



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

April 2012

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Heard on the Historical Trail



Lisa Hatchadoorian, curator at the Nicolaysen Art Museum in Casper, spoke recently at a meeting of the Goshen County Historical Society. Her program was based on artist Conrad Schwiering titled “Secrets From The Studio.” The chapter used the Society’s print “Autumn Magic” to kick off its annual fundraiser. Any chapter who would like more information about acquiring a print for such use can contact Society headquarters.

Goodbye and good luck to Kara Hahn who has taken a job with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office. Kara was instrumental in helping chapters and communities with their National Register nominations.

WSHS member Sue Castaneda was a featured presenter at the international oral history conference in Montreal, Canada. She spoke on the project that she and WSHS

(Continued on page 3)

Society Publishes “Elka” a true Native American family story by Reba Teran

“Elka” of the Wind River Indian Reservation is a true story experienced by WSHS member Reba Teran as she was growing up on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

The baby elk, adopted by the family, was the source of joy (and yes, at times annoying) for the Teran kids. Readers of all ages will delight in the exploits of Elka. The beautifully detailed and full color illustrations by artist Eileen Skibo add much to the text and brings a level of excitement and good cheer to the story.

At first glance some readers may see this simply as a children’s book but it is much more than that. The book draws upon the Shoshone tradition of the storyteller and every page includes some words and phrases in both the Shoshone and English languages, further enhanced by the Shoshone glossary. Aside from the fact that *ELKA* is a charming story that provides a window into life and childhood on the Wind River Indian Reservation in the 1960s, this story also represents

both a contribution to the preservation of Shoshone culture and the communication of some of its elements to modern audiences beyond the reservation. WSHS Publications Committee chair Russ Tanner said the story is an opportunity for all children to appreciate the values that we all



share. “Having this prized story in both English and Shoshone is a rare treat,” he added. “It will become a valuable outreach tool not only for the Society but for educators, librarians and others who want to learn more about the Shoshone traditions.”

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The Wyoming State Historical Society's vision is to insure that Wyoming's past remains accessible to present and future generations.

The Society's mission is to educate, support and foster the study of Wyoming history.

Visit www.wyshs.org

From the President. . .



Dear friends,

The Executive Committee of the Wyoming State Historical Society met a few weeks ago in Casper. I have good news to report concerning the upcoming trek in June and the annual meeting in September. Not having any invitations for the trek, we decided to ask the Laramie County Historical Society if they would be willing to serve as host. Fortunately, the chapter agreed to plan and host the trek the weekend of June 15-16. There are many sites to see in and around Cheyenne and I know the chapter will do a great job. We will enjoy behind the scene tours at the Wyoming State Museum, the Wyoming State Archives, and their collection holding facilities. I also understand that a tour of the FEWarren AFB might also be on the schedule. Mark your calendars now.

The board also happily accepted an invitation for the annual meeting from the Carbon County Historical Society. We will meet in Rawlins the weekend of September 21st. The event is on a different weekend this year due to their busy community schedule. We haven't had the pleasure of meeting in Rawlins since the 1990s as I recall, when the chapter hosted a trek. Our annual business meeting will be held then, and our always exciting

awards luncheon. We will have time to see some of the historic sites in the area. I always encourage everyone to visit the Frontier Prison and the state has completed some work on Fort Steele so that should be interesting as well.

As many of you know, 2013 is the 60th anniversary of the Wyoming State Historical Society. I am pleased to report we already have invitations for the trek and annual meeting next year. The trek will be in the Sundance area and the annual meeting in Jackson. I hope many of you will attend the treks and annual meetings this year and next.

Rick

The Society celebrates the recognition of board member **Tamsen Hert**. Tamsen is the recipient of the 2012 Agnes Milstead Distinguished Librarianship Award from the University of Wyoming Libraries. This prestigious award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the UW Libraries. Tamsen holds a BA in American History from Colorado State University and a Master of Library Science and MA in American History from Emporia State University in Kansas. Tamsen joined the Library Faculty in 1986 and has held several positions during her tenure. She is head of the Emmett D. Chisum Special Collections, a position she has held since 2009. Tamsen has been a member of the Society since 1988 and is a past president of the Albany County Historical Society, and serves on several committees. Tamsen will receive the award on April 9th.

