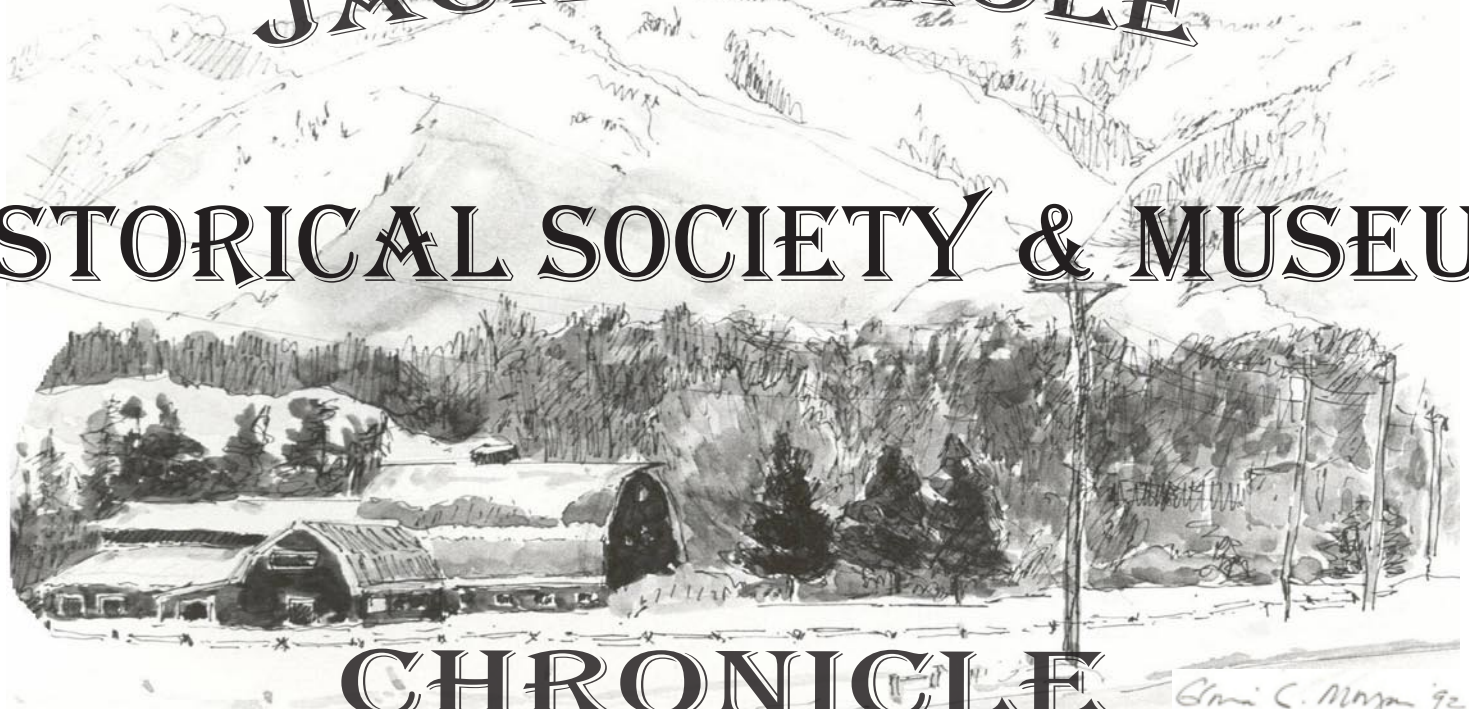


# JACKSON HOLE

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM



### CHRONICLE

VOLUME XXXI NO. 1

JACKSON'S HOLE, WYOMING

SPRING 2011

## *Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries in 2011*

by Liz Jacobson

### **Jackson Hole Rodeo ~ 100 Years**

Although Wilson, Wyoming, and dude ranches in Jackson Hole may have hosted the first rodeos in the area, the first official rodeo grounds were donated to the Town of Jackson in 1911 by Belle Flanders, sister of Charles Wort. This forty-acre parcel was located in the middle of town (today you would describe it as south from Broadway to the Center for the Arts and west to the Elks Lodge). It was on these grounds that the "Jackson's Hole Frontier Rodeo" was held annually during the first three days of September.<sup>1</sup> Based upon the date the rodeo grounds were donated, the Jackson Hole Rodeo is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Two Jackson residents, Bob Crisp and Howard Henrie, were top rodeo hands in those days, and remember the Frontier as "one of the best." Four early Jackson



