



The Volunteer

Vaquero



From the President's Pen
Beverly Goodman , President, Museum Volunteers

July 2011



Greetings to all Vaquero readers,

The WY State Museum has hosted approximately 848 visitors so far in the month of June. Eight of those were guests from foreign countries. In the month of May, 1200 school children and their teachers came to learn about their state and see items they won't see anywhere else. And where else can we, the Volunteers, meet and interact with such a variety of delightful people? It is a privilege to serve the state by helping the Museum staff to accomplish their mission.

The Volunteer organization has a membership of 44. Five of those live out of town, 2 include the Governor and his wife, and we have 4 active Honorary Members still serving the Museum and the Volunteer organization.

Our volunteers serve in a variety of ways: greeting visitors at the entrance to the Museum, working in the State Archives department, the library, the photo lab, the Collections department, and by working on special projects like sewing child-size historical clothes for the Hands-on-History Room. Linda Rogers, Judy Binger, Kim Stevens, Christy Crochet, and Connie Skoetsch make the garments as authentic as possible and it's worth a stop in that children's room to see those outfits. I think they are a Museum treasure!



Our volunteers also help the museum staff on special occasions like receptions and educational programs, Earth Day, the winter ice festival, and the October Night at the Museum. Our organization contributes financially to the near-monthly Lecture Series, school History Scholarships, items for the educational traveling trunks sent on loan to schools around the state, and sometimes we help with the purchase of items for the Museum.

For these financial obligations, the Volunteer organization depends on annual dues (only \$12 a year for each volunteer) and our two annual fund raisers: the Arts and Crafts Show and Sale in August and the Historic Homes Walk in May and September. We also receive the proceeds from the Penny Press and occasional donations from Benefactors.

To do what we do and be who we are requires the time and effort of each volunteer. We have a 7 member Board of finances, activities, and hours served. fun” activities like pie socials, St. picnics, field trips, tree trimming sales. And we are treated by the Museum Orientation (a behind-the-workings of the Museum) and a staff sponsored Volunteer Appreciation party in December.



Directors who oversees the They organize monthly “for Patrick’s Day dinners, parties, and occasional bake Museum staff to an annual scenes look at the inner

Sounds like fun, doesn’t it? It is. But like everything else in life, we receive in proportion to what we give, and those who are most involved receive the most in enjoyment and satisfaction. So I would encourage all of us to increase our participation. The Board needs active workers to carry out our mission of serving the State Museum.

Along these lines, we are thankful for Mary Wilson, a former President, who has agreed and been appointed to serve as Advisor for the coming year. Mary will replace Carolyn Turbiville, who resigned the Advisor position to become Editor of the Vaquero, our monthly newsletter.

We are also thankful for Frances Hardy, who has agreed to be our Desk Calendar Co-coordinator. You will find the monthly calendar at the desk as always. For days that are not filled, Frances will be calling you to see if you can help on those shifts. Likewise, if you cannot sit at the desk when you thought you could, please call Frances or the Museum at 777-7021.

This leaves only one position to be filled. We need a Publicity Chairperson. Beth Gianetti was doing this for us and it is only one of the many ways we miss her. This requires some computer knowledge and time to contact newspapers, staff, and other media to advertise our events, maybe 3 or 4 times a year. Please volunteer so the Board does not have to call and beg.



Sarah Ligocki, the Museum Curator of Education, and liaison between the Museum and the Volunteers, is leaving her Museum employment and moving to Sheridan. We have enjoyed knowing her and working with her for 5 years. We will miss her, but wish her well in all her new endeavors.

Future letters from your President will not be so long, but at the beginning of this term of office, I did want to remind us all of the privilege and duties we enjoy as volunteers, and to encourage continued and increased participation.

Again, thanks for the honor of serving.

Beverly Goodman, President

Young cowboy, 5 year old Spencer Rabou, recently visited the Museum. He was dressed in his western attire ready to visit the Hands on History Room.





WHAT'S IT?

With the assistance of the Museum Collections Department we continue our new version of the What's IT? column. The items that will be appearing here each month are puzzlers, even to the Museum's Collections folks. We are hoping that some of our readers may hold a key to these items' identities. Take a good look at the photo. Share your knowledge.

Don't be shy, share your wealth of knowledge with the Museum staff so they can gather a more complete history of this unknown object.

