

LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM Historic Ivinson Mansion

Laramie Celebrates



150

YEARS

1868—2018

February 2018 Issue
Membership Newsletter

A first train chugged into the end-of-the-tracks town known as Laramie City in Dakota Territory on May 4, 1868. The first passenger train came a few days later, May 10th, carrying folks like Edward and Jane Ivinson, their adopted daughter, Maggie, and Jane's personal maid, in from Memphis, Tennessee. Their intent was to eventually keep moving west—Salt Lake City, even California—as the tracks were laid. Fortunately for us, that English couple remained and invested in the economic and cultural development of the fledgling town. Their majestic home was saved by community visionaries and now holds the impressive collections of the Laramie Plains Museum. Open these pages to see how *you can invest* in our beautiful museum and its projects. Take a moment to learn about others who do just that in myriad ways. Welcome aboard!

Cheers to an excellent new year!—so many things happening, dreams coming to fruition, and museum friends and members continuing to step up in service to this beautiful historic repository. This membership newsletter is dedicated to those men and women who give in volunteers hours and talents to the successes of the Laramie Plains Museum complex. Recent national valuations have volunteer service worth over \$24 per hour! For many years, in-kind matches calculated volunteer value around \$16 per hour. At last, there is some semblance of the highly valuable time our volunteers give to this stunning property. *We could not do what we do without volunteers.* They are the dreamers, the worker bees, the docents, advisors, those doing the grunt work and the not-so-gritty but other very necessary services.

In 2018, LPM will join with other organizations in Laramie to celebrate the town's 150th birthday: a year-long celebration of the pioneering spirits who formed our town—doing what had to be done, pitching in when they saw a need. Laramie City took root because of folks like that. The Iverson Mansion was saved from demolition because of folks like that—folks like you! We encourage you to show your appreciation to those who volunteer for our LPM. I often write in my thank you letters that “it takes a village,” and there couldn't be a truer statement of the many and varied individuals who offer support and help to keep Laramie Plains Museum thriving. This museum has been built, has grown, has been fortified, and has seen major changes and successes because of volunteers—people helping people for no other reason than they want to help good things happen. In this issue, you'll see how the dream of the Alice Hardie Stevens Center is coming true because of extraordinary giving by our volunteers in concert with our construction teams! Again, our volunteers are stepping up in valuable fashion, gifts to what we do.

Cheers to Volunteers and these 150 years!

Mary Mountain

Executive Director, Laramie Plains Museum Association



Front Row: Dan Nelson, Cecily Goldie, Charlie Chase, Lillian Hein, Priscilla Baker, Audrey Swain, Billie MacNeel, Millard Johnson, Ovie & Louie Lutz, Carolyn Nelson

Second Row: Shirley Kahne, Jean Jackson, Sidney Walter, Muriel Schroyer, Izola Kopf, Ruth Tammen, Lynn Martin, Juanita Chamblin, Eileen Routson, Deanna Johnson, Ruth Hanks.

Third Row: Blanche Sanders, Francois Dickman, Wanda Meyer, Alice Silver, Margaret Dickman, Sue Walden, Pat Guthrie, Pat McMichael, Lynn Botkin, Lottie Pingitzer, June Boyle, Wanda Decora, Polly Wade, Martha Ensley, Joanna Head.

Far Back Peeking Out In Spots: Jim Rose, Jeanie Mahaffey, JC Morris, Carolyn Waikel

LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

(inside the under-construction site at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center)
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Alongside our reports on the state of *your* museum, Dave Van Oss, one of the *lead coordinators* for the AHSC renovation, will present a power point to show you the vision and the progress for this important project. Come see what's going on!

NEWS from RJ LARA

As I write this, I'm thinking about LPM's Holiday Open House and how much I loved that event and how much I missed being there to help with it. I hope it well with that great Night Before Christmas theme. I loved the photos Judy Knight sent me of the decorative mice and Shirla and Danny Walker's patriotic red, white, and blue tree. I'm sure you all did a great job, like always! Samantha and I didn't make it back to Wyoming for Christmas so it was tough on me that I was missing the Open House for the first time in four years. Hopefully, we can make it back next year!

