



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

July 2016

Volume 63, Number 6

Heard on the Historical Trail



Congratulations to members of the **Weston County Historical Society**, and the Weston County Historic Preservation Board on a successful dedication of Cabin 3 at the Mallo Camp, a recreational facility owned by Weston County. The oldest cabin at the camp has been restored and educational exhibits have been installed. The dedication included a flag ceremony by the Boy Scouts, and a speech by Pete Schoonmaker of Sheridan. Pete is a descendent of the donor of the property and gave the main address.

Grand Teton National Park will present "If These Walls Could Talk: Successfully Creating and Using Oral Histories in the Preservation of Traditional Resources" beginning July 12-14. The workshop will be held in the beautiful setting of the park. All training is free and open to the public. Lodging at White Grass Dude Ranch is also free! Contact katherine_wonson@nps.gov for details or call her at 739-3469.

(continued on page 3)

Shuffle off to Buffalo....

The **Johnson County Historical Society** is pleased to host the Wyoming State Historical Society's Annual Meeting over the September 9-10 weekend. Attendees will have opportunities to tour historic sites, browse Buffalo's downtown and residential areas, and more. Much of the event will be held at the locally celebrated, newly expanded and renovated, Johnson County Library and at the Bomber Mountain Civic Center, which has recently been converted from an elementary school. Both locations offer comfortable seating, handicapped access, and good parking areas.

The chapter has planned a variety of activities in which participants can partake, but have also allowed for free time to discover the area on your own. To give you an idea, some of the activities include a tour of historic Fort McKinney, now the site of the Veterans' Home of Wyoming. There will be an afternoon program showing photographs of the Bighorn Mountains taken in the 1920s and taken again within the last five years for comparison. This program highlights some of the majestic locations within the Cloud

glimpse into the appearance of those same locations ninety years ago.

Chapter representatives and attendees will have an opportunity to attend a workshop presented by WSHS board member **Doug Cubbison** about how chapters can garner youth interest in Wyoming's diverse history. There will be a Friday evening reception hosted by the Johnson County Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum with time for folks to tour the museum, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and catch up with their fellow historical society members. Museum exhibits feature histories of the Johnson County Cattle Wars, the Basque culture in Wyoming, the Bozeman Trail forts and Indian Wars, and more.

The general membership meeting will commence Saturday morning, followed by the annual Awards Luncheon and President's Dinner with good food and entertainment.

All of the activities are planned for Friday and Saturday, leaving Sunday open for return travel and visitation of other sites. See you in September!



(Buffalo Main Street/Carrigen Collection/Wyoming State Archives)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tamsen Hert, President, SE Rep.
460-3135 wyshspresident@gmail.com
Sylvia Bruner, NE Rep.
684-9331 registrar@jimgatchell.com
Jessica Clark, 2nd VP, At Large
382-1864 jclark@wwcc.wy.edu
Carl Hallberg, Secretary, At Large
778-8577 Carl.hallberg@wyo.gov
Joe Fabian, Treasurer, At-Large,
331-2586, studio@dancewyoming.com
Trey Sherwood, At-Large, 760-3355
treysherwood@gmail.com
Steve Roberts, SW Rep, 713-1947
steveroberts@netscape.com
Rick Robbins, At Large, 331-3024
rarob@wyomingwisp.com
Doug Cubbison, NW Rep.
472-1857 douglas.cubbison@wyo.gov

Executive Secretary and Editor
Linda Fabian, 322-3014

**All correspondence, membership
issues and questions
should be addressed to:**

Wyoming State Historical Society
Linda Fabian, Executive Secretary
P. O. Box 247
Wheatland, WY 82201

Preferably via e-mail to
linda@wyshs.org

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

From the President...



As Laramie moved from later winter right into summer, the opportunities for participating in Wyoming history activities moved into full swing. It has been a busy month and with all of the National Park Service centennial programs, there are even more ways to learn about our historic locations.

