

# News from the Red Caboose

FALL 2022



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YELLOWSTONE GATEWAY  
**MUSEUM**  
PARK COUNTY, MONTANA

## Harvats & Haberstrohs: Early Livingston Families

By Scott Franzen

This is a story of two Iowa City families who would have a profound effect upon the budding city of Livingston, Montana. On Tuesday, April 30, 1889, in Iowa City, Iowa, Elizabeth Haberstroh, 23 years old, married John H. Harvat, who was then 30, uniting the two families. Harvat

was one of Livingston's earliest residents, moving in 1880 to Clark City, and then Livingston in 1882 where he established a meat market. In 1890 he built an impressive building on Main Street, one that still stands. In 1910 John H. and Elizabeth Harvat lived on the southeast corner of Park and Yellowstone Streets in Livingston, raising four children: Marie, 10, Paul, 8, Edwin, 6, and John A., who was 3 years old. All four children were born in Livingston.

After Elizabeth married and moved to Livingston, her parents Julius and Veronica (Wagner) Haberstroh remained in Iowa City. Their youngest son, John Casimir, was 22 years old in 1900, and worked in a bookstore there. The 1900 census spells the family name Habrstroch, a German spelling. John C. Haberstroh's 1961 obituary states that he moved to Livingston in 1900.



L to R: Paul Harvat, his brother Edwin, and their uncle John C. Haberstroh take aim for a photo shoot during a 1911 hunting trip.

At some point between 1900 and 1910 Haberstroh acquired a large-format bellows-front Kodak camera, a professional quality instrument that produced 4 1/2" x 5" monochrome negatives of amazing detail and historical context. He applied himself earnestly to photography, studying compo-

sition and the strengths and weaknesses of his camera, one we would consider quite primitive today. He developed his own photographs, sending many of his negatives out to be contact-printed as postcards, which he sold locally, especially as souvenirs for visitors to Yellowstone National Park. His negatives are rather haphazardly marked and organized—they were stored in paper envelopes, occasionally dated or briefly described; some negatives are labeled in Haberstroh's elusive printing. His notes were intended to jog his own memory, not for historians to ponder decades later—creating challenges for me as a photo archivist.

The Yellowstone Gateway Museum's significant John C. Haberstroh Collection contains 2500 of his original negatives. His favorite subjects included his family, landscapes, wildlife, and local scenes.

(continued on page 11)

# A Letter from the Executive Director

With autumn in the air, it's difficult not to look forward to the events that make every season in Park County special. I have enjoyed visiting different venues around town for events and speakers like the Danforth Museum of Art for their exhibit Native Ledger Art: Past and Present and the always thought-provoking speakers at Elk River Books. The new Yellowstone Harvest Fest was a great event for the area, and I look forward to more in years to come. Of course, I'm exceptionally excited about our own fall Speaker Series and the return to in-person programming that this will bring. The topic and the speakers will prove to be very engaging. We are looking forward to finishing our newest exhibit that will explore the connections between the people and businesses of Park County and Yellowstone National Park. We have been hit with supply chain issues with this exhibit, but we are getting closer to opening. Next up for new exhibits will be a juried art show and sale set to open in the Summer of 2023.

This past summer presented many highlights and some challenges for the Yellowstone Gateway Museum and the people of Park County. Family programs continued through the summer and developed great partnerships with Livingston Center for Arts and Culture, ZooMontana, and the Forest Service. As a reminder, our Family Days is a free event that happens the last Saturday of every month. We share information about the monthly theme on social media or you can call the

museum for more information.

Give-a-Hoot was a success for the Friends of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum, and I would like to thank you for your support during the funding drive this year. The donations help ensure the museum staff can uphold the mission of the museum and continue to provide exciting programs and exhibits for the people and visitors of Park County.

We had two college interns who you might have seen in the museum if you stopped by this summer. They helped us catalog many new items and tackle some backlog in our collections. They also worked to develop online resources for many objects relating to Yellowstone National Park.

We're really excited about the social media series the interns created called "Collections Corner." They posted a new reel every week on Instagram about a piece from our collection. While our interns have returned to their universities, we plan to keep this series going, so if you do not already, please follow us on social media!

