

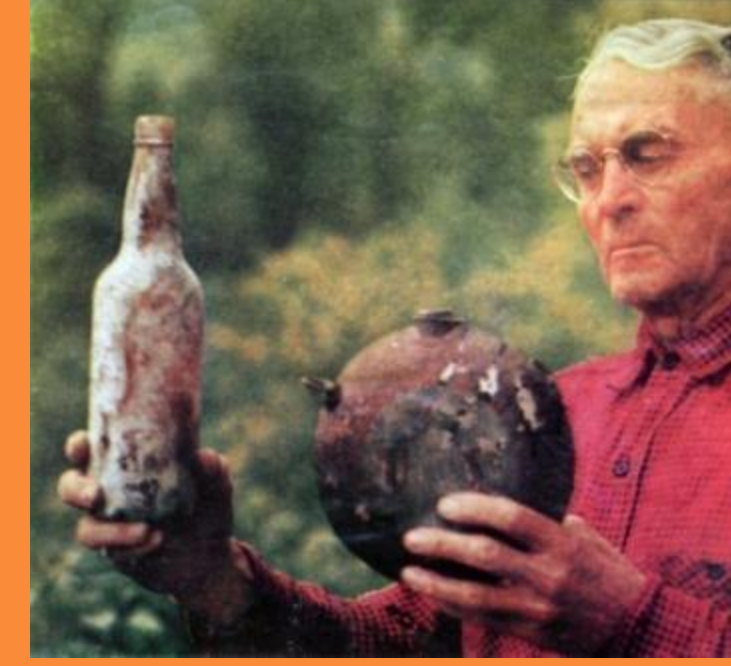
# DOING IT WYOMING STYLE: AVOCATIONAL ARCHEOLOGISTS OUT WEST

## INTRODUCTION

The recent Indian occupation left many curiosities scattered over Wyoming's wide and diverse landscape. The largely rural population came into frequent contact with such objects, contacts that engendered fascination and discussion of their use and meaning. A small, but particularly interested group of such amateur archeologists realized that more could be learned through a systematic study of the archeological record and in 1953 they organized the Wyoming Archaeological Society (WAS). The WAS as well as unaffiliated avocationalists continue to make significant contributions to Wyoming's prehistory and history, including the publication of a journal, *The Wyoming Archaeologist*. A few of them are featured here.

## WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY BEGINS

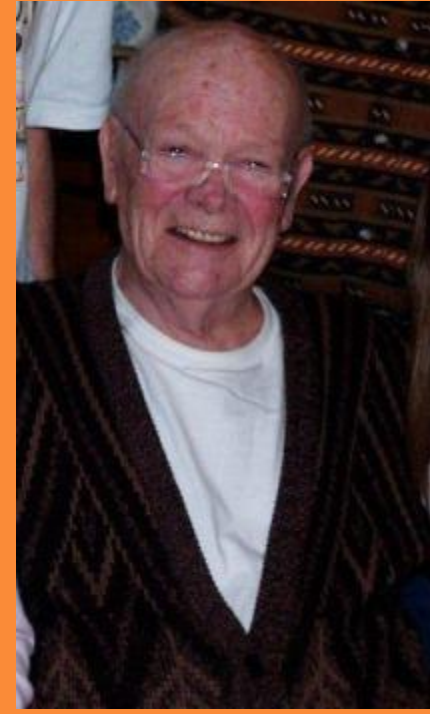
**Ray Bentzen**, a dentist from Sheridan, Wyoming was one of the founding members of the Wyoming Archaeological Society in 1953. Bentzen, along with other Sheridan Chapter members, joined William Mulloy, the first archeologist on UW faculty, at his Glendo Reservoir excavations in June 1957 to learn archeological field techniques and carry on their own investigations. Bentzen and others carried on the first systematic excavations at Little Bald Mountain, publishing the results in Plains Anthropologist in 1963. Other investigations followed at the Bighorn Medicine Wheel, Kaufman Cave, Middle Fork shelters, and elsewhere.