Contact Mandy Langfald mlangf@state.wy.us or Mariah Emmons memmon@state.wy.us if you know anything about this object. We are reaching back, back in time now. No clue or bit of information is too small, it may very well lead us down a path of research not previously pursued. We will keep readers updated on any progress made with identifying the monthly **What's It?**



Large metal cone shaped similar to a traffic cone. It is painted gray. There is a rim around the bottom with eight 1 inch holes to fasten the cone down. There is a seam up the full length that is fastened by 21 rivets. Opposite the seam is an arched opening in the lower half. Near the top is a "L" shaped screw in the side. At the very top is a thick round metal plate that sets on top of the cone. There is a section of the plate slipped into the center of the cone. There is a 3 3/4 inch "hole" that goes into the cone but does not open at the bottom. 99.2 H x 53 Diam (cm)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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About the Organization

From the inception in 1974, the WY State Museum Volunteers have been instrumental in assisting the art and education programs of the Wyoming State Museum. Their tie to these programming sections of the museum remains strong today. Volunteers at the Wyoming State Museum are an important link between the museum's professional services and the public it serves. In human terms, they represent the museum's mission to the public.

The Volunteer Vaquero. . .

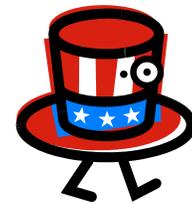
is published monthly for members of the Wyoming State Museum Volunteers, Wyoming State Museum, Barrett Building, 2301 Central Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002. Newsletter deadline is the **20th of each month.**

Upcoming Events:

August 13- 9-3 Arts and Crafts Show and Sale

September-11- 1 p.m.-Hynds Lodge, information about Lodge and picnic

September 17- 8-2-Repeat of Historic Homes Walk



July

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2-Dick Hart

5 – Mitty Nation

14 – Gilbert Gianetti

21 – Helen Hart



SARAH!

Sarah enjoying greeting



Jennifer Alexander, Manny Vigil, Sharon Collier and Emma Fosdick



Dick Hart



Sharon Collier

Barbara and Kent Nelson



Helen Hart and Kay Thomas

Farewell reception for Sarah Ligocki. She is moving to be closer to her family and boyfriend.

Best of wishes to you in your new endeavor. Sarah!!

WSMV members stop by to give her best wishes!



Wyoming State Museum Historic Trivia

Provided by Jim Allison, supervisor of Collections

How much gold leaf is needed to cover the Wyoming State Capitol Building dome?

(This month's answer will be found on page 9)

Less than one troy ounce of gold leaf is needed to gild (overlay with a thin covering of gold) the Wyoming State Capitol Building dome, an area of some 800 square feet! Gold leaf is gold that has been flattened to extreme thinness (ordinarily from 0.000005 to 0.000004 of an inch), yet still retains its brilliance and strength. The name "gold leaf" originated because it was first available only in small squares. These were applied individually. Today it comes in a ribbon 67 feet long and one-half inch wide. The gold is rolled along with a tissue that can be removed once the gold adheres to a surface. Gilding is a very delicate process that requires a lot of patience and skill because the extremely fragile gold leaf disintegrates easily.

The State Capitol Building originally was crowned with "an unattractive oxidized copper-covered dome." Then, in 1900, the dome was gilded with gold leaf. It has been gilded four other times this century, in 1924, 1953, 1979, and most recently in 1986. Customarily it is necessary to replace the gold leaf every 25 years, but damage from violent hailstorms in 1985 necessitated two gildings within eight years. The hailstorms stripped off several layers of gold leaf and primer, exposing large sections of the original 1887 copper plates on the dome's north side. The first three gildings were accomplished by workers hanging from ropes hung from the windows below the cupola. This method was both dangerous for the workers and inefficient because even the slightest movement of air played havoc with the application process. A new method was put in place with the 1979 gilding: the original copper sheeting was removed, the gold leaf was applied in a shop, and then the sheeting was reinstalled onto the dome.

Artifact of the Month

By Mandy Langfald, Curator of Collections

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Everyone is fascinated by something different, what intrigues one person is a complete bore to the next. I am often asked what my favorite artifact in the collection is and my answer usually changes given the day or the artifacts that I have been working with. We have so many things that are interesting for so many different reasons. Maybe it is boring to look at but the story is great, or maybe it is really interesting to look at because of the details or design. Or maybe it is the sheer size of an object that makes it interesting. One such object is a large drill press that stands over eight feet tall and weighs “a ton” although that may be close to its actual weight and not just a saying. This drill press has stopped every man, I have seen walk by it, in his tracks. There is something about this large piece of machinery that speaks to them.

The drill press was originally used on the Battleship USS Wyoming. When the ship was decommissioned, the drill was taken to the machine shop at the University of Wyoming in Laramie where it was used until Sept. 2002. A steam generator at the University originally ran the drill. The motor was added later, at an unknown date. The cage was added at the University to comply with OSHA regulations to cover the belts. The large belts were replaced in the last few years before donation in 2002.