Original Jackson Hole Rodeo site,  
c. 1920s 2008.0046.108

settlers turned the rodeo into a business where it had formerly been casual get-togethers with race meets and bucking contests to which settlers brought their own livestock. Jack Eynon, Roy VanVleck, Pierce Cuninghame and T. Lloyd

put on a show that rivaled the "Daddy of Them All" at Cheyenne Frontier Days.<sup>2</sup>

The rodeo was held on the grounds in the center of town until the mid-thirties. The town of Jackson later purchased the twenty-five acre tract on which the rodeo grounds are presently located. Grandstands and racetrack were built<sup>1</sup>, and the rodeo grounds were called Frontier Park.



Jackson's Hole Frontier Rodeo 1958.1175.001

Frontier Days fell into difficulties just after World War I because one of the partners, T. Lloyd, had gone to Alaska, the war took most of the young cowboys, and the partners were getting involved in other interests. The partners persuaded the newly-formed American Legion to take on the business of running the rodeo. The Legionnaires ran the show for about ten years, and were happy when they would break even. After the extra work became overwhelming, they hired a rodeo company to take care of running the show.<sup>2</sup>

A number of gentlemen have owned and operated the Jackson Hole Rodeo through the years including Walt Callahan, Bill Saunders, Hal Johnson, Bob McConaughy (who was the first to bring in bull riding), Russ Moses, and currently, Philip Wilson.

Philip says the centennial Jackson Hole Rodeo will feature the usual events this summer—bull riding, bronc riding,

calf roping, barrel racing, and the two most popular crowd pleasers, mutton busting and barrel racing. For the first time they will be having three rodeos a week. Philip says most of the attendees are tourists, a quarter of whom are foreigners. Contestants hail mostly from Wyoming and Idaho, with a number of local residents participating.

It is becoming more difficult to find contestants because less people live on ranches, and high school rodeos compete with increasingly more school sports. To inspire new rodeo participants, the Jackson Hole Rodeo holds rodeo school every two weeks for people age four and up. Philip has no doubt the sport of rodeo will continue, and remain a vital part of the heritage of Jackson Hole.

### **Exum Mountain Guides ~ 80th**

"Eighty years ago a lanky eighteen-year old from the farmland of Idaho parted ways high on the Grand Teton with the group he was helping guide. Wearing oversized football cleats, he scrambled alone across a wide broad gully of loose talus to obtain a broad, sloping ledge bounded above and below by vertical rock walls that tapered to nothing near its eastern edge. Creeping gingerly to the edge of the abyss, the athletic teenager finally jumped, barely clearing the gap and finding purchase on a large boulder sitting on the opposite side. From there he soloed upwards, without protection, scrambling through chimneys and balancing up blank slabs of perfect granite until he reunited with his party on the summit.

Thus began a most remarkable story about a man, a mountain, and a guide service that would set new standards in guiding and teaching excellence while leading some fifty thousand odd climbers to the summit of the Grand Teton over the course of eighty years. It is the story of many exceptional men and women, all of

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**Mission Statement**

*Preserving and sharing the  
heritage of Jackson Hole.*

Jackson Historical Society  
and Museum  
"Our History—Grand and Alive"  
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# Organizational News

## Grand Opening of New Museum Exhibition *Playing Hard—Labor and Leisure in Jackson Hole*

Anticipation is building for not only the grand opening of the new Museum at 225 N. Cache Street on Memorial Day weekend, but for the unveiling of the premiere exhibition *Playing Hard—Labor and Leisure in Jackson Hole*.

Staff has worked diligently planning, researching, cleaning collection items, selecting photographs, writing text, and preparing the space for the exhibition since last October.

