

News from the Red Caboose SPRING 2022



Celebrating the Yellowstone Connection

By Karen Reinhart

This year, people around the world are celebrating Yellowstone National Park's 150th anniversary. President Ulysses S. Grant signed the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act into law on March 1, 1872, creating the world's first national park. The park is at the heart of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, one of the last remaining intact ecosystems in the northern temperate zone.

From the beginning, the park's dual mandate of keeping Yellowstone pristine and also allowing people to experience the park and its resources created opportunities for local people. Visitors needed to be fed, guided, and given a place to stay. Many people began their careers in the park and later settled down locally and became full-time residents in Park County. Others lived in communities near the park and contributed in myriad ways to the park visitor experience. It is these relationships that the museum celebrates with our new Yellowstone-focused projects.



Emerald Pool by and courtesy of Robert Spannring

EXHIBIT

We are curating a new Yellowstone National Park exhibit this summer. We've combed our collections and are displaying objects, photographs, and ephemera that people have generously donated to the museum since the late 1960s. Objects help tell the story of our connections to the park: from a local dairy's ice cream can and a locally manufactured camp stove to treasured mementos and photographs of people in

the 1930s. We are also highlighting personal stories that give visitors a sense of the park's importance through time. College students gathered some of these stories during museum internships.

SPEAKER SERIES

The museum is also hosting Yellowstone Perspectives, a spring speaker series (see page 4). It's a wonderful opportunity for

Yellowstone fans to enjoy live presentations by local authors and experts.

Please register for each program on our web site, <https://yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org/webinars-programs>. We'll notify you when they're uploaded to YouTube if you missed the live presentation.

CALL FOR ART

We are seeking submissions from local artists for "Celebrating Yellowstone," a juried art exhibition. While the artwork won't be displayed until May 1, 2023,

(Continued on page 11)

A Letter from the Executive Director

I hope you are all enjoying the road to spring we are experiencing. I keep hoping the old saying of “in like a lamb, out like a lion” will hold true, and we will see some more winter weather this month. Regardless of what the weather might bring, I am confident you will enjoy the programs and exhibits we have planned for the coming year as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Yellowstone National Park. We are currently encouraging artists in the community to create art that can be showcased in our 2023 juried show and sale. To be considered for the show, the art must be created during the year of the 150th anniversary. I am excited to see how history and beautiful landscapes can inspire our artists.

One of the great joys of working at the YGM is the sound of enjoyment and learning coming from the galleries as I walk through the museum. This was especially

true on February 26th when we hosted our first of a new program, Family Days. This program is our newest offering here at the YGM and is held on the last Saturday of each month. During Family Days, families can visit the YGM and participate in different activities that encourage exploration of the museum through different themes.

In February we celebrated Presidents’ Day and focused on ways that presidents have interacted with Park County or made decisions that impact those living in the area. We had a great scavenger hunt that led visitors into every corner of the museum and had several craft areas set up with different options for families to create pieces to take home. Thanks to the hard work of staff and volunteers, we provided activities for 40 family members, and we look forward to growing the event this month. Be sure to join us for the next Family Days on March 26th as we celebrate the month that Yellowstone National Park was officially created.

Lastly, we are happy to announce that after not being able to host Living History Days for the last two



Mark Brammer stands in front of doors that will hold the museum's new Vietnam Veteran exhibit.

years due to COVID, the event is back to help you and your family kick off the summer season. This year on June 4th we will once again open the museum for the all-day event that celebrates the history and people of Park County through traditional crafting demonstrations and other fun activities. This has always been a fun event where people can be introduced to what the Yellowstone Gateway Museum has to offer, and we look forward to seeing you there.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of our family programs, please contact me.

In Gratitude,
Mark Brammer, Executive Director

A colorful poster for "Yellowstone Gateway Museum's Family Days". The top left corner says "Come Celebrate Yellowstone National Park's 150th Birthday!". The main title is "Yellowstone Gateway Museum's FAMILY DAYS" in large, bold letters. Below the title, it says "SATURDAY, MARCH 26" and "From 10:00am - 12:00pm". A small image of a yellow vintage car is on the left. The bottom section is titled "Activities" and lists: "Owl Paper Puppets", "Montana Wildlife Paper Collage", and "Paint and Decorate Wood Cookies".

