

Heritage Times

— The newsletter of the Cody Heritage Museum

Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2019

Our 2nd year of operations:

- We opened for 2019 visitors on Friday, 5/31.
- Cody celebrates the 100th year of both the Stampede Rodeo and Stampede Parade this summer — come for the 4th of July and visit us!!
- See the story on p. 4 about our fundraiser “An Evening With the Simpson Boys”, on 4/5/2019.
- 4/5/2019 was also proclaimed “Marge Wilder Day” in Cody, in honor of our long-time President and benefactor.
- A plaque honoring Marge & Dick Wilder for their vision and service in realizing this museum will hang in the Cody Heritage Museum in perpetuity.



- Look for the Ground-Breaking of our new HERITAGE GARDEN this summer! Story, p. 2

“Yesterday’s History Today”

This headline is straight from the Vision Statement of the Cody Heritage Museum, and also the perfect title for this retrospective from President Emeritus, Marge Wilder:



Cody Heritage Museum on opening day, 7/19/2018

This is a VERY SPECIAL honor for me to write a review for the very first issue of the Cody Heritage Museum’s “Heritage News” and it is my privilege to write as President Emeritus.

As we all know, it’s been a long, rocky road from the first meeting in January 2007 when a committee was formed to start planning a Cody Museum through to July of 2018 when we finally opened our doors. A Board of Directors was formed and formal Articles of Incorporation as a 501c3 non-profit and Bylaws were set in place with the able assistance of attorney Ed Webster. Throughout the years of renovation, most of the Board’s time and effort was directed at fundraising

The first fundraising project was creating a deck of play-

ing cards that featured 54 historic photos of early Cody. Cards were funded by sponsorship from individuals and businesses and decks sold for \$12. Decks are still available through our Heritage Gifts store.

A black and white film “Rex, the Wonder Horse”, owned by Bob Berry, was loaned to the Museum Board to show as a fundraiser. The next year, we showed two other black and white movies one of which was “The Last Wilderness” which highlighted the Wapiti area and was filmed by Cody country pioneer, Ned Frost.

We hosted a wine tasting event combined with the raffle of a watercolor painting of the historic Old Faithful Inn done by Robin Berry.

During March Madness in 2015, the Museum showed a movie of the 1943-UW basketball NIT championship game, held at the VFW, along with a silent auction.

Mick Barrus volunteered his service for 2015 to conduct a Capital Campaign which increased our dwindling bank account a great deal. This campaign included challenges from several CHS classes.

Board member Bettie Marie Daniels arranged two performances of the Bar J Wranglers from Jackson, in 2016 and 2018.

Our “Celebrating Cody Heritage” event, in April of 2017, featured a silent auction of historic items, including memorabilia from Husky Oil and jewelry from a Husky employee daughter. Held in the Cody Auditorium, the event featured information about the family panels which are now on display in the Museum. There was a fashion display of historic clothing from Cody’s past, samples of authentic types of food made from actual recipes of early Cody residents, and a children’s corner with games from bygone days. The interest in Cody history that the Museum is meant to showcase and preserve truly increased as a result of the 22 families and 21 churches and businesses that participated in this wonderful event.



— continued on p. 6

Curator Chat

— Lynn Houze, Director & Curator



Display :

“Cody Grows 1910—1916

With our opening to the public on May 12th, 2018, we started a new chapter in the life of the Cody Heritage Museum. We've had quite a roller coaster ride getting the museum opened. We lost our original designer unexpectedly, a mere three months after he first saw the DeMaris House. His inspired design of a serpentine pathway throughout the first floor maximized our very limited space and we were fortunate to find another designer who agreed to stay true to that original design, while adding his own special touches. Designer Dan Joyce has now made several trips here to

Cody and took a helpful, hands-on approach to installing the exhibits that was much appreciated.

Finding artifacts to exhibit was a challenge and still continues to be! Our exhibit cases are relatively small which limits us as to what we can accept for display, and there aren't many objects that have survived from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Over the winter, I have re-worked a couple of our displays, along with continuing the accessioning process for all our holdings with the able assistance of some of our volunteers. If

you have something you think we can use, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. See the back page for my contact information.

One way that we're able to share a more detailed history of the area is through the “Family Panels.” Descendants of early Cody families are telling their family's history through photos and writings which are then displayed in a flip frame. We still have some frames to fill, if you are interested in contributing.

— continued on p.5

HERITAGE GARDEN

Over the years, the Museum has been gifted some larger artifacts that require an outdoor area for display. Thus, the Heritage Garden idea, for the west side of the museum building, was born. A committee, headed by Board members Geri Hockhalter and Jean Wilder, has been working on plans over the winter and it is going to be a phenomenal addition to the museum exterior.

