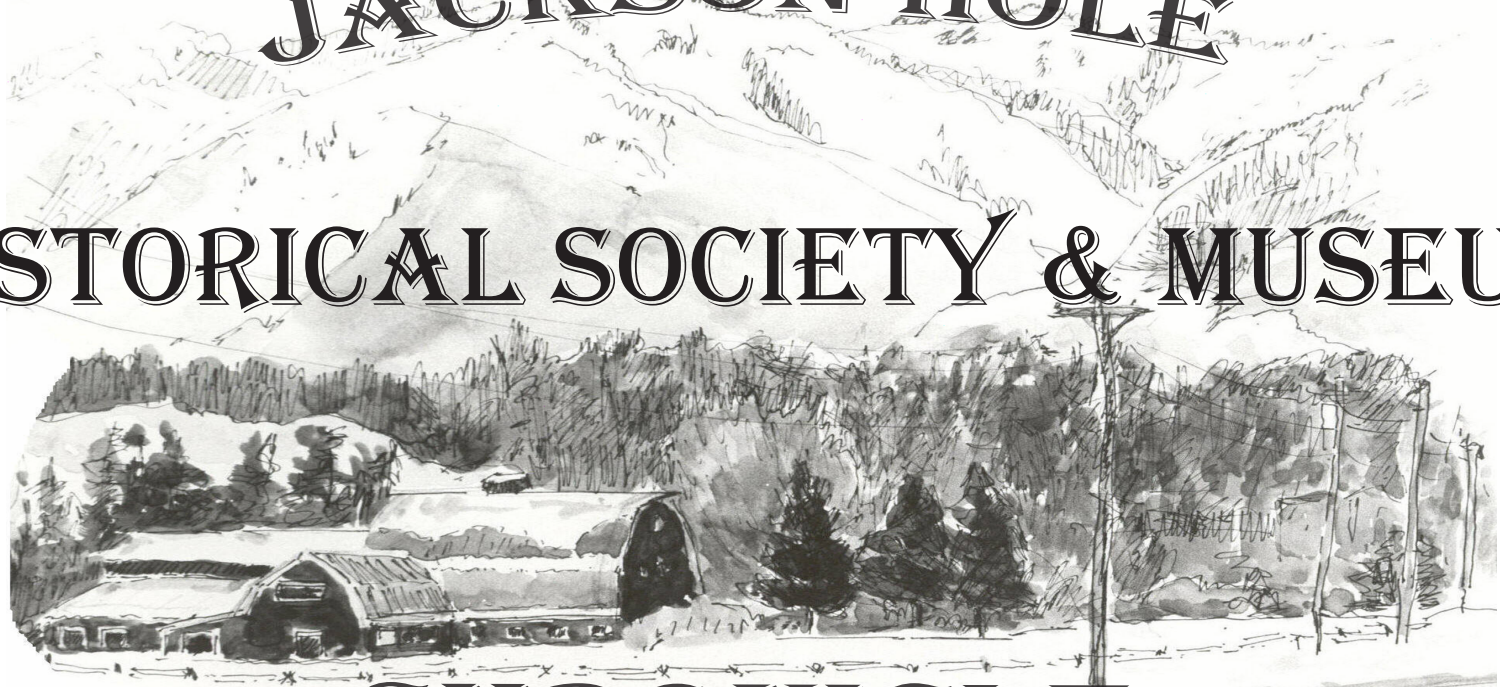


# JACKSON HOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM CHRONICLE



VOLUME XXXIV NO. 2

JACKSON'S HOLE, WYOMING

FALL 2013

With her eyes twinkling, Stella McKinstry recounted her early memories of homesteading at Moran. As I sat in her cozy living room in Pinedale, we went through her mother's letters, written between 1915 and 1924 when Linda Preston McKinstry ran a tea room just inside what is now the Grand Teton National Park boundaries and her father, the county surveyor, ran cattle and taught at the Elk School. The couple met in Washington, DC — she was from Boston and Harold Cole McKinstry was from Fargo, North Dakota. In their eighties, and living in Colorado after their land was bought out by the Rockefellers, her father and mother sat down together and he typed out a 200-page manuscript recounting their adventures in Jackson Hole —

adventures which started with the log cabin and barns they built on Pacific Creek and shared with their four-legged companions.

