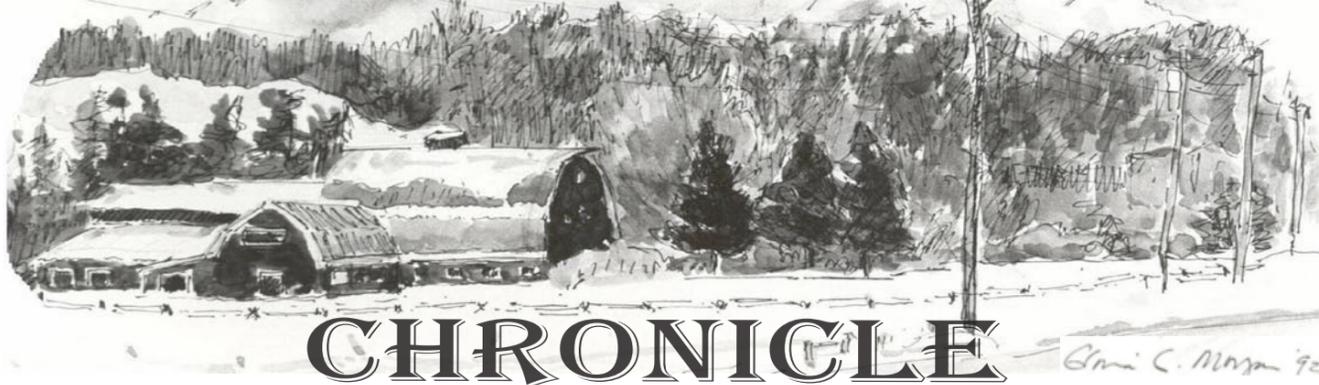


JACKSON HOLE

Vote YES on SPET #5
On August 17, 2010

HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM



CHRONICLE

VOLUME XXX NO. 2

JACKSON'S HOLE, WYOMING

SUMMER 2010

Women shaped the history of Jackson Hole through the work of their hearts and hands. This was true then and is true now.

Of course, the first women who were here were American Indian: Shoshone, Crow, Blackfoot, Nez Perce, and others. Homesteaders arrived in Jackson Hole in 1884—relatively late because of the area's isolation, extreme weather, and short growing season. The first white woman arrived five years later.

Early-day women in the valley embraced the traditional and important roles of mother, wife, nurse, and teacher but also went far beyond these roles. Jackson Hole women worked hard, and endured much. They rolled up their sleeves, put on their boots (or snowshoes) and just did what they had to do to put food on the table. They were also friendly, kind, and generous, and saw the value of neighbors and community. Many of us are here today because of the strong women who didn't give in to life's challenges. The women highlighted here have strength and independence in common, and they contributed in some way to the emerging character and energy of the valley. Today, they probably would not be considered ill-behaved, but in the early days, each of these women pushed beyond societal expectations to get things done.

The first white woman to enter this valley was **Elizabeth "Betty" Nelson**. She rode on horseback over Teton Pass in 1889 from her home in Teton Valley, Idaho with her four-year-old daughter, Cora, riding behind her. Betty was the first white woman to live here year-round. Cora Nelson Price Barber's granddaughter is Dail Knori. Dail has worked with cattle and horses most of her life, earning respect from area ranchers. She lives on her great-grandfather Bill Price's homestead. Dail's work and lifestyle firmly connect her to her ancestors.

Cora Nelson received a letter from **Mary White**, Jackson's first postmaster, in 1951. In the letter, Mary recalls the petition that was circulated among the scanty population of Jackson to begin

the process of obtaining their first post office. They had to carry the mail for one year to prove that it could be done. These are Mary's words about the first post office:

"Then we really did feel important. We could order things from the mail order houses and get them without

should say 'igloo' at the top of the pass. The snow was so deep over it that there was just a hole in the snow down which we had to slide yards and yards till we got to the entrance, and then we built a fire in the corner chimney to boil our coffee, [and] the melted snow began to drop down on us!"

Another journey brought one of our town's early caregivers, **Claire Burton DeLoney**, to the area. Born in England, Claire's family immigrated to the United States when she was twelve years old. Many people became ill or died during their ocean crossing and the whole ship was quarantined upon their arrival in New York

in July 1867. They spent the winter in New York with a doctor's family, and the doctor taught Claire basic medicine. The next year the family rode a train to Fort Benton (northern Montana) which was then the end of the railroad line. Twelve-year-old Claire and her seventeen-year-old sister walked to Salt Lake City with the last Mormon wagon train to cross the country, leaving the wagons for sick people to ride in. The family moved to Evanston, Wyoming where Claire met and married Charles. She and Charles "Pap" DeLoney moved to Jackson in 1899. Claire served the Jackson Hole community as midwife and "doctor", and became known as Grandma DeLoney.