Volunteers and Staff

Boards and Staff

Friends

Kate Todd, President
Scott Johnson, Vice President
Sarah Sandberg, Treasurer
Gina Logan, Secretary
Judy Bonnell
Ed Dodge
Mike Palmer
Hank Poeschl

County

Diane Chalfant, President
Bob Ebinger, Vice President
Suzanne Catherine, Secretary
Jem Blueher
George Bornemann
Dale Guidi
Andy Olds
Molly O'Neill
Jeff Reed
Greg Strong
Lee Whittlesey

Staff

Mark Brammer, Executive Director
Karen Reinhart, Curator,
Newsletter Editor
Cessie Wafer, Front Desk, Gift
Shop, Membership
Scott Franzen & Ray Overweg,
Easter Seals-Goodwill participants

Volunteers

Kirby Barford, cataloger
Suzanne Brown, cataloger
Bruce Graham, library
Mariah Henry, editor
Jack Luther, tours
Lorna Marchington, tours
Sean Miller, tour researcher
Erin Moody, cataloger, tours
Anne Nichting, cataloger

Allison Parrish, archaeology
Paul Shea, archaeology
Anna Simons, Vietnam exhibit
Rosamond Stanton, collections,
editor
Steven Szafranski, tours
Mary Weamer, cataloger
Ellen Zazzarino, archivist



MUSEUM HOURS

10 AM - 5 PM, Tuesday - Saturday*

RESEARCH CENTER

Please call for an appointment.

*Museum not open 12-1pm on Saturdays

Yellowstone Gateway Museum of Park County

118 W. Chinook St., Livingston, MT 59047 ~ 406.222.4184
museum@parkcounty.org ~ www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, & YouTube!

Clockwise from top left: Kirby Barford catalogs historic photographs. Ed Dodge and Mike Palmer working on Vietnam veteran exhibit display. Rosamond Stanton shows a Mother's Day card from the Nellie Iverson Collection. Mary Weamer catalogs a map signed by her father Verne Reed, City of Livingston planner.

YELLOWSTONE PERSPECTIVES

A VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES

Wed., April 6, 7PM, Zoom*

*Horses, Hotels, and Hospitality: the Huntley, Child,
and Nichols families in Yellowstone*

Ruth Quinn, presenter



Wed., April 13, 7PM, Zoom*

*Before Yellowstone: Native American Archaeology
in the National Park*

Doug McDonald, presenter



Wed., April 20, 7PM, Zoom*

*The Dynamic Floor of Yellowstone Lake:
The Last 14,000 Years of Hydrothermal Explosions,
Venting, Doming, and Faulting*

Lisa Morgan, presenter



Wed., April 27, 7PM, Zoom*

*The Artist's Field Guide to Yellowstone: A Natural
History by Greater Yellowstone's Artists and Writers*

Katie Christiansen, presenter



*All programs are free & held via Zoom. Registration is required for *each* webinar program at www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org/webinars/programs. The website includes speaker bios & more information. After registration you'll receive emails with links to the programs.

Questions? 406.222.4184. Donations welcome.

EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING, FAMILY DAYS, VIETNAM VETERAN EXHIBIT, LIVING HISTORY DAY, & WALKING TOURS

Thurs., March 24, 6PM, Zoom

*Friends of Yellowstone Gateway Museum
Annual Meeting*

Please email CWafer@parkcounty.org for Zoom link



Sat., March 26, 10AM-12PM at the Museum

Family Days program

Explore the creation of Yellowstone National Park. Family Days are held the last Saturday of each month, featuring new themes monthly. Free.

View new exhibit beginning Tues., April 19

A History of Service:

Park Co. Vietnam Veterans

Commemorating fifty years since the end of the Vietnam War, featuring stories of twenty-three veterans.

Point Hatfield (right), photo courtesy of Troy Hatfield



Sat., June 4, 10AM-5PM

Living History Day Returns!

On-the-lawn primitive arts demonstrations, flintknapping, blacksmithing, and more. View museum exhibits. Free.