The first element is the large, wooden highway sign from the historic Halfway Stage Stop location on the Meeteetse highway. Also donated for display in the garden is a “Fresno slip”, similar to those used to dig the Cody Canals. [Donated by Maryann & Chet Gorski of the South Fork].

Plans have been drawn for us by Bobbie Holder, Native Element Landscape Designer. The garden will be planted with native species. Four log benches will be used [Donated by Mark Nelson, Nelson Log Restoration]. We've also acquired four historic wagon wheels that belonged to Sanford Watkins of Cody, dating back to 1906 [Donated by Racheal and Chris Williams]. The garden will be created in three phases over a three-year period, with the ground-breaking to take place this summer. The Cody Heritage Museum would like anyone with a great love of gardening to join us in creating this first phase. All volunteers who would like to help build, plant, maintain and promote the Cody Heritage Garden are welcome at any phase of the project. Call Geri at XXX-XXXX

HERITAGE GIFTS

Heritage Gifts has a new manager, Geri Hockhalter, and she has begun to add a few new things to our great inventory for 2019

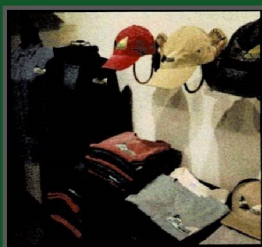
We have added new color tees and hats in fun blues, greens, and reds..

As always, we will have a fantastic selection

of books and DVDs, vintage and modern postcards, maps and so much more.

So — come have a look and buy a bit of Cody' heritage.

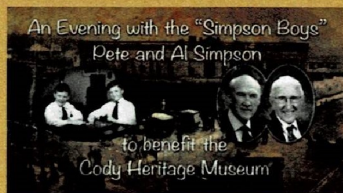
We have great gifts for those who love Cody, Wyoming — and members, remember your 10% discount!



Our new colorful hats and tees

“An Evening With the Simpson Boys!”

If you were unable to attend, you still have a chance to see the “Simpson Boys” in action on DVD. Jeff Shrin has produced a video of the program and it is for sale at \$25 each. The Museum will receive a portion of the proceeds.



Mail your check, payable to:
 Jeff Shrin
 P. O. Box 994
 Cody, WY 82414.
 Direct your questions to Jeff:
shrinjeffries@gmail.com
 307.272.2924

A Fundraiser to Benefit the Cody Heritage Museum was held on Friday evening, April 5, 2019 – and it was everything that all who attended hoped it would be. The evening started with a cocktail while visiting with friends and browsing the over 70 auction items. The community generously responded to our fundraising event by donating many interesting items for the silent auction. The sold-out crowd of 240 attendees then enjoyed a delicious dinner and dessert selections offered at live auction, as well as some special live auction items. The Board thanks Cody’s own Harold Musser and crew for their able auctioneering.

Pete and Al Simpson then took the stage for their program -- sharing

stories of growing up in Cody. Pete and Al never disappoint and they were very entertaining and, as always, generous with their time on behalf of the Museum. The generosity of all who attended will help the museum to continue to grow. The board is grateful to all who attended, donated and purchased auction items and volunteers who helped with this endeavor.

Consideration is being given to having a similar event annually. The board feels there are many descendants of longtime families that the community would enjoy hearing tell their stories of early days and characters in Cody.

We look forward to seeing you at our next event.!

Cody's FIELD OF HONOR

The Colonial Flag Foundation offers a nonprofit program to organizations around the United States to fly the American Flag in large quantities, honoring persons, past or present. The first Field of Honor held in Cody was in June 2012, and was the first annual event celebrating National Flag Day on June 14th. Funds raised went to the restoration of the DeMaris building to house the future Cody Heritage Museum.

With the help of sponsors, volunteers and a great committee, 800 Flags were purchased, assembled, staked, tagged and flown on the grounds of the Park County Complex 6/9 — 16 that first year. On Thursday 6/14, Flag Day was celebrated with a visit from Governor Matt Mead and wife Carol, along with other dignitaries from the state, county and city. Countless visitors stopped,

photographed, and walked up and down the rows of flying flags – a sea of Red, White and Blue. All 800 flags were sold. Following the success of the first Field, a larger field of 1,000 flags was flown in 2013. The display was magnificent, but many asked for it to be downtown in City Park, along Sheridan Avenue