Maggie Simpson moved to Jackson Hole in 1893. Before that time she was the first white woman to live at Big Wind River (now Dubois) where she was the first postmaster. Maggie also taught school on the Fort Washakie Reservation. After she moved to this area with her husband John Porter Simpson, she took over the Marysvale post office located north of Jackson, moved it to their home in east Jackson and dubbed the town "Jackson," serving as Jackson's first postmaster. Maggie was also a mother of seven and an entrepreneur. She discovered a forty-acre block which hadn't been homesteaded north of today's DeLoney Street on Flat Creek, and filed on it for purchase. In

"Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History"

By Karen Reinhart, Curator of Education & Outreach

waiting six months. I remember the first order I sent for was a pair of slippers, and Montgomery Ward sent me a pair of wooden shoes that weighed ten pounds, and the poor mailman had to carry that package on his back and on skis over that terrible hill.



Betty Nelson and her children, Milliam age 2, and Cora age 7, 1892. Courtesy of the Wyoming State Historical Society. 1958.2351.001

Next morning when he had to carry them back again what he said about wooden shoes and my bright mind probably melted some snow. A few years later when I made the trip myself, I didn't blame him any."

In her letter, Mary also tells about skiing with Cora over Teton Pass. "Going up the hill...especially that last steep pitch, took some very skillful side-stepping straight up. It took us all forenoon, and we stopped for lunch in the mail carrier's little snow cabin, or I

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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

Match Campaign Raises Over \$75,000

In October 2009, an anonymous friend of the Museum offered a challenge for the second time in three years. The friend would donate \$25,000 to the Museum if we could match it 3:1 by March 31, 2010.

The Match Campaign was launched and exceeded the goal of \$75,000 by the deadline! Gary Hughes, Development Director, managed the Match Campaign and wishes to thank the community for its generosity in tough economic times. Thanks to the community for your generous donations and thanks to the friend who made this all possible.

The funds are part of our Annual Fund drive and are helping us with our transitional operating expenses as we realize our goal of creating a first-class history museum in the West and broaden our educational outreach on a year-round basis to students, residents, and the three million annual visitors to Jackson Hole.

Phyllis and John Cardis Share Board Position

John and Phyllis Cardis are sharing a membership on our board of directors, and we are delighted to welcome them. Teaming up is nothing new to them since they've been married for forty-nine years! They have lived in Jackson for six years, and heard about the opportunity to serve on the board of the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum from board member Stan Trachtenberg. John served on the St. John's Hospital board with Stan for a couple of years.

John retired from Deloitte and Touche six years ago. His job took him all over the country including five years in New York City and ten years in Los Angeles, and they lived in eighteen primary residences. After living in so many cities, he and Phyllis decided they wanted to move to the mountains. Their first "trial" residence in Jackson Hole was at Teton Village, but they settled at Skyline Ranch.

Their priority is family, and they see their six children and eight grandchildren as often as possible. Their two sons live in Idaho, one daughter lives in Florida, and three daughters are in New York state. Regular family gatherings happen in Jackson for Christmas, and in the Hamptons during the summer.

Phyllis is a decorator, and has restored four historic homes they lived in. She was involved with historical societies in other communities where they resided.

John and Phyllis are sharing the board position because John says he "flunked" retirement. He is still on the boards of two large corporations, and in addition, he is working with two sons on a development called the Palisades Creek Ranch in Swan Valley, Idaho. Both Phyllis and John have always been active in charities, and are pleased to give back to their communities.

Wish List for the JHSM

- Funding for a Point of Sale system for the Museum store.
- Small flat screen tv with hookups for vcr and dvd players.
- Laminating machine.
- Volunteers!! People willing to help with mailings, research, and documenting programs with their own video camera.

Wishes granted:

- Robert and Elizabeth Caesar donated a shop vac.
- Daniele Dubois volunteered to be our event photographer.
- Sean O'Malley and Mia Jensen donated an HP photo printer.
- The Rotary Supper Club donated \$250 for the purchase of a new camera.

Thank you for making our wishes come true!

Welcome First Time New Members (March, April, and May):

- Joan and Huntley Baldwin
- Cheryl Brown
- Jinx Chapman
- Cowboy Village Resort
- Jackson Hole High School
- Peggy Jensen
- Chip and Ginger Jones
- Dennis and Elaine Lance
- Richard and Edie Lewis
- Sava Malachowski and Valerie Schram
- Roy Martin
- Jane Matthews
- Charles Miller
- Randall Reedy
- Robert Simon
- Chris and Carmel Tice
- Kirby and Stephanie Williams

July

Thursday, July 8

Voices of the Valley—Storytelling Old Wilson Schoolhouse, 7:00 pm
Stephen Koch and Tom Turiano, alpinists.

Thursday, July 15

Doc MacLeod Campfire Tales and Picnic, 6:30 pm
Jack Huyler's Rocking H Ranch
Join friends for good food, sing-along, and storytelling. Bring your own picnic, table service, and lawn chair if preferred.

Thursday, July 22

Voices of the Valley—Storytelling Old Wilson Schoolhouse, 7:00 pm
Kenny Sailors, basketball star who invented the jump shot, and lived in Jackson Hole.