The biggest thing happening in my life right now is that I am off to England for my British History Design class! We have a week of classes at Winterthur and then we fly out on January 13th. We'll be visiting London, Oxford, Stoke-on-Trent, Coalport, Cotswolds, Bristol, and Bath. On January 21st, we have a full day off to do whatever we want, and I decided to buy a \$73 one-day plane ticket to Dublin, Ireland. I'll fly out early in the morning, catch an Irish Catholic mass in the morning, see a couple historic sights, drink a couple cold Guinness beers, and return late the same night. It should be fast and exciting! Some of the students went to Paris last year, but I decided to save Paris until Samantha and I can go together.

A new venture for me was writing my first blog for our student-led website. I wrote about an experience I had on a weekend field trip I took to Upstate New York. It was for a class I took on the history and material culture of communal utopias in America. We went to New York and visited a bunch of historic and contemporary sites. It was a blast! Here is the link to my blog: <http://sites.udel.edu/materialmatters/2017/12/28/the-famous-pepper-game/>

During my Summer Institute class I also did a digital humanities "exhibit" on a historic tavern in Newark, Delaware. This was the first year students did a digital humanities project for Summer Institute. I wish we would have had more time to work on it because I would have liked to put a little bit more time into it. I was given an 1816-1818 account book from the tavern and was told to do something with it. This is how it turned out: <http://www.delawares.org/exhibits/show/tavernsofnewark> I also completed another digital humanities project for my communal utopias class but that website malfunctioned the other day so it is being repaired. I will shoot you a link to that one when it is up and running again. I am much more proud of it than the tavern project. I did the one for my Utopians class on a 19th century African American agricultural community near Lake Placid, NY.

Towards the end of November I was also one of three students who spoke to Winterthur's Exhibition Committee about allowing us students to put up an exhibition in the museum's galleries. Our central object is an 18th century business cabinet that was involved in the shipment of slaves in the Atlantic Triangle Trade. The committee was tough on us but they approved our exhibition! The Director of the museum told us, "I've been waiting for a student led exhibit for 10 years now." Hopefully we started a new tradition at Winterthur! I will be 1 of only 2 students to work on the project from beginning to end so that makes me excited. The exhibition will go up in March! I'm using many skills that I learned at LPM! Thank you for that! I'd love to hear from any and all of you at my favorite place! The best email to reach me is rlara@winterthur.org

HAPPY 2018 TO ALL!!



Remember special occasions and people by making a donation to Laramie Plains Museum at Laramie's extraordinary Iverson Mansion complex. You can use this donation coupon below *anytime* throughout the year. Rather than give "one more *tchotchke*", how about a gift in support of an organization like LPM? Friends and family often appreciate something like that even more. Receipts are provided for your donations, and recipients can be notified of your thoughtful generosity if you would like. Extra donation cards are also available from the museum office.



In Honor of



*A donation has been given to the continuing preservation and care of Wyoming's wonderful legacy at the Laramie Plains Museum in the historic Iverson Mansion.
603 E. Iverson Avenue, Laramie Wyoming*

Sincerely _____

SAVE THESE DATES IN 2018

2018 MUSEUM EVENTS



School children learning about Laramie's history from docent, Sylvia Hansen. Our docents give school tours to close to 1100 local and regional students each year.



Guests, Cheryl Green, Kathy Hansen, and Vera Reid at a 2016 Tea. We lost our friend, Kathy, on January 12th. We will miss her bright, caring personality.



Guests, Joanie Porter, Joyce Powell and Anita Bretlinger at the 2017 Roaring '20s Evening. This year's event celebrates Laramie's 150th birthday with guests as early Laramie's pioneering folks.



Clara, UW *Nutcracker Suite* ballerina, read to children at an earlier *Nutcracker* Holiday Open House. The *Nutcracker* is back again!

February 18

Annual Museum Association Meeting

Alice Hardie Stevens Center indoor construction area, 2:00 p.m.

March 1

Regular Tours of the Museum Begin Again

Tuesday –Saturday guided tours 1:00 to 4:00 until summertime

April 27

Cheers for Volunteers!

An evening recognizing those who do so much for LPM.

**May 4th
thru summer**

**Watch for Announcements of Activities
celebrating Laramie's 150th Birthday!!!**

May 22

Tea on Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.