(*Heard on the Trail continued from page 1*) member Mark Junge conducted on the 1986 Cokeville Elementary School bombing.

Efforts by members of the Society and the Douglas Historic Preservation Commission were successful in getting the legislature to authorize preservation of the Camp Douglas Officers Club. Congratulations!

The Greater Yellowstone Historical Society announces that WSHS/GYHS member Reba Teran is working on efforts to preserve the Shoshone language through funding from the chapter and other sources. The full story can be enjoyed at <http://wyofile.com> or editor@wyofile.com.

Congratulations to WSHS members Mark and Ardeth Junge's son Daniel for receiving an Oscar for "Saving Face," a documentary he co-produced with Sharmeen Obaid-Shinoy.

Laramie County Historical Society members recently enjoyed a talk by Ginny Kilander about the Casement Brothers—the men who built the Union Pacific Railroad. Ginny is an associate archivist at the American Heritage Center.

At a recent chapter meeting, WSHS/Sheridan County Chapter member Judy Slack discussed Ernest Hemingway's 1928 visit to the Big Horns. Judy is a research librarian at the Sheridan Fulmer Public Library.

WSHS member and author Don Hardy was reportedly seen out and about with Senator Al Simpson at a star-studded party in Washington, D.C. The event was held to celebrate Don's book "Shooting from the Lip: The Life of Senator Al Simpson." To buy the book vis-

it www.SenatorAlSimpson.com or contact the author at SimpsonBook@gmail.com.

WSHS president Rick Ewig, along with WSHS board member, Tamsen Hert, have teamed up to write an Arcadia book about the University of Wyoming. Congratulations to the pair of you!

The History of Tourism in Wyoming was the topic of a talk at the Albany County Historical Society's annual meeting. WSHS president Rick Ewig and Alan Dubberley from the Wyoming Office of Tourism discussed how Wyoming has been presented as a destination for tourists from the turn-of-the-century into modern times.

WSHS member Lokey Lytjen, director of the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum, will be leaving her post of sixteen years for new horizons. The JHSM shares their appreciation of Lokey for all she has accomplished in keeping the history of the Jackson area alive.

The Alliance for Historic Wyoming is hosting their next *Unbarred* open house at the Officer's Club House in Douglas (115 S. Riverbend Dr) on Saturday, April 14 from 2-4. The building is the last remaining structure from Camp Douglas, a POW camp that held Italian and German prisoners during WWII. The interior of the building boasts some wonderful murals which were painted by the Italian POWs. During the last legislative session the building was acquired as a new State Historic Site, and this is the second to last event before it is mothballed to await renovation. AHW members get in free; there is a suggested donation of \$10 for nonmembers (\$15 for families). Contact Hilery Lindmier at ExecDirector@historicwyoming.org or call 307-333-3508 for details.



The Exchange

Anyone interested in purchasing two double railroad passenger benches can contact the Laramie Railroad Depot Association at ostresh@uwyo.edu. The circa 1924 benches were used in the Laramie Depot.

Would you be interested in possibly receiving Wyoming History News via e-mail rather than hard copy? If so please contact the editor at linda@dancewyoming.com.

Chapters interested in fundraising are invited to purchase the Society's book "Wyoming: A Pictorial History" for only \$10.00 each. These can be used as raffles, gifts, resale, or however the chapter chooses. Several chapters have already availed themselves of the offer. For details contact Society headquarters. Vendors can also purchase the book at a reduced rate.

The Buffalo Bill Historical Center is sponsoring a "Scots in the American West Program" April 21-22. To find out more go to <http://www.bbhc.org/learn/symposia-and-seminars/>. It sounds like a wonderful celebration in honor of spring.

Educators...you are invited to participate in a survey regarding Wyoming History Day. Hosted by the Wyoming State Archives and Wyoming History Day, the survey is to determine how we can better assist you and your students. To participate go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5CX9FCC>.

