The Wyoming oilfield scandal that rocked the Roaring Twenties: Teapot Dome and more will be presented at the Petroleum History Institute’s annual meeting in Casper this July. The Petroleum History Institute includes people from around the world who are interested in all aspects of the industry’s history. The event is open to the public. To register and find out more visit http://petroleumhistory.org/.

WSSH/Laramie County Historical Society member Gene Palen was guest speaker at the chapter’s recent meeting. He talked about his life as a young cowboy on the Warren Livestock Ranch.

Michael Martin Murphey will play a benefit matinee performance in Encampment on June 12th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on behalf of the Battle Pass Scenic Byway Alliance! The popular musician has a passion about the west and loves WYDOT 70, the Battle Pass Scenic Highway. Contact WSHS member John Farr at 710-3277 for details.

I hope you have all reserved June 10, 11, and 12 on your calendars. Those are the dates of the big Platte County Trek, this year’s destination of the Wyoming Historical Society’s annual statewide adventure. Beginning at registration Friday the 10th, wagon rides will take trekkers around Wheatland to enjoy the murals and historic buildings, followed by a Chugwater Chili supper at the Pocket Park (if Ma Nature cooperates). Saturday we will board buses to visit Guernsey landmarks, eat lunch at the Historic Miners’ and Stockmen’s Bar in Hartville, and then visit the old mining town and important archaeological excavation at Sunrise, followed by stops at sites along the Oregon/California/Mormon Trail and Pony Express route. After a sumptuous banquet at Vimbos, Casper College student and actress, Kyleen Smith, will regale us with tales about Mable Wilkinson, Platte County’s traveling librarian in 1915. Sunday will feature breakfast at the Laramie Peak Museum followed by a tentative tour of the power plant. The cost is $80 per person for all these activities, and more! The registration deadline is June 1st, and the form was in your April issue of Wyoming History News. Plan to join us for this once-in-a-lifetime chance to learn more about Platte County. Special thanks to our Trek planners Stu Hammersmark, Del and Sandy Tinsley, Rick and Arlene Robbins, Jan Hyche, Linda Fabian, Joan McKee, Barb Schaffner, Mary Jo Birt, or Patsy Parkin.

I’m looking forward to meeting you and hope you will join us!

Patsy Parkin, President
Platte County Historical Society

Editor’s Note: Special thanks to WSHS member and publisher, Nancy Curtis, for creating the Trek logo!
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Happy May to all! It has been a busy month for the Wyoming State Historical Society. Committees and individuals have been working hard supporting a variety of programs. On April 11 many of us spent an enjoyable day serving as judges for the Wyoming State History Day competition. As always, it was great to see so many of our youth involved in this important activity. It is always rewarding to come away from this competition having learned something new! I want to congratulate all of the students, parents and teachers for the hard work they provided in supporting their students entries. I wish all those continuing on to the national competition the best of luck. We have some wonderful students representing Wyoming.

Congratulations as well to this year’s awardees of Homsher Research Grants. We received a number of excellent proposals which made the final selection a difficult one. Elsewhere in this issue you will learn what topics are being investigated this year. Congratulations to all! I also want to remind former Homsher Grant awardees that we are trying to increase the endowment to support this program. Funds designated from Lola Homsher’s initial donation sustain many of the society’s operations. Without additional support, some of the programs may be reduced. You will recall that I challenged others to donate to this endowment last fall and that challenge is still on! Please, if you can help at all, make a contribution to support this grant. Furthering research into Wyoming’s rich history is one of the most important elements of our mission. This research leads to books, public programs, and articles for our journal.

It is also my pleasure to announce that public voting is now open for the 2016 Most Significant Artifacts campaign. Once again we received 41 nominations from across the state and a panel of judges has reduced that number to 25. You will find enclosed in this issue, a postcard with the link to the online ballot. Please take time to review the entries and support those ten artifacts that you believe best represent Wyoming’s history. This year, we will be awarding the top ten during the annual awards banquet in September. I have been working closely with Judy Wolf from the State Historic Preservation Office on this year’s Historic Preservation Month poster. As I mentioned in earlier columns, 2016 marks several significant anniversaries. For this year’s poster, we celebrate the Lake Yellowstone Hotel, which turns 125! It was recently named a National Historic Landmark and that status will be celebrated with a public event at the hotel on May 13. We will distribute posters at that time. I want to thank the Yellowstone Park Foundation and Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Inc. for contributing to the production of these collectible posters. We will also have the posters available at the Trek, Annual Meeting, and Preserve Wyoming.