Program celebrates Laramie's 150th Birthday; tickets required.

Mid-June

Full-time Summer Hours Begin

Tuesday—Saturday 9:00 to 5:00 and Sunday afternoons

Junior Docent program begins

June 19

Tea on Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.

Program to be announced with invitations; tickets required.

July 15

Art Fest at the Ivinson Mansion—Sunday

10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. Arts, Crafts, Food, Music at LPM

July 24

Tea on Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.

Program to be announced with invitations; tickets required

August 18

“Evening at the Ivinsons”

Hell on Wheels! Celebrating Laramie at 150! Reservations required; pioneering costumes & characters are part of the event.

December 8 & 9

Holiday Open House—*Nutcracker* style!

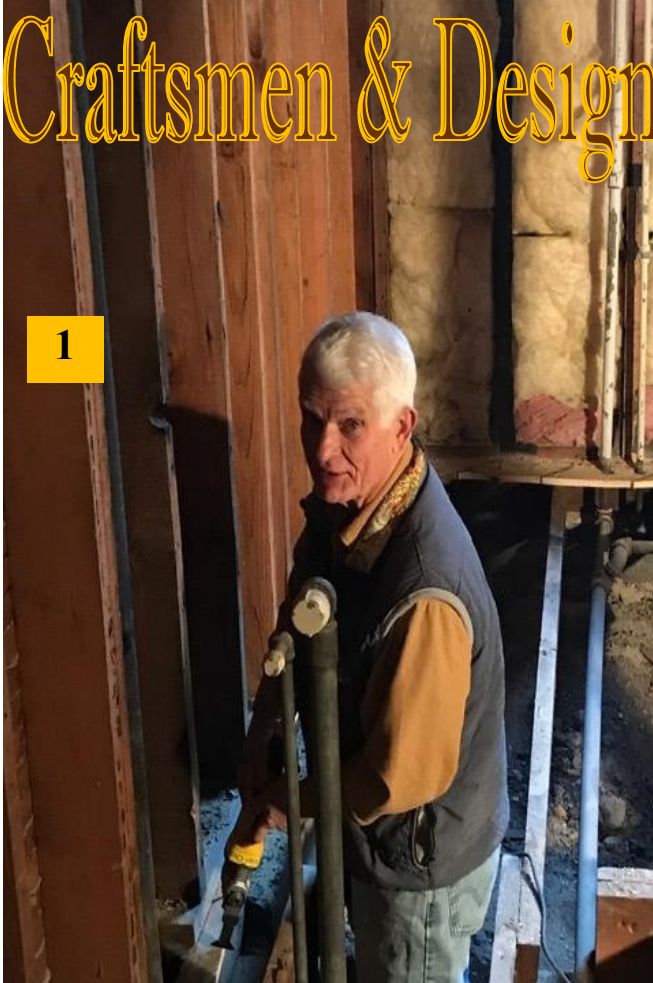
Saturday, Dec. 8, 3:00-6:00 and Sunday, Dec. 9, 1:00-4:00

NUMBERS THAT MATTER

26,546 guests were on the Ivinson Mansion grounds in 2017 with weddings, receptions, tours, meetings, special events and visiting the gift shop and gardens. This doesn't include those folks who use our beautiful museum complex as a picturesque place to pass through on their ways to other parts of Laramie. **6270** folks toured the museum, including **1021** students of all ages and classrooms in Albany County, the state of Wyoming and the region, and **861** complimentary or promotion tours.

Here's to even more folks in 2018, enjoying our Ivinson Mansion property and all that the Laramie Plains Museum has to offer because of updates, upgrades and expanded spaces that are happening at this extraordinary complex!

Craftsmen & Designing Women making another



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4



- 1) Volunteer Team Lead, Dave Van Oss
- 2) Lead #2, Ron Olsen
- 3) Mary Mountain & Lead # 3, Joyce Powell at a Team planning meeting
- 4) John Nutter pulling nails as the original Virginia Cottage stage was removed. That oak is being saved for use as wainscoting and frames on a "Memory Wall."
- 5) Bernie Horst and Marcia Chicone survey where next to take their brooms and trash cans to sweep and scoop for haul-away.
- 6) Bernie, Susan Shumway and Wally Chesebro kept up with clean up as Joe Shumway and Ron Olsen pulled down the ceiling.
- 7) Bernie and Wally actually took a moment to stop for the camera.



