

Historic Ivinson Mansion  
Laramie Plains Museum Newsletter

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According to oral history, this clock was purchased by several girls from the girls' school in 1924, and given to the Episcopal Church, where it was likely used in the Mansion. The clock has come to us from Cathedral Home, and through some dedicated restoration work by Scott Morton and Joyce Powell, is now ready for exhibit. Swing by to see it in person.

**Address Service Requested**

JUNE 2023

ISSUE 2

# the mansion

LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM AT THE  
HISTORIC IVINSON MANSION

**An Update from  
the Board**

Board President Tanner Evans gives an important update. Page 2.

**The History of  
Printing**

Step into the unique history of Laramie's commercial printing enterprises. Page 6.



View of the Secret Garden, facing south.

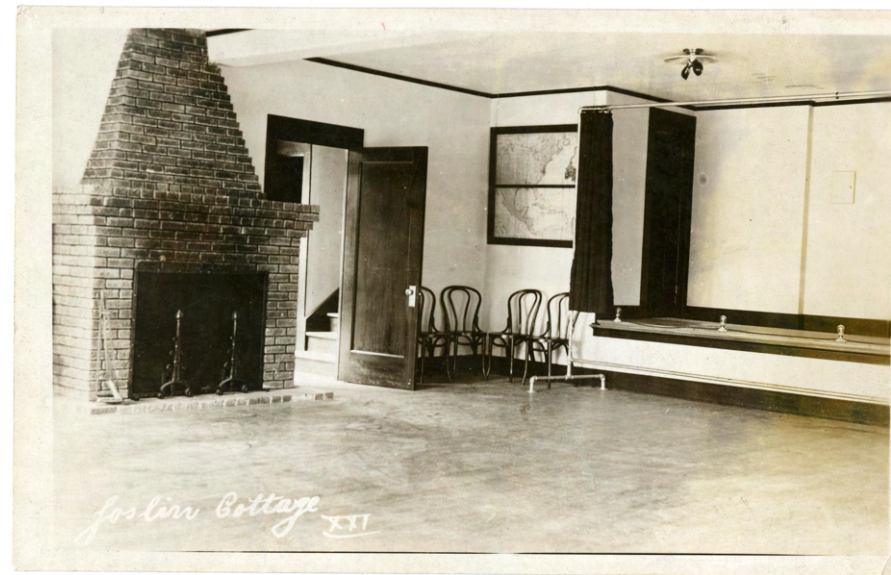
# Leadership Change at the LPM

TANNER EVANS  
BOARD PRESIDENT

Friends of the Museum, it is my duty to inform you that our director for the previous year, Matthew Blakeman, has chosen to step down from his position as Laramie Plains Museum Executive Director. Matthew was instrumental to the Museum's transition in leadership during his tenure, and we are very grateful for the time he spent with us. Matthew will stay in Laramie to pursue more time with family. We extend a big thank you to him for his service during his time as Executive Director.

The museum is pleased to announce that our own Amy Allen has been named as Interim Executive Director.

Amy brings a wealth of experience to the position. She has worked at the museum since 2018, after having graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in History, and a minor in Museum Studies. At the museum, Amy has worked as registrar, assistant curator, administrative assistant, and most recently, executive assistant. She has also worked closely with executive directors Matthew Blakeman and Mary Mountain during this time. Amy cares deeply about the ongoing success of the Museum, and I hope you will wish her luck and lend her your support as she takes on her new role as Interim Executive Director.



Inside view of the Carriage House, first floor. Frequent visitors to the gift shop will notice the same fireplace, stage, and doorway that are currently in the Carriage House. The corner with the map is the same "green" corner where Mary kept her desk for many years. Beyond the door frame, you can see the stairway that leads up to the caretaker's apartment, which was used for additional dorm space during the girl's school era.

Photo courtesy of the American Heritage Center. For more interior pictures of the Carriage House, check out the AHC's online Ludwig & Svenson Collection.

Photo of the Marshall Schoolhouse with a group of volunteers.

An inscription on the back of the photo reads, "Representatives of groups cooperating in restoration and preservation of Marshall School [house]. 1. Albany County Historical Soc., 2. Laramie Plains Museum, 3. Wyo State Historical Soc., 4. Laramie Woman's Club, 5. Bicentennial Restoration Comm., 6. Gem City Service Club, 7. Boy Scout Troop-138."

