

## News From The Red Caboose



## SPRING 2011

## Long-awaited Heating/Cooling System Project Underway

Part of the inventory process for items to

Kirk Michels Architects (KMA) in Livingston were chosen to be the design/engineering firm for the HVAC project. KMA has been to the museum and completed a walk-through with the staff to discuss the needs to be met with the system. They are now putting together the design and engineering plans we can use for the actual bidding of the construction phase.

Construction is slated to start by mid-April with a completion date of early June. We may have to push back the opening of the museum this year due to the construction schedule.

Construction elements will include the actual installation of the heating/cooling system, and insulation elements. In order to provide the best energy efficiency and meet the requirements for environmental control for collection protection, we are going to envelop the interior of the building.

In essence we are going to build rooms within rooms. In each of the individual four classrooms and the three landings we are going to have constructed interior walls. These will extend from floor to ceiling. They will stand out from the present walls about seven inches. Insulation will be put in between the new walls and the existing school walls. Additional insulation will also be added in the ceiling.

These walls will cover up the windows in the rooms. This serves two important purposes. One is to seal off the heat and cooling loss through the windows and spaces around them. Secondly to eliminate the damage done by UV light from natural lighting.

UV light is extremely damaging to all types of materials and our artifacts, art

be stored during the renovations includes photographic documentation.

work and archives. UV light will also degrade cloth, leather and wood. We want to protect our collections so that people can enjoy them for many years to come.

We will put in UV-shielded lighting that is more energy efficient and protective of our collections. With the new walls we also will be able to re-paint when new displays are put up, or hang art work on the walls without damaging the historic structure of the building.

Along with collections protection, additional benefits will include being open during the winter months for the first time since the museum opened in 1977. Although we will not be able to afford to be open seven days a week throughout the year, we will strive to be open three to four days a week during the winter. Benefits during the summer will be in cooling.

Throughout the year seasonal temperatures changes have affected the collections. During the winter months when daily temperatures can make large swings in a matter of hours it causes damage to our valuable collections.

To get ready for this construction we are in the process of moving the collections out of the museum and into storage. It is no easy thing to move a museum's collections and we have to be extra careful to protect our historic collections from damage.

This move is also allowing us to inventory the collections and tie those inventories back into their donor collections. Although the whole process is time-consuming and physically intimidating, the need is there and we will accomplish this monumental task.

With this in mind in the coming months we will be cutting back on some of our programs in order to focus more time on the move. We are asking those who have donations of items to hold off until July. We need to be able to keep track of what we are moving and not let incoming items build up without time to deal with them. We are still interested in donations of those items relating to Park County History, but need some breathing room to get the construction project finished. If you have any questions at all about what is going on please give me a call at 222-4184. \*\*

Paul SheaMuseum Director



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## Spring 2011 · Friends of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum

Annual Meeting March 31 • Museum-School Partnership • President's Message



#### FROM THE PRESIDENT:

By Bobbie Williams

A visit to the Yellowstone Gateway Museum can provide an enjoyable experience or can be a tool for life-long learning. Many out-or-town visitors are amazed at our collection.

Years ago, several farsighted individuals, the Whithorns, the Van Akens, Warren McGee, Gladys Stermitz and many others realized the importance of preserving a collection of our area's history. They formed the Park County Museum Association. The collection was housed in the West Side School and later stored in the Lincoln School. In 1976 the county and the Museum Association purchased the North Side School to house the "The House of Memories."

In 1997, the Friends of the Museum Board was established as a non-profit 501 (c) (3) status. Several years ago, the county saw fit to hire a permanent director. Brian Sparks preceded our present director Paul Shea. Laura McCarthy is the full time registrar.

Three years ago, under the auspicious of the Friend's Board, Jon Watson was hired to catalog the Whithorn photos. With money from an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant, generous community support and an

army of dedicated volunteers the project is now on-line and can be viewed and purchased by the public. To date there have been over 20,000 hits to the site yellowstone.pastperfect-online.com..

A contract with Kirk Michels to design a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) was recently signed. The funds for this project came from a grant provided by House Bill 645. The monies from the Department of Energy will facilitate the insulation of the building.

Our community has supported a new East Side-Middle School complex, an update at the high school, an addition to the library and a new theater. Now it is time to look at the Yellowstone Gateway Museum.