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5

**ALICE HARDIE
STEVENS CENTER**

RENO—VATORS

dream come true!



Here we see the large spanning truss being placed. The AHSC expansion has a dramatic open-beamed ceiling so the construction has been impressive to watch. The majesty of the Ivinson Mansion will soon be represented in the property's reception hall as well.

Below:
Familiar Sights seen around the museum:
Sweckard Construction vehicles
Honeywagon Dumpster
Dumpster full of refuse
Ron Olsen's open truck



Existing AHSC was gutted by our volunteers at the beginning of this new year.



We've come a long way, baby, since ground was broken in early fall after the rezoning delay.

Ron and Dave have framed up the bathrooms and storage room in the existing Alice Hardie Stevens are. Frame ups like this have also happened in the new basement of the addition. Dressing rooms and bathrooms will be located below the stage that sits on the main level on the west side of the expansion. The new basement area will also provide much needed archival and organizational spaces for props and artifacts cared for by the curatorial arm of the museum. These new spaces will be roomier, much drier and more climate-controlled than the basement of the mansion has ever been.



Historic Ivinson Mansion hosting the Laramie Plains Museum



A Treasure of History

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

E-mail _____

*Please make sure we have your correct name and address
when you return this entire sheet.*

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

ALL memberships are significant in support of the preservation and maintenance of this special historic place. Members receive admission to the museum, 20% discount on purchases at the Carriage House Gift Shop, voting privileges, quarterly newsletters and notice of special events. Names of Benefactors and Businesses/Organizations at \$1,000 or above (and already-established Life Members) are permanently displayed in the Ivinson Mansion's *Hall of Donors*. Yearly Business Memberships are posted at the museum. Membership contributions receive acknowledgement, tax-deduction receipts and this year's member card.

2018 Annual Membership Contribution

_____ \$ 65 Single

_____ \$ 100 Family

_____ \$ 50 Senior Single

_____ \$ 75 Senior Family

_____ \$ 250 Jane Ivinson Circle Operational Support*

_____ \$ 500 Edward Ivinson Circle Endowment Support*

_____ \$ 1,000 + Life Benefactor

_____ \$ 250 Business Member

_____ \$ 1,000 Business Benefactor (additional promotion, including website link)

_____ Please accept this additional support to help the museum meet operational needs.

_____ I would like to make a gift to the completion of the Alice Hardie Stevens Expansion

_____ I would like to make a gift to the future of the museum via the LPM Endowment Fund

* Edward and Jane Ivinson were instrumental to the development of Laramie as a thriving town. We have two membership categories that reflect their benevolence with cultural and economic development. LPM Members who contribute at these levels will be acknowledged on the *EI* plaque in the Ivinson Mansion's Hall of Donors.

_____ Check (Made out to Laramie Plains Museum)

_____ Credit Card (Most all are accepted) Account # _____ Expiration Date _____

Billing address if different than above _____ CVC _____ from back of card

The Laramie Plains Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit association. Your membership and endowment support are tax-deductible to the fullest extent provided for by law.

A receipt will be sent for *any* monetary contribution.

Laramie Plains Museum ~ 603 Ivinson Ave. ~ Laramie, WY ~ 82070 ~ 307-742-4448

NOMINATIONS FOR 2018 LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JAKE FELTON

Wrapping up his year as LPMA Board president just as his first three-year term was also finishing, Jake realized just how much he was committed to history and our vision for expansion and upgrading of the museum rental facilities. Immediately he offered to take on another term and remain as president for another year! Felton has been continued to be amazed at all that he has learned about the museum's successes and smart financial decisions because of outstanding Board advisors. Jake is a Personal Banker III with First Interstate Bank and has been with FIB for over seven years.

JAKE ANFINSON

Speaking about returnees, here's another Jake who is making us smile about his return to the Board. Anfinson held positions as president and treasurer and contributed to vital decisions with finances as we tried to keep the museum afloat in the financial dips of the mid-2000's. Jake was with us through some serious staff changes and monetary investments and options, honorably completing two full terms and moving on to serve other community organizations—on Board of the Eppson Center for Seniors and the Wyoming Family Homeownership Program. Jake is a long-time Laramie resident who is married to Stacie and has worked at First Interstate Bank in Laramie for over 10 years. In his free time, he can usually be found attending UW sporting events or camped out in the mountains.