Lastly, as we all know, this June Park County experienced a 500-year flood, which was devas-



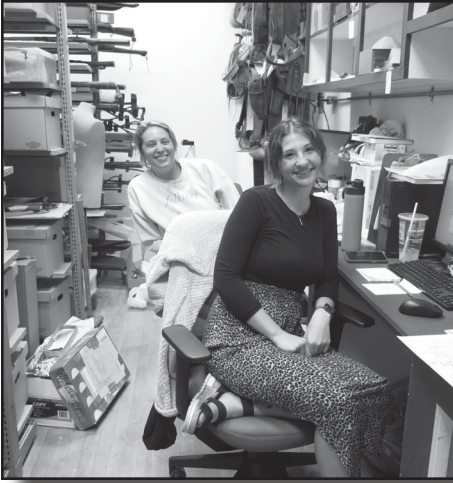
Jem Blueher and Mark Brammer moving a cast-iron stove after cleaning out the museum's off-site storage post-flood.

tating to so many people. We learned that our storage units were affected by the flooding, and we had to act fast to save the artifacts that were stored in the space. With the help of volunteers, our interns, and staff, we were able to move all the items out of the storage units and store them safely at the museum. We are still working to make space for the artifacts, and we look forward to having all our collection safely stored at the museum.

As always, we hope to see you soon at the Yellowstone Gateway Museum!

In gratitude,  
Mark Brammer





L to R: Interns Megan Witenberg and Korinne Casarella

**It's people  
who make a  
museum**



Family Days, a monthly free program.



Flintknapper George Bumann (left) at Living History Day, first weekend in June.



Blacksmith Jem Blueher attracts a crowd at Living History Day.



Ed Dodge and the A. W. Miles sign.

### Volunteers

- Kirby Barford, collections
- Katy Brammer, Family Days
- Suzanne Brown, cataloger
- Jamie Evanson, cataloger
- Bruce Graham, library
- Jack Luther, tours
- Erin Moody, cataloger
- Randi O'Brien, tours
- Paul Shea, archaeology
- Rosamond Stanton, collections,  
editor
- Mary Weamer, cataloger
- Ellen Zazzarino, archivist

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- Karen Reinhart, Curator
- Cessie Wafer, Gift Shop Manager
- Scott Franzen, Easter Seals-  
Goodwill participant

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- Hank Poeschl
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- George Bornemann
- Suzanne Catherine
- Andy Olds
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**MUSEUM HOURS** 10 AM - 5 PM, Tuesday - Saturday

**RESEARCH CENTER** Please call for an appointment.

**Yellowstone Gateway Museum of Park County** 118 W. Chinook St., Livingston, MT 59047  
406.222.4184 museum@parkcounty.org ~ www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org

# THANK YOU GIVE-A-HOOT DONORS!

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## A CALL FOR ART: YELLOWSTONE'S 150TH

There's still time to create artwork for next summer's juried exhibition, "Celebrating Yellowstone." While the artwork won't be displayed until May 1, 2023, 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. The display will run through September 2023. Please pass this opportunity along to your artist friends and family members.

The deadline for online submissions is April 1, 2023. Please call the museum for more information.



# GUIDING THE EXPERIENCE

IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES

Wed., October 19, 7PM, Park Photo & Zoom\*  
*Once in a Lifetime: Hunting & Wildlife Viewing*

Veteran guide shares philosophy and stories from his over thirty years of facilitating experiences in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

Ken Sinay, presenter



Wed., October 26, 7PM, Park Photo & Zoom\*

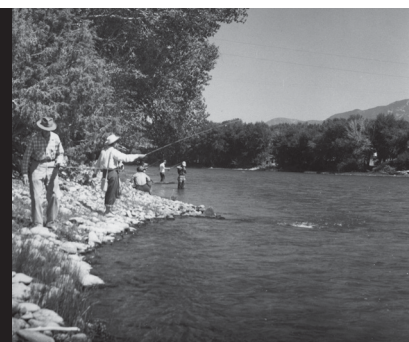
*Program To be Announced*

See [www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org](http://www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org)

Wed., November 2, 7PM, Park Photo & Zoom\*  
*What's Behind the Guided Experience? A Ski Guide*

Reed shares his perspective of living and working in the Beartooth & Absaroka Mountains. He is co-owner of Beartooth Powder Guides.

