

JACKSON HOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM CHRONICLE

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< The Historic Teton Pass

JHHSM Collection

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JACKSON HOLE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY &
MUSEUM

www.jacksonholehistory.org



Mission Statement

To collect, preserve, and explore the cultural history of Jackson Hole.

Staff

Morgan Albertson Jaouen

Executive Director

Becky Kimmel

Director of Development

Nora Dewitt-Hoeger

Research and Collections

Frances Ritchie

Education and Programs

Maria Rachal

Administration and Programs

Alexei Cree

Education and Research Intern

Samantha Ford

Research Historian

Matt Stirn

JH Archaeology Initiative

Rebecca Sgouros

JH Archaeology Initiative

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Find us at:

PO Box 1005

225 N Cache Street

Jackson, WY 83001-1005

307.733.2414

info@jacksonholehistory.org

Hello, History Friends!

Everyone has mixed feelings about spring, or what's often called the mud season, in Jackson Hole. But we here at the museum enjoy this period of time before the "busy" season, when we can focus on planning new exhibits, programs, and volunteer projects. We will be introducing three new exhibits for summer 2019. The first is a collaborative exhibit with the Jackson Hole News & Guide, which will highlight local and national news events as reported on by our local newspaper. The Jackson Hole Girl Scouts Troup will be installing a small exhibit showcasing the history of their organization in the valley - a fun culmination of an archiving project they started this winter. And finally, we will install a photographic exhibit from the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center titled *Japanese American Girl Scouts at Heart Mountain Relocation Camp, 1942 - 1945*. We are excited to showcase these new, diverse pieces of both our local and regional history. All three exhibits will be on display through October 2019.

This summer we also have a new program called "History Talks + Roundtable," a speaker series that will focus on environmental history, specifically human-animal interactions and the role these historic relationships have played in shaping our environments, cultures, and politics. Each session will include an evening public presentation followed by morning roundtable discussion for a cohort of community "students." At the conclusion of the series, each person who participated in the roundtable discussions will be invited to research a topic of their choosing and write a short article to be published in a special edition of the 'Chronicle.' Presenters include Dr. Timothy Lehman, Dr. Thomas Andrews, and Dr. Dan Flores. The goal of this series is to provide an opportunity for Wyoming residents and visitors of varied backgrounds and ages to learn, meet new people, and share knowledge. Stay tuned for dates and more specifics!

Finally, we will begin moving the museum collection this summer. We are looking for volunteers to help package our historical artifacts, inventory and record, and move. Please be in touch if you are interested in helping with this huge endeavor!

To send you off with fond thoughts of Spring, a few passages from "Spring Song at Moose" penned by Betty Lemon in 1975.

*"I fooled you," laughed old Winter,
'It's spring!' you just now swore.
But with a mighty blizzard
I'm back again once more*

...

*So we might as well be happy,
Since in the north we live,
We might as well hail winter.
There's no alternative!*

Morgan Albertson Jaouen

Morgan Albertson Jaouen, Executive Director



UPCOMING EVENTS SPR 2019

For a full list of JHHSM events, see: jacksonholehistory.org/calendar

APRIL 1
5-7 pm

JACKSON HOLE 101 TRIVIA

an evening of local lore, drinks, and fun w/ the Young Professionals of the Tetons

BEERS & BANTER

Stories of Conservation by Story Clark, Len Carlman, Franz Camenzind, Craig Benjamin, and Skye Schell

APRIL 18
7 pm

APRIL 26
10 am

HISTORY MYSTERY

Early education program for tots (ages 2-6) + parents/caregivers

Summer Museum Opening

Both museum galleries at 225 N. Cache and 105 N. Glenwood will be open Tues - Sat, 10am - 5pm. Check out our new exhibits!

MAY 14
10 am - 5 pm

MAY 18
9 am - 1 pm

ELK FEST

Stop by the JHHSM Booth for games & facts! Plus 10% in store today.

