

The WFP Underground

A Quarterly Publication by the Wyoming Frontier Prison

Quarterly Con-versation: Springtime in Prison

The birds are chirping, the temperature in A block is a tropical 45 degrees, community service workers scurry from building to building, and more and more tourists poke their heads into the Wyoming Frontier Prison offices asking, "Are you open?" This is what spring is like in our prison museum, affectionately known as the Old Pen. This is a very busy time of year for us because we're gearing up for the opening day of our full tour season in addition to the constant efforts to improve our historic site for the enjoyment of our visitors.

We've kicked off the year with a bang; the ability to provide two tours Monday through Thursday, every week this winter, has increased our tour revenue by 122% in the first quarter of this year, compared to the first quarter of last year. There also appears to be an increase in interest from special school groups; we have tours scheduled in May for approximately 200 young minds in addition to regular visitation.

Our full tour season begins the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, May 29th, during which we offer 9 tours a day, 7 days a week. This summer we will also be offering special Night Tours on the weekends, as well as Friday the 13th Tours in August, and we will undoubtedly be visited by several paranormal investigative groups. In addition to visitation increasing, we've been busy making all sorts of improvements around our site.

Just last week, our onsite "Well #1" came to life to help provide the water required to plant 90 seedling trees last weekend to replace the trees lost in the beetle kill along the walking path. We had a lot of volunteers come to plant trees, including the wonderful folks from On Sacred Ground as well as Erica Royer's 6th Grade Class from Rawlins Middle School. The trees were purchased with grant funds awarded last year from the Carbon County School District #1 Recreation Board, and the 90 seedlings will only be the beginning. An additional 65 more established trees of 13 different types will be planted in the fall, and a drip watering system will be installed. Our nature area will soon be restored to its picturesque state to be enjoyed by all who happen by on the city walking path.

In addition to the physical work we've been doing, we've also received funding and been approved to purchase three new software packages that will continue to increase the efficiency of this organization. The Old Pen Joint Powers Board approved the purchase of the Adobe CS4 Creative Suite (which Sarah is extremely excited about), and we have already purchased QuickBooks PremierPro to

Totally Random Prison Fact

The shower room in A Block was constructed in 1930, but hot water wasn't added until 1978.

Prior to the construction of the shower room the men were bathing in horse troughs, outside in the prison yard, even in the winter months.

Old Pen Joint Powers Board

Glenna Kaupillia-Chairman
Mary Pat Whitfield-Secretary
Dennis Carpenter-Treasurer
Leigh Nation
David Michie III
Bob Pixler
Gary Hansen

Friends of the Old Pen
President-Position Vacant
Vice President-Geoff Hiatt
Treasurer-Kathy Hiatt
Secretary-Tina Hill

The Friends of the Old Pen meet at Hoot&Howl, the first Wednesday of every month, at noon.

For membership information, please contact the Old Pen at (307)324-4422 or wfp@tribcsp.com or visit wyomingfrontierprison.org.

Quarterly Con-versation: Springtime in Prison [continued from pg.1]

streamline our finances. This software was purchased from Tech Soup, an organization that provides software to nonprofits, at a fraction of the original cost. We're very excited about these programs, but the most significant purchase will be made with grant funds received from the Colorado Wyoming Association of Museums (CWAM). The funds will be used to purchase PastPerfect, software dedicated to cataloguing artifacts while adhering to the highest museum standards. The Wyoming Frontier Prison possesses roughly 2,000 artifacts that have not previously been catalogued in any way. This is a large project that may take several years, but it's something that is long overdue, and we're excited to get started!

We've been keeping busy lately, and are looking forward to opening for the full tour season. To keep up with the daily happenings at the Wyoming Frontier Prison, please visit wyomingfrontierprison.org or look us up on Facebook.

Friends of the Old Pen: Update

Kathy Hiatt-Friends of the Old Pen

Have you ever wondered what the Friends of the Old Pen do with the proceeds of the events like Christmas in the Big House or the Flee Market? Monies raised by the Friends most often benefit the Wyoming Frontier Prison Historic Site (or as it is more affectionately called, the "Old Pen"), in various ways. The Friends have paid for vacuum cleaners, having new carpet installed in portions of the site and later, having those same carpets cleaned, and many other things that the Old Pen wouldn't have been able to handle funding on their own.

