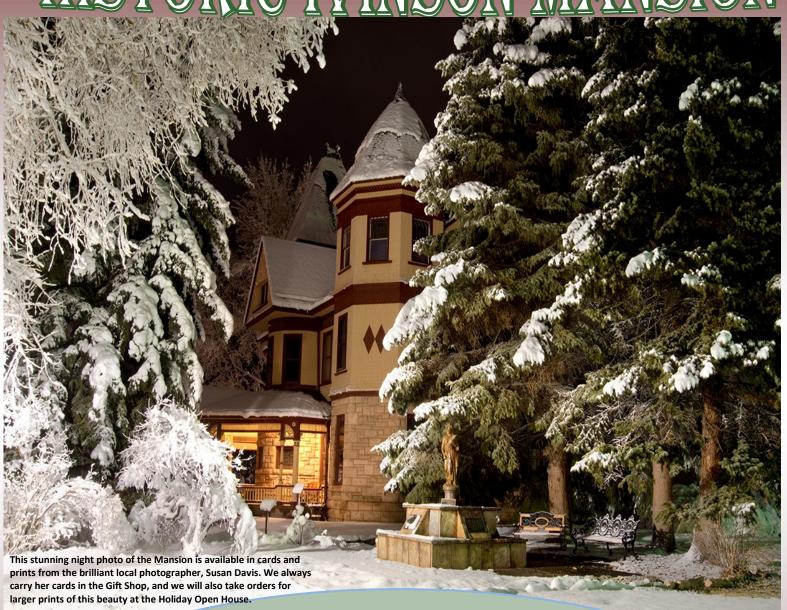
LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM HISTORIC IVINSON MANSION



WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE TOAST!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019, 5:00-6:30 P.M.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE 2019

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 3:00 TO 6:00 P.M. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1:00 TO 4:00 P.M.



RIGHT: Our Grecian lady, with her shock of wheat in hand, stands as silent sentinel in a snowy land-scape in the Museum's garden, reminding us of the most amazing 150th anniversary of Wyoming's Suffrage Act of 1869.

CORRECTION: It was incorrectly stated in the fall newsletter that **Mary Godat Bellamy** was the First Woman in a state legislature. Ms. Bellamy was **the first woman in Wyoming's State Legislature,** and a mover and shaker in many ways. Notable, immediate signs of Mary's legacy are our impressive Laramie's Woman's Club and stunning Lake Marie in the beautiful Snowy Range, named after Bellamy.

THE TOAST!



LEFT: Judy Knight, LPM Collections Manager, attired in standard suffragette garb of white purple and yellow, and Konnie Cronk, LPM Curator, stand in the Ivinson Mansion Drawing Room as if at a "salon" presentation by Stephen Downey in defense of maintaining suffrage for the women of Wyoming Territory. From its passage in 1869 and through the years until statehood in 1890, the Act held on through some rocky roads as the rest of the nation and the world refrained from giving women full rights equal to men. The Women's Rights National Historical Park tells us that the suffrage colors represent purple for justice, white for purity, and gold for courage.

"We are sowing the winter wheat that others will reap and enjoy..."
Suffragette's Diary
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
1815 - 1902

We are holding an impromptu "toast" to the Suffrage Act passed December 10, 1869 at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 2019. There will be bigger, more impressive gatherings in Cheyenne, Wyoming's seat of government, but if you can't be there, we have decided to toast our notable Albany County women and others who chose to step up in their civic duties as a result of this Act!

Stop by to raise a glass to the men of Wyoming Territory who chose to give women rights equivalent to men—to vote, hold political office and property—and to the women who stepped up to vote, hold public office and sit on a jury because of that Act. Everyone can come join us, for even just a few minutes after work, or deliberately stop by to toast Wyoming for standing strong in those early days. As the nation celebrates its 100-years anniversary in 2020 of its Suffrage Act, we can celebrate 150 years of that equality in Wyoming!

It's worth stopping by. We will have water, sparkling cider and other libations for the toast, as well a few munchies to curb your appetite until supper. No Cost. We just want YOU!

SANTAS, SANTAS, EVERYWHERE!

Whether you call him St. Nick, Kris Kringle, Santa Clause or The Jolly Old Fellow, you will see Santas of all sorts at this year's Holiday Open House at the historic Ivinson Mansion! The Museum's annual Open House brings exceptional

holiday design to the grand Ivinson Mansion via Laramie's talented florists, independent decorators and our amazing volunteer crews. You don't want to miss Shelly Forster's imaginative designs in cooperation with our LPM curatorial wizards! Alongside the beauty of this year's theme, you'll experience songsters & musicians:

<u>Saturday, in the Mansion</u>—That One Trio at 3:00 and Piano Students will perform in the Alice Hardie Stevens Center after 4:00.