In June the Platte County Historical Society hosted an incredible trek, "Trek the Trails" was one of the best treks I have been able to participate in. Though I have been in Wyoming over 30 years, with an uncle in Cow Creek, Lance Creek, and finally Torrington, I had never visited Guernsey State Park or seen Sunrise! If you weren't able to join us this year, you missed seeing the beautiful murals that are found all around Wheatland – we toured the town in wagons learning about the variety of artworks. The evening ended with a Chugwater Chili dinner at the pocket park. Guernsey, Hartville and Sunrise were our destinations on Saturday (a very hot day). We learned about the CCC and the construction of the stone shelters there. Onward to Hartville, we stopped at the outlet of the reservoir and enjoyed the spray of the North Platte on our faces. Visiting the museum there, we viewed the historic dioramas depicting the history—these being historic in their own right. Off to Hartville for lunch at the oldest saloon in Wyoming and on to Sunrise. As a Colorado girl, I knew about the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company and the Rockefeller so it was neat to learn more about the Wyoming side of the business. The most interesting part of the Sunrise history was learning

about the Paleo-Indian Ochre mine and the significance of that is impressive. Wyoming has such a rich history. I want to thank Platte County Historical Society president **Patsy Parkin** and her group of volunteers for providing such a great experience.

The Western Writers of America met in Cheyenne June 22-25 for their annual conference. The Society had an exhibit booth there. It was a great opportunity to visit with some out-of-state members as well as meet authors of Western fiction and nonfiction from across the country. Several times I heard how impressed they were with Fort Laramie (there was field trip there early in the week). Others were on their way back from Yellowstone. I met a librarian and member from Indiana who is working on a biography of George Grinnell; visited for an hour with two poet laureates from Texas who are working on visiting 50 national parks; and was in attendance at the awards ceremony where a Spur Award was presented to an eleven year-old – the youngest recipient ever – for her children's book. We sold calendars and memberships and had a wonderful time. I want to thank WSHS members **Mary Hartman, Jack Mueller, Mary Jane and Gene Palen, Mary Nystrom, George and Sharon Martin, Wendy Owen, and Betsy Watry** for helping out with the booth. I enjoyed visiting with these members while we shared Wyoming with our visitors.

We have received some good news in the past week – the IRS has approved our tax-exempt status and you can read more about that elsewhere in this issue. At the banquet of the WWA on Saturday night I visited with the president of Women Writing the West and she told me that they have been experiencing the same thing. She was pleased to hear that we had received positive news. A letter will be going out to the chapter officers explaining what this means for all of us as we move forward. *(continued on page 4)*

(Heard on the Trail continued from page 1)

Congratulations to WSHS member **James Fuller**, of Cheyenne, whose article about the Cheyenne Motor Club was featured in the Spring/Summer issue of "Wyoming Lifestyle" Magazine.

The Historic J.O. Ranch at Baggs, Wyoming will host to "hands-on" historic preservation workshops. The first session is July 6 to July 13, and the second session is July 21 to July 29. For details contact Craig Struble at cstruble@msn.com or call 203-5108.

Congratulations to the Wyoming Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails upon the acquisition of the historic LX Bar Ranch in Campbell County. The site was donated by Jim Guercio of the Caribou Companies. This will be one more jewel in the state parks and historic sites system.

There are so many activities taking place to celebrate the 100th anniversary of national parks, that they are too numerous to mention. During July and August there are daily activities at Devils Tower. To find out more contact Nancy Stimson at nancy_stimson@nps.com.

The Society's Awards Committee, chaired by WSHS member **Jessica Clark**, will meet in July to review and make final selections of all the nominations that have been submitted. Winners will be announced at the annual awards luncheon scheduled during the annual meeting in September. Thank you to all the members and/or chapters who submitted nominations. Other members of the Awards Committee are WSHS members **Ruth Lauritzen**, Green River; **Jane**

Gebhart, Gillette, and **Cindy Brown**, Cheyenne.

Registration details about the Society's 63rd Annual Meeting, hosted by the **Johnson County Historical Society**, will be in the August issue of Wyoming History News. Make your hotel reservations now (see page 8).

The Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum and the National Historic Trails Center hosted a very successful summer camp for future historians.

On August 2-3, the Wyoming Community Foundation will host a conference designed specifically for nonprofit professionals, board members, funders and volunteers at Little American in Cheyenne. To attend the conference please register online at www.wycf.org/nonprofitconference/, or e-mail Vickery@wycf.org.

Cheyenne will celebrate 150 years of history in 2017. Congratulations to WSHS member **Rick Ewig** on being selected by the HPN Publishing Company to write and edit a coffee-table style book about the "magic city of the plains!"



THE EXCHANGE

JOIN THE PARTY: Be a part of the National Park Service Centennial with the National Park Foundation's "Find Your Park" campaign. Read and share your favorite park stories, photos and more at findyourpark.com.

2017 CALENDAR OF WYOMING HISTORY:

Available to vendors, chapters and individuals. For ordering details contact Society headquarters via linda@wyshs.org. The image below is on July 4, 1930 when thousands of people ventured to Independence Rock to commemorate the Covered Wagon Centennial sponsored by the Oregon Trail Memorial Association. The popular calendar features many more historical images celebrating the state's legacy, along with interesting tidbits on "this day in history." (Photo courtesy AHC)



Wyoming History CALENDAR

July 4. Douglas. Plan now to celebrate Fort Fetterman Days. For details call 358-9269.

July 6-13. Baggs. Off the grid historic preservation workshop. Contact Craig Struble at 203-5108 or cstruble@msn.com.

July 12-14. Grand Teton NP. Oral history workshop. Email Katherine_wonson@nps.gov for details.

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

July 15. Deadline to vote for your favorite 2016 artifact!

July 21-July 28. Off the grid historic preservation workshop. Contact Craig Struble at 203-5108 or cstruble@msn.com.

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.

August 2-3. Cheyenne. 2016 Wyoming Nonprofit Conference hosted by the Wyoming Community Foundation. To register call Kate at 721-8300 or Vickery at 250-6808.

August 27. Gillette. Celebrate 125 years of history through a variety of events and activities. For details contact Charlene Busk (charbusk@usa.com) or Mary Kelley (marykelley@vcn.com) [Note the event is 8.27.16, same as their zip code!]

September 9-10. Buffalo. WSHS Annual Meeting. Details to follow. Motel/Hotel information on page 8 of this issue.

Note: Area Code for all Wyoming phone numbers is 307

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.

(President's Column Continued from Page 2)

Bridget Burke, the new director of the American Heritage Center started her new position on June 13. She has already joined the Society, and I am looking forward to working with her. Of course this also means that **Rick Ewig** is retiring and I have enjoyed working with him at the AHC for many years and will miss having him there. He has been a wonderful mentor to me as I moved into the presidency and want to thank him for his leadership both at the AHC and in the WSHS.

While it is only July, we do need to think about the events coming up and this includes the annual meeting in Buffalo the weekend of September 9th. Chapter officers, please consider attending. This is your opportunity to network with other chapter members and learn about programs available and share with the membership your wonderful work from the year. As a member of committees and later as president of the Albany County chapter, I really enjoyed attending the annual meeting as well as the board meetings throughout the year. It provided me the opportunity to get to know many of you and it really does aid in the management and direction of the society. I hope that we will have good representation from the chapters in Buffalo. Thank you to members of the **Johnson County Historical Society** for sponsoring the annual meeting. It would be wise to book your rooms now; that information is on page eight of this issue. Registration information, ballots, and Bylaw changes will be published in the August issue of Wyoming History News.

Have a happy Fourth of July!

Tamsen

***Welcome New Members and
Thank You Donors***

At Large

Robin Allison, Santa Fe, NM
Don Diller, Cheyenne
Bridget Burke, Laramie

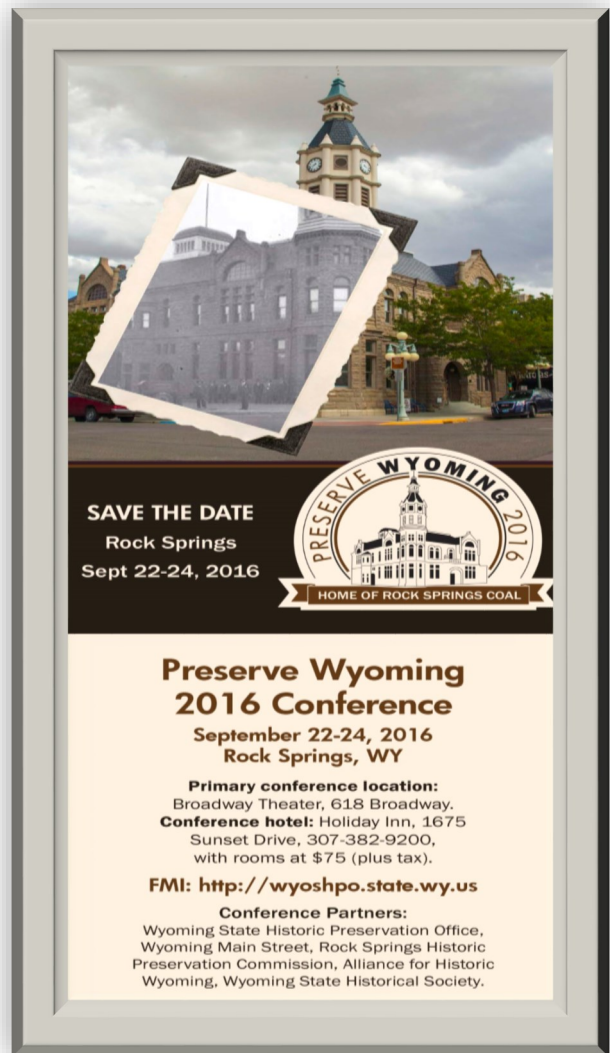
Converse County Historical Society
Carrie Prell, Douglas

Lincoln County Historical Society
Glen and Renae Snell, Kemmerer
Lynn Harrell and Scotty McKern, Kemmerer

Natrona County Historical Society
Chris Rhoads, Casper

Platte County Historical Society
Michael Malone and Mildred Malone, Wheatland
Trent and Ericha McCoy, Wheatland

**Wyoming Historical Foundation
(The long-term endowment)**
Fred and JoAnn Reckling, Fort Collins
David and Linda Kathka Donor Advised Fund/
Wyoming Community Foundation



Have you moved recently? Please let the Society know your new address. E-mail headquarters at linda@wyshs.org.

In Memory....

Long-time WSHS/Natrona County Historical Society member, **Joe Shickich**, died on May 20, 2016. Joe was a proud veteran who played trumpet in the Army Band, and saw active service in WWII as a Staff Sergeant in the 70th Reconnaissance Troop. A graduate of the University of Wyoming, Joe lived and worked in Casper for many years, until his retirement in 1984. He served his state in many capacities, and was an active citizen in Natrona County. He and his wife, Lois, loved to travel, and he was known to all as someone who loved his family. Together they gifted each of their children with a membership in the Society. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, and by four children and five grandchildren. Our condolences go out to the family.



A glimpse along the trails of Platte County...