Dates and specific tours to be announced

Walking Tours, Livingston & Gardiner
Call for more information. Tickets @ [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Locals Reveal Yellowstone Stories

By Karen Reinhart

The museum's college internship program began several years ago. Its goal is to explore Park County's relationship with Yellowstone National Park. In 2019, intern Erin Atwood Weinacker interviewed several local residents about their park experiences. Recently, volunteer Anne Nichting spent many hours reading transcriptions of the interviews, highlighting stories for possible inclusion in our new Yellowstone exhibit. Below are excerpts from those interviews.

Alicia Murphy, park historian

What changes do you wish to make with your role in the Park?

"What I really want to do is make sure that I capture the stories and the reality of what's going on now for future historians ... there are so many stories left to be told of the past that I want to bring to light.... I want to make sure that we don't forget some of the people who have come before us. We're just past the 50-year mark of Mission 66 which is kind of a forgotten red-headed stepchild of the Park Service's history.... I'd like to recover its



The Canyon Lodge in Yellowstone National Park, August 1957. It was a Mission 66 project.

reputation a little bit.... Mostly what I want to do is make sure that Yellowstone's managers understand that our past can be a way for us to make better decisions about the future.

What's the most interesting thing you've seen a tourist do?

"I was driving out to look at a project and I was by myself. I was out by Slough [Creek] and I see this guy out in a meadow... maybe 20 feet from a big bull bison. I stopped [my government vehicle] and I got my [safety] vest on and ... radio and I think I might've had a NPS hat.... I walked out and I got within hailing distance.... I had to speak up several times as I continued to try to get closer and I finally got his attention.... "Sir you need to back away, you're too close to that bison. "He [said], 'No, I'm fine.' "No sir, you need to back away. "He [said], 'No, I'm fine, I'm really fast, I'm an athlete!' [The man, wearing flip flops, continued to argue with Alicia for some time.] "He infuriated me but also really made me laugh."



Bill Berg, past YPSS (Yellowstone Park Service Station) employee and park ranger

What drew you to the Park?

"I came in 1972, I had no idea it was the centennial of Yellowstone.... And now, Yellowstone turns 150 in [2022] and we will have been here for almost a third of that.... Initially, it was just ... sure, I'll go to Yellowstone and pump gas, I don't care, I just wanted to be there. Then I graduated from college, thought about getting a real job and I couldn't stand to be away. At some point, it sinks in that as incredible as the country is and the geysers and the wildlife and the wild rivers ... the relationships [with the people] start to become really strong.

Colette Daigle-Berg, past YPSS employee and park ranger

Do you have a story about your work in the park?

(continued on next page)

“They really had not hired women to pump gas for the service stations in Yellowstone [before].... They hired women to be cashiers and the guys would pump gas so I was kind of an experiment. Part of the application procedure was to write a 50-word essay on why you wanted to work for Yellowstone Park Service Stations. That’s like an old version of the tweet now, 50 words or less and handwritten. I said, well, if you hire women, you have to work hard to keep up with the guys and certainly the guys have to work twice as hard so they aren’t surpassed by the women. And apparently that was enough to get

1974, it was ... [when] they were closing the park dumps and trying to get a handle on bears entering campgrounds and feeding at dumps There was a big removal of bears in the park ... because it was really hard to rehabilitate those bears. In the early 70s and into the 80s it was very uncommon to see a roadside bear But then the bears started to recover Now there’s a lot of roadside bears but they’re less afraid of the people than they are of the bigger bears [in the backcountry].

JoAnne McCartney, National Park Service maintenance worker

Is there a story or experience that you’ll always remember?

“The bear charging us when we were hiking, that’s the most freaked out I’ve ever been.... We were in Pelican Valley and there was an elk carcass near the trailhead and we ... had seven miles to go and there was just three of us and Doug [JoAnne’s husband] says, ‘Hey, there’s a bear over there, you guys get back here... we’re going to stand our ground.’ So we had our bear spray out and she comes down off a hill 100 yards away breaking timber with three cubs.... She came in at 30 yards and we gave her a blast of pepper spray and then she stopped, and then she

.... When we went to leave, she hadn’t gone over the hill yet. She stopped and the cubs ran to her and they tried to lick off the bear spray that was on her. I said, let’s get out of here and my husband said, ‘No we’re not leaving until she goes over the hill.’ She went over the hill and we hiked out.... Another bear paralleled us on our way out of Pelican Creek.”

