

Sublette County Historical Society
and the Museum of the Mountain Man

Annual Report 2010

River platte June 4th 1833

Dear General W. I have for the first time since we parted an opportunity of giving you a sketch of our proceedings since you left home which I have been very anxious to do but I have now but very poor means of doing as I would wish you are well aware of the incumbrances of snow on such occasions as this therefore being neglect of my duty I hope you will excuse I immediately after our separations last summer I repaired to Salmon river and there made a deposit of all our goods &c from thence to the blackfoot country and a month or so in it there a company of white men I have been found them much poorer than I had any idea of our party in that section consisted of Bridger was shot in 2 places with arrows and caught only a few of them under my eye over took us with a party of 112 men a great disadvantage to us altho we of few which we got so they remained arrived at the three forks of the Missouri where we separated & took up the Gallatin and they the Maconn and soon after we both had a fight with the blackfoot Mr Vanderburgh was killed in a few days after we parted in our fight Bridger was shot in 2 places with arrows we lost our horse our squaw & the gun which you sold Bridger makes our man who was killed out a trapping

River platte June 4th 1833

River platte June 4th 1833

Bridger was shot in 2 places with arrows

Bridger was shot in 2 places with arrows

Your Friend
Thos. Fitzpatrick

Your Friend Thos. Fitzpatrick

2010 ~ The Year of Incredible Gifts

The Sally Swift Endowment

Sara "Sally" Swift, a long-time supporter and philanthropist of the Museum of the Mountain Man, passed away on April 15, 2010 after a brief illness. Sally's wit, beauty and grace complimented a unique sense of humor and touched the many individuals she impacted and inspired throughout her life.

Sally made Wyoming her home for over 40 years and her generosity touched many lives, especially here in Sublette County. Her joy and enthusiasm was only overshadowed by her relentless dedication to the numerous causes she believed in and took to heart.

Sally's guidance, through the Ruth and Vernon Taylor Foundation, enabled the construction of our beautiful Museum of the Mountain Man, purchase of rare artifacts, and was a main contributor to our numerous publications.

Sally's final gift to the Sublette County Historical Society/ Museum of the Mountain Man was a \$500,000 bequeath to the endowment. Through this incredibly generous gift, Sally's lasting legacy will continue and benefit generations to come. We miss you Sally!



Benefactress, Sally Swift ensured a lasting legacy for the community in her final donation.

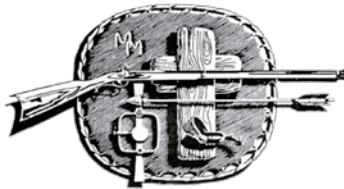
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The Hayden Huston Donation

Hayden was born on July 19, 1924, the son of early Sublette County pioneers Joseph 'Tobe' and Jenny Huston. He grew up in Daniel as an independent but caring spirit, and though his career took him all over the world, Wyoming was always "home."

Hayden enlisted in the Navy at the young age of 17, before the United States entered World War II. He served with distinction, earning a Purple Heart and was present on the battleship, USS Missouri, during the Japanese surrender. He then began a long and successful career with the Diplomatic Service of the U.S. State Department and was stationed throughout the world until his retirement in 1989.

While living in Yugoslavia in the early 1960s, Hayden met his future wife, Ivanka Mirkovic and they were married in Belgrade on October 9, 1962. Hayden and 'Vani' raised their two daughters on five different continents and upon his retirement, they divided their



time between Daniel, Salt Lake City and Yugoslavia.

Hayden, sometimes affectionately known as "Toby," was passionately interested in the history of Sublette County and co-authored several books, including the two-volume publication, "Daniel, Wyoming: The First Hundred Years 1900 - 2000." He researched and marked graves of early pioneers throughout the county, as well as cataloged and preserved numerous pre-historic artifacts that he spent countless years collecting.

To honor Hayden's deep love of his 'wild Wyoming mountains' and cherished artifact collection, the Huston family donated a kind and generous \$100,000 to the Sublette County Historical Society/ Museum of the Mountain Man in December 2010.

This incredible gift is ear-marked for the future Rocky Mountain Archaeology Center, to begin a cornerstone "In Memory of Hayden Huston and His Love of Wyoming."

2010 ~ The Year of Incredible Gifts Historical Sites

Sommers Homestead Project

The Sublette County Historical Society has joined with **Albert and Jonita Sommers** and the **Green River Valley Museum** on an exciting project to restore the historic Sommers Ranch Homestead.

