

Historic Ivinson Mansion  
Laramie Plains Museum Newsletter

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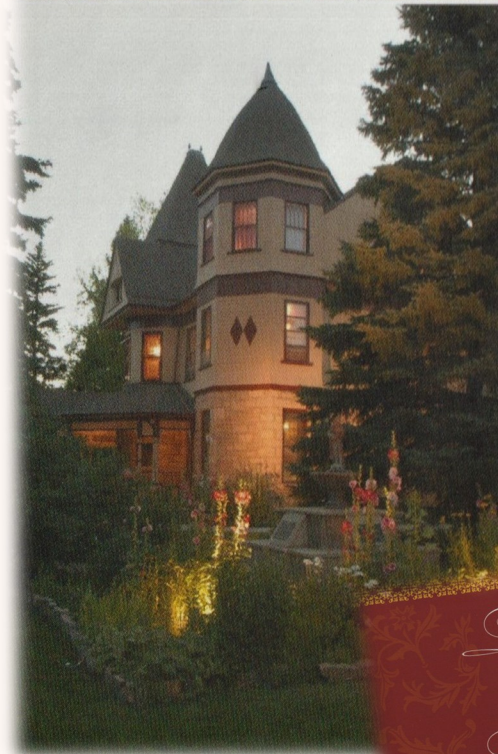


We know we ran this same picture in the June newsletter, but the Laramie Plains Museum gardens, trees, gutters, sidewalks, flower beds have been so spectacularly attended to that a little more gratitude is always justified. Since Mary still has a hand in this newsletter, she just wanted to close this summer issue with another **GREAT BIG THANKS** to these (and others not pictured) amazing angels of the **Laramie Garden Club** who grace this beautiful property each season. We are one of the most stunning landscapes in Laramie because of your many hours of loving volunteer work. We are surely blessed by you all. Thank you.

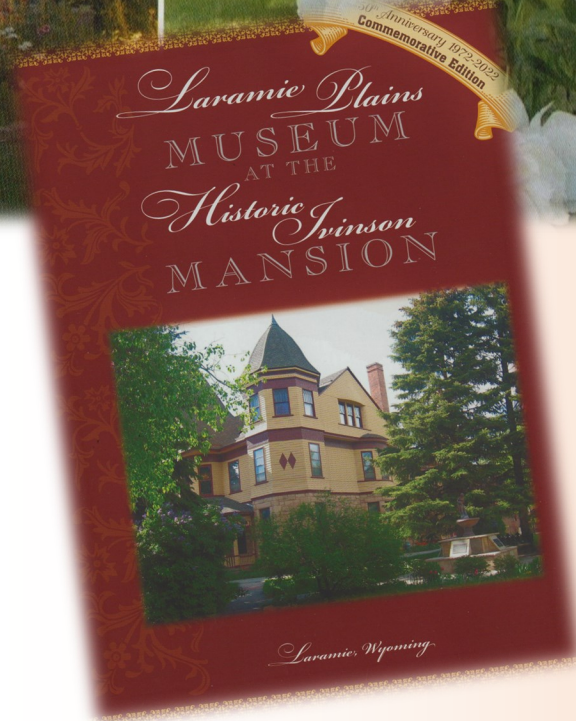
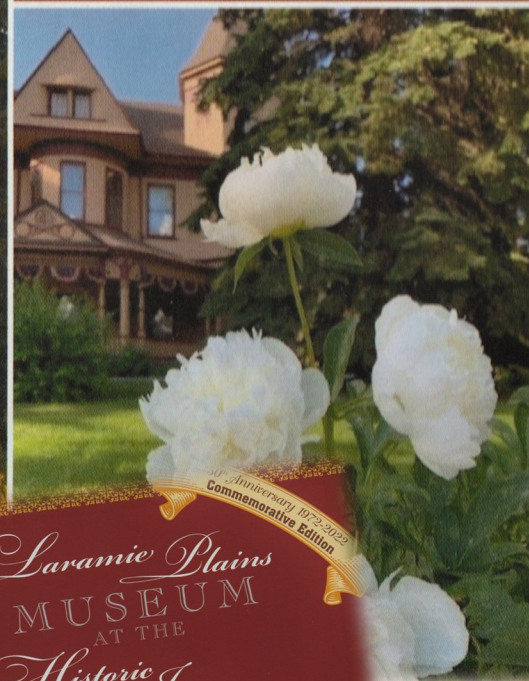


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Laramie Plains  
Museum  
for 50 years!  
1972 - 2022



Laramie Plains Museum  
at the Historic Ivinson Mansion

Fall Newsletter October 2022

## 2022 OFFERED ANOTHER SPARKLING SUMMER OF EVENTS, STUDENTS, FUN, HISTORY PRESERVATION, CELEBRATION & EXHIBITS, and a brand new EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOINING THE EFFORTS! HERE ARE A FEW OF THE NUMBERS THAT MATTERED:

**21** Junior Docents lead tours and helped with LPM jobs, volunteering **1,746** tours of service!

**30** Weddings and/or Wedding receptions were held at LPM facilities May through September.

**4995** Mansion Museum tours have been given so far in 2022.

Museum Gift Shop Sales are at **154%** of our projections!