OLD WEST DAYS

Stop by the JHHSM Booth for games & facts! Plus 10% in store today.

MAY 25
11 am - 3 pm

MAY 30
7 pm

BEERS & BANTER

Topic to be determined! Check online in May for panelists.

HISTORY MYSTERY

Early education program for tots (ages 2-6) + parents/caregivers

MAY 31
10 am

JUNE 12
6 pm

HISTORY TALKS : ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

Join us for a free presentation by Dr. Timothy Lehman on humans/environment

History Through the Eyes of Eight Year Olds!

By Frances Ritchie

The days are getting longer and we are starting to get ready for spring and summer programs, but, before we break out the sunscreen we wanted to look back on all of the great Winter programming JHSM led with students throughout the valley. Our biggest goal this winter was to partner with Teton County Parks and Recreation to lead After School programming every school day. Through this partnership, we taught object-based programming for students from Munger, Jackson and Colter Elementary, interacting with ages Kindergarten through 5th grade from September to January. Students engaged with local history by looking at objects from our collection and the stories those objects tell. For example, we looked at the different types of hats, differences and similarities between arrowheads, and various looms. Students learned calligraphy, leathers stamping, arrowhead carving and even hosted their own rendezvous trading event! To help create robust lessons and other

historical perspectives we also brought in teachers from Grand Teton National Park and Teton County Historic Preservation Board. Through their lessons, students played animal Olympics and learned how to preserve a historic window frame. Over the course of the entire program, we taught on average 12 students a day, 5 days a week resulting in over 1,100 student interactions with history!



Butch Cassidy's Trip Through Jackson Hole in 1929

By Robert C. Rudd, guest contributor

In the movie Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, the ending is sensational, but it is not true. Butch and Sundance did not die in San Vicente, Bolivia, in a hail of bullets. Instead they and Sundance's lady friend Etta Place drifted up to Mexico City before continuing on to the United States.¹

From 1889 until 1900, Butch Cassidy was the leader of a band of outlaws known as the Wild

Bunch. Cassidy's gang operated in Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Idaho² but was rumored to have pulled off robberies as far north as Alaska and as far south as Mexico. The Wild Bunch was notorious for carrying out daring train and bank robberies and for their uncanny ability to avoid capture.

Pinkerton Detective Charles A. Siringo tells of his regard for the outlaws:

1. Betenson, L. P. Butch Cassidy, My Brother as told to Dora Flack. Brigham Young University Press Provo, Utah (1975). pp 169, 184 and 187.

2. Hatch, T. The Last Outlaws, Penguin Group (USA) LLC (2014). Map-Wild Bunch Country, 1889-1901. pp xii.

Butch Cassidy Cont'

"My longest job was pursuing the most daring band of highwaymen the country has ever known, the Hole-in-the-Wall gang also known as the Wild Bunch..."³

In the 1890s Bert Charter owned a ranch in the tiny community of Baggs, Wyoming. Baggs is located in southern Wyoming right up against the Colorado border. When Cassidy and the Wild Bunch staged a holdup, Bert Charter provided some of the gang's get-away horses.⁴

"Butch and the Wild Bunch found it convenient to hang around Baggs and Craig Colorado. If they were hunted for law breaking in Wyoming, they would slip over the border into Colorado or vice versa."⁵

Their get-away plan and practice was to have Bert Charter station fresh horses at predetermined locations. Riding fresh mounts, the gang could easily outdistance a posse who had to depend on just one string of horses.

In her book *Butch Cassidy, My Brother*, Lula Parker Betenson tells how her brother Butch arrives back in the United States and returns to his boyhood home in Circleville, Utah. In the fall of 1925, Butch shows up at the family ranch in a new Model T. He is soon reunited with his father, two brothers and his sister Lula. Lula was just an infant when he left home in 1884. While becoming reacquainted, he provides his own version of a number of his experiences including what he believed to be a trumped up charge that led to his prison sentence and his eventual pardon by Wyoming's Governor W. A. Richards. He wants to learn everything he can about his mother who died before he returned home. He stays for about a week. The reunion between Butch and his family poses a bit of a problem for researchers who believe that Butch and Sundance died in Bolivia.⁶

After leaving Circleville, Butch kept it a secret as to where he was headed next. It is believed that he settled somewhere in the northwest. Was he headquartered in Oregon or in Washington State? We don't know.

