

Historic Ivinson Mansion
Laramie Plains Museum Newsletter

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Laramie Plains Museum Association.

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the mansion

LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM AT THE
HISTORIC IVINSON MANSION

Joyfully Ringing
in the Holidays

We're feeling the holiday spirit!
Get in a merry mood with some
great Mansion themed games
and goodies.

It's Just the
Dickens!

Join us for our Annual Holiday
Open House, Saturday and Sunday,
December 9th and 10th for a
Charles Dickens extravaganza!

LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM - 603 E IVINSON AVE



NEWS FROM THE MANSION

AMY ALLEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Laramie Plains Museum,

I am overjoyed to announce that the Search Committee and Board of Directors have offered me the wonderful opportunity of taking over the Executive Directorship permanently. I am excited to continue to serve the Laramie Plains Museum to the best of my ability, and to work with all the special people who make this place great. I have long believed that this museum is unique because of the wonderful staff, volunteers, donors, members, and patrons who support it. And as we prepare to close out 2023, I cannot wait to see what 2024 has in store for all of us.

You might be wondering about our upcoming project, the restoration of the Carriage House. This building is one of the most important on the property, as it acts as our museum office—where we meet with potential tour-takers and renters, where we spearhead projects like our annual membership drive, and where many start their journey here at the Museum Complex. We are moving forward with this project and are right now reviewing and making integral improvements on our working building plans as suggested to us by valuable members of our museum community: folks who worked on the Alice Hardie Stevens Center, construction aficionados, and volunteers with important insight to often overlooked areas such as the gardens. Thank you to Bob Routson and Scott

Morton from the Board, who have been working tirelessly on this project, and to Dan Swift, the wonderful architect who drafts these crazy ideas into fruition. We can't say for certain when we will be ready to move on to the next steps, but I predict that this project will be very prevalent as we come into the new year.

Also, I do want to invite everyone to come down to our annual Holiday Open House, Saturday and Sunday, December 9th, and 10th. Our theme this year is a Charles Dickens Christmas, so expect full-on Victoriana and accompanying merriment. We'll have free walkthrough tours of the house—including a scavenger hunt for all ages, the Laramie Woman's Club Bazaar in the AHSC, refreshments, live music, and much more. And special thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who are gearing up (as I am writing this) to "deck our halls" for such a great event! We appreciate all you do to make the season merry and bright. Please stop by to see us if you have the time, and don't forget to swing by the Wyoming Women's History House and the Eppson Center for their coinciding holiday events as well.

And finally, we are feeling the holiday spirit, so in recognition of that, we decided to make this a "fun" newsletter, with puzzles and games, and a very terrible poem drafted by yours truly. We hope that your holiday season is filled with joy and gratitude. Happy Holidays!

OUR FAVORITE THINGS

We've been patiently waiting for the holiday season to come back around, and (barely) avoiding singing Christmas music too early. Enjoy this Mansion-themed version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *My Favorite Things*. Feel free to sing along with Julie Andrews or Tony Bennett, or just try it out yourself. We promise no one will hear you over our staff warbling through another round of *Silver Bells*.

Giving long tours to interested patrons
Colorful dresses for misses and matrons
Laundry contraptions that mangle and wring
These are a few of our favorite things

Weddings, and *Evenings*, and High Tea on Tuesdays
Iverson china for oysters on Fridays
Long barreled rifles on brown leather slings
These are a few of our favorite things

Fuzzy elk footstools and hats made of feathers
Winter-worn saddles and cattlemen's leathers
Hearing your voice on the phone when it rings
These are a few of our favorite things

When the leaves fall
When the snow's deep
When we're feeling cold
We simply remember our favorite things
And then we don't feel so old.

Merry Mad-ness

Shirla and Danny Walker are the ingenious minds behind the famous "Penguin Staircase," and the "Christmas Tree Dress." This year, Shirla and Danny are bringing out the big guns. We've created this MadLibs game in honor of one of their new displays that's bound to become yet another classic! Inspired by the last newsletter's interview with Helen, which featured her fighting a bear, play with your friends and see what wild things you come up with.

MadLibs is a classic word game where the player inserts words by type (such as a noun, verb, or adjective) into a pre-existing story. There are no wrong answers, only hilarious results!



