



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

March 2022

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Heard on the Historical Trail



Chapters, please remember to email linda@wyshs.org when your officers change. It's difficult to keep the website and other lists current without knowing.

Three seats on the WSHS Executive Committee will be up in September. Interested in running? Email linda@wyshs.org for details.

Mark your calendars now to attend the 2022 Trek hosted by the **Fremont County Historical Society** the weekend of June 10th. The chapter is planning wonderful things for us, including tours that include the National Military Vehicles Museum in Dubois. Accommodations are listed on page five, and the registration form is inside.

A shout out to WSHS members to the south, **Pat and Robert Cozat** of Louisville, CO. They recently sent in their renewal, along with a change of address resulting from losing their home in the Marshall Fire. Our thoughts go out to them.

County Health Officers vs COVID 19

Everyone was impacted when COVID hit in 2019 but, in many cases, it was County Health Officers who felt the brunt of what was happening, including our own WSHS past president, **Dr. Mike Jording**, former County Health Officer for Weston County.

Mike began collecting documentation and newspaper articles about the pandemic, and at the same time WSHS member **Dr. Rob Monger** in Cheyenne had been thinking about conducting interviews with Wyoming physicians in general.

Both Dr. Jording and Dr. Monger are past presidents of the Wyoming Medical Society, and the two of them began working together and discussed their ideas with the WSHS's Executive Committee, from which they received wholehearted support.

The project is a collaborative effort between the WSHS, the Wyoming Medical Society, the Wyoming State Archives, and the American Heritage Center in Laramie. To date they have completed twelve interviews with County Health Officers and have several more scheduled.

One goal of the project is to make the interviews available to

the public on the Society's website, and YouTube. Dr. Monger said, "The physicians we've contacted have been more than willing to be interviewed and to share their experiences about the profound effect COVID has taken on their communities and how it's impacted them personally."

Each of Wyoming's 23 counties has its own local physician who acts as the County Health Officer, and Health Officers are empowered to make certain decisions about issues like mask mandates, bar and restaurant restrictions, etc. They are also often the face of public health in their communities and frequently provide testimony in public forums such as school board meetings. "Some of the Health Officers have pretty remarkable stories about pushback that they've received from the public, including being shouted off stages and receiving death threats," said Dr. Monger, "and many of them have interesting reflections about what they did right during the pandemic and what they may have done differently knowing what they know now, which may be helpful for future public health officers."

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**From the
President. . .**

You may remember me announcing in a past column that the Society is creating a channel of online programming for use by chapters. Wyoming's winter and spring months can make it difficult to hold in-person meetings. Not to mention continuing COVID-19 concerns. I'm excited to report that we're gaining more online programming all the time. Many thanks to **Mike Jording** and the **Weston County Historical Society** for their help in recording presentations for use by WSHS. And to **Tom Rea** of WyoHistory.org for alerting us to interesting programming. If your chapter is hosting an online program, please let us know. Linda and I can work with you to announce it to other Society members so they can tune in, and also to record it for inclusion on the WSHS channel.

Speaking of online programming, Linda, WSHS member **Janelle Molony** of Phoenix, and I are working on an interview series we're titling "Women of Wyoming, Then and Now." Using Zoom as well as in-person interviews, we're gathering the stories of our state's remarkable women, both living and historical, in 20-minute features that will be added to the Society's YouTube channel. We hope to encourage new generations of inquisitive women to take part in exploration and preservation of their own history. A final collection of at least 20 videos is anticipated. Do you have an idea for interview? If so,

let me or Linda know!

We're also gathering content for a resources link on the Society's website to provide useful information to chapters such as guidelines for chapter operations, ideas for programming, information on granting agencies, a speakers list, and more. If you have a presentation you'd like to provide to your fellow Society members, whether it be in-person, through Zoom, or both, let Linda know so we can add you to the list.

We expect the online programming link and chapter resources to go live once the Society's website has gone through a refit. Webmaster **Steve Foster** is updating the site from Drupal 8 to Drupal 9. This update supplies a great opportunity to make some advantageous changes to the site.

The ideas about online programming and chapter resources have largely come from those of you who have participated in the Society's quarterly virtual get-togethers. Our next get-together is Saturday, March 19, at 10 am. Linda will be sending out information. Please join in and keep the ideas coming!

