


JACKSON HOLE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM



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JACKSON'S HOLE, WYOMING

FALL 2011

The entity known as tourist may be viewed in antonymous fashion, as the bane of a local's existence and yet, the bread and butter of a tourism based economy, such as is found in Jackson Hole. From the time of its discovery, Jackson's Hole has peaked an interest of those far away, containing majestic landscapes and the wild and remote component of the west.

During the early part of the 20th century, several people including Struthers

prim and proper eastern side of the country, dude ranches provided an escape from many of the social expectations people lived under with an ever present duress. Dude ranches presented an experience whereby people paid, played, and enjoyed summer time activities in the Tetons. They mingled with their eastern counterparts as well as hired hands, local homesteaders, and ranch foremen in such a way that created what Nathaniel Burt

Circle H Ranch. As the expectations of the dudes grew, many of the ranches began to offer more luxurious accommodations, though there were ranches beginning to emerge that served a clientele outside of the elite circles which had been the focus of the Grand Dame era.

It seems another tradition of the dude ranches was for a visiting dude to eventually purchase his own property or ranch, trying his hand at managing the

Visiting the Snake River Valley and Grand Tetons: a Tradition Rich in History

by Heather Cosby, guest contributor and JHHSM member

Burt, Louis Joy, Harold Hammond and Tucker Bispman realized the potential of travelers to the area as a source of income, and from there the agricultural tourism business of dude ranching began its existence in the Snake River Valley and what is now Grand Teton National Park.

The traditional dude ranch sought to combine an authentic experience akin to the pioneer days with opportunities to experience the wilderness and natural surroundings. While dude ranches dotted the west over the first half of the nineteenth century, they were more likely to be clustered around dramatic mountain ranges or scenic rivers. Often times, these were lands managed by federal agencies like the National Forest Service and later, the National Park Service.

The legacy of dude ranches can be divided into four main historical eras including the Grand Dames (1908-1919), the Expansionist (1920-1930), the Depression (1930-1940), and the Post War (1940-1950s). Three original dude ranches were established during the Grand Dames era, including the JY, the Bar BC, and the White Grass, laying the foundation for the dude ranch legacy in and around the Tetons.

Dudes and dudines, as they were called, were often well-to-do, prominent easterners who sought the rugged and remote, the open skies of the west. Looking to escape the confines of the

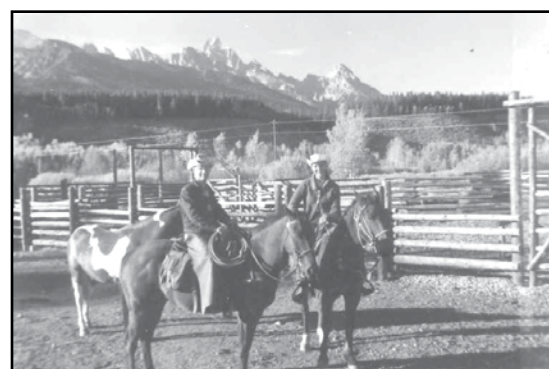
referred to as a "classless society", which he deemed was, "full of class, where the swagger of western horsemen blended on equal terms with the swagger of adventurous, anti-conventional eastern aristocracy. Everyone—ranchers, Jackson storekeepers, hired hands, dudes—were caught up in this society, involved in the intense feuds and friendships, the bitter causes (park extension and related problems), took sides, cheated on each other selling horses and playing poker, loved, hated, even married each other."

The west, however, wasn't completely without its own forms of discrimination. Distinguished from their "tin can tourist" counterparts of lesser wealth, wealthy dudes from the east were held in somewhat higher regard by dude ranch owners than the tourists passing through the valley. Many of the ranches required minimum stays of two to three weeks, a luxury only the elite could afford. In addition, dude ranches often requested references from potential dudes, a recommendation from a present dude, or in some cases, a formal invitation. Not all the dude ranches operated in this fashion, however. The Triangle X did not ask for a reference and in fact, did not make an effort to collect a specific class of clientele.