Sunday, in the Mansion—St. Matthew's Choral Group will begin the festivities at 1:00 and then Wind & Roses (Alice Freeman) will grace the historic house with strains from her lovely harp. The Melodees from the Eppson Center are in the Alice Hardie Stevens Center at 2:00 p.m. Laramie Woman's Club will, again, have unbelievable holiday sales alongside some wonderful artists selling their wares for your last minute gift list. Zonta Club members offer smiles both days of the Open House with delicious cookies and cider. And everyone is welcome to be part of this very special holiday tradition!!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 3:00 TO 6:00 P.M. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1:00 TO 4:00 P.M.



Musical Talents Grace the Museum



A cheery group on the mansion's porch



Eppson Center Melodees



Alice Freeman peeks through.



That One Trio!



A Christmas Story from Jelm Mountain

By David Johnson, Jelm Mountain Descendant For eons, Jelm Mountain has stood sentinel over this little piece of land we now call Carpe Diem. The mountain probably doesn't look much different from what the first humans saw when they came here from Asia, (via the Aleutian land bridge) some 12,000 to 15,000 years ago, a mere blink of an eye in geologic time. At an elevation of 9,965 above sea level, the mountain is a cornerstone of the Laramie Plains, a swath of land about the size of Rhode Island, known for cold windy winters and cool dry summers. If Jelm could tell its story, here's what it might say about its corner of the world:

"First of all, because I can see 360 degrees in any direction, the view from my summit is quite spectacular. To the south are the snow-capped Colorado Rockies. I can see where Trail Ridge Road winds through Rocky Mountain National Park, just 50 miles south of here. To the east are some shorter mountains that settlers named the Laramie Range. I'm taller than they are, so I can see right over them to the distant plains of eastern Wyoming and western Nebraska. One hundred miles to the north is Laramie Peak. It's a bit taller than I am and, on a clear day, I can see it as if it were next door. To my north and west is Sheep Mountain, a long hog-back ridge that is a U.S. Forest Service designated wildlife sanctuary. Beyond Sheep Mountain is the Snowy Range; its peaks are snowy, but no more so than other mountains their elevation. Settlers called it the Snowy Range because of the large deposits of white quartz it contains. To my southwest, is the Park Range located in Northern Colorado. It runs north and south and, when it crosses the Wyoming border, it becomes the Sierra Madre

Range. Word has it that in 1878, Thomas Edison was fishing along the shores of Battle Lake in the Sierra Madres. He threw his broken bamboo fishing pole into the campfire and, as he watched it glow in the embers, he thought of running electricity through a carbon filament in a vacuum; the idea of the light bulb was born!

Of course, I look down on the sweep of the Laramie Plains as well. One thing that is noticeable from up here is a large indentation in the plains called The Big Hollow. It is a "wind eroded deflation basin", or in other words, a depression created by wind erosion. It is the second largest basin of its type in the world. I've watched it take shape over the last 250,000 years. The Laramie Plains is the eastern terminus of a break in the Rocky Mountains that has been a transportation conduit to the west coast since the mid-1800's, but more about that later. You should come visit me some day. I have a road up my back side or, if you want to be adventurous, you can bushwhack your way up the front side to my crown. Either way, the views

are pretty darn good.

Arising in the Colorado mountains to my south is a stream that flows northward into Wyoming before it winds around me and right past Carpe Diem. This stream is named the Big Laramie River, although I understand that there are larger rivers elsewhere. The river flows off into the distance and disappears into a canyon in the Laramie Range. I'm just a mountain so I don't get around much, but knowing that water likes to flow downhill, I assume it must be seeking out a place a lot lower than the Laramie Plains!

Sometime in my middle age I recall the appearance of some strange two legged creatures on the plains and the nearby mountains. Until that time the Laramie Plains was a vast expanse where bison, deer and antelope grazed. The bison and antelope were dedicated plains dwellers and they rarely visited me or my mountain friends. However, I would often (and still do) feel the tickle of deer and elk on my haunches as they sought out feed and water. Down there on the river where Carpe Diem is, it was pretty swampy and seemed to be a good home



for those big homely critters called moose. Beaver liked the river bottom as well. It was a great place to build dams to ensure that all of the fertile soil didn't flow downstream with the river. There were also lots of aspen trees to provide food and building material for the beaver.

