

# HERITAGE TIMES

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We now have a free guide on Bloomberg Connects! Try the QR code above for extra museum content and videos.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: FOUR C RANCH

Chuck and Marilyn Walker, members of the Cody Heritage Museum and owners of the Four C Ranch southwest of Cody on the Southfork, were recently featured in a documentary film produced by Park County Open Lands. A subsidiary of the Jackson Hole Land Trust, Park County Open Lands works to protect wildlife habitat, agricultural land, and open spaces for future generations. The film tells the story of how the Walkers became the first landowners to establish a conservation easement with Park County Open Lands. Under the agreement, the land can never be sold or subdivided. Instead, it is permanently protected by a trust and placed under a binding agreement that prevents any and all future development. Chuck and Marilyn's decision to pursue the easement reflects not only their deep love for Park County's open landscapes, but also a promise Chuck made to his beloved grandfather back in 1954.



CHM Members Chuck and Marilyn Walker are the first landowners in Northwest Wyoming to pursue a conservation easement with Park County Open Lands. They are pictured here in the short film, "A Legacy of the Land," produced by Cactus Films for the Jackson Hole Land Trust.

*[story continued on page 2]*

## From our President/Director

I hope you all had a wonderful winter and are now looking forward to an even better summer! We opened for the season on May 23rd and are now welcoming visitors from around the country, and some from foreign countries. We're welcoming our curator, Nic Linn, back from his Wyoming National Guard duty in Kuwait. Nic has been gone for almost a year and we've missed him and thank him for his service.

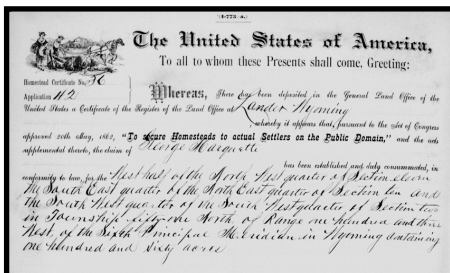
Our garden is beginning to bloom, not only with flowers but also with painted rocks commemorating our nation's 250 years of existence. Technically, this happens in 2026 but the celebration has already begun with the recognition of Paul Revere's ride warning about the coming British. Most of the rocks were painted by Stephany Anderson's Cody High School ACT prep class. We can't thank them enough. Do stop by to see them.



~Lynn

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT *[story continued from page 1]*

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George Marquette's 1893 homestead document for 160 acres. Over a century later it became part of the Walkers' Four C Ranch.

The Four C Ranch is a 364-acre working cattle ranch located twelve miles down the Southfork, along Marquette Creek. A tributary of the South Fork of the Shoshone River, Marquette Creek also serves as prime winter habitat for mule deer. George Marquette may have originally homesteaded at least 160 acres of what is now the Four C in 1893, later selling to A.C. Newton. Newton's granddaughter, Jeanne Newton Kuipers, purchased the ranch in the 1950s, followed by Tom and Diane Risinger, who acquired it from Kuipers. By



Historic barn at the Four C Ranch, originally built in the 1890s with wood from Carter Mountain's "Sawmill Park"

the time the Walkers acquired the 364-acre parcel in 1994, it had become a tapestry of local history from generations of notable family names and original homesteads. A historic barn still stands on the property. According to ranch lore, Chuck recalls, it was built “by a drifter who came through and wanted to spend the winter at the ranch. He built the barn from timber that was harvested up on Carter Mountain, when there was a sawmill up there in what is today called Sawmill Park.”

*[story continued on page 3]*

## *Summer 2025 Garden Report*



Cody High School students and community members generously donated painted rocks to the Heritage Garden in spring 2025.

The Cody Heritage Museum garden is in full spring bloom and it's beautiful! We've had some great things happen for our garden this year. Stephany Anderson asked her Cody High School ACT Prep class for painted rocks for the garden to commemorate the 250th birthday of America. They really came through. We put them in the bathtub - a special place of honor. Thanks to all the students who painted rocks. You ROCK! Also, Cody Rocks, led mostly by Babe (Margaret) White, brought in an amazing array of painted rocks. Thank you all who helped us. We were also awarded a sign for the garden from the Cody Conservation District designating us as a special pollinator garden. Special thanks, too, to all the volunteers who help with keeping the garden weed free.

## Gerri and the Garden Team

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: FOUR C

[story continued from page 2]

Chuck and Marilyn Walker purchased the Four C Ranch in 1994 using proceeds from the sale of a family ranch in Texas that had been in Chuck's family for over 130 years. His great-great-grandparents acquired the Texas property in 1857 through the settlement of a debt owed to them. Their grandson, Chuck's grandfather, went on to ranch full-time throughout his life. But over the generations, it became increasingly difficult to make a living from ranching. Chuck earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Stanford University and spent thirty years working for Hewlett-Packard.

Meanwhile, he watched as subdivisions slowly encroached on the Texas ranch. Soon, "city neighbors were dumping garbage



Twelve miles down the Southfork Highway, the land that is now the Four C Ranch was originally homesteaded by George Marquette in 1893.

over the fences and poaching wildlife." Reluctantly, the family decided to sell the land, though Chuck remembered that his father had often "told us kids that our grandfather wanted the Texas ranch to be preserved for his grandchildren." With his grandfather's legacy in mind, Chuck used part of the proceeds from the Texas sale to purchase the ranch near Cody. He and Marilyn named it the "Four C" for the four generations of men in the family named Charles.



Protecting local elk and deer habitat is a major motivation for the Walkers.

After settling on the Southfork, the Walkers began to notice a familiar trend: a steady shift from open lands to subdivided parcels, and eventually, to full-scale housing developments on former agricultural ground. Chuck and Marilyn began to consider how to protect their 364 acres in the future, and successfully established the conservation easement with Park County Open Lands. Chuck explained that on the North and South Forks of the Shoshone, "Our elk and mule deer herds . . . make one of the longest migrations to and from Yellowstone still existing in this country. We have an obligation to preserve this open space for future generations and for people all over the world who come to see these amazing animals. Conservation easements placed through Park County Open Lands are the very best way to ensure the legacy that we've inherited continues in perpetuity."



Chuck Walker on his Four C Ranch, pictured here after protecting it from future development or subdivision with a conservation easement.

Photo—Park County Open Lands.



Marilyn and Chuck (Charles III) Walker with son Charlie (Charles IV) at home on the Four C Ranch, circa 2000.

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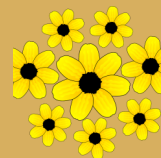
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Looking for a great gift idea? Give the gift of history and knowledge with a membership to the museum!

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**



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**Yesterday's Cody Today . . .**

**A bridge from past to present**