CHERI BELLAMY

Cheri is a UW grad, BSN, retired after 41 years of nursing part-time. She obtained her masters, nurse educator, in her mid-fifties and dedicated the past decade to teaching. She taught on the UW campus 2012-2016, Academic Professional Lecturer in the School of Nursing. She and husband Bill raised three children who all graduated UW. They have five grandchildren and are enjoying retirement. Cheri was born and raised in southern California and met Bill in college, married in Laramie and lived in Texas, overseas, Fort Collins, California and south Denver for twenty-five years. While in Denver, Cheri enjoyed Board positions with the Denver Ballet Guild and Friends of Nursing as well as a Chi Omega representative for Denver Area Panhellenic. She enjoys being an LPM docent and is enchanted with Laramie history. Bill's great-grandmother, Mary Godat Bellamy (first woman in Wyoming legislature and founder of Laramie Woman's Club) arrived in Laramie in 1873 at age 12. Cheri and Bill live in Mary & Charles Bellamy's 1890's home near campus. Cheri remembers that as a 1971 college freshman she was full of wonder about the stately Ivinson Mansion and the wrought iron fenced block. She is grateful the mansion was saved and displays all its splendor today!

IMPORTANT UPDATES on other directors' positions:

With her overloaded schedule, Trey Sherwood had to step down as she neared the end of the first year of her second term. Fortunately, Debbie Pinckney stepped up to fulfill the remaining two years. Pinckney has truly done it all—holding the critical president and treasurer positions during her tenure on the Board in earlier years—and has continued to actively participate with Finance, *Evening*, Tea and AHSC Expansion Committees. We are delighted to have her expertise back in the mix.

If you noticed the beautiful lights on the mansion and Ivinson fence over the holiday season, you need to know that we have former board director, Stan Gibson, to thank for that sparkly show. On Tuesdays, and whenever needed, Stan also helps with hauling, Laramie Woman's Club pickups, trash and trimmings on the property and much more as our *man around the place* since our caretaker left. Therefore, Stan has stepped down from the Board and we are very fortunate that our longtime, insightful friend and former Board director, John Nutter, is willing to finish out Stan's term. Just as with Debbie, John has held significant positions in his terms on the Board and is very aware of what it takes to make this museum *hum* along in smart ways.

As is tradition for LPMA voting, there are no losers; the Board has voted on these candidates as excellent possibilities for our Board of Directors. We do, however, want our membership to be fully on-board with these selections and have the option of not accepting any of the proposed candidates and/or proposing someone else. Your votes are an affirmative or a negation of the proposed slate. Use the ballots below to vote your support for any and all and feel to write in a candidate of your own choice. Family and Benefactor memberships use two ballots.

Return to the museum in time for the count at the Annual Meeting, February 18, 2018

2018 Ballot Laramie Plains Museum Board of Directors

_____ Jake Felton (2nd term)

_____ Jacob Anfinson

_____ Cheri Bellamy

_____ write-in option

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_____ Jake Felton (2nd term)

_____ Jacob Anfinson

_____ Cheri Bellamy

_____ write-in option



Shown here with construction tape and orange cones, members of the vivacious **The Unexpected Company** recently gave \$5000 to the Alice Hardie Stevens Expansion dream from their *Sometimes a Rainbow* fall production. The Senior Theatre Company has been extraordinarily generous with proceeds from their productions—giving more than \$85,000 to Laramie organizations in the twelve years since the Company began. TUC’s shows are always eagerly awaited in our community, with many of them being held right in the Alice Hardie Stevens Center. TUC members, individually, and as a group, are giving extra to help with the new stage, lighting, sound and more in the new addition so that **“the shows will go on!”** We are delighted to partner with this exceptionally creative—and giving—group of seniors! **Thank you, TUC!**