The Schoolhouse has been on the property since 1983, and is a special staple of our tours, especially during the summer season.



The Marshall School House was once located about 90 miles north of Laramie near the Laramie Peak area. It was built for use as a cabin in 1924 by LeRoy W. LaMarche, a schoolteacher. The cabin was later moved to Max Waring's ranch where it was used as a one-room school from 1942-44 and abandoned for 30 years. In 1976, Tilly Walker, a member of the Laramie Woman's Club, chose this structure to relocate to LaBonte Park to serve as a museum. The relocation and restoration of the schoolhouse was part of the American Bicentennial project by the Laramie Woman's Club. The club applied for and received a grant from the Wyoming Bicentennial Commission for \$2,500. Over 100 individuals and businesses from the Laramie

community contributed to the project through financial donations and volunteer work.

The schoolhouse suffered on several occasions from vandalism at LaBonte. The Laramie Woman's Club decided to donate the structure to the Laramie Plains Museum, and the schoolhouse was moved here in 1983.

Currently, several logs on the schoolhouse are deteriorating. We are working with local contractor Jim Davis and his dedicated crew to restore the problematic logs. For now, the schoolhouse can be viewed from the outside and will reopen for tours as soon as work is completed.



Carriage House, taken by Svenson Photography, 1911. Credit: American Heritage Center.

## A Little History of the "Houses"

KONNIE CRONK

**As we begin to formulate plans for the Carriage House Renovation, and complete work on the School House, our curator gives us the inside scoop on these two incredible buildings.**

The Carriage House, in conjunction with the Ivinson Mansion, was built in 1892 by Frank Cook and designed by Walter E. Ware, architect, of Salt Lake City, Utah. The Carriage House was used to store the vehicles for the Ivinson family, originally the horse-pulled buggies and later motor cars. There is an apartment above where the driver lived. On June 27, 1921, the entire block of the Ivinson property was deeded to the "Cathedral Chapter of the Diocese of Wyoming" and was to be used as a school for girls "under the name of the Jane Ivinson Memorial School for Girls." Both buildings were "altered and equipped" with a total cost of \$22,000 and were ready for occupancy by September of 1921.

The Carriage House was renamed "Joslin Cottage" in honor of Reverend Morton Joslin

who passed away unexpectedly in October of 1921. Reverend Joslin was instrumental in helping Bishop Nathaniel Seymore Thomas organize the Jane Ivinson Memorial School for Girls at the Ivinson Mansion. After the remodel, the Joslin Cottage was equipped with "desks on the first floor as a study hall and has a dormitory on the second." The building was used for more than a study hall, and newspaper articles describe holiday functions occurring within this building including a dance and Halloween festivities

During the Girls School Era, the two large garage doors that were on the south and east sides of the building were removed and replaced with a bank of windows and doors (probably the ones still used to this day). Also, by the mid-1920s the cupola was removed, possibly as a part of the restoration by the Episcopal Church.

Currently, Carriage House renovation plans are still in the planning stages, but are moving steadily forward.

## Summer is Finally Here

AMY ALLEN

Hello to all our wonderful museum friends,

I'm honored to announce that I have taken the position of Interim Executive Director. As mentioned by our Board President Tanner Evans, I've worked at the museum for about five years now in a variety of roles. The Directorship is a new experience for me, but one I hope to fulfill in much the same manner as my predecessors. I am looking forward to the challenge of stepping up into this new position with all of its many avenues, but I am grateful for the support of my incredible staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors. With their help and yours, we'll do our very best to make this a great summer.

Over here at the Museum Complex, we are hard at work to ensure the busy summer season is successful. We have already had a few outdoor weddings, despite all the rain. We will have a great deal more before the end of the season in October.

Curator Konnie Cronk and I made a few presentations at the local schools to kick off our Junior Docent program. These wonderful teen volunteers help give tours of the mansion during our extended summer hours. We'll be open as early as 9:00 am for tours Tuesday through Saturdays, with afternoon tours starting at 1:00pm on Sundays. On June 13th, we hosted our yearly Junior Docent training event, so now the Carriage House is full of first year docents learning the ropes, and returning second, third, and fourth year docents taking groups of folks through the house.

