



Historic
Ivinson Mansion
LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM
SUMMER
2021

POST-COVID, MUSEUM REOPENS
TOURS OFFERED 6-DAYS A WEEK
TEEN DOCENTS ARE BACK
WEDDINGS, FAMILIES, EVENTS ARE-
ON THE IVINSON PROPERTY AGAIN
SO IS JUBILEE DAYS ART FEST
AND EVENING AT THE IVINSONS

Our Beautiful Laramie weather and more than a year after the pandemic lockdowns began, we are celebrating history and our legendary property just as these revelers did in the summer of 1893 on the west front lawn of the Ivinson Mansion.

(Yes, I am rerunning this picture since we once again can gather here.)

Come to our events! Bring your guests to take tours. Re-experience this special season and our magnificent property once again!

Enjoy YOUR museum!



CHEERS TO MAKING IT THROUGH THE TOUGH TIMES



*** In the January 2021 issue of *True West* magazine, our Laramie Plains Museum at the Historic Iverson Mansion was touted as one of the **BEST of the WEST** on page 68 and listed as **BEST PRESERVATION OF AN HISTORIC WESTERN BUILDING**

The editors described our museum showcased in the Mansion and ended with this quote: “The community of Laramie takes great pride in the mansion and the museum; all of the material and household antiques on display in the museum’s exhibitions were donated by local residents.”

*** Even during our closures to staff and publics onsite, **Judy Knight**, our **LPM Collections Manager**, kept researching and writing our local history for the *Laramie Boomerang*. Knight gives those hours and her articles free-gratis so that our rich and unique history can be uncovered and told. She kept interest in history and this beloved museum alive during the COVID isolation. Historian Kim Viner wrote articles as well and also kept local history sparking on Facebook. Thanks, guys!

*** Along with the virtual tours and short vignettes offered on our website (laramiemuseum.org) by **Kim Viner**, **Jerry Hansen**, **Sylvia Hansen**, **Al Tremblay**, **Gary Crawford**, **Susan Shumway** and the **curatorial staff**, **Curator Konnie Cronk** and **Director Mary Mountain** dressed as historic characters and took history *on the road*. **Konnie**, as **Sarah Thobro**, one of the Iversons’ domestic staff and **Mary** as **Mrs. Edward Iverson** presented early Laramie history to 2nd grade classes at *Snowy Range Academy*. Ordinarily, we have more than 500 students touring with their classes through the Iverson Mansion each spring, but this school year and the eerily quiet 2020 did not allow such visitations. The 2nd graders were a treat and have already started bringing their parents to the museum to learn as they did from the historic characters.



*** Always a doer, **LPM Benefactor** and *Unexpected Company Senior Theatre* founder and actress, **Germaine St. John** does not allow grass to grow under her feet, even during pandemic isolation! Within days of the early lockdown, Germaine discovered **Zoom** and was lifted, learning, and interacting every day with **Senior Planet** online. She took classes, Zoomed with new friends and even researched and personally presented an online history of Wyoming shown around the nation. When almost a year of isolation was over, Germaine hosted some of her wonderful, newly-discovered Denver-area friends at a special meal in Laramie and with a personalized tour of the Iverson Mansion. Mrs. Iverson and her domestics (Jan Webster, Mary Mountain, Germaine) illustrated Laramie’s history in costume to these new friends (some seen below) who were enchanted. *Cheers* to all friends who kept us healthy and going during the long, lonesome year of protective shelter!!



PLEASE NOTE THESE BITS OF INFORMATION:

The February newsletter incorrectly stated that the newly-placed Piano Bar (a definite hit now in the Event Center!) was created by Charmaine and Buddy Tupper, **not** Tapper as was misprinted in the newsletter. The Tupperes took the old piano from the Moose Lodge, and upon which a century of tunes had been played, and repurposed it into the unique addition we now have in the Alice Hardie Stevens Center, thanks to the generosity of **Flew Wilson**.

We apologize for anyone who was unable to get in on the Zoom connection for our **February Annual Meeting**. When Board Director Lara originally set the virtual meeting, there was no password needed. Then UW was hit with a rash of hackers to virtual meetings so the connections were locked down right before that Sunday meeting. We did not realize that had happened it was following the Annual meeting that we became aware. Many people were unhappy with us and all we could do was apologize and promise to make amends for any future virtual meetings. We are happy with the ability to have many of you faraway members able to share in events like that virtually, so we will make sure there are numbers posted on our website for you to call when trouble arise

JUST A REMINDER: The museum’s email was changed in April of 2016 from our longtime Bresnan provider to **lpmdirector@laramiemuseum.org** This email is easy to remember and corresponds well with the **Museum’s website: laramiemuseum.org** If you want to make sure to reach us, use these addresses.

