Congratulations to WSHS member Bruce Richardson of Casper was recently recognized by National Assembly of State Arts Agencies as the recipient of the 2016 Distinguished Public Service Award. Bruce is an enthusiastic and steadfast advocate of the arts in Wyoming. His leadership significantly impacts public support for the arts, and he has often been called “Wyoming’s arts ambassador!”

The Rockpile Museum invites you to participate in a day-long field trip to visit the LX Bar Ranch on the Power River in northwest Campbell County on September 11th. The trip is free but pre-registration is required by calling 682-5723.

The Alliance for Historic Wyoming will host a preservation workshop at Spear-O Mountain in Sheridan on September 17th. The historic log buildings located at Spear-O Mountain will become an outdoor learning laboratory on renovating and preserving log structures.

(continued on page 3)

Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

2017 Calendar of Wyoming History

Historical photographs from the collections of the American Heritage Center are once again featured in the Society’s annual Calendar of Wyoming History. Each image is a visual reminder of how families and communities lived and worked in the early days. A fascinating “this day in history” tidbit is included on every day of the year. For instance, on September 3, 1931 a jury found a Gillette man not guilty of unlawful hypnosis. Another favorite is from the Torrington newspaper stating “person seeking a visit to Alcatraz robbed Torrington Post Office (1942).

Published since the early 80s, the calendars have become very popular and are a favorite fundraiser for chapters, and a profitable product to sell in local bookstores and gift shops.

Chapters and retailers can contact Society headquarters at 322-3014 or via email to lin@wyshs.org to find out about pricing.

This undated photograph of the Lovell High School Band, was taken by Hugh Janssen. If anyone recognizes these young musicians please let us know.

Heard on the Historical Trail

WSHS past president, David Kathka, was recently recognized by the Wyoming Community Foundation for his longtime commitment to the nonprofit community. The annual Spirit of Philanthropy Award honors an individual who has made an extraordinary personal commitment to preserving and enhancing the quality of life for Wyoming citizens.

In addition to being recognized for his generous spirit, Dave received a commemorative plaque and a $5,000 cash award which he immediately donated to Wyoming History Day. Dave is responsible for bringing the National History Day competition to Wyoming in 1979, and was the first State History Day Coordinator. Since then his dedication to students has never ceased.

Dave has always had a passion for giving back to his statewide community. Over the years he has volunteered both time and money to charitable organizations and community projects, many related to the deep fondness he holds for Wyoming history. He has served the citizens of Wyoming in the classroom, as director of a major state agency, and as a volunteer board member on countless boards.

A member for many years, Dave served as president of the Society in 1985. He currently holds a seat on the Society’s foundation board of directors, and on the Management & Oversight Committee. Dave is a consummate teacher, whether in the college classroom or in the office. He willingly shares his knowledge in such a way that learning becomes fun. Dave is the Society’s “go-to” guy, and never once denies us the opportunity to learn and grow.

WSHS members Rick Ewig, Kristi Wallin and Charlene Busk also attended the awards ceremony to help Dave celebrate. Dave, shown below with his wife Linda, is the seventh recipient of the Wyoming Community Foundation’s Spirit of Philanthropy Award.
From the President...

Greetings! September.

It seems as though I was just writing about the wonderful number of opportunities before us as summer approached and here we are at September already! I hope you have all been able to get out and celebrate Wyoming’s rich history by visiting so many of our remarkable historic sites. I have just returned from my third trip to Yellowstone to pursue research on the history of lodging and also to celebrate the centennial of the National Park Service. We are so lucky in Wyoming to be the home of the first national park, national monument and national forest.

With September comes the annual meeting! The Johnson County chapter has put together a wonderful itinerary for the gathering in Buffalo. I am so pleased that executive board member Doug Cubbison is going to talk about methods to get our youth involved in Wyoming history. This is one area I think we all need to focus on, beyond History Day. Among the youth will be the leaders of the Society for tomorrow.

Doug has done some amazing work in Casper. Once again, I am sorry that I will not be able to be at this year’s meeting but the invitation to speak for the Gear Jammer’s gathering in Yellowstone is something I could not pass up. I will be with you in spirit.

Don’t forget to review the bylaw changes noted in the August newsletter. A large number of our members live beyond the borders of Wyoming but have expressed an interest in being able to serve the Society. Please consider carefully your vote at the annual meeting. Also, thank you for voting in the election! We appreciate the great candidates running for the executive board this year.