The Great Dame era gave way to the Expansionist era of the 1920s and 30s and a second wave of dude ranches including the Flying V, the Danny Ranch and the

land and hosting subsequent dudes. Many of the dudes knew each other from their eastern cities and homes as well. "Every other ranch, particularly down the west side of the Snake River, was owned by an old dude of the JY or the Bar BC or the later White Grass."—Nathaniel Burt

Such was the story for one Harry Harrison, a friend of Colter Huyler and Rufous Wesson of the famed Smith and Wesson gun company. Harry and his wife Ethel, after spending time at the JY Ranch, started a small dude ranch on land homesteaded by Louis Joy and Billy Giant. Named the Circle H, the ranch was located west of the Snake River, not far from the White Grass. "About 1927, the Circle H had seven guest cabins and a pleasant central lodge, containing dining and recreation rooms . . . tastefully furnished and ornamented with trophies of the hunt." The Circle H was a working hay ranch with its "own horses, dairy cows, and garden, insuring abundant



Circle H Corral, c. 1962.

2005.0016.003

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Mission Statement

*Preserving and sharing the
heritage of Jackson Hole.*

The *Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum Chronicle* is published quarterly for members and friends of the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum.

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Organizational News

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The Clear Creek Group
The Liquor Store
The Teton Club
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Western Center for the Conservation
of Fine Arts
West Lives On Gallery

Musings at the Museum

by Jean Hansen, Museum Manager

With our new exhibitions, we have the opportunity to encourage our young visitors in new ways, one of which is to have them write their first name and where they are from on a clothespin. They are then told to carry that clothespin with them until they find where in the exhibition gallery they should leave it. As they exit we ask what the significance is of the clothespin. A couple of answers we have received:

"In the olden days, everyone used the same clothes line so they had to hang their clothes with clothespins that had their name on them so they'd know which clothes were theirs."

"They were used as name tags for lost kids."

Come explore the museum and find out the correct answer.

This summer we have had many unique and interesting visitors. One gentleman who traveled from England and was celebrating his 81st birthday on that very date proceeded to pull a harmonica out of his breast pocket and play a skillful melody. This was followed by the production of a very tiny harmonica – less than an inch in length – upon which he played another beautiful tune.

Museum Hosts Chamber Mixer

The Museum staff is excited to be hosting the Chamber of Commerce mixer on Thursday, October 27 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to help us celebrate being open in winter for the first time in fifty-three years!

Come tour the museum at our new location at 225 N. Cache St., find out how you can become involved with the Museum, enjoy refreshments, and network with members of our community.

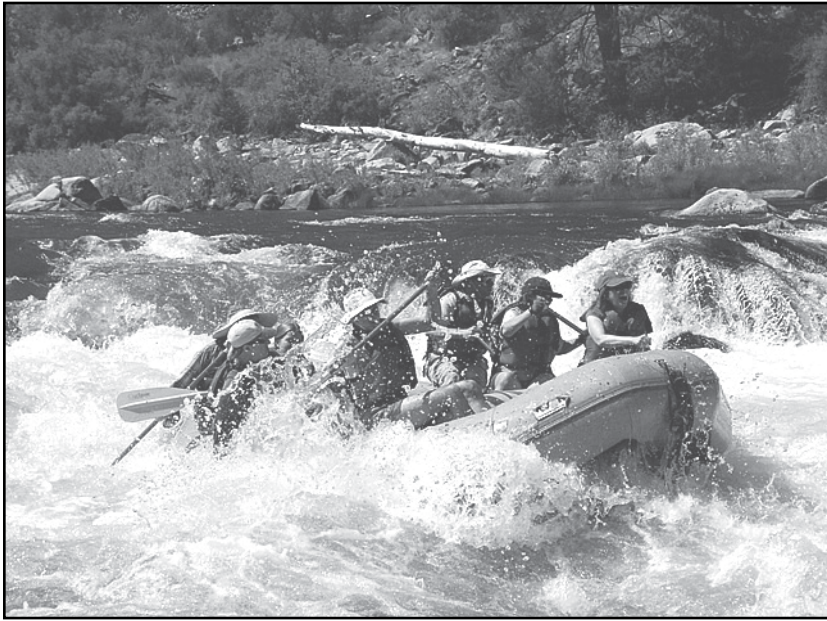
Members Receive Free Admission

At their September 13 meeting, the Board of Directors voted to reinstate the member and partnership benefit of free admission to the museum effective October 1, 2011.

If you haven't already, come visit the inaugural exhibition *Playing Hard: Labor and Leisure in Jackson Hole* featuring the evolution of work and play, and addressing the history of recreation in Jackson Hole.