The goal of the project is to restore several of the homestead buildings to use for display, interpretation and living history demonstrations of 1900-1950 era Sublette County homestead life. Long term development plans are being finalized so budgets and schedules have not been defined. However, it is our hope that the field location will be open by the summer of 2012 with limited visitation possible by late summer of 2011. The site will be open to the public several days a week during the summer with some living history events each summer. Foundation and stabilization work is now finished and internal restoration will soon begin.

In 2010, Albert and Jonita proposed the project to the Historical Society and work has progressed quickly. Albert and Jonita have donated several buildings featuring the homestead house and provided a 1.5 acre easement on the land the buildings are located on. All of the buildings will remain at the Sommers Ranch. Albert and Jonita have also donated some seed money to start renovation. The Historical Society is doing additional fundraising and will own and operate the buildings in close cooperation with Albert and Jonita and the Green River Valley Museum. Located about 7 miles south of the Cora Y on the Green River, the Sommers Ranch homestead is located on the Sommers family ranch which was placed under a conservation easement in 2010 so the Homestead will continue to be surrounded by the historic ranch landscape.

Lander Trail - New Fork Crossing - Historical Park

After two long years of hard work, preparation and negotiations, the Sublette County Historical Society became the recipients of an 82 acre site, to develop and operate as a public historical park. This significant historical site has been preserved thanks to the generosity and agreements by the **Bureau of Land Management, Shell Rocky Mountain Production, Ultra Resources** and **PacifiCorp (Rocky Mountain Power)**.



Sommers homestead house being prepped for its move to a new foundation.

Located at the New Fork Crossing site on the Lander Trail, the two Pinedale Anticline operators Shell and Ultra, alongside PacifiCorp each donated one-third of the cost to purchase the private property. Other organizations including the **State Historic Preservation Office, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Oregon-California Trails Association, Alliance for Historic Wyoming** and **National Park Service** joined negotiations with

the companies and BLM to turn the land over to the Historical Society, with the intent purpose of preserving this unique setting as a historical park.

The Lander Trail spans 256 miles from the Burnt Ranch at South Pass, Wyoming all the way to Fort Hall in Idaho. It is part of the federally-designated National Historic Trails. Constructed in 1858, the Lander Trail served as an alternative route to the lengthier Oregon Trail, and the site crosses the New Fork River, which became a major camping spot for emigrants on their way to the west coast.

Significant amounts of work need to be accomplished before opening to the public next summer. While archaeological research, development of a parking lot, as well as interpretive signage are in the forefront, the most important point is that the Historical Society, on behalf of its members and the public, are now the owners and caretakers of an incredible piece of historical property for generations to come.



New Fork River Crossing Historical Park

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The Sublette County Fur Trade Papers

In January 2010 the Sublette County Commissioners, the Sublette County Museum Board, and the Sublette County Historical Society (SCHS) had an exceptional opportunity to acquire a number of unique and important historical documents related to the mountain men, the Rocky Mountain fur trade and the rendezvous system of the early 1800s.

The Floyd Risvold auction contained thousands of letters, business papers, photographs and postal stamps ranging from the Revolutionary War through the Korean War. Original letters dating to the Rocky Mountain fur trade era are especially rare on the open market. The three Sublette County entities determined that this was a 'once-in-a-lifetime' opportunity to bring the fur trade documents "home."

In one short week, the Historical Society received many generous donations from its members and patrons, raising over \$12,000. Facing a short timeframe **the Commissioners, Museum Board and Historical Society Board** rolled up their sleeves to agree on a financial plan and document priority through reserve funding.

Ultimately, Sublette County on behalf of their constituency, was able to obtain 35 lots while the



"Other side of the Rocky Mountains - July 14th 1832"
Letter written by Nathaniel Wyeth at the 1832 Pierre's Hole Rendezvous and carried by William Sublette ('fav of Mr. Wm. L. Sublette') back to St. Louis. The Battle of Pierre's Hole was on July 18 where William Sublette was seriously wounded by a bullet in his shoulder.

Historical Society purchased 4. Since some of the lots contained multiple documents, the acquisition totaled over 100 rare, historical papers. Through a loan agreement, the Museum of the Mountain Man is managing the papers purchased by the County.

To the Museum, community at-large and national history scholars, these documents are priceless and will be the cornerstone for future exhibits, interpretive displays and educational programs for years to come.

Artwork Bestowed to the MMM

At the 2010 Annual Meeting and Spring Thaw Party, **Horton and Juli Spitzer** presented the museum with a beautiful Frank Hagel oil painting, entitled "Trapper and Squaw." The **Spitzer's** are Jim



Juli and Horton Spitzer

Bridger League members of the museum since its inception and have given numerous artifacts, as well as serving on the board and other invaluable resources.