Another favorite group of ours—known as the *Mother of the Laramie Plains Museum*—is Laramie Woman’s Club, going strong since 1898! LWC originated for the cultural and civic betterment of this community and there is no denying that they have consistently done just that! Alongside early members gathering and safeguarding historic items in hopes of a museum eventually coming into existence for Laramie, since 1966 Laramie Woman’s Club has been instrumental in its vision and support for the Laramie Plains Museum. When their CIP (Civic Improvement Project) Committee organized booths for resale items so proceeds could benefit the Museum, no one could have predicted their amazing success. **Polly Wade, Wanda Decora, June Boyle and their many LWC helpers** over the years have helped bump the century of giving to over \$850,000!!! At the Club’s meeting on Friday, January 12th, **President, Annie Nelson**, gave **Mary Mountain** another \$5,000 from recent Bart’s Booth proceeds! The partnership between LWC and LPM continues to be a winning combination for our community. **Thank you to Laramie Woman’s Club! CONGRATULATIONS ON 120 GREAT YEARS!**

Major Donors to the Alice Hardie Stevens Center Expansion and Renovation

(Gifts of \$1000 or more are listed here, but even those of us giving smaller amounts, just as we can, in support of this project, will ultimately be listed on a plaque in the new addition. It takes all of us—all amounts—to make this necessary dream a reality)

Donald Adams

Guthrie Family Foundation

Barbara Rouse

Laramie Woman’s Club

Dave & Janie Van Oss

Ron Olsen

Germaine & Dale St. John

RD Masonry, Marysville, WA

The Unexpected Company

Mason Loft Condos

Joyce Powell

LPM Evening at the Ivinsons’ 2017

Coffey Engineering

Dan Swift Architecture

Sweckard Excavation/Construction

Lenny Atkinson/Eagle Plumbing

Conrad & Lydia Kercher

Daniel Nelson

Pennie & Gary Espeland

City of Laramie Community Partner

Albany County Community Partner

Knights of Pythias (Damon Lodge #3)

Jayne Dooley

Dennis & Judy Knight

Tom & Maleta Mangan

McWhinnie Trust

Cheers for Volunteers!

We love our Laramie Plains Museum volunteers. We all have our seasons of our lives when it is more opportune than others to give volunteer help, as shown by the volunteer group photo from 1993 on the beginning pages, yet some of those volunteers are still with us. We appreciate every volunteer effort, *whenever* it can happen. Here's a list of those who are currently active with giving of their time, talent and hands-on care for LPM. Thank you all!

Judy & Bob Adams
Jake Anfinson
Mary Jo Atherton
Barbara Barnes
Peter Baumann
Cheri Bellamy
Sandy Blair
Dan & Maureen Boddiker
Florence Brandt
Bonnie & Ken Braisted
Myrna Brandt
Claire Brooks
Ann Boelter
Bernae Brown
Iris Brunett
Leslie Capps
Teri Carroll
Wally & Bonnie Chesbro
Marcia Chicone
Dona Coffey
Karol Corbin
Konnie Cronk
Rhetha Davis
Wanda Decora
Sally Dieterich
Linda Eason
Cindy Elrod
Martha Ensley
Judy Erickson
Pennie & Gary Espeland
Doris Eyestone
Jake Felton
Pam Fisher
Lou Flores
Shelly & Brian Forster
Alice & Doug Freeman
Sarah Gadd
Valentina Gavrilova
Cherie Guerin
Stain & Gina Gibson
Cecily Goldie
Rachel Greenwald
Denise Greller
Crystal & Aubree Griffis
Verna Guenther
Ruth Hanks
Jerry Hansen
Sylvia & Bob Hansen
Linda Haynes
Carol & Steve Hoff
Bernie Horst
Jo Humphreys
Wayne Karberg
Kathy Keenan
Patty & Duane King
Pat Kiovsky
Dennis & Judy Knight
Sharon Leder