Finally, I'd like to say that we're about to see some valuable members of the Executive Committee rotate off. Elections for officers will happen in August. It's not too early to consider putting your hat in the ring. It's a great time to be part of the committee and help guide the Society into the future. If you're interested in participating on the upcoming ballot, contact Linda for more information.

Happy spring to you, dear friends. Snow may be falling, and the wind may be blowing, but spring is in the air.

Leslie

(Continued from page 1)

Members of the **Hot Springs County Historical Society** recently enjoyed a program titled “A Bridger Mystery: The Elopement of Ferdig and Sickafoose,” a couple who disappeared into thin air.

WSHS/Platte County Historical Society member **Gail Thompson** presented “The Long Journey to Halleck Creek” in January. Her program talked about the history of that area and the Flying X Ranch west of Wheatland.

On March 20th at the Lyman Branch Library the **Fort Bridger Historical Association** will host the 27th annual birthday celebration of Jim Bridger. **Dr. Dudley Gardner** will present “The Native American History of SW Wyoming from Prehistoric Times to Present.” For details call 307-782-6342.

WSHS member and Wyoming State Archivist, **Sara Davis**, announces that the Archives has been awarded a one-year grant from the Natl. Historical Publications & Records Commission to create a traveling archivist program. This joint project with the American Heritage Center and SHRAB

(State Historical Records Advisory Board)

will allow for the hiring of an archivist to create a directory of smaller

archival institutions in Wyoming, and facilitate networking between archives and manuscript custodians in the State. It is anticipated



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& RECORDS COMMISSION

that the position will be hired by July 1. For more details contact Sara by phone at 307-777-8691, or sara.davis@wyo.gov.

WSHS member **Korina Ike**, director of the Hulett Museum and Art Gallery, is interested in creating a digital community on Slack where small museums can connect in real-time, pose questions about the museum/history field, and share information and resources. Korina entered the field last May, and says she quickly learned that Wyoming has a rich network full of people willing to help out colleagues with any type of project imaginable. Having a virtual group could provide benefits for everyone interested in preserving and sharing the history of Wyoming. If you have any questions or want to participate, call Korina at 307-467-5292 or hulettmuseum@rtconnect.net.

Wyoming History Day is fast approaching, and staff is beginning the judge recruitment process. They are reaching out to Veteran Judges first to see if any are interested in judging the **State Competition** once again. This year's contest will be fully in-person (always with the possibility of needing to shift to a virtual format due to COVID-19 restrictions), so if you can make it to the contest on **April 25th**, between 8am and 2pm, with the awards ceremony to take place at 3:30pm in Laramie please email wyoinghistoryday@gmail.com.

The 50th Annual Meeting of the Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums will be held the weekend of April 27th in Colorado Springs. This year's theme will be “Reflection and Reinvention.” For details follow CWAM on Facebook or visit

www.cwam.org.

You can follow WSHS member **Tempe Javitz** on her blog by visiting her page at tempejavitz.com/blog/preserving-family-history. There you can also subscribe to her writings.

WSHS member and popular program presenter, **Rick Ewig**, will give a talk about Horace Lovett at the Wyoming State Museum on April 14th. Horace derailed a train outside of Rawlins in 1934 hoping everyone would die as a result and he could rob them! No one died so his robbery attempt failed. Call 307-777-7022 for details.

Congratulations to WSHS/Albany County Historical Society member **Dicksie May** on being nominated as one of Laramie's Unsung Heroes. She received the award for her undying efforts to research the ranches of Albany County — more than 50 boxes of documents, hundreds of maps, and an index with more than 3,000 names! Dicksie loves Wyoming history and can be found on Facebook where she loves to share items of historical interest.

Also to **Martin Lammers**, president of the Fort Bridger Historical Association, for his article “A Point in Time,” recently featured in the *Bridger Bugler*. The article talks about T.H. Jefferson, a map-maker who began his trip West to California in 1846.

The **Natrona County Historical Society** will host Al Fraser on March 24th. Al will talk about “Mysterious Vernon Wyoming.” To find out more please email robinlbroumley@gmail.com.

Wyoming History Calendar

Through March—Laramie The Wyoming History in Art Exhibit is on display at the American Heritage Center.

March 20—Fort Bridger The 27th Jim Bridger Birthday Celebration, at the Lyman Branch Library. FREE. 7 p.m.

March 24-Sunrise “Stories of Workers at Sunrise,” 6 p.m.. Email ggzzk@embarqmail.com for details.