As summer approaches our calendars are rapidly filling up with many events. Don’t forget that we have our annual trek in June hosted by the Platte County Historical Society. Don’t forget to get your room reserved and your registration sent in. I look forward to seeing you there.

Tamsen

The Wyoming State Historical Society, a non-profit, membership driven organization, encourages the study of Wyoming history. We believe to study the past is to understand the present and prepare for the future. Our vision is to insure that Wyoming’s past remains accessible to present and future generations.

Visit www.wyshs.org and “like” us on Facebook
June 1 is the deadline to apply for up to $2,000 from the State Historical Records Advisory Board. All projects related to identifying, preserving and providing access to Wyoming’s historical records will be considered. For more details contact WSHS member Mike Strom at michael.strom@wyo.gov.

Correction to tidbit about “Network Museums” in last month’s newsletter. Please note that the correct URL is www.network-museums.com. This new tool is a must for museums to connect with each other. There are lots of questions and answers, tips and trick, and you can post job openings, plus more! Thanks to WSHS/Natrona County Historical Society member Johanna Wickman for coming up with the idea to create this valuable too. Check it out.

Apply now for the 2016 Centennial Farm and Ranch award! Applications are due July 15th and are available online at http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us/cfr or call 777-3418. For the past ten years more than 200 Centennial families have been honored with this prestigious award that honors family ranches and farms that have been owned and operated for 100 years or more.

Congratulations to WSHS/Fort Bridger Historical Society member Linda Newman Byers upon her retirement as superintendent of the Fort Bridger State Historic Site. Her going away party will take place on May 21st at the Heritage Barn in Lyman.

2017 Total Solar Eclipse is coming! Several communities including Wheatland, Glendo and Casper are planning a host of activities that surround this event. Early indications point to an influx of thousands to Glendo State Park, Platte and Natrona Counties. Jackie Diehl has created a Facebook page Glendo Total Solar Eclipse where you can keep up with what’s going on. To learn more check with local planners or contact Jackie at the National Solar Observatory in Sunspot, NM at jdiehl@nso.edu.

WSHS member George Zeimans, along with the renown Dr. George Frison, and WSHS member John Voight, will host tours of the Paleolithic Red Ochre Mine Site and the historic town of Sunrise Historic Mine Site on May 14th. To learn more about this event that requires pre-registration call George at 575-2010.

The Crook County Museum will host a living history tour of Sundance beginning in July and running through the end of August. WSHS/Crook County Historical Society member Rocky Courchaine will lead the tours. You will meet some colorful characters along the way including the Sundance Kid, Sheriff Jim Ryan, and more. For details call Dorothy Greenwood at 267-1665.

WYOMING WRITER DIGITIZED: WSHS member Aletha Williams is trying to get help in preserving what remains of the heritage of Wyoming Writers, Inc. She said that Chad Everett Hutchins, Head of Digital Collections, Amanda R. Lehman, MLIS, Digital Repository Manager, and Cynthia L. Kellogg of the University of Wyoming Libraries’ Digital Collection at the Coe Library, along with UW students, are now finishing up the digitizing and uploading of every single issue of the WYO-Writer stored in their collection, dating back to 1975. A few issues are missing, but those in the collection are available at http://uwdigital.uwyo.edu/islandora/object/wyu%3A139302. If you have copies and want to find out if they are among the missing email c.williams.wyo@gmail.com.

ARCHAEOLOGY DIG: Students age 14-18, this is your chance! If you want to help document history and earn a financial educational stipend then join an archaeology dig this summer. For details contact WSHS member George Zeimans at 307-575-2010.