Thanks to the efforts of some great volunteers, our first two Tea on Tuesday events were wildly successful. We have



Amy Allen

another coming up on July 25th, which is already sold out!

A great big thank you to all of you folks who responded to our newsletter title poll—and an extra special thank you to those of you who suggested titles. After tabulating the results, we are happy to announce we'll be keeping "Mansion" but adding a "the" to make sure it complies with proper English grammar semantics. Feel free to let us know what you think. We are always happy to hear from you.

In the coming pages, we'll continue to fill you in on updates on the mansion grounds and workings—Konnie has a great story on pages 6 and 7 about Modern Printing, a very familiar Laramie business, as well as some history on our very own Carriage House and the Marshall Schoolhouse. We also have updates about upcoming events, Art Fest (July 9th) and Evening at the Ivinsons' (August 19th), so be sure to read on. Thank you for all you do to help this special place keep running.



Join us for our annual  
Jubilee Days event

# Art Fest on the Lawn

Sunday, July 9th, 10am to 3pm  
on the Ivinson Mansion Grounds

Featuring Local Artists - Craft Vendors - Mansion Walk throughs - Amazing Food

And remember to swing by Greenhill Cemetery on July 7th at 5 pm for one of Judy Knight's amazing Cemetery Tours. This year's theme is families. Meet Judy at the circle turn-around if you are interested in participating. Tour subject to good weather.

## Calling all Laramie Gardeners...

ANNIE NELSON

For the upcoming July 25th Tea, Gardener and Tea Volunteer Annie Nelson tells us about a unique twist on the traditional Tea bouquets.

Hello Laramie Flower Lovers,

The July Tea will feature Laramie and Albany County flowers. If you have some flowers from your garden, yard, field or alley that you'd like to share, we'd be happy to feature your flowers in centerpieces for the tables at the July Tea on Tuesday.

Please bring your flowers in water to the Alice Hardie Stevens Center on Monday, July 24, 2023, between 9 am and 11 am. We'll have buckets of water for you to transfer your flowers into so you can easily take your container home.

We will have a sign-up sheet for you to put your name and the names of the

flower(s) you brought. Your name will be read publicly at the Tea on Tuesday as a thank you and you will also be listed on our "Thank You!" poster to be displayed at the tea.

This is another fun way to support the work of the Laramie Plains Museum and share your creativity with others.

Thank you in advance to all you gardeners and we look forward to seeing you!

And as always, a wide assortment of flowers for the Tea will also come from a wonderful donation by Killian Florist—so special thanks to Janet and her staff for their contributions!

## Volunteering Information

HELEN PUGSLEY

Helen sat down with one of our favorite senior docents, Marian Stordahl, for an interview.

MS: First - greetings to readers of the LPM newsletter on this March 2023 morning in Laramie.

My dear friend Helen Pugsley, writer and reporter for the Laramie Plains Museum newsletter, has flattered me by asking for responses to interview questions that clearly could have been authored only by Helen.

HP: How did you become involved with the museum?

MS: I found myself at a point in life where suddenly an overabundance of spare time presented itself, and because I would rather be busy than be bored, I decided to get involved in a wholesome effort in the community. I have powerful friends who work here, too.

HP: How long have you been with the museum?

MS: I've been associated with the museum for about four years . . .