In her book *Lula* includes a number of letters that were addressed to her by people who saw, recognized or spent time with her brother Butch after he was back in the states. We learn in a letter written by a Mr. W. H. Boedeker of Dubois, Wyoming, that Butch still has some business to attend to in Wyoming. It has to do with the Wild Bunch and some buried money.⁷

There is one piece of information relevant to Butch's trip to Wyoming. During the time when he was out of the country in Mexico or in South America, his friend Bert Charter moved from Baggs, Wyoming, to Jackson Hole. The two men must have kept in touch because Butch knew where Bert Charter was living and how to get there.

If Butch was living in the Pacific Northwest, then he probably came through Idaho and over Teton Pass on his way to Jackson Hole. He was driving a Model A Ford.⁸ From Wilson, a village at the base of Teton Pass, he crossed the Snake River. A little over a mile before getting to the Town of Jackson, he turned north onto a narrow dirt road. At that time all of the roads into the valley or in the valley itself were either dirt or gravel.⁹ The road took him up Spring Gulch between East and West Gros Ventre Buttes. In about five miles he came to Bert Charter's ranch. The Charter outfit was located on sagebrush flats just south of the Gros Ventre River. Off to the west are the snow covered peaks that make up the Teton Range. To the east are the Gros Ventre mountains.

25 years had passed since Bert Charter furnished horses for the Wild Bunch. The old friends probably spent several days talking about old times. Butch also had stories to tell Bert and his family about his adventures in Mexico and in South America.

To continue reading this story, please visit:

www.jacksonholehistory.org

This story is featured as an online exhibit under our research tab.

3. Cooke, J.B. *South of the Border*, A Bantam Book (1989) N.Y. preface pp viii.

4. Boyce, Buddy interview by Robert C. Rudd in Jackson, Wyoming, June 23, 1989.

5. Betenson, L P. pp 84. From Ada Calvert Piper's letter to Lula, no date.

6. Ibid pp 95-96.

7. Ibid pp 203.

8. Boyce, B. interview.

9. Rudd, Dr. Clayton G., in frequent conversations with son Robert about Grace and Clayton's honeymoon trip from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Yellowstone and Jackson Hole in the summer of 1932, "...it was dirt roads all the way."

Voices of JH Women:

Highlights from the JHHSM Oral History Collection

By Marnie Paulus &
Nora DeWitt-Hoeger



Marge Ryan 2001.0040.001: 14:00-16:20

Marge Ryan grew up on Mormon Row as one of nine children. Her parents were Fay Tempest May and Clifford May. She tells a wonderful story about her mother selecting Cliff as her spouse, and the difficulties of life in the early 20th century.

"After mother had met dad and they had been going together, her parents had moved to California and they took her to California. She likes to tell the story of how she got engaged to Dad before she left Idaho and then she got engaged to a guy in California. And she talked about how she had to make this choice of who she was going to marry. I wonder where I would have been now if she had chose the one in California. She decided to come back to Wyoming and marry dad. I've often thought about this because my mother had lived comfortably and they had always lived in a house where she had running water and electricity. When she married my dad and moved up to Gros Ventre she had to be young and in love or else she would've never stayed because they lived in this old log house that they had to fix up and had no electricity. The electricity did not get up to Mormon Row until 1957 after Johnny and I were married and the REA finally got up there. She had no running water, we had an outhouse in the back. She raised 9 children. We did have a pump house and a well so you could tap water from the pump house to