KONNIE'S KORNER

Insight to Albany County Ranching Culture from LPM Curator, Konnie Cronk

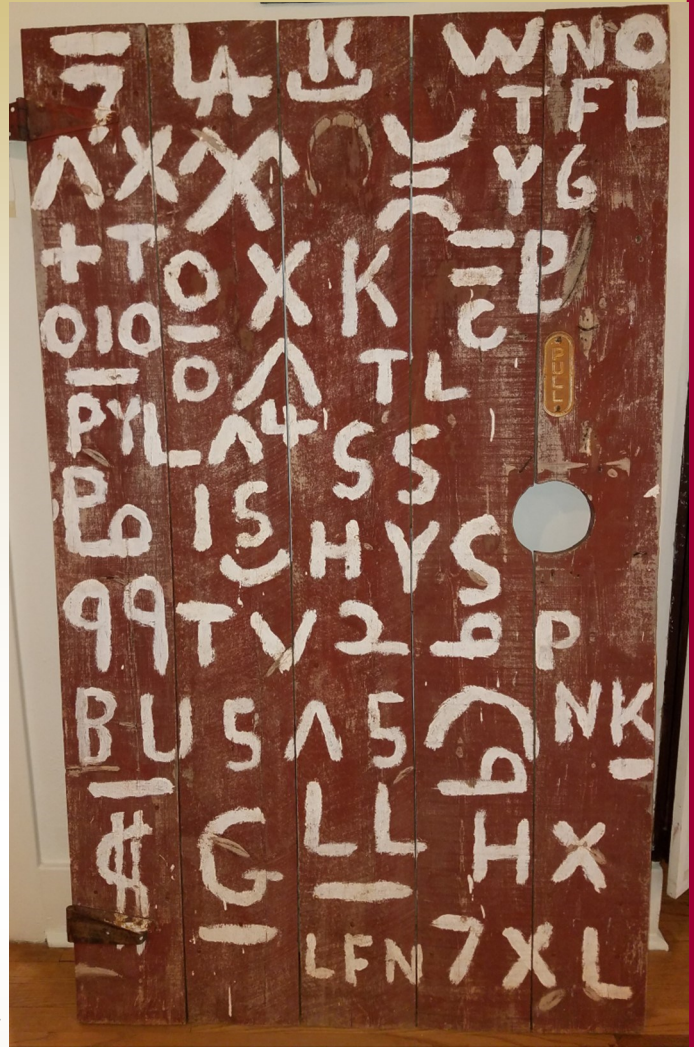


This door was originally a part of the outbuildings located at the Wooden Shoe Ranch, south of Laramie near the Colorado border on the Fort Collins-Walden Road. The ranch was the original homestead of Nicholas Lundquist (who incidentally helped to rebuild Chicago after the 1871 fire), who came to Laramie around 1881 and ran a

sheep ranch. This door is a recent acquisition as a gift from Silvyia and the late Jim Wear, the most recent stewards of the ranch. We curators were told that the brands on the door are neighboring ranches from around the Albany County area (the LPM curatorial team has not identified the brands, yet) but not all symbols are actual brands and others are examples of some cowboy humor.

There are two stories that have been told as a possible origin for the branded door, but both are wonderful examples of the community that neighboring ranches showed for one another as well as the types of entertainment engaged in so far from town. The first story has to do with the latter. Rodeos are a common pastime for working ranch hands and anyone skilled in roping and horse riding (or other daring feats) and often were informal and spontaneous. Other times, small rodeos were set up between a few ranchers and took place at a particular ranch. In this version the participating cowboys in one of these small rodeos painted the brand of the ranch of which they were currently working on the door. According to the other story, the brands were painted on the door during a particular calving season, where neighboring ranchers and cowboys would spend the day at a particular ranch and help to get the work done.

There are quite a few symbols painted on the door and perhaps the rodeo seems like a more feasible explanation, but then again, as I am not all that skilled at reading brands perhaps none of them are brands from a particular ranch and are all cowboy humor. Let me know your thoughts. Contact Amy or me at 745-3487 or shoot me an email at konniecronk@gmail.com



"2 Lazy P P" translates to "Too Lazy to Pee." Lazy here does not refer to a person unwilling to work, but rather a person who has worked so hard they are unable to complete basic tasks such as relieving one's self.

Many parts of our new LPM Wooden Shoe Ranch exhibit are gifts from Jim and Silvyia Wear, former owners of the stunning historic acreage. Come check it out, as well as the other fascinating looks at Albany County ranching history showcased in these revitalized and impressive 3rd floor exhibits. Remember, as members, you can always just drop by to see your museum at no extra touring cost.

The Tradition of Tea on Tuesday Continues. . .