In 2015, the Event was moved downtown, running from in front of the Chamber, through City Park and to the Courthouse. The event, using the Band Shell for the entertainment and Flag Day Ceremony added a BBQ hosted by Tanager Beverages, with funds going to local Boy Scout Troops and the VFW Post in Cody. We have continued to host a Field of Honor for 6 years, netting \$100,000 donated to the renovations of the DeMaris House

Many thanks to advertisers who bought a

yearly ad in the full-color booklet and program guide. And Very Special Thanks to Sponsors: Pinnacle Bank, Tanager Beverages, Marathon, Whitlock Motors, Cody Regional Health, Fran & Lenox Baker, Blair Hotels, Bob & Angela Coe/Pahaska Tepee, Wal-Mart, Albertsons, Park County, and the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce. This undertaking could not have taken place without numerous volunteers, including non-profit organizations such as Young Life, Civil Air Patrol, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, & a constantly working Field of Honor Committee Members.

We are not continuing to host a Field of Honor in Cody, but flags are for sale through the Museum Gift Shop. Please call 307.586.4272 if you wish to purchase a flag.

This story of the Schultz family was submitted by original Board of Directors member, Irene Schultz, with credit to the Cody Enterprise

HISTORIC CODY FAMILIES

LOUIS & ELIZABETH SCHULTZ

They came to Cody from Paola, Kansas, in 1903 with their five children: Albert, Harmen, Minnie, Fritz and Louis, Jr. Mr. Schultz had heard of land available from the Cody Canal Company and had made an exploratory trip before the farm back in Kansas was sold.

He arrived in Cody on an immigrant train in early November with \$80 in cash, two cows, three purebred hogs, 200 chickens and the doors and frames for the home they would build on the 160 acres in the Sage Creek area. Mrs. Schultz and the children arrived on Thanksgiving Day. Soon, work began on a log home that was completed in time for the birth of the Ernest, on February 11, 1904. The family fought for existence for several years. Mrs. Schultz confessed "We might have gone back to Kansas if we had the money." The first winter was very hard — water had

to be hauled from Sage Creek. Often the creek was thick and muddy so cactus was cut and soaked in it to settle the water for drinking and washing clothes.

They started farming with a walking plow, never using a tractor. Even their first threshing machine used horse power. The chickens were not sheltered and laid no eggs that whole winter. The children and animals needed food, and Jake Schwoob of the Cody Trading Company allowed them (and others) to run up a tab.

With German thrift and hard work they began to gain a foothold. Not satisfied with merely existing, Mr. Schultz managed to buy livestock to become the pioneer dairyman in the area, and they also raised sheep. Finally the \$900 debt owed the Cody Trading Company was paid off and Jackie Schwoob gave Mr. Schultz a suit of clothes.

Thereafter, every bill was paid in cash.

Bob Rumsey, who had a creamery, wanted to branch out and start a co-op with Greybull and Basin. The Sage Creek farmers didn't like that idea. With other farmers, Mr. Schultz helped to organize their own creamery. The Schultzes had rural mail delivery in Kansas, so Mr. Schultz organized the neighbors to repair the roads enough to meet postal regulations. And again, he convinced the neighbors to get telephone service. After that he wanted electricity. The neighbors weren't ready to go along with him on that project, so he paid \$500 to get electricity to his farm.

Upon retirement, Louis and Elizabeth left the farm and moved into Cody. They owned six rental properties which gave these hardy pioneers something to keep them busy!

Congratulations to you all on the opening of the Cody Heritage Museum. I know this represents a half decade in the making. Much hard work and forethought went into the project, and it shows. After more than 40 years in the museum and public history field, including as the director of the Wyoming State Museum and editor of the Annals of Wyoming, I can say, without reservation, that your museum is superb.

The building itself is attractive and the window treatments are innovative as they both invite visitors and serve a practical purpose. Your exhibits are tasteful, straight forward and easy to follow. Adding the drawers for present and future collections enhances the experience and shows vision.

All this is to your credit. The museum board and those who have made this project come to fruition have developed a model for local museums. It was a great pleasure to have the opportunity to be present in your opening weekend!

*John P. Langellier, Ph.D
2018 Buffalo Bill Center of the West
Resident Fellow
May 20, 2018*



In our opening summer, we received comments from visitors, as well as Cody folks, that they aren't sure when we are open and that the front of the museum could be more inviting. Many discussions have been held as to how we can attract more visitors to the museum, while abiding by historic preservation guidelines. Over the winter, an **Entryway Committee** was established to solve this challenge, bearing in mind city signage regulations and state route restrictions. Plans are now in progress that should make the museum more noticeable.