March 24-Casper Natrona County Historical Society will present a program about Vernon, Wyoming. Email robinlbroumley@gmail.com.

April 14-Cheyenne Horace Lovett, Failed at Robbing Trains by Rick Ewig, WyoState Museum. Call 307-777-7022.

April 28-Casper Natrona County Historical Society annual banquet. Email robinlbroumley@gmail.com.

April 25– Laramie Wyoming History Day state competition. Email thopkin9@uwyo.edu for details.

April 27-Colorado Springs Annual Meeting of the Colorado/Wyoming Association of Museums.

Through May-Laramie Yellowstone National Park Poster Exhibit, UW Coe Library.

June 10-Fremont County Annual Historical Society Trek. Watch for details.

June 24-25—Douglas Fort Fetterman Days. For more details contact heidih2202@yahoo.com.

Future Trek Dates:

- 2023 Star Valley Historical Society, June.
- 2024 How about your chapter?

Future Annual Meeting Dates:

- 2022 South Lincoln County Historical Society (Kemmerer), September 9-11.

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 linda@wyshs.org

Yellowstone Poster Exhibit at UW’s Coe Library

A first-of-its-kind poster exhibit focusing on the history of Yellowstone National Park is on display at the University of Wyoming’s Coe Library through May. “Wonderland Illustrated” will present posters and poster-style illustrations of the park spanning from the 1870s through 2022. The exhibit is on Level 3 of Coe Library in the hall outside of UW Libraries’ Emmett D. Chisum Special Collections, and coincides with this year’s 150th anniversary of the creation of Yellowstone National Park. The posters serve the purpose of both advertising and art.

“We’re thrilled to be working with Yellowstone collectors Jack and Susan Davis, and Larry and Thea Lancaster to bring this exhibit to the University of Wyoming as part of yearlong celebrations recognizing Yellowstone’s sesquicentennial,” says WSHS member **Tamsen Hert**, head of UW Libraries’ Emmett D. Chisum Special Collections. “The exhibit spans over 16 decades of art, photography and advertising. The images have been used on travel brochures, postcards and maps -- many of which are held in our collections.”

One poster from the exhibit -- Henry Wellge’s “Yellowstone National Park” from 1904 -- was recently purchased with endowment funds and is now part of UW Libraries’ Emmett D. Chisum Special Collections.

Wellge, a bird’s-eye-view artist, designed the

piece for the Northern Pacific Railroad, which used it to advertise the park.

UW Libraries is also collaborating with Montana State University (MSU) Library to host “*Conversations on Collecting Yellowstone*” June 5-8 at MSU. The conference will focus on collecting, preserving and using materials that document the history of Yellowstone National Park. To find out more visit www.collectingyellowstone.com. For information about the exhibit, call Hert at (307) 766-6245 or email thert@uwyo.edu.



2022 Awards Program

The Society seeks nominations of individuals and organizations that have done outstanding work in preserving and interpreting Wyoming history in 2021. With a deadline of April 30, 2022, it is not too early for county chapters, individuals and Society members to think about submitting nominations.

The awards are divided into seven main category groups and include Publication Awards, Audio and/or Video Documentary Awards, Fine Arts Award, Youth Awards, Special Awards (such as Outstanding Wyoming Teacher of the Year), Memorial Awards, and Preservation Awards. Possible nominees include young historians, maybe someone who has restored old photographs or documents, written books significant to Wyoming history, maybe someone who restored a historic wagon, social media and many more. Jane Gebhart, chair of the Society's awards program, said "This is an opportunity to recognize the efforts of individuals or organizations in promoting Wyoming's rich legacy." She added, "The best way to get started is to review the 2022 Awards Manual and think about those people or organizations in your community that might qualify and deserve recognition."

For specific information about each category please review the Awards Manual at www.wyshs.org or e-mail linda@wyshs.org to receive a hard copy. Most nominations can be received by the committee hard copy, but the exception is that the two preservation awards must be submitted electronically. Any person or organization that has worked to preserve Wyoming's legacy can be nominated.

