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.
**Mason Loft Condos continue to amazingly support LPM operations**

**Museum Gift Shop Sales are at $4995 of our projections!**

**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 hours of service!
- 30 Weddings and/or Wedding receptions were held at LPM facilities May through September.
- 4995 Museum Tour Sales have been given so far in 2022.
- **22 Just Be Gold Evening** netted close to $15,000 in support of future LPM projects.
- Gates to the Women’s History in downtown Laramie have been open since March 1st with tours of Wyoming's remarkable women's struggle 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.

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**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 Inn property is a vital presence in our Laramie community!**

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**BOLD MURDER Continued...**

Roy also took the stand, again to a standing room crowd. Although Roy was 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 11:30 am went to the jury. After almost 10 days, crowds of audiences and lots of witnesses just before 2 pm the jury gave the verdict of guilty. Roy was sentenced to death by hanging. After a year and a half, he was removed from the gallows and Maverick, the parents of Gladys, were there when the sentence was carried out.

On October 18, 1922 he was hanged in Rawlins Penitentiary. The next day he denied a motion for a new trial and by October 20th he was in Rawlins. But that’s not the end of the story.

**On March 27, 1922, Roy was tried for his sanity. He was found to be insane and sent to the asylum at Staverton. For six weeks he was there. He had been getting weaker and acting oddly. Roy would lie in bed and be laughing for a while until he would get weaker and then would puke. 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 more treatment at the state institution than at the state institution in Wyoming. She brought a letter from Wisconsin attesting to her good reputation. The Board of Pardons demanded that a period of time be given Roy to receive better treatment. Finally, Carrie was pleased with the outcome.

In late October he was in Rawlins. But that’s not the end of the story. By December 1922, Roy was awarded a government soldier’s allowance as compensation from federal funds in the amount of $500 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 was 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 released? I never found out. I decide to go to Find a Grave website to see how long he lived. There he is with a site in Rawlins, Wyoming. His site name and birthdate, but no death date. If he died in the penitentiary they wouldn’t they know when he died? But now I had his birthdate and I could do a check if it can tell me anything. All right, 1900 Census he is there with his father Carl, mother Carrie and brother Hugo. He was born in Wisconsin during the trial stated that they 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 Wisconsin Census shows the family has moved to 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. He? I don’t know.

Roy E. Bergstrom is in Chicago, Illinois and is married to Ida. He is from Wisconsin in the 1940 Census He is a supervising draftsman in the Bureau of Electricity in the WPA. It says he got out 4 years ago. Is this the correct Roy E. Bergstrom? His year of birth and place of birth are correct. Roy’s WWII Draft Registration Card is 1943. It shows he is still living in Chicago and is working at the Pressed Steel Car Co. in the Ar- mored 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 1.” 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 sentenced 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 Bergstrom married in 1951 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.....
Office Then Holds Up Store; Flees City in a Taxi

print.
tiered headline follows, each in slightly smaller
Easter, on the front page in The Laramie Boomer-
which are contracted by his wife Gladys Berg-
paper a notice that he refuses to pay any debts

Looking at old photos, I know that most of the
I go to the Wyoming Newspaper Project
and dated 1920. I wonder why she is

Mrs. Gladys McArthur Berg-
making a divorce on account of cruelties. Roy fol-
ted her back to Laramie. He talked to her a
time after he came back, learned of the
in the paper, sent her flowers with no card and
She parted with the man on the street a
to learn more about the subject or person.

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
Wisconsin to get a home ready for his

Gladys, she followed shortly after. In
March 1920, Gladys came back to Laramie, was
donned a divorce by 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 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 flew the scene,
got in his car 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
there”. The woman went up, saw Gladys and
came back down to get a man to help. The
man arrived three days after the shooting 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 cas-

The taxi driver drove him there and Roy got out
in town. Nearing Bosler, Roy asked the driver to go to a brewery about
pening across the street. Later Roy placed a phone call to the Connor Hotel
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What’s your favorite part of working for the museum?
What’s your favorite room in the Mansion?
What is this?

When the manager
re-
ll report the findings and a new

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

Getting to Know LPM’s New Director

How did you become involved with the museum?
I have been fascinated with this wonderful, stagnant museum 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’s then, a very challenging & sadly neglected old building. That early tour of people were to raise money to save the House. The story I heard of the
mansion’s former grandeur and impending peril. It was so compelling. I have never
for get t.

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 a unique and challenging position to lead our amazing gem into its next exciting chapter. Now that I think all of the hands, hearts & minds that have brought us this far, I am both humbled and in-

At the museum, volunteering is a wonderful opportunity to do good and serve our community. It is such a rewarding way to spend time and make a difference. To learn more about volunteering, visit our volunteer section on our website.

I love to look at old photos. I like to see places I

I can

and dated 1920. I wonder why she is

I went to the Wyoming Newspaper Project

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 refreshing. If I had to pick one, it would be the first floor foyer with its grand flowing 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 majestic 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

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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.

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 Ivinson 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.

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 selection 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 Ivinson 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, Ivinson, 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 Ivinsons’ 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 Ivinson
Never fear, in case of nasty weather, we’ll have another fun place for treats!
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 fund-raising, it was exciting to celebrate out loud.

Beginning with cocktails and appetizers on the estate’s cast lawn, guests enjoyed music provided by Danno and remarks from Laramie Museum board President Chris-tel Waldroth & 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 continu- ed 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. Libra-tions 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 in recognition of the Museum’s Board of Direc-tors on behalf of a grateful community. Ms. Mountain enjoyed a standing ovation in recognition of her extraordi-nary years of service to the Museum and its patrons. The occasion was a time to celebrate her leadership in develop-ing 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 condo-miniums and Brick House curatorial facilities were develop-ed. 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 sup-port the museum has received from volunteers, donors, the community and a dedicated staff, was presented with an exquisite cherry cabinet and “Tiffany-style” lamp, hand-made 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 Woman’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 here 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.

And...above, we introduce one of our newest favorite people: Michelle Gonzales, Rental Coordinator. Michelle was available for us. And...above, we introduce one of our newest favorite people: Michelle Gonzales, Rental 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 Griffs, 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 Octo-ber. 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 res-taurant situation, someone vivacious and capable like Michelle was available for us.

Welcome Aboard, Michelle!

AND HELLO! 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 Waldroth, LPM Board President, Joyce Powell, Mason Loft Manager along with her 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.

Left: New, Executive Direc-tor, 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, includ-ing 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.....

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.
2022 “Evening” was Golden!

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

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.

Doug & Joyce Powell, Ron Olsen

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