What do we need? As we continue to upgrade the building, the next step is to address the access to the building and the interior for people with disabilities to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

When our fund raising begins, remember your contributions will help maintain and enrich the on-going history of Park County and the Yellowstone Gateway Museum.

Our annual meeting will be held at the Senior Center on March 31st from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. We will have refreshments, door prizes and a program. We hope to see you there. ::

**Answers to Pop Quiz:** 1. (D), 2. (B), 3. (B), 4. (C), 5. (D) *Hooked Yet? Why not become a member of the Friends?* 

#### MUSEUM HONORS LOST FRIENDS

By Patty Bauer-Miller

Yellowstone Gateway Museum and Friends of the Museum lost two of their great supporters recently. Ellery Christian, 80, died in November, 2010 at his Pine Creek home. Ellery was on staff at the Museum and served on the Board until his retirement three years ago. He left behind 72 books he put together on history. He always had a smile and was interested in the common goal of working to keep our Museum special for everyone.

Thomas E. Lane, 81, died in a tragic auto accident January 30, 201l, out of Big Timber. Tom enjoyed local history, supported present activities in the Museum and was a historical buff. He was never too busy to visit about plans for the future of the Museum. \*\*

## FRIENDS OF THE YELLOWSTONE GATEWAY MUSEUM BOARD

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Paul Shea- Director Laura McCarthy- Registrar

P.O.Box 815 Livingston, Montana, 59047

Phone: 406.222.4184 E-mail: museum@imt.net

## MUSEUM-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP:

#### SUCCESS THROUGH COLLABORATION

By Laura McCarthy Education Director

The Museum has been busy participating in the Indian Education ForAll Best Practices Grant with Park High School and East Side Elementary. Exploring the theme of Diplomacy through Leaders, Language, Culture, and Resources has led us to conduct a field trip to Heart Butte, sponsor a speaker series, and guide students through primary source research.

Through the efforts of high school librarian, Ms. Suzanne Goodman, members of Mr. Bill Shannon's high

school World Cultures
Class were able to visit
Heart Butte School, and Mr.
Brad Hall, to learn primary
source research from
fellow students. This was a
wonderfully meaningful trip
for the student mentors, as
they were able to speak with
Blackfeet peers, learn about
tribal history from Mr. Brad
Hall, and hear Metis elder
Al Wiseman share his life
experience.

Shane Doyle, Ray Alt and Tom Jerde, Leo Bird and Ivy Merriott, and Jerry Brekke have presented

topics related to diplomacy on the Great Bend of the Yellowstone to high school students, as well as evening presentations to the 5th grade classes, other Livingston district students, parents, and members of the public. Future speakers will be Walter Fleming on "Crow Through the Ages," Montana's Poet Laureate Henry Real Bird, and Marsha Fulton and Crystal Alegria on "History and Archaeology of Fort Parker."

Fort Parker Day, a pilot project developed by East Side educators Mrs. Robin Lovec, Mr. Luke Shelton, Ms. Merrilee Bryan, and Ms. Kathy Francisco of Project Archaeology will be augmented by the Best Practices Grant. Thanks to grant monies, 5th grade students from Crow Agency will attend the annual





(Above) World Culture students present their research to 5th graders. (At left) Jerry Brekke welcomes a World Cultures student to his presentation, "Great Bend of the Yellowstone: Ancient Trails to Current Roads."

The Museum will host a gala opening Friday June 3rd to present these projects to the public.

Please join us for the gala presentation on Friday June 3rd to celebrate the achievements of our area students and diplomacy on the Great Bend of the Yellowstone!"

Fort Parker field trip to share a new diplomacy between our communities on the Great Bend of the Yellowstone.

Park High School students recently chose research topics related to "Snapshots in Time on the Great Bend of the Yellowstone." Using museum interpretation techniques and primary sources, the high school students created displays out of the most interesting facts related to their topic. They presented these topics to the 5th Grade students and are able to choose one artifact from the Museum's collection to illustrate their theme.

These projects will be incorporated into a museum exhibit to be displayed during the 2011 season. As the project continues into the Spring Semester, 5th grade students will develop their own displays.

### Friends of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum Annual Meeting

MARCH 31, 2011 • 6-8 P.M. LIVINGSTON SENIOR CENTER

Speaker: Area educators Robin Lovec, Luke Shelton, and Merrilee Bryan will speak on brining local history into the classroom with their presentation, "Ft. Parker, The First Crow Agency, A Crossroads of Cultures."

