



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

October 2017

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Heard on the Historical Trail



Thank you to all the members who sent in their ballots. We are proud to announce the newest board members to the Society's Executive Committee are **Jane Gebhart**, Gillette and **John Shields** from Nevada. John holds the distinction of being the first board member elected to serve the needs of our out-of-state members. Congratulations also to **Rick Robbins**, Wheatland, upon winning a second term. We appreciate everyone who tossed their hat into the ring—it takes a village. And a huge note of thanks to **Jessica Clark**, Rock Springs, who served the board for three years.

The Albany County Historical Society kicked off their season with a program titled "Warriors in Khaki: Indian Doughboys in the Great War." Presenters were WSHS members **Doug Cubbison** and **Johanna Wickman**.

Congratulations to WSHS member **Julianne Couch** of Iowa who recently received a Kansas Notable Book Award for her work

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Foundation Gears Up for Homecoming

The Wyoming Historical Foundation serves as the fundraising arm of the Society. Earlier this year you were all invited to a "non-event" gala which turned out to be hugely successful. The Foundation is gearing up for homecoming season and soon you'll all be invited to a tailgate party that you can enjoy from the comforts of your home.

Dave Kathka, WSHS past president and member of the Foundation board of directors recently received a heartfelt letter from one of the students who participated in Wyoming History Day and ultimately went to Nationals.

Dave said, "Thirty seven years ago the Society decided to support a new program called Wyoming History Day, an affiliate of National History Day. After thirty-seven years Wyoming History and Nationals has given thousands of Wyoming students in grades six through twelve the opportunity to learn more about local, state, national and international history. And, because I have followed the program closely (since serving as the very first State History Day Coordinator), and talked to many of the students who have participated I have been

touched by how they have been impacted by the program. I have seen contest winners, at every level, with smiles on their faces running to the stage to receive their medals and scholarships, and special recognition with their friends and competitors cheering them on if they had just won an athletic contest. I have ridden the bus with them across the country as they go to the national contest. I have talked to them ten, twenty, thirty years afterward and heard them talk excitedly about the program and their experience. Just this year I received two letters from a participant thanking me for helping to fund her trip to that National Contest where she won recognition. But that is not all, she told me how the contest had also changed her life, and letters like that are why I support the programs of the Wyoming State Historical Society."

The fundraiser will give you an opportunity to support not only History Day, but the other valuable programs sponsored by the Society, WyoHistory.org; Homsher Research Grants, and the Society's long-term sustainability to name a few.

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Preferably via e-mail to
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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. . .



The Park County Historical Society is to be congratulated upon organizing and presenting a memorable Annual Meeting in Cody. Among the highlights of the weekend was an immaculately prepared scavenger hunt that carried our membership throughout Buffalo Bill's downtown Cody. The weekend concluded with three highly enjoyable first person portrayals of the women of Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World. One of the actresses recalled how her "Uncle Will" (William F. 'Buffalo Bill' Cody, of course!) created his show specifically so that Americans back east could see how their history had been made. Those members of the Historical Society who were raised in the 1950s and 1960s, like myself, had veterans as fathers, and grew up with Davy Crockett, Daniel Boone, Annie Oakley, Walt Disney's "Francis Marion: The Swamp Fox" and other patriotic and historic radio (and later television) shows. Award winning authors (every single one of them a veteran of the Great War) such as Bruce Lancaster, Bruce Catton, Kenneth Roberts, Hervey Allen and Laurence Stallings enthralled me as a youth with their vivid renditions of our nation's heritage and history. Every Memorial Day, as a Cub Scout, later a Boy Scout, reenactor and eventually a member of the U.S. Army myself, I proudly marched in community parades recognizing our veterans who served in conflicts from the

Great War through Vietnam.

Regrettably, many members of our younger generations grew up without similar influences. What this means for the Wyoming State Historical Society is that our membership is growing grayer. Last year our membership declined by 51 members, and two of our state chapters nearly disbanded. One of the challenges that not only our Society, but museums and historical organizations throughout the nation, face is that we are no longer attracting younger members and families.