Welcome First Time New Members and Business Partners (Mid-June to Mid-September):

- Owen and Francis Arnold
- Alta Brodd
- Lucy and Bill Conley
- Vince and Peggie Crofts
- Devra Davis & Richard Morgenstern
- Scott Gear
- Scott and Pamela Gibson
- Claudia Gillette
- Jackson Whole Grocer
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- Rich Viola
- Wells Fargo Advisors



Float the Historic Salmon River and Benefit the New History Museum Wayne Johnson and the Snake River Rafting Company to guide trip

Here is your chance to take an epic adventure with 12–16 people in your party, and benefit the new Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum in the process. World-renowned river guide Wayne Johnson and the Salmon River Rafting Company are offering a personalized week-long trip down the historic Salmon River in Idaho in 2012 to benefit the new history museum.

Spend each night on the float trip staying in lodge accommodations, floating the river by day and exploring one of America’s beautiful rivers. These trips are limited in number by

the Forest Service, and this is your chance to guarantee a memorable once-in-a-lifetime adventure for you and your party while benefiting your local history museum.

Schedule your trip based on availability between April and August of 2012 and assemble your adventure team for a trip down the Salmon—the “River of No Return.” Each trip includes meals, camping gear, transportation to and from Idaho Falls to the Salmon River, accommodations, and a professionally guided trip. Enjoy the splendor of the great outdoors, the rush of whitewater, and a week of adventure you are sure to remember the rest of your life. People wait years to have a chance to book one of these trips—this is your chance to be guaranteed a trip in 2012!

Call Tom Hickey at 733-9605 ext. 204 today for more details.

Thanks to Wayne Johnson and the Salmon River Rafting Company Staff



Notes from the Development Office – Tom Hickey History in Jackson Hole – A Sound Investment

So often when people find out what I do, that I am a fund raiser, they respond, “Wow, what a tough job, I would hate to ask people for money.” Ironically, as I have learned over the years the reverse is true—asking for money for great projects is an honor. The potential donor has the opportunity to invest in something of substance, something that will last for generations to come and impact countless lives. I have the opportunity each day to work with a great team, implementing an important vision and honoring all of those hardy souls

who have made Jackson Hole their home over the centuries.

As I ponder life in Jackson Hole, I often reflect that our valley is majestic indeed, but it is not always hospitable to those who have called it home. Hard work, perseverance and creativity are the tools by which people have long survived. A walk through our current exhibition *Playing Hard: Labor and Leisure in Jackson Hole* attests to the fact that making it in Jackson Hole requires determination and grit. Even in recreation, peril can be found around the corner, and hard lessons await those who lose their focus.

Each day I am fortunate to work on a project that will result in a first-class history museum in Jackson Hole, with a permanent exhibition that will rival major museums across the country. I am honored to work with incredible people—staff, board, philanthropists and citizens alike—on a project that is greater than any one individual. Jackson Hole is such a unique, diverse and special place, and it truly deserves to have its story recorded and preserved for future generations. So, when you see me coming, just remember that I am lucky to be able to ask others to participate in such an important effort, and together we are going to make some history in Jackson Hole.



Thank you to our Old Bill's Fun Run donors!
Thank you Old Bill!
Thank you Co-Challengers!
Thank you Jackson Hole!

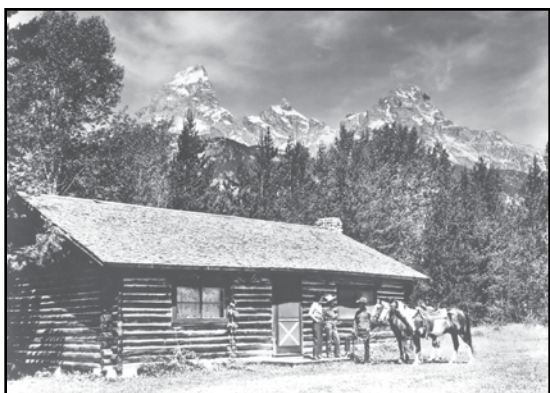


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fresh milk and vegetables on the table.” It housed 14 dudes. Rates were \$12 per day for room, board, and a saddle horse.

It was a short-lived operation, for the Harrisons sold the ranch to John C. Dilworth in 1928 for \$20,000. Dilworth did not operate the Circle H as a dude ranch. In 1945, Harry Barker Sr., bought the Circle H, revived the dude ranch and turned it into a successful enterprise. In 1966, Harry Jr. and Margaret Barker sold the Circle H to the National Park Service in exchange for a 30-year or lifetime estate.”—NPS History Online Books

Upon selling the Circle H, the Harrisons moved to the Crystal Springs Ranch south of the JY, in what would one day become Teton Village. The area was known for its especially dense mosquito population for many years prior to Teton County’s Mosquito Abatement Program.



