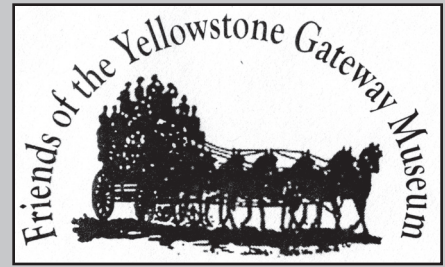




# News from the Red Caboose

FALL 2014



## Harvey Cole: A Man of Many Interests

By Norm Miller

The museum's exhibit, *On Fire: Structural and Wildland Fire-fighting*, reminds us of how fortunate we were during this summer's mild fire season. One of the more interesting stories in the exhibit is that of former Livingston Fire Chief Harvey Cole.

In the course of researching the exhibit, I interviewed Harvey's son, Jim, who shared his dad's photo album with me. Harvey had written on the inside cover: "arrived by train at Ravalli, Montana and headed north toward St. Ignatius by wagon . . .bundled up in buffalo robes." This was 1909. His parents were among the first homesteaders on the Flathead Indian Reservation. Harvey didn't finish high school; he left to help out on his family's farm during World War I: as the only son he was deferred from service. Harvey later married Josephine Schofield.

Because Josephine didn't enjoy ranching life, the couple moved to Livingston in 1924 with their young sons, Jim and Bob. Harvey began working for the Park Ice and Storage Company the next year. He provided the delivery service for many businesses: ice for Wilcoxson's; groceries for Newell's, A.W. Miles Co., Sawyer's,

Blakeslee's, and Lorango's; and goods from the railroad depot to local stores.



Harvey and his delivery truck.

Harvey served as a Livingston Fire Department volunteer during his freighting days in the 1930s. Most firemen at that time were WWI veterans and many residents looked down on those who had not served. Jim stated that there was a lot of animosity toward those who did not go to war, and many people had to move from the area due to the friction. However, Harvey was so well liked by everyone in Livingston that he was hired on fulltime in 1946, a

position he held until he retired in the mid-1950s.

Earl Youngberg, a veteran, joined the fire department about the same time as Harvey. Earl had been shot in the arm while exiting a trench in France; his twin brother had been shot and killed. Earl often boarded at the Cole residence, paying for Josephine's home-cooked meals. Oft times they all would jump into Youngberg's car and go for a drive around the county (Harvey didn't



Harvey and sons, Jim and Bob, with Earl Youngberg on the Convict Grade Road.

buy a car until about 1945).

The fire department was housed in the City Hall building, now the Firehall Fitness Center, on (continued on page 10)

## Record Numbers of Visitors and Many Projects

By Paul Shea

A lot of people visited the museum this year. We have had as many visitors through this August as we had all of last year. Two years ago 299 children visited the museum. So far this year, 782 children have visited us. This increase is primarily due to the increased number of students who visited the museum from Park County and other schools. Since the introduction of the Indian Education for All program and the teaching trunks, more and more teachers are bringing their classes to the museum for learning experiences. The Research Center has been busier as well. We average two to three inquiries each week; people contact us by email, phone, or stop by for information. It is always fun to help them find out about their families.

We have settled into a basic routine. Karen, volunteers, and I spend the winter working on the next year's new exhibits. In the spring we are especially busy with school visits, as well as installing the new exhibits and preparing for summer. In the fall we catch up after a busy summer of being open seven days a week.

Throughout the year there is a constant stream of other work that gets done: receiving and cataloging new donations, writing grants, publishing newsletters, developing and promoting the speaker series, and keeping up on structural maintenance.

Here's an update on the museum's five structures:

- The *Museum Building* is in good shape with the new roof. See



Paul Shea and Jem Blueher in the Blacksmith Shop

below for information about our accessibility project.

- The *Garage and Storage Building* needs to be cleaned and organized.
- The *Blacksmith Shop* is being renovated: installing a wood floor, sorting tools and supplies, repairing the forge for demonstrations—necessary improvements for its re-opening next summer.
- The *Urbach School* is set for an interpretive makeover in the future.
- The *Caboose* needs a new coat of paint, and the roof needs to be repaired and sealed.

These projects require money and time. We prioritize and work on them when we can. If you can help with any of these projects, please let me know. We are very grateful for our volunteers and for project-specific donations.