Rentals of the Ivinson Mansion Museum facilities brought in **\$72,000** by summer's end.

Mason Loft Condos continue to amazingly support LPM operations—**\$40,000** by September!

2022 *Just Be Gold Evening* netted close to **\$15,000** in support of future LPM projects.

Gates to the Women's History House in downtown Laramie have been open since **March 1st** with tours of Wyoming's remarkable suffrage history consistently offered **Tues-Saturday 1-4:00**

**22** Artsy Vendors & Musicians were on the grounds for the July Art Fest on the Ivinson Lawn.

**348** attendees experienced the **3 well-orchestrated** Tea on Tuesdays.

**145** volunteers, including those who help with our lovely summer Teas shown in photos below, remain involved so that the Ivinson property is a vital presence in our Laramie community!



### **BOLD MURDER Continued....**

despondent and other times Roy was on his hands and knees on his cot, barking like a dog. When some doctors came he was fearful, cringed and tried to hide in a corner. Other times he was raving, fighting and trying to bite. He also took the time to try to saw his way out of the bars on his jail cell with a makeshift saw made from a knife. Roy also complained about the food.

Finally September 27th was set for the trial. Attorney Patterson had 25 people subpoenaed to be there. Both newspapers, The Laramie Boomerang and The Laramie Republican followed the trial. It took two days to find the 12 men who would sit as the jury. Day by day in front of Judge Tidball, the courtroom filled with men and women to watch. Roy's mother Carrie Bergstrom was always near her son. Attorney Patterson called Roy and Mabel McArthur, the parents of Gladys, one at a time. He called Mrs. H. A. Gish, the shop owner's wife who first found Gladys, authorities that spoke about the bullets and the .38 gun, C. J. Miller, the taxi driver who told about the ride and H. Svenson the photographer who took the photograph that started my journey. A couple different doctors described the trajectory of the bullets and almost every person he had been in contact with the day and morning before the shooting. One of the witnesses, George DeBerry from Laramie Candy Kitchen, was described as very dramatic with his broken English and held the courtroom spellbound talking about the half hour in his candy store. The defense attorney Robert V. Baker from Wisconsin along with J. R. Sullivan from Laramie represented Roy. Attorney Baker opened by not denying the shooting was done by Roy but basically that Roy was not responsible because he was a victim of insanity. He called as his witnesses friends and neighbors that talked about how he wasn't quite right, since his time in the war. They talked about his oddness, his nervousness and how some people didn't feel comfortable in his presence. Attorney Baker had doctors say Roy was insane.

One of the witnesses the standing room only crowd wanted to hear from was Carrie, his mother. The courtroom was described as, "hushed in breathless silence" listening to Roy's mother. She was born in Stockholm, Sweden and was one of eleven children. She spoke in broken English and "her voice was so low that the audience strained forward to hear every word". One of her brothers was in an insane asylum, and another was born deaf and dumb, her sister died of cancer. Roy's father was a heavy drinker and died of cancer. Roy was a sickly boy who had two appendix operations and didn't do well in school. Carrie said he enlisted in the army for service at the Mexican border and then was recalled and was sent to France for 23 months. She said he was very different when he came back from war.

Roy also took the stand, again to a standing room only crowd. Although he showed signs of being nervous he did not deny shooting his wife. He even said he wanted to take the gun back to the store because it had jammed. He answered some questions easily and clearly and fidgeted and fussed during others.

Finally the attorneys summed up their cases and at 11 am it went to the jury. After almost 10 days, crowded audiences and lots of witnesses just before 2 pm the jury gave the verdict. Roy Edward Bergstrom, 22, was found guilty of murder in the first degree but the jury asked that capitol punishment not be administered to him. On October 18, 1920 he was sentenced to life in Rawlins Penitentiary. The next day he's denied a motion for a new trial and by October 20th he was in Rawlins. But that's not the end of Roy's story.

On March 27, 1922, Roy was tried for his sanity. He was found to be insane and sent to the asylum at Evanston. For six weeks he had been getting weaker and acting oddly. Roy would lie in bed and be laughing for a while until he got weaker and then would pitifully sob. He would not talk when he was awake but would talk in his sleep. Again not the end of the story.