Going Bananas! Shirla and Danny Walker have gone wild again.

It was a _____ December night, and Helen was locking up
(Adjective)
the mansion. She was turning off the _____ in _____
(Plural Noun) (Room in the Mansion)
when she heard a noise from upstairs. She _____
(Past Tense Verb)
up the stairs and said _____, "Who's there?"
Adjective Ending in -ly
When she reached the landing, she couldn't believe her _____.
(Body Parts)
There was a gorilla riding a bicycle! Helen said,
"_____,", and _____ the gorilla. He said,
(Famous Movie Quote) (Past Tense Verb)
"_____", and went back to _____. Helen turned
(Animal Noise) (Verb Ending in -ing)
off the lights and wished the gorilla a _____ night.
(Adjective)



Make sure to swing by for our annual

Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 9th , 3:00 - 6:00 pm
Sunday, December 10th, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Featuring free walkthrough tours, the Laramie Woman's Club Holiday Bazaar in the AHSC, treats and refreshments, live music and much more.

And thanks to a suggestion from volunteer extraordinaire Shirla Walker, here are a couple of info cards you can pass out to your friends and neighbors. The more the merrier!



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Holiday Open House
603 East Iverson Ave.
"A Dickens Christmas"
December 9th, 3-6 pm
December 10th, 1-4 pm



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Happy Holidays from the Ivinson Mansion

M S X Z S P S O C I N G U D X
 G U N J S G E D I C K E N S O
 W N S O Q E L T W I H L V W B
 G I O E W P D I R V W J H O D
 V A N I U E N W E I T Z O Q J
 I X R T S M A V A N I Q Y O I
 J K V L E N C E T S V Q L O O
 S C V Z A R A R H O M L J C P
 H L Y J X N E M U N Y X C Y E
 J L L Q W B D S T H G I L R N
 P D K E M T N E M A N R O R H
 M C I E B P R E S E N T S E O
 V I C T O R I A N U X V M M U
 K E M I S T L E T O E M C K S
 D S G N I K C O T S E A O V E

Word Bank

Bells	Garland	Mansion	Open House	Stockings
Candles	Ivinson	Merry	Ornament	Victorian
December	Jolly	Mistletoe	Presents	Winter
Dickens	Lights	Museum	Snow	Wreath



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at the Historic Ivinson Mansion
Tours offered Tuesday - Saturday
1:00 - 4:00 pm
Closed January and February



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GIVING TOURS

HELEN PUGSLEY
ADMIN ASSISTANT

Our docents are the rockstar volunteers who help us facilitate tours for hundreds of patrons each year. Do you have what it takes to join their ranks? Helen Pugsley breaks down why she loves giving tours of the Mansion.

It's no secret we here at LPM are looking for more docents. They would be filling in when other regular docents get sick, have an appointment they can't miss, Hulk smashes their car, life happens in general! Lately, when no one else is available, that job has been falling to me, and it hasn't been half as big of a chore as I originally anticipated.

I grew up in an historic tourist district, so I joke with folks I was the dirty kid on the bike that would give impromptu tours of my home, Jay Em, Wyoming. I don't think you need a background in history to do this, however. After 50 years in the Ivinson mansion we've got training people to do tours down to a science! We hand you a docent handbook that covers everything from the exhibits to the dress code, a map of the house, and more. What the Docent Handbook doesn't cover, the Mansion Black Book will. We will also have you come in when another senior docent is working and learn from them.

I really enjoy giving tours because it doesn't matter what kind of mood I'm in. I have to be peppy, and I have to be fun, so people will enjoy my amusing them for an hour. It makes me feel peppy. You know me, I love to laugh! I inject a lot of humor in my tours and people enjoy it. I enjoy connecting with



Helen Pugsley.

strangers from all over, and it feels good when I can get the grumpy looking cowboy to crack a smile.

I'm an ambivert who leans toward the side of introvert, but generally I find the conversations refreshing! I feel like that little kid on the bike again, excited to show off what makes my home so special.

I want to invite you to come try this. It's daunting at first but the rewards are the fun of it. I always learn something new or think about something I hadn't ever thought of before.

If your are interested, feel free to give us a call at the Carriage House, or swing by to talk to us!