Soon we will install new banisters on the stairs of the museum building. This is the preliminary step in the larger project of making the building accessible for all visitors. The county is working

on a prioritized capital improvement program and the museum is one of the identified needs. We will apply for grants, seek county funding, and appeal to our members in the coming months. The Friends currently have a fund set aside of approximately \$24,000 for the accessibility project, part of which will be used for the banisters.

We hope that all of our members and friends will take the time to come by and see the museum and its many exciting exhibits. There is something of interest for all ages. We will continue our efforts to improve the museum and take it out into the community in the years ahead.

If you have any questions about donating to the museum please give me a call at 406-222-4184 or send me an email at [pshea@parkcounty.org](mailto:pshea@parkcounty.org).

**Museum winter hours:**  
10 AM - 5 PM, Thurs. - Sat.

**Research center hours:**  
8 AM - 5 PM, Mon. - Fri.,  
year-round.

Please call to make an appointment, 222-4184.



# Volunteers and Staff

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Daniel Davidson	Alta LeDoux	Ellen Zazzarino
Nikki Fox	Barb Marsell	and our board
Betty Greathouse	Shelley Nilsson	members!



Bob Ebinger and Smokey Bear during the July 3 fire exhibit opening. A rare photo, as Bob is our volunteer photographer!

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## Museum

118 W. Chinook Street  
Livingston, MT 59047  
406-222-4184  
museum@parkcounty.org  
yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org



Catherine Guerra scanning and cataloging photographs. This fall she's worked with old photo albums, including photographs of men competing during the 1964 Montana Centennial beard contest. There are many opportunities at the museum for this rewarding work.



Roddy Stanton cleaning a toy fire truck with Q-tips and distilled water for the fire exhibit. There will likely be more cleaning projects as we ready artifacts for the new Transportation Room exhibit this winter.

Would you prefer  
to receive your  
newsletter by  
email?

If so, please send  
Karen an email,  
kreinhart@  
parkcounty.org.

Thank you!

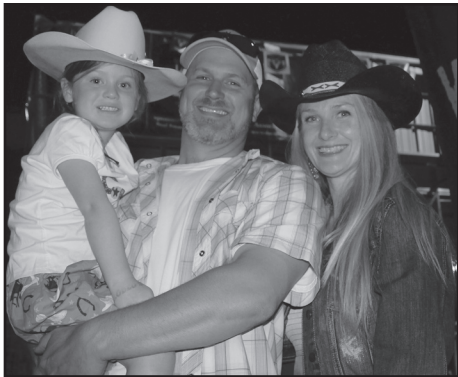


Bruce Graham in the Research Library. Do you like books? See page 6 for more information about his volunteer work—he could sure use some help with cataloging!

## Restoration Project: Reviving the Henry Mansion

By Karen Reinhart, Registrar

There's a new family in Livingston and they're busy bringing one of Livingston's oldest homes back to life—in more ways than one. The Nemetzes moved into the Queen Anne-style mansion on the corner of



The Nemetz family

Yellowstone and Callender Streets in June. Ron is an architect and owns his own firm, NE45 Architecture. He and his wife, Debi, who have a five-year-old, Luci, are restoring the

house as closely as possible to its original grandeur. There's also historic value in keeping the 1920s hospital addition as long as it's safe.

When Ron demolished remodeled areas of the home, hundreds of artifacts were uncovered. These treasures offer glimpses into what life was like for inhabitants of the house during earlier times, prompting Debi to delve into and also share her research via [www.ThisOldVictorianHouse.com](http://www.ThisOldVictorianHouse.com), her fascinating blog. There, you can find a timeline, stories of the house's history, and photographs of found items. The house was built in the mid-1890s by District Judge Frank Henry and his wife, Julia (Ballinger) Henry. Their son, Merrill, also lived in the house. The 1900 census reveals that lodgers also resided there: a jeweler, two laborers, an engineer, a painter, a carpenter, a miner, and three railroad workers—a clerk, fireman, and a conductor. Judge Henry died in 1912 and Julia eventually moved to the nearby Ebert Apartments and, later, to 3rd Street. Merrill moved to the Wilsall area, where he farmed and dealt in real estate.

As Debi points out on her blog, from the time the Henrys left until 1928 the house's history remains uncertain. In 1928 it was purchased by Edith Lott, a nurse who, along with Dr. George Windsor, transformed the house into the Lott Hospital. Then in 1946, Dr. Robert Walker and Dr. William Harris purchased the hospital; it continued as a hospital until 1955. (It's interesting to note that Debi is also a nurse.