The SCHS/ MMM also received a generous donation from **Buck and Donna Underwood** to purchase the Tom Carlson Art Collection. Most of Carlson's work features Native American life, with background scenes located in areas of the Wind River Mountains. The Carlson Art Collection will be a featured display in 2011.

We are very grateful to the **Spitzers** and **Underwoods** for these beautiful gifts!

Lynn and Foster Friess Donation

In mid-July 2010, as the SCHS/ MMM continues its quest for expansion of a *Rocky Mountain Archaeology Center*, a generous \$5,000 check arrived in the mail.

Lynn and Foster Friess, long-time supporters and philanthropists in Wyoming, are true believers in community support and dedication, not only for local organizations but world-wide.

The generosity of the **Friess Family Foundation** is for the betterment of mankind. Not only do they encourage their Jackson neighbors and friends to give, they lead by example.

2010 ~ The Year of Incredible Gifts

Museum Board, Corporate & Event Sponsors

Sublette County Museum Board

For more than 50 years the Sublette County Historical Society and Sublette County have had a unique private/public partnership to preserve and interpret the history of our area. As a private non-profit organization the Historical Society is able to raise private funds, qualify for a wider range of grants, and establish an endowment for long term stability. But this would be a difficult struggle without the significant public funds provided by Sublette County via the Sublette County Museum Board. In return, the public contribution to preserving our history is far less than if the County operated its own Museum as is with other counties in the state. This private/public partnership has resulted in one of the strongest and most stable history organizations in the state of Wyoming.

In 2010, Sublette County provided \$274,000 in funding to the Historical Society. Because of several incredible and unusual large private donations this year, county funding represented 14% of Historical Society income. However, in most years county funding represents about 50% of the Historical Society annual budget. This public funding is used for utilities, maintenance, appraisal, curation, and part time and summer staff. All are operational expenses that are hard to raise in other ways. County funds also help with education programs and publications. In 2010, the Historical Society published Volume 4 of the academic *Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal* and *Pierre's Hole, The Fur Trade History of Teton Valley, Idaho* written by Journal editor **Jim Hardee**.

The Society thanks Museum Board members, **Elaine Crumply, Michael Klaren, Sue Sommers, Becky Thompson, and Tim Thompson; County Commissioners Joel Bousman, Bill Cramer and John Linn;** and especially the people of Sublette County for help in preserving our history.

Corporate and Event Sponsors

The Historical Society holds four major events each year. Our annual member meeting, "Spring Thaw Party" was held on March 4th. Fur Trade historian **Barton Barbour**



Volume 4 - Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal

gave a presentation on his book *Jedediah Smith: No Ordinary Mountain Man*.

For the 9th year the Museum partnered with the **American Mountain Men** to host 976 students for "Living History Days" May 18-20. Students attended from all over Western Wyoming including schools from Big Piney, Granger, Green River, Jackson, LaBarge, Lander, Pinedale and Rock Springs. As with every year, the program is generously sponsored by **Sublette County School District #1 BOCES**.

Our BIG weekend, Rendezvous Days, was held July 8-11. The Museum provided 35 programs over four days including Rocky Mountain Fur Trade authors, **Fred Gowans, the American Mountain Men, Michael Terry, Lapita Frewen, and Eric Dolin**. Attendance was up over last year with 1450 admissions to the Museum. However, many more people likely attended the outside presentation which are all free admission thanks to generous sponsorship by **Anderson Ranch, Sublette County School District #1 BOCES, EnCana USA, Rocky Mountain Power, Shell RMP and the Sublette County Museum Board**. Shell RMP also sponsored and volunteer staffed the Buffalo Burger lunch on Friday and Saturday raising over \$2000 for the Museum.

The Wreath Auction, our annual fundraiser, was held Dec 3rd and raised \$12,285 with the help of 48 wreath donors and 43 wreath buyers. The auction was sponsored by **1st Bank, and Wind River Brewing Company** provided free refreshments.

In addition to our annual programs, the Historical Society partnered with the Library Foundation and Pinedale Fine Arts Council on September 8 to honor long time supporter **Sally Swift**. We hosted "A Tribute to Rose and Bartley Skinner: Their Gift to History" a presentation by Indiana University professor Rob Tolley on September 16 and sponsored by **Bank of Sublette County**.



Geoff Sell (L) and James Duran (R) flipping buffalo burgers at the Rendezvous Buffalo Burger lunch.

