



CRAZY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM

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The New *Breeze*

Spring 2016

ANNUAL MEETING

April 14, 2016 6-8 PM

Wine, Tea and Hors d'Oeuvres at the Museum

Wild Rose School

By *Martin R Drivdahl*

A book titled *Big Timber* by Leslie Paulson Stryker and Crazy Mountain Museum shows on page 72 a photo of the Wild Rose Schoolhouse. A second picture shows a class of eleven students posed in front of the school.

Nostalgic emotions filled my brain as I pulled up old memories carved into the grey cells from the eight years I attended Wild Rose School. With the help of three former Students of Wild Rose, I've accumulated much information. They include George Lien (now 93) who attended from 1928 to 1935; my cousin, Marvin Overfelt, who attended four and a half years completing the eighth grade in 1938; and my brother John, who helped greatly in recalling names and events. John also provided information pertaining to Wild Rose School from Edith Malcolm Harper's book on Sweet Grass County Rural Schools.

George Lien identified seven of the eleven children shown in the class photo described in paragraph one. In the front row are Ruth Hauge, Bernard and George Lien, and Percilla Moss. Also in the photo are Richard and Elmer Hauge and Lester Hathaway. The photo was taken about 1929 or 1930. Marvin Overfelt recalled his teachers were Ursal Westland (1934 - 1935), Ellen Olsen (1935-1937), and Christine Green (1937-1938).

Teachers during the years John and I attend Wild Rose were Hazel Forsythe (grades 1 and 2), Margaret Bruffey (grades 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8), and Grace McCarten (grade 5). Grace McCarten was a young, single woman, not at all bad to look at. She was always quite prim and proper in the classroom, but we kids suspected she could kick up her heels a bit during her free time. She stayed at the Bob Davis place, and drove a rather sporty 1935 Chevy coupe. It was rigged up with an exhaust cutout that allowed the



Wild Rose School Class - Spring 1950

Back Row: David Drivdahl, Alan Hathaway, Teresa Drivdahl, Terry Hathaway, Margaret Bruffey (teacher), David Hathaway, Emil and John Drivdahl.
Front Row: Martin Drivdahl, Rolla Davis, Ruth Hathaway, Mary Plaggemeyer.

driver to bypass the muffler when desired. The car always ran quietly when on the school yard, but at times we could hear her car a-bellerin' for a good half mile away.

Recess games were much fun and included hide and seek; pump, pump, pull-away; anti-I-over: and blind man's bluff. In winter we constructed sturdy walls of packed snow behind which we hid to conduct our snowballs fights. One problem - John Plaggemeyer enjoyed pushing over our snow forts with his Jeep. Another recreational activity that some of boys learned was to ride our bicycles up end of the teeter-totter, over the top and down the other side as it flopped. Playing mumbly pegs with our jack knives was another great sport. I recall only once accident caused by our knives - I remember Lorraine Plaggemeyer receiving a minor stab wound to her butt.

Every school day the American flag was unfolded and drawn up the flagpole by two students assigned that task for a week at a time. Then the entire class and teacher faced the flag and said the Pledge of Allegiance before starting school.

Wild Rose School was formally establish in 1921. Marvin Overfelt confirmed the log structure which served as the school-

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From the President's Corner...

At last year's Annual Meeting we heard Jim Hamilton, reknown Montana Cowboy Poet, perform Changing of the Guard. It was both poignant and timely; Rita Esp had just retired and Christy Mosness resigned as Museum Director. When I asked Jim to recite his poem, little did I know that the winds of change had not yet reached hurricane force. Then those winds literally blew the front doors off the Museum on Easter Sunday morning. We became the only drive thru museum in Montana. That was quite a dramatic change.

Jill Lavold, our new director, has done a fantastic job picking up the pieces. What a way to start a new job. Jon VanDaveer has been a valuable resource on our road to recovery, guiding the team through the tricky insurance issues and repair estimates. Heath Nation has done marvelous work repairing the damage, making everything look better than before. Strong work by all involved.

The changes did not end there: We have added two new board members this year as well. Ole Oiestad and Steve Aller have joined our merry band of historical chums leading the Museum, Steve replacing Don Kinsey. The Museum Board of Directors is a hard working group. However, there is more to be done than the BOD can possibly do alone. We need

your help. Toward that end, the Board has agreed to form Friends of the Museum. This group would be similar to the Friends of the Library in nature. It will be headed up by Nancy Snyder, our Assistant Summer Director. The ideal member would be a person that wants to help out at the Museum but is too busy to be a Docent or is not inclined to do that kind of thing. This group would be called upon to help when we have events at the Museum. Would you be interested in such a group? I would invite you to speak with Nancy.

I hope the winds of change settle down a bit this next year, but this is Big Timber and it seems strange when we do not have at least a small breeze at work.