Note: All Wyoming phone numbers have the 307 area code.

Wyoming History CALENDAR

- April 11**—Deadline to apply for travel stipend to annual Preserve Wyoming Conference.
- April 13**—Cheyenne. National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon. Call 406-581-1154 for details.
- April 16**—Laramie. Wyoming History Day state level contest.
- April 21-22**—Cody. The BBHC will host a “Scots in the American West” program. For details call 587-2963.
- April 24**—Douglas. Open house at Officers Club, Douglas POW Camp. Call 333-3508 for details.
- April 27**—Early Bird Registration for Preserve Wyoming Conference.
- April 28**—Cheyenne. The Wyoming State Archives is hosting a FREE genealogy workshop. Reservations must be made in advance by calling 777-7826.
- April 30**—Deadline for WSHS Awards. View manual at www.wyshs.org or contact judy@musgravemt.com.
- May 10-13**—Dubois. CWAM Annual Meeting. Call Nathan Doer for details at 675-1150.
- May 17-19**—Preserve Wyoming Conference, Pinedale, Wyoming.
- June 15-17**—Cheyenne. WSHS Annual Trek hosted by the Laramie County Historical Society. Watch for details.

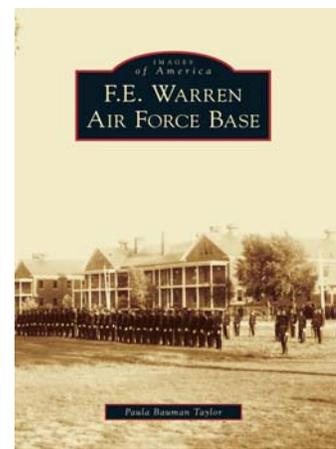
Wyoming History News welcomes information about events of interest to the general membership and others. Information should be sent at least a month in advance and should reach the WHN editor by the 15th.
Send items to Editor, Wyoming History News, P. O. Box 247, Wheatland, WY 82201.



Ashley Rooney is leaving the Division of Cultural Resources at the Wyoming Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources for a position in State Parks. For the past four years Ashley has been the department’s liaison with the Society. Many of you have had the opportunity to meet Ashley as she traveled around the state sharing information about departmental programs. She has been a wonderful resource and will be sorely missed. She will, however, stay active in the Society and as a member of both the Oral History and Website Committees. She has also been active in Wyoming History Day.

In her new position she will be the Youth Ambassador for Wyoming, working to develop and implement programs in Wyoming’s state parks and historic sites. Her job will be to assist the division in helping families and children learn more about and enjoy the outdoors. Existing examples of these types of programs are the Ice Festival held in Cheyenne and the Summer Outdoor Slam! Held in Curt Gowdy State Park.

Ashley expressed her appreciation to everyone she has worked with. She said, “I’ve had a lot of fun working with the chapters and the WSHS.” Congratulations, Ashley and thank you for all your work with the Wyoming State Historical Society and its chapters.



WSHS member Arcadia Publishing announces the release of “*F.E. Warren Air Force Base*,” by Paula Baumann Taylor. The book is the latest in the publishing company’s series “Images of America,” featuring Wyoming towns and places.

The book utilizes historical photographs from when the base was originally established in 1867 as Fort D.A. Russell to describe its history.

Paula is a 5th generation Wyomingite and, for the past twenty years, has been the museum director at the Warren ICBM & Heritage Museum located on the base. The book is available at local bookstores or www.arcadiapublishing.com.

If history were taught in the form of stories, it would never be forgotten.

-Rudyard Kipling

(Elka continued from page 1)

Other members of the Society's Publications' committee, Charlene Busk, Dr. Phil Roberts and Dr. Michael Cassity, agree. As a past WSHS president, Dr. Cassity said the book's publication "is an important achievement for the Society as it seeks to encourage and deepens our understanding of all the people of Wyoming."