**Hilman Family** (Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hilman) provided the venue for the organizing meeting of the WAS. Like many other Wyoming rural residents and ranchers, the Hilmans came into frequent contact with prehistoric and historic artifacts and realized their value for the understanding of Wyoming's past. The family remains a vital part of Wyoming's archeological community, (from left to right: Diane, Elaine, Zane and Fred-the first president of WAS)

OTHER FOUNDING MEMBERS: John McClintock, Margaret Powers, Pauline McIntosh (Yost)

## EDITORS



**Grant Willson** has had a lifelong interest in archeology, spending many decades recording sites in southeastern Wyoming, and it has been a passion he has shared with his family. Grant has been the longest serving Editor of the Wyoming Archaeologist, in office for 13 years from 1964-1976. He also was the 1974 recipient of the Golden Trowel Award and was given an honorary lifetime membership in the society. Many years ago, he donated his family's artifact collection to the University of Wyoming for ongoing study, and it has proven a great resource for students in the Anthropology Department.

SOME OTHERS: Sandra Hanson

## LONG SERVING STATE OFFICERS

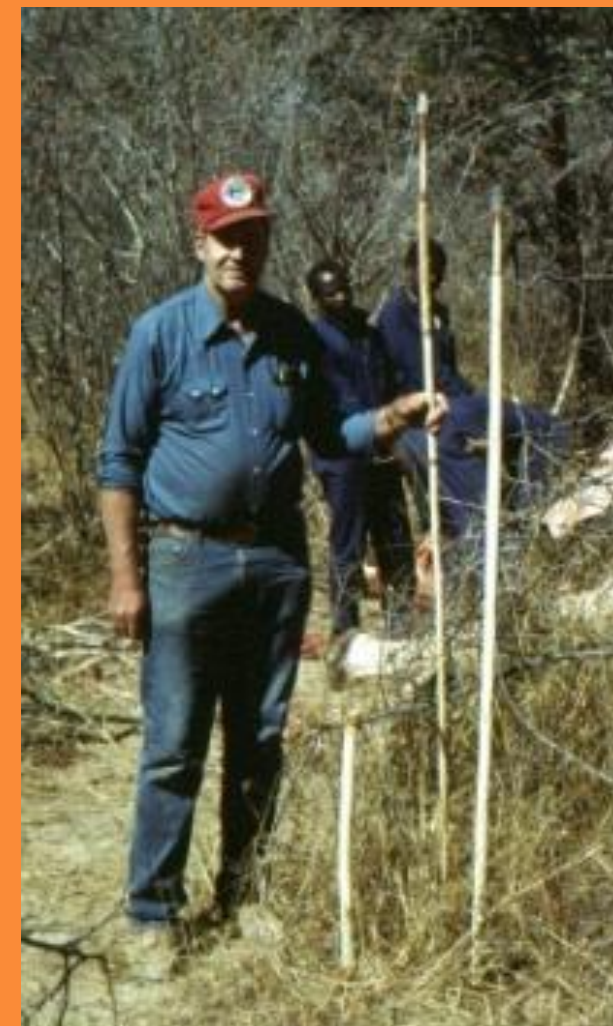
**Carolyn Buff** has been an active member of the Wyoming Archaeological Society since first volunteering during the Casper Site excavation in 1976. Since then she has been one of the most motivated members in the society. She completed academic work in the social sciences at Casper College, was a Golden Trowel recipient, and for 22 years has been the sitting WAS Executive Secretary/Treasurer. In that capacity, she chairs the successful scholarship committee that awards student financial support in honor of William Mulloy, George Frison, and Henry and Clara Jensen. The year 2010 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the William Mulloy scholarship, the first such award in Anthropology ever available at the University of Wyoming.



SOME OTHERS: Louis Steege

## AVOCATIONALS TO PROFESSIONALS

**George C. Frison**, a native of Worland, Wyoming, ranched near Ten Sleep until 1962. His profession brought him into close contact with Native American remains scattered widely across the Bighorn landscape. He collected and excavated several sites, sometimes with the still new Wyoming Archaeological Society. His enthusiasm for archeology was beyond amateur interests and he re-entered the University of Wyoming (UW) in 1962 with a goal of becoming a professional. Completing a baccalaureate degree at UW in 1964 and Master's and Doctorate degrees from the University of Michigan by 1967, Frison joined the UW anthropology faculty in 1967 as a department head and became the first Wyoming State Archaeologist. He published numerous books and articles on Northwestern Plains and experimental archeology. Frison has inspired students and audiences, has been instrumental in the preservation of priceless archeological sites and helped launch many local museums. George Frison was the President of the Plains Anthropological Society and the Society for American Archaeology and was elected a Fellow to the National Academy of Sciences.



SOME OTHERS: Eugene Galloway, Ross Hilman, Gene Smith, Jr.

