

# JACKSON HOLE

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

### CHRONICLE

VOLUME XXX NO. 3

JACKSON'S HOLE, WYOMING

FALL 2010

*The following is a compilation of excerpts from the booklet The Danny Ranch, Jenny Lake Ranch, Jenny Lake Lodge by Mary McKinney, 1997. Mary is the historian for the Grand Teton Lodge Company.*

On June 3, 1922, bachelor cowboy Tony Grace filed a claim for a homestead with the intention of establishing a guest ranch and of having a base for pack trips. Although originally from Milwaukee, he was a thoroughly western cowboy by that time and had had a lot of experiences that would be helpful in achieving his purpose. Born in 1890, he came west on his own at age eighteen. He worked in several western states wrangling horses, driving cattle, riding in rodeos, trapping, and cooking in roundups. During World War One, Tony broke broncos for the U.S. Army and, after all the riding that entailed, realized that boots felt better on his feet than anything else and decided to continue a life built around horses. He came to Jackson Hole and worked for three years at Ben Sheffield's Teton Lodge at Moran and at Struthers Burt's Bar B C Ranch north of Menor's Ferry.

Increasingly he realized that at the same time he was relishing the cowboy chores, he was having a lot of fun with the dudes and liked helping them to a taste of the western life. They were usually affluent, well-educated Easterners who were friendly and eager to experience as much as they could during their time in Jackson Hole. He grew to respect their appreciation for the western ways and found that he could no longer refer to them using the somewhat derisive term of "dude". From then on they were guests to Tony. Many returned during successive summers, and Tony developed an enduring friendship with one family

in particular.

Albert Bruton Strange was a prominent New Jersey silk manufacturer. He and his family loved the West and especially enjoyed visiting the dude ranches in Jackson Hole. While the Stranges vacationed at the Teton Lodge, Strange and Tony became friends. The Teton Lodge was a busy operation, and Strange

his ranch. He named it the Danny Ranch after Strange's twenty-two year old daughter, Mary Danforth Strange, who was familiarly known as Danny. Danny was a New York belle. Educated at Miss Porter's in Farmington, Connecticut, she made her debut, was active in the Junior League, and was well known as an amateur polo player. This beautiful,

athletic young woman possessed a great sense of humor and an enduring love of the West. She and Tony teased and joked their

way into a great friendship. Possibly no one thought of it at the time, but with her patrician background, her love of animals, and her enthusiasm for western ways she was an ideal symbol of what dude ranching was all about. The Danny Ranch was well named.

Tony kept a guest log, appropriately enough presented to him by Albert and Danny Strange, and this log chronicles the growth of the ranch. In the summer of 1923, the ranch's first year, the log shows that Tony hosted 23 guests, one of whom was the well-known actor Tom Moore. A tremendous amount of work was necessary to get to the point of being able to receive guests. In a relatively short time he built a 30' by 30' three-room main lodge, a barn, an ice house, a store room, and two cabins.

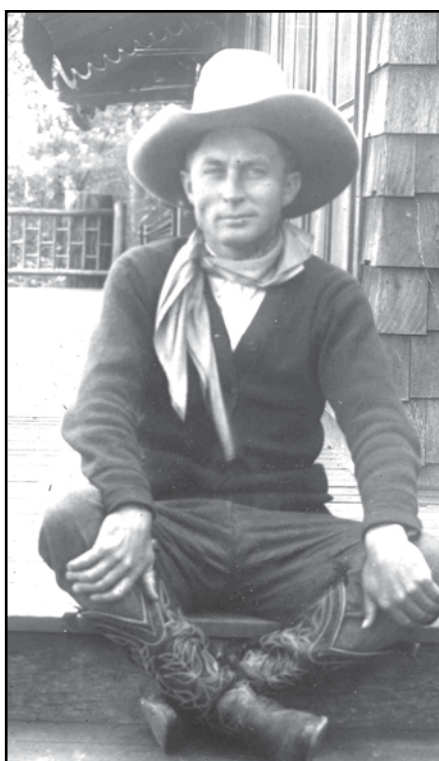
The main lodge had a distinctive roof line and, inside, an equally distinctive ceiling. Sapling logs were laid side by side, touching one another, and were held up by heavier cross beams every few feet. The ceiling was low; this, and the porch overhang,

kept the interior rather dark. A wood stove, a few straight chairs and some tables comprised the furnishings. A small bookshelf was nailed to the wall.

