



# HERITAGE TIMES

Volume 4, Issue 2

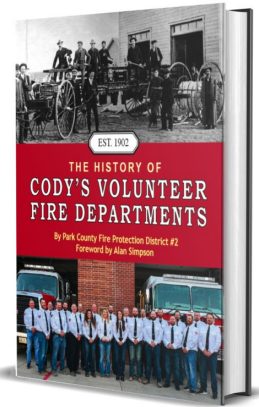
December 2022

## Long Awaited Fundraising Dinner

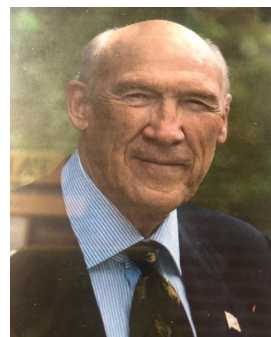
In early 2020, the Cody Heritage Museum Board began planning a fundraiser dinner. This event was to be an evening in honor of the Cody Volunteer Fire Department to be held in April. After two years of having to postpone due to Covid concerns, we were FINALLY able to execute this long awaited event.

The Cody Heritage Museum held this fundraiser on October 7, 2022, at the Holiday Inn where we honored past and present Cody firefighters. Prior to enjoying a delicious Mexican buffet, guests had an opportunity to visit with the firefighters and purchase their book on the history of firefighting in Cody. A video of the 1974 Cody Enterprise fire was shown during this time. The silent auction was fun for the everyone attending. Prior to dinner, those attending showed their support for the museum by bidding on desserts made by museum volunteers.

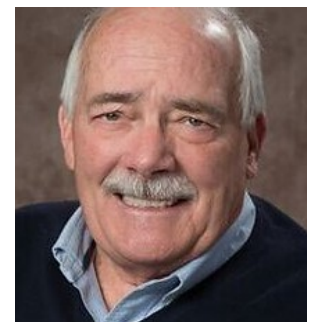
The highlight of the evening was when Bob Coe, Ron Hill, and Al Simpson entertained us with interesting stories which occurred during their time as Cody firefighters. As you might expect, there were a few laughs included with this presentation. The Cody Heritage Museum Board of Directors sincerely appreciates all who attended as funds raised will allow the museum to continue to share Cody's history.



Bob Coe



Al Simpson



Ron Hill

*From all of us here at the Cody Heritage Museum, we want to wish you a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

*We are looking forward to*



*serving you again in 2023*

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## From our President/Director

We had a very good season this year although our attendance figures were down by about 400 visitors from 2021. Yellowstone National Park's tourist numbers were also down this year due to the flooding in June, which even closed the park for a brief time. As YNP's visitation goes, so goes Cody's, and, for the most part, businesses and the other local museums' attendance figures were also lower than last year's.

Donations to the museum, both in objects and money, continued to come in and for that we are very grateful. Our volunteer corps is the backbone of the museum; I don't know what we'd do without them. Not only do they staff the admissions/gift shop area, but they do a great deal behind the scenes that keep us running. Some of our volunteers have been with us since we opened in 2018! Jim Antal, the new curator, has settled in nicely and has really helped me out by reducing my workload.

We continue to fund raise as we are a private 501c3 non-profit organization. If you are thinking about making end-of-the year donations, please put us on your list. We'd really appreciate it!

Have a safe winter and we'll see you in late May!

~Lynn

## Volunteer Appreciation

*"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart." – Elizabeth Andrew*

The Cody Heritage Museum would not exist without volunteers. From the volunteer board officers and board members to those that are giving time out of their week through the summer to help with the daily operations and more.

The oxford dictionary defines 'volunteer' as a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task. We are beyond grateful to those who have freely chosen to undertake the task with us of bringing yesterday's Cody to the here and now. Preserving the legacy of those pioneers that settled the area and paved the way for the town we now love and enjoy.

Many of our volunteers have been with us since the beginning, serving faithfully through all these years. Some have been a wonderful new addition, allowing our reach to grow with each new team member.

There are many ways to volunteer at the Cody Heritage Museum, each with varied levels of time commitment. If you are interested in getting involved we would love to discuss options with you!!

~Board of Directors



# HISTORIC CODY FAMILIES

## FROST FAMILY

BY JANET FROST BUCKNELL

The names Frost & Richard are very familiar to residents of Cody and Park County. The two families are related because of two sisters from Chicago. The Frost family history is recounted here; the Richard family history will appear in our next newsletter.

