



HERITAGE TIMES

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

Beloved Board Member Passes



By now you all have heard that a member of our Board of Directors, Jeremy Johnston, passed away on June 15, 2024, after a 2-year plus battle with Diffuse Large B-cell Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. What a valiant fight he put up undergoing everything from chemo, to radiation, to stem cell replacement therapy! Throughout his treatments, his spirit never waned, and he was sure that he was going to beat this disease. Jeremy first joined our board in 2011, the first year that we had an official board, for a term of three years. He resigned in 2013 at the completion of his term due to a heavy work schedule at the Center of the West where he was the Managing Editor of the "*Papers of William F. Cody*," and eventually served as Curator of the Buffalo Bill Museum. He was also pursuing a PhD in history at the time. He rejoined the Board in 2021 for another 3-year term.

Jeremy was a wonderful historian who was a mentor to many students and interns, was published in many Western history publications, and who was a member of numerous organizations including the Park County Historical Society/Wyoming Historical Society, both of which he served terms as president. He wrote two books on Powell and one about Park County for Arcadia Publishing. He co-edited *Beckoning Frontiers* with Lynn Houze, a biography of George Beck, and wrote numerous journal articles. Besides being an authority on Buffalo Bill, Jeremy is recognized as a Theodore Roosevelt scholar. His interest in Roosevelt began as a youngster when he learned of his family's connection to Roosevelt. His great, great grandfather, John B. Goff, guided Roosevelt on hunting trips and they were friends. The Goffs moved to Cody about 1900, establishing a hunting guide business and Goff Creek Lodge on the North Fork of the Shoshone River. Although Roosevelt never hunted in the Cody area, Goff guided him on a hunt in Colorado in 1904. Jeremy's PhD thesis on Theodore Roosevelt and William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody has been peer reviewed and hopefully will be published in the future. Our thoughts are with Jeremy's family.

From our President/Director

Welcome to our 7th season!

The off-season seemed to pass very quickly maybe because we kept busy! Thanks to Joni Ratliff, a volunteer and our newest board member, we now have on loan the original "Bronze Boot" that gave the restaurant its name, and the cash register from the back bar at the Boot. The boot came from Fritz Truan, a bronc champion and best buddy of Nic Knight, who was killed at Iowa Jima. The boot was given by the Truan family to Nic in appreciation of his friendship with Fritz and as a remembrance of their rodeo days together. The Ratliff family owned the Boot beginning in 1947 until 1978 when they sold it.

We have a new curatorial assistant this year, Amy Couture. You may be familiar with Amy's name as she is the woman who swam the English Channel last August!! She is also a lover of history and a hiker who is presently working on a book about the hiking trails around Cody. She is our social media guru, keeping our website and our various social media accounts up to date.

We hope you'll come see us this summer to check us out if you haven't been here for a while – or never been here. We continue to fund raise as we are a private 501c3 non-profit organization. If you are thinking about making a donation at some point, there's no time like the present! We'd really appreciate it.



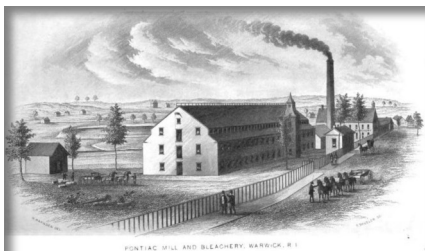
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HISTORIC CODY FAMILIES

THE BARRUS FAMILY

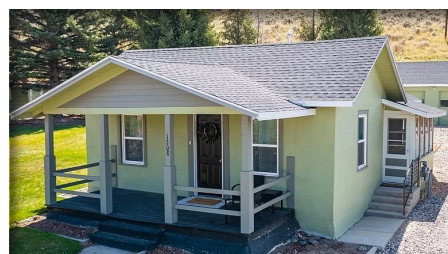
Gene Albert “Gabby” Barrus was the first of the Barrus family to settle in Cody. In 1934, Gabby was invited by future Wyoming governor and US Senator Milward Simpson to relocate to Wyoming and play second base for the Cody Merchant’s baseball team. Gabby was born in Winterset,



Rhode Island’s Textile Heyday

Iowa, just southwest of Des Moines, on March 28, 1913. His parents, Charles and Hazel, raised a big family in Winterset with Charles’ salary from his house painting business. Further back, Gabby descended from a great-grandfather, William “Barrass” of Rhode Island, who worked in the textile industry during the heyday of the Industrial Revolution in the 1830s. And before that, the Barrus line had Early American and Scottish roots.

