



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming Historical Society

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Heard on the Historical Trail



The **Sheridan Community Land Trust** is pleased to announce that Jared Koenig has become its first-ever, full-time, year-round recreation manager! To learn more about the Trust and its sponsored events go to <https://sheridanclt.org/>.

The **South Lincoln County Historical Society** recently enjoyed a program by **Norris Tratnik** who gave a talk about the 1923 explosion of Frontier #1 mine, and the effects on the families of the 99 miners who were killed. The 100th anniversary of the tragedy is coming up on August 14. On June 7th Norris will give a presentation about the Blazon Gap mines, with a Trek to the mines planned for a week later. For details email Rosalie Tratnik, chickenrose165@gmail.com.

The State History Day competition held May 1 in Laramie was a huge success by all accounts. The full list of winners is on the Society's website at www.wyshs.org.

Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum Recognized as a Recipient of the Nation's Highest Museum and Library Honor

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has announced the **Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum** of Buffalo as one of eight recipients of the 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. "Jim Gatchell has used their collection, their history and the history of Johnson County to bring the community itself alive to the importance of history, education and the community's part in both." Established in 1957, the nucleus of the museum's collection came from pharmacist Theodore James "Jim" Gatchell. When Gatchell opened his pharmacy in 1900, it had an immediate effect on the local community, bringing in people from across the region. Gatchell enjoyed getting to know his customers and befriended many. Famous Army Scouts, cowboys, cattle barons, Native Americans, and lawmen all frequented the pharmacy, sharing their stories with Gatchell. Today, the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum honors Jim's legacy of inclusivity and appreciation for all cultures and people by striving to achieve the highest standards in the museum field.

Selected from 30 national finalists, the 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winners represent institutions that provide dynamic programming and services that exceed expected levels of service. "All of us at the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum are blown away to be recognized in this manner. We are proud to be trusted with preserving and sharing the story of our community—the community which has created and cared for this museum for over sixty years. Receiving the National Medal reassures us that we are on a great journey and helps ensure the continued growth and success of the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum," said **Sylvia Bruner**, Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum executive director. The award will be presented at a ceremony this summer in Washington, DC.

The Society celebrates this honor and is especially proud of Sylvia, a former member of the Executive Committee, for her work in making sure Wyoming museums are seen and heard.

(Continued page 3)

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**From the
 President. . .**

Dear friends,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the groups and organizations who partner and work with the Society, making it a truly broad reaching organization. At the top of the list are the Chapters. The Executive Committee greatly appreciates your hard work, dedication, and support. I always look forward to meeting with you and learning about your amazing presentations and projects. I also want to thank those members who have volunteered their time and efforts serving on the Society's many committees. It is mind boggling to think about all the different projects and activities the Society supports.

I think of the Wyoming Historical Foundation as a sibling to the Society. Its diligence and engagement in fundraising and promoting the Society is one of the keys to our success. **John Waggener** and **Charlene Busk** will be stepping away from the Foundation after the Annual Meeting in September, which will be a great loss and I encourage you to take a moment to thank them for all their support and commitment. My brain does not comprehend fundraising, so I am greatly appreciative to have a group step up and dedicate their time and expertise to this. Moreover, **Tom Rea** and **WyoHistory.org** have been a valuable addition to the Society, broadening its reach, impact and providing an amazing widely used research source.

I would also like to mention our partners who help with our major projects. We appreciate the University of Wyoming's support of the Society. In particular, the American Heritage Center (AHC) staff has gone beyond with their work on State History Day through housing part of the Society's archive and serving on a variety of committees. I could go on and on about their service. I recently attended the AHC's Spring Advisory Board Meeting. It was exciting to meet with the diverse board members and representatives of the AHC to learn more about their projects and initiatives.

In addition to the support of the History Department over the years, the University of Wyoming Libraries are digitizing and making available online issues of *Annals of Wyoming*. The Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, across the agency, continue to do what they can to support the Society. Since joining the Executive Committee, I have begun to see that it is more than just the State Archives (my office) helping. Members from the State Historic Preservation Office provide their expertise on committees and when historic preservation issues pop up. The State Historic Sites work locally with the Chapters and manage the State's monuments and markers program. I see real value in working with the Wyoming State Museum and the State Archaeologist's Office, as well.