The goals of the exhibition are to inspire, educate, and entertain. It will show how Jackson Hole residents face and adapt to harsh extremes of climate,

isolation, geography, and economy, and how these practical adaptations evolved into recreational pursuits. It answers the questions "what forms of recreation are still present today, and have they changed?"

Through images, words, and objects, the exhibition features the stories of the people of Jackson Hole both historically and contemporarily. It will help visitors understand what makes Jackson Hole a place of unique beauty and power, and encourage them to explore the many recreational opportunities outside of the Museum.



Stan Klassen at the  
2010 Slim Lawrence Barbecue

Our board member and friend, Stan Klassen, passed away on Friday, March 11, 2011. He joined the board of directors in January 2009, and immediately became very involved. He was chairman of the membership committee, and under his leadership membership has continued to increase. He was very supportive of our programs, and assisted with and

attended as many as he could.

Stan believed our history is a very important part of our community, and we need to make sure we document and annotate personal accounts. He was interested in history, particularly the rich history of Jackson Hole, and felt blessed to have the good fortune of knowing a lot of the old-timers. His most recent contribution to preserving history was his organization of the 100th Anniversary Celebration at First Baptist Church, held March 10 – 13, 2011. He was a member and musician there for over forty years.

Stan was willing to help the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum in whatever role he was needed. His family has requested that we establish a memorial fund at the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum in his honor. His presence and support will be greatly missed by the staff, board, members and his friends.

## Welcome First Time New Members and Business Partners (Mid-December to Mid-March):

- Vicki Arundale
- Nancy and Doug Ayers
- Dave Barrett
- Ray Bishop
- Justine Bruteig
- Anna Mary Bush
- Marion and Armand Cadol
- Vance Carruth
- Terry Chambers
- Dakota Cole
- Phil Coosaia
- Sara Van Genderen and Andrew Cornish
- Bob Emrick
- Anders and Betsy Engle
- Martha Feagin
- Laurie Fukawa
- Robert and Zaidee Fuller
- Eddie Garcia
- Tom and Halina Hickey
- Sue Hogan
- Talitha Horn
- Tom and Becky Jordan
- Frank and Merrie Ann King
- Elizabeth Kingwill
- Mike and Jackie Lance
- Lawhorn Green CPA Group, Inc.
- Si Matthies
- Abigail Moore
- Anita Nilsson
- Susan Patla
- Al and Julie Renneisen
- Rocky and Larrie Rockwell
- Venna Sparks
- Leine Stikkel
- Nancy Stodola
- Teton Heritage Builders
- Joyce Tice
- Peter and Adrienne Ward
- Brad Watsabaugh
- Justin Watsabaugh
- Carol Wauters
- Laurel Wicks
- Juli Winthers

## New Board Members Come From Diverse Backgrounds

### Earle Dornan

Earle is honored to serve as a member of the board of directors for the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum. "I will endeavor to support and advise in whatever capacity best assists the organization". His father, Bob Dornan, served as a past board member for the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum, and is currently a member of the Advisory Council to the board.

Earle is a fourth generation Jackson Hole native, born and raised in Jackson Hole. He attended Jackson Hole High School and then the University of Wyoming graduating with degrees in Accounting and Law, and subsequently the University of Denver obtaining a Masters degree in Law.



Earle practiced law in Phoenix, Arizona until his return to the valley in 2006. He is currently the Vice President—General Counsel and Spur Ranch Cabin Manager for Dornans in Moose, Wyoming.

Earle enjoys swimming, hiking, biking and, of course, skiing in this great place it is a privilege to call home. He is an avid supporter of documenting the dynamic changes that have occurred in Jackson Hole and supporting the presentation and preservation of this history for the incredible diversity of people that visit and are mesmerized once they catch a glimpse of the Tetons.



Can you identify this new board member?

### Jim Rooks

My name is James Rooks and I am honored to introduce myself as a new Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum board member. My desire to serve on the board is based on my family's extensive history with Jackson Hole.