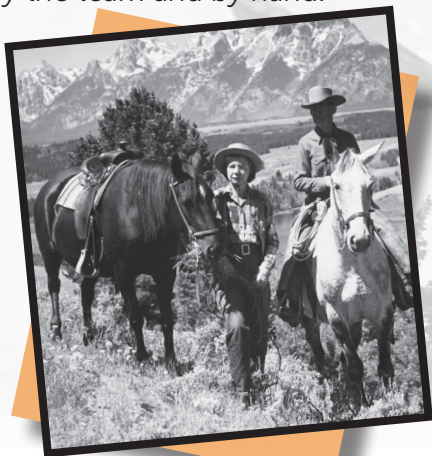
the house. She had to keep water in boilers on the wood stove and it just amazes me every time I think about the hardships that they went through. But I guess she must have loved him. She said sometimes she used to leave him once in a while, she would pack her suitcase and go on and get out to the front porch, up to the front gate by the road and stand there for a little while and I guess it was like well I don't know where I'm gonna go."

Eva Topping: 1983.0001.001: 16:41-19:15

Eva Sanford moved to Jackson Hole in 1924 to teach at the Spread Creek School and boarded with the Cunningham family. She homesteaded 120 acres on her own, then married Fred Topping and together they started the Moosehead Ranch.

"When I homesteaded the ranch and when I married Fred Topping, he was interested in the dude business and had done a lot of packing for all the ranches around, packing and hunting. He was quite well acquainted so we just decided to start a ranch, a dude ranch with cabins and all. So the first winter or two we just had the little homestead cabin but all the hunters used to come in and use our horses and help get the elk out of the woods. Hunting was different than it is now, a lot freer, they didn't hunt with cars back then, they hunted on horseback and the elk came down into the foothills. They weren't as frightened as they are now, hiding out... These hunters would come up and want to live in tents in our yard and well we would let them. And I remember one time in November it was 20 below zero and they just froze out. So here they would come over to the house, the homestead cabin and I had a little table just as big enough for two or three people to sit at.. and they wanted me to cook for them so they could get warmed up. So I started in with a coffee pot and a pancake griddle and made eggs and elk meat and would feed them breakfast and they would want dinner when they got back. And I had nowhere for them to eat but I did have a set of dishes so I would dish up the things on

the plate and they would sit up on their heels and eat. And then they would get up and go on horses to hunt. That's the way our business got started - Moosehead we had a dude ranch. We built cabins in the winter; they could haul up logs with a team on a sleigh. There was no such thing as a chain saw. The men cut the logs with an axe, cut the trees down and they would saw it in two with the cross cut saw where there was a man on two ends of it, one would pull this way and the other would pull back the other way... all things that you have now, tools and machinery, there was not. I don't think there was a tractor in Jackson Hole then and if there was I don't remember it or who had it but there was none in the north country that I ever saw. Everything was just done by the team and by hand."



Virginia Huidekoper: 2003.0088.001: Time: 1:23:12- 1:24

Virginia Huidekoper was a great American skier, accomplished downhill racer, and US Olympic Ski Team qualifier. She met her future husband, Jim Huidekoper, in Utah and married in 1943. The following year they purchased the Jackson Hole Courier. Five years later, they bought a ranch in Wilson, Wyoming. She was involved in developing Snow King Mountain in Jackson and taught at the Junior Ski School. To overcome her fear of flying she took flying lessons and became a pilot and later a flight instructor. She was a lifelong conservationist, supported the creation of GTNP, ran twice for state legislature and published a book of historic photographs, *The Early Days in Jackson Hole*.

"We had a nurse...she was a marvelous lady that lived up Fish Creek. We were very good, close friends. She was always ready to jump on the plane. She was much older than I was but she just loved it. And that's when I found out that I needed glasses. We were heading for Salt Lake and it was dark and I spotted a fire somewhere. We went on and I couldn't read the chart. It used to be fine you know. So she read the chart and I flew and we made it just fine."