To address this trend, the Society is developing a new initiative, the Cowboy State Federation of Future Historians and Emerging Historians. Both organizations are based upon longstanding and extremely successful programs in Texas and North Carolina, and are similar to the "Pennsylvania Federation of Junior Historians" in which I participated as a teenager. The Future Historians is oriented towards youth at the scholastic level (grades 7-12), while the Emerging Historians is intended for young adults of College age and young parents. Both organizations are focused on engaging the state's youth in year-round historical events and studies, and are intended to augment the popular and successful Wyoming History Day event. These organizations will emphasize hands-on learning and age-appropriate activities that interest and engage the youths of our state. Converse County has already formed a Chapter of Emerging Historians, and Natrona County is actively working at starting a Chapter of Future Historians this school year.

(Continued on Page 3)

(President's letter continued from page 1)

The other leaders of the Society and I available to assist chapters with fostering this emerging program.

We are in the process of planning the next Executive Committee board meeting in November, hopefully in Douglas. Our meetings are always open to our membership. If you would like us to visit your chapter please contact Society headquarters at linda@wyshs.org or find our personal e-mails in the column found on Page 2.

I am thrilled and honored to be serving the Society as its 63rd president.

Doug

(Heard on the Trail continued from page 1)

titled *The Small Town Midwest: Resilience and Hope in the 21st Century*. Julianne is a former resident of Laramie and has written numerous books.

Mark your calendars for June 29-July 1, 2018 when the **Fort Bridger Historical Association** will host the annual Trek. If you are interested in hosting the annual meeting next September contact headquarters.

WSHS member and author **Bud Alley** of Tennessee, spent the entire month of September traveling across Wyoming and speaking to schools, chapters and others about his experiences in Vietnam. We were thrilled to visit with him at the annual meeting.

Cheyenne continues to celebrate its 150th birthday. To find out more contact the Mayor's office at 637-6300, or visit cheyenne150@cheyennecity.org.

Welcome New Members and Thank You Donors....

At Large

Doug Dumbrill, Gillette
Jerry and Beverly Barlow,
Golden, CO

Converse County Historical Society

Mike and Bura Hollenbeck,
Douglas

Goshen County Historical Society

Chuck and Lois Coleman,
Hawk Springs

Johnson County Historical Society

Shane and Heidi Greet, Buffalo

Platte County Historical Society

Carolyn Dance and Arland
Childers, Wheatland

Wyoming Historical Foundation

(the long-term endowment)

In Memory of Gene Palen

Dr. Ted McCoy, Cheyenne
Laramie County Historical
Society, Cheyenne

Tony Adams, Cheyenne
Paul and Bev Schwieger,
Cheyenne

Gale and Leonard Geringer,
Cheyenne

Paul and Sheryl Fanning,
Cheyenne

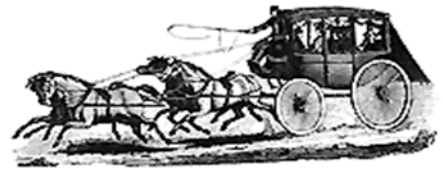
Marion and Judith Loomis,
Cheyenne

Joe and Linda Fabian, Wheatland

WyoHistory.Org

Wyoming Humanities Council,
Laramie

Christy Watenpugh, Grapevine,
TX



The Exchange

CHAPTER TREASURERS:

Year-End Financial Reports due November 15th. Forms will be provided in October.

ANNUAL MEETING 2018: If your chapter is interested in hosting the Society's 65th Annual Meeting, held in September, please contact headquarters at linda@wyshs.org.

DISCOVER HISTORIC WYOMING: Download the free app at travelstory.com. Use your smart phone to explore Indian Wars of Early Wyoming, Trena Trail, Black Diamond Byway, Westward Ho! And Guernsey State Park.

FOUND: If you left your blue and flowered umbrella in Cody email Bettie Marie at mountainbreeze33@gmail.com to retrieve it.

GIFT IDEAS: The Holidays are upon us. No clue what to get that special person or business acquaintance? How about a membership in the Society? You could also include the 2018 Calendar of Wyoming History, or one of the Society's newest publications. Maybe a special print—we have the Conrad Schwiering Print available, and also Paulley Prints, plus more. For more information contact Society headquarters at linda@wyshs.org, or call 322-3014.



Wyoming History Calendar

October 4—Rock Springs. A program about Historic Transportation Corridors will begin at 6:30 p.m. For details e-mail wegner13@msn.com.

October 6-January 14—Casper. The Wyoming Veterans Museum's Collection of George Ostrom's World War I artwork will be on display at the Nicolaysen Art Museum. For details call 265-5247.

October 12-Cheyenne. The Founding of Cheyenne, Wyoming State Museum, 7 p.m.