As you may know, WSHS member Dick Kean, Wyoming History Day coordinator, is retiring. I wish to thank Dick for his dedication to Wyoming’s youth as he led this program for so many years. It has been my pleasure to serve as a judge for History Day. I have been in communication with American Heritage Center Director (and WSHS member) Bridget Burke regarding the selection of a new coordinator. More information will be forthcoming regarding the process.

Having learned of Ester Johansson Murray’s passing in the last newsletter, I just want to note what an inspiration she was to me. Tireless in her pursuit of Wyoming’s history, especially Park County’s heritage, she will be deeply missed. I cannot forget the support she provided to me in my Yellowstone research and her determination to try to connect me with those who knew about the history of the Canyon Hotel. Thank you Ester for all you did for all of us.

Tamsen

Sunrise Mine

WSHS member Alan Keimig has long been an advocate of Sunrise, Wyoming. Over the past few years he has become active in working with WSHS members George Zeimens and John Voight in their quest to revive interest in the archaeological and anthropological history of the town. A couple of years ago, George and John started opening the area to tours. As a result, Alan put together a very informative booklet describing the fascinating history of the Sunrise Archaeological site and the Sunrise town and mine. George said, “Alan’s research has made the tours of Sunrise interesting, informative and enjoyable.”

The archaeological site, called the Powars II site, is a Paleoindian red ochre mine located directly across from the YMCA building, the first in the state of Wyoming, built by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company for use by the residents of Sunrise. George, director of the Western Plains Historic Preservation Association and director of the Western History Center near Lingle, says the site is the largest Clovis site in the Americas. “This area has been the site of human activity for the last 13,000 years, and may be even older,” he said. George added that the Powars II site is on the level of significance that it may qualify as a World Heritage Site, of which there are only 23 in the United States. Many of you who attended the recent annual Trek got to visit with George, and met the director of site security at the site. Filly, Filly has the standard markings for a border collie although anything that was white on her is now red, compliments of the iron ore.

In an article published in the Prehistoric American magazine (Spring, 2016), George described recovering over 1,000 artifacts from the Powars II Paleoindian Red Ochre Mine site. “So far we have recovered over 1,000 artifacts from the site,” adding that the artifacts were salvaged from below what they assume to be a red ochre mine located on a steep hillside.

George went on to write that they discovered a rich and unique prehistoric chert and quartzite quarry during test excavations in a terrace located across the valley from the ochre mine. “Most of the artifacts from the Powars II site on the hillside are made from this new type of chert and quartzite. We are calling this chert type John Voight chert, and the quarry the Voight quarry after the name of the landowner.” Anyone interested in touring the site should contact George at 575-2010. Proceeds of the tours benefit the Western History Center and include a three hour mine and town tour, and a no-host lunch at the historic Miners & Stockman’s Steakhouse in Hartville.

[Editor’s Note: Special thanks to Alan Keimig and George Zeimens for this article and their hard work to maintain the site. I wish you could see the red in these photos — especially on Filly. Black and white just doesn’t do them justice. Guess you’ll have to take a tour to see it with your own eyes!]

Visit www.wyshs.org and “Like” us on Facebook
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

WYOMING STATE HISTORY DAY COORDINATOR

The Society, in partnership with the American Heritage Center and the Wyoming Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources seeks someone to coordinate the academic competition Wyoming History Day.

The person in this position will work with educators statewide, district History Day coordinators, and administers the state competition.

For a copy of the complete job description visit the University of Wyoming’s website, enter the word ‘jobs’ in the search box at the top, go to “Prospective Employees,” then open “non-benefit and student job opportunities.” It is hoped that the position will be filled as soon as possible.

To register for the observation workshop, contact the Alliance for Historic Wyoming at www.HistoricWyoming.or or call 674-6446. There is a registration fee to participate.

WSHS/Platte County Historical Society members Joe Fabian and Lee Alley recently participated in a ceremony to honor Korean War Veterans in Wheatland. The event was part of a series of ceremonies being held throughout Wyoming and the nation. Mayor Fabian presented each veteran with a commemorative medal issued by the South Korean government in thanks for their service. Lee, vice chairman of the Wyoming Veterans Commission, traveled with the South Korean ambassador to present medals to veterans throughout the state.