**Extras:** Desert and refreshments will be provided. Door prizes will be raffled throughout the evening.

## Discover the Whithorn Photo Collection Online at: http://yellowstone.pastperfect-online.com.



## **Cataloging the Collection**

(Above) This bright yellow Yellowstone National Park Stagecoach has greeted Museum visitors for many years. By fall of 2011, the Yellowstone Gateway Museum should have adequate heating, cooling and ventilation systems in place to both preserve the collection and allow year-round access to the Museum.

(At right) Volunteer Ron Green records specific details about items in the collection and labels each piece.

(Bottom right) Each item is recorded in inventory, tagged, captured in a digital photograph and filed according to historical significance, origin and relativity to Park County.









(Above) Volunteer Ron Green and Museum Education Director Laura McCarthy measure and record a hat from the museum collection before the item heads to the basement to be photographed by area home-school student Jessica Bates.

(Below) When the project is complete the museum's displays will more closely resemble the cases and information present in the recently updated Native Cultures Room by Marsha Fulton and others.





INTERESTED IN THE YGM COLLECTIONS? Check out "Look What We Found at the Yellowstone Gateway Museum." Museum Registrar Laura McCarthy's biweekly column in the Livingston Current explores some of the history behind collection items.

## LOOK WHAT WE FOUND...

At the Yellowstone Gateway Museum

## Continuing HVAC and Museum Needs

By Paul Shea Museum Director

In order to install the new heating and cooling system for the museum, the existing displays need to be moved into storage and out of the way of any possible damage. This will enable museum staff and volunteers to re-display and put up new exhibits on the history of Park County. We are still in need of Capital Funds for the project.

The museum is looking to acquire Capital Funds for satellite displays around the town of Livingston and other areas of the county to feature offsite exposure of the collection.

New and existing projects will also need funding:

- **Preservation Fund**, used to purchase supplies and materials for the storage, handling and preservation of museum objects and archives
- Whithorn Fund, this fund is used to help maintain the museum's photo archives
- **Research Fund**, this fund is used to purchase research materials for and to maintain our research library (books, maps, etc.)
- **General Fund**, this fund is used for general operating expenses
- Accessibility Project: This is a Capital Funds project to address access to enter and move about the museum. This would include ramps to enter the building and an elevator to move from floor to floor. Further improvements to the building including work on the office, research room and entry way.
- New Website to enhance our online presence, more and more travelers are using the web to plan vacations.
- Updating Billboard Revisions to be done on the three billboards we share with the Depot Museum. They are located on I-90 to the east and west of town, and one is south of Emigrant on U.S. 89.
  - New and Re-displayed Exhibits.

Donations may be made to: The Friends of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum, P.O. Box 815 Livingston MT 59047 or call Paul at 406-222-4184 for questions or further information. \*\*



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## THANK YOU FOR KEEPING PARK COUNTY HISTORY ALIVE!

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## MONTANA MEMORIES

# THE HISTORIC HEFFERLIN OPERA HOUSE

By Patty Bauer-Miller

n the early 1800s C.F. Hefferlin came to Livingston. He constructed the magnificent brick and wood Hefferlin Opera House which joined the four-story Albemarle Hotel.

Located on the west side of Main Street the Albemarle fronted the National Bank.

Hefferlin entertained all the grand names in show business for years. A huge stage that could easily hold 50 entertainers was draped with red velvet. All the curtains and bell ropes were red velvet. The carpet was red and the seats were red. A great balcony hung over the show house. One could smoke when sitting in the balcony.

By 1940 the old opera and stage shows were long gone but the movies were on seven nights a week and on



the weekend afternoons. Show tickets were put in loaves of bread (baked locally) for people to find and use. Lots of evening shows were introduced to the crowd by a businessman who gave vocal advertisements and then introduced the movie or production.

I was allowed to go on Saturday afternoon when the cowboy movies were on. It cost a dime. The candy was in the lobby. A very dirty man called "Tom the Greek" made taffy by hand and sold it at his stand in the beautiful lobby. A penny would buy enough for the show.

Dogs were not allowed but my old dog "Bill" would often sneak in and crawl down the aisle on his belly looking at all the kids until he found me. He then would get up on a seat so he could see

C. F. Hefferlin constructed "this monument of beauty, convenience and comfort to the pleasure-loving public" in 1892. Among the many note-worthy programs staged here was a concert by the master musician John P. Sousa and his entire band in October, 1902.