ABOVE: Early Tea Ladies: Esther Kelley, Elinor Mullens, Sally Young, Win Bessey, Carolyn Nelson and Margaret Dickman. The style, grace, etiquette and great foods we learned from these ladies and others set the high standards for our elegant and very successful Teas since their inception in the late 1980's. **BELOW RIGHT: More faithful and well-known Tea ladies: Ladona Stallings, Polly Wade and Martha Ensley.** All of our ladies have had delectable favorites they contributed to the platters of sweets and savories for the Teas. Notables are *Polly's Cucumber Sandwiches, Margaret's Genevoise (melt in your mouth fancy shortbread) & Chicken Salad, Carolyn's Strawberry Tarts, Martha's Fruit Salad, Izola's Cream Puffs,* just to name a few. Many of these special recipes can be found in our Tea Cookbook, carried in the Carriage House Gift Shop. **Ruth Hanks**, LPM administrative assistants, and **Deb Thomsen** were the volunteers who devoted many hours to gathering, compiling and editing at various times so that we have that special record.



ABOVE: Curators, Amy Allen and Konnie Cronk gave a well illustrated program about how women's clothing styles distinctly changed as women gained suffrage and independence. All Tea programs this season are researched and presented by our Curatorial staff.



ABOVE: Glad to be back are 2021 Tea Ladies at the May event: **Mary Mountain** with face shield, **Joyce Powell, Suzy Taylor and Pennie Espeland.**

TEA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We have very recently lost some of our valuable Tea ladies—helpers and also special attendees of the Teas. **Margaret Dickman, Sally Young, and Mary Jill Daly** passed in May/June of this year—right around Tea time—so their loss is quite poignant. We sincerely miss them, but their legacy lives on with these beautiful spring and summer events held on the grounds of the Laramie Plains Museum. If you would like to help us carry on this special tradition as a volunteer, please contact Mary (or any of our staff) by calling 742-4448 or email us at lpmdirector@laramiemuseum.org

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS



Just as 2020 graduates around the world were severely impacted because of COVID-19 pandemic, so too, **LARAMIE'S 1960 GRADUATES** couldn't hold their reunion during the isolation, restrictions, and closures of the year. After several considerations and pow-wows of how to take care of the pot of money they had accumulated in anticipation of the big 60-year event, the generous class decided to gift their **\$3000** to a future visionary project of the Museum, impressed with the idea of repairs, restoration and expanded work areas to the 1892 Carriage House on the Iverson property.

Class representatives presenting the windfall to what they deem "Laramie's Treasure" (the Laramie Plains Museum) are shown above in the Museum's Carriage House Gift Shop: **Frank Scott, Lynn Benson and Butch Beaman**. Other committee members who orchestrated the reunion and the eventual great gift to the Museum were **Bob Hansen**, who attended University High School (now known as Prep), **Susan McGraw and Anne Siren Levig**. ALL members of Laramie's 1960 classes are responsible for this very generous gift to the future of another stunning slice of history on the Iverson block.



In our LPM Collection, we have an original Topsy Turvey doll, a remnant of the past when little girls could play with dollies, both blonde-haired and white or of color with sweet French knots mimicking braids. Years ago, our **curator, Carolyn Nelson**, found a Topsy pattern and started making the dollies to sell to our visitors. They are a treasured buy when we have them in stock, and Carolyn was able to lure her sister, **Suzanne Johnson**, into helping her create the dollies as well as beautiful embroidered towels. This talented, smiling hands-on donor and her daughter were visiting from Arizona in June so we got refills on the Topsies and these lovely pictures of their stop in Laramie. **Thank you, Suzanne!**

NEW MUSEUM BENEFACTORS announced at our February Annual Meeting were: **Jacqueline (Jackie) Bath, Linda Eason, The Kenney Family, Robert & Marguerite Routson, Jim & Silvy Wear** Others who have newly given \$1000 or more this year so will be the newest Benefactors listed in our Hall of Donors: **Maxine and Rod Chisholm, Carolyn Hurwitz (Herwitz family) !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
We have received many wonderful gifts from **Iverson Circle donors**, already established Benefactors and our faithful, generous members as we have climbed our way out of these pandemic impacts. We are grateful for you all!

JUSTICE FOR JOE MARTIN

By Kim Viner, LPM Docent, Historian, Author

At times it seems too hard to revisit our history, but it is only then that we can realize our flaws, make amends and provide justice as we realize a better way.

Monday, August 29, 1904, started out as a normal, warm, sunny Laramie day. The Semi-Weekly Laramie Boomerang devoted its front page to a problem with state fishing laws and its back page to a prizefight in San Francisco.

By the end of the day the community would be the scene of an act of racial hatred. An African American man, Joe Martin, was forcibly taken from the county jail and lynched at the corner of Sixth St. and Grand Ave.

