

HERITAGE TIMES

- THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CODY HERITAGE MUSEUM

Volume 2, Issue 1

August 2020

A Few Paver Supporters ...

Fran and Lenox Baker
 Joyce Boyer
 Janet and Larry Bucknell,
 and Mack Frost
 The Frost Families
 Dana and Steve Cranfill
 Geri and Tim Hockhalter
 Lynn Johnson Houze
 Sara Murray
 Joyce and Nic Patrick
 The Richard Families
 Ann and Al Simpson
 Wilder Enterprises
 Bettie Marie Daniels
 Carol and Ron Hill
 Judy and Thomas Ducey
 Bruce McCormick
 Bonnie & Stan Wolz
 Family
 Jeremy Johnston Family
 Teresa & Randy Faughn
 John Housel
 Theresa and Bill Wood
 Mick Barrus
 Cindi and Chuck Durm
 Carol and Ron Cline
 Bert Schultz Family
 Gloria Hedderman
 Robin and James Bartel
 Marilyn Heald Bramble
 Phyllis Preator
 Frank Odasz
 Judy and Paul Cali
 Cindy Katz & John
 Gordnier
 Paula and Mike Johnson
 Marilyn Spicer
 Nancy Wulfig
 Diane and Joe Kondelis
 Meg and William Frere
 Anne Hayes
 Deb and Colin Simpson
 Richard Gruber
 Karen Andren Green
 Nancy and Ed Webster
 Pahaska Corral of
 Westerners
 Kathy & Randy Schmid
 Leslie & Tim Callahan
 Peg and Lee Molesworth
 to be continued

Heritage Garden

We are very excited to have completed the first phase of the Cody Heritage Garden. We started planting native species in July. The planting will be ongoing over the years. The Garden Committee would like to thank everyone who helped us realize the beautiful space through donations and the purchase of a family paver.

The garden is a beautiful place to sit and reflect, or to rest after a walk downtown. We will soon have the rest of our signage finished and you will be able to

learn about our plantings and the various artifacts within it. Most of the pavers have been set and we can't wait to hear from those of you who purchased so far.

Your purchase of a paver for your family or business will contribute to Cody History and will be a lasting legacy to your loved ones. The purchase also enables us to achieve our long-term goals for our garden, and the maintenance of it. Future plans include a birdbath, a bee house, a few bushes, and another phase of

flowers on the west side next year.

We are still working on a bronze sculpture for the garden which we hope will reflect the spirit of Cody and the history of native landscaping.

Again, thank you all so very much.

Geri Hockhalter
 Jean Wilder
 Bobbie Holder
 Anne Hayes
 Joyce Boyer
 Lynn Houze
 Your Garden committee

2020 Fundraising Dinner Postponed

Due to the Corona Virus, the CHM board decided to postpone it's annual fundraising dinner for 2020. Originally scheduled for April 24th, there was no way that a large group of people could gather for dinner at the Holiday Inn. We then rescheduled it for late September but again, because of social distancing, it seemed best to cancel. It's hard to have a fundraiser where you want a lot of people to gather to support you when people aren't supposed to gather. As of right now, we are scheduled to meet at the Holiday Inn on April 16th, **2021**. Our intent is still to honor the members of the Cody Volunteer Fire Department, both former and current firefighters.

From our President

As the CHM Board met last winter we were looking forward to opening in May for our 3rd season. Then-----Coronavirus hit and changed the world!!!

We delayed our opening until June 16th when other attractions had either opened or were soon to open, Our attendance in June was rather low but we did see a number of travelers from out-of-state. To compensate for that income, we hope that our local membership will support our museum by bringing in family and friends, as well as financially. Your renewed membership dues will help pay routine expenses and special needs that may arise. Even in this time of economic crisis you may be considering changes to your will or financial plan. If you are able to make a sizable contribution to our General Endowment fund this will help insure that Cody Heritage Museum will be able to continue to tell the "Cody" story for years to come. You should discuss such a contribution with your financial advisor as this may be done by means of a multi-year pledge. Whether your gift is in cash, securities, personal property or real estate these details can be worked out for your benefit as well as CHM. Also, we can help arrange memorial gifts or honorariums. In the meantime,

Stay safe. Keep Healthy. And we'll see you soon-----Marge

Curator Chat

— Lynn Houze, Director & Curator

While we're closed during the off-season we are not idle! We are able to take on new projects/exhibits that will help us grow and improve our museum. This past winter, we were able to add some new items to our exhibits donated by some wonderful people. We also had 2 new drawers built into the curved wall below the 3 small cases for the time period 1941-1965. These will give us more room to display objects that we know will be donated to us! We also installed a small plexi wall case with an exhibit on Bob Meyers, a local artist who was killed in 1970. The intent is to make this a changing exhibit space featuring a different artist each season. We welcome donations associated with Cody and its immediate surrounding areas which fall into the years 1884-1965. Do think of us when you come across that family item that you may not know what to do with anymore.

And, we were able to finalize plans for our Heritage Garden which has now been installed. We are very proud of it and thank all who helped make it possible. Stephanie Liebert, whom we hired last season to be the Curatorial Assistant, worked thru the winter and has already taken on more responsibility in the museum with membership, volunteers, and social networking. She is a wonderful asset.

