



# News From The Red Caboose

SUMMER 2012



## Letter from the Director: Enjoy a Cool Time!

We are off to a pretty cool summer. Cool not only in that the museum and its exhibits are cool-looking, but that the temperature (outside and inside) is as well. As you know, we are now open year-round: seven days a week from Memorial Day through September; Thursday through Saturday from October 1st to Memorial Day. Come visit the coolest place to be in the summer and the hottest place to be in the winter.

We have three new exhibits this year: Paving the Way: Opening the West to Women; Life on the Homestead Before Electricity; and Imaging Wonderland: Photos of Yellowstone. We plan to showcase two or three new exhibits at the beginning of each summer season.

There also are several programs in the works for this summer. One of our work partners, Mark Gangstad, was put to work identifying neighborhood grocery stores. Using *Polk Directories* (dating from 1904), Mark created a spreadsheet of grocery and other mercantile stores in Livingston. Although changes in store names and owners weren't always noted in the directories, we now have a good idea of store numbers and locations.

Mark will present his findings on Wednesday, July 11, at 7 p.m. in the Library Community Room. Along with historic and contemporary photos of stores he will preview three maps compiled by the Park County GIS Department, showing grocery



*Thomas Lewis delivering a hand-hewn canoe that was dug from a cottonwood tree by Churchill Clark, descendant of Captain William Clark.*

store locations in three time periods: 1904-1939, 1940-1979, and 1980-2012. These maps strikingly illustrate how our grocery shopping experiences and accessibility have changed. Join us on the 11th: Your memories and photos of the grocery scene in Livingston are most welcome.

Irony struck in June with the delivery of a dugout canoe, similar to those used by Lewis and Clark. This canoe was made by Churchill Clark, the great-great-great-great-great grandson of Captain William Clark. (We hope to have Churchill present a program on the making of the canoe.) The canoe was built near St. Louis, Missouri and brought to Montana where it will be part of several events this summer. Churchill, seeking someone to bring the canoe to Livingston, found Thomas Lewis (no relation to Captain Meriwether Lewis), who was on his way home to Livingston. Thomas brought the canoe to the museum, where it will be stored for a short time. So Lewis delivered Clark's canoe to Livingston, perhaps founding the "Corps of Delivery," an irony not lost on the museum staff.

This summer the museum also plans to host Elizabeth Watry, co-author of two books in the series *Images of America: Fort Yellowstone and Livingston*. Betsy will discuss her latest book, *Women in Wonderland: Lives, Legends, and Legacies of Yellowstone National Park*, and will happily sign copies.

The museum always needs volunteers. If interested, please call us at 222-4184. We also are in need of some extras that don't always fit in the budget; please see our wish list for some of these items. ❖

— Paul Shea  
Museum Director



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# Summer 2012 • Friends of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPILING FAMILY HISTORIES • UPDATED FRIENDS BOARD



Want to support the museum painlessly? While we do most of our shopping in town, sometimes we go over the hill for larger items and office supplies. By giving our phone number, 222-4184, the next time you shop at Staples, you can add to our rewards account, helping us receive free office supplies.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

By Bruce Graham

*History is made by those who wrote it.*  
— Anonymous

This quotation is from the *History of Park County Montana 1984*, which contains many stories of the county's pioneer families. Yet many histories are missing, because no-one wrote them.

I often regret not having asked my family more about their lives. Don't leave your children with the same regrets: Write your history down and give copies to your family. And donate a copy to the museum, which hopes to publish an on-line History of Park County that will include family stories.

The museum is currently transferring interviews that were recorded on cassette tapes onto CDs to better preserve them. We are also recording new oral histories. Contact the museum to arrange for

an interview before your history is lost forever. Whether a written or oral history, we need not only your story, but volunteers to catalog, file, and digitize them, and money for archival storage. If you would like to volunteer, give Paul or Laura a call at 222-4184.