Carrie Bergstrom, Roy's mother, put in a public notice in the August newspapers that an application was to be made to the Board of Pardons. County Attorney Patterson was going to argue against the pardon. Carrie came to the meeting and said that Roy could receive better treatment in a private sanitarium than at the state institution in Wyoming. She brought a letter from Wisconsin attesting to her good reputation. The Board of Pardons denied the request at the beginning of October, but stated that if the Governor of Wisconsin consented, the state of Wyoming could transfer Roy to a similar institution and then when Roy recovered his sanity be sent back to fulfill his life sentence. Nothing seems to come from that stipulation but the story is not done.

In December 1922, Roy was awarded a government soldier's allowance as compensation from federal funds in the amount of \$80 a month and back pay because of his mental condition being a result of the war by getting shell shocked and gassed. Roy's mom now believes her son will be transferred to Fort MacKenzie in Sheridan to get better treatment. Governor Robert D. Carey said the only way Roy would be released to the federal government is with the assurance that Roy would be returned to Rawlins whether his treatment in Sheridan was successful or not.

What happens? I can't tell you, because the newspapers did not write another word about Roy Edward Bergstrom. Did he get out? Did he die in jail? I decide to go to Find a Grave website to see how long he lived. There he is with a site in Rawlins, Wyoming. It lists his name and birthdate, but no death date. If he died in the penitentiary wouldn't they know

when he died? But now I had his birthdate and birthplace. I next go to ancestry.com website to check if it can tell me anything. All right, 1900 Census he is there with his father Carl, mother Carrie and brother Hugo. One letter from Wisconsin during the trial stated that there were two boys. He is listed by his middle name Edward and was born in Chicago, Illinois and is still living there. The 1905 Wisconsin Census and the 1910 Federal Census shows the family has moved to Kenosha, Wisconsin. The 1920 Census has Gladys and Roy residing in Racine, Wisconsin in January, just 10 miles away from Kenosha.

I looked for Roy in the Wyoming Census for 1930. I can't find him. Roy is not in Rawlins, Evanston or Sheridan. I look for his family again. Hugo and his mother Carrie are back in Chicago, Illinois. Carrie is now listed as a widow. Amazingly, Edward is listed as well. The census says he is single and works as an engineer in architecture and was a veteran from the world war. What? He got out! I can't believe it. How? I don't know.

Roy E. Bergstrom is in Chicago, Illinois and is married to Ida J. from Wisconsin in the 1940 Census. He is a supervising draftsman in the Bureau of Electricity in the WPA. It says he went to 4 years of college. Is this the correct Roy E. Bergstrom? His year of birth and birthplace are correct. Roy's WWII Draft Registration Card in 1942 shows him still living in Chicago working at the Pressed Steel Car Co. in the Armored Tank Division. His contact information is his brother-in-law in Racine, Wisconsin. Not his wife.

There is a gravestone for Ida Julia Bergstrom buried in Racine, Wisconsin with the dates 1906-1946. Only 40 years old?! A spot for Roy Edward next to her. His birthdate listed is 2 years off his real date and again there is no death date.

I finally find a gravestone that reads, "Roy Bergstrom, Wyoming, Pvt US Army, World War I" His life dates are listed as Mar 7, 1899 to Nov 22, 1973. This marker is in Woodruff, Wisconsin. Why is Wyoming listed? He was born in Illinois. March 7th is correct but 1899 is not. Is this the Roy Bergstrom we've been looking for? I'm not positive.

What started with a black and white photograph of a woman laying on the floor has led me here. Gladys McArthur Bergstrom was shot dead by her husband. He was found guilty and sent to prison. That we know for sure. Did he get out? Did I find the correct Roy Edward Bergstrom in the Census? Did he marry again? Is this the end of the story? For now, but I will keep looking.

In fact I have found a couple new leads to follow. A Roy E. Bergstrom married in 1953 in Racine, Wisconsin and again in 1958 in Chicago. Is that the correct Roy Edward? Is Roy the widow living as a lodger in the 1950s Census? Hmmm.....

# BOLD MURDER STUNS CITY

## THE LARAMIE BOOMERANG ROY BERGSTROM KILLS WIFE DOWNTOWN OFFICE

By T.R Blakeman

I love to look at old photos. I like to see places I know and see how they have changed. I also like to look at people's clothing. With that in mind I was perusing the website of the American Heritage Center's photos again. This time I was looking at photos taken by the Ludwig & Svenson Studio, here in Laramie. Often when I come across an interesting photo, I do some searching to learn more about the subject or person.

There was the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Home Economics class from 1918, early Laramie homes, and Root's Opera House. Then I come across a woman lying down on the floor in front of two doors. It's captioned, "Mrs. Gladys McArthur Bergstrom" and dated 1920. I wonder why she is lying on the floor and decide to take a closer look and I click on this black and white photo. Again, I wonder why she is on the floor but then I start to look at her shoes. So, I zoom in on those shoes, black and scuffed, 1 to 2 inch heel, pointed toe, buckle and maybe a different color tongue. The shoes are very '20s looking. While I'm zoomed in, I travel up her dark colored stockings to her ankle length black fur coat with the natural animal (including the animal's head) coat collar. I look at her knitted white cap with its pom pom and a sudden dark realization has hit me. Her head is lying in a pool of blood. This is a black and white photo, so it doesn't jump out at you. It is so shocking. I can't believe it. I know I am looking at a dead body. When I zoom out, I can easily see that now. Her purse on the floor behind her, her head almost on the ratty door mat, outside one of the doors. The photo bothers me. Looking at old photos, I know that most of the people in those photos are already dead, including the infants in happy mother's arms, since time stops for no one, but this is different. I decide to find out what happened to her if I can.