TEPEE LODGE: WSHS members Bill and Jane Rader are seeking pictures or information about Tepee Lodge, the dude ranch once operated by the Fordyce Family in the Big Horn Mountains? Please contact them at jbrader8754@yahoo.com.
## Wyoming History CALENDAR


**June 1. Wheatland.** Registration deadline for annual trek hosted by the Platte County Historical Society.

**June 1. Cheyenne.** Deadline to apply for SHRAB grants. Email michael.strom@wyo.gov for details.

**June 10. Wheatland.** Trek, sponsored by Platte County Historical Society.

**June 12. Encampment.** Michael Martin Murphy concert on behalf of the Battle Pass Scenic Byway. Call 326-7822 for details.

**July 15. Cheyenne.** Deadline to apply for the 2016 Centennial Farm and Ranch Award. For details call SHPO at 777-3418.

**July 27-31. Mobile, Alabama.** Hip, Happening, Historic Preservation@50. For details visit the Natl. Alliance of Preservation Commissions website.

**July 28–31. Casper.** Annual meeting of the Petroleum History Institute. For more details e-mail Matt Silverman at msilverman@bayless-cos.com.


**September 9-10. Buffalo.** WSHS Annual Meeting. Details to follow.

*Note: Area Code for all Wyoming phone numbers is 307*

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**VOTE NOW FOR YOUR FAVORITE 2016 ARTIFACT**

The Wyoming State Historical Society, in partnership with the University of Wyoming Libraries, invites everyone to participate in selecting “Wyoming’s Top Ten Most Significant Artifacts” for 2016. Submissions received from libraries, museums, historical societies and other institutions, were reviewed by a panel of independent judges to determine the top twenty-five. The public now has the opportunity to vote on the top ten. **Voting ends on July 15th.**

Society president, Tamsen Hert, noted that the program was created last year in celebration of the state’s 125th anniversary. “It was so popular among everyone, including students, that it was agreed to continue the program.” She added, “This year we received more than forty submissions, each one representing an important aspect of Wyoming’s history.” Tamsen added that this program draws attention to the state’s cultural heritage and also to the institutions that bring that heritage to the public’s attention. We also hope that educators around the state will encourage students to vote.

Top Ten voting begins immediately, with winners being announced in September at the Society’s annual meeting. Voting ends on July 15th so vote NOW! All ages are encouraged to vote. Votes must be submitted electronically by going to the Society’s website and clicking on the link “What’s New,” and then following the tab for 2016 voting. The link is:

http://www.wyominglibraries.org/voting-is-open-for-wymongs-most-significant-artifacts-2016/.

You can also e-mail Society headquarters at linda@wyshs.org, or call 322-3014 for details.
Welcome New Members and Thank You Donors

At Large
Janice Lee Weiss Truitt, Shady Shores, TX  
Kae Concannon, Lander  
Robert Goss, Cedar City, UT

Carbon County Historical Society  
Dick Perue, Saratoga (formerly At Large)

Goshen County Historical Society  
Tom McCrery, Torrington

Laramie County Historical Society  
James Clark, Burns

Natrona County Historical Society  
Kelly Mallery Coulter, Rock River

Park County Historical Society  
Lori Bevenger, Cody

Sheridan County Historical Society  
Clay and Gayle Rowley, Sheridan  
Terrill Foster, Clearmont

Weston County Historical Society  
Willis Franz, Newcastle  
Minnie Williams, Moorcroft  
John Putnam, Burdock, SD

Wyoming Historical Foundation  
(The long-term endowment)  
Dona Bachman, Carbondale, IL  
Anal Johnson, Cheyenne  
Richard and Jane Dean, Jackson  
Jennifer Tennican, Jackson,  
Dave Foreman, Cheyenne  
Lynn Sutton, Stockton, CA  
Daniel Buck, Washington, DC

WyoHistory.Org  
Amy Williamson, Laramie  
Mel and Eilene Nelson, Douglas

Wyoming Archipedia Now Online

WSHS member, Mary Humstone, a 2015 recipient of Homsher Research Grant funds writes that The first 50 entries of Wyoming Archipedia are now online (http://sah-archipedia.org). SAH Archipedia Wyoming is part of SAH Archipedia, an interactive, media-rich, online encyclopedia of the built environment in the United States. As coordinator of the Wyoming project, Mary is responsible for developing the list of 100 properties to feature on the website, and for writing and/or supervising the writing of each building’s entries. For each entry Mary researched the history of the building, using National Register nominations, articles, books, and other sources. She then wrote a description of the building, highlighting its salient architectural features, history and significance into an essay. She said, “The Homsher Research Grant provided critical funding for my travel throughout Wyoming.” Mary traveled approximately 3,000 miles throughout the state to visit and photograph buildings.