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

Upcoming Oral History Project *By Nora DeWitt-Hoeger*

The Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum is launching a new Oral History Project centered on the History of the Jackson Hole Ski Corporation and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (JHMR). What is an oral history? An oral history is a method of systematically collecting historical accounts by interviewing the people that experienced it. Through sound recordings we can obtain detailed information about everyday life from their personal experiences and in their own words, which are often not otherwise available in other historical formats. The importance of oral histories is evident but as Baylor University explains, "Oral history enables people to share their stories in their own words, with their own voices, through their own understanding of what happened and why. With careful attention to preserving our sound

recordings, the voices of our narrators will endure to speak for them when they are gone."

Here at the JHHSM we already have an extensive oral history collection, and we are looking to fill in some of the gaps. Along with staff members, we are enlisting the help of trained volunteers such as Marnie Paulus who is spearheading this effort for us. We are in the beginning stages of the project, if anyone has a history with JHMR in any time period we would love to hear from you. As this is a systematic and formalized Oral History Project we are conducting the interviews ourselves but if anyone would like to help out please reach out to our research and collections coordinator, Nora at nora@jacksonholehistory.org.

Teton Pass Origins

By Samantha Ford

February was the snowiest on record for Jackson Hole! What would our earliest homesteaders think about all that snow? Probably not too much, as winters were regularly harsh and long, and rarely thought of as record-breaking. It wasn't "hard work" for them, it was just life. Our complacency with modern convenience makes winters like these stand out when our daily lives are interrupted by the weather. Daily commuter traffic over the Pass was unheard of for the homesteaders. Think we've got it tough? Let's take a moment to reflect on how much our relationship with the Pass has changed over the years.

Winter for our early homesteaders meant several long months in isolation, with little news from your neighbors, nevermind your family back east. Some intrepid locals would brave the trek over the mountains on skis, or webs (snowshoes for us). Occasionally a horse team would haul mail, but even with the best conditions, the trip was still hazardous. Legends abound about individuals perishing in the snow, not to be found until months later during the spring thaw.

In 1918, the Bureau of Public Roads completed work that upgraded the road immensely. It was now possible to make the journey in half-a day, rather than a two-week affair. When the dude ranches reached their golden age in the 1920s, it was over

Teton Pass that the majority of the dudes would arrive by stage, fresh off the railroad terminus in Victor.

The route for the Pass has changed over the years, but the first followed a natural opening in the Teton Range. It had been used since people arrived in the valley near the end of the Ice Age. Beyond offering a route between Idaho and Wyoming, the Pass is also home to a large obsidian source which was utilized by Native Americans to construct tools. Obsidian from Teton Pass has been found at archaeological sites over 150-miles away.

It was this same route the extended Wilson family followed on October 27, 1889. They embarked on the 88-mile journey from St. Anthony, Idaho to Jackson Hole on the promise of unclaimed farmlands in a quiet mountain valley. In order for their six wagons and 80 head of cattle to pass, they had to cut trees down the steep, rough, mountain. Two weeks later, the Wilson family arrived in Jackson Hole. In their wake, they left a viable wagon route that became today's Teton Pass.



Soapstone or Pottery?

By Matt Stirn and Rebecca Sgouros

When talking about archaeology in Jackson Hole, one of the most frequent questions we get asked is: What is the difference between soapstone bowls and pottery, and why did Native Americans choose one over the other?

This is a great question and one that archaeologists are still trying to answer. Well known throughout Northwestern Wyoming, soapstone bowls are large vessels made of steatite, or soapstone, that were made and used by the Shoshone people. Soapstone occurs naturally at high elevations throughout Wyoming and is extremely soft which allowed people to carve it using only bone or stone tools. The JHHSM currently has the largest collection of soapstone bowls in Wyoming many of which were found throughout the Tetons by the museum's founder Slim Lawrence. Pottery, on the other hand, is made by mixing wet clay with some sort of filler like sand, shell, or gravel, and shaping and baking the vessel rather than carving.