The new History Confab group is bringing other interested organizations to the table, such as the Wyoming Humanities Council (which is coordinating the work), the Alliance for Historic Wyoming, and the Wyoming Business Council's Main Street Wyoming Program.

In writing this column I was thinking it was starting to sound like either an election speech or an Academy Award acceptance speech. Sorry about that, I just wanted to make a point to express our gratitude. And if I left anyone off, please know it was not intentional. Please feel free to reach out to me, so I can thank you properly as well.

I want to end this article by acknowledging and giving a special thanks to **Linda Fabian** for all her hard work and support over the years. She has truly given her all for Society and we greatly appreciate it. She is the glue which keeps the Society together, and she will be hard if not impossible to replace. I have enjoyed our friendship through the years.

Looking forward to my next column, I hope to report back on how the Annual Trek went – I am sure it will be great. I plan to provide details on the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the United States. It is important to see how the Society can help with the celebration.

Cindy

(Heard on the Historical Trail continued from page 1)

Teachers participating in the State History Day Competition were gifted with a one-year membership in the Society sponsored by long-time member **Tony Adams**. The Society is very appreciative of Tony's generosity and support of these educators. Congratulations to all the students and teachers for their participation. First and second place winners will be attending the National History Day Competition on the campus of the University of Maryland the week of June 11th.

The **Hot Springs County Historical Society** recently announced that it will host the Trek in 2024! Watch for news about that. Keep in mind that we are accepting invitations for the 2024 annual meeting as well. Never too soon to start planning!

Plan now to visit the **Wyoming State Museum** during the summer. It has a variety of new exhibits opening, including *Prehistoric Wyoming*, an interactive experience that showcases Wyoming's dinosaurs, geology and paleontology. The colorful photographs of the *Pow Wow Dancers of the Wind Rivers* features the work of Jeb Schenck. His powerful images come to life and have provided him a way to learn about our Native American culture. "The images are the result of my exploration to get to know my neighbors," he said. The museum is in Cheyenne at 2301 Central Avenue.

On June 17th WHS member **Kylie McCormick** will present *A Slice of History* beginning at 7 p.m. Pizza will be served! To learn more about all the events and exhibits at the Wyoming State Museum visit <https://wyomuseum.wyo.gov/> or email melisa.mcchesney@wyo.gov.

Executive Committee member **Bud Alley** of Signal Mt., Tennessee will be in Normandy on June 6th to participate in the 79th remembrance ceremony. Bud, a decorated veteran, served in the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry in Vietnam and uses his experiences to help other veterans. Bud's book titled *The Ghosts of the Green Grass* examines the 1965 battle in the La Drang Valley between the 7th Cavalry and the North Vietnamese Army.

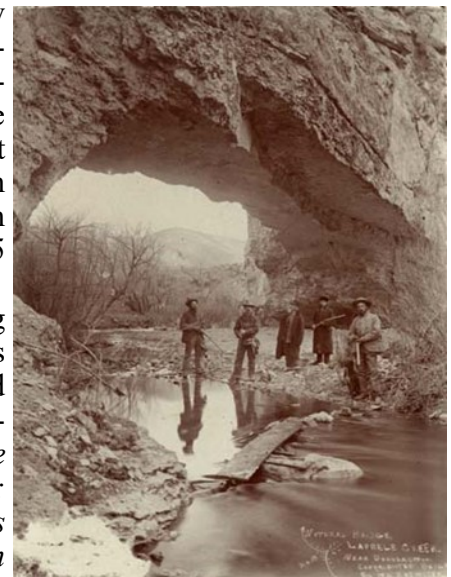
Author, historian and Executive Committee member **Cheryl O'Brien** of Dubois recently presented her talk about WWII POW Camps in Wyoming to the Sundance Library and **Crook County Historical Society**. Members of the **Weston County Historical Society** tagged along electronically according to **Mike Jording**. One of the attendees, Barbara Crow, was the recipient of a copy of Cheryl's book as a door prize. Barbara then presented the

book to Brenda Mahoney-Ayres, Director of the Weston County Library in Newcastle!