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## Tony Grace's Danny Ranch

wished for a quieter place for his retreats. The Stranges later stayed at the Bar B C while Tony was working there. The Bar B C was more isolated than Moran, but was also a large operation, having forty-five buildings and the capacity for fifty guests. As the friendship between the Stranges and Tony developed, Strange, who still wanted a smaller, quieter place, offered to lend Tony the money to start his own small ranch. The offer



Tony Grace, late 1920s. 2005.0121.002

promised to benefit all; the Stranges and their friends could come and enjoy both ranch activities and solitude, and Tony would have his own business to develop.

So with the backing and encouragement of Albert Strange, Tony started to develop



Danny Strange in 1922. 2005.0121.039



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**Mission Statement**

*The Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum collects, interprets, and preserves our unique heritage in an engaging and enriching manner.*



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

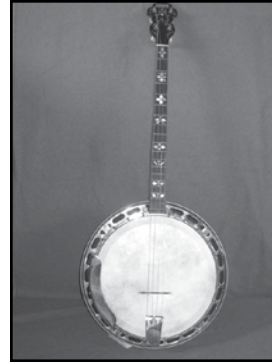
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# Organizational News

## Recent Donations Added to Collections

You may be interested to know what kinds of items are accepted as donations to the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum collections. Here are some of the most recent acquisitions:

- Holly Leek's banjo donated by Howard Ballew's daughter Beverly Pratt.



- Scans of photos from donor Ardis Ott's early life in Jackson Hole, including living on the Three River Ranch. Ardis now lives in Oregon but visited her old haunts in Jackson this summer.
- Manuscript of the history of Teton National Forest, written in 1973 by Esther Allan, and donated by Peter Anderson from Virginia.
- 8 mm film and photos of trip to Yellowstone and Jackson Hole in 1966. Gift of the Leo and Yvonne Hammerschmitt Family.
- Society of Animal Artists collection of more than 2,000 slides from wildlife artwork exhibited in their past shows. Donated by Society of Animal Artists, Inc. and David J. Wagner, LLC.

## MEMBERS' ANNUAL MEETING

**Tuesday, October 19, 2010  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Teton County Library auditorium  
Bring a brown bag lunch.**

**Members are invited to attend to find out about the organization's activities as well as plans for the future.**

## Volunteers Honored

Volunteers enjoyed refreshments and a tour of the new 225 N. Cache museum at the Volunteer Appreciation Party on September 17 at the Trapper Inn. Thank you to all of our volunteers for the donation of their valuable time!



Barbara Daily, Marge Ryan, Dee Luton, and Linda Walker at the volunteer party

## Research Volunteers Needed

Would you enjoy helping researchers who visit our facility find answers to their burning historical questions? This would involve showing them how to use our museum database, vertical files, microfilm, and other resource materials.

We also need help answering research questions over the phone and online. If you can donate a little or a lot of time, please give us a call at 733-9605.

## THANK YOU!

With sincere appreciation to Mike and Lurette Keegan of Watchguard Security Systems for donating a \$3,000 security video camera for the new museum at 225 N. Cache.

## Welcome First Time New Members and Business Partners (June, July, and August):

- Antler Inn
- Bar J Chuckwagon
- Kathy Boyer Sanford
- Boyer's Indian Arts and Crafts
- Alan and Nancy Brumsted
- John Cooney
- CopyWorks
- Virginia Dean
- Elk Country Inn
- Gary and Syd Elliott
- Christine Gralow
- Grand Teton Association
- Mike and Gigi Halloran
- JMC Professional Cleaning Service
- Jackson Hole Art Auction
- Jackson Hole Compunet
- Frank and Sally Johnson
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- Thomas and Tyra Moe
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- Larry Morgan
- Moulton Ranch Cabins
- Robert and Dana Mullaney
- Owens and Owens PC
- Todd Place
- Ron and Pamela Pyron
- RAM Construction
- Steve and Brenda Roberts
- Barbara and John Simms
- Wendy Tarver
- The Clear Creek Group
- The Liquor Store
- The Teton Club
- John and Suzanne Whitmore

Thank you!