The manuscript, simply entitled *McKinstry Homestead near Moran, Wyoming*, is in large part based on Linda McKinstry's voluminous correspondence with friends and family back East. "She wrote because she was lonely and that was the way to keep in touch," Stella explained. Linda McKinstry did not want to hurt anyone's feelings, so Stella followed her mother's wishes and held the manuscript back until the family felt that those individuals depicted in a less than flattering light would have passed on. The Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum is especially pleased to have not only a copy of the manuscript in the Stan Klassen Research Center, but also permission to copy the original McKinstry letters.

The manuscript opens with the seventy-mile wagon trip up Teton Pass — "over unbelievably rough roads". The story follows the McKinstry's trip to Wyoming from the Twin Cities where they stocked up on leather goods "including two sad-

dles, harness, tools and a beautiful bear skin carriage robe". Later, they picked up machinery and two Percheron mares — all of which were transported at a special rate in an Immigrant car that also carried hay, grain and a fifty-gallon barrel of water.

One of the most delightful things is the document's richness of detail. For example, we learn that accompanying the couple in the Immigrant wagon were: "a Studebaker wagon, sulky plow, mower, hay rake and the necessary tools for building and

Here is Linda McKinstry's account of the "one and only funeral" they ever attended in Jackson Hole. It occurred, she wrote, after they had moved to the Lozier ranch. "No letter seems to remain about it" she writes, "but I shall always have memories even though I never knew the boy that died. The love and concern of the whole community was expressed at that time in never forgotten ways."

She goes on to tell of the tragedy: *It all occurred in the middle of winter and when a terrific storm was raging. The Budge family, long residents of Jackson Hole, was relatively new in the Buffalo Creek community where they had been living for some months past. One of the teenage boys was stricken with pneumonia, a very fatal disease in those*

**"My mother told me that one time she decided to divorce him and leave, but she couldn't catch the horse!"** Stella McKinstry

by Dr. Sharon Kahin

for getting logs. Among these were a cross-cut saw, axe, log chains, peavey and a draw knife for peeling logs... and a Majestic range... 1200 or 1500 pounds of potatoes." Sugar and flour in hundred pound sacks, and dried fruit in twenty-five pound boxes, lard and "bacon by the slab" were procured in Victor. The bed springs, for some mysterious reason, en route since March, arrived in early November!

Highlights from the homesteading narrative include the family's response to the proposed Yellowstone Park expansion, a riveting account of the McKinstry house burning in the middle of sub-zero weather in 1919, and the ordeal of bringing five hundred pounds of potatoes from Victor for winter use without having them freeze. "It was so cold en route that all the potatoes had to be unloaded every night and a fire kept burning all night long to keep them from freezing... before packing up again to get them safely back to the ranch."

According to Stella, despite the very real hardships, her parents loved their time at the homestead. And, one gets a rare glimpse of what it was like to be a member of this far-flung community.

days. Dr. Huff had responded to their call, though probably he had to travel several miles on skis. After arriving at their ranch, he just stayed, nursing the boy day and night, but it was a losing battle. By then travel between Jackson and Moran was absolutely impossible for nothing could get across the bleak miles of the Antelope Flat country. Neither a coffin, or preacher, could come from Jackson but there had to be a funeral.

The men of the buffalo community made a plain box from lumber available. Some way the ladies found material with which they made a really attractive lining. Just a plain box top for the cover. Flowers were there, some very pretty ones, but all made with paper... The morning of the funeral the ranchers who could get there brought their teams and tried to break out a road up the hill to the cemetery. It was impossible with the deep snow; the horses simply could not do it. It was not like any funeral I had ever attended... Some woman sang a solo as best she could with only a fiddle to accompany her... One of the Mormon ranchers said a

continued on Page 5 - McKinstry



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### Mission Statement

*Preserving and sharing the  
heritage of Jackson Hole.*



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## Organizational News

### Rebecca Sgouros Joins Advisory Council

The Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum welcomes a third archaeologist to its Advisory Council!