A field trip to Nelson Log Restoration resulted in owner Mark Nelson volunteering to make and donate six log benches for the entryway and the Heritage Garden. Two of these benches will be set under windows at the front of the building, along with two of the wagon wheels donated by Rachel and Chris Williams (see Heritage Garden story). The wheels will sit next to a rustic barrel flower planter. Plans for an "Open" sign are pending as the committee considers what will be most noticeable, along with ease of display and what will withstand Cody winds! Painting the front doors is also under consideration. If you have a *brilliant* idea for the committee, please email it to: info@codyheritagemuseum.org

Curator Chat, *continued from p. 2*

We had a very successful first season, with over 2200 visitors, and our publicity will bring in even more visitors this year. We have a great group of volunteers who greet everyone as they come in and give them a brief introduction to the museum, as well as answering their questions.

Our admission fee is only \$2 for adults and \$1 for children 6 to 12, as well as for students. Our hours are Tuesday thru Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm, and Sundays we're open noon to 4 pm.

I look forward to seeing you at the museum this summer!

Lynn

Membership Update

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS!

Since our first Membership Drive, in the Spring of 2017, we have enrolled 130+ Members:

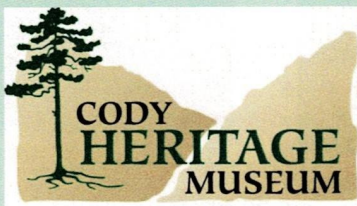
- 53 Senior or Students
- 34 Individuals
- 32 Families
- 12 Corporate members

We think just about everyone in town should be members!!

NEW MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

At it's May 2019 meeting, The Board of Directors established new levels for those who are able to support the Museum with a higher annual amount:

- \$100 — Friend of CHM
- \$500 — Contributing Member
- \$1000 — Sustaining Member



P.O. Box 701
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www.codyheritagemuseum.org
info@codyheritagemuseum.org
307.586.4272

Join Cody Heritage Museum Today!

Date: _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Annual Memberships — Renewable one year from this date

- \$20/year — Individual Senior (55+)
[Please complete separate forms for 2 or more Senior memberships]
- \$20/year — Student
- \$25/year — Individual
- \$45/year — Family *[adult parents & minor children]*
- \$200/year — Corporate @ \$200/year
[Please include company name & company contact/owner]

NEW Membership Levels

- Friends of CHM**
- \$100/year
- Contributing Membership**
- \$500/year
- Sustaining Membership**
- \$1,000/year

Membership benefits include free Admission, 2 guest passes/yr. [Corporate and above levels get 10 passes], a quarterly newsletter and 10% off in our Gift Shop!

“Yesterday’s History Today”

— a report from President Emeritus Marge Wilder, cont.

Cont. from P 1.

Finally, on Friday May 11, 2018, the doors opened. Warren Cowgill from St. Paul, MN, flew in for the celebration and enjoyed visiting with many, many friends and business associates. Both Warren and his father Tom had been active in the growth of Cody through real estate and civic duties. The official Grand Opening was held at 2pm on July, 19 2018 – and what a long-anticipated day that was! Mack Frost served as Master of Ceremonies. Musical entertainment was provided by Greg Pendley. Refreshments included sarsaparilla which had been a popular drink of the day; and hand decorated cookies. Local history of Cody was brought to life through stories as only Pete Simpson, keynote speaker, can tell!! Ladies wearing period style dresses which each had created added an authentic

touch. The Cody Chamber Ambassadors provided the ribbon and huge scissors, allowing me to cut the ribbon and officially open the door. It was a free day for all to visit the museum and a dream realized.

A splendid addition to the outside of the Museum is a mural painted by Sarah Shearer which portrays our logo. On the west side of the DeMaris building that houses the Cody Heritage Museum will be our “Heritage Garden” which a committee is planning now to execute over the next few years.

The first year of operation came to an end on September 30, 2018. We were pleased with the attendance and can see the necessity of some changes in operation for this

year. A special thanks to Lynn Houze for thousands of hours making Cody Heritage Museum a successful first year.

As we readied for our second year of welcoming visitors, the Cody Heritage Museum hosted an “Evening with the Simpson Boys” on April 5, 2019, as a fundraiser with dinner and a silent auction, which was very successful -- both financially and for sheer fun and camaraderie amongst our many supporters who enjoy Cody history as much as the members of the Board do!



L— Marge Wilder cuts the ribbon
R — Keynote speaker Pete Simpson

“The official Grand Opening was held at 2pm on July, 19 2018 – and what a long-anticipated day that was!”



Cody Heritage Museum

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*Yesterday’s Cody Today . . .
a bridge from past to present*