Unlike at Pueblos of the Southwest or cities along the Mississippi, pottery is a relatively rare discovery on archaeological sites in Wyoming and doesn't appear until very recently in the past 500 years. Because of its rarity, archaeologists thought

that tribes such as the Shoshone simply favored soapstone for making vessels, as it was more durable and retained heat better than clay. Recent discoveries however in the Wind River and Absaroka Mountains have found large quantities of pottery at known Shoshonean sites, some of which also have soapstone bowls. For the first time, we are seeing evidence that both were used by the same people. The question remains though – why did some individuals choose to use stone bowls and others clay pottery?

In 2018, JHHSM archaeologists Matt Stirn and Rebecca Sgouros began researching the question of soapstone versus pottery use in Wyoming by seeing if they were used to cook different ingredients. Perhaps one was more ceremonial, and the other for everyday use? By extracting fatty acid residues from both soapstone and pottery, Stirn and Sgouros compared the results. It turns out that both had nearly identical ingredients of roots, berries, fish, and big game such as elk or moose. There was no obvious difference in use between the two. The preference between soapstone and pottery continues to be a mystery and is something we hope to know more about as research in the mountains continues.

New Ways to Support the JHSM

Are you turning 70.5 in 2019? Please consider gifting your Required Minimum Distribution to the JHHSM today!

To learn more about this unique mechanism for supporting your favorite charities, contact Becky Kimmel at becky@jacksonholehistory.org or call 307.733.2414. The Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum is a 501(c)3 that relies on private philanthropy to carry out our museum, education, and research programs. Be a History Hero! Thank you for all that you do in our community.



Photos of the Season



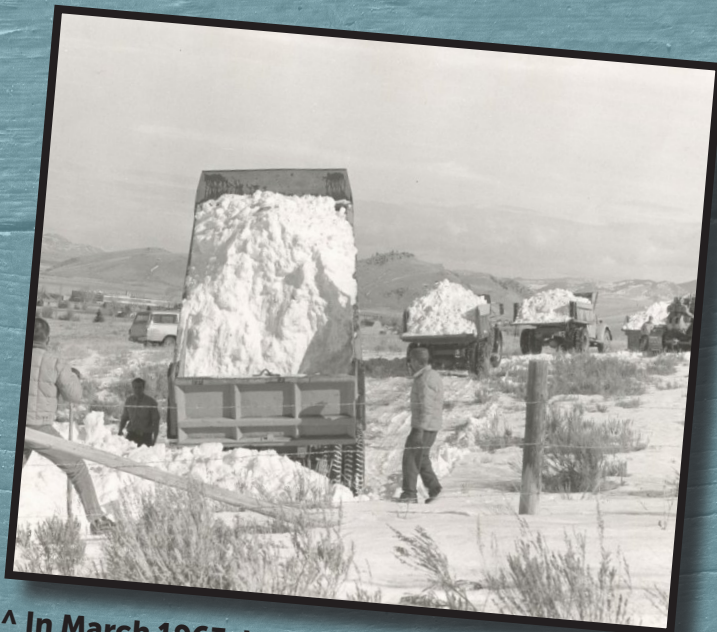
^ This March, moose have been spotted all around Jackson from McDonald's to Wells Fargo. March of 1990 was no different with Olie Rinker capturing this Moose enjoying a sip of water as the snow melted in town. 1991.4013.001



^ Just because the weather is getting warmer doesn't mean that the winter fun has to stop. With ski resorts being open through April, spring skiing has always appealed to locals. These ski bums from 1966 are taking a moment (or two) to enjoy the sunshine after a day on the slopes. 2009.0054.016