I go to the Wyoming Newspaper Project website and search for her name. I search oldest to newest and find that in The Laramie Boomerang, on page 8 on March 19<sup>th</sup> and page 6 of March 22<sup>nd</sup> a Roy E. Bergstrom has put in the paper a notice that he refuses to pay any debts which are contracted by his wife Gladys Bergstrom. Okay, the right name and a connection.

Then on April 3, 1920, the day before Easter, on the front page in The Laramie Boomerang a giant headline above the paper's masthead reads, "BOLD MURDER STUNS CITY". A three tiered headline follows, each in slightly smaller print. "Roy Bergstrom Kills Wife Downtown Office Then Holds Up Store; Flees City in a Taxi". "Youthful Wife Had Sued For Divorce". "Follows Wife to Attorney's Office and Brutally shoots Her. ---Holds Up Candy Kitchen Employees and Orders

Taxi As Wife's Body Is Loaded into Ambulance Across Street" Two additional stories also fill the front page, "Slayer Confesses His Crime To Taxi Driver, Gives Self Up", and "Murderer Wanted Today's Issue – This Paper Sent To His Mother".

I can't believe it, a murder, a candy store, a taxi and then confesses! I read on. Gladys McArthur married Roy E. Bergstrom from Wisconsin on September 6, 1919, just a couple of days after his discharge from the army. His last post was at the Hermosa tunnels near Tie Siding. They married in Laramie and then Roy went back to Wisconsin to get a home ready for his new bride, Gladys. She followed shortly after. In March 1920, Gladys came back to Laramie, was living with her parents on Cedar Street and wanted a divorce on account of cruelties. Roy followed her back to Laramie. He talked to her a couple of times after he came back, learned of the soon to be divorce, put in the no debt notice in the paper, sent her flowers with no card and had a party with some friends the night before the murder, giving away his coat and money, for a going away party.

On the day of the murder, he was following Gladys and another man in town. Roy spoke to her and warned the man to stay away from her. Gladys and the man walked away from Roy. She parted with the man on the street a short time later and was going up to the second floor of the Three Rules or Miller Building, to meet her divorce attorney George Patterson. Gladys did not know Roy was following her. He shouted, and shot, she screamed. He shot at her while running up the stairs as she was going up the stairs, one bullet striking her in the back and one bullet striking her in her left side. When she fell down he tried to shoot again but the bullet was jammed. He took out that bullet and then with a new bullet shot her in the right eye while she was laying on the floor. He fled the scene, going down the stairs and met the wife of the owner of the store on the first floor who had heard the shots and was at the stairs. He was hurrying but slowed down enough to say to the owner's wife, "A woman has been hurt up there". The woman went up, saw Gladys and came back down getting a man to help. The man went up and saw the dead woman and went out to get the authorities.

Roy went out of the building and was gone. Two people said they saw him but he brandished a gun and disappeared from their sight. Shortly he came into the Laramie Candy Kitchen, across the street from where the murder took place. He ordered a Coca Cola, paid for it, and then asked for the money from the till and brandished his gun again. One of the owners said no

and Roy didn't press it. He held the two people there by gun point and watched what was happening across the street. About a half an hour later Roy placed a phone call to the Connor Hotel for a taxi to take him out of town.

Meanwhile the authorities arrived at the scene of the murder. They found bullet casings on the stairs, an unused scarred bullet and another casing on the landing. The authorities sent armed men in cars in all directions that lead out of town. Attorney Patterson had a photo of Roy and the photo went to the railroad station with more authorities to check the No. 4 train that was being held. They did not find Roy on, under or near the train. A doctor checked Gladys at the scene and again later when her body was moved to the morgue. The bullet that went in her back had struck an aorta and that was the killing bullet.

Roy got in the taxi and as they drove past the ambulance his wife was being loaded into, Roy told the driver to go to a brewery about a mile outside of town. Before they left town the taxi stopped for gasoline. When the taxi was almost to the brewery Roy changed his mind and asked to go to Bosler. The taxi driver had heard of the murder before he picked up his fare and soon realized the man in the backseat was the killer. Roy then confessed to the taxi driver and told him how his wife had done him wrong. Roy said he worked nights and when he came home he had to make his own breakfast and do the laundry. Roy asked about the laws of Wyoming concerning murder and who was a good lawyer in town. Nearing Bosler, Roy asked the driver to go to a house a couple miles outside of Bosler. The taxi driver drove him there and Roy got out and walked around the building and then got back into the taxi. Finally, with the taxi driver's help he decided to turn himself in. He threw his gun out the window. Roy killed his wife around 12:30 and was in police custody between 3-4 pm. Roy confessed that he shot Gladys to Sheriff Trabing. He was put in jail. That though, is not the end of the story.