Joining Dr. Lawrence Loendorf and Matt Stirn on the JHHSM Advisory Council is Rebecca Sgouros, an archaeologist who recently completed her Masters in Environmental Archaeology and Paleoeconomy at the University of Sheffield, England. Rebecca traces her interest in archaeology and ancient history to early travels to Greece during her childhood. She has conducted archaeological excavations on three continents and done analysis on material from around the world. As her career developed, Rebecca began to realize that cultural heritage and archeological education would be her areas of focus. An avid cook in her spare time, she is especially drawn to the study of past diets and food ways. At Sheffield, she specialized in the study of animal remains to understand past subsistence strategies.

Rebecca's primary area of interest is fostering an appreciation for the past through archaeology programs and exhibits designed for both the general public and K-12 youth. She has worked on the Hirundo Wildlife Refuge in Maine, organizing and creating an exhibit for



their local historical society and supporting Hirundo's archaeology programs in the schools.

Last summer, Rebecca completed research in Greece for her dissertation on animal bones from a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age site. Clearly an adventurous sort, she also spent a week with Dr. Robert Ballard and the Institute for Exploration off the coast of Bodrum, Turkey hunting for deepwater shipwrecks! She then did public outreach talks on her work for students with developing interests in archaeology. Upon her return to Jackson Hole this fall, Rebecca is looking forward to doing volunteer work with the Historical Society and Museum's Slim Lawrence collection, as well as developing independent research projects in northwest Wyoming.

### Items Donated to Collection Join Exhibits

The painting you see on the blue wall in the *Art of the Hunt* exhibit at the Cache Street museum gallery is a Bill Freeman original oil entitled "Alert". It was donated by artist Carol Swinney in 2013 whom Bill mentored in palette painting. Bill left this painting to Carol when he died. She has admired it since she first met Bill in 1980.

The painting was hung in his Scottsdale, Arizona home, and he had kept it as one of his favorites after he completed it in 1974. During the summers, Bill lived just west of Munger Mountain which is located south of Jackson. Munger Mountain is featured in the background of the painting, and he took Carol to this area to paint on more than one occasion. The technique used is palette knife and brush.

Another new edition to the collection is a quilt made by Flossie Moulton for the T.A. Moulton Barn Centennial Celebration 1913-2013.

Flossie Moulton was married to T.A. Moulton's youngest son Harley, and they lived the first years of their marriage at the Moulton ranch on Mormon Row (1950-1961). Flossie's first cousin is Joe Infanger, who with his wife Elaine, donated this quilt to the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum. They purchased the quilt at silent auction during

the Moulton Barn Centennial Celebration on July 20, 2013.

The quilt features elements of ranching, and two of Flossie's favorite squares show stacking hay using a beaver slide and shocks of grain with harvesting equipment. She donated the quilt to benefit the restoration of the Moulton Barn.



Flossie Moulton and the quilt she made

### Website Gets Facelift

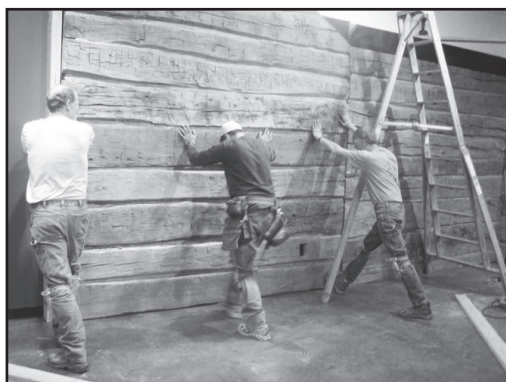
Our website has a new look thanks to Aj Best and Gliffen Designs. Hopefully, it will be more user-friendly and attractive, and new items are being added continually. Check it out at [www.jacksonholehistory.org](http://www.jacksonholehistory.org).



## From the Director's Desk

As the weather hovers indecisively between what's left of Indian summer and early winter, it's time to take stock and share some of our accomplishments with those members and donors who have helped make it all possible.