As a volunteer last winter, I inventoried items prior to the HVAC installation. While doing so I found many fascinating and probably unique items, such as the program from a 1919 Red Cross benefit held at the Hefferlin Opera House and a 1920s Northern Pacific Railroad brochure that extolled Hunter's Hot Springs as a vacation destination.

More recently, I have been helping set up our research room. This room contains many important resources, including voter registration records from early Livingston and Park County, *Polk Directories*, high school yearbooks, farm and ranch directories, and a case full of old Montana, Park County, and Livingston maps. ❖

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P.O.Box 815  
Livingston, Montana, 59047  
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## THE VA AT THE YGM

By Mark Gangstad

Through a Veterans Administration vocational rehabilitation program, I am working toward a career in secondary education. I am very fortunate to be a Yellowstone Gateway Museum volunteer: The work that I have been doing here more than fits my program requirements.

I have participated in several museum projects. The first involved collecting information from the Polk Directories on merchants, doctors, dentists, and hospitals that have done business in Livingston since 1904. The data were then listed on a spreadsheet, a format that greatly facilitates research. On July 11 at the public library I will give a presentation on the numbers and locations of Livingston grocery stores. A museum exhibit will follow.

For the second project, I transferred material from the museum's oral history collection of cassettes to digital format, which helps preserve the information and makes it more readily available for research purposes.

As my third project, I helped Laura with Internet research to find material for use in the development of lesson plans. These plans will be available to teachers during school visits to the museum and will both supplement existing curricula and complement the students' museum experience. I also wrote a lesson plan. I first put the plan to the test with a group from Arrowhead School. But who learned more—students or teacher?

I will complete the VA program requirements at the end of June, but hope that my schedule will allow time to continue volunteering here. This has truly been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I cannot thank Paul, Laura, and everyone involved with the museum enough. ❖❖



*A Curtiss Jenny two-seat biplane.*

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## A GRADUATION SHORT STORY

By Dick Dysart

In the 1920s, the Bishop family lived at 227 South Second Street (where attorney Bob Jovick now has his office). When she was 14, Beryl Bishop entered Livingston High School. At that time students were required to take four years of English, two of a foreign language, plus some math and science. When she graduated in 1924, she could type 100 words a minute.

Among Beryl's graduation presents was a \$5 bill. She decided to spend it on her first airplane ride. The pilot was Martin Zollman, who had learned to fly in World War I. He owned an old Curtiss "Jenny," a two-seat biplane that he flew from a dirt airstrip at the top of a hill (Montana and 12th), beyond the present-day Star Addition. Martin was known for his daring low-level flights

down Main Street just below the roof tops. There were no aviation rules at that time.

Beryl said that Martin flew her all around town. They dived at the Northern Pacific smokestack, they did loop-the-loops, and generally had a wonderful time.

In 1928, four years after the flight, Beryl married Edward Link of Gardiner. They went to Hawaii for the wedding.

By 1929, five years after the flight, Martin Zollman was a Livingston motorcycle policeman. One day in August, Davisson, a fellow with a gun, walked into City Hall. Davisson was angry over a 50-cent shortage in his wages that he wanted the police chief to fix. He shot and killed Chief Peter Holt and in the ensuing scuffle Martin was also killed.

Needless to say, the murders stunned not only Beryl Bishop, but all of Livingston. Justice for Davisson came swiftly. It took only three months from his arrest to his hanging. ❖❖

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

## FORT PARKER DAY

By Suzanne Goodman

On May 18, Yellowstone Gateway Museum hosted the fifth and sixth graders from Pryor School, their chaperones, and their Eastside School pen-pals. This was the beginning of the Fort Parker Day Activities funded by the continuation grant, Best Practices in Museum Education: Museums and Schools as Co-educators. As students met face-to-face for the first time YGM Registrar Laura McCarthy introduced activities to help students break the ice. Students then toured the museum and Livingston students presented gifts to their guests.