From "A Photo History of Livingston" by Bill and Doris Whithorn.

(YGM 2006.044.2695)

what was happening. The kids always made room for "Bill."

Although the building said, "Hefferlin Opera House" it became in its later years "The Park Theatre." Tragically the Opera House, The Albemarle Hotel and half a block of main street was destroyed by fire in the 1950s. :

#### DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM

One way people have remembered Park County, and your museum, is to donate artifacts to our Permanent, Research, Education, and Exhibit-Prop collections. We have been overwhelmed with your generosity, stories of the past, and incredible collections. We hope to continue to share in the future of this museum, and very special community, by embracing our history. Thank you.

Due to the large amount of work needed to prepare the North Side School building for renovations, we will not be accepting donated artifacts and items until July of 2011, thank you for your understanding. If you are interested in donating artifacts the Yellowstone Gateway Museum, please contact Laura McCarthy, Museum Registrar, at 406-222-4184 or email lmccarthy@imt. net. Here is a list of recent donors:

Bertha Roylance Bruce Graham Dixie Bowman Franklin County Historical Society Gallatin County Historical Society Linda Holland Paul Shea National Park Service This book, by Bill & Doris Whithorn, first appeared in 1966 and has been recently reprinted in a larger format.

The 2011 revision includes 115 digitally restored captioned photographs. The 693 indexed entries include the names of many merchants, civic leaders and residents.

Explore the rich history of this important town through these high resolution historical images.

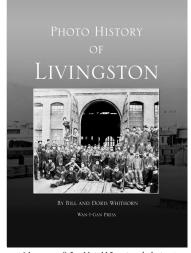
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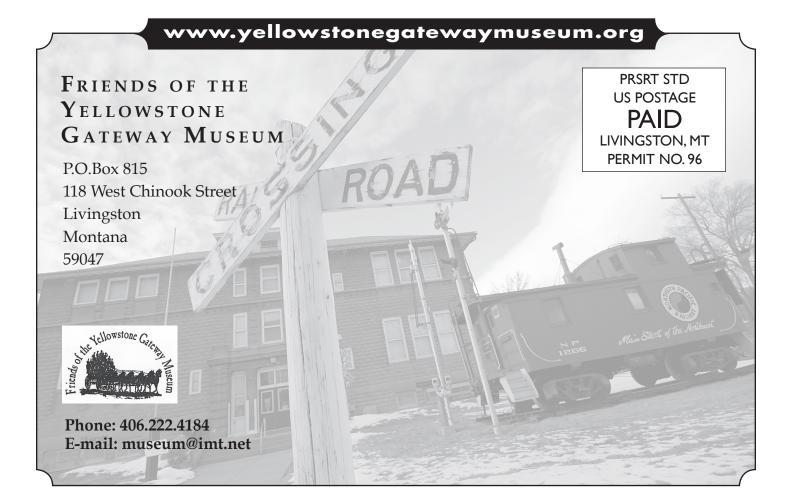
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Other Whithorn book titles are available at: FriendsofYGM.org



♦64 pages ♦ 8.5 x 11 ♦ 115 restored photos ♦ ♦ ISBN 978-0-9823753-2-7 ♦ paperback ♦ \$12.95 ♦

Visit the Whithorn Book Website at: friendsofygm.org.



## Pop Quiz: Park County History

- 1) Livingston sidewalks changed from wood to concrete in what year?
- A. 1889
- B. 1892
- C. 1901
- D. 1906
- 2) Park County had 33 voting precincts in 1912. How many today?

  - B. 15
  - C. 24
  - D. 34
- 3) Which early merchant joined the Livingston Mandolin Club?
  - A. A.W. Miles
  - B. Charles Garnier
  - C. Carl Wilcoxson
  - D. Billy Miles
- 4) Automobiles were first permitted in Yellowstone Park in what year?
  - A. 1908
  - B. 1912
  - C. 1915
  - D. 1918
- 5) Who said: "History is mostly bunk"?
  - A. Mark Twain
  - B. Woody Allen
  - C. William Cody
  - D. Henry Ford

**ANSWERS TO POP QUIZ ON PAGE 2** 

#### JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE YELLOWSTONE GATEWAY MUSEUM!

The mission of the Friends of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum of Park County, Montana is to support the museum, its successors and affiliates by raising funds for the perpetual care, growth, improvements and expansion of the museum and by serving as a source of volunteers.

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