This year part of the most recent Christmas in the Big House fund-raising monies has been used to purchase a new computer for the Old Pen Gift Shop. Yes, boys & girls, we've come into the 20th century!!! Maybe even the 21st!!! The new computer will enable the gift shop manager (we are currently searching for one of those, by the way) to perform a variety of tasks using programs for keeping track of inventory, doing fancy labels and signs for the merchandise, tallying sales vs. purchases for the treasurer's report, all sorts of wonderful things that would have been done by hand or on an old machine before.

The Old Pen Gift Shop carries a wide variety of items, from books to t-shirts, mugs to jewelry, so remember to check it out next time you are looking for that special gift for someone. And in doing your shopping there you will be helping the Friends earn even more money to help the Old Pen Historic Site to keep preserving the history of Rawlins & Wyoming, to provide an educational (albeit creepy) place to visit, and keep bringing tourists to our wonderful city and county.

Life's Drama

*As a child I left the cradle,
And I walk from chair to chair
With my mother close behind,
As she gave a mother's care;
'Twas the first act in life's drama
That should never be forgot;
For then and there I started toddling,
Where life's wrong was never thought.*

This poem was written by State Penitentiary inmate No. 2224, William J. Henning. It was originally published in the July 1916 issue of J=A=B=S, the monthly newsletter created and published entirely by the inmates.

W.J. Henning was sentenced to 4-6 years for burglary on June 7, 1915. After earning 21 months of "good time" he was pardoned December 25, 1917.

WFFP

Reports from the Warden: Grants

Tina Hill-WFP Historic Site Director

Twelve percent of the Wyoming Frontier Prison's 2010 budget needs to come from grants. So far, Old Pen Staff members have submitted five grant applications.

The first grant of the year was written to the Colorado Wyoming Association of Museums (CWAM) for \$750 to purchase Past Perfect Software. Happily, we have received noticed that we were awarded this grant. With this software, Old Pen staff will begin the long overdue task of cataloguing the precious artifacts in our museum collections.

The next grant was to the Carbon County Visitors' Council, requesting \$6,000 to continue renting our two billboards. The large, attractive boards are an integral piece of marketing for the Wyoming Frontier Prison and a piece we would not be able to afford without the Visitors' Council's assistance. Once again, good fortune smiled on us, and we were awarded this grant.

In March we submitted two grant applications to the Carbon County School District #1 Recreation Board. The first application requests \$8,500 to produce 50,000 brochures and 10,000 rack cards for the Wyoming Frontier Prison. The brochures provide historic information to our visitors and they are a great training tool for tour guides. The beautiful rack cards would be a brand new piece of our marketing program. The rack cards would provide potential visitors with the standard information they would need to include the Wyoming Frontier Prison in their travel plans.

The second application to the Recreation Board asks for \$45,000 to restore the historic baseball field in the prison recreation yard. The Old Pen Joint Powers Board hopes to partner with the South Central Baseball-Softball Commission to get the old baseball field back in working order. We would like to restore the field for three reasons: historic interpretation, to host vintage baseball games as a fund-raising activity, and to make our historic site more accessible to local citizens. We will not know the outcome of the Recreation Board applications until sometime in July. We will keep you posted!

And finally, a grant was just submitted to the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund requesting \$6,950.00 to upgrade our museum display cases and training for an exhibit upgrade project. If awarded, the grant will allow us to purchase supplies to upgrade the existing display cases to a conservation standard and to make them more accessible to our visitors. The project will also include continued staff training on the proper care of our collections.

As you can tell for the varied grant applications so far submitted, operating an historic site entails many different aspects from marketing, historic restoration and preservation, recreation, museum and collections care, and staff training (among other things!) Please keep your fingers crossed that we may be awarded all of grants we requested!

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Wyoming Frontier Prison, please feel free to drop me an email at wfp@tribcsp.com.