## Summer's "Voices of the Valley": Backcountry Skiers, a Basketball Legend, and River Runners

by Karen Reinhart

This summer's "Voices of the Valley" storytelling programs proved popular with over 250 total attending the three programs. Like last winter's series, this is because of the caliber of the speakers and their adventures. The Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum series featured backcountry skiers, river runners, and a basketball legend. The programs were held during July and August at the Jackson Hole High School Auditorium.

On July 8, local adventurers Stephen Koch and Tom Turiano entertained the audience with an interesting presentation about backcountry skiing. Their stories revealed how their friendship and skiing adventures have evolved. Of particular interest to me was the balance between the two men's presentation styles, and apparently, their styles on the mountain. Stephen is a risk-taker (more cautiously,

now, since he has a young son), and when he's not in the mountains, is a professional speaker. Stephen's account of surviving an avalanche on Mount Owen held me riveted. He moved his knee back and



Stephen Koch and Tom Turiano

forth in a grotesque motion—physical aftermath of his harrowing tale. Connect with him at [www.stephenkoch.com](http://www.stephenkoch.com). Tom is more reserved and quiet, but his stories

were just as hair-raising. In June 1989 Stephen let loose a wall of snow while Tom was skiing below him on a snowfield east of Glencoe Col on the Grand. Tom jettisoned all of his gear and dug his fingernails into the icy snow to prevent being tumbled into a chimney and certain death. Tom wrote two books: *Select Peaks of Greater Yellowstone* and *Teton Skiing: A History and Guide*. For a copy, visit his website, [www.selectpeaks.com](http://www.selectpeaks.com) or a local bookstore. They are the bibles of area mountaineering and worth adding to any Jackson Hole aficionado's bookshelf.

Two weeks later, Wyoming native and basketball legend, Kenny Sailors, took the stage. As a young man in 1934 he shot hoops on the family farm with his 6'5" brother, Bud. Kenny had to figure out a way to better him to stay in the game. His solution was the jump shot—a basketball

*continued on Page 6*

## Stagecoach Bar Featured in New Documentary

by Jennifer Tennican

While filming Bill Briggs for a short documentary for the Wyoming Short Film Competition, I got to spend some time at the Stagecoach Bar in Wilson, Wyoming. If you are going to do a documentary on Bill, you have to film him at "The Coach." He is one of the founding members of the band that started playing there on Sunday nights in the winter of 1969. The first time I attended "church," as Sunday nights are known by the regulars, I was working, not dancing or socializing much, but it was still a great experience. I was struck by the mix of people there to enjoy the music and dance and by the interaction between the band and audience. I was also impressed by how welcome I was made to feel.

That experience has since sparked a new collaboration between JenTen, my video production company, and the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum to produce a one-hour high-definition documentary entitled *Welcome to The Coach: A History of the Stagecoach Bar*. History doesn't have to be dry, particularly when your subject is an iconic watering hole. Since 1943, The Coach has been a home away from home to a colorful array of characters and communities that reflect the evolving history of Jackson Hole.

From the beginning, the bar served as a kind of community center. It was the place people went after work to socialize and relax. You could find cowboys, ranch hands, the Wilson postmistress and clients from the local dude ranches on

any given night. It didn't seem to matter who you were or what you did – "that was the beauty of The Coach," as 81-year-old "Muggs" Schultz puts it. More than six decades later, that still seems to be the beauty of the place.



Stagecoach Bar, 1943. L to R: Parthenia Hansen and Stanley Francis

BC.0085

For the documentary, interviews will be filmed with old-time and younger Coach patrons, employees, owners and members of the Stagecoach Band, still a Sunday-night institution after over 41 years. The project will also gather archival photographs and film footage of The Coach and various aspects of the community that has surrounded it, including the rodeo Walt Callahan hosted for many years on its grounds.

