertical West, c. 1820-1945" Chapter 1 "Winds of Empire" and Chapter 3 "Emblems of the West"

"Landmark Mountains: Empire, Experience, and Popular Imagination in the Making of a Vertical West, c. 1820-1945" explores how iconic mountain landscapes – especially in Wyoming – became powerful cultural symbols in the shaping of the American West. Through

art, literature, exploration, and overland travel, mountains such as the Wind River Range and the Grand Tetons were transformed into mythic "vertical frontiers," reflecting national ideals of empire, identity, and nature.

Chapters 1 and 3 center Wyoming's pivotal role in this history. Chapter 1 shows how the Wind River Mountains, once seen as a Jeffersonian symbol of continental expansion, became both forgotten and reimagined as a site of Native sovereignty. Chapter 3 traces how the Grand Tetons became a romanticized emblem of rugged individualism and white American identity through photography, mountaineering, and popular culture.

The project reveals how public imagination helped shape these landscapes into enduring national icons, and how they continue to inform our understanding of land, identity, and environmental challenges today.

• **Patrick Schmiedt** - Covina, CA for "The Team from Laramie: The Early History of Wyoming Cowboy Football,"

"The Team from Laramie" is a historical exploration of University of Wyoming football from its founding in 1894 through the mid-20th century – a largely overlooked period in the program's history. While Cowboy football is often celebrated starting with its post-WWII rise under coach Bowden Wyatt, this project shifts focus to the lesser-known early decades marked by modest success but rich in character and historical significance. Despite limited on-field achievements, many players and coaches from this era went on to become war heroes, civic leaders, and influential figures across Wyoming and beyond.

Through a game-by-game reconstruction centered around every point scored during this

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For a full calendar of events,
please visit wyshs.org/events.

For comments
or questions regarding
Wyoming History News,
please call 307.322.3014
or email info@wyshs.org.

**WHS Member names
appear in bold.**

The Wyoming Historical Society (WHS) is a
501 (c)3 non-profit organization and is
funded through donations and membership dues.
The Wyoming Historical Society is not part of the
Wyoming State Government.

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Homsher' continued from page 7

period, the project blends sports history with personal stories, correcting long-standing errors in university records and reviving lost narratives. With primary research from newspapers, university archives, and in-person visits to the American Heritage Center, this work will culminate in a published book aimed at deepening public understanding of Cowboy football's roots and Wyoming's broader historical identity.

Zane Pearson - Idaho Falls, ID for
"An Analysis of the changes in the border between the
Territories of Idaho and Wyoming,"

"An Analysis of the Changes in the Border Between the Territories of Idaho and Wyoming" is a historical research project focused on tracing the evolution of the territorial boundary between Idaho and Wyoming prior to the formal creation of the Wyoming Territory in 1868. Through the examination of congressional, territorial, county, and personal records, the study seeks to uncover the motivations – political, economic, or otherwise – behind these boundary shifts and assess which factors most influenced the final state lines. By clarifying the context of Wyoming's creation, it contributes to a deeper public understanding of the state's political and historical roots and encourages reflection on the administrative decisions and leadership that helped shape it.

Hailey Sorg, who also serves as First Vice President of the Wyoming Historical Society, said "Year after year, the Lola Homsher Research Grants empower passionate individuals to unearth and illuminate the often-untold stories of Wyoming. It's truly inspiring to see the breadth and depth of the projects funded, and we are confident that this year's recipients will make significant contributions to our understanding of the state's rich and diverse past."

Members of the 2025 Homsher Committee were Hailey Sorg, Douglas; Patty Kessler, Laramie; and Sara Davis, Cheyenne. Applications and rules for Homsher Research Grants can be obtained by visiting the Society's website at www.wyshs.org; select "Programs," then select "Lola Homsher Research Grant." Please contact the Wyoming Historical Society at 307.322.3014 or vp1.whs@gmail.com for more information. Electronic proposals for 2026 Homsher Grants will be due February 28, 2026.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 7 - Carbon County Museum Block Party

Join the Carbon County Museum for this annual fun event for all ages featuring vendors, live demonstrations, food trucks, scavenger hunts and much much more!

11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

904 West Walnut Street, Rawlins, WY

June 7 - South Pass City Adventure Trek

Join the Riverton Museum for a complete day filled with history and exploration at South Pass City. We will be introduced to the South Pass City site and its history of gold mining, tour the English Tunnel there, and explore the Carissa Gold Mine! We will travel as a group from the Riverton Museum at 8:30am and return around 4:30pm. From 12-1pm, we will have a free hour to explore the town and eat lunch. You are expected to bring your own sack lunch and water, or purchase your own food there. A fair bit of walking is to be expected. Total cost of admission per person is \$20.

This is a limited group size so you will need to reserve your spot on fremontcountymuseums.com or call us at (307) 856-2665.

8:30 AM TO 4:30 PM

700 E Park Avenue, Riverton, WY

June 7 - Talk on Artist Harry Jackson

Learn about famed artist Harry Jackson's time in Meeteetse! Join us for a talk on artist Harry Jackson by Matthew Jackson, a member of the Harry Jackson Institute's Board of Trustees and the artist's son.

1:00 PM

Meeteetse Museum

1947 State Street, Meeteetse, WY

June 12 - Knowing the West Presentation by Mindy N Besaw, PhD

Former Whitney Western Art Museum curator Mindy Besaw will present *Knowing the West*, a traveling exhibition she co-curated with Jami Powell.

6:00 PM

**Buffalo Bill Center of the West
720 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY**

June 21 - Archeology Tour at Legend Rock

This tour is limited to two groups of 10 people; pre-registration is required. Register by calling (307) 868-2423. Registration is open until all slots are filled; signing up early ensures you have a spot on this unique tour!

9:30 AM and 11:00 AM

**Legend Rock State Petroglyph Site,
north of Thermopolis**

June 27 - Talk on Otto Franc and the Pitchfork Ranch

Have you ever wondered who started the Pitchfork Ranch, and why that person was drawn to this region? Join us for a talk on Otto Franc and the Pitchfork Ranch with Brian Beauvais, Park County Archivist.

1:00 PM

Meeteetse Museum

1947 State Street, Meeteetse, WY

***July 12 to 13 - Gold Rush Days**

***correction from May issue**

Step back in time and experience the excitement of Wyoming's gold rush at South Pass City Gold Rush Days! This annual celebration brings history to life with vintage baseball, anvil blasting, gold panning, and live music. Enjoy a cold sarsaparilla, take a stagecoach ride, or watch historic mining demonstrations.

Explore the town's rich past with guided tours, special hikes, and hands-on activities for all ages. Kids can join in classic games, while visitors of all ages enjoy delicious food, horse rides, and much more.

Don't miss this unforgettable weekend of history, adventure, and Old West fun!

10:00 AM

South Pass City, WY

JULY 16 - WYOGIVES DAY

WyoGives, an initiative of the Wyoming Nonprofit Network, is a powerful statewide 24-hour online fundraising event designed to raise funds and awareness for Wyoming's nonprofits. Support the Wyoming Historical Society on July 16. Our goal is \$15,000 to help support our mission.



Wyoming Historical Society

PO Box 33

Riverton, WY 82501

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

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Wheatland, Wyoming

82201

Permit No. 71

THANK YOU TO THOSE
LISTED BELOW FOR
YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT!



CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE
WHS ON WYO GIVES DAY!

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Melvin Gabel
Fried McGuire
Frances Gabriel
Judy Sersland
Don Turnquist

**YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL
TO OUR MISSION**

Visit WyoGives.org on

JULY 16, 2025

and search for:

WYOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY