



# Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

May 2018

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## Heard on the Historical Trail



Interested in running for a position of the Society's Executive Committee? Call headquarters at 322-3014 to find out more.

The Alliance for Historic Wyoming is celebrating historic Carnegie library buildings around Wyoming with a traveling exhibit. If you are interested in hosting an exhibit contact the Alliance at 333-3508.

Western Writers of America recently announced the 2018 Spur Award nominees, including Greg Nickerson who has written several articles for WyoHistory.org. As a finalist he will be honored at the WWA Convention in Billings the week of June 20-23. Congratulations, Greg!

The **Campbell County Historical Society** is sponsoring a plethora of events this summer, including tours of local ranches, etc. For details contact **Charlene Busk** at 685-6997.

(Continued on page 3)

## BUDGET SHORTFALLS

The Wyoming State Historical Society newsletters that come back "no longer at this address." With our steady for well over a decade. "base" dues at \$25.00 per person, or \$35.00 per household, this is unfortunately, this is about the only thing that has not experienced inflation. The Society has two significant expenses. These are the award winning quarterly *Annals of Wyoming*, and the monthly (ten times a year) *Wyoming History News*.

Here are the "Dollars and Sense" of these two benefits of membership. Every two years the state of Wyoming (through the Department State Parks & Cultural Resources) provides the Society with \$70,000 to fulfill the department's statutory requirement to publish a history journal, *Annals of Wyoming*. The newsletter, *Wyoming History News*, is funded entirely out of the Society's operating expenses. It costs \$40.00 per member to provide these two publications to more than 1,500 members. That totals approximately \$60,000 a year. These expenses include editorial, printing, graphics, postage, and necessary administrative time. In fact, every single issue of *Annals of Wyoming* returned by the U.S. Postal Service for "no longer at this address" costs us \$5.15 each time one is returned. Similarly, it costs us \$1.25 to receive the

newsletters that come back "no longer at this address." With our steady for well over a decade. "base" dues at \$25.00 per person, or \$35.00 per household, this is financially unsustainable.

The Society's Finance Committee has evaluated this situation and made several recommendations to the Executive Committee which were accepted at the March meeting. We want you to be aware of what will be discussed at the upcoming annual meeting in September.

First, note the postcard in this issue asking our members to consider accepting *Wyoming History News* in an electronic format, provided through e-mail. Please return the postcard by June 1.

Eventually, within two to three years, *Wyoming History News* will be provided in strictly an electronic format. This will save the Society just over \$10,000 a year in printing and postage. We recognize that some of our members, including libraries, do not use electronic communications. This could require our individual chapters to print *Wyoming History News* for distribution to those members at monthly meetings.

(Continued on page 4)

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P. O. Box 247  
Wheatland, WY 82201

Preferably via email to  
[linda@wyshs.org](mailto: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](http://www.wyshs.org) and "like"  
us on Facebook

## From the President. . .



Dear friends,

In February, the *Wyoming Business Review* reported a

recent study performed by the American Alliance of Museums. This research, "Museums as Economic Engines" revealed that the Cowboy state ranks FOURTH in the nation for how much its economy relies upon museums. In Wyoming, museums employ 1,499 taxpayers, voters and citizens; and directly contribute \$200,000,000 to the economy. Nationwide, museums contribute more than \$24,000,000 in local, state and federal taxes alone. Throughout the nation, museums support 726,000 jobs- more than double that of the professional sports industry! This report also documented that for every \$100 of direct economic activity generated by museums within a community, an additional \$220 is created through indirect economic activity. These additional economic benefits are fostered by community businesses that benefit from the presence of tourism sites such as gas stations, motels, gift shops, and restaurants.

Yet, whenever one of Wyoming's inevitable Energy busts occur, Museums, parks and historic sites are among the first to be cut by our state and local elected representatives and government bureaucrats. This, although tourism is Wyoming's second largest economic contributor. The State of Wyoming annually spends millions of dollars on the Department of Tourism, which primarily markets the State of Wyoming to out-of-state visitors. Unfortunately, because of budget cuts which have decimated our museums, historic sites and parks, when these guests arrive in Wyoming they find tourism destinations that are closed or operating under reduced hours; lack skilled, talented and experienced docents,

museum professionals and historians because they have been laid-off; are poorly maintained and appear to visitors to be run down; contain old, poorly maintained and outdated exhibits and interpretation; have limited public programs; and are desperately understaffed.

An accompanying study by the American Alliance of Museums, "Museums and Public Opinion", revealed that 96% of Americans approve of elected officials who act to support museums, and 97% of Americans believe that museums provide valuable educational experiences to their communities. In fact, the report concludes that: "... whether urban or rural, conservative or liberal...Americans treasure the museums in their communities and want elected officials to support them." These two studies offer conclusive evidence that Wyoming needs to expend considerable resources on fostering and supporting heritage tourism based economic development and growth.

On Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> the Wyoming History Day state level competition was conducted at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. Wyoming History Day is held in two divisions – Juniors from grades 6-9; and Seniors from grades 10-12. Over 700 students from throughout the state demonstrated their interest in history by creating exhibits, presentations and documentaries; preparing papers; and developing websites. As a Judge, I am continuously amazed and impressed at the considerable talent displayed by these future historians from the Cowboy state. The Wyoming State Historical Society is a financial supporter of Wyoming History Day. We strongly encourage our members to involve their children and grandchildren in future History Days and ask you to support Wyoming History Day at both the county and state level! It will prove a rewarding and enjoyable experience!

Until Next Time,  
**Doug**

(Heard on the Trail continued from page 1)

The **Hot Springs County Historical Society** hosted 7th and 8th grade students of Thermopolis Middle School who have been preparing for the second annual “Night at the Living Wax Museum.”

The **Sheridan County Historical Society and Museum’s** quarterly magazine, *The Log*, has gone digital. Please call the museum at 675-1150 if you wish to receive the magazine in a different format.

Congratulations to the **Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum** on receiving its reaccreditation from the American Alliance of Museums. This is no easy task, and reinforces the museum’s commitment to attaining the highest standards of collections care, financial responsibility, education goals, and community outreach. The museum is one of only six museums accredited in Wyoming.

WSHS member **Alan Keimig** has been busy volunteering at the historic town of Sunrise. He works alongside members **George and Geri Zeimans, and John Voight**. If you haven’t had a chance to see what’s going on there you’re in for a big surprise. You can email John at [johnjavaman@gmail.com](mailto:johnjavaman@gmail.com) for details.

“Cattle Kate and Six-Shooter Sal,” will be the topic of the May 17th meeting for the **Star Valley Historical Society**. For details call WSHS/SVHS member **Judy Erickson** at 885-9259.

We were terribly sorry to learn of a fire at the Hot Springs Museum in Thermopolis. They were able to control it but, unfortunately, there was a lot of smoke damage. As of this writing we are told the museum is closed indefinitely.

## 2018 HOMSHER RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

**Leslie Waggener**, chair of the Society’s Homsher Grant Committee said thirteen applications were received this year. “The committee was impressed with the strong proposals that covered a broad range of topics.” Leslie noted that while the decision was difficult, four applications were funded for a total of \$5,385.00., and a one-year complimentary membership in the Society. The recipients are:

- **Kathryn McKee**, West Yellowstone, MT received \$1,235 for her project titled “A Woman’s Place in the Mythology of the American West.”
- **Andrea Powers**, Three Forks, MT received \$1,150 for her project titled “The Empire Ranch: Western Heritage and Community.”
- **Kaitlin Sundberg**, Omaha, NE received \$1,500 for her project titled “Tourism and Indigenous Performance at Cheyenne Frontier Days, 1897-1960.”
- **Sarah Keyes**, Reno, NV received \$1,500 for her project titled “Death’s Purchase: The Overland Trail and the Making of Transcontinental America.”

Besides Leslie, the Homsher Committee includes **Patty Kessler**, Laramie; **Kem Nicolaysen**, Casper and **Lisa Thalken**, Douglas.

Applications for research funds are due the end of each February. For more details contact Leslie at [lwaggen2@uwyo.edu](mailto:lwaggen2@uwyo.edu).



## The Exchange

**2018 TREK:** Don’t forget to register for the 2018 Trek, hosted by the **Fort Bridger Historical Association**, the weekend of June 29th. Registration form can be downloaded at [www.wyshs.org](http://www.wyshs.org), or by calling 782-3842. Participation in the Trek is open to everyone, members and non-members alike.

**LARAMIE’S 150TH ANNIVERSARY:** Celebrations for this big event will take place the first week in May. All of the Laramie museums and a variety of organizations are working to create and coordinate activities to mark the occasion. For details contact [kdviner@msn.com](mailto:kdviner@msn.com).



## MANAGER SOUGHT FOR HISTORIC BISHOP HOME:

The person who gets this job will direct efforts to develop and integrate the Historic Bishop Home into the community and state as a premier historic site and preservation project. To apply contact the Cadoma Foundation via 307-3235-5277 or e-mail [info@cadomafoundation.org](mailto:info@cadomafoundation.org).

## Wyoming History Calendar

**May 12—Gillette.** Tour of the 4G Ranch. Treaty Signing Re-enactment.

Call Charlene at 685-6997 to participate.

**May 14-Afton.** Star Valley Historical Society program about Cattle Kate. Call 885-9259 for details.

**May 19-Casper.** Natrona County Historical Society features “History of Aprons.” at the Historic Bishop House. Call 235-5277 to register.

**June 29-July 1-Fort Bridger.** The Society’s annual Trek will be hosted by the Fort Bridger Historical Association. Watch for details.

**July 3—Fort Bridger—Fort Bridger 1868**

**July 26-Heart Mountain.** Annual Pilgrimage. Early registration begins February 1. Visit [www.heartmountain.org](http://www.heartmountain.org) for details.

*May is*

*National Historic Preservation Month  
For details google Wyoming State Historic  
Preservation Office*

**Note: All phone numbers are Area Code 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 15<sup>th</sup>. Send items to [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org)

*(Continued from page 1) — Budget Shortfalls*

Second, the Finance and Publications committees are in the process of evaluating alternatives to our current approach to publishing *Annals of Wyoming*, which will be presented to the Executive Committee for their review.

Third, the Finance Committee recommends a modest increase and simplification of “base” dues to \$40.00 at both the individual and household level. Student dues would remain at \$20.00 and Institutional dues would remain at \$60.00. The home chapters would continue to establish individual chapter dues which is added to the “base” dues.

Fourth, the prior and current presidents of the Society will be asked to forego their traditional lifetime memberships because of having served. The Executive committee recognizes that for our membership on fixed incomes, even this modest increase in dues might be challenging.

The Executive Committee is asking for your comments, recommendations and concerns regarding these proposed dues increase through August. At the Annual Meeting in Douglas on September 7-9, we will also offer those in attendance an opportunity to provide their input. Any dues increase must be approved by the Society membership at our annual meeting. It is critical that you attend.

It is disconcerting for members of the Executive Committee, and myself personally, that we must raise this unpalatable issue with our membership. However, the Society simply cannot continue to provide \$40.00 (or more) in services for *Annals of Wyoming* and *Wyoming History News* on our current dues structure.

**Doug Cubbison, President**

*[Editor’s Note]: A postcard is enclosed to help begin the discussion about receiving Wyoming History News electronically. As Doug stated this will be implemented over time. Please fill out and return the postcard by June 1].*



Make Your Reservations now for the 2018 Trek. Registration forms were in last month's newsletter or e-mail [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org) for an additional form. Early bird deadline is in Mid-May.

**Wagon Wheel Motel;** 270 North Main, Fort Bridger, WY 82933. Phone 307.782.6361 or 1.888.228.5475.

**Valley West Motel;** Business Loop I-80, Lyman WY 82937. Phone 307.787.3700 or 1.800.884-3700

**Country Cabins Inn;** 21 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Mountain View, WY 82939.  
Phone +1 307.782.7888 or website at [countrycabinsinn.com](http://countrycabinsinn.com). information also available at TripAdvisor.

**KOA Campground,** Lyman; 1545 State Highway 413, info 307.786.2188, reservations 800.562.2762. RV and tent spots, with onsite cabins.

**Fort Bridger R. V. Park;** P. O. Box 164, Fort Bridger, WY, 82933. Phone 307.782.3150 or E-mail [fbrv@bvea.net](mailto:fbrv@bvea.net). R. V. parking and tent camping. \$36.00/night for cash and \$37.44/night for credit cards.

If you plan to stay for the **Fort Bridger 1868 Treaty Signing Re-enactment** on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, please be sure to extend your reservations to include the nights of July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please make your reservations as soon as possible as many people are expected to arrive for the Treaty Signing Re-enactment. The Treaty Signing Re-enactment will last until last afternoon on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## ***WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU DONORS***

### **At Large**

Beverly Scott, San Francisco, CA  
Huey Dawson, Wheatland  
Jaw Dawson, Wheatland  
Kathryn McKee, W. Yellowstone, MT  
Sarah Keyes, Reno, NV  
Andrea Powers, Three Forks, MT  
Kaitlin Sundberg, Omaha, NE  
Cheryl Katz and Joseph Gagnon, Jackson

### **Albany County Historical Society**

Heather Wilkins, Laramie  
Kathleen Moore, Laramie

### **Campbell County Historical Society**

Rocky and Lisa Marquiss, Gillette

### **Converse County Historical Society**

Martin and Cara Castrogiovanni, Douglas

### **Fort Bridger Historical Association**

Mark McIntire, Evanston  
Aaron and Bonnie Rudy, Mt. View

### **Goshen County Historical Society**

Jerry Tomayer, Yoder

### **Laramie County Historical Society**

Charles and Janet Trefren, Cheyenne  
Margaret Smith, Cheyenne  
Michael Dixon, Cheyenne  
David Bugbee, Cheyenne  
Terri Cole, Cheyenne

### **Natrona County Historical Society**

Peter Schmotzer, Casper

### ***Wyoming Historical Foundation***

Daniel Buck, Washington, D.C.  
Lynn Sutton, Stockton, CA  
Col. Frank Bertagnolli, Ret., Kerryville, TX

### ***In Memory of Georgia Graves***

Bobbie Stratton, Casper  
Jim and Sharon Hargraves, Casper  
Lynn Houze, Cody  
Rick and Arlene Robbins, Wheatland  
Joe and Carol Bromley, Wheatland  
Linda and Ron Vosika, Riverton  
Elvira Call, Wheatland  
Brent and Susan Fabian, Cheyenne  
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Patty Myers, Buffalo  
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Judy Musgrave, Decker MT  
Joe and Marti Jo Cisneros, Casper  
Becky Steensland, Casper  
Pinky and Jackie Ellis, Casper  
Jeff and Charlene Busk, Gillette  
Joan and Larry McKee, Wheatland  
Cathy Hageman, Wheatland

### ***Wyoming History Day***

#### ***In Memory of Mary Larson***

Gene and Carla Corsen, Mills  
Sandra Johnson, Rozet  
Robert Larson, Casper

### ***WyoHistory.Org***

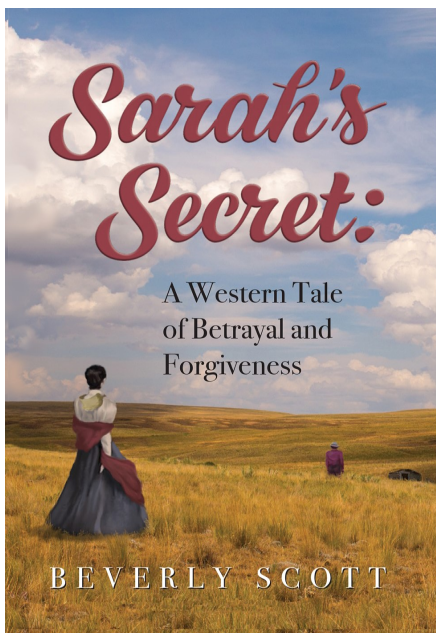
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Michael Reese, Cheyenne  
Frank Cihak, Cody



WSHS Executive Committee board member, **John Shields**, and Foundation board member **Charlene Busk** ran into each other in Boulder, Nevada recently! It was their first time meeting in person. Don't forget — there are Society members all over the United States. So, when you're traveling reach out and make a new friend.

### ON THE BOOKSHELF...

*Sarah's Secret* by WSHS member **Beverly Scott**, from San Francisco, is a



wonderfully heart-felt story about Sarah Martin, a widow who traveled from New Mexico to Nebraska with five young children in 1911. This book is a thoughtful look into Bev's own

genealogical journey to learn more about her paternal grandparents, and confirm a

whispered family secret. To purchase the book visit your local bookstore. You can follow Bev's blog at "the Writing Life" on [www.bevscott.com](http://www.bevscott.com).

## THE MAN IN THE ARENA

The Life and Times of U.S. Senator Gale McGee  
Rodger McDaniel | Foreword by Alan K. Simpson



WSHS member **Rodger McDaniel**, from Cheyenne, is proud to announce the September release of his latest book, "*The Man in the Arena*." Published by the University of Nebraska Press, with a foreword by Senator Alan Simpson, this work talks about Senator McGee's major role in the development of post WWII foreign policy and almost every legislative milestone in US history from the 1950s to 1980. The author also addresses the significant shift in government and details how the attribution "liberal" became a candidate's epitaph. Rodger is a pastor, and author of numerous works that discuss Wyoming's political history. *The Man in the Arena* will be released this fall.

**Support Your Local Bookseller First!**



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now! See page 5.*

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## *In Memory....*

On a personal note I am sad to say that my mom, **Georgia M. Graves**, a long-time member of the Society, died at the age of 98 on March 12th in Douglas. She was laid to rest on April 2nd. Mom was the youngest of six children born to Italian immigrants Emilio Arturo DeRose and Columbia Fasciano. Mom had a beautiful smile and is remembered as someone with a wicked sense of humor who loved her family and her community. She is survived by myself, Linda (Joe) and my sister, Georgia (Jim) Moore, five grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, eighteen great great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild! The family requests memorials to the Wyoming Historical Foundation, 1505 Estes Lane, Gillette WY 82716.

And condolences to the family of **Bev Schwieger** of Cheyenne who died on April 2nd. Bev was a long-time member of the Society (Laramie County Chapter) and always in attendance at the annual Treks. She had a big smile and loved sharing her interest in history with others. She enjoyed membership in many organizations, such as Cowgirls of the West and Laramie County Cowbells. She is survived by her husband, Paul, and children.

And to the family of **Gracie Carlson** who died in Cody last summer at the beautiful age of 109! Gracie was born in Meeteetse in 1908. Gracie and her husband Edgar, made their home at the Steele Ranch, and later at the K.C. Ranch on Gooseberry Creek in Washakie County. She is survived by her daughter Helen Turney, four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.