August

Thursday, August 5

Voices of the Valley—Storytelling Old Wilson Schoolhouse, 7:00 pm
Dr. Bruce Hayse and Oly Koehler, river runners. "River Descents You Probably Shouldn't Attempt."

Tuesday, August 10

"Transportation in Jackson Hole: Travails and Triumphs" program
Moran School, 7:00 pm

Sunday, August 15

Slim Lawrence Barbecue, 4-7:30 pm
S.N. Leek homestead and Bruce Porter cattle ranch, South Park
Catered barbecue dinner, live music, program, door prizes.
Reservations required by August 5.

Thursday, August 26

Potluck & Program, 6:30 pm
Louie and Paula Leisinger's house.
Bring a dish to share and table service. Program to be decided.

September

Thursday, September 2

Volunteer Appreciation Event
JHHSM volunteers are invited to enjoy a meal and be recognized as a thanks for your invaluable help. Location and time to be announced.



Saturday, September 11

Old Bill's Fun Run
Town Square, 10:00 am
Come see our booth, run or walk in the event, donate to the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum, and enjoy the food, entertainment, and community spirit. Your support will be greatly appreciated!

"Voices of the Valley" Continues

Last winter's storytelling programs were wildly successful. The cast of storytellers brought in huge crowds anxious to hear tales of local adventure. Seats were difficult to find for latecomers. We are sponsoring another round of "Voices of the Valley" programs in July and early August, and this time, they are in a larger venue, The Old Wilson Schoolhouse. Everyone is invited to join these entertaining and informative evenings. Each program is held from 7-9 p.m., refreshments served.

July 8: Stephen Koch and Tom Turiano

Well-known Jackson Hole mountaineers, Stephen Koch and Tom Turiano, speak on Thursday, July 8. Their program is entitled "Pushing the Limits." Stephen is a pioneering alpinist, snowboarder, and mountain guide who has been active in the Tetons and in the world's mountains for more than twenty years. He is the first and only person to snowboard on all Seven Summits, the highest mountain on each continent. Stephen moved to Jackson in 1987, and has been a senior Exum mountain guide for fifteen years. He is a professional speaker, using his experiences to inspire.

Tom Turiano has lived in Jackson Hole since 1985. He calls himself a direct descendent

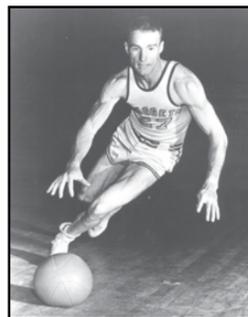


of the Bill Briggs mountaineering and climbing philosophy. Tom has served as a skiing and climbing guide for Exum for twenty-one years, and has guided backcountry skiers for Jackson Hole Alpine Guides since 1999. Tom is also a photographer, guitarist, and author. He wrote comprehensive books for adventurers: *Select Peaks of Greater Yellowstone* and *Teton Skiing: A History and Guide*.

July 22: Kenny Sailors

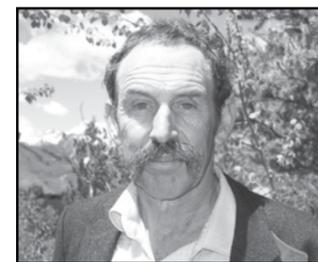
Wyoming native Kenny Sailors tells stories of his successful basketball career and his time in Jackson Hole on Thursday, July 22. He is the only basketball player in Wyoming history to earn All-American status three times—in 1942, 1943 and 1946.

Kenny guided Wyoming to the NCAA championship in 1943. In order to successfully shoot buckets over his tall brother, Kenny is credited with inventing the one-handed jump shot. He played several seasons on NBA teams including the Baltimore Bullets, Denver Nuggets, and Boston Celtics. He was inducted into the UW Athletics Hall of Fame in 1993. Kenny, along with his brother Bud, owned the Heart Six Guest Ranch from 1953 to 1955.



August 5: Dr. Bruce Hayse and Oly Koehler

The storytelling program on Thursday, August 5, features Dr. Bruce Hayse and Oly Koehler, river runners and enthusiasts of fast water around the world. Their program titled "River Descents You Probably Shouldn't Attempt" will highlight successful and unsuccessful attempts at recreating on the Snake River, the Gros Ventre, and other area waters. Bruce moved to Jackson Hole in 1983, starting his own



practice in 1984. He is an avid outdoor recreationist, and sometimes finds himself in predicaments. Bruce shares a story about swimming in Jackson Lake in 2000 with his snowmobile far beneath him.

Oly Koehler arrived in Jackson Hole in 1976. He has been paddling his kayak up and down the rivers of Jackson Hole ever since. When he is not in the water, Oly works for the Hansen Mead Ranch. In 1977 he began working first for Pete Mead, and later for Cliff Hansen.

For part of the last few winters Oly has traveled to New Zealand where he experiences heli-kayaking. His kayak has taken him around the world.