On April the 6th, the day of his hearing he pleaded not guilty, the same day the funeral for Gladys was being held. Because he was charged with murder in the first degree, there was no bail and though the townspeople asked for swift judgment they had to wait because the court was out of session and it would cost too much to hold a special session. Roy had to wait in jail for at least 5 months. During that time he had frequent guests, females bringing him cigarettes and newspapers, his mother came with a Wisconsin lawyer and doctors. Several doctors came about his mental state because at times he was

# Getting to Know LPM's New Director

LPM's All-Around Employee, Helen Pugsley, Interview with Matthew Blakeman:



**How did you become involved with the museum?**

I have been fascinated with this wonderful, stately mansion since childhood. Growing up in Dubois, my family would come to Laramie from time to time to visit extended family & attend University hosted events. During one such visit in the early 70's I took a tour of, what was then, a very challenged & sadly neglected old building. That early tour's purpose was to raise money to save the house. The story I heard was of the mansion's former grandeur and impending peril. It was so compellingly...I have never forgotten it. When I see how far we have come it is absolutely remarkable. It is a story of imagination, persistence, faith and hard work.

**How long have you been with the museum?**

I am just getting started! I joined the museum in August of 2022, as the successor to our esteemed Executive Director, Emerita: Mary Mountain. It is an honor and a unique opportunity to lead this amazing place into its next exciting chapter. When I think of all the hands, hearts & minds that have brought us this far, I am both humbled and inspired.

**What do you do?**

The task list is long and deliciously varied. The executive director's role is to be involved in every aspect of the museum's life. That can be a formidable proposition. However, we are blessed with a gifted staff, an active and committed board of directors and a

dedicated and diverse group of exceptionally talented volunteers. These "many hands" make the work possible and I am grateful for each of them.

**What's your favorite part of working for the museum?**

That goes back to the previous question...the people! So many stories to assemble, appreciate and marshal in support of our mission. Whether it is patrons, colleagues, volunteers, donors or visiting scholars; every story can contribute to our success. Recognizing and utilizing each of them is fundamental

**What's your favorite room in the Mansion?**

It is hard to pick a favorite. Each room is unique and special. We constantly work to keep the exhibits lively and refreshed. If I had to pick one, it would be the first floor foyer with its grand floating staircase. Light floods in from the windows above and gives you a sense of the adventure that lies before you and the rich and varied past the house has witnessed. It is a magical spot for sure.

**What's the coolest object in our collection?**

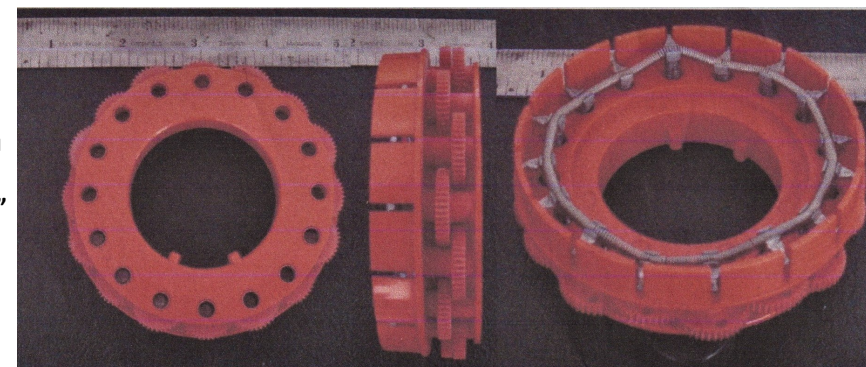
Again, that is an impossible task. In our fast paced world, though, I am drawn to the decidedly analog items. Things like the elaborate music box in Mrs. Ivinson's room or some of the early electrical household gadgets in the kitchen. 19th century innovation continues to fascinate and delight me. People, then and now, are so darn clever!

## Scott Morton's WHAT-IZ-IT Corner

"The Orange Plastic Donut"

Speaking of clever, many ingenious items have been made throughout history to solve various problems. A number of these have survived into the present day, but their function is no longer well know. Such is the case with this curious, orange donut. I acquired this gem sometime in the early 1980s when I perused a 1/2-priced table in the Laramie Basin Hardware store, 319 S. 2nd St., Laramie, Wyoming. There it was, in all its splendor! I picked it up and asked the clerk, "What is this?" "I don't know," she answered. "I'll get the manager." When the manager arrived, I repeated my question. "I don't know," he replied. Since it was not priced, I asked, "How much do you want for it?" "I don't know," he said, "How about, if you find out what it is, you can come back and pay me for it?"