Mary said, “Thank you to the Wyoming State Historical Society (Lola Homsher grant for research travel) and the dedicated writers who contributed to these entries.” The writers include WSHS members Brie Blasi, Lesley Wischmann, Ruth Lauritzen, Arlene Ekland-Ernst, and Barbara Bogart. Other writers were Tony Denzer, Lesley Gilmore, Morgan Albertson, Paula Taylor and Fred Chapman.

Mary added, “Thanks to Richard Collier for his beautiful photographs. Thanks for overall guidance and early research on this project to the Preservation Dream Team (Sheila Bricher-Wade, Rheba Massey and BA Beierle). And thanks to SAH Archipedia editors Gabrielle Esperdy and Catherine Erkkila for your patience and fine editing!”  

(Star Valley’s historic Rock Church)
The 2016 State History Day competition was held in Laramie on April 11th. More than 250 students from across the state, in grades six through twelve, participated in the event. Their entries were based on the theme “Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History.” First and second place winners are listed below and now have an opportunity to attend National History Day in June on the campus of the University of Maryland. Recipients of Special Awards are also listed. In some instances we have not typed out the name of the entry in its entirety due to space restrictions.

**Junior Papers:**
1st Place – Li Platz. “George Stout’s Art Army.” Lander Middle School. Teacher: Gayla Hammer.
2nd Place—Maleah Tuttle. “Gandhi's Life and Legacy.” Jackson Hole Middle School. Teacher: David Wells.

**Junior Individual Documentary:**

**Junior Group Documentary:**

**Junior Individual Performance:**

**Junior Group Performance:**
2nd Place-Mason and Aidan Slider. “Jim Bridger.” Dubois Middle School. Teacher: Rosie Graff.

**Junior Individual Exhibits:**

**Junior Group Exhibits:**
1st Place-Teancum and Rebecca Whiting. “Captain Cook.” Lander Middle School. Teacher: Gayla Hammer.

**Junior Individual Web Site:**

**Junior Group Web Site:**
1st Place-Sophie Parker, Lucy Kimmel. “Lucille Ball.” Jackson Hole Middle School. Teacher: Greg Poduska.
2nd Place-Gerald Henderson, Jasper Welch. “Hubble’s Inspiring Insight.” Jackson Hole Middle School. Teacher: David Wells.
Senior Papers:
2nd Place-Sawyer Lucas-Griffin. “Pioneers of Paleontology.” Jackson Hole High School. Teacher: Jeff Brazil.

Senior Individual Documentary:
2nd Place-Rosalie Daval. “The Bone Wars…” Jackson Hole High School. Teacher: Jeff Brazil.

Senior Group Documentary:
1st Place-Elizabeth Chamber, Adrienne Sugarman. “Apollo 11.” Jackson Hole High School. Teacher: Jeff Brazil.

Senior Individual Performance:

Senior Group Performance:
1st Place-Georgia Eidemiller, Cyrena Keefe. “Buffalo Bill Cody.” Jackson Hole High School. Teacher: Jeff Brazil.

Senior Individual Exhibits:
1st Place-Sarah Greger. “Extra Extra: Orphan Trains a Comin.”’” Jackson Hole High School. Teacher: Jeff Brazil.

Senior Group Exhibits:

Senior Individual Website:
1st Place-Lily Brazil. “Controlling Cultural Change.” Jackson Hole High School. Teacher: Jeff Brazil.
2nd Place-Sonya Carrizales. “Law Enforcement in Railroad Towns.” Jackson Hole High School. Teacher: Jeff Brazil.