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2010 SCHS Members

The Astorian (\$35)

Allen County Library
Alexander, Kip & Bonnie
Anderson, Sandy
Ashburn, Richard
Belfont, Vinny & Pat
Bell, Dave & Peggy
Bell, Hans & Margaret
Berry, James & Connie
Berta, Oreste J.
Biffle, Mark & Vicky
Boman, Clifford
Boroff, Joe & Dianne
Bosco, Edward & Nancy
Bradford, Gordon
Brazell, Ray & Caroline
Brewer, Cliff & Edie
Brewer, Richard & Rosemarie
Briggs, Floyd & Kathrine
Brodie, Mary
Bryant, John & Peggy
Bunch, Leonard & Gail
Buston, Kay
Cain, Jack & Terri
Cameron, Dan & Geri
Campbell, Steve & Donna
Carlson, Jody
Carson, John
Childs, Richard L.
Clover, Haworth
Colerick, Tom & JoAnn
Costello, Rick & Sharon
Crabb, Mindi
Crawford, Tim
Creason, Gary
Crossley, Robert & Joan
Davison, Mim
DeGolyer Library
Diehl, Robert & Dona
Donham, Rita & Jamie Burgess
Dotson, Michael
Dowd, Anne
Doyle, Jack & Virginia
Drucker, J.D.
Erickson, Hal
Farabee, Gary & Ann
Farr, Derek
Fear, Ken & Mary
Fernsten, Karen
Fink, Joseph
Freitag, Ken & Paula
Gagnelius, James
Giebel, Ed & Ruth

Godfrey, John & Jackie
Goodrich, Chauncey
Grace, Debbie
Gransden, Bill & Coleen
Grunland, Paul
Haehn, Dianna
Hall, Allen
Hansen, Roy
Hardee, Jim
Harrower, Robert
Hecox, Emma Lee
Hegardt, Jack & Helen
Heiny, Craig
Holman, Cameron
Huffman, Van & Marilyn
Huntley, Rita
Jackson Hole Historical Society & Museum
Jensen, Roxanna
Johnston, Cheryl
Johnston, Tom & Jane
Kauchich, John & Georgia
Kerr, Douglas & Kim
Kjorstad, Loren & Carol
Kleven, Bill & Mary Jane
Krcil, Mike & Carol
Kunard, Gene & Nylla
Ludwig, Joanne
Lutje, Nancy Norris
McCarthy, Leo
Mackey, Sally
McKinstry, Stella
Maloney, Harlene
McLoughlin, Betty Lou
Mamot, Ron
Manning, Keith & Talli
Marincic, Karmen
Mickey, Vernetta
Moore, Jocelyn
McKinley, John & Kathy
McKinstry, Stella
McLoughlin, Betty Lou
Neill, Thomas
Nelson, Ted & Pauline
Noble, Dave & Ann
Noble, Ruth
Ophun, George
Otto, Christy
Pape, Billy & Annette
Pape, David
Pape, Fred & Michelle
Payne, Jim
Penton, Bob & Darlene
Percy, Jim & Lenore
Perkins, Mary Pat
Perrin, Louise

Pfaff, Carl & Betty
Powell, Mike
Pruett, Tom
Radakovich, Roy & Dorothy
Radosevich, John
Randall, Gail
Rothwell, Patricia
Scott, James
Sharp, Bev & Sam
Shields, Bonnie
Sievers, Donna
Skiles, Jay
Skinner, G. Gage
Skinner, Monte & Donna
Skinner, Ole & Karen
Skinner, Rose
Slane, Thomas
Smith, Gibbs
Snow, Hank & Melita
Sommers, Jonita
Spence, Mary
Staidl, George & Phyllis
Steele, Harry & Mary Ellen
Surrena, Patrick
Tegeler, Don & Jill
Teller, Peter & Sandra
Thomas, Brent & Angie
Thomas, Clark
Thomas, Joe
Thompson, Tim & Jody
Thornhill, Chris & Shauna
Tolley, Rob & Nancy
Vlcek, Dave
Walker, Patsy
Waters, Luann Sewell
Webb, Bill
Wirshborn, Jim
Wise, Sanford & Lorraine
Worl, Mary Lynn

The Trapper (\$100)

Aarstad, Rich
Ballou, Dawn
Bartlett, Dan & Carol
Banks, Steve
Beck, Abie
Belfont, Vinny & Pat
Boorn, James & Alida
Chambers, Tony & Bonnie
Cramer, Dennis & Chris
Crandall, Jo
Denton, Dayton