New Arrivals in Town

A major figure in the lynching drama was Della Krause, a 22 year-old Chillicothe, Missouri, native who arrived in the area as early as July when she was reported in the Laramie Republican newspaper as visiting Centennial with 38 year-old William Benton. By late August she was working in the courthouse kitchen, helping to prepare meals for prisoners in the county jail. She was sometimes referred to as a guest of Mrs. Alfred Cook, the sheriff's wife.

Not much is known about Joe Martin. Some reports indicate he arrived in Laramie from Ogden, Utah, possibly early in 1904. Other reports stated that he had been in the Wyoming State Penitentiary serving a three-year sentence for a "heinous crime." He worked as a janitor at a local saloon.

35 year-old Martin was arrested in Laramie on three occasions. In February, Martin was fined five dollars and sentenced to jail time for threatening a cook at the Chrissman Hotel. In March, he was arrested for threatening a man with a knife. Those charges were dropped.

Then in April, Martin was arrested and sentenced to six months in the county jail and fined fifty dollars for sending an obscene letter to Maud Cummings who was working at the Kuster Hotel. Justice of the Peace M. N. Grant stated that he wished the law allowed for a stiffer sentence. During his incarceration, Martin was granted "trusty" status by Sheriff Alfred Cook. The Weekly Boomerang concluded its report on the sentencing thusly: "The Negro has a bald head and slouches as he walks but prides himself upon the nickname of the 'Kansas City Dude.'"

Attack on Jailhouse Worker

On August 29, "trusty" Martin was out of his cell performing work around the courthouse, and about 1:30 p.m. he went to the basement kitchen where Krause was assisting Mrs. Alfred Cook in the preparation of meals for the seven prisoners. Details of exactly what happened next are not clear, but it appears Martin made suggestive comments to Miss Krause.

When he was rebuffed, Martin seized a razor and attacked Krause. Before he could be subdued by Mrs. Cook and her son Alden, he managed to slash Krause four times on the neck, right cheek, nose and near her left eye. Reports at the time said she would be "disfigured for life."

In an article that day titled "Negro Fiend," the Cheyenne Wyoming Tribune newspaper reported Sheriff Cook intervened and "beat the Negro nearly to death and threw him into a cell." Later, jailor A. J. Jones realized that Martin's condition was such that Dr. S.B. Miller was called to attend to his injuries.

Anger Swells Among Townsfolk

Word of the attack on Della Krause circulated around town later that day. The Laramie Republican newspaper reported that angry mutterings and some open threats of summary vengeance were heard. After the stores closed, a considerable crowd of men gathered at the corner of Second and Thornburgh St. (now Ivinson Ave.) with "one subject of conversation and their eyes to the east" (toward the courthouse). Policemen came to the scene but did not intervene as the crowd eventually surged up the street.

Assault on the Courthouse

By 8 p.m. between 200-300 men reached the courthouse and immediately the leaders of the mob entered the building. At this point, reporting on the events becomes confused. Most papers wrote that the men, who were not masked, demanded Sheriff Cook turn over the keys to the jail. When he refused, not so subtle threats of violence persuaded him to do so.

Yet the papers also reported that the men battered down the cell doors with sledges and axes. This commotion-



Joe Martin was dragged upstairs from the basement jail and out the entrance on the east side of the courthouse to the southwest corner of the intersection of Sixth and Grand and lynched from the streetlight pole. The hanging occurred in front of Judge Carpenter's house while the judge was in Casper.

was apparently loud enough to cause a crowd, variously reported to be between 1,000 and 2,000 residents, to assemble on the courthouse grounds to see what was going on. Laramie's population at the time was just over 8,000, and women and children were reported in the crowd.

In either case, the leaders of the mob were able to enter Martin's cell, direct Dr. Miller and jailor Jones to face the wall and drag Martin toward the exit. In the struggle, Martin apparently injured as many as six of the men either with a knife he grabbed from the kitchen or with part of the cell bed that was broken in the struggle. Other reports said that Martin used the knife to attempt suicide by slashing his own throat.

The Lynching

Once outside the courthouse, several men put a rope around his neck and dragged Martin toward the intersection of Sixth St. and Grand Ave. During the short journey, excitement built in the crowd, and men fired multiple shots into the air until the leaders demanded they stop.

In their recap of events titled "Poor Shots," the Laramie Boomerang the next day described the action as a "lynching bee" and that "Matin (sic) The Degenerate" was taken to the southwest corner of the intersection. A man shinned up the streetlight pole and flung the rope around the crossbar. Several men then hoisted Martin off the ground. The Laramie Republican reported, "A hundred willing hands seized the noose and began to draw the Negro upward."

JOE MARTIN continued:

The rope slipped and Martin was again hoisted up. Someone in the crowd, fearing apparently that Martin was not dying fast enough, shot him at least once with what the coroner later said was a .32 caliber weapon. That did not end the struggle, and Martin slowly strangled to death.