The museum's re-configured gallery at 225 North Cache, completed with the timely funding help from the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, has created a more flexible space for temporary exhibits and evening programs. Ex-

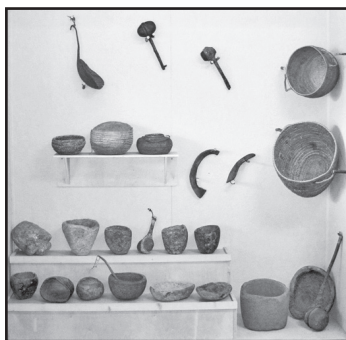


hibits about the Triangle X Ranch, the Kelly Flood and the Moulton Barn Fundraiser, as well as seventeen programs this year, have seamlessly shared space with our newly designed

displays on homesteading, dude and cattle ranching, and hunting. Our secret? Everything, including "Buffy" is now on wheels — it's amazing how easy it is to move a sixty year old buffalo once you've outfitted him with roller skates!



Another milestone: The "old museum" (corner of Glenwood and Deloney, right behind the Wort) also had a significant face-lift. A new exhibit on *Indians of the Greater Yellowstone* is now in place — thanks to an extraordinary start-up grant from the Kemmerer Family Foundation and other generous benefactors (listed here to the right). Reopening the Deloney Museum has given us an exciting opportunity to bring Slim Lawrence's exceptionally fine archaeological collection to light and bring the museum's Native American headwork and other wonderful pieces out of storage. And, should you want to know how the Mountain Shoshone trapped wild Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep, this exhibit features a full-sized catch pen (as far as we know the only one in the country!)



replicated under the direction of Dan Eakin, Senior State Archaeologist, with the help of Bridger Teton archaeologists Jamie Schoen and John Paul Schubert, and wildlife biologist John Mionczynski.

So many people, both locally and around the state, have contributed to making *Indians of the Greater Yellowstone* a success that it's hard to thank them all individually. We are particularly indebted, however, not only to our donors but also to Wyoming Game and Fish (for providing horns and hides) and the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist. We look forward to expanding our exhibits and displays at both Cache Street and Deloney by investing in a small fleet of iPads and touch tables to make our exhibits more engaging and informative.

If you haven't been in to see what's changed, come take a look. JHHSM now boasts "one mission – two locations" and during the summer, one ticket opens the doors to both. See you there!

Sharon Kahin

### *Indians of the Greater Yellowstone* is made possible by the generosity of:

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Kelly Clay  
Kathy Pappas  
Dr. Larry Loendorf  
Bridger Teton National Forest ~ Jamie Schoen, J.P. Schubert  
Wyoming Game and Fish ~ Brian Debolt, Jason Hunter, Tim Fuchs

### Steve Roberts Elected to Wyoming State Historical Society Board

You may have met Steve Roberts, Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum's Store Manager and Events Coordinator, at one of our evening programs where he is in charge of filming our *Voices of the Valley* series. He wears many hats with the organization, and now he has added another, becoming the Wyoming State Historical Society's newest board member.



Steve was elected on September 7th at the annual meeting in Torrington as the Southwest Regional Representative, a position in which he "hopes to see this part of the state more fully represented". He is also interested in encouraging the local chapters in this area to be more active in the statewide organization.

Steve traces his interest in history to childhood trips to places such as Colonial Williamsburg and historic Jamestown. Roberts also has connections to David Jackson. His mother's side of the family (Waldo) settled in western Virginia (now West Virginia) where they were neighbors with the Jackson family. Two of Steve's ancestors were part of the company of fur trappers under Jackson, William Sublette and Jedediah Smith when they came west to trap beaver in the Jackson Hole area.

After editing oral history transcripts and leading downtown walking tours for four years as a volunteer, Steve joined the JHHSM staff in December of 2012. He felt that his position as Store Manager dovetailed well, not only with his lifelong interest in history, but also with his experience managing

*continued on Page 4 - Steve Roberts*



Steve Roberts - *continued from Page 3*

a bookstore for Cokesbury for over seven years in Charleston, West Virginia. His background in leading walking tours and working with oral histories has been a tremendous asset to the Museum. Currently, Steve is working with Story Clark of TravelStorysGPST<sup>™</sup> to add downtown “geo-tags” to the TravelStorysGPST<sup>™</sup> App. for Jackson Hole. The museum received a \$15,000 grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund for the development of the historical walking tours portion of the App. Watch for more about our grant and TravelStorysGPST<sup>™</sup> in the next *Chronicle*.

App. users will soon be able to take their own self-guided tour of historic downtown Jackson — simply click on a site and you’ll find historical photographs, audio clips from our oral history collections, and hear Steve or other staff members tell you all about it.