Okay, now back to those "two legged creatures" They lived in tribes and, by and large, they seemed to get along pretty well. Word has it that the Laramie Plains fell outside of what would be considered home territory for any one tribe. Over the years, the tribes that lived here were the Northern Arapaho, Northern Cheyenne, Ogallala Sioux, Eastern Shoshone and White River Utes. On my flanks and the flanks of my neighbors, they would cut tall trees called lodgepole pines and use them as supports for their homes. They were a pretty ingenious lot, as they managed to feed and shelter themselves quite well. They hewed rocks into points that they would attach to an arrow that could be shot with deadly accuracy using something called a bow. They would use these to kill buffalo, deer, elk and antelope to use for food. Hides of these animals were utilized for clothing or draped over the lodge pole pine scaffolding to provide shelters that were called teepees. On the bluff across the river from Carpe Diem are chippings and remnants of arrowheads that were left there over many centuries. I lived in peace with these settlers for thousands of years and then things started to change.

Some 500 years ago, a man sailed across a big body of water seeking fame, fortune and a new world. His name was Christopher Columbus. Subsequently, explorers from far away lands decided to settle in this place I call home. I had never been owned by anyone before, but, in 1699, the king of a faraway land named France laid claim to the area I call home. It was called the Louisiana Territory. In 1762, France gave the Louisiana Territory to a country named Spain in something called the Treaty of Fontainebleau. (Remember, I'm just a mountain, so this is all hearsay. My job is to oversee the Laramie Plains, not to expound about human history.) Needless to say, word has it that, in 1803, a new country called the United States

of America (USA) bought the Louisiana Territory. A man named Thomas Jefferson was president of this new country and he signed the document transferring me to the United States. Carpe Diem's pedigree is a document known as an abstract that shows the property's ownership as far back as the Louisiana Purchase. My portion of the Louisiana Territory was ceded to the Nebraska Territory in 1854, and in 1868, it became the Wyoming Territory. Wyoming became a state in 1890.

The one hundred years following the Louisiana Purchase brought many changes for me. The majority of the Indians and virtually all of the bison disappeared concurrent with the arrival of some newcomers to the neighborhood. They looked different than the original settlers. Their

skin was very light colored; I understand the majority of them came from a place called Europe, which includes France, Spain and numerous other countries. Apparently some of them liked nice things and one thing they couldn't get enough of was beaver pelts to make fancy hats and clothing. The Big Laramie River was prime habitat for beaver. In fact, the name Laramie comes from Jacques La Ramie, a fur trapper who was in the area in the early 1800's. During the course of his short life, he worked for the Hudson Bay Company, a large fur trading company. He also worked for a man named John Jacob Astor who made his fortune in the fur trade. Jacques La Ramie died somewhere along the banks of the Laramie river in 1821 and his body was never found.

Americans were not people to sit around and they had an insatiable urge to better their lives, to explore and to expand across the continent. In 1849, they discovered gold in a place called California. The only problem with California was that it was on the opposite side of the continent from where the majority of Ameri-

Jelm Mountain cont'd

cans lived and the only way to get there was overland on horseback, in a covered wagon, or by sea which involved sailing for months around a big continent named South America. Many people traveling west used the Overland Trail. There are still ruts on the banks of the Laramie River downstream from here where wagons crossed on their way west. In 1862, in an effort to link the country together, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Pacific Railway Act into law. The act authorized the issuance of government bonds and the granting of land to railroad companies for subsequent sale, the proceeds of which would be used to fund the construction of a railroad that would run across southern Wyoming on its way to California.

From my vantage point, I remember seeing smoke near the base of the Laramie Mountains in 1866. That was when I first got an inkling that a town might be rising from the plains. I couldn't really make it out from here, but in 1868 I understand the transcontinental railroad reached Laramie. The railroad had an great need for railroad ties. The pine forests of the local mountains provided an ideal source of these ties. As the railroad expanded west, men called "tie hacks" cut trees and floated them down the Big Laramie River to the tie plant in Laramie where they were cut and shaped for use on the railroad. In fact, my name, Jelm, is an alliteration of Gillom, the name of one of the tie hacks who cut timber in my back yard in the 1860's. By 1873, the railroad was complete with the driving of a golden spike at a place called Promontory Point in Utah Territory.