Faler, Harold
Fear, Jay & Ann
Feltner, Gina
Fisler, Barry
Fluckiger, Lester
Fovel, Paul & Marilyn
Gehlhausen, Jim & Denett
Green River Valley Museum
Grunland, Paul
Hansen, Lowell
Harrigan, Jim & Marla
Holz, Bernard
Howard, George & Mary
Jackson, H. Reid
Jamieson, David
Miller, Maggie
Mitchell, Kay
Mortenson, John & Jar
McKinley, George & Carol
McKinley, Stuart & Barbara
Montgomery, Randall & Janet
Nataros, Ann & Frank
Nebraska State Hist. Soc
Noble, Ann/Chambers House Bed & Breakfast
Pape, Norm & Barb
Philips, Fred
Poulson, Rex & Linda
Sandoval, Roberto & Sylvia
Shriver, Kenneth & Wilma
Sommers, Albert & Sue
Sparrow, Rollin & Bettina
Sublette Artist' Guild
Thompson, Rebecca
Underberg, Bob & Pat
VonGontard, Paul & Margo
Wilson, Ron & Cyndi
Wright, Craig & Lainey

Rocky Mtn Fur Trade (\$150)

Bing, Bob & Carolyn
Eatinger, Mark & Cheryl
Ervin, Zen & Jennifer
Helm, James
Ivie, Tim
Ptasnik, Greg & Martha

Roberts, Tom
Thomas, James & Kathy
Walker Judith B & George B. Hallenbeck
Wise, Ward

The Rendezvous (\$500.00)

Opler, Jr., Edmund & Laura
Smith, Tucker & Jean

Life Members

Carney, Mrs. Otis
Flanigan, Peter
Gowans, Fred & Gloria
Hagenstein, Paul & Bette
Kanski, David & Linda
Kanski, Steve & Janice
Oliver, Ruth
Parker, Larry & Reggie
Reed, Ellen
Smith, Ken & Nancy
Swift, Sally

Jim Bridger League (\$1,000 & up)

First Bank
Baker, James & Susan
Ballou, Dawn/ Pinedale Online
Blatt, John
Flanigan, Peter
Gilchrist, Clint & Kristy Sims
Hagenstein, Paul & Bette
Haub, Erivan & Helga
James, Juli
Jensen, Dale
Kendall, Don & Bim
Kerback, Betty
Mollring, Ted & Christine
Parker, Larry (in memory of Douglas Sage Parker)
Ricketts, Joe & Marlene
Shell Oil Exploration & Production Co.– Pinedale
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Tegeler & Associates
Underwood, Russell & Donna

2010 ~ The Year of Incredible Gifts 2010 Donors, Volunteers & Memorials

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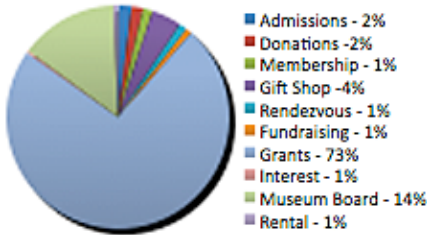
Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Big J's Auto Parts
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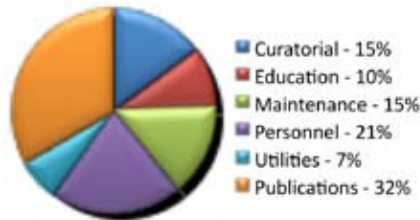
Income:
\$1,919,668.80



Expenses:
\$1,566,551.80



Museum Board Expenses, Itemized



Assets:
\$4,392,220.59



Our Volunteers

No nonprofit organization can survive without its dedicated volunteers. Throughout this past year, numerous individuals have contributed generously of their time and skills to help SCHS/MMM fulfill its mission. Our volunteers' efforts and generosity are greatly appreciated and are vitally

important to our organization. Our volunteers help with various programs and special events, such as Rendezvous and the Wreath Auction. They assist with tasks and work on different committees in finance, curatorial and landscaping. We want all of our volunteers to know how much we appreciate them!

THANK YOU FRED AND DIANNE!

The Sublette County Historical Society/ Museum of the Mountain Man would like to thank members **Dianne Boroff** and **Fred Pape** for their years of service and dedication these past years. "The Daniel Contingency" were voted as Trustees at the 2002 Historical Society Annual Meeting and have a combined 16-years experience and hard work that was given to our organization.



insight to the board meetings and public functions.

Dianne served as Vice-President of the board for three years and co-chaired the Curatorial Committee most of her time, since artifacts are her passion.



Fred headed up the society as President in 2008, and was always our "Chief Wreath Wrangler" at the Annual Wreath and Chocolate Auction (because he was usually the only one that could lift some of them.)

During their tenure, they worked tirelessly and gave countless hours to the society and museum, each bringing a unique viewpoint and

Thank you so much Fred and Dianne – we will miss you!

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