My great grandfather Roy Van Vleck and his brother Frank migrated to Jackson from Lawton, Michigan in 1906. While en route to Oregon, the brothers detoured to Jackson Hole for the purpose

of a "quick" hunting and fishing trip. One hundred and five years later and our family is still here! The Van Vleck brothers founded the Jackson Mercantile and sold everything imaginable out of their store on the Town Square. Roy built a log cabin and barn at 135 East Broadway and sent word back to Michigan for his childhood sweetheart, Genevieve Lawton, to become his wife. Genevieve immersed herself in the Jackson community and was elected to the first all-women's Town Council. Roy and Genevieve also established a homestead on the shores of Jackson Lake. They also had two daughters, Stella and Jean, who after Genevieve's untimely death shared a close bond with their father. In an effort to keep his daughters nearby, Roy sold Stella and Jean each a town lot that bordered his own property for one dollar!

Jean Van Vleck was my cherished grandmother and a true "Wyoming Woman." Jean became Wyoming's first ever Girl Scout, attended Stevens College for Women and the University of Colorado, and spend her life entwined in the Jackson community. I grew up listening to Gramma Jean's stories of the "Old West," including tales about her pet badgers, the Kelly flood, skiing, and the adventures of growing up in Jackson Hole in the 1930s. While at college, Jean met and married Robert Stewart. After Bob's service in WWII as a Naval Officer,



the couple returned to Jackson, where Bob established the Jackson Insurance Agency and served as Justice of the Peace. Bob and Jean had three kids, including my Uncles, Richard "Dick" and Robert Jr., and my extraordinary mother Rebecca "Becky" Stewart. Much like the strong, intelligent, and caring women in her family, Becky Stewart lived a life dedicated to this valley and the people in it. While at college, Becky met and married Jim Rooks, who became a well-respected teacher and businessman, a victorious wrestling and football coach, and longtime member of the Teton #1 Board of Education. Becky and Jim Rooks had four children, including my sister Michelle and brothers Mikel and Rob. Tragically, our parents both died within six months of one another after almost fifteen collective years of fighting cancer.

While I was asked to write an autobiographical piece, the fact is that my family is the story of my life. My love of Jackson Hole is deeply rooted in my love of family and heritage. My family's connection with the history and culture of Jackson Hole defines who we are today. My great aunt's name was Stella and my precious four-year-old daughter's name is Stella. My one-year-old son James Henry, is named after his grandfather who died before he was born. My five-year-old

niece Angel Rebecca is named after her grandmother who died before she was born. My great grandfather was an avid big game hunter and fly fisherman and as my beautiful wife Ruth Moran will attest, I don't miss many days in the field chasing trout and elk. Most of my closest friends are also fifth generation Jackson Hole natives and we often laugh at the idea that our ancestors were friends long before we met one another. We also marvel at the fact that our children will grow up together to form a strong sixth generation of "locals"!

Suffice it to say that I do not feel serving on the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum board is an option, but rather an inherited obligation. As far as my board membership, I am specifically committed to membership and fundraising, modernization via digital and web-based technology, expanded partnerships with Teton County schools, and the creation of historical bus tours.

*Jim is a professional educator who is currently the Assistant Principal at the Jackson Hole High School.*

### Chris Sandvig

Chris Sandvig joined the board in February, and has always enjoyed history. He feels that history broadens your life, and helps you understand who you are in society. The history museum is a crucible for preserving information about Jackson Hole for all of us, and leaves an important legacy for future generations.

Originally from the Midwest, Chris graduated from the University of North Dakota with a degree in business and finance. While waiting to be accepted



to the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, Arizona for graduate studies, he traveled with friends to Gardiner, Montana where he fell in love with the west. He spent his time hunting, fishing, guiding, and exploring the area, including Jackson Hole.

Following graduate school, his career in banking took him to Portland for seven years, and then Chicago for twenty-three years. After leaving banking, he traveled with his two daughters Erica and Cailin, and enjoyed numerous hunting and fishing trips with friends. But retirement was not for him, and he sought out something fun to do or something to do in a fun place. He made connections with Jackson State Bank where he was offered

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*continued from New Board Members Page 3*

a position. Chris moved to Jackson and has been with the company, now Wells Fargo, for seven years.

He married Louisa Myrin in October. They enjoy hunting, fishing, cross-country and downhill skiing, hiking, and traveling. He loves spending time with his daughters as well as Louisa's children and grandchildren.