History is Alive! Vote Yes for SPET #5

The Board of Directors of the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum has the answers to the most frequently asked questions about the Specific Purpose Excise Tax (SPET):

1. *If we win the SPET vote on August 17, 2010, will the Museum be done?*

No, but we'll be very close. The full new Museum project is divided into two phases. This SPET will enable us to finish and open Phase I to the public in June, 2011, and begin design and development of Phase II. The entire Museum budget is \$13.1 million. After this SPET, we will be \$3.8 million from completion.



2. *Where is the last \$3.8 million going to come from?*

We will raise it ourselves from private donors.

3. *What happened to the money the Museum received from the last SPET?*

Teton County voters gave us \$3 million in the 2006 SPET vote. \$1.1 million went for the purchase of the building at 225 North Cache. The remainder was used for exhibition design, architectural work, and construction.

A great deal of those remaining funds went towards insuring the structural integrity of the building by correcting major internal and foundation problems that we encountered after we began renovations. This left us without the necessary funds to fabricate the beautiful exhibitions and open the first phase of the new museum next year.

4. *Why didn't you find another building?*

We couldn't. None of these problems were discovered until we were deep into remodeling. Also, the new building is in a perfect location, a block from the Town Square. The fixes were painful, but worth it.

5. *Why is the new Museum so expensive?*

The new Museum is going to be a fully modern, planned, interactive museum, designed by André and Associates, world-class museum designers. It's not a collection of artifacts in display cases. We're not just transferring everything over from the old facility. If you've seen or heard about some of the great new museums in America, like the "Newseum" in Washington, DC, that's the level we're aiming for.

6. *Why do we need such an expensive museum in Jackson?*

There are many answers to that question.

A museum is much more than a collection of old stuff—it's a window to how we came to be what we are today. Museum exhibitions and programs will teach the values on which Jackson Hole was built. History education teaches critical thinking skills and citizenship skills. Having a better understanding of history makes people appreciate and understand diversity and other cultures. And if we all don't make an effort to preserve these things, they will literally disappear.

Another point—heritage tourism is big business in this country. People who like history and museums visit more places, stay longer, and spend 2.5 times as much money. The new Museum will be a great attraction for them.

A community like Jackson needs a great history museum, just like we need the Center for the Arts, the Grand Teton Music Festival, and the National Museum of Wildlife Art.

Preserving and promoting culture is critical to a real community.

7. *It sounds great, but wouldn't it be smarter to wait until the economy comes back?*

You can always find a reason to put off a big project. The new Museum will be in place for generations, long after this economic downturn is forgotten. And on a practical note, it's much easier to work with contractors right now. Our project is having a positive effect on the Jackson economy today.

8. *How is the Museum affecting the economy right now?*

We have been employing twenty-three local contractors and their employees, and our project has injected about \$1.4 million into the economy of Jackson Hole. In fact, 83% of our construction expenditures have been local. We are more than "shovel ready!"

9. *What will happen if you don't win this SPET vote?*

We will still complete the Museum, but going forward without the SPET funding will delay us considerably.

10. *Will these SPET ballot programs raise my taxes?*

No. The SPET is collected through a temporary one cent sales tax increase that stops when the projects are funded. This means that tourists share as much of the tax burden as locals.

11. *How many months of SPET revenue collection will the Museum need?*

Approximately four months' worth. When all the voter-approved ballot measures are funded, the tax stops. The Museum is project #5 on the ballot.

12. *How long will Nikai restaurant continue to operate in the building?*

Their lease runs through 2014.

Please remember to vote YES for project #5 on the August 17, 2010 SPET ballot. Thank you!

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1900 she received the final patent on the land, and sold ten of the forty acres to Grace Miller realizing a tidy profit. The following year Maggie and Grace Miller platted the town of Jackson beginning with those ten acres.

The "Petticoat Government" or the "All-Woman Town Council" is one of Jackson's claims to fame. In early 1920, a town caucus meeting was called to nominate candidates for the town council. During this meeting Dick Winger and another man called out, "Why not let the women run the government?" The women agreed and formed a party with a completely female slate. An election was held and the women won by a landslide. As mayor, Grace Miller made only \$25 a



Jackson's All-Woman Town Council 1921
Front row, L to R: Rose Crabtree, Grace Miller, Faustina Haight. Back row, L to R: Genevieve Van Vleck, Mae Deloney. 1958.0263.001

year. One of the women, Rose Crabtree, received more votes than her husband who was also running for the town council. I wonder if there was tension in their

house that evening! But Rose's husband Henry took her victory in stride, saying "...she had done a good job in running the Crabtree Hotel as his wife, so he felt she was competent to run the town."

The election made the news across the nation: "The *New York Sun* said the sole issue was that of sex and the two gun man didn't stand a chance against his wife and her rolling pins." To quote a Boston newspaper, "President Calvin Coolidge referred to the action of the citizens of Jackson, Wyo., in electing women to all town offices and paid a high tribute to the good sense of the people of the town."