I too am impressed by the sheer size of this piece and it has a great history as well, but my favorite part of this piece isn't the piece itself. It is my memory of watching this monster machine being moved from our old collections center to our new building. That was a sight to behold. The machine is so large and unwieldy that it was a great challenge to move. I remember standing there watching as the movers tied heavy log chains to the drill and to the tines of the forklift as they tried to tip the drill to lay it down to be moved. There was no way to move it in its upright position. I remember watching the forklift and chain strain at the weight and holding my breath hoping the chain would not snap, causing the men guiding the drill to be crushed. It was finally lowered to the ground and moved to the new building where the process had to be reversed to get the drill standing upright again, and in the exact position we needed it to be for storage.

The drill press now resides near the doorway in the Orange room, calling to all men that pass it to come and admire this awesome piece of machinery.

Pictures of the Drill



Wyoming State Museum Historic Trivia Answer:

July 1890, Wyoming became the 44th state admitted to the Union. Even before statehood had been attained, however, the Ninth Territorial Legislative Assembly in the spring of 1886 authorized construction of a State Capitol Building at Cheyenne, at a cost not to exceed \$150,000. Construction was started later that fall and the first portion of the building was completed in 1887. Its architecture, like many state capitols throughout the country, is similar to the National Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

One of the Wyoming State Capitol Building's most striking features is its dome of 24-carat gold leaf. Although many state capitols feature domes, Wyoming's is one of only seven covered with the precious metal. It is said that the golden dome is visible from all roads entering the capital city of Cheyenne.

Tidbits

Review for Wyoming State Museum (Editor's note-found this interesting and humorous)

Highly, highly recommended. We were there in February, 2010, and arrived late enough in the afternoon **to get kicked out by closing time** but could have spent several hours-and it's free! Good mix of geography, natural history and cultural exhibits.

Plenty of life-size dioramas, domestic scenes that were clearly constructed with care, and things to touch. Typically **friendly old-lady volunteers at the entrance**, and a well-stocked gift shop where we picked up a map and a book on Yellowstone. Just a short walk from the Capitol-see 'em both.

~~No one can go back and make a brand new start...anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.

****This will be your last Vaquero if your dues haven't been paid by July 1.****



There are many, many available slots on the July calendar to be filled. Please stop by the Museum desk and "insert" your name in one or two places.

(The calendar is on the following page)

JULY 2011

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 9:00 - 12:30 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Cara Baber ?</i>	<i>2</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Carolyn Turbiville</i> 1:00 - 4:30
<i>4</i> MUSEUM CLOSED	<i>5</i> 9:00 - 12:30 12:30 - 4:00 <i>James Hart</i>	<i>6</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Mary Wilson ?</i> 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Glenda Owen</i>	<i>7</i> 9:00 - 12:30 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Bev Goodman</i>	<i>8</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Carolyn Turbiville</i> 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Cara Baber ?</i>	<i>9</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Pat Becker</i> 1:00 - 4:30 <i>Tracy Stefanik Berg</i>
<i>11</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Anton Arnold</i> 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Sharon Collier</i>	<i>12</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Dick Hart</i> 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Judy Binger</i>	<i>13</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Mary Wilson ?</i> 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Pris Golden</i>	<i>14</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Barbara Nelson</i> 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Bev Goodman</i>	<i>15</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Mitty Nation</i> 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Cara Baber ?</i>	<i>16</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Anton Arnold</i> 1:00 - 4:30
<i>18</i> 9:00 - 12:30 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Pat Becker</i>	<i>19</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Glenda Owen</i> 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Judy Binger</i>	<i>20</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Mary Wilson ?</i> 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Sharon Collier</i>	<i>21</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Barbara Nelson</i> 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Bev Goodman</i>	<i>22</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Mitty Nation</i> 12:30 - 4:00	<i>23</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Carolyn Turbiville</i> 1:00 - 4:30
<i>25</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Anton Arnold</i> 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Sharon Collier</i>	<i>26</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Carolyn Turbiville</i> 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Dick Hart</i>	<i>27</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Michael Perry</i> 12:30 - 4:00 <i>Harriett Loose ?</i>	<i>28</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Carolyn Turbiville</i> 12:30 - 4:00 <i>James Hart</i>	<i>29</i> 9:00 - 12:30 <i>Mitty Nation</i> 12:30 - 4:00	<i>30</i> 9:00 - 12:30 1:00 - 4:30

Sunday July 24: 9:00 - 12:30— *Bill Yannaccone*
1:00 - 4:30—

Meet the Newest Members to Wyoming State Museum Volunteers

Michael Perry-April 2011

Carolyn Waldo-November 2010



Glenda Owens-May 2011

You can see Carolyn, Michael and Glenda's smiling faces at the information desk.



Wanda Wade
January 2011
Achieves

Connie Skoetsch 2011 (no picture available) Archives, Collections and Sewing of Clothing