By Marcel Kornfeld and Mark E. Miller

(George C. Frison Institute, University of Wyoming and Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist, University of Wyoming)

## SITES NAMED AFTER

**Margaret Powers** (at right recording during rockshelter excavation in 1959) was one of the movers and shakers in the early years of the Wyoming Archaeological Society, hailing from Big Horn, Wyoming. She was a charter member of the Society, and an active participant in the first chapter in Sheridan. She was intimately involved with establishing Wyoming's archeological site files and major early archeological investigations. The Powers-Yonkee bison kill in Montana bears her name. In 1982, the young Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists established a service award to recognize individuals who have made an enduring contribution to Wyoming archeology. Margaret was the first recipient of this award, a lasting legacy to her influence on subsequent generations of archeologists.



**James Allen** was a sheet metal worker in Cody, Wyoming in 1939 when he found projectile points in a creek bank northwest of town. Unsuccessful in raising local interest to study the site, he contacted Glen Jepsen of Princeton to investigate. The site later became known as the Horner bison kill and the type site of the Cody Cultural Complex. Allen was featured in September 1949 Time Magazine as the site discoverer. He collected artifacts throughout the state and later discovered the Jimmy Allen bison kill in southern Laramie Basin, the type site of the Jimmy Allen Complex (at right).



**Alan Korell** (at left with Terry behind him) and the Korell family owned and farmed the property near the former Bordeaux Trading Post, where the Korell-Bordeaux Site is located.

**Scoggin Family** maintains a long time interest in Wyoming prehistory. Charles Scoggin worked with F.H.H Roberts at Lindenmeier. His brother William and his nephew Bill discovered the McKean period Scoggin Bison Kill. Bill remains an active member of the WAS.

**Helen Lookingbill**. When not cooking in hunting camps Helen (right) searched the surrounding country for artifacts. Near the head of Bain Creek she discovered the multi-component Lookingbill site.



SOME OTHERS: Garrett Allen, Pat Finley, Irene Morgan, Jim Platt, Bill Tyrrell

## VOLUNTEERS

**George Brox** (at right, with William Scoggin left in picture) was one of the early members of the Cherokee Trail Chapter of WAS and a charter member of the Rawlins Chapter when it organized several years later. He has been active in the Society since the early 1970s and has been an active volunteer ever since excavations at the Medicine Lodge Creek Site near Hyattville. George collaborated on some important research in the Rawlins area and in 1974 published his findings on the John Gale Site in *The Wyoming Archaeologist*. He was a long time editor of the journal, past president of WAS and the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation, and recipient of both the Golden Trowel Award and the WAPA service award.



**Joe Bozovich** was an active member of the Wyoming Archaeological Society who knew the sand dune country in Sweetwater County very well. His fascination with the study of archeology inspired him to catalog and record whatever evidence he found. In later years, he published valuable information about his use of the computer in cataloging his surface collection, inspiring many readers of *The Wyoming Archaeologist* to consider similar measures. Joe received the Golden Trowel Award in 1994 for his contributions to Wyoming archeology. His home was always open to traveling archeologists where he would eagerly share details of his latest discoveries. At left with Dennis Stanford (on left) and son, Young Joe (center).



**Ray and Gail Gossett**(at left) from Riverton, where Ray was a dentist. Gail at the Sand Draw Village Site and Ray on a visit to caves in South Africa.

**Don and Eva Peden**(at right and leaning against the house) assisted by Stewart and Barbara Nahas, putting a sink on the outside of the Hell Gap fieldhouse.



SOME OTHERS: Carl Belz, Bill Barlow, Harry Earl, James Duguid, John Lund, Art Randall, Leniegh Schrinar, Tom Young

## HONORARY MEMBERS

**Joe Medicine Crow** (at right), a member of the Crow Nation and a Crow Historian was one of the first honorary member of WAS. Shown with Glen Sweem (at far right), one of the founding members of WAS. Medicine Crow was recently awarded the American Anthropological Association – Native American Section Lifetime Achievement Award.



OTHER honorary members before 1960: William Mulloy, Lewis Steege, and John Aubuchon.