A short time later, the Laramie Basin Hardware store burned, approximately late 1984, and this jewel of a What-Is-It has been in my possession ever since. So now, you can have the pleasure of attempting to figure out what it might have been about four decades ago. Have fun letting your mind run wild. I wish you good luck in coming up with some interesting possibilities. Email me, Scott Morton, [Samorton@uwyo.edu](mailto:Samorton@uwyo.edu) with your guesses, and we'll report the findings and a new "What-IZ-It in a future LPM newsletter.



# Junior Docents, Music & Artists Color the Summer



## JUNIOR DOCENT JOY



**AN OUTSTANDING JUNIOR DOCENT TIE!** Aaron Haas & Jackson Crain tied with highest volunteer hours given, outstanding compliments on their tours, and consistent positive, helping attitudes throughout their summer volunteering efforts for LPM.



Anna, left, and Libby, right, plus the decked-out docents seen above in the mansion domestic-help costumes, brought helping hands, smiles and great tours to our visitors and us!



ABOVE: Junior Docent Mentor, Helen Pugsley & Outstanding Junior docent, Jackson Crain, mug for the camera just before this year's Evening.

## ART ON THE IVINSON LAWN

Photographer, Kirby Hornbeck,

Painter & Photographer, Erica Zeigler,

Spyridon Pottery (Julie & Jay Wright )

are just some of the talented artists who grace the spacious

Iverson Lawn and Event Center each Jubilee Days Sunday. Talented musicians like Shirla Walker, seen in the left corner, and The Cox Family Strings bring great sounds to the event, and ANB Bank brings smiles and snow cones without fail!



Art Fest is a lovely, leisurely event on the last Sunday after all the brew, bull riding, parades and pancake festivities of the Statehood Celebration week. Come join us for this event next summer! Walk-thru mansion tours are only \$2.

## OCTOBER FUN:

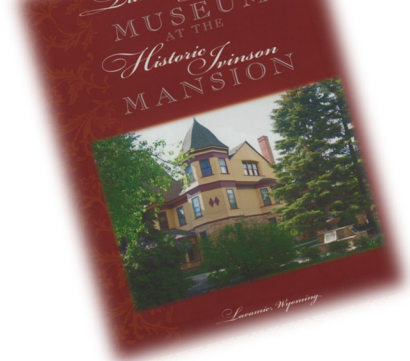
### The Museum Gift Shop, Trick or Treating at the Mansion, and a True, Gory Story



As is our tradition, the Carriage House Gift Shop is being moved around in preparation for the holiday season (by new executive director, Matthew and his creative wife, Tracy, this time). Our Carriage House buggy and other displays make the move out of the prominent magnets, flags, and other touristy Wyoming things into showcasing all of the neat stuff of the Fall and Winter holidays. Come see what's heralding Halloween and the beauty of the pumpkin spice season. Check out our great se-



lection of Wyoming and Western books, including *Territorial Days on the Laramie Plains*, the fascinating assortment of Boomerang articles written by Judy Knight, Kim Viner, Konnie Cronk and others. One of our favorites for this holiday season is the revised, updated, commemorative edition of the Laramie Plains Museum at the Historic Iverson Mansion. Now in the maroon and gold colors of the mansion, instead of the book's original black color, as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary in the stately historic home, it is always one of our most popular visitor take-aways. This gem tells the tale of the mansion being saved and shows stunning pictures of interiors and exteriors of the museum. It also tells early Laramie, Iverson, and Girls' School history. In this new edition, we show the development of the Museum complex with the additions of the 609 University Brick House as our curatorial headquarters and the rescue and transformation of the 611 Stone Stable into the popular Mason Loft Home-Away Condos. The Condos and the stunning expansion of the Alice Hardie Stevens Event Center are the success stories of a sustainable future for our beloved Museum in the Iversons' Mansion. The book also tells about, and is dedicated to, the dreamers, donors, and doers who have made the Laramie Plains Museum our community's best story of its history and the go-to place for special events. The book, readily available in the Gift Shop, is a perfect gift this holiday season—reasonably priced and a special promotion and remembrance of these remarkable 50 years!



## TRICK OR TREATING AT THE IVINSON MANSION!

Saturday, October 29, 2022

12:00 p.m. on the front porch of the Mansion at 603 East Iverson  
Never fear, in case of nasty weather, we'll have another fun place for treats!