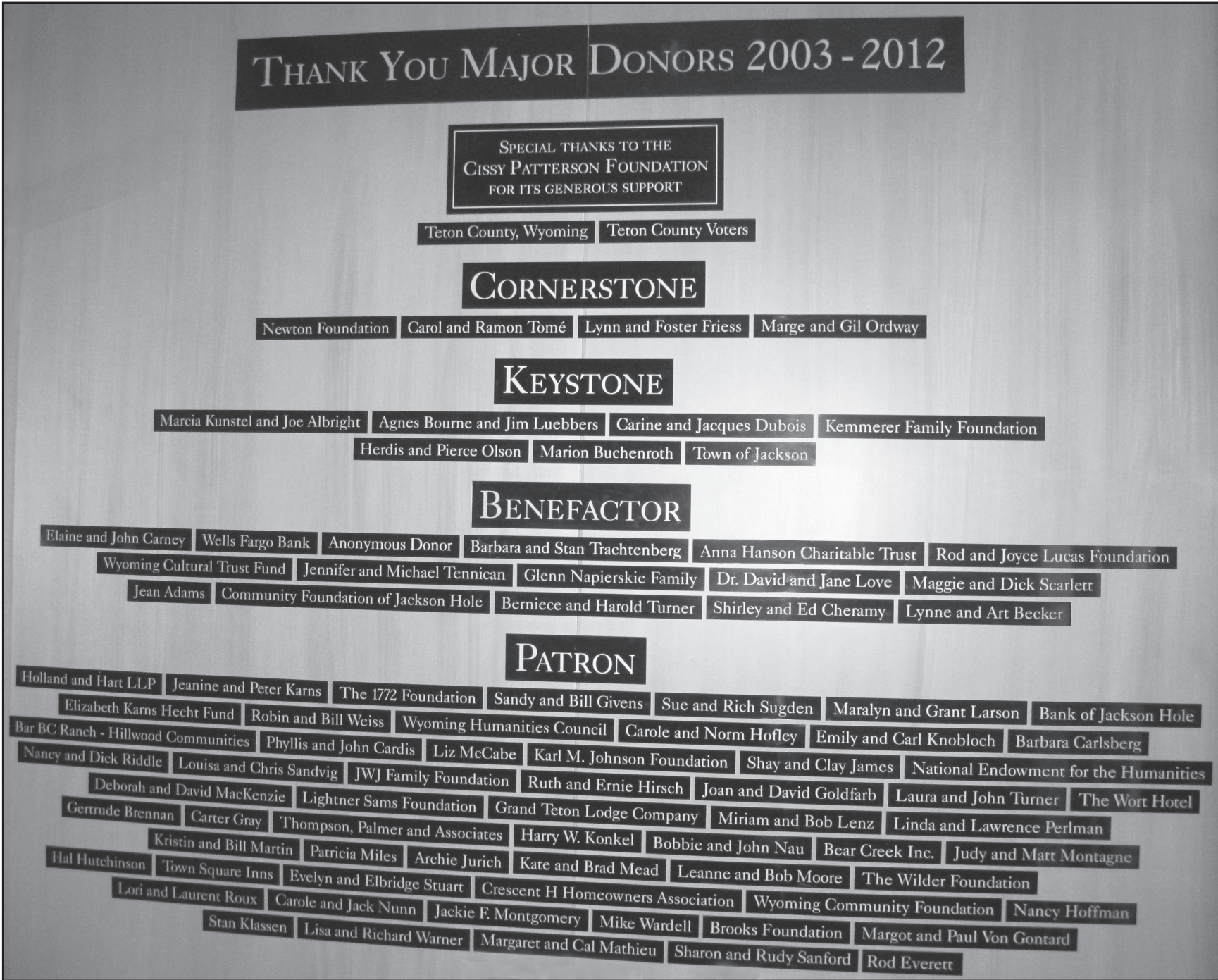
We have chosen a photo of the Clubhouse below to give you an idea of what’s in store...