Ashea Mills, park guide

What is your favorite part of your job?

“Watching people be moved. I was doing a backpack [trip] one time, and ... [went] away from the fire ... and the stars were just as good as they get and there was no moon.... I went back and I said, ‘you guys have to come out, go slow, don’t take your headlamps and let your eyes adjust.’ And this younger kid [in his] 30s ... looked up and he just started sobbing And he said, ‘I’ve heard people talk about this but I had no idea that this was what they were talking about.’ He was just startled and stunned. I know that his life will go on ... but that moment struck him to his core. And being a part of moments like that, having people being moved to tears, or just reigniting that sense of wonder in people... not just with the landscape but with themselves, when you really feel it in your heart and in your soul.”



People fed roadside bears in Yellowstone for decades—a dangerous practice for humans and bears, 1939. Below: Morning Glory Pool, 1937. John C. Haberstroh Collection photos.

me hired as their first gas pumper. My roommate Bonnie and I were the first two women that they ever hired as ‘pumpers’ and Bill ... says that we broke the ‘gas’ ceiling.”

What changes have you seen in the Park?

I started [working in the park] in

came at us within 10 feet and all three of us opened up our bear spray and sprayed her.... The bear did what bears were supposed to do. She came through the pepper spray, stopped, sat down, shook her head and then turned around and left



COLLECTIONS DONATIONS



One of Dani Hatfield's photomontage images created during her college senior project, using historic and contemporary images of Gardiner.

Patricia Baumgart: 1915 Livingston panoramic

Denise Bittner: Taylor wedding dress, photos, clothing, doll

Brent Bull: framed NPR Roundhouse photo

City of Livingston Offices: hand stamps, stickers

Priscilla Dysart: Montana & Livingston Business & Professional Women notebooks

Annie Fry: Oral histories

Joann Gibson: horse-powered log saw

Daniel Gravage: Lodge ribbons and Army pin

Chip Greear: Postcard

Gloria Hannon: Amtrak and NPR uniform

Dani Hatfield: Senior project photomontage images

Arleen Hutchinson: Framed watercolor painting

Randy Ingersoll: Yellowstone sand bottle

Nancy Kessler: Farmers Creamery ice cream can

Jay Kiefer: Calendars

Gary Lee: NPR track profiles

Paul Miller: Kay Baker scrapbook

Bob Raney: Book, Vietnam career

Mark Rehder: 1944 Aviation magazine

Tatsu Saimo: Railroad calendars

George Schlice: 1916-1920 mortgage & legal papers

Paul Shea: 1905 ranch photocard

Jeanne-Marie Souvigny: Yellowstone souvenirs, postcards

Carol Tecca: Wiggins and Watt family papers

John Usher: Rock specimens

Robbie Vaughn: Yellowstone postcards

Tom Venable: OTO saddle



Karen Reinhart holds the OTO saddle donated by Tom Venable.



Yellowstone National Park sand bottle created by Andrew Wald, ca. 1900, donated by Randy Ingersoll.

OTHER DONATIONS

Joanne Berghold

Cheryl & Homer Black

Duane Delonais & Charlotte Evans

Connie & Tom Dotzenrod

Priscilla Dysart

Robert Ebinger

Kim R. Fuka

Daniel Hoan Foundation, Inc.

Homestead Foundation

Alicia Kennedy

Spencer Lawley & Rae Stevenson

Alta LeDoux

Kit Libbey

Kenneth MacInnes & Sabine Abraham-MacInnes

Kay McAllister

George & Valerie Nixon

Hallie B. Rugheimer

Paul Shea

Carolyn & Joseph Swindlehurst



MEMORIALS

For Rich Adams
Dan & Lynda Gravage
Kay & Bev
Bert & Karen Olson
Bob & LuAn Peterson
Frank & Susan Rigger
Steve, Debi & Stevie
Don & Colleen Strong
Dave & Chris Wistey

Linda Gabel
Joann Gibson
Louis & Carol Goosey
Bruce & Margery Graham
Roseann H. Harkins
Terry & Jane Indreland
Judith & Warren Johnson
Bob & Stacy Jovick
Carol & Sal Lalani