As the crowd silently moved away, acting coroner M.N. Grant who was at the scene ordered the body cut down, and Sheriff Cook took possession. It was soon reported in the Cheyenne Wyoming Tribune newspaper that William Frazee, state senator and homeowner across the street from the lynching scene, and Nellis Corthell County Commissioner and principal owner of the Laramie Boomerang made lists of names of the participants.

The Aftermath

Neither the Laramie Boomerang nor the Laramie Republican newspapers editorialized on the actions of the lynch mob. But the Boomerang did blame the whole affair on the “trustee” system. Had Martin not been allowed to work outside of his cell, they argued, he would not have been able to attack Krause. The general tenor of both papers’ coverage was that Martin got what he deserved.

In contrast, both the Rawlins Republican and the Cheyenne Leader newspapers condemned the event. The Rawlins paper called it “a blot on the fair name of the state.” Although the reporter for the Cheyenne Leader used inflammatory language about the lynching, the editor wrote strong words: “All good citizens of Wyoming must regret the deplorable event which took place in Laramie last evening. The provocation for the lynching of the Negro Martin was certainly great, but it would have been better for the fair name of Laramie and the State of Wyoming had the people of the Gem City, in their anger, remembered that two wrongs do not make a right.”

Not much more was written about the lynching until District Judge Charles Carpenter returned to Laramie from Casper where he had been presiding over several cases. On September 20th he convened a grand jury to examine three incidents, a shooting in northern Albany County, a case of selling liquor on Sunday, and the Martin lynching.

The Grand Jury

The men called to be jurors were George Campbell, Elmer Lovejoy, George Chapman, Leander Keyes, Martin Beck, F. P. Mason, A. Johnson, William Isberg, Frank J. Terry, Frank Vorpahl, C. P. Lund and Peter Cunningham. Campbell was selected foreman.

Judge Carpenter then gave his charge to the jury. After discussing the other two incidents, he addressed the lynching. Characterizing the act as an “outrage upon moral

law and upon this community and state,” he told the jurors that only the courts were authorized to deal with Martin no matter the nature of his offense. Carpenter then noted that any men, women and children who witnessed the lynching should come forward to offer evidence.

Carpenter concluded with this statement: “Every man who participated in this lynching and murder, by actual participation or who aided, abetted and counselled the same is guilty of the highest crime known to the law.” He then tasked the grand jurors to carry out their sworn duty “faithfully and fearlessly.”

The jury was conducted by County Attorney Thomas H. Gibson. Immediately several witnesses were called to testify. Among those were three with first-hand knowledge of the lynching, Judge M.N. Grant, Sheriff Alfred Cook and William Frazee. Strangely, Nellis Corthell was not called despite indications he had a list of the perpetrators.

Grand jury deliberations were done in secret. None of the members leaked information about how they proceeded. In the end, however, the jury indicted no one for the lynching of Joe Martin despite multiple eyewitness and clear violations of the law. They did, however, indict druggist Thomas Eggleston in an unrelated case, for selling three glasses of wine at his store at 40 cents each to friends on a Sunday. He was charged and arrested for violating Sunday closing laws.

Moving on

The Laramie lynching made national news. Some papers



adding lurid, untrue details. For example, one paper said Martin gouged out Krause’s eye. The notoriety was short-lived. Della Krause married Alden Gray, the adopted son of Sheriff Alfred Cook, in 1908 and they later moved to Los Angeles. The sheriff did not run for reelection and later worked as a butcher and manager of a secondhand store.

William Frazee ran his clothing store for several years before moving to Salt Lake. Nellis Corthell continued his law practice and political career. Judge Charles Carpenter served on the bench until 1912 when he died of kidney disease. Thomas Gibson continued in the practice of law and lost a bid to be elected to the Wyoming Supreme court.

Joe Martin is buried in potter’s field in Greenhill Cemetery.

Albany County Historical Society will be placing this plaque at Martin’s gravesite sometime later this summer. A commemoration and small token of grace for this man and a grievous act from over a century ago.