The **Converse County Historical Society** will host a program featuring the history of Ayres Natural Bridge and the Ayres family. This impressive stone landmark has been a tourist attraction for over 175 years when the first people west on the Oregon Trail began to visit on their way to the coast. In addition to the history of the Bridge, we invite everyone to join us for a carry in picnic. The program will be held on Sunday June 25th at 1:00 p.m., Ayres Natural Bridge Park. The meeting and program are free and open to the public. For more information contact **Heidi McCullough** at 307-359-0608, or follow the chapter's Facebook page. Additionally, the chapter will host Fort Fetterman Day on July 19th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Wyoming State Archives recently hosted two online webinars titled *A Tale of Two Cities: Digital Records Management in Oregon and Wyoming*. The sessions were presented by WHS president and digital archivist, **Cindy Brown**, and **Sara Davis**, Wyoming State Archivist. One of the priorities was to help people understand which electronic files need to be kept forever. More than 100 people participated in the workshops.

The Oregon-California Trails Association will host its 41st OCTA Convention in Gering, Nebraska July 25-29. The theme *We Do Old In A New Way* will focus on the greater Gering/Scottsbluff area of western Nebraska and eastern Wyoming during the period of the end of the fur Trade and Westward Migration. Vendor space requests and fees are due by June 17th. To find out more visit OCTA@indepmo.org or call 816-252-2276.



Wyoming History Calendar

June 6-Normandy. Remembrance Day.

June 7-8-Cheyenne. Virtual meeting about the Roving Archivist Program. For details call 307-777-7826 or go to rovingarchivist.wyo.gov/. See page 6.

June 15-17- Star Valley. 2023 Trek sponsored by Star Valley Historical Society.

June 17-Cheyenne. "A Slice of History," Wyoming State Museum. Email melisa.mcchesney@wyo.gov.

June 22-Laramie. In person workshop "Photographic and Audiovisual Materials and Identification." Call Sara Davis, 307-777-7826 for details. See page 5.

June 14-Sunrise. Annual Fundraising Event and Tour. Call 307-575-2010 for details.

June 25-Douglas. A picnic and program at Ayres Natural Bridge. Call 307-359-0608 for details.

July 19-Douglas. The Converse County Historical Society will host Fort Fetterman Day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details email heidih02202@yahoo.com.

July 25-29-Nebraska. 41st annual meeting of OCTA. See website for details.

July 27-29-Powell/Cody. Annual Heart Mountain Pilgrimage. 307-754-8000 or info@heartmountain.org.

August 19-Casper. President and Mrs. Lincoln visit the Historic Bishop Home. Email slbjcs1992@comcast.net.

August-September-October-Statewide. Watch for details about Heart Mountain Internee Sam Mihara's lecture schedule.

The Society's new website includes a calendar featuring a wide range of activities hosted by chapters and our partners. Take a look at www.wyshs.org/events. If you have something you would like listed please email linda@wyshs.org or rhein@vcn.com.

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

Heart Mountain Internee receives grant to teach Japanese American incarceration in Wyoming

Sam Mihara, who was incarcerated at Heart Mountain as a child, has received a grant from the **Wyoming Humanities Council** to travel around the state and teach about the Japanese American incarceration.

A board member of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, the 90-year-old Mihara is an award-winning educator who also received the 2022 Japanese American of the Biennium Award from the Japanese American Citizens League. Since he started speaking about his incarceration experience in 2011, he has delivered his presentations in person to more than 95,000 people.

The Wyoming Humanities grant covers three trips to take place in August, September and October this year. He will visit Gillette, Buffalo, Sheridan, Jackson, Pinedale, Rock Springs and Evanston. Sam is also considering a tour of the southeast sector of Wyoming including Laramie and Cheyenne.