Chris has been a board member or volunteer for other historical organizations. He has met some very nice people through these connections, and his involvement contributes to his understanding of the people and area where he lives. He looks forward to working with the board on developing our message and pursuing our mission.

*continued from Exum Mountain Guides Page 1*

them supremely talented mountaineers, who chose to spend the better part of their summers teaching novice climbers how to climb, how to handle ropes and how to belay, as well as guiding them on ascents of the Grand Teton, where the clients applied their newly acquired skills.

The man who helped start it all and who made the daring leap that long-ago summer day was Glenn Exum. Glenn was a dapper, yarn-spinning musician, often likened to Errol Flynn. He grew up on a farm in Eastern Idaho, but the allure of the Grand Teton looming on the eastern horizon soon pulled him off the farm and into a vertical world of rock, snow and ice. Little did he realize at the time the magnitude of his discovery that day back in 1931. For the route he pioneered would eventually become the main attraction



Glenn Exum, c. 1933 2003.0117.172

of one of North America's great alpine adventures, an ascent of the 13,770' Grand Teton in Northwestern Wyoming. And it would serve as the enticement for thousands of novice mountaineers, possessing nothing more than "a strong body and desire" to tackle an ascent of the strikingly beautiful peak.

Glenn was assisting Paul Petzoldt

when he first climbed the ridge that would later take on his moniker, and in those days it was Paul who was rapidly acquiring notoriety as a guide and



Paul Petzoldt, c. late 1920s 2003.0050.052

talented alpine climber. Indeed, it was Paul who suggested Glenn take a look at the big ledge splitting the dramatic southwest face of the Grand and see if he could negotiate the gap to gain the ridge. Most likely, he did not expect Glenn to actually pull it off, for Paul was a driven climber and more than a little competitive. If he had calculated that the odds were good, one has to imagine that he would have gone over to explore the ledge himself before suggesting the idea to Glenn.

Paul had also grown up on a farm in Southern Idaho. In 1924, at the age of sixteen, he set out to climb the Grand in a pair of cowboy boots. Well above tree line, he was caught by a fast-moving and bitterly cold afternoon thunderstorm. He barely survived the night and decided from that day on that he would not just climb peaks but practice and preach the art of managing risk as he pursued summit after summit. He repeated Glenn's route the very day of Glenn's climb, climbing down and around the infamous gap as climbers still do today instead of leaping across.

A few years later Paul and Glenn traveled to Europe to study how European guides operated on routes such as the Hornli Ridge of the Matterhorn. They noticed that Chamonix guides only guided in one-on-one ratios with the guide doing all the rope work, tugging clients up difficult sections on the ascent and lowering them down vertical sections on the descent. In Paul and Glenn's eyes, the clients enjoyed the climb less when they lacked any sense of participation. Paul and Glenn's stroke of genius was that clients were perfectly capable, with training, of taking on much of the responsibility of keeping themselves safe on the mountain. Hence, clients could belay each other, manage the rope and otherwise participate in the climb, allowing for higher ratios, lowering costs and providing a more satisfying experience and a feeling of accomplishment. The

"guide service" became a school of mountaineering. Clients would not only need to learn solid climbing skills, but also true mountaineering skills such as anchoring and belaying. It was good old American ingenuity at work, and soon they were leading groups, sometimes as many as six clients per guide, up the Grand using the so-called caterpillar system which they developed of clients belaying clients. Thus the Exum School of American Mountaineering was born.

The combination of a largely unexplored mountain range, a freewheeling wild-west culture, and the magnetic personalities of Paul and Glenn attracted some of the top mountaineers of the day to climb in the Tetons and sign on as guides, forging a tradition of excellence based on mountaineering experience that continues to this day. Hours could be spent detailing who has guided for Exum over the past eighty years and listing their accomplishments, as well as describing everywhere in the world Exum Guides have left tracks and pioneered climbs.