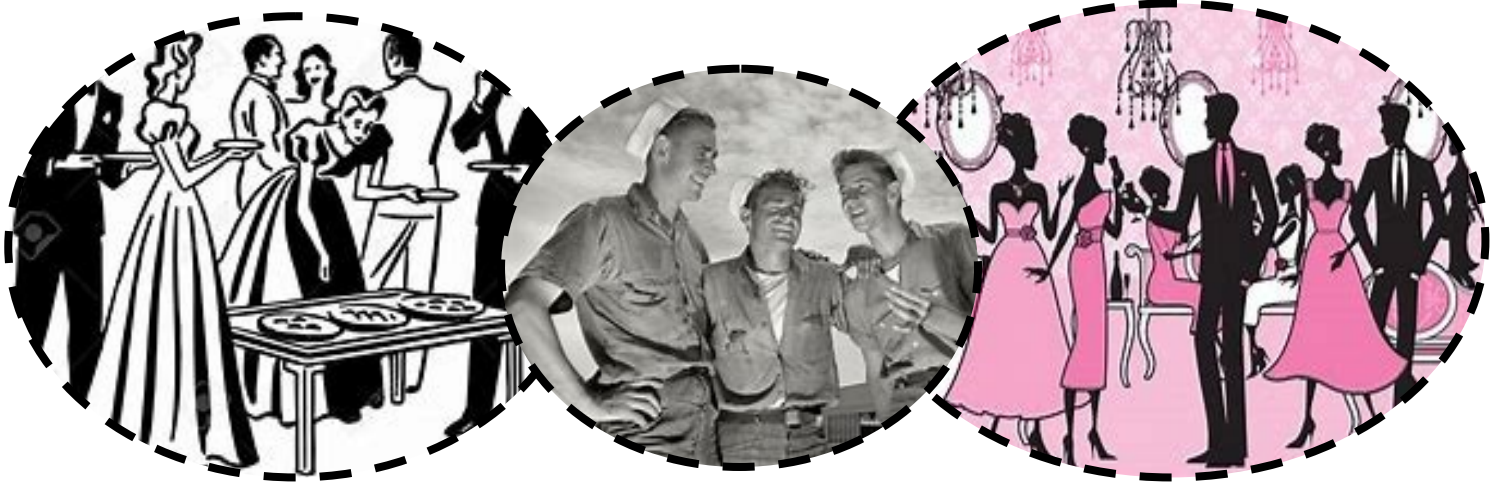
2021 Evening

“EVENING AT THE IVINSONS’

After 2020 Isolation & the battle on COVID-19, let’s celebrate with 1940’s post war gusto

“Together Again”—AUGUST 21, 2021

5:00-7:00 Cocktails, Appetizers and Music in the Gardens, Mansion exhibits & music Auction items, desserts, Big Band sounds, & 1940’s Radio & Music vignettes by The Unexpected Company inside our Alice Hardie Stevens Center “Club” 7:00-9:00



In the 1940’s, sailors and soldiers, war brides, factory heroes and ranchers celebrated being **together again** at regular meals, card parties, weddings and other events once WWII was over. Families and friends could gather together once again, after their many years of serious war efforts and restrictions. Glenn Miller and his big band played music that brought everyone on the floor and into the clubs again. All of this and much more made up the post war narratives and our *EVENING AT THE IVINSONS’* this year embraces all of that. We hope you will too.

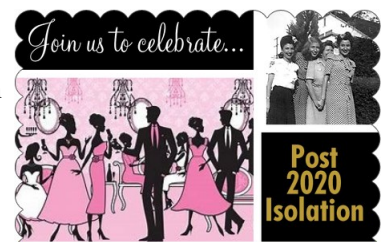
We have kept all of the good changes to our annual event—substantial hors d’oeuvres and drinks in the gardens with assorted musicians, and theme-relevant items on exhibit in the Museum and various points around the property, a buy-in to card decks that can win you a windfall, maybe even a vintage car or two will be showcased on our grand historic property. Though there will not be a full sit-down meal, there will be plenty of foods, seating and tables to visit, view and listen to the music and festivities inside and out.

If you’d like, come in some fashion of the era to celebrate this gradual reopening of life after a year and a half of caution and health restrictions. Your ticket covers everything—no need for cash on hand; just gear for some great silent auction and raffle items this year with a credit or debit card. All are accepted! It’s sure to be an *Evening* to remember in celebration and preservation of the premier historic house museum in the region—our Ivinson Mansion! Hosted by the Laramie Plains Museum Board of Directors, it’s become *the* end-of-summer event before cooler weather and university students set back in.

Invitations will be sent to past patrons by mid July **but anyone can come!** Tickets are **\$100 per person and that includes drinks, food and festivities.** Sponsors will again be valuable assets to the *Evening* and will be mentioned that night, in the program, and in our future newsletters. Call the museum 742-4448 if you’re unsure that you’re on our invitation list, but want to consider coming. **We’d love to have you!**



We have a special donor, Eric Berman, who loves the Ivinson Mansion and wants to draw more folks to enjoy our stunning grounds and possibly encourage more members and supporters.. Eric is the donor who left Laramie in the 1960’s with one of the light fixtures that he stumbled over in the dilapidated, down and out mansion during his college years. He repaired the fixture and placed in his homes throughout his travels and then asked if he could return it a few years ago. We were delighted to have the light back to its original home and it hangs in prominence in the Mansion’s 2nd floor foyer. Eric’s idea is to get through all of these pandemic limitations and when we have UW students and other local musicians available once again, we have Strings on the Ivinson Lawn on some summer evenings and encourage live streaming via UW media so that others can share with us. We are hoping that this year’s Evening can be an preview to those kinds of music offerings in future summers.