~ Lynn



HISTORIC CODY FAMILIES

J.C. "KID" NICHOLS

by Joyce Patrick, wife of Nic

EARLY YEARS

James Calvin Nichols was born September 23, 1883, in the farm country of Iowa where he grew up hunting, fishing, and exploring the outdoors. He developed into a strong and resourceful young man, skilled in blacksmithing and wrestling. Jim found success in the wrestling circuit and acquired the moniker of J.C. "Kid" Nichols at his matches. In 1904, Jim Wilcox, who ran the Buffalo Hump Saloon in Cody, Wyoming, recruited the Kid to come to Cody with the promise of furthering his wrestling career.

When the Kid arrived in Cody he found the young, bustling community to his liking. He began work in the blacksmithing trade at the Buffalo Bill Barns, wrestled, helped set up Cody's first gym that became known as Orange Athletic Club, and ran the roulette wheel in the Buffalo Hump. As his finances improved, his thoughts turned to his sweetheart back in Iowa, Margaret Cannon. In 1906 he married Margaret, brought her to Cody and started his family. Two sons, Lyle and Don, were born to this union.

Kid approached life with gusto. Due to a wrongful charge of killing elk in Yellowstone, he left Cody travelling to Alaska and Canada. After being on the run for nearly a year, Kid returned to Cody to face charges. In the fall of 1910 he was fined \$100 and all charges were dropped.

The Kid left Cody again for several years, divorcing and remarrying. His new wife, Grace, was tragically killed in an automobile accident leaving him to raise their adopted daughter, Nina.

CHICAGO

J.C. "Nic" Nichols, as he became known, relocated to Chicago in 1913 where he became very successful in the sale of paper products, shingle board, cardboard, etc. Nichols Industries grew into a large and successful commercial enterprise.

A pretty and vivacious Irish woman, Lucille Sullivan, came into Nic's life, and they were married in 1918. As his business flourished, so did his family with the birth of two daughters, Lucille and Barbara. Nic, who never lost his affection for the Cody area, began spending summers there with his family in 1923. He eventually bought the Lakeview Ranch and several adjoining parcels in the Southfork valley, combining them into the Diamond Bar Ranch.

RETURN TO CODY

The Nichols family moved to the Diamond Bar Ranch permanently in 1940 and became further involved in the growth and development of the Cody area. Nic was an Arena Director for the Cody Stampede for many years, was instrumental in bringing the Rural Electric Association to the Southfork valley, promoted trap shooting and other sports, contributed to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center (as it was then known) and participated in many community events. Ranch life was a good fit for the Nichols clan and they enjoyed entertaining family and friends at the Diamond Bar. Throughout their lives, Nic and Lucille remained steadfast supports of Cody and were widely appreciated as generous benefactors of the community.

Daughter Lucille Nichols Patrick made Cody her permanent home and enjoyed many years as a prominent artist, author and historian. Several succeeding generations now carry on the family tradition of living in the beautiful Cody country.

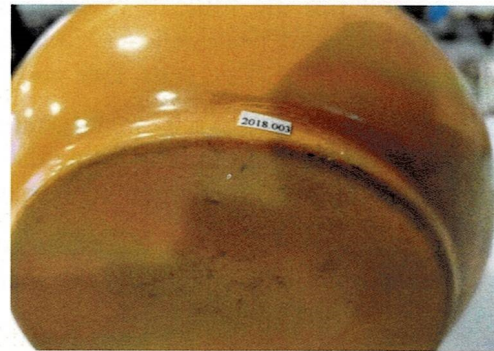
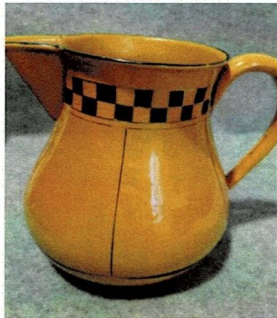
OBJECT ACCESSIONING

There is a great deal of behind-the-scenes work that goes on in museums that visitors never see. One of the most important tasks is what happens when we decide to accept a donation of an artifact or object. It is necessary to create a paper trail connecting the object to the donor when it comes in the door - a donor receipt. It is followed by a deed of gift, a thank you, a condition report, a photograph of the object, and an entry into our collections management computer program, PastPerfect. Each object is given its own unique number, and a file is created to keep track of the paperwork.

Before we even opened in May 2018, these records were being created. In fact, we'd accepted a few items as far back as 2007 before we even knew where the museum would be located! Once we were in the DeMaris house, we were able to set up our storage and work areas including an office. There were items that we knew we needed including PastPerfect, a small digital camera, and accessioning material such as cotton twill tape, sewing supplies, special adhesive with which to attach the numbers to the objects, and special photo marking pencils.

In order to make these purchases we wrote a grant to the Christ Episcopal Church Bargain Box Grant in the spring of 2017 and were successful! With the money we received, we purchased the above items and started accessioning. We were thrilled that they liked our project and for that we were, and are, very thankful for their help.

We have two wonderful volunteers who are helping us with the accessioning, work that is never done as we continue to accept donations. If you have something relating to Cody (pre-1970) that you'd like to donate, please contact Director/Curator Lynn Houze at the museum.



Cody Heritage Museum

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