Laramie grew by leaps and bounds as people moved west seeking a new life. When the railroad first came to town, a man named Edward Ivinson was on board the first train. He was an entrepreneur who opened a retail store to sell goods to the railroaders. He went on to establish one of the first banks in Wyoming and he was, in many ways, the "father" of Laramie in that he was instrumental in building the Episcopal Cathedral in town, the hospital and a home for aged ladies that is still in operation. In addition, he built a big Victorian mansion on a city block in Laramie. I understand it has been re-

stored to its original glory and is now home to the Laramie Plains Museum.

Louisa Swain was one of Laramie's big claims to suffrage fame when, in 1870, she became the first woman to vote on equal terms with men in a general election in the United States. The Territorial legislature granted women the right to vote and hold political office in 1869, largely to entice more people to move to Wyoming in an effort to balance the ratio of men to women, which was six to one. Members of the legislature then had second thoughts and passed a bill repealing the law but the governor, a gentleman named John Campbell vetoed the bill and the rest is history. In addition to the first woman voter, Laramie is also know for having the first woman bailiff and the first woman juror, and Wyoming had the first female legislator and governor. Those changes still resonate in today's world and Wyoming is justifiably known as the "The Equality State." If you have a chance, come summer, you should visit the Wyoming House for Historic Women, viewing the statue of Louisa Swain just a stone's throw from where she placed that first vote (behind the present day Altitude restaurant.) For the next ten years, I saw more and more signs of settlement. People were moving to the country and buying land to establish ranches. In 1879, the Elge family first set foot on the land where Carpe Diem stands.

They were from Sweden and had moved to the USA seeking a better life. They came from an area known for its steel mills and they initially settled in the Chicago area, but it wasn't a fit for them, so they headed west. The family name in Sweden was Elg which means "moose" but when they came to the U.S. an "e" was somehow added to the end of their name. They subsequently changed their name to Johnson. Changing names was a practice common for many immigrants.

Sofia Johnson was quite a cook. She needed to be, to feed a growing family in such a hardscrabble environment. To raise extra money, she would often host town folks who wanted to travel to the country for a home cooked meal. Her meals were legendary, and Mr. Edward Ivinson was one of her regular customers. Young Wesley would sometimes take Mr. Ivinson bird hunting on my lower extremities. I remember

those days well, he was a very good marksman with his silver inlaid shotgun.

In 1927, the family moved to the ranch permanently. I could go on and on about the many things I've observed over the years since the family first settled here but, suffice it to say, I've now watched five generations of Johnsons work, play, laugh, cry, love, get married and die, all the while tending to their parcel of the American West. Family members still come here from far and wide to visit the place where their American roots were established.

Early settlers would be awestruck at the changes I've seen over the years. Electricity brought the modern world to the Laramie Plains in the 1940's and today, ranchers live with all of the comforts of their urban brethren. They communicate with the outside world and stay tuned with current events via satellites floating in space 20,000 miles above the equator.

Things have changed for me too. In 1912, President Theodore Roosevelt authorized the land at my apex for a fire lookout tower. The tower was built shortly thereafter and it stood until 1975 when it was torn down. In 1977, the National Science Foundation and the University of Wyoming opened the Wyoming Infrared Research Observatory. It is utilized by scientists worldwide for monitoring and re-searching such things as blazars, binary stars and black holes.

Yes, over the years, I've seen many things, from the migration of humans to North America, to descendants of those people peering out into the universe from my summit looking for signs of what might have been, what is, or what might be."





SAYING GOOD-BYE AND THANK YOU

With most of our Museum clientele being of the more distinguished ages, we don't do memorial articles or obituaries very often, but these two ladies meant a great deal to the Laramie Plains Museum as benefactors and volunteers, so we will make this brief mention in our sentimental holiday issue.

One of our loveliest *Tea Ladies*, STEVI PATTERSON, passed away this summer and we are missing her sense of humor and her artsy touch with flowers and design. She was always excellent insight to our renovation choices and events. Her request was that her memorial reception simply be a Tea for her family and friends from the Museum and Laramie Woman's Club. We were happy to oblige.

BARBARA BARNES was a friend to all and a special supporter of the Laramie Plains Museum and Wyoming history. Through her extensive coordinations with notable historian, Dr. Phil Roberts, she helped dozens of folks see and "feel" Wyoming's history with *Million Dollar Tours*, bringing in close to \$50,000 to LPM's operational and special project needs! Barb passed away this fall after touching many hearts with her life.

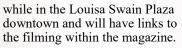
These beautiful ladies were certainly gifts to our Museum world. We miss them.