The Double Diamond 2005.0016.032

The notion of the dude ranch became an appealing scene for the youth of the time period as well. Several ranches catering to juveniles sprouted up including Stephen Leek’s Teton Camp for Boys, the Double Diamond (now the Climbers Ranch), and the Half Moon Ranch, which accepted both boys and girls. In later years, the Crystal Springs Ranch, then owned by Ken and Shirley Clatterbaugh, was operated as a girls ranch.

Valley resident Connie Leavell has memories of visiting the Crystal Springs girls’ ranch when she was very young. In 1905, Connie’s Grandfather, Bennie Linn homesteaded what would become the iconic Linn Ranch nestled in between the Snake River and the Teton Village Road. Ken and Shirley’s daughter Suzy was just a year older than Connie, and Connie remembers going up to the ranch to play with her friend. During the winter months, carpools were arranged for the children who lived on the ranch year-round to get to school, and when the weather worsened, it was often necessary for them to stay with other families on the southern end of the road.

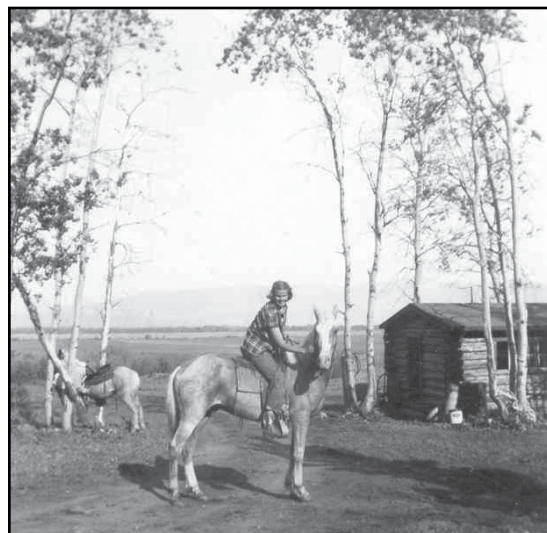
The Crystal Springs Ranch followed in traditional dude ranch architectural style with a main house and numerous smaller non-winterized guest cabins which were located where the Alpenhof Restaurant is today. Crystal Creek ran down behind the cabins at that time. The ranch also housed a recreation hall, used for various activities including square dancing. Connie remembers going to dances with her brother, also her dance partner, in their matching purple and white gingham outfits. She related that

Wilson had quite a showing of kids who square danced. “We had two or three squares and would go up to the rec hall to practice and hold dances.” Connie also remembers the barn that used to adorn the base of Rendezvous Mountain. She reminisced about how large she remembers it being.



Half Moon Ranch, c. 1938. 2008.0025.052

The Depression era as well as the Post-War era brought further evolution to the dude ranch, seeking to offer additional services to a broader variety of clientele. Many of the historic dude ranches of the Snake River Valley were sold to John D. Rockefeller via the Snake River Land Company, who at that time, was involved in an effort to collect additional land which would later be donated to the National Park Service. The addition of said lands increased the acreage of Grand Teton National Park from its original 95,000 acres to its present day 310,000 acres.



Marilyn Kruecke at Crystal Springs Ranch, c. 1950-51. 1996.0053.002

As the fates would have it, a young man by the name of Paul McCollister visited the area in 1942. Making many trips back to the valley over the next decade, he eventually followed local tradition, purchasing acreage near Antelope Flats where he began spending summers in the valley. A love for the mountains and the relatively new sport of skiing led him to purchase the Crystal Springs Ranch at \$1,355 per acre in 1961. After a thorough study confirmed the area was deemed to be a perfect spot for a ski area, the Jackson Hole Ski Corporation was formed and the resort opened for business in 1966.

Though some of the buildings of the valley’s historic dude ranches have been preserved, many were moved, destroyed, or left to rot. Fortuitously, Connie Leavell’s father purchased the old Crystal Springs Ranch barn that stood close to the home of the current day Jackson Hole tram dock. It was a working barn for around 15 years, until one day, Connie and husband Hal decided

to convert the 20’ x 30’ barn into their home. In an unlikely effort, they did a lot of shoveling, steam cleaned the interior, and then moved the soggy bottomed barn to the northern end of the Linn Ranch, where they have been renovating the barn ever since. The old hay loft doors are now large two-story windows. The side of the barn containing the hay chute is now a sun room facing the river. And while the interior has been refurbished, evidence of the original state of the barn remains. The exterior chinking is original and metal name plates that held saddle/bridle names for the girls and their horses still remain on one side of the house.