The author said that Elka made the spring, summer and fall of 1964 a memorable one for their family. She said, "When we talk of her today we say she made us the fastest Indian kids on the reservation by being our own athletic personal trainer!" "All in all," she added, "life with Elka was an experience we have never forgotten." The book is dedicated to Reba's mother, Martha Wesaw Teran, who was killed by a drunk driver on Christmas Eve, 1964.

Reba was born and raised on the Wind River Indian Reservation where she grew up with several brothers and sisters. Growing up she led a carefree, happy life playing in pastures and swimming in the nearby rivers. She attended Utah State University receiving a bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation, and a Master's degree in instructional technology. As a member of the Eastern Shoshone tribe her passion is to save the Shoshone Language, something she has been working on for many years. Reba is active in the Native American community and has participated with the Wyoming Art Council's Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Project. She is a language presenter for various conferences and seminars, and actively participates in giving cultural presentations. Reba's Indian name is Woen-goezy-v (Shoshone) or Sky-ky (Lushootseed) which means Blue Jay.

The charming illustrations are by artist Eileen

Skibo, formerly of Cheyenne and now living in Greeley, Colorado. Eileen's work can be found in numerous museum exhibits around the state including murals for the children's "Hands On Room" at the Wyoming State Museum in Cheyenne, and at various historic sites.

"ELKA" retails for \$8.95 plus appropriate sales tax and shipping. Vendors are also invited to purchase the book for resale. Any media outlets interested in interviewing the author and/or the illustrator should contact Society headquarters at 307-322-4237 or linda@dancewyoming.com.

A True Native American Family Story
ELKA
of the Wind River Indian Reservation



With words and phrases in the Shoshone Language



Reba trying to pet Elka



They tied a bell around Elka's neck as a warning to the children that she was coming!

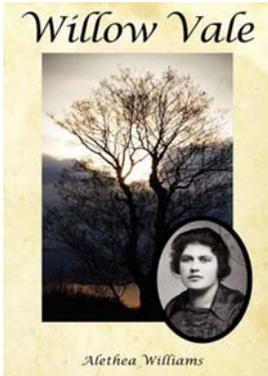
CHEYENNE TO BE FEATURED SITE OF 2012 TREK

Special thanks to the Laramie County Historical Society for their willingness to host the 2012 annual Trek, in cooperation with the Wyoming Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources. The Trek will be held the week-end of June 15th in Cheyenne, Wyoming's State Capitol. More details will be coming soon but in the meantime please note the date and that the historic Plains Hotel will be our host hotel.

A block of rooms have been booked and will be held only until May 15th. To make your hotel arrangements (\$77.00/night) please call 307-638-3311 no later than May 15th.



There will be behind the scenes tours of the Wyoming State Museum, Wyoming State Archives and the department's collection facility. Tours are also being planned for Francis E. Warren AFB and the Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum. Many more exciting details will be added and released very soon. Mark the week-end of June 15th on your calendar and don't miss this rare opportunity to enjoy Cheyenne like you've never done before! Registration fees will include all tours, meals and entertainment.



Wyoming native and WSHS member Chris Williams (writing as Alethea) shares her new books. *Willow Vale* is a story about Francesca Sittoni whose husband brought her to a Wyoming coal mining town against her will. Soon she finds herself alone, pregnant and with a small daughter to support. From there her adventures begin.

Boomer Blues is a self-published Kindle-only release of a compilation of Chris' newspaper columns from the Green River Star.

Boomer Blues Book
Staying Alive and Safe in the Modern
American West

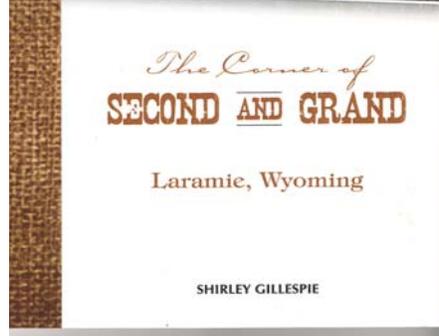


Alethea Williams

Willow Vale is available at the publisher www.jargon-media.com, Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Also at the Sweetwater County Museum and Book & Bean in Green River.