She teaches online nursing courses for the University of Wyoming.) After that, Livingston residents may remember it as the Frontier Assisted Living facility. In 1980 it once again became a private residence.

The Nemetzes have found items that date from the Henrys' time as well from when the house served as a hospital. Debi said, "We opened a section of second floor ceiling and a page from a newspaper fell out. We then halted demo and opened up a larger section of the ceiling to retrieve the items." The artifacts were all located in the dead space between the ceiling and the original slats of the third floor attic. When the Lott hospital addition was completed in the late 1920s, the items were apparently trapped when workers installed a new fir floor.

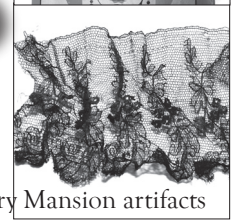
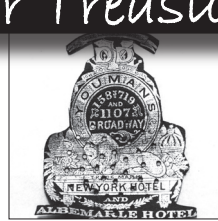
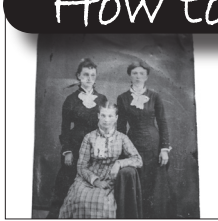
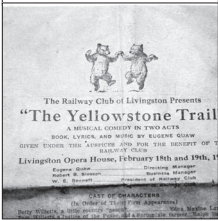
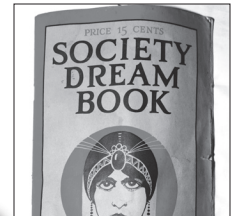
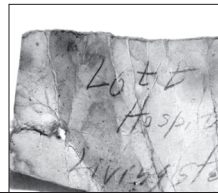
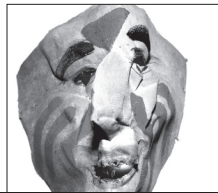
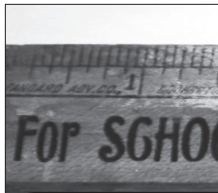
While touring the once-magnificent house during the Nemetzes' restoration project, Debi showed me the many artifacts they have found. (See the top of next page for a sampling.) She's carefully separated them and properly stored them, saying "I consider any little scrap to be a bit of the history of the house." These photos present just a sampling of the items the Nemetzes have found, and show that even seemingly insignificant objects and documents can give important clues about people and their ways of life.

I know that many people have monetary or sentimental treasures tucked away in their homes, whether on display, stored in a trunk, or unknowingly, under floorboards. Just remember, if you have items that you no longer want—documents, diaries, toys, old furniture, textiles, books, or artwork, for example—don't throw them away. Please consider donating them to your local history museum to expand what's known about those who came before us.



Debi, left, and her friend, Dorel Hoglund, suited up for safe artifact retrieval. *Photos courtesy of Debi Nemetz*





## How to Keep Your Treasures Safe

Henry Mansion artifacts

### Keep 'Em Cool and Dry

- ✔ Generally, if you want to preserve things for posterity, keep them cool and dry.
- ❗ Unfinished basements and attics are storage no-nos. Heat and humidity can seriously damage your keepsakes.

### Clean Gloves or Clean Hands?

#### Paper, Books, Textiles

- ✔ Clean hands—free from lotion—work well for handling paper, books, and textiles. Take off jewelry that might snag items.
- ❗ Being less flexible than bare hands, gloves might damage your papers, books, and textiles.

#### Metal Items

- ✔ Clean cotton gloves.
- ❗ Bare hands deposit oils that will corrode metal.

### Reproduce Precious Photographs

- ✔ Display only reproductions of the photographs of, say, your great-grandparents standing in front of their homestead cabin.
- ❗ Over time, light and dust will seriously damage, if not destroy, your original photographs.

### No Ink Pens!

- ✔ Use light pencil to write on the back of a photograph (on the border only) or document.
- ❗ Ink permanently damages photographs, eventually eating away what you were trying to save.

### Note Who, What, Where, and When

- ✔ Write down the names of family, friends, and events depicted in a photograph, as well as where and when the photo was taken.
- ❗ Don't assume memories remain infallible: Contrary to our expectations, we may not correctly remember people, places, and events from long ago. And others may not remember them at all.

### No Staples, Paper Clips, Tape, Glue, or Sticky Notes!

- ✔ These items will rust or leave a sticky residue, degrading your treasures.
- ❗ Use acid-free folders to keep items organized.

### Store Your Treasures Kindly

#### Paper Items and Books

- ✔ Old letters and photographs? Homestead papers? Grandma's diary? Place them in archival plastic sleeves that are then placed inside archival folders, and, finally, in archival boxes.
- ❗ Cardboard boxes and plastic tubs are acidic and will eventually harm your treasures.