Thanks to the financial support from our members and donors, we continue to provide programs and events for the community and visitors. Since this Spring, we offered 16 community programs and events with total attendance of 1,363:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| March 11     | Grant Bulltail “Bishish: Fasting in the Tetons”  |
| March 12     | Grant Bulltail “Crow Creation Story”   |
| March 13     | Grant Bulltail “Coyote Stories”  |
| March 28     | Dan Eakin “Archaeological Investigations Along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail”  |
| April 18     | Bill Chaney <i>Snapshots in Time</i> about the Kelly Flood   |
| May 23       | “Wyoming, Born and Raised: Wild and Full of Grit” – film premiere, exhibit opening, panel discussion with Turner family and filmmakers |
| June 20      | Chamber Mixer at the Bar BC – Tom Lucas, “South Pass - The Musical” performers   |
| July 2       | “A Nickel for the Barn” Moulton Barn 100th reception and exhibit opening   |
| August 2     | Grand Reopening of Deloney Museum <i>Indians of the Greater Yellowstone</i> and program with Dr. George Frison                         |
| September 2  | <i>Voices of the Valley</i> – Marlene and Daniel Merrill, “Up the Winds and Over the Tetons”, Raynolds Expedition                      |
| September 19 | <i>Voices of the Valley</i> – Rev. Warren Murphy, “On Sacred Ground”   |
| September 26 | <i>Voices of the Valley</i> – Dr. Larry Loendorf “Medicine Wheels, Vision Quests, and Buffalo Caves”                                   |
| October 1-12 | Quilt exhibit “Capture the Culture” in collaboration with the Jackson Hole Quilt Festival  |
| October 10   | “A Chili Night Out” Chamber Mixer at <i>Indians of the Greater Yellowstone</i>   |
| October 18   | <i>Teaching American History Grant</i> workshop for regional teachers  |
| October 22   | “A Textile Learning Exchange” with Doris Florig, tapestry artist and fiber sculptor  |

Between May 28 and September 26, over fifty regular walking tours were enjoyed by 644 people. Five special pre-arranged walking tours were given for forty people. Since January, we had 31 children’s and school programs with total attendance of 1,703.



Donor Appreciation Wall at the 225 N. Cache Museum



McKinstry - continued from Page 1

few words in eulogy although public speaking was not in his line, but he, too, gave it all he had... An opening at the top of the hill cemetery had been dynamited out so the casket could be lowered into it. The casket was covered, carried out and lashed to a sled made with skis. Some of the men then skied up the hill to the little cemetery, dragging the sled... None of the other people attempted to climb... it was probably the saddest and most meaningful funeral ever attended.

A few days later the storm abated, roads were gradually being opened, and travel between Jackson and the upper end of the valley was reestablished. Life again went on as usual.

We are grateful to Stella and her family for offering this manuscript to us. With her blessing, the museum proposes to publish it and offer it for sale in our Museum Store. We will also be using excerpts from both the letters and the narrative to help interpret our exhibits on homesteading and survival in Jackson Hole.



## Upcoming Events

October
<b>Thursday, October 31</b> Halloween History Walk with Davey Jackson Elementary students. Bring a canned good for the food cupboard.
November
<b>Monday, November 11</b> “Celebrating Those That Serve: Veterans and Volunteers” <b>12:00 p.m. luncheon at the Museum classroom, 2:00 p.m. Veterans Service</b>
<b>Sunday, Nov. 17 - Monday, Dec. 2</b> <b>Museum and Administrative Offices CLOSED. Reopening Tuesday, Dec. 3.</b>
December
<b>Thursday, December 5</b> <b>5:30-6:30 pm, Teton County Library Auditorium. <i>Voices of the Valley</i> and showing of the Jennifer Tennican film “Turpin Meadow, Then and Now”</b> A Conversation with Nancy Johnstone and Elaine Luton,

current and past Turpin Meadow Ranch owners. Followed by a broader discussion of dude ranching in Jackson Hole led by Bob Righter and Sherry Smith.
<b>Saturday, December 7</b> <b>10:00 am Museum classroom, 225 N. Cache, Wreath-Making Workshop</b> Make your own Christmas wreath \$20 to cover cost of materials. Please reserve your spot - call Brenda by Nov. 25, 733-2414
<b>Thursday, December 12</b> <b>7:00 pm Wort Hotel Jackson Room “Olde Tyme Christmas”</b> Music, storytelling, refreshments
<b>Thursday, December 19</b> <b>7:00 pm Museum Gallery, 225 N. Cache. <i>Voices of the Valley</i> with Bill Briggs.</b> Skiing songs and stories
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 24 - Thursday, Dec. 26</b> Museum and Administrative Offices CLOSED.