While students were meeting at the museum, other team members were preparing for a dinner and a guest speaker at Eastside School. The dinner of Tanka Dogs, local pasta salad, and local ice cream was funded through another collaboration involving the Farm to School Program and the Eastside fifth-grade teachers. Before the talk by Dr. Shane Doyle, MSU-Bozeman, the Pryor students were introduced to all attendees. Dr. Doyle discussed the importance of the Livingston area to historic peoples.

The next day all students met at the Mission Creek Historical Marker, where they were welcomed by Dr. Rich Moore, Superintendent of Livingston Public Schools. Dr. Doyle sang a song honoring the work done by Robin Lovec and Luke Shelton. Three groups of students then went to Leslie Pierson's, where they rotated through three learning stations: horse physiology, identification and uses of native plants, and making traditional game equipment. By the historical marker, other groups rotated through three different learning stations: history of Fort Parker, archeology and stewardship of the Fort Parker site, and traditional native games.

Deb Mitchell from the Montana Historical Society brought a piece of the historic Fort Parker cannon, which was unveiled at lunch by the Executive Director of the Museum

of the Beartooths, Penny Redli. After lunch the groups swapped places so that by the end of the day all students had experienced all six stations, gotten to know each other rather well, and had enjoyed the cross-cultural learning experience. As the groups waited for their buses, Mr. Carson Singer, Pryor School Principal, expressed his thanks and appreciation. He noted that here were assembled students from Crow Country and from Livingston, many of whom have ancestors who met each other on this same ground. When the Pryor bus pulled away many farewells were shouted to new-found friends.

Although no continuation grant is available, it is hoped that through the Livingston School District and the education efforts of YGM a path will be found by which the project may continue with next year's fifth graders. ❖❖❖

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*These photos were taken by Eastside teachers Christina Gillespie and Robin Lovec. Additional photos and comments may be found at [www.gillespiegrade5.weebly.com](http://www.gillespiegrade5.weebly.com). Ms. Gillespie used a "distillation device" designed by the team's curriculum consultant, Kathy Francisco, for the comments.*



*(Above) The history of the Fort Parker site was explored through the Mission Creek historical markers. (Below) Students share stories over a dinner of Tanka (buffalo) hot dogs.*

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

## NEW-OLD STUFF

By Laura McCarthy,  
Museum Registrar

We have been receiving some incredible artifact donations. By far the most extraordinary donation has been a covered sheep wagon. The wagon was donated in memory of Celeste White Becker. It is in beautiful condition with original iron wheels, wood stove, and antler drawer and bed pulls. The wooden axles had been inscribed with the years 1898 and 1908; however, they disintegrated and were replaced. Jem Blueher of Anvil Wagon Works repaired the wagon in 2003, replacing the tattered canvas cover, the weathered wood floor, and the rotted axles.

This wagon reflects the independent, and often lonely, life of a shepherd. Albeit compact, this mobile home is complete with wood stove, kitchen, dining room, and bedroom. Shepherds would often have their homes hauled by horses to pastures. Family members or ranch workers would deliver food and water, while the shepherd watched the sheep for weeks and even months on end.

After the restoration, Mr. Blueher lived in this wagon for three years while he was restoring a log cabin in the West Pine area. He marveled at the history embedded in the wagon: initials of herders long-past engraved into the sides of cabinets; antler drawer pulls well-worn from decades of searching for an extra layer in the cool Montana twilight; touches of the blacksmith's skill and style evident in the custom-made door latch and molded tongue.

The long history of sheep herding in the area is due to our incredible expanses of grassland. Sheep Mountain, Shields Valley, and Paradise Valley are perfect for cattle ranching and sheep herding year-round. The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and the Livingston Peak area were used for summer pastures for over a century, until the last of band of sheep trailed the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness in 2003.

Open-range ranching on the vast tracks of "free" land in the area started after the Crow ceded the western portion of their reservation, including the eastern side of Paradise Valley, in 1882. Many



(Above) The Wineglass Mountains form the backdrop for Louie Voyich, a spring herder for the Harvat family YGM 2006.044.0578. (Below) The interior of the sheep wagon was compact, yet comfortable.

ranchers raised sheep as well as cattle, because sheep are known to be more resilient to harsh winters and drought.

