



HERITAGE TIMES

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Unveiling History

Sometimes, one looks around and realizes they are living a moment that is history in the making. The afternoon of May 21st, 2022, in Cody, Wyoming, at the Cody Heritage Museum was just such a moment for the crowd gathered in the Heritage Garden.

On the surface was a garden dedication and monument unveiling event emceed by Stephanie Parker, introducing "Work to be Done" as a permanent fixture in historic downtown Cody. Underneath was the culmination of many dreams, some life long. Dreams and whispers from over 30 years ago of a Cody Heritage Museum. Dreams of rescuing a historic landmark from destruction. Dreams of a young man with an untamed western spirit to have the work of his hands displayed in bronze on the main street of his home town. Dreams of preserving the history of those pioneers that braved the elements and put in the work to develop the town of Cody. A desire to serve the community with the rich history and beauty of our area and so much more.



"Side-by-side they stood, their heads held high, overlooking the vast basin below. Knowing the days ahead would be long, the work hard, but the payoff would be more than they could imagine. This sculpture is in honor of those dedicated to the dream of creating a town and of building a home."

-Tanner Loren

monument "Work to be Done."

Two people in particular that were instrumental in making the museum a reality were Marge Wilder and her late husband Dick Wilder. Marge was honored by board president Lynn Houze, followed by a ribbon cutting with the Chamber of Commerce ambassadors and museum board members.

The plans are in motion for the beautiful pedestal to be installed for the monument. And don't forget, as a fund raiser there are smaller sizes of "Work to be Done" available for purchase! Call or visit the website to purchase or for more details. We at the museum are so grateful to all who joined us for this event and the continued outpouring of support. We look forward to sharing all these new additions with you!

~Stephanie Parker

This event marked the third and final phase of the Heritage Garden project and completed the plans for the Cody Heritage Museum. A labor of love that was long awaited.

The event began with a lovely invocation performed by Rev. Mary Caucutt, and raising of the American Flag by new museum curator Jim Antal.

Heritage Garden chair & museum board vice president, Geri Hockhalter, then shared the development journey over the last few years and the other great features of the garden. (see pg. 2)

"It certainly is a wonderful new addition." Mayor Matt Hall said of the monument. "It represents a real melding of that unique art culture here in Cody & rich Cody history." Artist Tanner Loren has worked for the Hall family at Caleco Foundry for near 20 years and developed a close relationship with them. "I couldn't be more proud of Tanner," Hall added before introducing Loren to unveil his work.

With many thanks for the opportunity to take on this project and to the many that helped make it possible, Loren introduced and unveiled the life size bronze

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From our President/Director

We opened this year with the garden dedication and unveiling of the statue "Work To Be Done" by Tanner Loren that you've read about on page 1 of this newsletter. What a great way to begin our 5th season!! We're so excited for this year and hope to have many visitors with whom to share our area's history.

Our other big news is that we have hired a part-time curator, Jim Antal. He will be working 20 hrs. per week and is already working hard to learn the history of Cody as well as our museum collection. Jim and his wife Beth moved to Cody last September and have already settled into the Cody way of life.

During the winter we continued to make improvements to the museum exhibits. Our new "Featured Local Artist" exhibit is about Lucille Patrick and our thanks go to Joyce and Nic Patrick for their help with it, including the loan of some of her artwork. From time-to-time during this summer we will be putting new objects on display so do stop by to see them.

Enjoy your summer!

~Lynn

Did you know we sell American flags?

Get your **MADE IN THE USA** 3'x5' American Flag at the Cody Heritage Museum Gift Shop.



\$30.⁰⁰ regular price
\$28.⁰⁰ local business price

Heritage Garden Update

The Heritage Garden is an extension of The Cody Heritage Museum that contains some nice artifacts. This year, by the goodness of his heart, we received and installed a beautiful, period correct donation box from Ben Warren. He has been so wonderful to us with this donation and his previous donation of the brass, plant name markers seen throughout the garden. Also, an anonymous donor has committed to match up to \$1,500 in donations specifically to the garden. This donation match only lasts until July 21st, so come by and see the amazing new donation box and help us fill it up!!