It has been a busy year of film crews—in the Ivinson Mansion and at the Wyoming House for Historic Women—as various media venues try to capture the feel of Laramie and its history in relation to Women's Suffrage. Wyoming PBS has been working with the Museum staff since January, returning for film retakes in the summer to enhance the upcoming suffrage documentary. Kim Viner and Mary Mountain were involved in all aspects of that filming and the crews were great. The Equality Documentary will premiere in Cheyenne on the 150th Anniversary of the Suffrage Act as part of the festivities for December 10, 2019, but we can all view it on Wyoming PBS, Dec. 12 at 7:00 p.m. The documentary will continue to run throughout 2020—as the nation celebrates the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote. C-SPAN also was in Laramie filming its Cities Tour. You can see Kim Viner, right, helping get the shot

set up. Viner spoke about the Ivinsons' importance to Laramie's history; Mountain spoke about suffrage; and several local authors showcased our fair city. You can still view all of the coverage on your computer: <u>C-Span Cities Tour</u> page. And, believe it or not, <u>Sports Illustrated</u> magazine is even featuring women's suffrage in their <u>May 2020 swimsuit edition</u>. They photographed primarily at the Brush Creek Ranch, but one model was photographed at the Mansion as one of the top five places to visit in Laramie. Below, the model, Mila (far left) and the *SI* film crew discussed new shots





Left is Piper Singer of Wyo. Office of Tourism with Scott Larson, new director of the Albany County Tourism Board. Mike Gray and Albany County Tourism have been instrumental in much of the coverage we're getting on suffrage. Look for even more of Gray's historic designs and inspiration

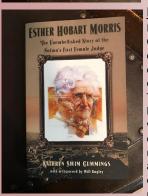
around town through the new Suffrage Celebration year.



BOOK REVIEWS

THE VIEW FROM THUNDERHEAD, review by Danny Walker

Long-time supporter of the Wyoming Women's History House and the Louisa Swain Foundation, **Ray Hunkins**, continues his support with publication of his new book: *The View from Thunderhead: Reflections on the History, Culture, People and Politics of Wyoming.*Mr. Hunkins compiled a series of essays prepared over the years on those topics into this book and dedicated proceeds from book sales to the Louisa Swain Foundation to continue his support. The book is divided into three parts: Reflections on Wyoming History and Culture (12 essays); Reflections on Wyoming People and Politics (18 essays); and Reflections on Friends and Faith (4 essays). These essays include something for everyone who loves and appreciates Wyoming's history and people. As stated by Historian Phil Roberts: "Ray Hunkins writes of what he sees as the real Wyoming –in its legacy, its politics, its land, its people, and its history (including the story of Wyoming's key role in women's suffrage)...(Ray's) passion for Wyoming shows throughout this thought-provoking memoir by a true Wyoming original." Support the Swain Foundation and Laramie Plains Museum by adding this book to your Christmas shopping list.



Ray Hunkir

ESTHER HOBART MORRIS, review by Judy Knight

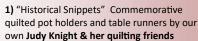
In her new book, Esther Hobart Morris: The Unembellished Story of the Nation's First Female Judge, Utah author Kathryn Swim Cummings reveals that her subject's life was very much a product of her times, not ahead of the game toward equality as some have claimed. But she is shown to be up to the challenges that life on the frontier provided women and the men they were very much dependent upon, no matter what the promise of gender equality might be. Sometimes biographies contain too much detail and not enough storytelling, but this one is an exception, very readable and covers much new ground in what is revealed about Esther's life. The truth of who she was and what she stood for has long been known, written about forcefully starting in the 1950s by Wyoming historian T.A. Larson and later by Michael A. Massie, both of Laramie. But the persistent myths give evidence to the admonition that writers of history find corroboration, avoid conjecture, and strive to tell the truth. To that end, Cummings provides sources in copious end notes, genealogy charts, an index, and a bibliography that will provide much fodder for future scholars. Luckily, her subject wrote many letters to one relative over a 40-year period. Brief excerpts from these letters give insight into Esther's character. If you know anything about Esther Hobart Morris, chances are that you have heard that she hosted an 1869 tea party in South Pass City and extracted pledges from competing candidates for the Territorial Legislature to introduce a woman suffrage bill. There was no tea party. This myth was concocted by Lander pioneer H.G. Nickerson in 1924, claiming that he had been there, 55 years earlier. Another myth is that