The Frost Family arrived by wagon from Minnesota in 1885, predating Cody by 11 years. The Frost Ranch on the Lower Sage Creek was the stage stop between Meeteetse and Red Lodge and became known as "The Halfway Stage Stop." There is a historical marker about 19 miles south of Cody on the road to Meeteetse indicating the ranch's nearby location. Mahlon and Nancy Frost were the first Frosts to settle here with their youngest, Ned, who was 4 years old when they arrived. Ned took to life here immediately and soon became a crack shot, keen hunter, trapper, and tracker. When still a teenager, he and a friend, Fred Richard, went into business together – hunting, trapping and collecting government bounties on wolf and coyote hides. They started taking hunting trips into the Northfork, the Thorofare, and Yellowstone areas, eventually offering guided tourist trips into Yellowstone – first in wagons and then by automobile. The early guided wagon trips took weeks as the outfits traveled from one campsite to another – 16 sites in all. All of this was shortly after the turn of the century.

Fred Richard fell in love with Margaret (Peggy) Hughes, a teacher from Chicago, whom he guided through Yellowstone in 1908. At their wedding in Chicago that December, Ned met Margaret's sister, Mary. The family assumes it was memorable – because, when elder sister, Peggy, begged her younger sister to quit her nursing job and come to the wilds of Wyoming to assist with the delivery of their first child – Mary did so quite quickly and willingly! And, of course, the sister and the business partner fell in love, and married in 1910 in Cody.

The two couples spent a frigid and difficult winter trapping along the Clarks Fork River, living in a small one-room cabin. Still in recovery from a terrible shoulder break, Fred stayed at the cabin daily with the women and his young son – prepping the animals from the previous day's trapping. Ned ran three trap lines and later said that, "for a period of nine months, I never saw the light of day in that cabin – up before dawn to walk the length of one line, returning home with the catch of that day – and then back out in the opposite direction the next day, and angling away down the third line on the next day – over and over again. At the end of that hunting and trapping season, however, the couples had amassed a little over \$14,000 – which in 1910-1911 was more than enough to buy and build onto a large ranch property about halfway up the Northfork. They formed a partnership to stage large tourist, hunting, and outfitting trips.

Ned and Mary Frost raised their three sons – Ned, Dick, and Jesse – on the Northfork ranch. Ned and Mary also had entrepreneurial interests in town – Ned owned the Studebaker Dealership on Sheridan Avenue for some time, and Mary was the proprietor of "Frost Curios," trading with area Indian tribes for blankets and jewelry as well as engaging agents worldwide to buy Chinese and Japanese cloisonne, dishware, pottery, and other fascinating objects. Ned and Dick took History degrees from UW, with Ned becoming the first Historian of the State of Wyoming. Ned and his son Greg continued hunting and outfitting for many years. Greg's sons, Bill and Todd both live in Cody and have raised their families here. Dick became the Curator of the Buffalo Bill Museum after Mary Jester Allen's retirement and was instrumental in its growth. Dick and his wife, "Lib" Freeman, raised their three children (Chris, Kathy, and Pink) in Cody who all returned to live in Cody. Jesse attended the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, left for a 4-year service in WWII, returning to the CFA for his final year. It was then that he met {Pauline} Polly Maxwell Schellhaus of Texas and they were married in 1948, making Cody their home. Jess owned Frost Taxidermy for many years and both he and Polly were founding members of the Cody Country Art League. Jess and first cousin Jack Richard, oldest son of Fred and Peggy, owned the Cody Times for four years. They had two children, Janet and Maxwell (Mack), who both reside in Cody.

Part one

# JOIN THE CODY HERITAGE MUSEUM TODAY!

FILL OUT THIS FORM, CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO PO BOX 701 CODY WY 82414

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- ◇ \$20/year—Senior or Student
- ◇ \$25/year –Individual
- ◇ \$45/year—Family  
*[adult parents & minor children]*
- ◇ \$100/year—Friend
- ◇ \$110/year—Business
- ◇ \$200/year—Corporate  
*[include company name & contact/owner]*
- ◇ \$500/year—Contributing
- ◇ \$1000/year—Sustaining

Membership benefits include:  
**FREE** admission, **2 guest passes** per year [Business- 6 passes, Corporate level and above-12 passes], Bi-Annual newsletter, **10% off** in our Gift Shop, You will also receive a personalized membership card!

PayPal/credit card payment options available online or over the phone, checks payable to Cody Heritage Museum  
[codyheritagemuseum.org](http://codyheritagemuseum.org) (307) 586-4272

Looking for a great gift idea? Give the gift of history and knowledge with a membership to the museum!  
Consider getting involved and become a CHM volunteer!

**If you or your family have a piece of family/Cody history, please consider donating it. Please call Lynn Houze at 586-4272**



## Cody Heritage Museum

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Located at 11th St. & Sheridan Ave.

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