Mihara will also be at Heart Mountain in June and July as a faculty member for Heart Moun-

tain's workshops for educators sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, to speak at a visit by the Bar Association of the District of Columbia and to attend the annual Heart Mountain Pilgrimage July 27-29th.

His work is part of the larger educational mission of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, which includes in-person and virtual field trips to our museum and interpretive center. The Foundation is also building the new Mineta-Simpson Institute dedicated to spreading the sense of public service and bipartisanship exemplified by Secretary Norman Mineta and Senator Alan Simpson, who first met as Boy Scouts behind the barbed wire at Heart Mountain in 1943.

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation preserves the site where some 14,000 Japanese Americans were unjustly incarcerated in Wyoming from 1942 through 1945. Their stories are told within the foundation's museum, Heart Mountain Interpretive Center, located between Cody and Powell. For more information, call the center at (307) 754-8000 or email info@heartmountain.org.

[Editor's note: As specific dates are known they will be posted on the Society's website calendar.]

(Heard on the Trail Continued from Page 3)

President Abraham and Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln will be special guests of the **Historic Bishop Home** in Casper on August 19th. You are invited to step back into history and enjoy an evening with historical interpreters John and Pamela Voehl as they portray the 16th President of the United States and his lovely First Lady. Period style hors d'oeuvres will be served at the Historic Bishop Home providing the opportunity for conversation and photos with President and Mrs. Lincoln. Guests will then progress to the Casper Country Club for dinner and entertainment by these nationally renowned historians. Reservations are required in advance. For details or to reserve your space email **Susan Bishop** at [slbjcs1992@comcast.net](mailto:sbjcs1992@comcast.net).



*"As the 16th President, I was the first Republican, the first with a beard, the tallest, the first born outside of the original 13 colonies, the only one with a patent, the one who granted the most pardons, probably the strongest, and one of the few poets."
- John Voehl in character as Lincoln.*

The Sunrise Historic & Prehistoric Preservation Society will host its annual Sunrise Tour on June 24th. There is a fee for adults; children 18 and under free. Gates open at 11:30 a.m. Food will be available for purchase on site. For details call **George or Geri Zeimans** at 307-575-2010. It doesn't matter if you've been once or a hundred times, this is a tour that never gets old.

The City of Douglas recently bestowed the "Mad Hatter Award" to **Heidi McCullough** who (by profession) is the Planning Technician for the City, but who is a board member on the Society's Executive Committee where she holds the position of secretary. Heidi chairs the Converse County Emerging Historians, is treasurer for the chapter, chairs the Friends of Fort Fetterman, is treasurer for Friends of Camp Douglas, and a board member for Main Street Douglas. She also volunteers for the Much Love Project, Converse County Library, the Enterprise, and whoever else needs or asks for her help. Congratulations, Heidi!

It's All About Access!

Libraries are guardians of local history and many Wyoming libraries have "Wyoming Rooms" which are not mandated by statute but are rather a "long-standing tradition" according to Rachel Crocker, director of the Albany County Public Library.

The library has a goal of digitizing the contents of its Wyoming Room, but before it applied for what will be a significant grant, it realized it needed to create an updated collection development policy; the inclusion policy over decades had led to a large but unfocused collection which "hid the gems." Once the decision was made to focus on Albany County history, the library needed more expertise than the director and staff had to safeguard collection management decisions regarding retention with that goal in mind and they asked the **Albany County Historical Society** to partner with them in this endeavor; members **Kim Viner** and **Jane Nelson** stepped up to help.

The redesign plan for the room became three-fold: Albany County history; Topical and Biographical files with an emphasis on primary sources; and Genealogy. Based on past use and reference questions, genealogy proved to be the most popular use of the old room and it will be for the new room with plans to increase resources to support the research needs of the novice, amateur or professional researcher. Efforts will be made to complete runs of the Laramie Senior High School Plainsmen yearbook, newspapers, telephone directories, cemetery indexes and other resources to help track down who was here when.

