

YELLOWSTONE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESERVE THE STORIED PAST

September 2021

Welcome Back!

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Cathy Strocher	560-1218
Jan Ross	598-1641
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History will look back on the past year as the year (*or year plus*) of the Worldwide Covid Pandemic much the same as we look back on the 1918 Flu Epidemic. For us right now, we just hope to get back to some semblance of a normal life. Part of that return to “normal” includes a return to our monthly Yellowstone Historical Society meetings. We hope you will be able to join us.

Our meetings will again be held at the **Hilton Garden Inn, 2465 Grant Road**. The hotel is generally located west of “At Home” (former Shopko), Costco & Old Chicago, and south of Best Buy. Easiest access is off from S. 24th St. West, south of King Ave West. Grant Road is the E-W street just south of the old Shopko store.

Meal prices remain \$20 per person, including gratuity. Our meetings will be held in Treasure State Rooms A&B—down the hallway to the right as you enter off the main lobby area. Beer & wine will be available for purchase from the hotel bar off the lobby. Freshly brewed coffee, Tazo teas and freshly brewed iced tea will be available at no charge with the meal.

YHS runs on a membership year of September 1 thru August 31, so dues for the 2021-22 year are now due. Your membership expiration date is noted in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label. If it says 8/31/2021 (or an earlier year) you need to renew.

See *Renewals* on Page 2

Fall Programs

September 17: Baker Transfer & Storage. This is one of last year’s programs postponed due to Covid. This program was originally planned to be given by Willard Baker in March 2020. Unfortunately he passed away in January 2021. His son, Scott Baker, will give the program originally put together by his Dad. Scott will talk about the history of Baker Transfer & Storage, a Billings business started in 1906 by his great-grandfather Willard Ebenezer Baker.

October 8: TRIBAL FLAGS OF MONTANA. We have 8 Native American reservations in Montana. Each one has it’s own flag with symbols representing ideas or things of importance to them. Buffalo, sky & teepees are common to all these tribes. However, they are all very different: language, clothing, cultural practices, etc. Come and learn more about these Montana neighbors. Presentation by Joyce Jensen

We will also do a quick discussion of the flag of Lewis & Clark as well as that at Fort Henry near Baltimore that inspired the “Star Spangled Banner” during the War of 1812.

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FALL MEETINGS

This fall there are some variations from our normal 3rd Friday meeting schedule. Fall meetings will be held on Sept. 17th, Oct. 8th, & Nov. 19th (all Fridays). Starting with a **social hour at 5:30 pm**, dinner served at 6:00pm. Society **business**, announcements, etc. **at 6:30pm**, and the **speaker at 6:45pm**. You may attend the speaker presentation only without dinner if you desire.

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November 19: The Big Drive of '89.

Sometimes we don't think of events that occurred during our lifetime as "historical." But they are. One of these events—a once in a century occurrence—was the Great Montana Centennial Cattle Drive of 1989. This cattle drive celebrated the 100th anniversary of Montana's statehood. More than 2,800 cattle made the trip from Roundup to Billings, along with more than 3,300 horses, 105 drovers and 208 wagons. The drive came down Main Street into Billings—the *busiest street in Montana!* Come learn more about this ambitious undertaking from Bill Jones, owner of the Two Dot Ranch and a participant in the Drive. See this [photo collection](#) in the *Billings Gazette* for some great pictures from the Drive.



Histories Mysteries

On Saturday, **October 9th, 2021** YHS will again host *Histories Mysteries*, a self-paced tour of sites in Billings—most of which have a mystery or at least some little known or disputed fact associated with them. Tentative sites for this year's event include:

>Veteran's Park and the Dec. 8, 1945 plane crash that killed 17 servicemen & 2 pilots returning from World War II

>The converted warehouse building at 2223 Montana Avenue where bodies were temporarily held following the plane crash noted above

>Psychics & clairvoyants in downtown Billings

>The "Restricted District"

Come to the October 8 YHS meeting to learn more about this year's event.

There will be History Sleuths, aka Local Historians, at each location from 10am to 2pm Saturday Oct 9th. At each location the historians will tell you about the history and the mystery. You can travel at your own pace with your friends and family. Tickets are only \$20.00 per carload. Tickets available online at YellowstoneHistoricalSociety.com or at all 3 G's Convenience Stores in Billings starting Sept. 15th.

Coming Events

Sept 4—"Day of Honor" event, Chief Plenty Coups State Park

Sept. 17— YHS monthly meeting at the [Hilton Garden Inn](#); 5:30 PM

Sept. 21— **Historic Preservation Roundtable**, 8:30 AM at the Western Heritage Center

Sept. 23 thru 25— Montana History Conference, Butte, <http://mhs.mt.gov>

Sept. 25— National Public Lands Day, Pompey's Pillar, free admission (no Fall Festival this year)

Oct. 8— YHS monthly meeting at the [Hilton Garden Inn](#); 5:30 PM

Oct. 9— *Histories Mysteries* self guided auto tour

Nov. 19— YHS monthly meeting at the [Hilton Garden Inn](#); 5:30 PM

Renewals

There is a membership application enclosed with this newsletter for your convenience. Feel free to paste a pre-printed return address label on it for your name & address—it saves having to decipher handwriting. Please write clearly if you include your e-mail address as even one wrong letter in the computer world will derail an e-mail and cause it to bounce back. **You may renew by mail or pay at the monthly meeting.**

If you feel your membership expiration date is in error please contact me at 245-8867 or yhs.membership@gmail.com and I will check into it.

Terry Smith, Secretary

Dinner Reservations

Our callers contact members the weekend before the meeting for dinner reservations. If they miss you & leave a message and you want dinner it is important that you let your caller know no later than Monday evening so we can turn a head count in to the hotel. **If you sign up for dinner and do not attend you will still be charged for the meal** because we have to pay based on the number of meals we request. If plans change and you can't attend, call Karen Tooker at 656-2786 no later than 3:00 pm Thursday to cancel and avoid being charged.