Because community is a major theme in the film, it is only fitting that I make an appeal to members of the valley community for archival materials (photographs, film, slides, etc). I am looking for anything from the 1940s

through the present – it could be a photograph of Wilson in the 1950s, film of the Wilson Wranglers, a photograph from inside the bar on Disco Night, a copy of a memorable magazine article, or a bumper sticker that says "I danced with George Green at the Stagecoach Bar" – or whatever else you have and are willing to share for this collaborative effort to preserve local history. Of particular interest is anything to do with the rodeo that Walt ran on the west side of the bar (and later behind it). Also, if you have a great story about The Coach, I'd love to hear it.

Please contact me if you have material to share or questions to ask. I will make high resolution scans of photographs and slides and return the original material along with a CD or DVD with the scans. For

any film footage used in the documentary, I will provide a transfer on DVD. If any of the archival material is used in my documentary, appropriate credit and thanks will be given.

Raise your glass high, toast this project and take a twirl around the floor.

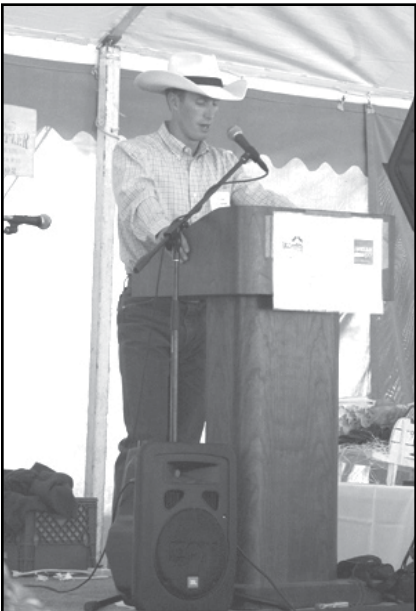
Contact information:

Jennifer Tennican  
jtennican@gmail.com  
Please put "Stagecoach Bar" in  
the subject line of the email.  
home 734-2475  
cell 690-2258





Slim  
Lawrence  
Barbecue  
2010





*continued from Page 1*

Among the few books were volumes of poetry which Tony read by lantern light during long winter evenings. The cabins were rustic, and guests carried their own wood for the stoves, hung their clothes on pegs, used kerosene lanterns, and were dependent on outhouses. Tony built sound structures; today the main lodge



Main cabin Danny Ranch, late 1920s. 2005.0121.051

(greatly expanded), and at least one of the cabins, Scarlet Gilia/Thistle, are still in use.

The Danny Ranch had no well, and the water supply proved a continuing problem. Tony built a moderately successful hydraulic ram to bring water from String Lake; he also toted a lot of water in large cans. The early ranch also had no fences and Tony, running a one-man business, had to go out each morning to round up the horses. He couldn't spend too much time at that chore as he had to fix the guests' breakfasts, so he often took a can of oats along hoping to quickly catch his roaming herd. Guests loved to watch him work with his horses: he had an unusual rapport with the animals, understood their individual personalities, and was able to coax them to do whatever he wanted them to do. This ability extended also to dogs. Seventy years later, more than one person remembered the devotion to Tony of a particularly talented and well-trained Shepherd named Jill.

The Danny Ranch did not operate in 1924; that year Tony worked at the JY Ranch on the Moose-Wilson Road. In 1925 the ranch was again open and entertained about 46 paying guests. By 1928 there were 54. Tony met his guests at the railhead in Idaho where they disembarked from their cross-country journey. He brought them in rumble-seated cars over the rough road of the Teton Pass, through the small town of Wilson, and then cut north on even rougher roads to the ranch. The travelers were always very happy to finally pass through the ranch gate, knowing that their long trips were over and they had finally arrived at the Danny Ranch. Most of his guests stayed for two or three weeks.

Tony's guests were mainly Easterners who had the means and the adventuresome spirits to try the western life for a few summer weeks. To attract these guests Tony frequently made trips east during the winters. He wintered his horses in Idaho Falls so he was able to be away

from the ranch for periods of time. The trips east were a combination of vacation time visiting the Stranges, and recruiting trips meeting their friends and others and signing them up for the coming summer.

Tony was still a bachelor in 1929. Although he was a successful ranch owner, he said he felt so lonely that calico was beginning to look like silk to him.

Nearing forty, he was more than ready to settle down with a wife and to start a family. He met, courted, and in May married an Idaho Falls girl named Viola Hansen.