#### Textiles

- ✔ Flat Storage: Textiles and garments that are heavy, fragile, or knit, require storage that allows their weight to be evenly distributed, cushioned by cotton sheets or acid-free tissue and then placed in archival boxes.
- ✔ Rolled Storage: Roll very large and/or heavy textiles around acid-free tubes.
- ✔ Hanging Storage: Hang all but heavy, fragile, or knit garments on wooden or metal hangers that are very well padded with polyester batting covered with muslin.
- ❗ Hangers can distort heavy, fragile, and knit items. Cardboard and plastic are acidic and will eventually harm any textile.

### Resources

- Saving Stuff: How to Care for and Preserve Your Collectibles, Heirlooms, and Other Prized Possessions* by Don Williams and Louisa Jaggard. 2005: Fireside, A Division of Simon & Schuster.
- American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, [www.conservation-us.org](http://www.conservation-us.org).
- Storage and Display of Heirloom Textiles, [www.oklahoma4h.okstate.edu](http://www.oklahoma4h.okstate.edu). (Type into your browser for a great online reference; I'll gladly make you a copy if you stop by the museum.)
- Gaylord Brothers, [www.gaylord.com](http://www.gaylord.com), 1-800-448-6160. Supplies.

# Treasures of the Research Library

By Bruce Graham

The Yellowstone Gateway Museum's research treasures are a literal fount of information about the history of Park County and the families that have lived here. Many of the items we have made available for public research cannot be found elsewhere. Among our many resources are the early voting registration records of Park County—over 350 volumes dating from 1886 into the 1940s. The museum also has most of the Park County High School annuals, as well as some from Wilsall and Clyde Park.

While volunteering between two and four hours per week over the course of the last two-and-a-half years, I have been scanning copies of *The Geyser*, Park County High's newspaper. These copies are now available for the public to view on our Research Library computers. One of my recent surprise finds was Volume 1 of *The Boner*, another Park High newspaper, dated February 26, 1937. It was printed by Arthur Miles and edited by George Luening; its four pages report on students and their activities. The pair was attempting to sell it for 5 cents a copy; future issues would depend on sales. This is the only copy we have and perhaps no others were printed. Additionally, the museum doesn't have any copies of *The Geyser* dating from 1937. It is possible that none were printed that year and that *The Boner* was an attempt by the two students to provide a newspaper for the students.

We have in excess of 1,500 books in our library, covering Montana,

Park County, and Yellowstone history. I have started to catalog all the books in the museum's PastPerfect software system, to facilitate research by title, author, and/or content. It requires up to half an hour to properly enter each book into the system. At this rate it will take me over four years to complete this project, so anyone who wants to help will be most sincerely welcomed.

Many of these books are by local authors who have written about the history of Park County and their families; it is doubtful that these volumes can be found on the shelves of any other library in the state.

Here are a few titles in our unique collection:

*One of the Harper Girls*  
by Maxine Harper Monkman

*A Boy Called Doyle*  
by Joseph Doyle Harper

*Just Reminiscing*  
by L.H. [Lew] Miller

*Hang a White Dish Towel in the Window Tonight*  
by Tom Osen

*Sage Brush Charlie*  
by the Murphy Family

*Looking Back*  
by Arnold Huppert Sr.

## Join the Friends of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum TODAY!

*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, improvement and expansion of the museum and by serving as a source of volunteers.*

**Annual Memberships:**  
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Please return to: PO Box 815, Livingston, MT 59047

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Keeping History Alive

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# Summer Interns at the Museum

By Karen Reinhart, Registrar



Mark Gangstad and the museum's roller feed mill

Two interns worked at the museum this summer. Livingston resident Mark Gangstad returned for his second summer at the museum. Many of you will remember the presentation he gave in 2012 about the spreadsheet he compiled of Livingston merchants and health care providers that spanned 100 years. This year, Mark's research focused on grain production in Park County. He researched agricultural equipment in our collection, including our recently acquired grain roller and the O.E. Thompson wheelbarrow seeder. These artifacts of early Park County agriculture can now be viewed in our outdoor exhibit area. Mark compiled a list of people who participated in Park County threshing businesses as well as photographs and other sources of related information. He increased his knowledge of technological changes in agriculture, and in the process helped us interpret our agricultural machinery and other artifacts.