In acknowledgement of the thousands of clients who have ascended the Grand Teton with Exum over the past eighty years, a number of accomplishments are worth mentioning. One woman climbed the Grand in bare feet, two black Labrador retrievers have been brought to the summit, clients have climbed the Grand the hard way (via the North Face), have climbed the Grand exceptionally fast (eight hours), exceptionally slow (five days), and have come together in matrimony on the summit. Very young people climbed the Grand with Exum (age 9), old people climbed the Grand (age 78) and folks whose lives changed after climbing the Grand. Exum Guides hope you will join them as they celebrate four score years of guiding the Grand Teton, and as they continue their exploration of the vertical, whether it is a new route in the Tetons or a hidden peak in some far-off mountain range."<sup>3</sup>

### Grand Teton Music Festival ~ 50th

The precursor to the Grand Teton Music Festival (GTMF) was begun in 1962 by the Fine Arts Guild as part of the Jackson Hole Fine Arts Festival; therefore, the GTMF is celebrating its fiftieth season. Performances were held at such venues as the old Jackson Hole High School gym on Cache Street, Jackson Lake Lodge, and the lawn of St. John's Episcopal Church. The first several seasons included dance, film, and visual art as well as music. Today the GTMF hosts around 300 resident professional musicians from America's great orchestras and music school faculties every summer to perform weekly concerts of symphonic music, as well as chamber music.

According to Tracy Jacobson, the Executive Director of the GTMF, George Hufsmith, a composer and musician, was the first conductor and music director of the Fine Arts Guild. Another influential

*continued on Page 6*

## New Director of Development Has High Goals



Tom Hickey started out the year 2011 as the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum's new Director of Development. He is well-qualified with over twenty years experience in fundraising. Tom likes helping people, and his philosophy in taking this position is to do it for kids and families—he can visualize them going through the museum together. He believes you can change the world through education and learning from history.

In 1996, when Tom was serving on the board of the Teton Youth and Family Services (TYFS), he organized the annual golf tournament fundraiser. He also envisioned the fundraising idea for Climb the King for the Jackson Hole Community Counseling Center, and climbed the King 157 times one summer. Taking his job seriously, he walked 500 miles for TYFS in six weeks with a baby jogger "500 Miles for our Kids." He became the Development Director for Teton Youth and Family Services in 2000, and during his three and a half years in that position he headed up a capital campaign that raised 1.6 million.

Other contract fundraising ventures included the Hirschfield Center for Children and the Ordway School at Red Top Meadows. He headed the capital campaign for the Jackson Hole Community Counseling Center and raised 1.9 million.

Tom's interest in fundraising started at an early age growing up in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He always sold the most raffle tickets in elementary school, and delivered the most phone books to raise money for his baseball team. Tom attended St. Thomas College in St. Paul on a baseball scholarship, and majored in International Studies with an emphasis in European History and German. He spent his senior year at the American University in Washington, DC, studying foreign policy.

Tom first came to Jackson Hole in 1987 after he graduated from college, and spent the summer working at Jedediah's and at the Shady Lady Saloon as a bouncer. After his summer in Jackson, adventure called and he headed overseas. He taught English in Poland for two years with a Polish American Service Exchange program. He met his wife Halina while he was in Poland, and within a year they were married.

They moved to Minneapolis where their son Luke was born, and then on to Chicago. Could the reason be because Tom

loves baseball, and is a fourth generation diehard Cubs fan? Actually it was to fulfill a six-month fundraising contract with the non-profit Children Affected by Aids Foundation. Tom missed the mountains, and the family moved back to Jackson where daughter Gina was born. They returned to Poland in 1993-94, and Tom taught grade school at a private American school. The family returned to the valley in 1994, and purchased a house

in Driggs where they still live today.

Halina ran her own preschool at home before working as a preschool teacher at the Learning Academy of Teton Valley. Luke is a sophomore at Regis University in Denver, and Gina is a junior at Teton High School. With Tom on board at the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum setting a goal to raise \$9.4 in three years for the capital campaign, it seems the Hickeys are here to stay.

### Membership Benefits Change

At a recent committee meeting at the JHHSM, a difficult decision was made to decrease some of the benefits that members receive in order to weather these tough economic times and reallocate time and resources to opening our new year-round community history museum. All members will receive the quarterly newsletter and free admission to regular programs. The admission to the museum will now be discounted rather than free, and the discount on purchases in the Museum Shop will be 10% instead of 20%. We believe our members join primarily to support the organization and will understand this cutback.