In Cody, Gabby soon met his wife Marjorie (Marj) and they rented a home at 1208 Alger Avenue. For many years Marj worked at the K and D Dress Shop for her great aunt Charlotte Kant. Gabby worked for Husky Oil and also guided hunting trips for a local outfitter, Max Wilde. *(story continued on p.3)*



1208 Alger Avenue in Cody

2024 Summer Fundraiser

On August 3, 2024, the Cody Heritage Museum will be hosting an outdoor lunch, silent auction, and guest speaker.

Lunch will include delicious pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, baked beans, and cake. Robyn Cutter of the Park County Archives will discuss the historic Buffalo Bill Dollies dancing troupe and the Buffalo Bill Fur Salon. The event will also include a silent auction and a mannequin display of items from the historic Buffalo Bill Fur Salon.

The cost is \$25 for lunch and admission, with proceeds going to support the Cody Heritage Museum. Please purchase tickets ahead of time at the museum or from any CHM board member or volunteer.

Please join us in the garden

August 3rd, 11 am—2 pm



Take some time for yourself and relax in our garden in its beautiful full bloom.



HISTORIC CODY FAMILIES

[story continued from page 2]



Gabby Barrus at KODI Radio

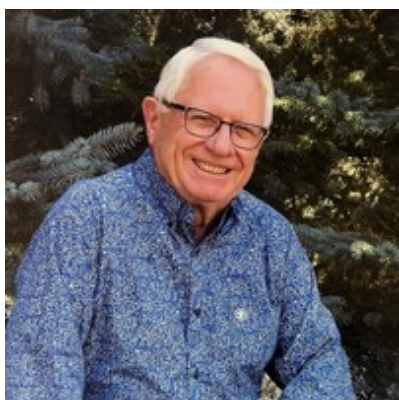
When the owner of the Boston Red Sox, Tom Yawkey, came to Cody for hunting trips, Gabby had an opportunity to talk baseball with him. In one conversation in the 1930s, and during the Great Depression, Gabby mentioned that his home team was wearing old uniforms. Yawkey returned to Boston but soon sent new uniforms, caps, and gloves for the local Cody baseball team. The box was full of Red Sox uniforms, however, so the Cody Merchants became the Cody Red Sox.

In the 1940s, Gabby worked as a bartender for the Log Cabin Bar in Cody, but later he transitioned into sports broadcasting for KODI. His play-by-play sports commentary led to several recognitions at the local and national levels for sports broadcasting excellence.

Gabby also became a renowned wildlife and scenic photographer and writer. His complete set of 35 mm slides having been digitized were donated to the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. The Cody Heritage Museum (CHM) uses one of his Legend Rock petroglyph photos for their first photo mural at the beginning of their exhibit. Barrus authored more than 200 hunting, fishing, and Western flavored articles that were published in several national publications.

Gabby and Marj raised two sons: George L. "Mick," born October 30, 1938 and James C., born January 22, 1940. The Barrus brothers were well known as fine athletes. Both became teachers and coaches and were named Wyoming Coaches of the year during their careers. Mick taught school for twenty-six years before pursuing a new career with the US Forest Service. His work with recreation safety in grizzly bear country was an important contribution to public recreation in the

Cody area.



Mick Barrus

Mick was active in the Lions Club and served on the International Lions Club Board of Directors. He traveled extensively with the Lions Club as a motivational speaker, eventually earning the title of Ambassador of Good Will, the highest honor a Lions member can receive. When the CHM was in the throes of fundraising for renovating the DeMaris House and for exhibit development, Mick stepped up to chair our Capital Campaign, raising close to \$100,000 for us. We would not have been able to open in 2018 without his fundraising efforts. Mick passed away unexpectedly on April 2, 2024.

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 _____
As you would like it to appear on card

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

◇\$20/year—Senior or Student

◇\$110/year—Business

◇\$25/year—Individual

◇\$200/year—Corporate

[include company name & contact/owner]

◇\$45/year—Family

◇\$500/year—Contributing

[adult parents & minor children]

◇\$100/year—Friend

◇\$1000/year—Sustaining

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

P.O. Box 701
Cody, WY 82414

located at 11th St. & Sheridan Ave.

Director/Curator Lynn Johnson Houze

Phone: 307.586.4272

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or director@codyheritagemuseum.org

Website: codyheritagemuseum.org

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