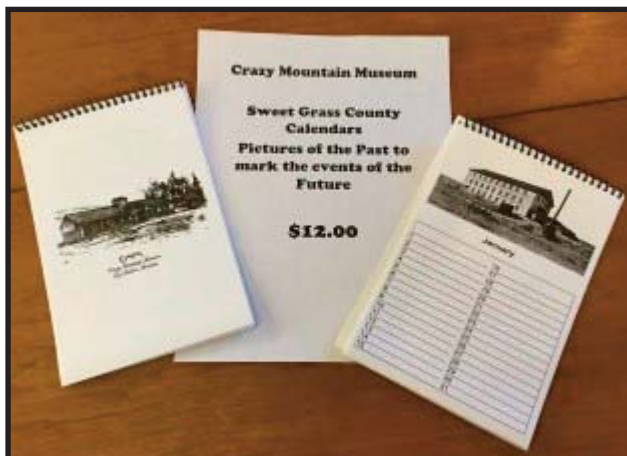
Steve Harvey

We apologize for not sending out a newsletter in October. Life intervened.

2016 Dues are now due. We are planning a new format for the annual meeting. See you there.



The snowman tree was donated by The Thrift Shop for the Christmas Stroll.



The perpetual calendars can be purchased from our website or at the museum.

A few of the pictures are the old Wool Mill, the High School, and the fire of 1908.

Our newsletter can be sent via email!

If you want the newsletter via email - please send your email address to cmmuseum@mtintouch.net and your next newsletter will arrive electronically.

SWEET GRASS MUSEUM SOCIETY

Board of Directors

Steve Harvey, Chairman
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Steve Aller

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Jean Chapel
Elli Hawks

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Jill Lavold
Nancy Snyder, Assistant

What's Happening at the Museum

Last year we introduced new events such as the Cemetery Walk. Steve Harvey and John Esp stepped into the roles of Red Morris and Henry Witten to tell their story. We'll be telling a new story this October.

We're working on new events for this year. Check our Facebook page or go to our website: crazymountainmuseum.com, click on the calendar link and read The Pioneer.

MARCH 21, 2016 6-8 PM

Genealogy workshop. Three speakers will give the different sources that can be use to search for our ancestors. There will be time for questions.

There will be a charge for this event.

APRIL 14, 2015 6-8 PM

Wine and Hors d'oeuvres at the Museum!

In lieu of our usual annual dinner we're serving wine, sparkling cider and hors d'oeuvres. Aaron Lyles, Director of Finance of The Cowboy Hall of Fame, will give a short talk on the latest information about the CHF.

We'll have a short meeting then you'll have a chance to walk around the museum, talk with the board and curators, renew your membership and enjoy the new exhibits.

We're contributing a bi-weekly column to the Pioneer called Back in the Day.

Back in the day county news was submitted to The Pioneer by individuals in the various communities such as Big Timber Creek, Boulder, Reedpoint, and Deer Creek. That news most often ended up in the Local News section of The Pioneer.

Ads from The Pioneer will also be included in this new column. They were a wonderful source of information about the business and social life of Sweet Grass County.

The Crazy Mountain Museum will be providing a bi-monthly column revisiting news and stories from the past.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED
THE RAW DEAL RUN FUNDRAISER. WE USED
IT TO UPGRADE OUR SECURITY SYSTEM!

Check our Facebook page for new posts
from the museum and Like us!



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Your dues
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Thank you
for your
membership
and
Donations!

The Sweet Grass Museum Society is a non-profit
tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c)
(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



Crazy Mountain Museum Memorials



In Memory of Agnes Viets
Chip & Melanie

In Memory of Alberta "Berdie" Schott
Don Stuart Tetlie
Judy Fjell
Gerald & Jan Hauge

In Memory of Alice Hemphill
Chip & Melanie Roe

In Memory of Ann Moore
Don Stuart Tetlie

In Memory of Barbara Boe
Don Stuart Tetlie

In Memory of Betty Gottlob
Gerald & Jan Hauge

In Memory of Bev Josephson
Shirley Seanor

In Memory of Bill Dempster
Jack Prather

In Memory of Bobby Lindner
Norm & Lorraine Starr
James & Diane Hanson
Don Tetlie
Cremer Ranches

In Memory of Byron Manley
Jim & Shirley Esp
Joetta Strand
Julie Bowden
Jack Prather

In Memory of Carol Browning
Johnny & Lauretta Aalgaard

In Memory of Clarence Petaja
Jack Prather

In Memory of Connie Kunda
Charles & Alice Bassett
Julie Bowden

In Memory of Crystal Olin
Thais Tangan

In Memory of David Anderson
Don Stuart Tetlie
Judy Fjell
Gerald & Jan Hauge
Helen Pedula