The women took a practical approach

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to town management, much like they ran their households. They fined owners of pigs, cows, dogs, and horses left running loose on the streets of Jackson. The women collected back taxes. When they had \$2,000 in the city's coffers, they began making improvements: beautification of the Town Square, a muddy hole where people kept their animals and threw trash; fenced cows out of the town cemetery and built a new road to the site; built the first boardwalks, graded the town streets, installed culverts, started formal garbage collection, and organized a town clean-up. They improved the town's water system, and awarded Ed Benson a contract to install the first street lights. Simply stated, they cleaned and spruced up the town, making it a better and safer place to raise their families.

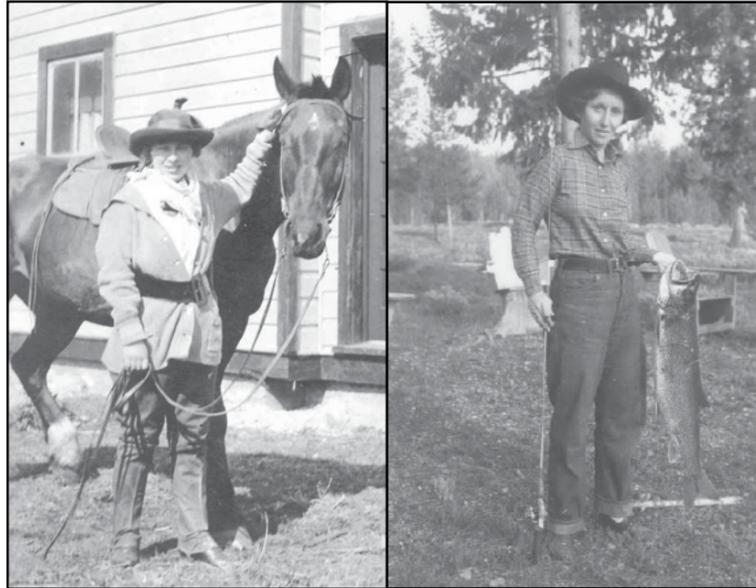
After the town elected the women in 1920, the *New York Evening Herald* ran an article with the headline, "Women Rule Western City; Gun-Play Thru: Former Wyoming Rendezvous for Outlawry Now under Feminine Thumb." The women were re-elected in 1921. After that, they relinquished their rule of the town to the men.

Jackson did not have the first all-woman town council in the country—Oskaloosa, Kansas elected a petticoat government in 1888, and so did Kanab, Utah in 1912/1913. However, Jackson, Wyoming was probably the first town that had an all-woman town council as well as a female town marshal! **Pearl Williams** held that post. In an oral history, she said that she thought one reason she was appointed was because she had a horse. She locked up some drunken cowboys in the jail on a night before the cells had doors. Pearl made them promise that they would stay in the cell, and stay they did. She elicited cooperation despite her diminutive size.

After Pearl Williams' term as the town marshal was over, she was hounded by the press for the inside scoop—it wasn't every day that the town's law was a woman. The phone lines were down, and questions and answers were garbled. Finally, Pearl tired of trying to answer the reporters' questions, so she told them, "While I was sheriff, I killed three men and buried them myself." After that, she had no more reporter problems. They didn't know that she was just a wisp of a young girl.

Many of the women—not just the town sheriff—were skilled in the use of a rifle, and hunted, trapped, and fished. **Verba Delaney Lawrence** moved from Idaho to Kelly in 1921, and worked for the Sheffields at Moran from 1923 to 1929. She married Slim Lawrence in 1929. She and her husband had friendly competitions—they'd tally their day's bounty to see who had brought home the most game and/or fish. Every winter for forty years Verba shoveled several feet of

snow from the roofs of the AMK Ranch in north Jackson Hole where she and her husband were caretakers. As many of you know, Slim was an avid collector of Indian artifacts and old objects that now chronicle the history of Jackson Hole in



Pearl Williams 1998.0029.001

Verba Lawrence 1992.4153.001

our museum, the Jackson Hole Museum. Verba was supportive of Slim's passionate hobby, and accompanied him in his search for artifacts. After their home became a museum, literally, she was probably also supportive of him opening the museum in Jackson which he did in 1958.

Cissy Patterson, also known as Countess Gizycka, was a high society woman who first came to Jackson Hole as a dude at the Bar BC Ranch. She quickly adopted the western lifestyle and became a fine hunter. Cissy eventually purchased the Flat Creek Ranch which became her summer getaway retreat. When she wasn't in Jackson, she was the editor of large newspapers back east, eventually buying the *Washington Herald* and the *Washington Times*. She was well-liked and admired in Jackson—she spoke her mind and was unafraid to live as she saw fit. Joe Albright, grandnephew of Cissy, and his wife, Marcia Kunstel, restored the Flat Creek Ranch, and now they rent cabins there during the summer.

Cissy's best friend was **Rose Crabtree**, one of the women elected to the All-Woman Town Council. When Rose and her husband, Henry, visited Cissy in Washington, Cissy asked Rose what she'd like to do while there. Rose jokingly replied, "I'd like to meet the President." Cissy made the arrangements as President Taft was a family friend of the Pattersons, and he met with Rose.