Senior Group Web Site:

Editor’s Note: In most instances students will be raising money for their trip to the National History Day competition held at the University of Maryland near Washington, D.C. Their costs are all-inclusive and include travel, lodging, the competition and educational side-trips. Please, if you have an opportunity to donate to these students who have worked so hard, do so. Invite them to your chapter meeting, contact the teacher in your area to see if they need assistance, check with the schools to see if the students are receiving travel funds. Do whatever it takes to help these students represent Wyoming. If you would like to contribute directly to assisting the kids get to Nationals please send your donation to: Richard Jerome Kean, Wyoming History Day Coordinator, 1000 E. University, Laramie WY 82071. E-mail him at rkean@uwyo.edu.
SPECIAL AWARDS

We are especially grateful to those Individuals and organizations who sponsor monetary awards recognizing students whose entries represent a topic near and dear to those sponsors. This year’s recipients are:

**Adventure Dodge of Laramie Creative Award** to Magdalena Escudero-Kane. “One Woman, One Boat…” Lander Middle School. Teacher: Gayla Hammer.


**AHC Primary Sources Award** to Ruby Home-Wambeam. “Bon Appetit.” Laramie Homeschool. Teacher: Laurie Homer.

**AHC/UW Scholarship** to Fiachra Rottinghaus. “One Hundred Years of Waiting.” Lander Catholic Homeschool. Teacher: Mallory Hayes.

**WSHS Clara Jensen Award** to Rosalie Daval. “The Bones Wars…” Jackson Hole High School. Teacher: Jeff Brazil.


**Fred & Flossie Graves Homestead Award** to Bailey Fitzwater, Ian Engling. “Explore the Cowboys…” Wheatland Middle School. Teacher: Mary Jo Birt.

**Gerald and Jessie Chambers Award** to Li Platz. “George Stout’s Art Army…” Lander Middle School. Teacher: Gayla Hammer. Also to Nile Debebe. “Robert Openheimer…” Pinedale High School. Teacher: Rose Robertson.


**Wyoming State Bar Award** to Reisha Foertsch. “Seneca Falls…” Jackson Hole Middle School. Teacher: Gregory Poduska. Also to Sonya Carrizales. “Law Enforcement in Railroad Towns…” Jackson Hole High School. Teacher: Jeff Brazil.
Liz Byrd Cultural Diversity Award (sponsored by the AHC) to Natalie Iacovetto, Danielle Brow. “The Game That changed Basketball Forever…” Wheatland Middle School. Teacher: Mary Jo Birt.

Roger Williams International History Award sponsored by UW History Department to Atalie Thatch. “An Unfinished Story…” Lander Middle School. Teacher: Gayla Hammer.

WSHS William Barton Award to Rachael Harrower, Grace Walker. “Women’s Suffrage…” Jackson Hole Middle School. Teacher: David Wells.

UW American Indian Studies Award to Lily Brazil. “Controlling Cultural Change…” Jackson Hole High School. Teacher: Jeff Brazil.


UW History Dept. Award to Briley James. “Engaging We The People…” Wheatland High School. Teacher: Mary Jo Birt.

UW Gender and Women’s Studies Award to Anna Brown, Megan Dufalt. “Nancy Wake….” Jackson Hole Middle School. Teacher: David Wells.

Wyoming State Museum Volunteers Award to Sophie Delahaye, Heather Budge. “Into the Abyss…” Jackson Hole Middle School. Teacher: Greg Poduska. Also to Shoshana Sangros, Ashley Brimeyer. “The Fall of the Wind River Reservation…” Jackson Hole High School. Teacher: Jeff Brazil.


Taco John’s International Scholarship Award ($3,000) to Lotta Melin, Noah Kaufmann, Kanher Christopherson, Denise van der Mass. “Werhner VonBraun…” Kelly Walsh High school. Teacher: Sally O’Brien.

On the book shelf....