Darryl Thompson
Maureen A. Versaci
Mardella Whitmore
Ellen & Tom Williams
John & MaryJo Williams

For Wesley Bull
Bruce & Marge Graham

Keith & Tobie Laskowski
League of Women Voters of Bozeman

For Clifford Rowe
Bruce & Marge Graham

For Richard (Dick) Dysart

Louise Archambault
Joanne Berghold
Janet & Peter Bernthal
Rosemary Boston & Scarlett Daley
Thomas & Nancy Danaher
Peggy & Harry Dillner
Michael C. Dysart & Laurie Griese
Bill & Nancy Edwards
Cyrilla & Robert Finnegan

Janet McElroy
Michael McGuire
Sally Rieke Maison
PEO (Philanthropic Education
Organization) Chapter BW MT
Desiree & Ronald Pihl
Karen Reinhart
Susan M. Rose
Jeanne C. Ryan
Jeff & Pam Schoenen
Carol Scott
Laura Stafford

For Fred Schroeder
Bruce & Marge Graham

For Stan Todd:
Peter & Janet Bernthal
Leigh & Doug Conant

For Owen Wood
Joann Gibson

BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS

Alpine Yamaha
Eyecare Professionals
Glenn's Food & Spirits
Out of the Blue Antiques
Owl Sprinkler Service

Larry Raffety Architect
Livingston Chamber of Commerce
Sky Federal Credit Union
The Village Horseshoer
Yellowstone Veterinary Service

SUPPORT LOCAL HISTORY: JOIN THE MUSEUM

Annual Membership
Individual: \$25
Family: \$35

Annual Sponsorship
Business: \$ 75
Gold: \$ 500
Platinum: \$1,000

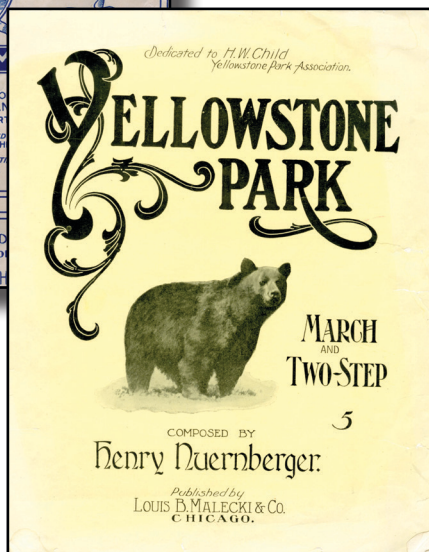
Memorials & Donations
**Consider making a gift in
honor of friends, family or
on behalf of yourself.**

Membership information at www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org.
Friends of YGM, P.O. Box 815, Livingston, MT 59047.

Sheet Music Backstory

By Karen Reinhart

Volunteer Mary Weamer donated two pieces of piano sheet music last summer. They belonged to her mother Kathryn L. "Kay" Reed



who was born in North Portal, North Dakota in 1910. Kay moved to Livingston in 1953 and taught piano lessons there for forty years. She also played the organ and directed the choir at St. Mary's Catholic Church in the 1950s and 1960s.

But her musical career went beyond these local contributions. In the late 1920s, Kay was Lawrence Welk's first piano player. Welk led bands in North Dakota and hosted a popular national weekly television show from 1951 to 1982. During junior high and high school, Kay also played the piano for silent movies featured at local theaters owned by her parents.

Kay also had interesting non-musical escapades in the late

1920s. When she was eighteen years old, she and her cousin accompanied her uncle, Tom Conboy, who made liquor runs across the Canadian border during Prohibition. The young people were part of his "cover."

Sixty years later, when Kay was watching the 1989 movie *Field of Dreams* with her

family, she nonchalantly revealed that she knew the Chicago White Sox baseball players immortalized in the movie. Though acquitted, Shoeless Joe Jackson and seven other players had been banned from professional

baseball because of a game-fixing scandal in 1919. Kay met the



"Black Sox" players while riding with her Uncle Tom who was also promoting a Canadian tour for the "Black Sox" players. Perhaps this was another part of his covert liquor operation.

After Kay's dream of becoming a doctor was dashed by the Great Depression, she worked a few years as a dental assistant. She met Verne B. Reed, a civil engineer with Montana's State Highway Department, in 1932 and they were married in 1935. They lived in several Montana communities before moving to Livingston.