Kim Viner told people at the chapter meeting in May that a spread sheet inventory listed over 3000 items, not including the topical files. As changes were made to the contents of the room, fiction about Wyoming or by Wyoming or Wyoming-related authors was put into the circulating collection. Any materials that were once appropriate for a "Wyoming Room" but not appropriate for the new Albany County focus were offered to other libraries and museums and its Friends of the Library. Ultimately, when the digitization takes place, the highly-curated materials will be accessible to browsers and researchers all over the state, country and the world through the online library catalog.

*[Editor's note: Special thanks to WHS member **RoseMarie Aridas** for submitting this article. Any member articles are most welcome!]*

1953-2023

70 years of Sharing Wyoming's History Annual Meeting

Join us in beautiful Cody, Wyoming when the **Park County Historical Society** hosts the 70th annual meeting of the Society the weekend of September 8th. In addition to celebrating such an accomplishment, the agenda will also include the annual membership meeting where the business of the Society is discussed, and the prestigious awards luncheon to honor those nominated for their efforts in preserving and sharing the legacy of Wyoming. September is still tourist season in Cody so please consider making motel/hotel/RV reservations now. The listing below includes several of the many accommodations available. The full listing (including historic hotels) can be found on the Society's website, or you can call **Lynn Houze** at 307-250-2411.

HOLIDAY INN (Host Hotel)

1701 Sheridan Ave.
Phone: 307-587-5555

To get the special WHS rate reservations must be made no later than July 7th

This is our conference hotel and is in downtown Cody. A block of 15 rooms has been saved. Room rate for 1 King or 2 Queens is \$179.00. Rooms have coffee maker, microwave, and a fridge. Our member meeting and awards luncheon will be held here on Saturday the 9th.

Beartooth Inn

2513 Greybull Hwy, 307-527-5505 Located just west of the Cody Airport on the north side of the highway. Cost for King or 2 Queens is the same @ \$129.00 (including tax). A block of 10 rooms has been reserved. A coffee maker, a microwave, and a fridge are in each room. And....a continental breakfast!! Lots of parking and is quiet. When calling please mention Park County Historical Society or Phyllis Preator's name who made the arrangements. Cancellations requested 48 hrs. prior to arrival.

Cody Motor Lodge

1455 Sheridan Ave 307-527-6291
Located in downtown Cody near Wells Fargo Bank. Price for a double queen is \$310. If 4 people stay in the room the price is \$320.

King's Inn

524 Yellowstone Ave. (Out the "west strip" past Dairy Queen but before Walmart) Phone: 307-527-6604
Closed right now so prices are based on off-season rates.

\$169 for 1 King; \$179 for 2 Queens

American Inn

508 Yellowstone Ave. 307-587-7716
1 King \$219; 2 Queens - \$209. Deluxe Continental breakfast incl. waffles

Hampton Inn and Suites

8 Southfork Rd, 307-587-4505
\$249 - 1 King or 2 Doubles. Suggest call the hotel directly for best rate.

For the entire listing visit <https://wyshs.org>

Museums, Libraries, Cultural Heritage Institutions... You're Invited to Participate

Want to learn more about the Roving Archivist Program (RAP) that's currently being developed in Wyoming? Two online informational meetings have been scheduled to provide program updates and progress and to demonstrate an online directory and map indicating Wyoming institutions that house archival materials. Meeting participants will be invited to share information about their institutions for the directory, and feedback on where the program is now and where it can go from here. **The two meetings are June 7 at 6:00pm MST and June 8 at noon MST. For more information and to find the meeting link, please go to the RAP website at rovingarchivist.wyo.gov/.** The RAP sponsors are the Wyoming State Historic Records Advisory Board, the Wyoming State Archives, and the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU DONORS

At Large

Aly Kruger, Sundance
Anemone Beaulier, Laramie
Gretl Class, Cody
Michelle Stebner, Greybull
Rose Robertson, Pinedale
Matthew Parsons, Upton
Stacey Polson, Lander
Kelsey Brown, Riverton
Jennifer Burrows, Long Beach, CA
Kellie McNeir, VanAlstyne, TX
Peter Joost, San Francisco, CA
Joni Smith, Rock Springs