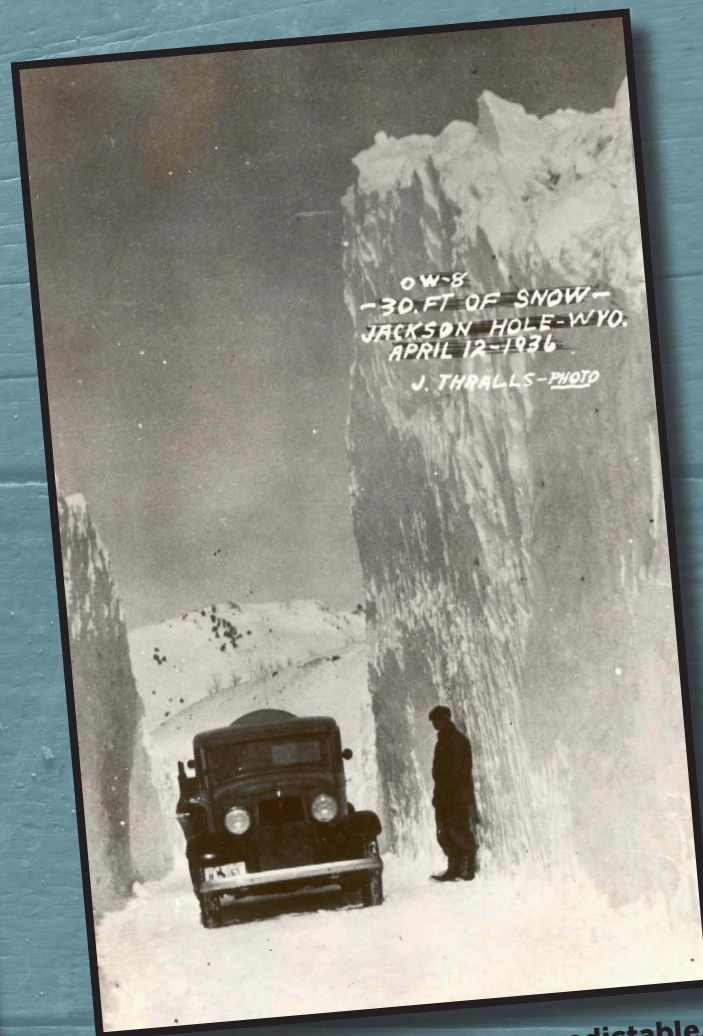
^ If skiing isn't your thing, sledding in the spring (as demonstrated in this photo from 1974) can also be fun. 2011.0005.068



^ In March 1963, it was a different story. Bill Ashley watches on as Operation Snowball was put in place to carry truckloads of snow in from Teton Pass for the slopes of Snow King. 1999.0027.001



^ For many years, Verba Lawrence, wife of JHHSM founder Slim Lawrence, was the postmistress of Moran. In this picture from April 1940, she is pictured on her horse Daniel Boone who was described as a good cutter horse out of Star Valley. The ride to Moran for mail was no doubt a more pleasant trip to take in spring than in winter. 2017.0140.124



^ The snow in spring can be unpredictable. In this photo from April 12, 1936, Freeman Huntly is pictures on a road dug out from under 30 feet of snow in Jackson after a snow slide. 1958.2221.001



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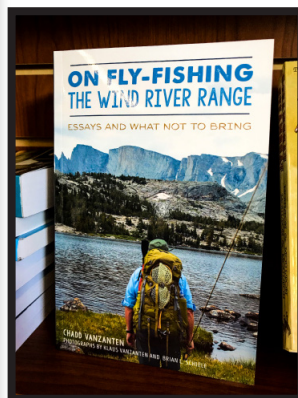
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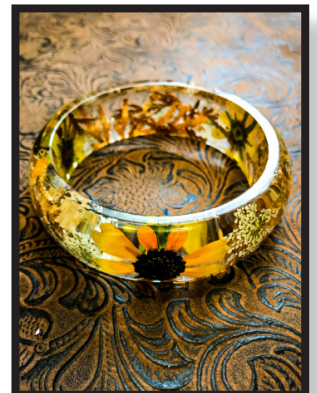
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