she was the "Mother of Woman Suffrage in Wyoming"—promulgated by her son Archibald, publisher of the Cheyenne Leader newspaper. In fact, Mrs. Morris gave delegate William H. Bright full credit for the introduction of the suffrage bill, and there is evidence that she didn't meet him until the Woman's Suffrage Act became law, after he returned to South Pass City. She never claimed to have promoted its passage in 1869. The very real Mrs. Morris further obtained mythological status when Utah sculptor Avard Fairbanks completed a statue of her in 1960 for Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol Building. The statue looks nothing at all like her, except maybe it does present a six-foot tall woman, which she was in real life. Fairbanks created an idealized woman, someone fitting to be the symbol of the "Equality State" that Wyoming claims to be. A copy of the statue was erected in front of the Wyoming State Capitol, where it stood until recently. It has now been moved to a passageway between the capitol and another building. Unexpectedly, we discover that Esther Morris was a suffragist at heart despite the overstatements about her role in Wyoming women's suffrage. Almost from her beginning in rural New York, her young adulthood in Illinois, and her late middle age in Wyoming Territory, her life and that of her family was full of drama, thwarted plans, and unexpected turns that make entertaining and compelling reading. It will bring the reader new respect for the real woman and the place she deserves in Wyoming history.

CHRISTMAS GREETING

The Museum's CARRIAGE HOUSE GIFT SHOP offers great things to complete your holiday list! And everything is always 20% off during each Christmas

season. Come see!



2) The Mansion's Coffee blend "Historic Elegance", is offered in cooperation with Coal Creek Coffee Roasters each year.

3) Handmade Topsy Turvey dollies are always a special gift. We only have a few left!

> 4) During this 150th Suffrage Anniversary for Wyoming and the 100th Anniversary for the 1920 Suffrage Act nationally, this Votes for Women is a great reminder and a fine read.

> > 5) Just published, wonderful insight into those women who made a difference as Girl **Guards In Wyoming!**

6) Many of you love to come to the Carriage House just to buy Shannon Martin vintage photo cards. We have napkins, luggage tags, jewelry trays, magnets and more in

7) Ray Hunkins has published a terrific coffee table book about his corner of the state, with insight to his life in politics and Wyoming's decisions for equality for women. Great gift this Christmas! Danny Walker's

8) We can't keep these Lasso baskets and bowls in stock! They are the perfect representation of our cowboy state and a terrific

9) The real story of Esther Morris is a great gift this year! Judy Knight's review on the opposite

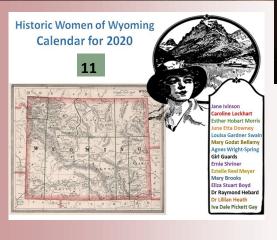
ESTHER HOBART MORRIS

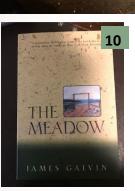
KATHRYN SWIM GUMMINGS

9

- 10) You all have heard of this special book and we sell it in the shop. The 100 year history of that Colorado/ Wyoming border meadow, right in
- 11) If you haven't gotten your 2020 calendars yet, we have two great options: The Historic Women of Wyoming Calendar developed by Karen Bard and starring local "celebs" is here and, of course, we always have the Wyoming Historical Society Calendar—a sure bet to







Ray Hunkins

Historic Ivinson Mansion Laramie Plains Museum Newsletter

The Historic Ivinson Mansion

Newsletter is published 4 times a year by the Laramie Plains Museum Association.

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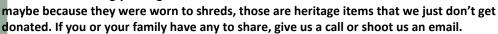
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Danny Walker
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Mary Mountain



Is there anyone out there—as you dig out Christmas décor for this year or downsize, or clear out family homes—running across one of those old aluminum Christmas trees with the color projector? Egads, yes, we really are remembering that 1960's shimmer, and looking for one for our 2020 holiday set up!! Call Shirla Walker (307-399-1510) or the Museum (307-742-4448) if you have one to donate or just share for next season.

And while we're wishing: our curatorial group is always looking for garments from working folks—railroaders, cowboys and cowgirls, farmers, tie hacks, domestics, even teachers. Interestingly enough and





T AN EXTRA-GIVING DECEMBER THIS YEAR

We have received a special offer from one of our favorite **Benefactors**, **Kim Viner**. In honor of his wife, **Barbara Barnes**, Kim will match every donation given to the Museum this December up to \$50,000! Any amount you give within his goal for us will be matched! What amazing gifts to this special place from any and all of us with Kim's generosity joining ours. Barb is surely smiling!

Imagine...

A new year with new opportunities and fresh beginnings. Imagine all of the great things that await you. Imagine all that you can accomplish.

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