Fremont County Historical Society
Marty Brammer, Lander

Hot Springs County Historical Society
Mary Wojcieszowski, Thermopolis

Johnson County Historical Society
Anita Edington, Buffalo
Dolores McMahan, Buffalo

Lincoln County Historical Society
Dru Harrison, Diamondville
Irva Johnson, Kemmerer
Shelley Sandall, Kemmerer
Frank Scigliano, Kemmerer
David and Nancy Stafford, Kemmerer

Wyoming Historical Foundation
Linda Fabian, Wheatland,
In loving memory of Joe Fabian
Javitz Family Trust, Menlo Park, CA
Jeanne Moore, Douglas
Fremont County Historical Society, Lander

WyoHistory.org
Peter Joost, San Francisco, CA

Above and Beyond*
Ronald Hansen and Julianne Couch, Decorah, IA
Ruth Neely, Pinedale
Dona Bachman, Carbondale, IL

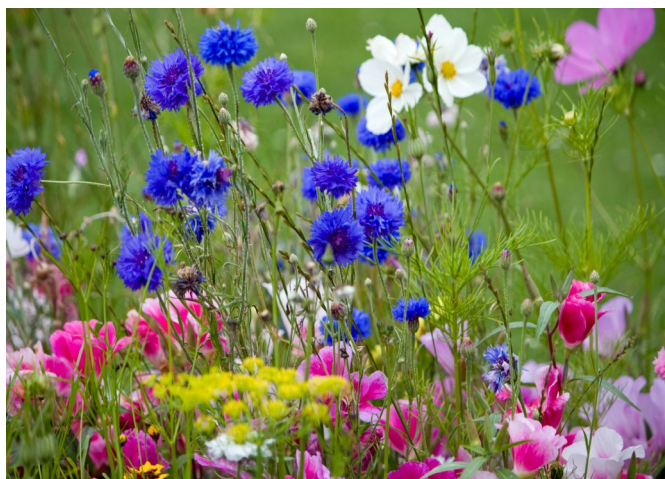
* Monies above and beyond normal dues go directly to the Society's operating budget, unless specifically designated to the Foundation.

In Memory...

Our condolences to the family of **Arthur Withington**, a member of the **Fremont County Historical Society**, who died on February 19, 2023 in Lander. His family describes him as a man who loved the outdoors, sailing and skiing, but mostly one who loved his family with all his heart and soul.

John Giorgis, a member of the **South Lincoln County Historical Society**, died on April 20, 2023. A life-long Wyomingite, John and his family settled in Kemmerer. He was a big game hunter and trapper all of his life, and an avid collector of many things. Our condolences to John's wife, Sue, and family.

Betty Stroup, a member of the **Campbell County Historical Society**, died on April 18, 2023. Betty had a long career working for the Gillette News Record, thirty-eight years to be exact. Betty was an expert on the accordion, enjoyed traveling and square dancing with her husband Ned. Our condolences to Betty's family.





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***Cody is a busy tourist town. Reserve your hotel
NOW for the 70th Annual Meeting in September.
See page six.***

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Oregon-California Trails Association

The Oregon-California Trails Association is having its 41st OCTA Convention in Gering, Nebraska this July 25-29 at the Gering Convention Center. The theme *We Do Old In A New Way* will focus on the greater Gering/Scottsbluff area of western Nebraska and eastern Wyoming during the period of the end of the Fur Trade and Westward Migration. Members are always on the lookout for new and old books and material about the Oregon, California, Mormon, and Pony Express Trails, the Fur Trade, and Native Americans.

Vendor space must be reserved by June 17th, and is available on a first come, first served basis. The entire agenda is online at OCTA@indepmo.org or call 816-252-2276. Organizers say they are expecting between 225-325 members to attend the convention, which is also open to the public. Activities include two days of talks and two and a half days for local and regional touring.