Tony's style was hands-on. He spent his time with his guests, assigned them chores, went where they went, played with them, and was very much a part of all that happened. So Danny helped Viola pluck chickens; boys were sent out to help

round-up the horses in the mornings; guests carried boats and tended campfires; people who at home directed servants to menial tasks delighted in performing them themselves at the Danny Ranch.

And Tony thus had time to lead exuberant guests on adventure after adventure. He taught the young ones to twirl ropes and joined them at the game. In a silly hat he clowned on a mule. From his horse Paint's back he lassooed willing lassies off their horses. He took his guests canoeing on the Snake River. He led them on rides high in the mountains, going up and down trails so steep the horses seemed to nearly sit to descend. He and his guests picnicked, drank coffee, and smoked cigarettes around campfires. They lounged in companionable heaps, one against the other. They clowned outrageously. Many guests were already used to horses and only had to accustom themselves to the western saddles and ways of reining to expertly ride, and they rode and rode. Leaving their horses to rest they climbed incredibly steep snowfields and then shot down them on their backs, in these golden moments somehow avoiding boulders and crevices on their way. They rock-climbed for fun. The mountains were their playground with Tony showing the way. For all this Tony earned their love and respect. At the end of their 1930 stay Bert Strange and his friends presented to Tony a silver-trimmed bridle which he immediately put on Paint and proceeded to show off.

In the midst of the lighthearted events of the time, Tony and Viola were dealing also with a very serious concern. In 1926 John D. Rockefeller Jr. and his family had visited Jackson Hole, and at the same time that they were awed by its beauty they were appalled by the proliferation of cheap commercial operations that they saw along the valley floor. Rockefeller decided to do something to restore and preserve the pristine beauty of the valley. He formed the Snake River Land Company to quietly begin buying up as

much of the valley as possible with the intent of ultimately presenting the lands to the United States government for the people's use. By 1929 much of the land had indeed been purchased, and although the Danny Ranch was by no means one of the eyesores of the area, the location made it a pivotal property and officials of the Snake River Land Company were pressuring Tony to sell.

In February of 1929 Congress took part of the Teton Forest Reserve and established the Grand Teton National Park. This small park included only the Tetons themselves and the chain of small lakes at their base. Now the quiet location that Tony had found for the Danny Ranch was immediately adjacent to a national park. Tony loved his ranch and the land it was on, but he felt hemmed in by the new park and the growing number of visitors and enterprises that came with it. This feeling of intrusion, combined with the pressure to sell, was cause for heavy decision making. He kept his own counsel for some months and then entered negotiations that resulted in the sale of the Danny Ranch to the Snake River Land Company on September 19, 1930.



Corrals at Danny Ranch 2003.0117.147

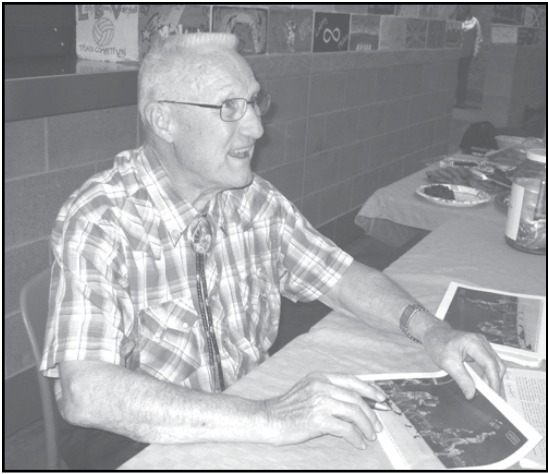
The sale price was \$24,000 and included a lease allowing Tony to continue running the ranch until June 1, 1932. The Danny Ranch operated at a somewhat reduced capacity (just 22 guests) in the summer of 1931. Perhaps the advent of the Great Depression affected the vacation plans of some guests. Danny, who had married in April of that year, was not among the last summer's guests although she had visited regularly in former years. She, her husband, and eventually her children would stay at Tony's next ranch many times in the future.

In the fall of 1931 Tony Grace packed his horses with all of his possessions and drove them through Yellowstone National Park to his new land near West Yellowstone in one of the last horse drives of the cowboy era. Although his ranch would one day evolve into Jenny Lake Lodge, the days of the Danny Ranch were ended.