Another great new addition is the original flagpole from the first Buffalo Bill Museum (1927) where the Chamber of Commerce is now. It's been refinished and installed after being in storage for many, many years.

We decided to plant the ditch in front of the Fresno plow with blue flowers to give the illusion of flowing water. Once it blooms it should be glorious!

I know lots of you have been asking about the claw-foot bathtub. This piece was acquired from George and Lynne Simonton and is original to the DeMaris home. It is now planted and blooming.

The pavers are still for sale from any board member or at the museum. Please consider helping to keep the garden going by purchasing a paver for a loved one or your family.

Please stop by and see our wonderful garden.

~The Garden Team



HISTORIC CODY FAMILIES

FRANK BLACKBURN

With input from Gigi Taggart, Frank's granddaughter

Frank Blackburn was born near Birkenhead, England, on September 30, 1879, the youngest of 10 children. When he was 10, he saw Buffalo Bill's Wild West in Liverpool and dreamed of moving to the West. Despite earning a scholarship to Oxford University, he received permission from his parents at the age of 15 to travel to Manitoba to live with his uncle, a wheat farmer. At 20, he returned to England for a 3-month visit but realized that he preferred the West. Upon his return to Canada, he worked in Saskatchewan as a logger. A co-worker was returning to our Big Horn Basin so together they made the 1500 mile trip on horseback. One of the stops along the way was at Eagles Nest Stage Stop near Ralston. While there, Frank heard about DeMaris Hot Springs and took his first swim in the Springs, something he would continue to do until he was 89.

Eventually they landed in Meeteetse at the YU Ranch where Frank herded sheep, and by 1904 he had his own flock. A year later, he received one of the first Shoshone National Forest sheep grazing permits. Frank became a naturalized U.S. Citizen in August 1906 in Basin, Wyoming, county seat of Big Horn County, forerunner to Park County. His knowledge of the history of America was outstanding, matched only by his patriotism for his new country.

Janet (Jennie) Grierson Thomson was born in Yorkshire, England, to Scottish parents. When her mother passed away she was raised by her maternal aunt in Scotland after her father had moved to Meeteetse to join other Scottish pioneers as sheep ranchers. In 1906, she joined her father, working at the Meeteetse Mercantile as a dressmaker and a tailor, both in which she excelled. She soon met Frank at the store and on March 29, 1909, they were married at the Irma Hotel in Cody. Her two attendants were May Cody Decker, Buffalo Bill's sister, and Mrs. William (Maggie) Simpson, mother of future governor and senator of Wyoming, Milward, and grandmother of another future senator, Alan.

In 1914, Frank decided to sell his sheep business and bought a home in Meeteetse and a ranch on the Wood River, where they ran both cattle and sheep. They had their first child, Jim, in 1910 followed by four others ending with Janet in 1920. Their second son, Army Pvt. Frank, Jr. died during WW2 at Walter Reed Medical Center, Maryland.

In 1926, Frank decided to run for Park County Sheriff, defeating incumbent Hank Dahlem which necessitated a move to Cody, the county seat. He would serve as sheriff for 32 years, first running for 2-year terms and then 4-year terms once the Wyoming Legislature amended the Constitution. He was a busy man serving as the County Brand Inspector and enforcing prohibition until 1933 when the 21st Amendment was passed, overturning the 14th Amendment. Moonshiners and bootleggers were abundant!

The Earl Durand poaching case in 1939 was Frank's most memorable one. Caught poaching up the North Fork of the Shoshone River, Durand was jailed in Cody, escaped for a week, and was killed while trying to rob the First National Bank of Powell. The Homesteader Museum in Powell has an excellent exhibit on the entire episode.

Frank started each morning at 6, swimming at DeMaris Hot Springs and teaching any Cody children to swim who wanted to learn. Many of them have fond memories of those lessons. As a youth, he learned to swim while visiting his grandparents on the Isle of Man and had become an expert. Frank retired in 1959 but was elected Justice of the Peace for 10 years till he resigned due to illness. He continued as an active Cody citizen involved in many organizations, playing bridge, and staying fit by taking long walks daily. He passed away at age 90 on January 8, 1970.