After her long career as a piano teacher, eighty-year-old Kay began working as a teacher's aide at Winans School, helping first graders learn how to read. Amazingly, she continued this work until after her ninety-sixth birthday.



Top: Kathryn "Kay" Conboy Reed, ca. 1928. Left: Kay with one of her students, ca. 2000. Photos courtesy of Mary Weamer.

(Continued from page 1)
it must be created during 2022. Past or current residents of Park County, Montana, as well as Yellowstone National Park, may submit up to three works of art in any medium, including photography and sculpture, for consideration. Size, including frame, may not exceed 40 inches and must be ready to hang. All pieces will be actively marketed for sale during the exhibition. The museum retains a 30% commission on sold pieces.

We're also asking for a brief story explaining the artist's inspiration for the work of art that may be included in the exhibit. The display will be installed on the museum's first landing on May 1 and will run through September 2023. Please pass this opportunity along to your artist friends and family members. The deadline for submissions is April 1, 2023.

WALKING TOUR

This summer, museum staff and



volunteers will offer a special walking tour that focuses on Park County's connection to Yellowstone National Park, featuring downtown businesses and stories. The tour's possible stops include A. W. Miles hardware and lumber stores, Wiley Way Permanent Camps, Shaw & Powell Permanent Camps, the Northern Pacific Railway's Park Branch Line and the Depot, Farmer's Creamery, Wilcoxson's Ice Cream, George Colpitts' blacksmith shop, Wetzstein Liquor Co., Lehrkinds Park Bottling Works, Dr. Windsor and Park Hospital, and more. It will be a lively and educational exploration of the mutually beneficial relationship between Park County and Yellowstone National Park.

Author Wallace Stegner called national parks "America's best idea." We are excited to share the story of Yellowstone and in particular how it has affected (and will continue to affect) the lives of individuals and families in Park County. But the even larger legacy of the park is that there are now more than 4,000 national parks worldwide. That's a legacy worth celebrating.

And it all began at the edge of Park County.

If you have items or stories that illustrate your or your family's connection to the park and you'd be willing to loan or donate these items for the new Yellowstone exhibit, please contact the museum soon.

Volunteer tour guide Lorna Marchington during a Bars & Brothels tour, 2021.



GEMS FROM THE COLLECTION:

If you lived in Park County 110 years ago and were a patron of the Park County Hardware Company, 124 S. Main St., Livingston, this beautiful calendar may have graced your walls.

The raised-relief calendar is a full-color illustration, depicting a US Army soldier on horseback, patrolling the Terraces at Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park. (The Army protected the park from vandalism, poaching, rampant campfires, etc. from 1886 to 1918.) The soldier is apparently keeping two young ladies safe from the bear standing at the top of the geothermal formation.

The 1912 calendar's scene illustrates Park County's strong connection to Yellowstone National Park (then, as today) and will likely be in our new Yellowstone exhibit, opening this summer.

Gems from the Collections are bi-monthly social media posts but the actual artifacts are displayed for about a month following the posts. Many options for prints are available from Park Photo, downtown Livingston, 406-223-5546; Ask for #FIC2018.997.0191.

FRIENDS OF THE
YELLOWSTONE
GATEWAY MUSEUM

P.O. Box 815
118 W. CHINOOK ST.
LIVINGSTON, MT 59047

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
LIVINGSTON, MT
PERMIT NO. 96



A Tribute to Richard "Dick" Dysart

Dick passed away on October 18, 2021. He was on the Friends of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum board from 2002-2016. As head of Wan-I-Gan Press, he shepherded the reprinting of many Whithorn books, but his biggest contribution was creating indexes for twenty of Doris Whithorn's books.

Here, Dick holds the *History of Park County 1984* and the index that he compiled, including 33,000 line entries. About 1,200 families and 500 businesses are identified.

Dick also researched and wrote many articles about local history, including Old Faithful Inn blacksmith George Colpitts and Martin Zollman, Livingston aviator and policeman killed by an unhappy citizen.

We are grateful for his tireless efforts at making Park County history more accessible, a legacy that will continue to benefit local history researchers.