Pete & Joanne Lindahl
Suzanne Lewis
Jeanie Mahaffey
Steve & Lissa Maki
Susan McGraw
Rachel & Dustin McKen
E.G. Meyer
Dorothy Moore
Pat & Fred Morgan
Mary & Bob Mountain
Kathy Nash
Annie Nelson
Carolyn & Bob Nelson
Dan Nelson
Frank & Jane Nelson
John Nutter
Debi & Fred Ockers
Ron & Anne Olsen
Liz Ontiveroz
Connie Palmer
Lynetter Parkhurst
Stevi Patterson
Marilyn Pedrick
Robin Petroski
Martha Pheneger
Debbie Pinckney
Norma Pigg
Teri Jo Piper
Joyce & Doug Powell
Paula Ray
Chuck & Sandy Reher
Cyrus Rehman
Vera Reid
Sally Richards
Louise Richardson
Phil Roberts
Bonnie Robertson
Barb Rouse
Eileen Routson
Terri Schindel
Jeanetta Schmidt
Jess Shaver
Susan & Joe Shumway
Leigh & Jess Smith
MaryAnne Smith
Keith & Nancy Smules
Mike Snow
Ladona & Richard Stallings
Marian Stordahl
Germaine St. John
Susie Taylor
Donna Thompson
Deb & Charlie Thomsen
Dave & Janie Van Oss
Cal Van Zee
Mary & David Vaske
Martha Vassoler
Kim Viner

Polly Wade
Leslie Waggener
Shirla & Danny Walker
Sidney Walter
Silvya & Jim Wear
Jan Webster
Betty Wills
Joney & Roger Wilmot
Bill & Flew Wilson
Bob Wilson
Jane Wolf
Sally Young
Jill Zimmermann



Volunteers, **Brian Forster** and **Bob Mountain** get sidewalks ready for the Holiday Open House.



Volunteers, **Joney Wilmot** and **Joyce Powell** take a south side gander at the progress being made on the Alice Hardie Stevens addition.

An Update on some LPM volunteers you might want to know about (and maybe go see)

LPM members who are old-timers will be glad to know that **Chuck Cooper** is back in town, at Spring Wind, and enjoying visitors. His sister-in-law, **Quita Pownall** (he was married to her late sister **Nancy Crandall Cooper**) reports that though he does have some memory issues, he recognizes her, and is very happy to be back in what he considers "home." For many years, he was the adult education supervisor at UW. In our experience, the longer ago it was that you knew him—the more likely it is that he will know you today.

Charlie Petersen, our significant friend, supporter, and author of *Images of America—Laramie*, our pictorial history, is also a guy who would love to have company there at his Spring Wind home. We understand that he has recently made the move up from Denver, back to his Laramie stomping grounds that he knows so well. **Charlie** and **Beth** were very important LPM members.

If you're out and about on these sunnier winter days, think about stopping in to see these guys and our other friends at Spring Wind!

CELEBRATE LARAMIE'S AND ALBANY COUNTY'S 150TH

By Kim Viner and Judy Knight
LPM Authors, Historians, Docents

May 2018 will mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the City of Laramie. That same year, Wyoming Territory was created, and Albany County came into existence in December. To mark these historic occasions, Laramie and Albany County will celebrate the 150 years of our existence beginning on May 4th.

While a few Europeans had been permanently residing on the Laramie Plains since at least 1862, and Fort Sanders was constructed in 1866, it was not until the railroad tracks arrived in what is now downtown Laramie on May 4, 1868, that a permanent settlement was created. That same week, Laramie's first election was held, choosing a provisional government. Although it failed after six weeks, it marked the beginning of the effort to form a cohesive community.

From that time, the city and county have marked many milestones. Overcoming a six month period of lawlessness, the city settled down and became the focus of world attention in 1870 when for the first time in history women served on a formal jury and voted in a municipal election, enjoying equal rights with men.

Rapidly, local businesses began to flourish with ranching and mining complementing the railroad as major employers in the county. The city grew from 788 citizens in 1870 to 2697 in 1880 and the county from 2021 to 4067 souls. Growth was additionally assured by the creation of the University of Wyoming and its location fixed by the Wyoming Territorial Legislative Assembly at a location "near Laramie." While there were the expected ups and downs in the economy, the city and county have weathered the fluctuations and have grown to be the home to more than 36,000 residents who enjoy the benefits of wide open spaces and cultural amenities provided by a top-notch university.

HERE'S JUST A QUICK LIST OF WHAT WE KNOW IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN THIS YEAR IN CELEBRATION:

Friday May 4, Wyoming Territorial Prison: free public kickoff for the Sesquicentennial, the day the first train came to town; activities, exhibits for all ages. (all afternoon to 6 p.m.)