Mark plans to return to the museum as an intern next summer and to expand his research to include haying and cattle operations in Park County. He said, "This past summer's internship earned some credits for my teaching history minor, and next summer's internship will earn credits to support my degree in Technology Education. Since I am receiving college credit as an intern, the Veterans Administration's Vocational Rehabilitation Program provides me with a small stipend." It's a win-win situation for the community, the museum, and for Mark.



Crae O'Connor working in the Research Center

Montana State University (MSU) student Crae O'Connor was selected as the first recipient of our paid Student Internship Endowment program. The internships focus on the historic connections between Park County and Yellowstone National Park. Exploring this relationship fulfills our mission of helping the museum more fully interpret our history, while engaging students of history. Crae scanned and summarized *Livingston Enterprise* newspaper articles from 1883-1915 that referenced many connections to Yellowstone. Topics included administration, railroad and automobile transportation, lodging, park guides, a proposal to segregate park land in order to access Cooke City mines by railroad, wildlife management, and fires. Crae's summary will help future interns develop their own in-depth research projects.

Crae found that "doing research was interesting and informative, [but] being able to participate in the day-to-day aspects of the museum proved to be most rewarding." The internship helped with her research credit requirements and provided experience in museum studies, history, and other potential areas of study. She is working on a B.S. in American Studies with a minor in Museum Studies and plans to graduate in 2016. For her, the proximity to MSU and to Yellowstone National Park made this opportunity "so rewarding and enriching, personally and educationally." Crae is interested in returning for another research internship. We would be fortunate to have her return.



## Museum and Gardiner School Collaboration

By Suzanne Goodman

The Yellowstone Gateway Museum is collaborating with the Gardiner School on a new program, Cultural Perspectives of Land Use in the Gardiner Area. Karen Reinhart designed the program based on the highly successful East Side School and Yellowstone Gateway Museum (YGM) collaboration of 2011-2012. (This program continues today.) It features expert speakers who will cover land use from multiple perspectives, including Indian Education for All topics. Karen and Friends Board member Suzanne Goodman have been working closely with the school's faculty.

For hundreds of years, people have had—and indeed continue to have—conflicting ideas about land use in the Gardiner area. The program offers a well-balanced sampling of various cultural views in order to broaden the perspectives of students, teachers, and community members. Through attending lectures and participating in field trips, participants will compare the ways the land was and is now used. Guest speakers will lead student field trips to local cultural and natural sites; additionally, they will present evening programs for the Gardiner community at large. A cultural exchange trip to the Crow Reservation for the junior class is planned for the spring.

A recent Humanities Montana grant partially funds the project. The school, YGM, and the Friends of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum have also committed funds to the project's completion.



The Gardiner junior class visited the museum recently; they will be one of the groups participating in the new program.

*Photograph courtesy of Hali Kirby-Ertel*

### *Proposed Speakers and Topics*

- **Mike Jetty**, Sioux, Indian Education Specialist, Office of Public Instruction. “Dispelling Modern Stereotypes.”
- **Shane Doyle**, Crow, Master’s Degree, Native American Studies and PhD, Education. “The Crow in Yellowstone and the Gardiner Area.” Field Trip: Sites Significant to Crow Tribe near Gardiner.
- **Ruth Ann Knudson**, Humanities Montana Speakers Bureau. “Montana Indians Today: 13,000 Years and Counting.”
- **Leo Ariwite**, Shoshone, Research Assistant, Language and Cultural Preservation, Sho-Ban Tribe. “Shoshone and Bannocks of Southwest Montana and Yellowstone.” Field Trip: Bannock-Shoshone Trail.
- **Jason Baldes**, Eastern Shoshone, graduate student, Land, Resources, Environmental Sciences, MSU Bozeman, “Buffalo and their ecological and cultural restoration,” Field Trip: Buffalo Jump.
- **Casey Olsen**, English teacher and rancher, Columbus High School. “On Growing Up Rural: Local Education for Living in the World.”
- **Western Sustainability Exchange**, Livingston. Field Trip: two Paradise Valley ranches, sustainable agricultural practices and wildlife habitat.
- **Staffan Peterson**, Yellowstone NPS archaeologist. Field Trip: Cultural Site(s) in Gardiner area.
- **Conservation group** and field trip, to be determined.

Soft-cover reprints of the 512-page *History of Park County, Montana, 1984* (\$44), including all photos and text from original book, and the 274-page *Index* (\$24) are available at the Yellowstone Gateway Museum. If ordering, include \$5 shipping per book. Call 406-222-6937 for more information. **Please submit payment to:** Friends of YGM, P.O. Box 815, Livingston, MT 59047.