Soon after the Crabtrees arrived in Jackson in 1916, Rose began working at the Reed Hotel for her employer, Maude "Ma" Reed. Ma was not as fond of Cissy as Rose was. According to Cissy's daughter Felicia, while they were staying at the Reed Motel before Cissy purchased the ranch, Ma threw their belongings out of a second-story window! Ma carried brass knuckles in her apron which she used to rap on the heads of her guests—young

bachelors—when they were unruly at the dining room table. In October 1917, Ma left Rose in charge while she went on a "trip for a couple of weeks." When she didn't return and no word was received of her whereabouts, Rose and her husband Henry paid Ma's pile of debts—probably why she skipped town for seven years—and took over the hotel, making improvements and renaming it the Crabtree Hotel. (Today, a replica of the hotel sits southeast of the Town Square.) When Ma and Pa reappeared they had struck it rich and were driving a big, new car, but again they left. The next time Ma came to town she was widowed and penniless. No one knows where they went or what happened to Mr. Reed. She opened Ma Reed's Restaurant across the street from her old hotel, and once again pleased people with her cooking until her death at age seventy-six in 1938.

Rose presided over the Crabtree dining room for twenty years where notables rubbed elbows with homesteaders, local businessmen, horse thieves, and outlaws at her bountiful table. She was famous for her hospitality. Rose warmed bricks in her oven to pass out to travelers journeying by wagon or stagecoach. She baked an angel food birthday cake for all Jackson kids who had birthdays during March, her own birthday month. (Author's note: "I highly recommend attending the theater production "Petticoat Rules"



L to R: Ma Reed, Emma Owen, Rose and Henry Crabtree in front of Crabtrees' 1925 Oldsmobile. 1958.3466.001

which begins July 9 at the Center for the Arts. This entertaining musical tells a compelling story of Jackson Hole in the 1920s.)

Traveling with her parents in their Model T Ford in September 1924, **Eva Sanford** glimpsed the Tetons for the first time from Togwotee Pass. Born and raised in Douglas, Wyoming, Eva was tired of the scenery there. Besides, she could earn more money teaching school in north Jackson Hole where she was paid \$90/year as the teacher at Spread Creek. When she first saw the Tetons, Eva told her parents she was sure she would spend the rest of her life here because of the beauty of the mountains. While teaching in her first year here, two homesteaders

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talked her into filing a homestead claim on three forty-acre tracts of land that had been overlooked by the State of Wyoming. She paid a \$3.50 filing fee, and began the process of proving up on her land which meant building a home and planting a crop. After five years of living on the land, she obtained the title to her land.

Three years after her initial homestead filing, Eva married Fred Topping, one of the men who convinced her to stake her claim, and together they transformed the homestead into the Moosehead Ranch. They ran the ranch, started a hunting business, and added cabins for rent. Eva sold garden produce, eggs, and cream to Jackson stores. She raised foxes. The ranch didn't have electricity and running water until after World War II. Imagine cooking for guests, and keeping their cabins tidy without those basic conveniences! Eva was also postmaster of Elk, Wyoming for thirty-six years. They sold the Moosehead and moved to Jackson in 1969. At age eighty-four, Eva was named "Outstanding Woman in the Community" for her years of community service.



Eva Topping cooking at elk camp. 1958.0253.001

Another remarkable woman was **Ida Belle Kneedy Chambers**. Like Eva she was a teacher and a postmaster. Ida came west and joined her father who had homesteaded on Antelope Flats. She taught at the Grovont and Elk schools before marrying Andy Chambers in February 1918. In an oral history she tells the story of driving over the mountain to Driggs to get married because, in her words, "On account of my not being old enough. My dad wouldn't give his consent." Ida turned twenty-one in April. She helped run their Mormon Row ranch for twenty-seven years, was the postmaster from 1932-1935, and also had a store. She raised seven children. During that time Ida often said, "The last diaper I wash is going to be raised on a pole and flown as a flag until it turns to shreds."

During the tragic Kelly Flood in 1927, Ida lost her parents and a foster brother. In 1935, Andy and Ida moved to a house on Simpson Street so that their children could attend school in Jackson. They also boarded other Mormon Row children, and their household was busy and happy. After Andy died in 1945, two of her sons, Roy and Reese operated the ranch. Ida eventually sold it to the Park Service and moved to town but kept a lifetime lease for their children. "As long as I'm alive," Ida said, "it's still my ranch. You have to live

a long time to beat out a Rockefeller..."