Immigrants of Scottish, Portuguese, Basque, and Mexican descent arrived in Montana ready to put centuries of skills and traditions to work. The Austrian Harvats were the most widely-known family of shepherds in the area. Doris Whithorn wrote in *Harvats and Their Woolies*, "At one time the Harvat Brothers used 100,000 acres in Park County under deed, lease, or forest permit. Besides the Home Ranch, they owned large acreages near Cokedale, the Alkire Ranch on Fleshman Creek, and several sections on Rock Creek north of Tom Miner Basin."

❖❖



## RECENT DONATIONS

We have been overwhelmed with your generosity, stories of the past, and incredible collections. Below are items that have been accepted into the Permanent Collection as of June 21, 2012. We hope you continue to share in the future of this museum, and very special community, by embracing our history. Thank you.

Joseph Swindlehurst: "How to Raise Trout For Fun and Profit, Second Edition," 1969.

Bob Ebinger: Photo slide of Livingston, 1892,

Stereoscope image of Livingston, 1883.

Craig Carlson: Postcards and photos of the Kline Hotel.

Agnes Nelson: Northside School class photos, 1960s.

Bob Becker: Restored sheepwagon used in Paradise Valley.

Carol Cain Herron: "History of the Yellowstone Valley, Montana," 1907.

Lindie Gibson: Lincoln School Graduation Program, 1953.

Alan Webb: Old Faithful Inn souvenir plate.

Kent DeVore: A.W. Miles child's saddle, c. 1910.

Trudy Maney: Photo slide Geyser-Water Swimming Pool, Old Faithful, c. 1940.

Vern LeDoux: Photo slides of Park County landscapes, 1969-1988.

Shirley Peterson: Ace Powell sculpture, Roundup Rodeo bolo tie, c. 1960.

Livingston Fire Department: Archives from Park County Rural Fire Department, 1970s-1980s.

Alan Tjeltveit: Correspondence regarding Lazy Day Dude Ranch, 1935.



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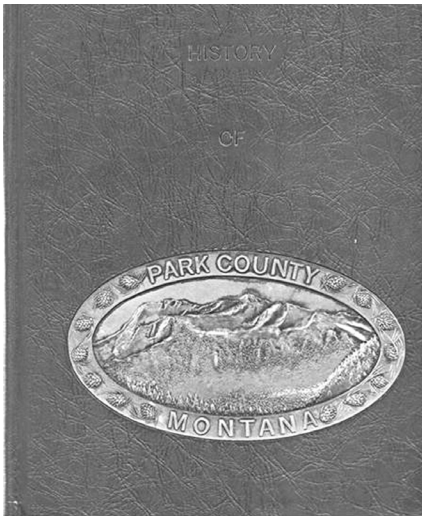
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## DEAR PARK COUNTY HISTORY FAN:

**Is it SOMERVILLE or SOMMERVILLE? OLSEN or OLSON? NESBET or NESBITT?**

I have begun indexing the *History of Park County, Montana 1984*. The 512-page book contains many details about Park County families, plus histories of the little schools and businesses in each town. But mostly, the book is about the people: It is probably the single most important historical document on Park County.

The original book was put together by Doris Whithorn and a team of 40-50 volunteers from the Park County Historical Society and the Park County Museum Association. Each volunteer was assigned a specific task. However, as the publication deadline approached, many others were pressed into service, which helps explain the book's many conflicting spellings.

I need your help in proofreading sections of the index, and in correcting the many misspellings. I know that many of you often refer to the book, so I am also asking you to let me know of mistakes that you have noted.

You don't need a computer, just your eagle eyes and a red pen or pencil: (1) Give me a call and ask for a draft of the index; (2) Scan the alphabetical list until you find a family you know; (3) When you spot a likely mistake, circle it in red; and (4) Either return the corrected page, or send me a note or e-mail, noting

the page number and the name, e.g., "pages 90 and 91: Asserlind should be Aserlind."