# SAYING FAREWELL



Left: Friends and LPM staff gathered to raise a glass to **Mary Mountain's years at our treasured museum.** Behind Mary and curator **Konnie Cronk** who are seated in front are: **Nicolas Bard**, Grounds Keeper and furniture refinisher, **Christel Walrath**, LPMA Board President, **Joyce Powell**, Mason Loft Manager along with husband, Doug, **Rhetha Davis**, Mason Loft Assistant. All these favorite faces also volunteer for LPM's big events like *The Evening*, Art Fest, Teas on Tuesday, and Holiday Open House, just to name a few of our special happenings at the Museum.

Right: Here are more favorite faces: **Helen Pugsley**, All-Around Employee, **Emmaline Velasquez**, Registrar & Assistant Curator, **Amy Allen**, Executive Assistant (and another all-around employee) with **Mary Mountain**, retiring Executive Director, **Konnie Cronk**, Lead Curator & Exhibit Designer with new face **Michelle Gonzales**, Rental Coordinator, popping into the group.



And...above, we introduce one of our newest favorite people: **Michelle Gonzales**, Rentals Coordinator. It took a long time for us to feel that we could find someone to replace the amazing energy and event coordination of **Crystal Griffis**, seen at left. There was no one like Crystal for helping us build the capabilities of our spacious, newly expanded and enhanced Alice Hardie Stevens Event Center or be there for 1:1 relationships with our renters. We have missed our vivacious Crystal since she and daughter, Aubree relocated last October. Amy Allen and Mary Mountain valiantly filled in as rental coordinators, doing what needed to be done to develop cleaning and set up teams and following through with rentals of our classic facilities. Finally, as Jeffrey's Bistro changed from its restaurant situation, someone vivacious and capable like Michelle was available for us. **Welcome Aboard, Michelle!**

# AND HELLO!



ABOVE: Matthew getting to know the ladies of LPM.



LEFT: New, Executive Director, **Matthew Blakeman** and wife, **Tracy**, joined in the fun. Both Matthew and Tracy are bringing good energy and fresh insight to all of our Museum endeavors, including the annual move-the-Gift-Shop-all-around in time for all of the holiday fun. Learn more about what the Shop and the Museum has to offer this Halloween on page 10 and then read Tracy's true-life crime story, lifted from the pages of Laramie's history. Pretty creepy.....

# Evening at the Ivinsons' Celebrates a Golden Jubilee



By **Matthew Blakeman**, LPM Executive Director Friends and supporters of the Laramie Plains Museum enjoyed a remarkable celebration of 50 years at the Ivinson Mansion on a picture perfect evening in late August. Four expertly restored vintage cars helped set a festive tone as the museum block hosted friends, volunteers and donors for the annual *Evening at the Ivinson's Gala*. With 200 guests in attendance, the Evening was a glittering event that also marked a time of transition, looking back to all we have accomplished and forward to a bright future to come. After two years of curtailed and subdued fundraising, it was exciting to celebrate out loud.

Beginning with cocktails and appetizers on the estate's east lawn, guests enjoyed music provided by Danno and remarks from Laramie Museum board President Christel Walrath & incoming Executive Director Matthew Blakeman. In addition to visiting with friends and neighbors, guests participated in a silent auction, multiple raffles and the live auction preview. All these activities aided the evening's exciting purpose of raising funds for the museum and its programs. Guests were also free to walk through the mansion which was arranged to feature many items from the original collection that moved with us into the mansion 50 years ago. Junior Docents were present throughout the museum to offer information and answer questions. Elegant harp music inside the stately house was provided by **Alice Freeman**.

After enjoying drinks, nosh and exploration, guests were ushered into dinner in the elegantly appointed Alice Hardie Stevens Center. The hall was beautifully decorated with an elegant collection of over a dozen heirloom dinnerware services, all gifted by generous donors for continued use at the museum. Each gold clothed table featured a striking centerpiece tower of glass and gold with flickering lamp lights that floated magically on top. The room, initially abuzz with activity, soon became more subdued as guests enjoyed a delicious meal of Wyoming beef, roasted potatoes, fresh asparagus and delicious summer greens. The superb meal was catered by **Hilton Garden Inn**. Libations throughout the evening were provided by **Bob and Judy Adams**, **Smith Beverages**, **Rhetha Davis** and the **Laramie Plains Museum**. Dining was accompanied by the charming music of the **Cox Family Strings** followed by a delicious 50th anniversary cake and an elegant dessert cocktail: a *Solid Gold Cadillac*.