October 19-Casper. Attend the opening of "Poe," at the Historic Bishop Home. For tickets call 277-3585.

November 11-Casper. Opening reception for George Ostrom's Artwork, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Call 265-5247 for details.

**This space is reserved for your calendar items.
Please send to linda@wyshs.org**

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 15th. Send items to Editor, Wyoming History News, P. O. Box 247, Wheatland, WY 82201.

(Foundation Fundraiser, continued from page 1)

The following note was sent to Dave Kathka from Jamison Thatch in regard to her experience at the 2017 National History Day Competition:

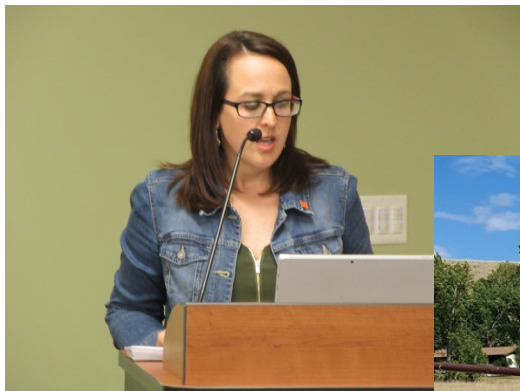
Dear Dr. Kathka, My name is Jamison Thatch. I am happy to report that I placed 8th in the nation in the Individual Performance category with my project, and also received a special award based off my performance and project. Earlier I wrote to you in thanks for your very generous financial assistance to travel to the National History Day contest held in Washington, D.C. I wanted to thank you again for your support in sending Wyoming students to NHD. Your aid really did make a difference, not only monetarily, but on my life. Thank you again,

Jamison Hatch

So, when you receive your invitation to the non-event tailgate party please consider giving to the Foundation so your gifts can help us continue to support all of our programs. If you have any questions please contact the Society at 322-3014, linda@wyshs.org, or **Charlene Busk**, Treasurer, Wyoming Historical Foundation at charbusk@gmail.com. Thank you, Dave, for sharing your story.

[Editor's Note: Jamison's Junior Individual Performance was titled "Freedom Lies Here." She is a student at Lander Middle School. Her teacher is Gayla Hammer]

Thank you... to the Park County Historical Society for hosting such an impressive 64th annual meeting. Cody was beautiful in early September and attendees enjoyed participating in the general membership meeting, tours, a delightful scavenger hunt, and so much more. We were very well taken care of. We especially thank **Fran and Lennox Baker** for their amazing generosity, and Clay Gibbons for giving such a grand tour of Old Trail Town.



Dr. Jessica Clark served on the Executive Committee for three years and was chair of the Awards Committee. Thank you, Jessica.



Sharon Martin, Cheyenne, insisted on getting the gate as the group was living the historic Pitchfork Ranch. She said it had been a long time since she opened a ranch gate!

Pictures courtesy of Mary Kelley and Donna Kenney

WYOMING STATE MUSEUM
Cheyenne

FALL 2017
THURSDAY NIGHT
**LECTURE
SERIES**

SPEND AN
EVENING WITH THE
WYOMING STATE
MUSEUM

Settling the Sterile and Desolate Plains

The Founding of Cheyenne and Then Some



Thursday, October 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Wyoming State Museum in Cheyenne

Award Recipients 2017

Cody provided the perfect backdrop for this year's highly anticipated awards luncheon. The nominations were submitted from all areas of the state to represent the hard work of many that resulted in publications, oral histories and more. Final selections were made by the Society's Awards committee comprised of Jessica Clark, Chair, Rock Springs; Cindy Brown, Cheyenne; Jane Gebhart, Gillette and Ruth Lauritzen, Green River. Due to space limitations, judge's comments had to be edited. View the full version at www.wyshs.org or get your own copy by e-mailing linda@wyshs.org. Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations, and congratulations to each of the winners.

Publications Awards:

Fiction

1st Place: Peaks and Valleys by Donna Coulson

Non-Fiction:

1st Place: The Trial of Tom Horn by John W. Davis

2nd Place: Soap Suds row: The Bold Lives of Army Laundresses 1802-1876 by Jennifer Lawrence

Honorable Mention:

A Phone Where Buffalo Roamed by Terry Del Bene

Biographies and Autobiographies:

2st Place: North of Crazy: A Memoir by Neltje

Honorable Mention: Wilderness Fever: A Family's Homesteading Adventures by Linda Preston McKinstry and Harold Cole McKinstry

Self-Published

1st Place: Voices a Twilight: A Poet's Guide to Wyoming Ghost Towns by Lori Howe

Honorable Mention: The Meadowlark's Song...and More by Charlotte Babcock.