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places in town that had pool tables. One was in a bar downtown that we were too young to go to and the other place was the fire department which had two tables. They had an 8-ball and a 3-ball table, and dad insisted that we play serious pool, no goofing around . . . he didn't allow any slop. We learned to bank our shots and got to be pretty good players."

Harvey was instrumental in getting the 1936 LaFrance fire truck for the city. The LaFrance was used for the first time in 1941 in response to the Livingston Flour Mill fire. The 120 lb. pressure pumps on the truck provided enough water pressure to reach the third-story fire. The new truck saved the mill from greater damages. (The LaFrance can be viewed in our outdoor exhibit.)

Harvey helped establish a rural fire department about 1953. He equipped an old police department panel truck and outfitted it with a portable pump and hose; off-duty firemen could then respond to fires beyond the city limits. His action was prompted after he witnessed a fire that destroyed a sawmill on the east side of town. The city volunteer fire department didn't have the authority to put it out because it was beyond the fire district boundary.

During the polio outbreak in the late 1940s, the fire department purchased an iron lung which helped polio victims breathe until they could reach the hospital. During Harvey's time, the fire department did not handle ambulance calls.

While fire chief, Harvey initiated an important fire-safety practice—unannounced fire drills in the local schools. Drills weren't (continued on page 11)

(continued from page 1)  
Callender Street. The police offices and fire trucks were on the main floor; the upstairs contained a kitchen, sleeping quarters, two

pool tables and an area to play cards. Harvey kept it very clean. He allowed his young sons and their friends to visit the fire station. Jim commented that "it was one of two



Livingston Fire Department, L to R: Bill Oakley, Jim Roth, Sam Jones, Earl Youngberg, Asst. Chief Chet Welling, Herb Burns, Bill Dennis, and Chief Harvey Cole.

(continued from page 10)

often held at the schools, and when they were, all students were led out the front door. If there was a fire blocking the front exit, the students wouldn't know how to escape. Jim said that his dad went "to the school unannounced and put a chain around the front door handles and then set off the fire alarm." When the students and teachers tried to open the door, Jim said the principal yelled, "Harvey, what are you trying to do?" To which Harvey replied, "The fire is right here at this door, what are you planning to do now?" No one had been trained to consider other exits. He performed that procedure at all the schools and helped them create alternative exit plans in case of fire.

When the city installed deep drainage cuts at many street intersections, city planners didn't anticipate the outcome. Harvey was not notified and was upset at the decision to create the large

dips rather than to install pipes under the streets. When firemen first tried to drive over them, all the fire nozzles fell out of the back of the fire truck and rolled onto the street. They had to slow to a crawl and determine the proper angle at which to safely take each street's drainage dip. Despite having to overcome

these and other problems, Jim proudly remembered that while Harvey was fire chief, not a single home in Livingston was lost to a fire.

Harvey had many recreational interests. He enjoyed gardening and planted many flowers and lilac trees that are still growing today. Harvey won awards at fairs for prized tulips and dahlias. He also enjoyed deer and bird hunting as well as fishing in Yellowstone National Park. Occasionally Harvey and former Fire Chief Clyde Neal took Jim and Bob, along with several of their friends, on hiking and fishing trips down Seven Mile Hole in the

Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Jim remembered that the fishing was good and the hike out was difficult; "You would take three steps forward and slide back down two steps."

After Harvey retired, the family moved to Missoula and, later, to Polson where Harvey worked for Montana Power. After Josephine died in 1987, Harvey moved back to Missoula, where he lived until his death in 1995. They are both buried in Ronan, Montana. Their son Bob died in 2006.

Jim taught music for the



Harvey and Jim after a successful bird hunt.

*All photographs courtesy of Jim Cole*

Missoula School system for 23 years. After he retired he became an "artist in residence" at Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone National Park, demonstrating his leather-

burned artwork in the lobby. People from all over the world now own those pieces. During the last three decades he also shared his musical talent; he was often heard singing songs from the interior balcony of the Old Faithful Inn to the delight of many.

Stop by your museum and discover other stories that bring the fire history of Park County and Yellowstone to life.



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—Warren McGee

From introductory remarks made  
at gala reception in Helena on April 27, 2007.

Compiled by Dick Dysart

Along the Northern Pacific Railway  
route between M.P. 136 and Helena.

*Photograph by Warren McGee*