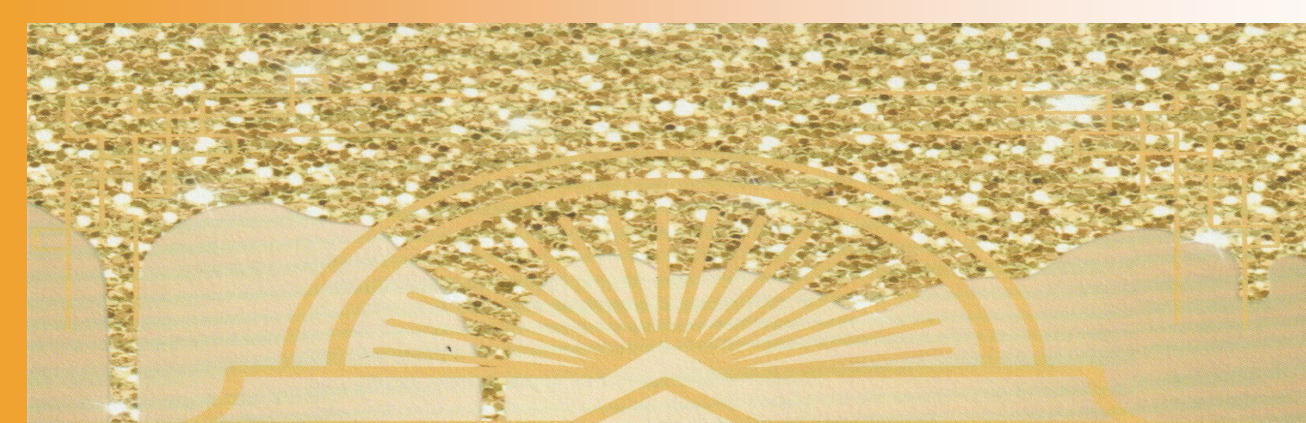
After dinner activities included a lively auction, recognition of honored guests **Eagle Plumbing**, Executive Director Emeritus **Dan Nelson** and Executive Director Emerita **Mary Mountain**. Each was presented with an award of appreciation from the Museum's Board of Directors on behalf of a grateful community. Ms. Mountain enjoyed a standing ovation in recognition of her extraordinary years of service to the Museum and its patrons. The occasion was a time to celebrate her leadership in developing and expanding the scope and scale of the Ivinson

museum block. During her many years at the helm, not only did the museum's restoration thrive, but the event center was artfully expanded & the Stone House condominiums and Brick House curatorial facilities were developed. Each of these innovations has played a vital role in making the museum stronger and more dynamic. Ms. Mountain, who graciously recognized all the generous support the museum has received from volunteers, donors, the community and a dedicated staff, was presented with an exquisite cherry cabinet and "Tiffany-style" lamp, handmade by **Ron and Anne Olsen**. The emotional moment marked the progression of an exciting transition to a more exclusive focus for Ms. Mountain on the Wyoming Women's History House here in Laramie. Having begun this segue months ago, she can devote more of her legendary energy to that exceptional museum located at 317 S. 2nd St. Things are looking different there already with a grand re-opening held this last June. The exhibits at the House have been re-invigorated and the courtyard is has been re-invented as a tranquil and welcoming public space.

All and all, our annual *Evening at the Ivinsons'* was an extraordinary success with the Museum Association raising an impressive sum to assist in carrying it forward to a new and exciting chapter. The planning committee included **Joyce Powell**, **Rhetha Davis**, **Debi Ockers**, **Scott Morton**, **Mary Mountain**, **Christel Walrath**, **Konnie Cronk**, and **Amy Allen**. **Generous Sponsors of the Event were Don & Valerie Adams Family**, **Judy & Bob Adams/Newell Spirits**, **Pam & Sam Dunnuck**, **Dan Nelson, LPM Director Emeritus**, **ANB Bank**, **First Interstate Bank**, **The Family of Conrad & Lydia Kercher Family**, **Ed & Guyla Nowak**, **Kim Viner**

Vintage car displays were provided by C. C. Brown & wife Laurie and Travis & Sharon Wade. We owe a huge shout out to the legion of volunteers that help to stage the event and make it sparkle, and the scores of generous donors who gave to the auctions and décor. It was truly a golden event to be remembered!





# 2022 "Evening" was Golden!



Ruth Hanks, Ray & Bonnie Robertson, Karen & Bruce Lange



Polly Wade & Danny Nelson, LPM Director Emeritis

Mary Mountain expressed her gratitude for the generosity of so many in the LPM family during her 24 years as volunteer, Board director, administrative assistant, and Executive Director since 2006. She said she was honored to have been entrusted to carry on the tradition of care and vision for this special place of our history.



Bar Highlights



Doug & Joyce Powell, Ron Olsen



Lenny Atkinson, Jr. accepted Eagle Plumbing's award as our Evening Honoree for longstanding service and care for this beautiful site of history.

Right, ➡ at the Viner Sponsor Table: Debi & Fred Ockers, Kim Viner, Alan & Rita Verploeg, Mark & Joan Mader, Dave Walrath (and Christel Walrath, not captured sitting for this photo :)



New LPM Executive Director, Matthew Blakeman and Board President, Christel Walrath, welcome The Evening crowd.



Right, ➡ at the Adams/Newell Spirits Sponsor Table: Polly Wade, Cheri & Bill Bellamy, Bob & Judy Adams, Linda Eason in front