More than 80 people (members and guests) from Wyoming, Colorado and Montana enjoyed the 2016 Trek hosted by the Platte County Historical Society. Chapter president **Patsy Parkin** said, "How do you begin to say thank-you to all the volunteers who planned and worked for six months to get ready for this big event, then planned and worked hard during the event, and to all the food providers who cooked and served excellent meals to all the participants; to *all* the knowledgeable people who shared their expertise with us from beginning to end and from one end of the county to the other, and to the wagon drivers, their horses, and the bus drivers...there is no way except to say "THANK YOU!" A special thanks to WSHS member **Richard Kutz** who willingly shares his photographs of the weekend....enjoy:



Good News...

Our contact at the Internal Revenue Service tells us that our case is now “closed,” and that we will be receiving official notification within the next two weeks that our non-profit status (and that of the chapters) has been fully restored. This has been an epic chapter in the history of the Society, and one we can honestly say that we’re thankful it is over.

President Tamsen Hert has sent a letter containing critical deadlines to each chapter president, secretary and treasurer. Please heed these deadlines as they are considered *mandatory* in order to continue our non-profit status (and that of the chapters). Questions? Call Society headquarters at 322-3014 or linda@wyshs.org.

Future historians recently enjoyed attending summer history camp sponsored by the Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum and the National Historic Trails Center in Casper. Here they are learning the technique of using a metal detector!

(Courtesy Photo)



Rick Ewig Legacy Fund

As many of you know our friend and long-time editor of *Annals of Wyoming*, **Rick Ewig**, has retired from his position at the University of Wyoming’s American Heritage Center after 24 years of truly selfless service. Rick has been an active member and former treasurer and past president of the Wyoming State Historical Society; in addition to serving as *Annals* editor for more than twenty years. He is an acknowledged expert on Wyoming and a published author on the state’s history. He is also very dedicated to Wyoming History Day; and has accompanied the students to Nationals since at least 1982.

In recognition of all that Rick has done for the AHC, the University, the Society, and the state in general, the “Rick Ewig Legacy Fund” has been established. A nice caveat of the fund is that Rick can choose where he would like to apply the fund.

Donations to the fund can be made through the UW Foundation online; by mailing a check; through direct deposit or payroll deduction if you’re a UW employee, or through a transfer of securities. To make a donation go to www.uwyo.edu/foundation and click on “Ways to Give on the left side of the page under “Foundation Home.” There you will find an online giving form. If using the online form choose the American Heritage Center in the pull down menu under “Gift Designation” and then specific the “Rick Ewig Legacy Fund.” For questions contact Tyler Spear at 766-3901 or by e-mail at spert@uwyo.edu.

The Society’s Executive Committee voted to donate \$500.00 to the fund in honor of Rick’s past and continuing service. He will continue as *Annals* editor!

Thanks to WSHS member **Lesley Waggener** for this information.

Thank YOU, Rick!



Wyoming State Historical Society
P.O. Box 247
Wheatland, WY 82201

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cheyenne, Wyoming
82201
Permit No. 71

Address Service Requested

Make your reservations now....

The 63rd annual meeting of the Wyoming State Historical Society will be held the weekend of September 9th in Buffalo, Wyoming. Hosted by the **Johnson County Historical Society**, the event is sure to be one that you don't want to miss. There will be an educational workshop specifically designed for chapters, in addition to the general membership meeting, awards luncheon, and tours. More information about that and registration details will be forthcoming. For now, make your reservations. There are 17 motel/hotels in Buffalo, in addition to RV Parks.

- **Hampton Inn** has a block of rooms available September 8-10 for \$99.00 a night. Please make your reservations before August 25th by calling 684-8899 and requesting WSHS rates.
- **Buffalo Inn** has a block of rooms available from as early as September 6th to September 12th (should you want to come early and/or stay late to explore the area). The rate is \$80.00 and only available by calling 684-7000 or 684-5416.
- **Buffalo Chamber of Commerce** can provide more lodging opportunities. Call them at 684-5544, or visit their website at www.buffalowyo.com, and click on the link at the top that says "stay."



*The historic Occidental Hotel, from the J.E. Stimson Collection/
Wyoming State Archives*