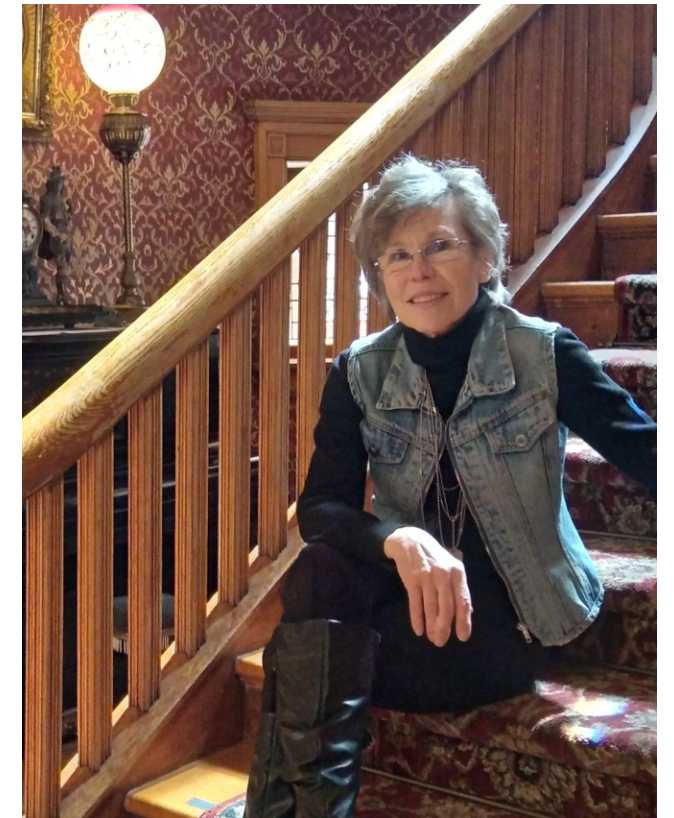
HP: What do you do?

MS: One of Helen's probing questions. I walk around in the mansion and talk to a mostly captive, small audience.

HP: What is your favorite task?

MS: It isn't really a task, but I like the icebreaker when I escort people to the front door of the mansion and point out architectural features of the mansion first, and when they are in bloom, mention the beautiful flowers in the gardens, if I remember their names.

HP: What's the most challenging part of the job?



Marian Stordahl

MS: The most challenging part of THIS job [docent] is the standard Toastmasters' Dilemma: Keeping track of the time limit on a spiel.

HP: What's your favorite place in the mansion?

MS: This question is another forced choice dreamed up by Helen. I like all the rooms in the museum that I have seen myself. Obviously I can't comment on the basement, attic, areas behind barricaded doors and so on, but the public spaces each have their own allure.

HP: What's the coolest object in our collection?

MS: Depending on how Helen defines cool, I have to state that the objects IN the museum stand secondary to the fact that the museum IS. Jane and Edward Ivinson's former residence has lived on after they died, a centripetal force for the energy of human minds and hands. What the museum represents brings cool to everything in it and of it.

# Curatorial Corner

Our curatorial department has seen some recent changes—our Registrar Emmaline Velasquez has moved on to Cheyenne, and Vince Wilson, a former volunteer, has stepped into the role.

Emmaline Velasquez started at the museum in 2021, helping out in the Carriage House during the summer, before transferring to Curatorial. She worked closely with Curator Konnie Cronk, accessioning objects, designing exhibits, caring for collection items, and generally doing anything we needed her to do. She's a trooper!

Emmaline has moved on to Cheyenne, where she is currently working at the Quebec 01 Missile Alert Facility, the newest Wyoming State Historical Site.



Emmaline Velasquez

**"The staff, volunteers, and members of the museum have made this an incredible experience. I could not have asked for better people to work alongside. The opportunity to be a part of this community has helped me grow in ways I could never have imagined. I will miss everyone dearly, and I only wish future success for the museum."**

Vince has volunteered for the museum in the curatorial department since August of 2021. He has also helped out with the arduous task of 5:30 am set-ups and midnight cleanings after rental events in the Alice Hardie Stevens Center, before moving into the Registrar role.

Currently, Vince is attending the University of Wyoming, and lives here in Laramie with his wife Megan, who is a teacher. They are all about the outdoors and love to hike, camp, and mountain bike.

Check the upcoming Fall newsletter for a full interview with Vince.



Vince Wilson



## EVENTING AT THE IVINSONS' 2023

Save the date—our annual *Evening* will take place Saturday, August 19th.

Are you ready for your close-up? This year, the museum association is going all out for our Evening event with our Golden Age of Hollywood, 1920s-1960s theme. Join us for a night of luxury fit for the most stunning stars on the red carpet. Feel free to arrive in style, dressed up as your favorite actor or actress from the silver screen. We're already daydreaming of dashing heroes, swaggering cowboys, beautiful ingenues, and fabulous fashionistas.

Invitations will be arriving soon via mail. Please RSVP with the Carriage House staff by phone or email.

Evening at the Ivinsons'  
August 19, 2023

4:30 - No-host Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, live music, raffles, silent auction, complimentary Mansion tours.