Saturday May 5 free Model train show at the Laramie Union Pacific Depot (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

Sunday May 6, free Model train show continues at depot (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Monday May 7 through Wednesday May 9 free Art/Historical show at the Union Pacific Depot (4:30-7:30 p.m. each day.)

Tuesday May 22, "Tea on Tuesday" at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center, Laramie Plains Museum, (4-6 p.m.)

Reservations/fee required. Sesquicentennial theme with historic songs by a troubadour and chorus

Saturday, July 7, free Greenhill Cemetery Tour, starting at the American Heritage Center. (Time to be arranged, coordinators are estimating the tour will happen 1:30-3:30ish)

Tuesday July 10, Statehood Day, Free day at Laramie area museums (9 a.m.-5 p.m. Laramie Plains Museum; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Women's History House; 8a.m.-7 p.m. Wyoming Territorial Prison)

Saturday, July 14, Jubilee Days Parade, (9:30-11 a.m.) Some characters riding on a floats, others who are able, walking with sign-bearers saying who the actors represent. Appearing later at the Brew Fest for Jubilee Days.

Sunday, July 15, *Art on the Ivinson Lawn*, Laramie Plains Museum (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) Artists, vendors, no fee to attend.

Saturday, August 18, *Evening at the Ivinsons'*, Laramie Plains Museum (5-9 p.m.) Fee and reservations required,



8-18-18

Evening at the Ivinsons' Celebrating Laramie's 150th Birthday *Hell on Wheels!*

May 4, 1868, the Union Pacific Railroad finally had laid enough tracks to bring that first train into a teeming little spot in the road: Laramie City, Dakota Territory. By May 10th, the first passengers were able to arrive as the tracks continued to be laid in the race with the Central Pacific coming from California, to Promontory Point, Utah. Such feverish work by the rail men caused tent towns like Laramie to rise and fall along the trail. The workers needed a place to lay their heads, food, drink, women and entertainment that the *Hell on Wheels* tents provided. Laramie City had Keystone Hall and Bull's Big Tent to offer "sustenance"

to keep the railroad men happy. Folks of all sorts visited the tents: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ivinson, arriving on that first passenger train, sought out the tent offering ham sandwiches. The Keystone and Bull's had Keno running continuously and the party girls worked the tables. The *Wheels* amenities kept the workers content until the next town along the tracts. Many of those *instant towns* died quickly as the workers moved on; Laramie City remained and ultimately thrived because of folks like Edward Ivinson, Henry Wagner, the Trabing brothers, Theodore Bath and others with business insight and investment. Laramie also grew because of women like Mrs. Ivinson, Mrs. Boise, Mrs. Barker and others who focused on the cultural and family needs with fundraising sandwich suppers and cotillions to help organize churches, schools and events for the new town on the western high plains.

At *Evening at the Ivinsons* this year we hope to have guests just like these pioneering folks. SAVE THE DATE and START RESEARCHING A COSTUME for this annual fun, fundraising garden party! Come as a *Big Tent sweetheart*, an outlaw, a cowboy, a prisoner, a shopkeeper, an adventurer, a pioneering mom or whatever! We will have cocktails, appetizers and entertainment on the magnificent grounds, and then retire for an elegant dinner in our newly refurbished and expanded Reception Center. Invitations will be sent in early July! We hope you'll come!

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Thank you for Your Volunteer Service

LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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Thank you for your service, advice, insight, and care for this beloved museum. We are better because of all of you.

The face of our Board will change in 2018 as

Stan Gibson moves into an onsite job with LPM Buildings & Grounds
John Nutter has graciously agreed to return to complete Stan's term.
Trey Sherwood trims her many obligations for greater focus on Main Street needs.
Debbie Pinckney has very kindly agreed to return to complete Trey's term.

We say farewell to **Debi Ockers** and **Joyce Powell** after each has served two terms in extraordinarily creative service. They are certainly *above and beyond* directors whom we hope will continue to help with special projects and events.

Don't miss voting in this issue for those on the ballot to fill their slots. Learn more about **Cheri Bellamy**, a first timer to our Board, and **Jacob Anfinson** returning to the roster. Then cast your vote in time for the **LPMA Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 18th!**



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