Reed Youngbar, presenter



Wed., November 9, 7PM, Park Photo & Zoom\*  
*A Fishing Guide on the Yellowstone & Beyond*

Dan has guided anglers on the Yellowstone River and other waters for decades. He and his brothers operate Sweetwater Travel Co. in Livingston.

Dan Vermillion, presenter

All programs are free. Seating is LIMITED at Park Photo, 115 S. Main St., Livingston. Please come early. You may also view program via Zoom. Registration is required for *each* webinar program at [www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org](http://www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org), [webinars/programs](#). The website includes speaker bios. After registration you'll receive emails with links to the programs. Programs are uploaded to museum's YouTube channel.

# Board Member Spotlight

By Karen Reinhart



Suzanne Catherine, Park County Board member, is originally from Schenectady, New York. She began working seasonally in Yellowstone National Park in 2008, followed by another season in 2010. After

returning in 2015 as an Archival Intern for the National Park Service in Yellowstone, she has called Park County her permanent home. Suzanne enjoys the mountains, the people, the weather (even the wind), and considers Park County to truly be The Last Best Place.

Learning and teaching about local history is Suzanne's passion and she dedicated much of her education to that goal. She earned a BA in General History, and an MA in History, specializing in Public History of the American West with a focus on local history, and a Graduate Certificate of Historic Preservation from the University of Utah. She also earned an MS in Information

University of New York: Albany. She's worked as a research assistant, archival intern, archives processor, and at the Livingston-Park County Public Library as a librarian. She feels that it is her duty as a Park County resident to use her skills and education to best enable our valuable history to be preserved and accessible.

When asked what she especially likes about the museum, Suzanne replied, "The duality of the museum is especially impressive; the Yellowstone Gateway Museum preserves and educates on the social, cultural, and ecological history of our small slice of Montana." She feels that museums are important because they allow visitors to step beyond our lived experiences and step into another. Suzanne is excited to play a role in the growth of the museum and feels that it has a bright future.

The Yellowstone Gateway Museum is happy to announce a community-engagement initiative pioneered by one of our Summer 2022 Interns, Korinne Casarella. She approached us with an idea for her Master's Thesis that could enable our museum to establish new ties with the community and tourists.

We welcome your thoughts on this project! Participate in the survey to answer vital questions that will help Korinne understand how to best serve the community. We are in the beginning stages of this project and are interested in what kind of stories you think should be told.

This collaborative project would include the creation of a pop-up exhibit that would be displayed in one of Park County's cooperating

business fronts. This small, traveling exhibit would feature curated museum objects and other interactive components.

This project has the potential to increase museum visitorship while serving as a community-based enrichment opportunity that allows for greater public visibility of the museum's assets. The chosen location should be accessible for locals but should also cater to visitors, thus inspiring tourists to visit Livingston and the museum.

To show our appreciation, we will be offering \$1 off admission to the Yellowstone Gateway Museum with mention and/or proof of survey completion.

Help us with a

## Pop-Up Exhibit Survey!

To participate in the survey, type this link: [tinyurl.com/ygmsurvey](https://tinyurl.com/ygmsurvey) into your browser OR scan the QR code on your electronic or mobile device's camera. For older phones, you may have to download a QR code scanner. Thank you!

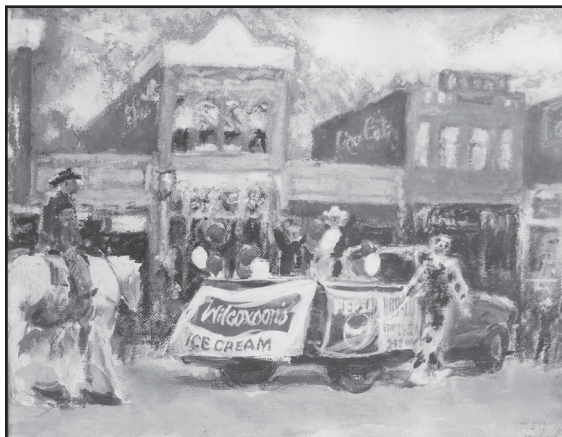




# Curator's Corner

By Karen Reinhart

People donate unexpected and wonderful items weekly, helping us tell our stories. One photo shows a collection item(s) that we've had for a while. Which one is it? Check out the full list of recent donations on the next page.



This pastel painting by Little Blue Hand (Bob Dickens) colorfully documents a passing Wilcoxson's ice cream float during a July 2 parade in downtown Livingston. Dickens was a prolific artist and he and his family raced race cars.