Congratulations to WSHS member Alethea Williams upon the publication of a new western historical novel titled Naapiikoan Winter. The book is partially based on the writings of Canadian explorer and mapmaker David Thompson, and follows an abducted New Mexican woman and a Hudson's Bay trader living among the Blackfoot Confederacy at the close of the eighteenth century. Soon to be available in paperback, the book is now available on Kindle at http://www.amazon.com/Naapiikoan-Winter-Alethea-Williams-ebook/dp/B01EIQNCMO. Alethea is the author of Willow Vale, a 2012 WSHS Publications Award winner, and Walls for the Wind, soon to be re-released under her own imprint. Congratulations also to her daughter, WSHS member and director of the Sweetwater County Historical Museum, Brígida Blasi, for designing the cover.

In other book news, well-known author and WSHS member Denice Wheeler has just published “Fascinating Stories from Wyoming, Utah and Idaho.” The book contains one of a kind historical, biographical and news stories from the 1970s with updates to 2016. Some of the topics include photographs (never before published) and historical information about the Basque, old cemeteries, trains, and much more. Denice reports in depth on the Vehar murders in Wyoming, the John Singer murder in Utah, and a variety of interesting stories about Idaho. There are also new places for you to explore and discuss with family and friends. To order copies please contact Denice at 307-789-3655 or dwheeler@allwest.net. She will gladly make present programs for chapters and other interested organizations around the state.

Editor’s Note: Awards chair Jessica Clark reports that nominations are arriving daily. The Awards Committee reviews all nominations and recipients are announced at the Society’s annual meeting in September. Letters will be sent to nominees the latter part of July letting you know if your nomination was accepted for an award. We hope you will make every attempt to join us in Buffalo for the awards ceremony on Saturday, September 9th.

The Award Committee is Jessica Clark, Chair, Rock Springs; Ruth Lauritzen, Green River; Jane Gebhart, Gillette; and Cindy Brown, Cheyenne.
2016 Recipients of Homsher Research Grants Announced

Sylvia Bruner, chair of the Society’s Homsher Committee, announces that out of ten applications, four have been awarded for a total of $5,000.00. They are:

- Mary Murphy of Bozeman, Montana for “Gender, Culture and the Politics of Food on the Northern Borderlands of North America 1960-1940. Mary received $1,500.00.
- Danny Walker of Laramie for “Battle of Red Buttes and Military Records of Involved 11th Kansas Cavalry Soldiers. Danny received $1,472.00.

Sylvia noted that the applications were all good, and the committee was disappointed not to be able to fully fund each and every one. “We are trying to develop the process so that every applicant understands the criteria when applying for the funds. Additionally, she noted, funds for this particular project are far below what we would like to see in the future. Recipients who are not already members of the Society also receive a one-year complimentary membership, and are required to file a final report.

Members of the committee, including Sylvia, are Patty Kessler, Laramie; Tina Hill, Rawlins; and George Damone, Buffalo.

Plans are underway for a national commemoration of World War One. The Wyoming Veterans Museum has initiated efforts to organize a series of events, exhibits and lectures to commemorate the role and participation of Wyoming in WWI. The museum (in Casper) is already planning a major exhibit in its Kading Gallery that will open on April 6, 2017. In addition the museum will be presenting a joint exhibit featuring the WWI Soldier Artwork of George Ostrom, in conjunction with the Nicolaysen Art Museum that is scheduled to open in October, 2017. For details or to provide information about your relatives who may have served in WWI please contact WSHS member Doug Cubbison at douglas.cubbison@wyo.gov, or call him at 472-1857.
IN MEMORY...

WSHS/Crook County Historical Society member Peggy Symonds died suddenly at her home in Sundance on April 16th. Peggy was very active in 4-H, having served as a program associate for Crook County. Upon her retirement she joined the Inya Kara Homemakers and other civic organizations. Peggy was instrumental in rejuvenating the Crook County chapter, and served as secretary. Her love and enthusiasm for Crook County will be greatly missed.

Long-time member of the Laramie County Historical Society, Ted Hoy, died last September. He was a longtime businessman in Cheyenne, and a war veteran. Our condolences go out to his family.

WSHS/Platte County Historical Society member Dean Vaughn of Chugwater died on March 3rd. Dean was an active member of his community and served on several local and county boards. He was a lifetime member of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association, and a lifetime member of the NRA. Our condolences to his wife of 53 1/2 years, Ruth, and to his children and grandchildren.