Congratulations to WSHS members Chuck and Mary Engebretsen who were among a group of individuals from Lost Springs who earned the Wyoming Pioneer Association’s Historical Restoration Award for refurbishing the Prairie View Cemetery located five miles south and east of Lost Springs.

Don’t forget to register for the annual Wyoming State History Preservation Conference to be held in Rock Springs over the weekend of September 22nd. The conference brochure can be viewed at http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us and then follow the links.

Members of the Hot Springs County Historical Society recently enjoyed a tour to Bates Battlefield. They enjoyed stopping at the Okie Mansion at Lost Cabin, and to the Spring Creek Raid Site, along with a stop at the Red Bank Ranch Murders. Summer activities were also enjoyed by members of the Platte County Historical Society, including tours of the Sunrise Mine and Archaeology Site.

Chapters across the state are gearing up for fall programs. In Laramie the Albany County Historical Society meets every third Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center at the Laramie Plains Museum. They have some great programs lined up beginning with September 20th when WSHS/Albany County Historical Society member Kim Viner will present “Carrie Burton Overton: First African American Girl to Attend the University of Wyoming. To find out more e-mail Andrea Lewis at flute42@yahoo.com or Dickie May at dickieM@yahoo.com.

Members of the Campbell County Historical Society enjoyed a very busy August with events throughout the month, each one geared toward the community’s 125th anniversary.
Wyoming History Calendar

September 9-10. Buffalo. WSHS Annual Meeting hosted by the Johnson County Historical Society.

September 10. Laramie. Archaeology Fair at Territorial Prison State Historic Site. E-mail Judy Wolf for details at judy.wolf@wyo.gov.


Welcome New Members and Thank You Donors

At Large
Laura Schwemml, Wilton, CT
Jack and Dorris Ashley, Cheyenne
Walter Jones, Salt Lake City, UT
Janet Hulbert Young, Riverton

Sheridan County Historical Society
June Kibben, Sheridan

WyoHistory.Org
Thomas Tisthammer, Bellvue, CO
Milton Lowrey, Los Angeles, CA

Wyoming Historical Foundation
(The long-term endowment)
Ronald Douglas, Clinton, UT
Loretta Scott, Jackson
Chuck and Mary Engebretsen, Lost Springs
Jeanne Moore, Douglas
Betty Anne Johnson, Richmond, VA
Illa Collin, Sacramento, CA
Elizabeth Esterchild, Dallas, TX
Turner Rivenbark, Wallace, NC

To donate to the Wyoming State Historical Society’s long-term endowment send your contribution to:
WSHS
P. O. Box 247
Wheatland, WY 82201

We sincerely appreciate each and every contribution to the endowment. Please note that anything you contribute above your annual membership fee goes directly to the endowment.

Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month

Celebrated annually in September, Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month (WAAM) consists of a series of statewide activities and programs devoted to discussing archaeological issues and to educating the public about the importance of preserving and protecting Wyoming’s archaeological heritage. This year we celebrate 100 years of Paleoindian archaeology in Wyoming. The centerpiece of WAAM is the poster we produce every year. It is distributed statewide, nationally, and internationally to more than 5,000 people and organizations. Wyoming posters have been honored with numerous awards in the State Archaeology Week Poster Contest sponsored by the Society for American Archaeology’s Public Education Committee and Council of Affiliated Societies.

An Archaeology Fair will be held at the Territorial Prison State Historic Site in Laramie on September 10th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will provide a fun hands-on learning experience for all ages. Planned events include flint knapping, atlatl throwing, blacksmithing and pottery making demonstrations. Featured entertainment include the Wind River Dancers and Buffalo Bill Boycott.

Each year the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office creates an award winning poster that is free for the asking (shipping/handling additional). E-mail Judy Wolf at judy.wolf@wyo.gov for more details.

Of Particular Note to Chapters

Year-end financial forms will be sent out soon. Please make sure they are returned to Society headquarters no later than November 15th. Also, if you have not sent headquarters your updated Bylaws and Constitution, please do that soon. This is critical and relates to requirements of the Internal Revenue Service. Each chapter president, secretary and treasurer received a letter dated June 3 as to annual deadlines. If you need reminded please call headquarters at 322-3014 or e-mail linda@wyshs.org.

In Memory....

Our condolences to the family of Esther Grace Balden, a member of the WSHS/Johnson County Historical Society. Esther died on July 18th and was 90 years old. She was born and raised in Buffalo, having graduated from Johnson County High School in 1945. She leaves behind two children and their families.