One of the letters that make up the A. W. Miles Co. exterior sign that once was used to advertise his 2nd Street hardware store in Livingston. A builder of many buildings and businesses in early-day Park County, Miles made an impact here and in Yellowstone National Park with his management of camping companies.



This pot and oval dish were used at 311 S. B Street, Livingston, a brothel owned by Madam Helen Lee. The B Street Red Light District operated until October 1948. I am still looking for photos of B Street and of the women while the houses were still operational.

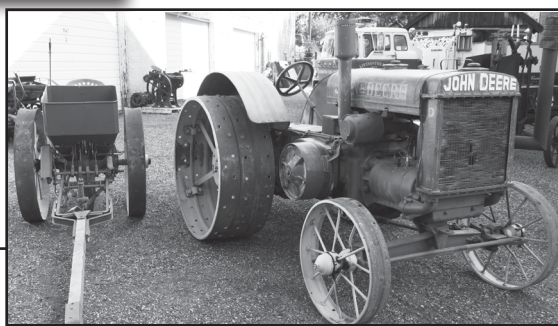


Donated by the Livingston Police Dept. and Park Co. Sheriff's Office, some of these slot machines still have coins in them.



Sally Dollarhide once wore this beautiful, mint-condition mink coat. She was the madam of one of the area brothels that operated through 1976. She and her husband Vern also owned Sally's, today's Whiskey Creek Saloon and Casino, in downtown Livingston—one of our Sip and Stroll: Livingston Bar tour stops.

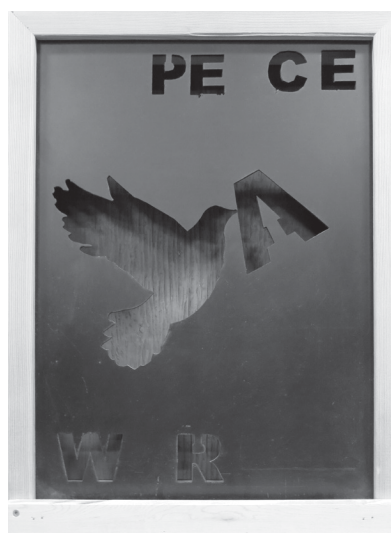
Right: John Deere D tractor and planter attachment were gifted from the estate of William Strong, Sr., helping us document the legacy of Strong and Bradley, the farm implement company that operated on East Park Street for decades. County residents have strong agricultural roots and we're proud to add these fine examples of early ag technology.



## RECENT COLLECTIONS DONORS as of October 1, 2022

Nancy Adkins: Park High yearbooks, 1960s  
American Legion Park Post #23: 3 Army uniforms,  
book, Civil War spoon  
R. A. Bellows: NARFE Charter, Livingston Chapter  
Denise Bittner: Antique sewing items  
Dave Bohart: Cuckoo clock, candy box  
Mary Cummings: Alfred Fisher slides  
Priscilla Dysart: Bus. & Prof. Women, AAUW items  
Bob Ebinger: Tolhurst cup & saucer, envelope  
Bev & Gary George: DVDs, events; history research  
Lindie Gibson: Old Faithful Geyser framed print,  
photos, postcards  
Janet Glover: Christening gown  
Bob Goss: Yellowstone brochures, ephemera,  
stereoviews  
Richard Goss: Yellowstone ephemera, stereoviews,  
postcards  
Bill Grover & Lee Spangler: Commemorative  
Yellowstone envelopes, one framed  
Andrea Gullickson: Father's Korean War portrait  
Kerry Hallin: Family albums, scrapbooks, Yellowstone  
memorabilia  
Carol & Doug Harwood: Townsend Ranch photos  
Lee Harry: Blueprints, A. W. Miles building  
Deborah Irish: Sally Dollarhide's mink coats  
Bo Jessen & Lukas Ridgeway: Vietnam War shadow  
box, Park High project  
David Kemp: John Bozeman memorial marker  
Little Blue Hand estate: 3 paintings of Livingston,  
American Indian regalia  
Jack Luther: National Parks brochure  
Ken & Sabine MacInnes: Books, Peter Bowen poem  
Alice Nash: postcards