Struthers Burt is well known as co-owner of Bar BC Dude Ranch and as an author. But, as other wives did throughout the valley, his wife **Katherine Newlin Burt** worked alongside him. Though from New York state, she spent most of her life in Jackson Hole. Katherine simultaneously worked on the dude ranch, raised children, and pursued her career as a writer. She authored over thirty novels—eight of her books and short stories were adapted for silent films. Her son, Nathaniel Burt, in his book *Jackson Hole Journal*, believes that she was the first to connect Hollywood with Jackson Hole. Her book *The Branding Iron* was turned into a film in 1920. Nathaniel writes about actress Mary Miles Minter's arrival in Jackson Hole in 1922 to make *The Cowboy and the Lady*:

"Mary graciously received the yokels as she reclined on leopard skins in an Arabian tent up near the base of the Tetons. My mother attended one of these levees. Mary couldn't seem to recall whether she had played in one of my mother's films or not. 'Ah, I never can remember the authors of my pictures.' 'And I can never remember the actresses in mine,' my mother gleefully retorted."

Katherine also wrote short stories and created serials for magazines. According to her son, Nathaniel Burt, she wrote into her eighties and rode horseback until she was eighty-two.

Another dude rancher in Jackson Hole, **Betty Woolsey**, was an Olympic skier before she settled in the valley. She was the captain of the first U.S. Women's Olympic Ski Team which was sent to the 1936

Winter Olympics in Hitler's Germany. She later was named to the U.S. Skiing Hall of Fame for her accomplishments, which by then included a seven-year stint as editor of *Ski Illustrated*. Betty also pioneered the sport of mountain climbing, and with a team of climbers, made many first ascents throughout the West. In the early 1940s, Betty bought land that would become Trail Creek Ranch. In her autobiography *Off the Beaten Track*, Betty wrote about the beginnings of her ranch: "There was no electricity, telephone, or running water...I had professional help from an electrician who wired the house for me and a plumber who put in pipes for a bath and a kitchen sink. The rest I did myself, starting with a trench for the water line, two and half feet deep and a couple of hundred yards long. I did this by hand, with a shovel and also a crowbar as there were many glacial boulders mixed in with the dirt." She went on to describe how she got electricity to her new home. First she had to hand dig the holes for the poles, and then drag the poles by horse to each hole. She had trouble with the horse; it moved off every time she tried to hook the pole to the horse's singletree—a bar that attached the pole to the horse's harness lines. Finally, the wife of the power company owner assisted her with

the horse. The might and will of Betty Woolsey illuminated her ranch!

Betty raised hay and horses at the ranch, and operated a dude ranch that offered horse pack trips in the summer. Though occasionally assisted by men, Betty and other women essentially ran the ranch, including the construction of ranch outbuildings, irrigating hay fields, and wrangling horses and dudes. In winter, it became a ski ranch, offering many miles of cross-country ski trails used for training and enjoyment by members of the Jackson Hole Ski Club, an organization that Betty began in 1948, benefiting youth and adults alike.

The allure of Jackson Hole created vision, hope, and cooperation. The isolation of this place demanded that women have determination, endurance, and strength—every one of these traits were needed to survive. But, of course, it wasn't only the women who exhibited these traits. Men and families had to be tough too, and not give up or give in to the many challenges they faced. Whether people stayed or didn't, their stories live on.

From the beginning, Jackson Hole has been home and still is home to many strong and independent women. Women make a difference in Jackson Hole, holding high the values of early day wives and mothers.

Former Wyoming state legislator, Jackson resident, and businesswoman Clarene Law once remarked: "This is a rugged place. A man that came into this harsh country needed a true partner, not a piece of fluff."

Of course, behind nearly every good woman, there was a good man. To make positive changes in their own lives as well as in the lives around them, wives and mothers needed support from everyone—their husbands, children, extended family, friends, neighbors and communities. Important to survival in early Jackson Hole, these relationships are still important today. And not only that, they give women authentic joy and gratitude, and the fuel to keep moving forward.

Resources used at the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum

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- Chambers, Ida. Oral history.
- Gizycka, Felicia. "Jackson Hole, 1916-65: A Reminiscence."
- Petzoldt, Paul. *Teton Tales*.
- Topping, Eva. Oral history.
- Tuttle, M.G. (Mary White). Letter to Cora Barber.
- Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. Quote "Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History."
- Williams Hupp, Pearl. Oral history.
- Winger, Dick. Oral history.
- Woolsey, Elizabeth D. *Off the Beaten Track*
- Biographical and Obituary files.

These wonderful volunteers guide regularly scheduled tours of historic downtown Jackson in the summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m., and meet at the center of the Town Square. It is a great way to learn a little bit about the history of Jackson, and a good activity for your out-of-town guests.

This is Linda Walker's twentieth year of volunteering as a walking tour guide! Originally from Alexandria, Virginia, Linda and her husband Fred moved to



Jackson in 1989. She feels that even though Jackson's history is short—since 1884 when the first settlers arrived—it is full and colorful. The theme of her tours is storytelling—relating past history to the present. "It's a one hour tour, but I find it hard to get it all in an hour's time. The people who go on the walking tour are very special. They are well traveled and they want to learn about Jackson Hole, not just sightsee. They are very interesting and appreciative."