2022 TREK ACCOMMODATIONS—BOOK NOW FOR THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 10TH

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Pronghorn Lodge
50 Rooms Blocked until 05/10/2022
\$140.61 per night
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Lander, WY 82520
307-332-3940

Shoshone Rose Casino & Hotel
20 Rooms Blocked until 05/10/2022
\$132 per night
5690 HWY 287
Lander, WY 82520
307-206-7000

Travel Lodge
The Inn at Lander
260 Grand View
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-2847

Holiday Lodge
Motel and RV Site
\$95 per night motel
210 McFarlane DR
Lander, WY 82520
307-335-5166

Holiday Inn Express
1002 11th ST
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-4005

Sleeping Bear RV Park
715 E Main ST
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-5159

Twin Pines RV Park
7345 State Highway 789
Lander, WY 82520
800-986-4008

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

At Large

Leslie Noyes, Golden, CO
Michael Melvin, Buffalo Creek, CO
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Frances Naler, Cheyenne

Park County Historical Society
Charles and Lee Ann Ruyle, Powell
Robert Heitzman, Cody
Mark and Valerie Harvey, Cody

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In Memory Of...

Dorothy Richardson, a member of the Laramie County Historical Society, died on November 11th in Cheyenne at the age of 99. Fondly known as “The Lady in Red,” many will remember her as a welcome figure during the Cheyenne Frontier Days parades on her white horse. Dorothy was an active volunteer at the Wyoming State Museum and the Historic Governors’ Mansion, and relished in her Scottish heritage, a gift she happily shared with others.

Jerry Hansen, a member of the Albany County Historical Society, died on November 19th at the age of 83. Jerry is fondly remembered as “Mr. Laramie History,” by friends and family. He loved the UPRR and co-authored a book titled “Laramie Railroads,” loved giving tours, and hated to see buildings torn down.

Col. (Ret.) John Cornelison, a member of the Laramie County Historical Society, died on December 5th at the age of 82. After the Army he worked for the Denver Post and UPI. Later he was the public affairs officer for the Wyoming Military Dept., commander of the 197th PA Detachment, and retired as a colonel in 1994. He loved military history and was an active volunteer in many organizations.

Marie Henthorn, a member of the Natrona County Historical Society, died in Casper on December 23rd at the age of 94. Marie was raised in Lusk and enjoyed growing up on the family farm. She and her husband met in 1947 while she was working as a waitress at the Northside Café. They were married four months later!

Charlotte Babcock died in Casper on December 30th at the age of 92. Charlotte earned a degree in journalism, and was an accomplished pianist. She and her husband met on a double date and later eloped; they were married for 52 years. Charlotte was a prolific writer and a member of WyoPoets and Wyoming Writers. Her work received several awards from the Society.

Chip Carlson died in Cheyenne on January 4th at the age of 84. Chip was a historian, author, and valued speaker. He devoted twenty years to investigating and documenting the life of Tom Horn. His books about Tom Horn won him many awards, including from the Wyoming State Historical Society. Chip was a long-time volunteer for Cheyenne Frontier Days serving on the Concessions Committee, and at the CFD Old West Museum.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU DONORS

(Continued from page 6)

Platte County Historical Society

Jim Lockwood, Wheatland
Gwen and Slick Seidel, Wheatland

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Linda Fabian, Wheatland *in memory of Dorothy Richardson, Chip Carlson and John Cornelison*
Col.. Frank Bertagnolli, Ret., Kerryville, TX
In memory of his beloved wife, Frances

Homsher Research Grant

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Wyoming History Day

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Cheryl O'Brien, Dubois
Lucas Fralick, Gillette
Lance McNeas, North Salt Lake City, UT
Ruth Vaughn, Chugwater
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it's tourist season! Reference the Fremont
County Historical Society. Register early and
save \$\$\$ - registration form enclosed.***

(Continued from page 1— County Health Officers)

WSHS President **Leslie Waggener** applauds the project saying, “Over the last two years the American Heritage Center and the Wyoming State Archives collaborated in gathering information about COVID from the view of the general citizenry. This element of the project is critical to the overall impact of COVID and the pandemic experience in Wyoming. We owe special thanks to Cindy, chair of the Society’s Oral History Committee for her help in guiding Drs. Monger and Jording throughout the process.”



Dr. Mike Jording, WSHS Past President and practicing physician in Newcastle, was instrumental in developing oral histories of County Health Officers for this project. He graduated from Creighton University School of Medicine in 1980. WSHS member **Dr. Rob Monger** is a practicing physician in Cheyenne, and graduated from the University of Utah Medical School in 1992. Both Mike and Rob are past presidents of the Wyoming Medical Society; that, along with their mutual interest in Wyoming history, made the perfect combination for this valuable project that will add to the state’s overall experience with the COVID pandemic.

(Photos provided courtesy of the Internet)