Dennis Noteboom & Mary Plese: Framed portraits,  
Park Clinic doctors  
Park Co. Treasurer: Slides, Park High School 1985 fire  
Thomas Patton: Book about Pat Tucker  
Michelle Quesenberry: Edward Papesh items  
Sharon Ragen: 1909 decorative plate  
W. M. Richard: puppets, necklace, American Indian  
basket, beadwork  
Marsha Romey: postcard album, reunion photo  
Jean Sandberg: Northern Pacific magazine & schedule  
Jack Schultz: BNSF commemorative plates  
Mary & William Strong Estate: John Deere Tractor,  
1927, and Planter  
John Sullivan: A. W. Miles Co. metal sign  
Linda Tang: Oval dish & pot from brothel  
Addie & Phil Wickham: Forest Service map  
Susan Witte: Tribal headdress  
Keith Yardley: Drama Club sweater, photos  
Lynette Zwerneman: Immergrun Loge mug



Vietnam War shadow box created by Bo Jessen and Lukas Ridgeway during a Park High project. This thoughtful art project is currently displayed in A History of Service: Park County Vietnam Veterans exhibit. The exhibit commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and features 23 biographies of local veterans. If you haven't seen this exhibit yet, we hope you'll stop in.

## MEMORIALS

**For Alexander Family**  
By Sherry Steele

**For Richard Dysart**  
By Roberta Williams

**For Petra Karr**  
By Jill Rowe

**For Anne Altor Kronenberg**  
By Joan & Rich Robbins

**For Marilyn Plaggemeyer**  
By Rich Plaggemeyer

**For Clifford Rowe**  
By Jill Rowe  
By Donna Hillman

**For Tom Roth**  
By David & Julie Lichte  
By Phillip & Rochelle Moody  
By Robert & Dalonda Rockafellow  
By Kate Todd  
By Beth & Koi Woodson



2022  
MEMBERSHIP  
as of  
October 1, 2022



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PARK COUNTY, MONTANA

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\*Members who also gave  
additional donations.

**THANK YOU!**

**SUPPORT LOCAL HISTORY: JOIN THE MUSEUM**

*Annual Membership*

Individual: \$25  
Family: \$35

*Annual Sponsorship*

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

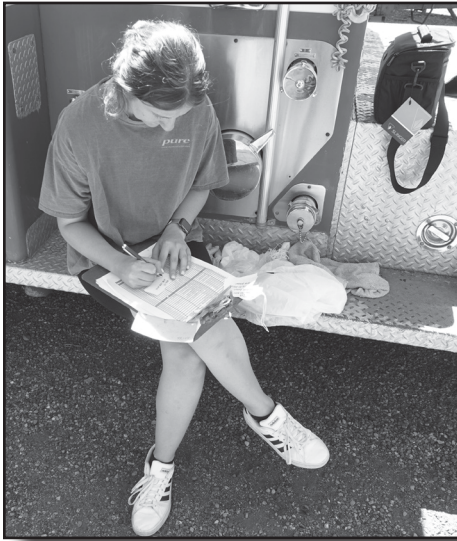
*Memorials & Donations*

Consider making a gift in  
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on behalf of yourself.

Did you know that you can renew your membership or donate to the  
museum via links at [www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org/](http://www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org/)  
Or go directly to <https://ygm-shop.shoplightspeed.com/>

# A Summer Internship Experience

By Korinne Casarella



Korinne updating YGM's offsite inventory.

Although I was a long way from my home state of Florida, I recently wrapped up one of the most rewarding and enriching summers I have ever experienced. As the Digitization Intern for the Yellowstone Gateway Museum during summer 2022, I had the privilege of familiarizing myself with the wonderful museum staff, dedicated volunteers, and extensive collections material.

During my time at the museum, I worked to digitize any asset (library material, object, archive, and photograph) that is related to or associated with Yellowstone National Park. Digitization is a very necessary process for museums, and I am thankful that YGM was able to dedicate resources to these efforts. For those who are not familiar with digitization, it is simply a process that includes the photographing and/or scanning of objects and archival material. These photos will then be uploaded to the museum's organizational database

and eventually, these images can be put online for the public to look through. Many museums are working to digitize their collections because it not only helps to keep the museum organized but it gives the public a clear idea of what assets a museum has!