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JHHSM Old Bill’s Fun Run booth (photo by Annie Riddell)

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# Volunteer Spotlight ~ Loretta Scott

by Liz Jacobson

Loretta Scott volunteers for the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum in a number of capacities including walking tour guide, event docent, Wyoming Humanities Council book group coordinator, newsletter helper, and baker. She loves all of it, but it seems that she especially likes conducting walking tours. “It’s like being an actor in an improvisation theater. You meet interesting people, and I thoroughly enjoy it.”

Loretta has conducted tours for groups of up to twenty-seven, and she fields some interesting questions such as “Why wasn’t local stone used to build Jackson Drug and the Teton Theater?” [The stone used is rhyolite, similar in composition to granite. Bruce Porter, who had the drug store and theater built, probably chose this material because it was easily accessible from a quarry near Victor, Idaho] “How many antlers were used to build the arches on the Town Square? [1,948 in the arch at the southwest corner] Were the pews in St. John’s Chapel made by a local resident?” [unknown, but made in 1916, so probably]

Loretta shares her most popular tale when she points out the clubhouse building on the east side of the town square. Dances were held upstairs and would often continue through the night, and children would be put to bed in quilts in the quietest corner. Mischievous bachelor cowboys switched the quilts, and the parents may not have discovered that they left with someone else’s child until they were on their way home! Drinking was not allowed at clubhouse events, but the men would sneak down and take a nip of whiskey from the bottle they had hidden



in their mailbox located in the post office on the first floor.

Loretta says she’s a lifelong volunteer, and credits her mother with instilling the desire to give of her time. She remembers her mother rolling bandages during WWII as a Red Cross volunteer. Many other organizations have benefited from Loretta’s volunteer service since she moved to Jackson from Arkansas in 1966. Some revolved around her kids – Girl Scout troop leader, Open Door Girl Scout camp director, Sunday school teacher, Parent Teacher Organization, 4-H, etc.

Even after becoming a realtor in 1972, she was able to fit volunteering into her busy schedule. She counted votes for Teton County elections, served on the Teton County Realtors Board, and became “Madame Moon” to tell fortunes at the 49’ers Ball each winter. For about six years she has been involved with the cavity-nesting birds study through Cornell University. This entails checking about 16 birdhouses along the National Elk Refuge boundary fence north of Jackson

every 3-4 days between the first of May and late fall, and walking the fence a distance of about two miles each time.

She observes the nesting of bluebirds and barn swallows – and reports which kind of birds inhabit each birdhouse, when eggs are laid and how many, when the eggs hatch, and when the young birds fledge. She is also tasked with cleaning the birdhouses. At first she would clean them in the fall after the birds vacated, but after discovering mites, she decided spring was a better time when the mites were gone. She once found a birdhouse inhabited by mice — others were never occupied at all for an entire season. Being outside is a joy to Loretta, and she notes temperature, weather, wind speed and direction, wildflowers, and golf balls in her bird report. Golf balls, you say? She has found numerous golf balls next to fence posts. Although she has never observed it happening, her theory is that ravens pick them up from the Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis Club and, after landing on posts, drop them when they didn’t break like eggs.

Having grown up in the South, Loretta says that her interest in historical things came from being “steeped in history” there. She believes knowing about history is important so that we don’t repeat our mistakes. Like the generations before us I’m sure, she is concerned about how little our young people know about history. She believes in the mission of the JHHSM of preserving and sharing the heritage of Jackson Hole for all generations. Loretta makes an excellent volunteer because she is interested in so many things, enjoys learning from all of her experiences, and is willing to do what it takes to get the job done. Thank you, Loretta!

## Donors Fill Needs

Marlene and Daniel Merrill realized the JHHSM did not have a podium for programs, and so after they spoke at the *Voices of the Valley* on September 2nd, they gave funds to purchase one. Thank you!



Other needs of the organization include four iPads and stands (two for the Cache Museum and two for Deloney Museum), clip-on lamp for the podium, and linen tablecloths for special events such as our upcoming Veteran’s Day luncheon and program.

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