Maintenance Report

Brian Hegg-WFP Handyman

Well another quarter gone by. During this time the following repairs/ projects were done:

- 1.)Made, painted, and mounted on the catwalk handrail 6 "Danger Stay off the Wall" signs with a disclaimer.
- 2.)Took down leaking water fountain in hallway and moved fountain from WSP museum to hallway.
- 3.)Reinstalled camera in the Gift Shop.
- 4.)Called and collected bids for sprinkler system in the Exercise Yard.
- 5.)Cut up blown down tree on west fence, cleaned up all branches and wood.
- 6.)Cleaned up Exercise Yard and removed all poles.
- 7.)Set out flags and dug holes for trees in the wild life area.
- 8.)Made up signs for paved trail warning of hazards.
- 9.)Repaired rollers on "C" block door.

And with spring finally arriving, outside clean up has begun. Mower serviced and ready for action. Enjoy Spring Everyone! Brian.

Prison *a poem*

Jamie Hansen-WFP Tour Guide

Within the bonds and burns,
There is a lesson to be learned.
Whether it is: doing the right,
Or keep hidden out of sight.

Punishment with out reason,
Is almost as bad as treason.
For everyone to see,
A problem there must be.

And to vanish with out a trace,
With only a number and a face.
There are rules you must follow
When thrown in a prison hollow.

No light or sound just plays with the mind,
You're lucky if you don't go blind
It takes me to a place bizarre,
That in reality isn't very far.

A nightmare this all will be
Until the day I am free.
Just wait for your moment
And be like me; Blow It!

You'll see what I mean
About the cuisine.
Three weeks of confinement
Is cause for reassignment.

I wait till the day the door opens wide
Till then I dream about going outside
And so I sit a prisoner of the state.
Waiting to cross the threshold gate.

To deal with myself and to tell my tale:
Don't ever complain about your big toenail.

*Planting trees
April 30th and
May 1st*



*For more pictures,
check out the
Wyoming Frontier
Prison Facebook
page!*

We'd like to thank...

The **City Public Works Department** for the service provided to remove an unsightly rubbish pile from the grounds that was visible from the walking path.

The **Carbon County Fire Department** for helping to remove the tree on 7th Street that was uprooted by the wonderful Wyoming Wind at the beginning of April.

Erica Royer's 5th Grade Class, Rebekah Simon-Peter & On Sacred Ground, Girl Scout Troop #1598 and **everyone** that came to help plant our new trees.

Jacqueline Bowlus from the Carbon County Museum for helping to gather helping hands to plant the trees.

Our wonderful **Board Members** for all the extra time and attention they've been dedicating to all of our projects.

If we forgot to mention you, we apologize, and please know that we are very grateful for every single contribution!

Inmate Snapshot



Name: Henry Edmonson

Age: 40

Number: 377

Date of sentence: April 16, 1898

Length of sentence: Life

Crime: 2nd Degree Murder

Details: Arrested in Uinta County, sentenced to life in prison in 1898, and began serving his sentence at the Wyoming Territorial Prison in Laramie. He was transferred to the State Penitentiary in Rawlins when it opened in 1901. Listed as a "heavy drinker" and "morphine fiend" he was granted a pardon by Governor John B. Kendrick on December 22, 1915 on the condition that he leave Wyoming forever.

Wish List

As a non-profit organization, we're always finding ourselves in need of different things, and even the smallest donation is an immense help to us! These are some of the things that we're lookin' for these days...

A new external hard drive

A new USB card reader

legal pads

paper clips

scotch tape

post-it notes

map pins (to keep track of our visitors)

Kleenex

Duct tape

Heavy duty, outdoor extension cords

Acid free photo albums

photo paper (gloss or semi-gloss)

Laptop case (for a 15.6" screen)

Other Stuff...

We open for our full tour season

Saturday May 29th!

This means 9 tours a day 7 days a week, special night tours and Friday the 13th Tours in August!

The Great Divide Music Festival scheduled for July 3rd has been postponed until next year, but keep your eyes open for other special events coming to prison!

Questions, comments or concerns?

Contact us

WFP

500 W. Walnut St.

Rawlins, Wy 82301

(307)324-4422

wfp@tribesp.com

wyomingfrontierprison.org