Reference Works:

1st Place: Ulm Wyoming: Horses, Steam and Diesel by Clearmont Historical Group

Pamphlets/Brochures/newsletters/Calendars

Pamphlets:

1st Place: Monarch's Reign by Leon Washut and Karen Ballek

Newsletters:

1st Place: The Log by Sheridan County Historical Society and Museum

Honorable Mention: Laramie Plains Museum newsletter by Mary Mountain

Magazines

1st Place: "Citizen Khan" The New Yorker by Kathryn Schulz

2nd Place: "Bob Edgar" Legends Magazine by Amber Peabody.

Newspapers:

1st Place: "LX Bar None" Gillette News Record by Kathy Brown

Fine Arts

1st Place: LX Bar Ranch House by Tom Butler

Honorable Mention: The Cody Monologues: Famous and Infamous Women of the West by Bethany Sandvik

Young Historian (Grades 3-5)

1st Place: Oregon Trail Historic Sites by Samuel Scribner

2nd Place: Kemmerer K by Ella Thatcher

Honorable Mention: Women of the frontier by Raisa Dutcher

(Continued on Page 7)

Young Historian (Grades 9-12)

1st Place: Caroline Lockhart by Matthew Dimsey and Tori Ransom

2nd Place: Bringing the Sun Dance to Light by Trisha Tamblyn

3rd Place: Annie Oakley: Little Sure Shot Aims for Equality by Emily Hollingshead

Junior Activities (Grades 3-5)

1st Place: Wyoming Museums by Delaney Fullerton

2nd Place: Fort Bridger by Aidan Butler

3rd Place: Fort Kearny by Hailey Beastrom

Junior Activities (Grades 6-8)

2st Place: Kendrick Political Artifacts by Luke Knudson, Henry Dickinson, Sarah Manor, Paige Padilla and Hannah Palmer

Junior Activities (Grades 9-12)

1st Place: Wyoming Solar Eclipse 2017 and Eclipse Legends by Andrew Mathis, Ashley Thompson, Tyler Trentacosti, Hannah Palmer and Tristin Thompson

Activities:

Tours:

1st Place: 65th Annual Albany County Ranch Tour by Sandra Eike and Terri Jones

Honorable Mention: LX Bar Ranch Trip by Campbell County Commissioners and Campbell County Rockpile Museum

Educational Projects

1st Place: 2016 Wyoming Day Celebration by Maxine Kaul

Honorable Mention: Trek the Trails by Platte County Historical society

Museum Activities

1st Place: 125th Anniversary of Gillette by Mary Kelley

Honorable Mention: 175th Anniversary of the Battle—Jim Baker Days by Little Snake River Museum

Annual Service Awards

Awarded to Felicia Kirven

Chapter Awards:

1st Place: Sheridan County Historical society for children's Exhibit

2nd Place: Platte County Historical Society for Axford School

Mabel Brown Cumulative Contribution Award

Awarded to Linda Fabian

Henryetta Berry Memorial Award

Awarded to Shawna Michelena

L.C. Bishop Award

Awarded to Jason Vican, Chris Wilkinson and Randy Brown

Maurine Carley Memorial Historic Preservation Award

Awarded to the Dayton Mercantile

For a complete guide to nominating someone for an award contact Society headquarters for the guidelines. Awards are due on or before April 30th of each year. There is an exception for youth awards.



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In Memory....

Our thoughts are with the family of long-time WSHS/Laramie County Historical Society member **Gene Palen** of Cheyenne. News of his untimely death came as we were in Cody attending the annual meeting. For many years Gene owned and operated Big W. Supplies. He was a member of St. Mary's Cathedral, past board member of the Cheyenne Historical Preservation Society and the Cheyenne Metropolitan Planning Organization. He served his local chapter as secretary, and enjoyed attending all the various activities hosted by the chapter and the Society. He is survived by his wife, Mary

Jane, and two children. Mary Jane said those who wish may contribute to the Wyoming Historical Foundation in his memory. Donations can be sent to Wyoming Historical Foundation, P. O. Box 247, Wheatland, WY 82201.