*Many thanks to Mary McKinney for giving me permission to share her work, and for her inspiring passion for all things historical. Her new book The View That Inspired a Vision: The History of the Grand Teton Lodge Company and the Rockefeller Involvement will be published soon and available from the Grand Teton Lodge Company. Liz Jacobson*

*continued from Page 3*

innovation that eventually made history but took time to catch on with coaches. Before Kenny’s invention, players’ feet could not leave the basketball court, unimaginable to players and fans today. Kenny had a productive career, guiding



Kenny Sailors

Wyoming to the NCAA championship in 1943, earning All-American status for three years, and playing for several NBA teams. Attendees enjoyed footage from the 1943 Wyoming vs. St. Johns game in Madison Square Garden where the Wyoming Cowboys won in overtime. Kenny also told stories from when he and Bud owned Buffalo Valley’s Heart Six Guest Ranch in the mid-1950s. He graciously signed photographs after the program.

Dr. Bruce Hayse and Oly Koehler gave the series’ final program, “River Descents You Probably Shouldn’t Attempt,” on August 5. The program title was apt. Oly told a story of kayaking the Gros Ventre in his underwear during high water one year. It became a perilous adventure; after “taking a rock in the head” twice, being pinned by willows piercing his life jacket, and abandoning his kayak, Oly rode a rolling six-foot boulder. Realizing the folly in that mode of transportation, he leapt from the boulder and hoisted

himself to dry ground. Oly also showed footage of extreme kayaking in various waters throughout Jackson Hole. The last run left the crowd wondering how he finally extracted himself out of the hole that repeatedly sucked him and his kayak down into the depths. Bruce showed footage and still photographs of his rafting voyages. He told his famous misadventure story of snowmobiling across frozen Jackson Lake in January 2000 during subfreezing (10 degree) temperatures. Bruce had not shared his travel plans with anyone that day. He felt the ice shift and tip. In less than a minute, he and his snow machine slid into the frigid lake. Peering at the Tetons from the hole in the ice, he asked himself if he was going to die today. Determined that

that wasn’t his fate, Bruce eventually pulled himself out of the water. His clothes froze instantly, encasing him in ice. Nevertheless, Bruce walked to the road where he caught a ride back to town. Bruce went back the same day, dove into the icy water—this time with a wet suit—and hooked his snowmobile resting on the bottom of the lake for retrieval later.

Stay tuned for more hard-to-believe but true stories during this winter’s continuation of the “Voices of the Valley” programs. A special thanks to the Jackson Hole High School, their house manager, Doug Vogel, and to JHHSM volunteers and fans who helped deliver another successful round of programs this summer.

## Musings at the Museum

*by Jean Hansen, Museum Manager*

Okay, I really can’t make this stuff up! If you read this article in the last newsletter you will remember that one of our guests early in the season was a long-haired miniature dachshund who perused the museum with her owners in her very own doggie stroller. Well, yes, it happened again. Another canine visitor came through with his owners in his own doggie stroller and yes it was another long-haired miniature dachshund. Perhaps dachshunds are more interested in history than other breeds – at least their owners are! Then, of course, we also had a “pom in a purse” visit us this summer.

By the end of the season, we have visitors listed in our registry from all parts of the world. As I only speak English, I am often at a loss when trying to communicate with some of our guests. However, there are times that they speak fairly fluent English and I am confident that we have understood each other – but not always! An example is the very polite young French boy who took his Activity Book and pencil and proceeded to draw pictures of the items listed on the Museum Treasure Hunt. I was quite surprised when he presented his pictures to me and underneath the caption “moose” he had drawn an excellent picture of a mouse.

Speaking of the Activity Book, I had a young man this year who earned his Sheriff’s Badge (a six pointed silver star with the word “Sheriff” on it). The young man’s name was “Marshall”, so he walked out the door with “Sheriff Marshall” on his badge.

It is also wonderful each year to speak with direct descendents of those individuals who made Jackson Hole what it is today. To name just a few, this season the Museum was visited by Struthers Burt’s nephew, Cissy Patterson’s great grandson, Price Millward’s daughter, and a distance cousin of Jack Huyler, whose name is also Jack Huyler and who is a pilot for United Airlines.



*“Telling Our Stories”*

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