This internship provided me with new skills that I have not learned in my courses thus far. I am very appreciative for the hands-on experience and the relative freedom that I've been granted for the past 11 weeks. By taking on multiple responsibilities, which is often required in a small museum with limited staff, I have learned to not only master my expected duties, but also take on new projects that fit my level of expertise. I've seen the challenges that many small museums face, as far as lack of storage, lack of funding, and lack of manpower. Using my background in marketing and content creation, I decided to create the Collections Corner videos (visit <https://www.instagram.com/yellowstonegateway-museummt/reels/>) to provide the museum with a level of exposure that they otherwise could not afford with regular online advertising. I've enjoyed taking on several other small duties like taking over the front desk when an employee is busy, painting their old OPEN sign so that they don't have to incur the cost of a new one, and helping with after-hours educational

activities put on for the town. This internship has reaffirmed my love for museum work, and I think that I would consider working for a smaller museum when I complete my schooling. My time in school has not been as rewarding as hoped, and I believe that this internship has given me the hands-on, practical experience that I craved. I am very thankful to have spent my summer surrounded by the kind locals of Livingston, curious visitors, and of course, the mountainous views of Montana!



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You can help future students' rewarding experiences by contributing to our summer internship program. Visit <https://ygm-shop.shoplightspeed.com/> to make an online donation or call Executive Director Mark Brammer for more info.

Korinne is the fourth intern sponsored by this program so far, greatly benefiting the museum and our community while preserving local history. Please consider helping us keep this program going!



(continued from page 1)

Haberstroh especially loved fishing and hunting—both photographing and participating. His proximity to Yellowstone Park allowed him to take hundreds of photos there, mostly after the summer of 1915 when automobiles were first allowed entry. (Prior to that time all travel in the park was horse-drawn, horseback, or afoot.) It is important to recognize the patience and commitment that a photographer required in that time, with primitive equipment and automobiles, unpaved highways, rare rest- and fuel-stops—this was the beginning of a transportation revolution in the United States.

Three of the Haberstroh photographs included in this article came from an envelope labeled “1911 Hunt.” Below he printed, “Boulder Country.” Digging past that laconic caption, after some deep research, we can learn about the hunters, the rifles they chose, and about the early days of the Twentieth Century. The image on the cover of the newsletter, shows three men on a cabin porch brandishing firearms: John C. Haberstroh (center), 34 years old; his nephew Paul Harvat (left), 20 years old; and Paul’s brother Edwin (right), 18 years old. Their firearms tell the story of another revolution. These rifles were designed to fire newly developed military cartridges. Paul holds a Winchester Model 1895, its box magazine visible in his left hand. The two other men hold Remington Autoloading Rifles, later simply called the Remington Model 8. It was the first semi-automatic rifle to be truly successful in the US, patented in 1900, and was easily the most advanced firearm that any hunters were carrying in 1911.



The photograph (above) is of John C. posing with his Remington Model 8, a victory cigar in his right hand, and a young bighorn ram. It is anyone’s guess whether

Haberstroh photographed himself using a timer or someone else in their party operated the camera. The peaks on the horizon indicate that Haberstroh is high in the Boulder River drainage, near the tree line, perhaps in southern Park or Stillwater County. John C. is on top of the world—a long way from Iowa City.

The third photograph, featured on the back cover, is especially fine. Elizabeth Harvat, 12 years older than her brother, sits cross-legged on an “Indian blanket,” in front of her tautly-pitched tent. She is cleaning a Remington Model 8 rifle. Other 1911 photographs show Elizabeth riding horseback, holding a rifle atop a bare ridge, or peering out of her tent at the fresh snowfall. A sturdy, self-reliant woman, she seemingly took pride in rising above the plains.

The 1911 Hunt was photographed early in



Art Davis and Rags tending sheep on the Harvat home ranch.

Haberstroh’s career; the hunting trip was an annual event in the 1910s. Even though his brother-in-law, John H. Harvat, died in 1919, his sons continued to appear in Haberstroh’s photographs of hunting, fishing, packing, and traveling for decades. The three Harvat sons turned their late father’s sheep ranch into a huge, successful family business.

John C. married Grace Smith in 1926 and they raised a son, Chad, and a daughter, Kay. John was one of the partners in the Sax & Fryer store in the downtown Livingston from 1925-1945. When John C. Haberstroh passed away in 1961, The Livingston Enterprise eulogized him: “Gone is the man who, through his lenses as a photographer, captured many of the glories of our area, particularly the wildlife and the scenery of Yellowstone National Park and of the things that helped make this area a tourist delight.”