BEING TOGETHER AGAIN!



New Faces for the Summer

There's no denying that we have some of the brightest, helpful spirits on our staff and in our volunteers. This beloved museum is brimming with positive actions and reactions. Our visitors feel welcomed and happy to discover Laramie and the Iverson Mansion Museum. It's a tone we work to create and inspire each day. Our gardeners offer it to the passersby, our senior and junior docents present that interactive lift to our guests with each tour. This treasure of Laramie is simply the go-to place because of the attitude of all who love this place and the history it shares.

We have added to the happy experience with the UW students shown on this page and who have joined our staff in recent weeks. **Emmaline Velasquez**, seen here in the Carriage House Gift Shop in a bright yellow t-shirt announcing Wyoming suffrage, is our summer administrative assistant. Emmaline has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wyoming, with major in History and minors in Accounting and Honors. She is currently completing her Master's in History at the UW and we are delighted she has taken time to join us to help coordinate the office, gift shop, tours and junior docents. She is the middle child of three from Buffalo, Wyoming and loves spending time in our state's great outdoors and reading. She hopes her future can hold work for her in museums, archival research or Library Science so she believes her job at LPM is giving her great foundational experience in those areas. "I love working at the Laramie Plains Museum!" she said as she filled us in on her background. And we love having her positive outlook and uplifting smiles here!



This handsome fellow, revitalizing the wooden rocker on the front porch of the Mansion, is **Nicolas Bard**, son of **Karen and Wade Bard**. Karen is one of our Board Directors and thought Nic might be just what we were looking for to cover our summer grounds work and odd jobs. He certainly has turned out to be just what we needed as he handles the lawn work as well as wood reconstruction and refinishing like a pro. Those skills were happy surprises for these historic grounds where it seems as though restoration is an ongoing need. Nicolas and his family moved here from Australia and is working on completing his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Molecular Biology from UW. Moving to a new country has Nic in his 5th year, currently researching brain size disease (Microcephaly) and aspiring for his eventual PhD in Genetics. (We're surmising that this hands-on job at the Museum gives him a necessary break from all the cerebral intensity.) Being the outdoorsy man he is, Nic says "I love working here!" Our grounds are getting great grooming for wedding landscapes and we are receiving beautiful refinishing jobs on the outdoor furniture. Such a Win-Win!

A big shout out to **Stan Gibson**, our all-purpose grounds and handyman who focuses on the sprinkler system, aeration and lawn feeding, and every odd job we toss at him. In retirement, Stan offers his help to Nic and the Museum as well as grandkids and anyone else asking him to step up. Stan is a very important sidelight to all we do here at the Laramie Plains Museum—quiet and unobtrusive, but significant to all we can accomplish. Thanks, Stan, for your faithful help to so many!

JUNIOR DOCENTS ARE BACK AT LAST!

Covid-19 restrictions in 2020 had us without teen volunteers for the first time in 30 years! The dynamic Junior Docent program, where 13-15 year old volunteer their time and talents to guiding tours through the beautiful Iverson Mansion was not possible in 2020 and we missed the vibrant energy of the students! The Museum cautiously reopened the Gift Shop in March of 2021 and the Museum, with senior docents in May, so Mary held great hope that, with vaccines and masks helping curb the pandemic, students could also return. With social distancing assistance (Mary was unable to go to the schools for personal interviews and presentations as in years past, so she created packets of information to be given to recommended students) from middle school teachers at Laramie Middle School, Snowy Range Academy and the Lab School, we have 21 superb students here once again. Training for the junior docents was June 10th—a day when the curators and Mary work together with select senior docents to lay out guidelines for touring, etiquette, positive behaviors and interactions with the public and eventual rewards for the students' in the program. The visitors love having young minds presenting history and projecting themselves in positive ways, the Museum can have more folks enjoying our local history, and the students gain experience, confidence and rewards by summer's end. Welcome back, junior docents! (BTW: Each year, the Masonic Families of Laramie help support this youth-in positive-action program! Thank you, Masons!)

Art Fest on the Ivinson Lawn

603 East Ivinson, Laramie
Sunday, July 11, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Don't miss viewing the delightful work of authors, artists, crafters, jewelry and card makers, along with food, drink and music at this special event on the Ivinson property. After all the busy goings-on of Jubilee Days, this Sunday event is a lovely exercise in calm, creative charm. Come stroll the historic grounds and Alice Hardie Stevens Center to view the booths amidst the stunning ambiance of the Laramie Plains Museum setting. Take a \$2 walk-thru tour of the Museum. The flower gardens, benches and smiles of the sellers beckon you to experience this special end to Laramie's Jubilee Days festivities. **ANB Bank will once again bring the fun and cool refreshment of free snow cones in the middle of the Ivinson Lawn!** Have one as you see glass bowls and sculptures, photographic marvels, jewelry, wooden bowls and wagons. It's a great day to view the talents of folks in our community and other parts of Wyoming!