Five hundred and twenty-two members of the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum are the heart of our organization. More people are learning about the value of our mission thanks to our members. We want our membership to grow and engage more and more people in supporting a new, year-round history museum for our community, and to increase our potential to achieve our organizational goals. If you are not a member, will you become a part of our vision? If you are a member, will you invite at least one person to join? Thank you for your support!

### Thank You to Retiring Board Members

It is with deepest appreciation that we say good-bye to three dedicated board members who all served two terms: Berniece Turner, John Carney, and Shay James. Berniece joined the board of directors in 2005, and served as Treasurer. John became a member of the board in 2006. Shay joined the board in 2006 and served as Secretary. Although she was not able to complete her full term, we also thank Pamela Rankin for her participation on the board. These board members have all been invaluable in directing the affairs of the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum

and in helping the board of directors tackle pivotal decisions affecting the organization's future. Among other contributions, they all helped make decisions regarding architecture and exhibiton design for the new year-round community history museum. Sincere thanks goes to Berniece, John, Shay, and Pamela for their enthusiasm, commitment and faithful service to the organization.

### Capital Campaign Enters Second Stage: \$9.4 Million To Go

The Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum is pleased and excited to report that we have reached 38% of our overall \$15.2 million campaign goal, thus ending Stage 1 of the Campaign. The organization is now positioned to proceed with Stage 2 of the Capital Campaign with goal of \$9.4 million additional funds.

As we open our doors to our new space, we are fully cognizant that the majority of our work is yet before us. Completing the entire project is our #1 goal and to achieve it we will need your support, trust and participation. The greatness of a museum is not what is contained within, it is the people who walk through the door – thank you!

### May Events

**Thursday, May 26, 2011**  
**Open House for Members**  
 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
 Free admission, refreshments

**Friday, May 27, 2011**  
**Museum Grand Opening**  
 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
 Noon~Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
 Refreshments, door prizes,  
 children's activities, special  
 guests, and free admission.

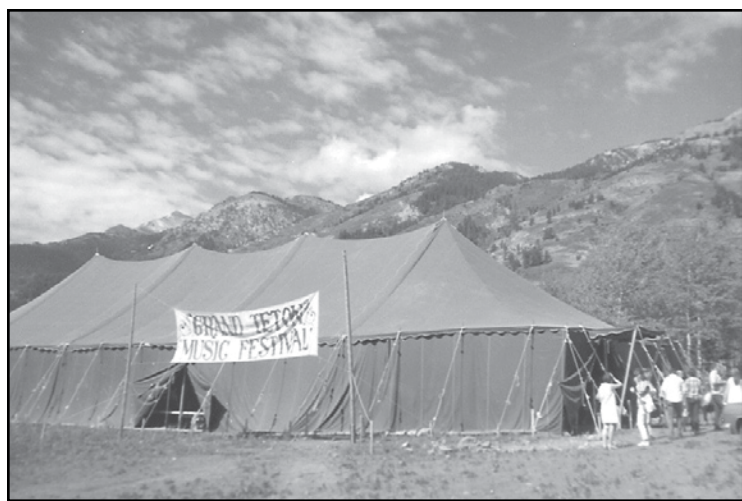
**Saturday, May 28, 2011**  
**Old West Days Parade**  
 10:00 a.m.  
 Watch for our entry.

**Tuesday, May 31, 2011**  
**Walking Tours begin.**  
 Tuesdays and Thursdays during  
 the summer. One hour beginning at  
 10:30 a.m. Meet at the center of the  
 town square. Free.

*continued from Grand Teton Music Fest. Page 4*  
 member of this core group who played an important role in bringing the arts to our community was Consuelo von Gontard. The Fine Arts Guild played a part of the festival well into the 1980s. The performances were initially held in the old elementary school which they called the "Festival Hall." It was later torn down, necessitating a new location. Jacobson said the first season ticket was purchased in 1963 by Cliff Hansen, former Governor of Wyoming and U.S. Senator.