And it all began because he visited his sister in Livingston and fell in love with the area.



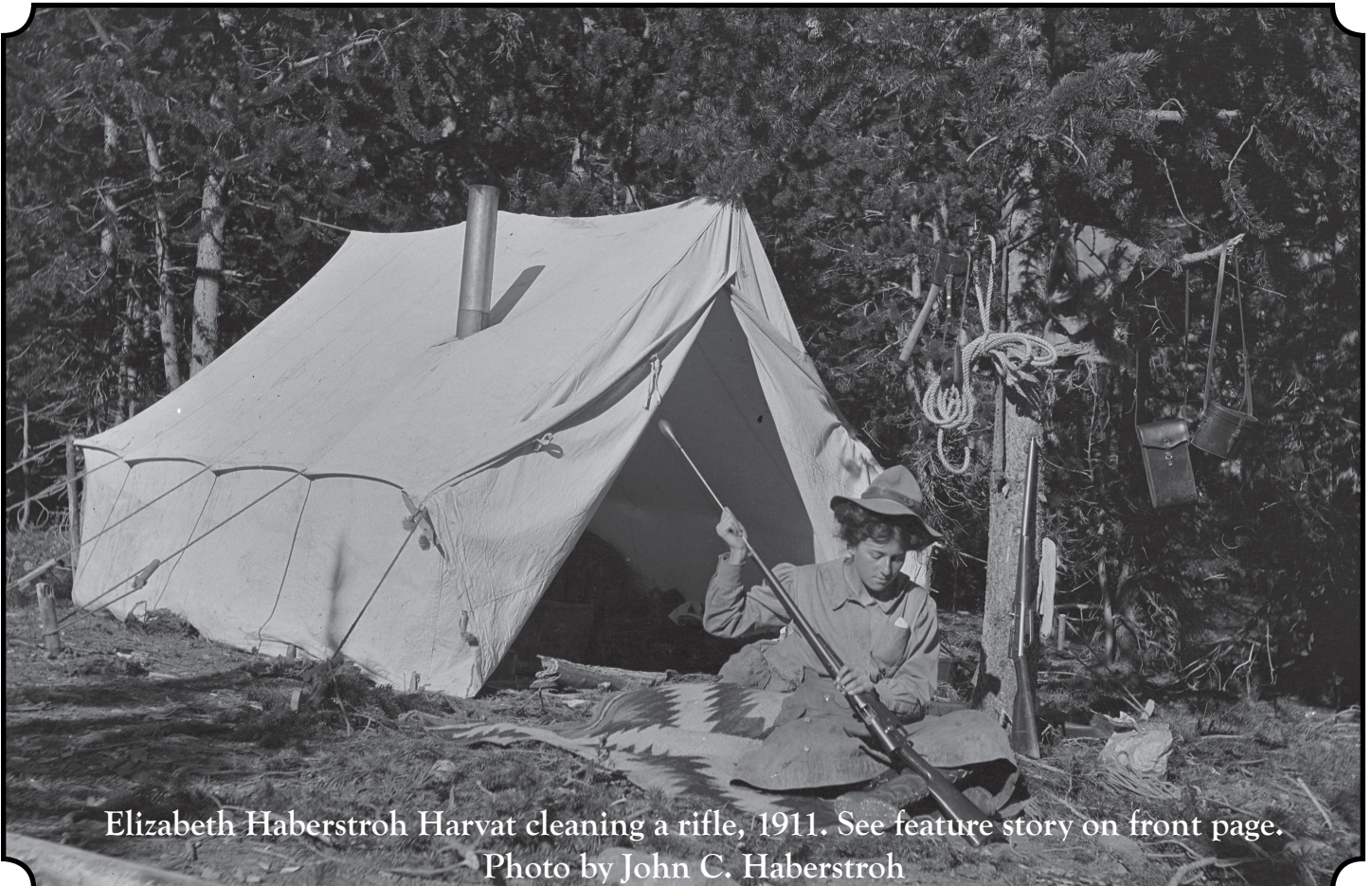
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Elizabeth Haberstroh Harvat cleaning a rifle, 1911. See feature story on front page.  
Photo by John C. Haberstroh