

## **ST-12 Wyoming Report**

Wyoming State Representative

Stephen Boss

June 17, 2014

### **MPLA Activities**

- Reviewing the reports submitted by the MPLA Committees and by the state representatives;
- Continuing to resend reminders to MPLA members who needed to renew their memberships.
- Sent Wyoming news to the editor for the upcoming MPLA August newsletter.
- Working with WLA representatives and the WLA Executive Secretary to get a signed contract for the 2015 joint WLA/MPLA Conference to be held in Cheyenne, Wyoming, September 23 – 25, 2015 at the Little America Resort. We are close to finalizing this. Once we finalize some details I will run the contract by Judy and others on the MPLA Board.
- As the WLA Conference Chair for the joint WLA/MPLA conference in 2015, we are looking into joint conference opening reception facilities. We have identified several venues and will be getting cost and availability information on them. We will also be touring the facilities to see what they are like and how they will work for an opening reception.
- Information concerning reception venues will be shared with Judy and other members of the MPLA Board.

### **Wyoming News**

#### **University of Wyoming – Move to Sierra Library System**

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> the University of Wyoming Libraries will transition from Innovative Interfaces Incorporated's Millennium library application to their new, next generation, Sierra library application.

The catalog organizes the holdings of the UW Libraries, the UW Law Library and the American Heritage Center.

Everything should be back online and fully operational by Tuesday morning.

## **Wyoming Library Association Annual Conference 2014**

The 2014 Wyoming Library Association Annual Conference will be held on September 24th - September 26<sup>th</sup> at the Parkway Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Casper WY.

### **New Book -- University of Wyoming -- Rick Ewig and Tamsen Hert**

To acknowledge the 125th anniversary of the University of Wyoming, Tamsen Hert and Rick Ewig worked together to develop a beautiful pictorial book documenting the history of the state's only four-year public institution of higher education. Containing more than 200 vintage images, The University of Wyoming is part of Arcadia Publishing's "Campus History Series." The book received honorable mention by the Wyoming State Historical Society in 2013.

With access and experience diving into historical collections, both Hert, who heads the Emmett D. Chisum Special Collections at the UW Libraries, and Ewig, associate director of the American Heritage Center, had perfect backgrounds for this daunting project. Both also are officers of the Wyoming State Historical Society.

Since 1994, Hert's major responsibility has been the oversight of the Grace Raymond Hebard Collection, which is considered to be the most comprehensive collection of published material about Wyoming. This resource includes all fiction and nonfiction books about Wyoming, maps, university, state and federal documents pertinent to Wyoming, games, audio and video materials, newspapers, and stereo views.

During her research for the book, Hert discovered gems like the Fossil Fields Expedition led by Wilbur H. Knight in 1899. "This was a major expedition through Wyoming gathering fossils for a good deal of the summer. There is even a publication that was issued about the venture, published by the Union Pacific Railroad."

The process for identifying potential material included scouring the university's photo archives located at the American Heritage Center. "First we identified the photographs that we thought would be good representations of UW's history and then researched the topic in the available resources including the earlier histories, campus newspaper and other pertinent publications," Hert explained.

At first, the authors considered a chronological approach to organizing the information but as they delved into the resources certain phrases caught their attention. The final chapters are organized based on themes: Free Tuition and Equal Admission; Dinosaurs to Gold Ones; Home on the Range; Prepare for Complete Living; Roaming the University; On the Heights; Your University Stands Steadfast in War and Peace; and Wyoming's University.

Hert explained that the book focuses on certain aspects that were very important to UW's history as a land grant university. "We also felt it was important to discuss several of the personalities throughout the history of the institution."

The numerous historical photos in the book presented an initial challenge for Hert, a noted historian and writer. “Writing captions to tell the story of each photograph is much more difficult than a 5,000 word article,” she said. “We had to do a lot of editing to meet the word requirement of the publisher.”

In addition to this book, Hert has written several articles about the cultural history of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and has a chapter on Yellowstone’s Roosevelt Lodge in a forthcoming book. Hert is also currently working on a history of all the Yellowstone’s hotels, lodges and camps with Lee H. Whittlesey

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Boss