6:30 - Dinner and Live Auction inside the beautiful Alice Hardie Stevens Event Center.

Vegetarian and gluten-free options available.

Ticket price: \$150 for individuals, \$275 for couples, \$1500 for sponsors.

# Modern Printing: The End of an Era

KONNIE CRONK

**Our Curator Konnie walks us through the history of Commercial Printing in Laramie.**

Commercial printing or printing for advertisement or business purposes has been in use since the invention of print. In 19th century America, commercial printing often took place alongside newspapering businesses and Laramie was no exception. The Sentinel, the Laramie Boomerang, the Laramie Republican, and others, advertised commercial printing within their own papers. It wasn't until after the 19th century that commercial print shops or separate departments within the local papers emerged in Laramie.

Modern Printing can trace its origins back to a man named William Edward Chaplin. Chaplin came to Laramie in 1873 at the age of 13, where he apprenticed (print apprentices were referred to as "printer's devils") with Edward Slack of the Laramie Sun. Chaplin worked with many if not all the local papers in Laramie and took a short sojourn in Leadville, CO and Denver, CO and Green River, WY. By 1880, Chaplin was back in Laramie where his legacy as a newspaper man was born.

On March 14, 1881, Bill Nye's Laramie Boomerang printed its first paper with Chaplin as foreman. He remained foreman until 1890 when the Boomerang was sold. Chaplin left the famed newspaper and established his own called the Laramie Republican.

The commercial printing department of the Laramie Republican was called the "Republican Job Office," which is the name used in its published books, pamphlets,



**Chandler and Price Printing Press, 2022.**

and advertisements. The department grew rapidly and by 1910 Chaplin advertised a second contact number for the "Job Department," implying an increase in demand for commercial printing.

In February of 1920, the Laramie Printing Company was incorporated by Chaplin. Management of the new business included long-time printers John Costin, Jr., Robert Gottschalk, and businessman F. A. Holliday. The Laramie Printing Company was the main print shop in town until Mountain States Lithography was started on April 18, 1936, by Charles "Chuck" W. Street and his brother-in-law, J. Lee Carroll. Mountain States used the new state-of-the-art technology, offset lithography, instead of the wood cuts commonly used to reproduce photographs. Street was responsible for the mechanical department while Carroll was the business manager.

During the night of April 14, 1948, Mountain States was one of the casualties of the Holliday Fire. All equipment and office records were destroyed. Two days later, the Mountain States reopened in the office space of Western Public Service; the Laramie



**Modern Printing Workshop, 2022. Courtesy of the American Heritage Center.**

papers and Laramie Printing Company offered the use of their equipment for urgent jobs. A program called the "little Marshall plan" helped Mountain States rebuild. Along with several other businesses, the University donated two temporary buildings and the printers were back in business by the end of April at 304 S. Kearney.

In 1950, Howard Rhodes joined the business. A year later, Mountain States moved to 412 South 3rd Street where it continued to expand. The "Laramie Life" magazine was published from 1952-1954, which featured community interest photos and articles. Laramie Printing Company closed around 1954 leaving Mountain States as the largest print shop in Laramie. In 1960, the company opened a second shop in Casper, WY where Rhodes took over operations. Street continued to operate the Laramie branch until he retired in 1965.

Wayne Bress was hired as manager of Mountain States in 1966. He purchased the Mountain States Laramie branch in 1972 and renamed the business Modern Printing. In 1975, Bress purchased Snowy Range Printers

from the Gaddis family and moved into its building at 600 South 3rd Street. During the 1970s and '80s Modern Printing continued to grow into its new and much larger building. Much of its work was contracted by the University of Wyoming and other local businesses. Modern Printing also expanded into the blank form business which brought in customers from all over the Western United States.

In 1989, Wayne Bress's son, Rob Bress, joined the company as additional help was needed. This same year, the building was expanded to the south. In 1996, another son, Jay Bress, came to work to help his brother and father. The company continued to grow and expand through the 2000s. In 2006, a 26-foot five-color Komori printing press (offset press) was added. The addition of this press greatly simplified the printing process.

In 2022 the production facility was closed, and the business transitioned into a print brokerage firm.

This article was written in honor of Wayne Bress, who passed on April 23, 2023.