In Memory of Dianne Burmiester
Dan & Sherri Tronrud

In Memory of Dorothy Burmiester
Gerald & Jan Hauge
Ron & Diane Braughton

In Memory of Ed Gunderson
Ted & Jane Clark

In Memory of Edith Lomeland
Ron & Diane Braughton

In Memory of Erma Ferguson
George Cremer

In Memory of Helen Clark
Don Stuart Tetlie

In Memory of Jack Hines
Jonathan & Joan VanDaveer
Judy Fjell

In Memory of Jack Plaggemeyer
Dan & Sherri Tronrud
Julie Bowden
Jack Prather

In Memory of Jean Schollmeyer Fisher
Ted & Jane Clark

In Memory of Jerry Mehus
Jack Prather

In Memory of Jim Hauge
Ted & Jane Clark

In Memory of Joan Standish
Don Tetlie

In Memory of John Farthing
George Cremer
Susan Mosness

In Memory of John Nickolson
Jack Prather
Jim & Shirley Esp

In Memory of John Peterson
LuEllen & Marcus Lynch

In Memory of Judy Parker Benzal
Don Stuart Tetlie

In Memory of Lee & Donna Mae Overfelt
Jonathan & Joan VanDaveer

In Memory of Lila Letz
Don Tetlie

In Memory of Mae Kjarmo
Gerald & Jan Hauge
Julie Bowden

In Memory of Mae Shepard
Sox Ullman
Gerald & Jan Hauge

In Memory of Margaret Hauge
Don Stuart Tetlie
Jack & Audrey Parks
John & Diane Ronneberg

In Memory of Mary Blair
Ted & Jane Clark

In Memory of Mildred Martinz
Julie Bowden
Doug & Jane Lowry

In Memory of Nels Olin
Thais Tangan
Betty Faw

In Memory of Pat Chapel
James & Diane Hanson
Don Tetlie
Julie Bowden
Jack Prather

In Memory of Ozzie Nevin
Julie Bowden

In Memory of Peter Earl Harvey
Don Stuart Tetlie

In Memory of Ray Tucker
Lynn & Ann LaBrie

In Memory of Rick Mothershead
Julie Bowden

In Memory of Robert Morris
Class of 51

In Memory of Ron Thompson
James & Diane Hanson

In Memory of Rosalie Todd
Claudette Pruitt
Julie Bowden

In Memory of Steve Dempster
William & Connie Dempster
Steve Dempster Family
Jack Prather

In Memory of Sue Blackwell
Cremer Ranches
Nancy Williams
Julie Bowden

In Memory of Tom Roe
Claudette Pruitt
Julie Bowden

In Memory of William Thornby
Ted & Jane

In Honor of L.F. Douthete
Karen Officer Dean

In Honor of L.P. Officer
Karen Officer Dean

In Honor of Rita Esp
Claudette Pruitt

In Honor of William Officer
Carolyn Officer-Floyd

School (continued from page 1)

schoolhouse was initially intended to be the horse barn. A better schoolhouse was never funded. Facilities included separate outhouse for boys and girls and a wood/coal shed. The girls' toilet got tipped over by pranksters at Halloween several times. Attempts at tipping the boys' biffy proved unsuccessful. School classes ended at Wild Rose in the early 1960s. Jane Grosfield and Doris Mauland were two of the last teachers.

Unwelcome attendees: An account in-

volving bull snakes was reported by Jane Grosfield. Marvin Overfelt related that a rattlesnake attended class during Mrs. Westland's tenure.

Favorite school events for students and parents alike were the Christmas programs held at Wild Rose and the Spring picnic on Big Timber Creek.



Wild Rose School House - Late 1930's.

From the Director's Desk...

I looked over my postings on Facebook, and I'm reminded of what a year it has been. Challenging at times, a car inches away from the diorama, a stray calf grazing on our lawn, a hail storm that took out windows in the school house and practically sand-blasted a door. All of this while learning the ropes of the museum.

The board, the curators, and volunteers were amazing. I had questions, they had answers. Things had to be moved, they brought the trailers and bodies to help get the job done. I don't have the space to mention what each one did to get the museum through last year. My thanks go out to Joan Vandaveer, Jeanie Chapel, Elli Hawks, Don Kinsey, Norm Duncan, Julie Bowden, Mary Ann Duffy, Ole Oiestad, Steve Aller, Wanda Lavold, John Ronneberg, Kari Blaylock, Christy Mosness, Nancy Snyder, John Esp, and Steve Harvey.

The docents were wonderful. Some had roots deep in Sweet Grass County, others had only been here a short time. Over the summer they shared their bits of their stories with me. More than once they made suggestions that aided me in my new role as director. I'm grateful for their laughter and insight.

I've had the opportunity to research families and events for many of our guests. Delving into the past has allowed me to learn more about the times and the families who lived them. Those

early pioneers faced their own challenges and thrived. Last year has been a challenge but we're moving forward and like the pioneers we will thrive.

Jill Lavold, Director



John Esp and Steve Harvey in a showdown at the Cemetary Walk.