Jesse O'Connor, raised in Michigan, toured this area at age nine and moved here ten years later to climb and never left. He received an education degree from the University of Wyoming in 1988 where he met his wife Karen with whom he sings in the Jackson Hole Chorale. He

interprets Teton and Yellowstone Parks for National Park Tours/Gray Line/Alltrans and serves on the Teton County Historic Preservation Board. He has enjoyed volunteering for the Historical

Meet the 2010 Walking Tour Guides

Society since 1998. He recognizes that community character is made up of people and heritage, sites and stories, besides landscape, wildlife and scenery.

A valley resident since 1966 and a long-time member of the JHSM, Loretta Scott decided to become a guide this year not only because she is retiring from being a real estate agent, but has



always had an interest in structures and land. She says she's a small town girl, and likes sharing Jackson with others.



Nancy Pettus first volunteered as a guide last summer. She has been coming to Jackson since the late 1940s as her family loved to fish in the Teton Park area, and has lived here eleven years. She loves to explore the romance versus the reality of the old west and Wyoming. She is very involved with Rotary International, and loves reading and quilting.

Dr. Lucy Bayles became interested in becoming a walking tour guide this summer because she wanted to learn more about the history of Jackson and because she enjoys talking with people. She has been professionally telling stories since 1986 when she performed in St.



Louis, Missouri for the annual festival "Storytelling Under the Arch." Lucy was also the Storyteller in Residence for the South Carolina Botanical Gardens at Clemson University for many years. "Doctor Lucy" taught family relations and child development at several universities, and most recently retired from the University of Alaska.

Steve and Brenda Roberts have lived in the west for the past seven years working primarily in the national parks, and four of those years were with the non-profit park associations in Yellowstone and Grand Teton. They currently work at the Jackson Hole Visitor Center, and much of their free time is spent discovering the natural and cultural history of the area. They



believe each of us is a part of the history of our country, and encourage folks to discover and help preserve their family and local history.

Conservation News: What's Going on in Basement?

by Shannon Sullivan

In December 2009, the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum was awarded \$1,000 from the Wyoming State Historical Records Advisory Board, through the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration to purchase storage materials for clothing and textile items. The collection hung in a closet in the basement for many years, but over time, it began to overflow with clothes. Finding a new way to store everything from gowns and furs



Julie Buchenroth tearing tissue.

to baseball and military uniforms became a necessity.

Damage can occur to fragile clothing that is hung because of its own weight pulling on the seams. One of the safest and least expensive ways to store clothing is in acid-free boxes using tissue. The tissue gives them some shape so they don't settle into creases which can cause damage over many years. Boxes can protect the clothes from dust, light, mold, and pests for decades.

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The project began by disassembling three large wooden boxes formerly used to house paintings in the middle of the main collections storage room. The pieces of the boxes were reconstituted as new shelves for the paintings in the closet by carpentry volunteer Tim Sullivan. This provided much needed storage space. Once the clothing was removed from the closet, about 86 textile items were packed in the new boxes by collections volunteers Julie Buchenroth and Mary Cutler, along with Curatorial Assistant Shannon Sullivan. They spent a combined total of about 70 hours accomplishing this.

While the clothes were organized, long-needed collections work was simultaneously accomplished. Photo-

graphs of each artifact were taken as well as measurements, conditions, and locations, allowing for tracking and monitoring in the museum database.

Now the JHHSM has a more organized collection and more information on the textile pieces in the collection. We are better equipped to make informed choices about which items are appropriate to different exhibits, including exhibits for the new museum. The longevity of the clothing is also ensured so that it can be preserved for future generations. What better way



Mary Cutler packing textiles.

is there to relate to people of the past than to see what they wore?



The covered wagon atop the Jackson Hole Museum received a facelift in May—a bright new canvas cover. Thank you to our fearless volunteers Bill Fischer, Denny and Susan McCracken, and Andy Stonelake who installed it with great care.

Musings at the Museum

by Jean Hansen, Museum Manager

It is not always “us” exhibiting history to our guests. Take for instance, during our opening weekend this year, a direct descendant of Nick Wilson came into the Museum with his daughter and granddaughter. Following our conversation concerning Nick Wilson’s history, the great grandson of Nick Wilson brought in to the shop the rifle that Nick had with him when he traveled over the Teton Pass in 1886. (Sorry, everyone, I couldn’t convince him to donate it to our collection!)

Our guests come in all shapes, sizes, and *species*. An older couple stuck their head in the door and asked if they could bring in a stroller. Thinking that they had a grandchild with them, I said, “Of course!” In they came, with their long-haired miniature dachshund in her very own doggie stroller. Do we have an admission price for dachshunds—should we!?!?

We ARE the most economical family entertainment in the valley. A family of 10 came in the other day—father, mother and eight children age twelve years to four months—and only one set of twins. They were all admitted for the family rate of \$6.00. Originally from Holland, all of the children’s names were pronounced totally different than I would have spelled them. The twelve-year-old was very patient as she stayed by the desk and helped me spell all her siblings names as I wrote them on their sheriff badges.



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