If you're new to knowing about this artsy event and want to participate as a vendor or music on the grounds (or know someone who should be part of it), email us at

lpmdirector@laramiemuseum.org
or call 742-4448

to register and figure out a place for your wares or music on the lawn or in the Alice Hardie Stevens Event Center.

Come Join
the Fun!



What's Next on the Horizon for LPM?

Well...many things. Just opening up all-things-Museum cautiously, but with the enthusiasm that is our tradition, is filling our days right now, but we do have thoughts activating on several fronts. Long Range Strategic Planning has been on hold, most recently because of our COVID lockdowns, but also because we completed a spectacular \$1.5 million expansion on the Alice Hardie Stevens Center in 2018 and the Mason Loft Condos just before that. Over the last 15 years, we have tackled many of our visionary projects that are serving as sustaining income streams for our beautiful museum property, and our volunteer crews were hoping for a bit of break in "Mary's Big Plans." The pandemic restrictions of the past year have given us even more of a break than we wanted, and several donors and doers are now looking for what's in store for continuing the revitalization of our beloved historic house museum.

Our curators began with envisioning, researching, moving artifacts and resetting exhibits throughout the Mansion. The "new" tales being told are energizing our tours and our presentations. Delayed piles of accessioning were handled, and **Collections Manager, Judy Knight** has been digging out and sorting behind the scenes. Duplications and incorrect storage are being recognized and taken care of so that the de-accessioning committee will have work to do very soon.

There are always ongoing maintenance and refurbishing items to take care of—i.e. you read about Nic Bard refinishing the outside benches on the property, and we will be attending to peeling and worn painted areas on all the buildings this summer and fall. But some areas of concern and necessary work rising to priority levels are issues with the Carriage House. It is the one building that has only had Band-Aid-fixes through the years. The caretaker's loft space has been repaired along the way in order to accommodate decent living space and partial compensation for staff hired for yard work, maintenance and security throughout the years. The garage and cellar have never been restored from their rubble and rustic brick walls but they do have cement flooring and sections of use behind the original *barn doors*—probably accommodated during the Girls' School years when the Canterbury Club and other students used the classroom that is now the Gift Shop, visitor check in and office area. We have ice run off from the CH roof during the colder months so that hazardous lakes develop too easily on the east side of the building and sidewalks are cordoned off to stop walkers from taking falls on the ice. The upper loft wooden floor slopes dramatically so we know there has been major settling that must be addressed. We are storing artifact vehicles that should be exhibited or at least stored wisely. All these issues and more—including expanding the Gift Shop, office and decent gathering areas—are being looked at and discussed, just as we have done with all dreams for positive enhancements and restorations.

We have asked our **talented architect, Dan Swift** (designer and wizard with the expansion to the Events Center and our longtime advisor with the Stone Stable and AHSC load levels for storage on the upper levels) to check out our concerns and the possibilities for restoration or refurbishing. We have donors and volunteers stepping up with ideas and wondering about monetary assistance so we can envision smart solutions. We will keep you posted as we know more of what should be done and in what time frames.



1892 Carriage House exteriors have been painted in recent years. The interior was somewhat revitalized during the Girls' School era.

Main level is administrative and visitor office areas, Gift Shop and storage for historic doctor's buggy and a family carriage, as well as kitchen/storage area for staff, volunteers and Gift Shop backstock.

Upper level is a loft apartment that has continuously housed caretakers as security, snow removal, and maintenance for the property.

The cellar is basically simple storage of holiday stock and décor for the Gift Shop. Asbestos contained area.



Present day Gift Shop



East room of garage; only area of the building to put the lawn and snow removal vehicles and tools and pest sprays for the yard work.



Sheep wagon and an historic fire rescue water vehicle continue to be stored in the center part of the garage without appropriate exhibit access and conditions.



West side of the garage storing exterior wedding chairs and an 1867 horse-drawn fire engine.

Strategic Long Range Planning is on your LPM Staff and Board's schedule for late fall 2021 or early 2022 during the quieter, colder months.

There are always things that need to be and should be tackled as soon as money, planners and volunteers are available, but we would like to also lay out a visionary plan for the next five to ten years. We'd love to hear from you if you have ideas, concerns, a vision of something that should be done immediately or listed as part of our discussions when the Board begins its planning sessions. Let us know!



Carol Hoff, shown watering the north garden between the Mansion and the Event Center, is the dynamic leader of the flowers and trees caregivers from **Laramie Garden Club** who devote a multitude of hours to the Iverson property. Visitors are charmed by the beauty of the historic landscape because of the gardeners' dedication and care. Mary always calls them **Garden Angels** because they truly bless the property with their faithful care.

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Laramie Plains Museum
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