The tradition of the tourist, as well as the longer visitor to Jackson Hole is ever present within the valley today. It could be said that the dudes of yesterday are the second home owners that adorn the valley today, and present day guides are the ranch foremen of the past. Whether it is a day turned into a week, a week turned into a month, or a summer turned into a lifetime, as in the case of the author, the spirit of the Grand Teton mountain range, the tranquility of the Snake River Valley, and the freedom of the rugged American West remains a fervent draw for people from diverse demographic and geographic areas.

Wyoming Days

*O sing us a song of the wilds
of Wyoming,
A song of the Plains and the
rolling brown hills,
Not boastful, but playful, that sets
Fancy roaming
To the sunny green slopes where the
meadow lark trills.
The great silent spaces where cattle
are grazing,
Remote from Mankind in this
altitude high;
The shadowy dusk, with the
red sunset blazing
From behind the bald peaks sharp
against the clear sky.*

Rory C. Smith, 1922. State of Wyoming Historical Department, Quarterly Bulletin from September 15, 1923.

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 Telephone interview with Connie Leavell, September 7, 2011, Wilson, Wyoming.

The History of Conservation in Jackson Hole – Part II

by Shannon Sullivan, Curator of Collections

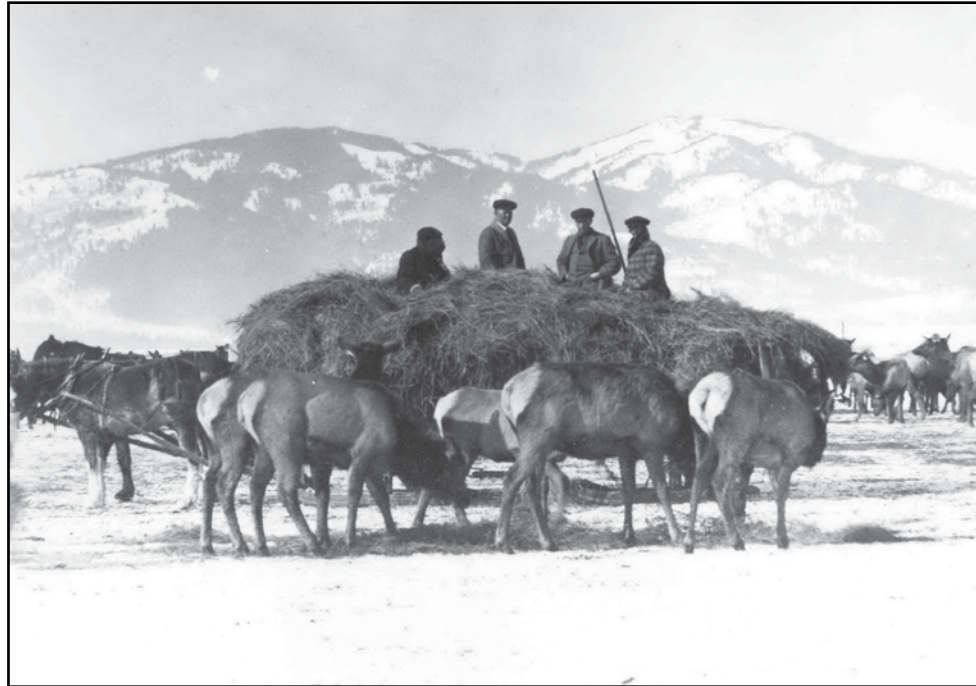
Continued from Summer 2011 issue

Hunting guide Stephen Leek was instrumental in giving voice to residents' concerns about the starving elk. A noted photographer and staunch defender of valley wildlife, his images of thousands of dead and dying elk helped to make their plight a national story. Locals had begun by donating their own hay to feed the elk, but thanks to Leek's efforts, the state provided \$5,000 in 1909 followed by the federal government which allocated \$20,000 in 1911 to purchase winter feed. By 1912, Congress had acted to create the National Elk Refuge. Land which had once been dotted with more than 44 homesteads throughout the southern end of the valley was purchased over the coming decades by the Izaak Walton League among others, eventually making up 24,700 acres. John Daugherty points out in *A Place Called Jackson Hole* that, "... most citizens supported the government buy-out of homesteads for the refuge, signaling a dramatic change in beliefs. It was now acceptable for government to reserve public land in the name of resource conservation."