Photo of the Capitol courtesy of Richard Collier, Wyoming SPCR

The Corner of Second and Grand by WSHS member Shirley Gillespie is about her great grandparents who owned a store located at the corner of Second and Grand. Back in the day it was a dry goods store called "The Leader." Today it is the location of The Cross Country Connection." Volume One is pictured here with Volume Two in the works. The book offers a glimpse into Laramie's early history. To purchase contact Shirley at meinaz@aol.com or find it at Has-



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(Note: Asterisk * denotes formerly At Large Member)

At Large

Candy Moulton, Encampment
Jeffrey Cunningham, Orting, WA
Adelle Barrette, Lodi, CA
Constance King, Lander, WY

Sweetwater County Historical Society

Amy Provstgaard, Rock Springs

Weston County Historical Society

Anthony Wilkening, Newcastle

Campbell County Historical Society

Micky Schober, Gillette
Clif Ritchie, Gillette
Jolene and Steve Sorenson, Gillette
Donna Burch Ricks, Moorcroft

Fort Bridger Historical Association

Beverly Grange, Lyman

Greater Yellowstone Historical Society

Bob and Gay Baker, Dubois
Grant and Linda Bulltail, Crow Agency, MT

Michael Dean, Philadelphia, PA
Leota Didier and Tom Voll, Boulder, CO

Daniel and Julie Eakin, Laramie
Chris Finley, Lovell
Julie Francis, Laramie
Dr. Edit Martin, Dubois
Dr. Richard Stepp, Arcata, CA

Natrona County Historical Society

Dorothy Oakes, Casper

Park County Historical Society

Kathleen Holtzer, Meeteetse

Thank you for donating to the
WSHS-Wyoming Historical Foundation
Endowment

Elnora Frye, Laramie
John and Kathleen Finch, Kinnear

*To contribute to the long-term endowment please
send your contribution to Lucille Dumbrill,
Treasurer, Wyoming Historical Foundation,
203 Grandview Drive, Newcastle, WY 82701*

ALERT — There seems to be a growing number of members who are receiving their mail at a P.O. box. Unfortunately the post office does not forward mail from a street address to a post office box, nor do they share the new address. They just send materials back with a note “Not Deliverable As Addressed.” So please, let the Society headquarters know of your address change as soon as possible by calling 307-322-4237 or via e-mail to linda@dancewyoming.com.

*Sorry...
to those of you who have not responded
to a renewal notice sent in February.
This will be your last issue .*

IN MEMORY

Condolences to the family of **Gerry Banks** of Sheridan (formerly Douglas) who died February 17th. Gerry was a past president of the Converse County Historical Society and member of the Sheridan County chapter. Gerry grew up in Frannie, Wyoming and later served his country by enlisting in the Army and was deployed to Vietnam. He is survived by his wife, Cathy, two children, a brother and a sister.

Former WSHS/Sheridan County Historical Society member **Fay Symons** died on February 18th. Fay believed in community service and lived by the mantra "we exist temporarily through what we take, but we live forever through what we give." She is survived by her husband, Edgar, and several children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

WSHS/Platte County Historical Society member **Robert Mills Grant**, a former five-term legislator, lifelong resident of Wheatland and rancher, died

March 1. Bob grew up riding horses and loving the outdoors. He was very proud to own and operate the family ranch that had been established in 1884, making it one of the oldest, continuous operations in the state. Several years ago Bob hosted the Platte County Historical Society's annual ranch tour, and his pride was obvious. Recently the ranch was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Bob is survived by his companion, Carol Barnett, children Susan, Mike, Matt (and their wives), grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Editor's Note: So many times membership in the Wyoming Historical Society and/or its chapters is not mentioned in people's obituaries. Please let your family know about your membership and involvement in your local chapters. Also, if you know of a member who has died and they have not been recognized in the newsletter, please let me know at linda@dancewyoming.com. Thank you everyone.

Linda



Wyoming State Historical Society
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**Trek to Historic Cheyenne weekend of June 15th.
Make room reservations NOW. See page 6 for details.**

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