Jacobson said popular early events were the "watermelon concerts." Musicians would walk around town with watermelons on their heads to attract people to the concerts. A couple of the musicians played fountain pen piccolos and led the group like pied pipers to the concert location. One time when watermelons could not be found, cantaloupes were enjoyed instead.

Ling Tung appeared as the guest conductor in 1967, and soon after was asked to lead the organization. He accepted, became the Music Director in 1968, changed the name to Grand Teton Music Festival, bought a concert tent, and moved the festival to Teton Village. He asked Paul McCollister, founder of the Jackson Hole Ski Corporation, if he had some land they could pitch a tent



on. The answer was yes, and McCollister went even one step farther and offered to sell him land to build a concert hall for one dollar.

Margaretha Walk, Ling Tung's wife at the time, acted as the executive director

and although she was paid minimally, devoted a huge amount of time to the GTMF. The Walk Festival Hall is named after her family who were instrumental in creating a large endowment for the festival.

Construction was begun on a new Festival Hall in 1972. After seven years of orchestral performances in a tent and chambermusicintheMangyMooseSaloon, Walk Festival Hall opened in 1974 with Tung leading the fundraising push along with McCollister and other supporters such as Dick Moore, Felix Buchenroth, and Francie Corbett. Architect Bob Corbett, acoustical engineer Christopher Jaffe, contractor John Bancroft, and job captain George Sutherland built Festival Hall which is acclaimed for both its acoustics and design. For the first year after completion, folding chairs were used until the permanent seats were installed.

The most successful fundraiser for the GTMF has been the wine auction. It was the brainchild of Bill Weiss in 1995, and raises an average of \$350,000 to \$500,000. It currently rotates every other year between a large event of three to four days and a smaller event lasting one day.

In 2007, a ten-month, \$4.85 million renovation project was completed on Walk Festival Hall. The project included addition of interior and exterior soundproofing, as well as extensive functional and aesthetic improvements. It was a complicated project, and involved literally putting a shell around the outside of the building in order to preserve the excellent acoustics inside and to keep distracting noises outside.

The Festival not only has a busy summer season of concerts, and a series of winter concerts, but a big part of their mission is education and outreach. Their programs reach more than 12,000 young students, musicians, and adults each year. This includes a residency program in the schools which provides instruction from

professional musicians visiting the valley, as well as the Tune Up! program which began in 2003. The Tune Up! Program funds local musicians to work with school music instructors to engage students in personalized instruction.

Eiji Oue succeeded Ling Tung as Music Director, leading the Festival from 1997 until 2003. He conceived the idea of the popular Fourth of July "Music in the Hole" when he first came on board. In 2006, the internationally renowned conductor Donald Runnicles became the Music Director.

Jacobson says the planning for the 50th Anniversary began almost three years ago. Musicians, board members, and donors are being interviewed for a history that is being written. A book will be produced which will be sold.

The 50th anniversary summer season July 2 through August 20, 2011 will commence with a celebratory gala performance and culminate in the world premiere of a new work by Pulitzer Prize winning composer Jennifer Higdon. Her work was commissioned by the Festival and inspired by Grand Teton National Park. The Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum and the Grand Teton Music Festival are currently working on collaborative ideas for their milestone anniversary and the grand opening of the museum.

Other significant local milestone anniversaries this year include:

- First Baptist Church ~ 100th**
- The Wort Hotel ~ 70th**
- Teton Mountaineering, Outdoor Specialty Retailer ~ 40th**
- The Wort Hotel, Grand Re-Opening after the 1980 Fire ~ 30th**
- Old West Days ~ 30th**

**Resources**

- <sup>1</sup> *Jackson Hole News*, June 17, 1971. "Rodeoing in Jackson Hole."
- <sup>2</sup> *Jackson Hole Guide*, January 25, 1973. "Frontier Days Was An Early Jackson Rodeo."
- <sup>3</sup> *Exum Mountain Guides*
- <sup>4</sup> Grand Teton Music Festival website [www.gtmf.org](http://www.gtmf.org)



*Jackson Hole*  
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 & Museum

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