Indexing will probably take another year to finish, but think how useful it will be! ❖❖

Dick Dysart  
406-222-6937  
rj\_dys32@wispwest.net.

## NAME YOUR PROJECT:

The Friends offer general support to the museum, as well as supporting specific projects and endeavors. If you would like your donation to go one of these specific areas, just note it in the memo section of your check:

- *Education Fund*: education programs, supplies, school field trips, and guest speakers
- *Preservation Fund*: supplies and materials for the storage, handling, and preservation of museum objects and archives
- *Research Fund*: for research materials and to maintain our research library (books, maps, etc.)
- *Accessibility Project*: access to enter and move about the museum (including entrance ramps and a passenger elevator)
- New and Re-displayed Exhibits

You may also donate specific supplies:

- child's reading chair
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- bike rack
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- new picnic table

Donations may be mailed to:

The Friends of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum, P.O. Box 815, Livingston MT 59047 or call Paul at 406-222-4184 with questions or for further information. ❖❖

## Progress in Park County—

### Bah Humbug!

There used to be train service twice a day from Livingston to Wilsall: a morning train and an evening train.

Now we have no train, no bus, not even a lousy stagecoach!

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.

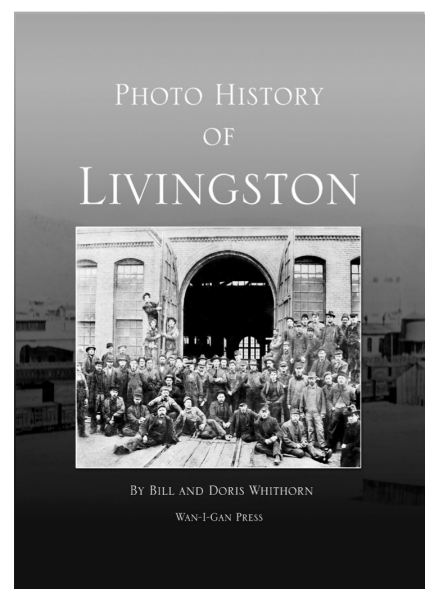
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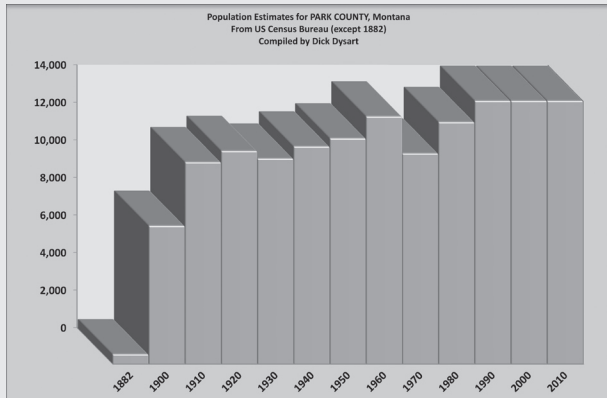
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## Park County Population



The 1900 to 1920 figures are quite interesting and reflect the homestead era. I think if we had the benefit of a bi-decade count between 1910 and 1920, we'd see an even higher county population. The 1918 drought eliminated hundreds of homesteaders and I believe the 1920 number actually represents a decrease from 1910. Part of my reasoning for this is the surprisingly modest decrease between 1920 and 1930, suggesting that many of the homesteaders were already gone.

As the graph illustrates, the major railroad population reduction occurred between 1960 and 1970. During my elementary school days, the shops employed 1,100 plus. The Burlington Northern merger, decreasing passenger train service, and finally the arrival of Amtrak resulted in continuous attrition. Although the closing of the shops in the early 1980s was the final blow, there were less than 400 shop workers at that time — about a third of historical railroad employment. The closure dramatically affected Livingston, but population reduction in Park County was offset by the influx of several hundred Church Universal and Triumphant members, as well as a land use shift to recreational, subdivisions, and increased rural population.

— Jerry Brekke, Park County Historian

## 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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