The creation of the refuge was the beginning in a long line of solutions for human created problems in Jackson Hole. There wouldn't have been a mass starvation of elk if people hadn't begun to settle so densely on what had been the winter range for 20,000 elk. Nearly 100 years after its creation, the refuge remains controversial because of the artificial feed grounds that continue to draw thousands

of elk each winter. Nonetheless, without the effort to set aside land for the elk, Jackson may have sprawled much farther north, impacting even more wilderness.

After the success of the refuge, many turned their sights farther north in the valley. As the 20th century crawled on, there was more development, and tourism was beginning to be big business.



Members of the Izaak Walton League surveying elk. BC.0040
S.N. Leek Collection, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming

Locals perceived the attractions that the animals and wilderness provided, and wanted to make sure that some measure of that was preserved. But they were also concerned about maintaining their livelihoods. Eventually these competing interests would become deeply divisive.

Almost since the initial settlement of the valley, there was talk of creating a protected park, no doubt influenced by the creation of Yellowstone in 1872 so near to Jackson Hole. National Park Service Director James Mather and his assistant Horace Albright championed the idea of expanding Yellowstone south to engulf the Tetons and other selected areas. Though that particular

idea failed to gain traction, local support remained. The idea persisted to create a "natural history museum on the hoof," as Struthers Burt, local dude rancher and author, termed it. Protecting the land was given a major boost when John D. Rockefeller started the Snake River Land Company, and hired local agents to begin buying up land.

The involvement of a wealthy outsider was both a blessing and a disaster. Because Rockefeller was essentially buying property in secret to ensure that there was no inflation of property values, there was no community sense of involvement like there had been for the refuge. Though many supported the concept of a park, there was certainly opposition to it too, seeming to justify such stealthy means.

Meanwhile in 1925, a national commission that studied proposed parks issued a recommendation that a park including the Tetons be created. In 1929, Grand Teton National Park was dedicated. The dream of a park in the valley was realized but it was much smaller than supporters wanted, largely protecting only the mountains. The Snake River Land Company continued to buy property, although very few knew what the real purpose was and how closely tied it was to the future of the new park. By the 1930s, Rockefeller's name was connected to the land purchases, and Jackson Hole's greatest controversy erupted.

Slim Lawrence Barbecue 2011 ~ Hardeman Barns



Thank you to our sponsors Virginia Napierskie and the Virginian Lodge; Wells Fargo; patron table and ticket sponsors; our hosts the Jackson Hole Land Trust and the Teton Raptor Center; board of directors, donors, attendees, vendors, volunteers, and staff for making the Slim Lawrence Barbecue such a success!



Summer Children's Programs Prove Wildly Popular



What do cowboys, first peoples, artists, hunters, and anglers have in common? These were the themes for free classes that the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum staff offered to children entering grades 1-4. The museum's new exhibition *Playing Hard: Labor and Leisure in Jackson Hole* inspired the one and half hour classes held in the organization's new classroom at 225 N. Cache on Tuesdays during the month of August.

Museum staff members Mindy Barnett, Brenda Roberts, and Karen Reinhart led the children's classes with help from Susan McCracken and volunteers James Ball, Lucy Bayles, Marilyn Mullikin, T.J. Van Ooyen from Triangle X Ranch, and Woody and Steffie from the Bar-T-

Five. The classes included a visit to the museum, creative activities, and take-home projects.

Most of the children attended all of the classes. Four classes were open to the public and four were in partnership with the J.O.Y. summer camp of the Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole.

On August 2, "Pots, Paper, and Pouches" entralled the kids with stories of Indians, explorers, and settlers. They built a fort and made pemmican to carry in their own handmade pouches.

"Rod, Reel, and Rifle" on August 9 explored the important roles that hunting and fishing activities have had in the valley. This class included storytelling, and the creation of a "story" hide and a three-dimensional fish.

The role of artists and photographers in preserving the beauty of Jackson Hole was the theme of the August 16 class "Awe Inspiring Art." Children enjoyed storytelling, plein air (open air) painting, creating a "values" tree and more.

On August 23, "Laughs and Lariats" explored the questions "Does the cowboy wear his tools?" and "Does a rodeo have clowns?" Kids made their own chaps and rode into history with real cowboys to discover the answers.

Education and outreach are important parts of the mission of the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum. These successful children's classes played an integral role in fulfilling our mission of "preserving and sharing the heritage of Jackson Hole."

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