SOME ADDITIONAL MEMBERS  
Joe and Audrey Baily  
Bill Barlow and the Barlow family  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Carbone  
Lucille Dumbrille  
James Duguid  
Harry Earl  
Robert Frison (2<sup>nd</sup> WAS President)  
Gary Fry  
Grover and Lori Phelan  
Art Randall  
Tyrrell family (Joe and Bill)

## ROCK ART

**Mary Helen Hendry**, long time Lysite rancher, was an active archeologist in WAS, conducting much of her own field work. In 1983, she wrote an important book dealing with over 200 sites entitled "Indian Rock Art in Wyoming." Her early involvement in the study of pictographs and petroglyphs helped generate even greater scientific interest in rock art sites in later years. She also taught three semesters of Prehistoric Art at Casper College. In fact, her work in the art world also led her to be instrumental in starting the Nicolaysen Art Museum in Casper. She was President of the Wyoming Archaeological Society from 1978-1979.



SOME OTHERS: Jim Stewart

## SUPPORT AND SERVICES

**Deborah Chastain**, owner and operator of the Cedar Creek Ranches near Saratoga, was one of the first officers of the Cherokee Trail Chapter of WAS, which was established in 1968. She also was one of the original members of the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation, holding office in the foundation for many years. Although she always maintained a low profile, Debbie was the 1995 recipient of the prestigious Golden Trowel Award presented by WAS. In later years, she gave the WAF 80 shares of IBM stock that helped generate the money needed to purchase the Hell Gap Site. Her estate also presented a gift to the Department of Anthropology.



SOME OTHERS: Ada Jackson

**Henry and Clara Jensen** were active in the Wyoming Archaeological Society for decades. Henry's collaboration with the Anthropology Department and State Archaeologist dates to the late 1960s when he served as WAS President and was active in guiding professionals to sites in north central Wyoming. One long cairn line was named "Henry Jensen's Trail" in his honor. He also established a long standing tradition that students who give presentations at WAS meetings would get free banquet tickets and other benefits. During the United States Bicentennial, he helped Wyoming acquire two nineteenth century paintings of Fort Fred Steele that had been found in a New York gallery. Henry's lifetime of service to the state's cultural heritage was recognized in 1991 when Governor Mike Sullivan presented him with a medal and framed certificate. In 2002, WAS learned the Henry Jensen Trust had donated a substantial sum of money to further the goals of the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation, another feather in Henry and Clara's caps. (Henry at left with Wyoming Governor Mike Sullivan)

**David Baskett** (at right) has been active in the Wyoming Archaeological Society through the Casper Chapter for many decades. He was WAS President from 1963-1964, former recipient of the Golden Trowel Award, and was instrumental in working with Governor Stan Hathaway to create the State Archaeologist statue.



## COLLABORATORS

(PHOTOGRAPHY, EARTH SCIENCE)

**James and Loucille Adams** were among the charter members of the Fremont County Chapter of the Wyoming Archaeological Society. They shared an interest in photographing rock art sites and the beautiful scenery of Wyoming, donating some of their library collection to the University of Wyoming. The two shared the prestigious Golden Trowel award from WAS in 1979, and Loucille (below center) was given a second trowel award in 1988. She served as an officer in the state society and was one of the few members given honorary membership in the Wyoming Archaeological Society. Loucille often volunteered at sites during summer meetings and seldom missed attending the annual meeting of the society.



**Don Gray** (left) developed a radiocarbon lab at Sheridan College and produced a number of valid dates.



**John Albanese** (above) geologist turned geoarcheologist mapping the Colby Site.



SOME OTHERS: Bayard Rea, June Frison

## THE FUTURE

**Sylvia Huber** (left) of the WAS Absaroka Chapter says "You could say my interest actually started when I was a kid on the farm and went through all the pasture coulees where farmers threw things away and I hauled wonderful treasures back home." Since then, she has become involved in all aspects of historic preservation, from leading local preservation groups like the Absaroka Chapter to volunteering on many archeological digs since the mid 1990s to working as a curatorial assistant at Buffalo Bill Historical Center. Volunteers and avocationalists like Sylvia are critical to many preservation efforts in Wyoming and other states and the value of those hours of dedicated service cannot be underestimated.



**Mary Ann Koons** is a grade school teacher from Wheatland, Wyoming and one of those rare instructors who incorporates prehistory into her courses. Mary Ann takes her students annually to visit the nearby archeological sites including the important localities of the Hell Gap valley. She also gives her students the opportunity to experience archeology firsthand by volunteering in field projects. Mary Ann herself volunteers regularly for archeological field studies. At right with students at Hell Gap.



SOME OTHERS: Larry Amundson, Joyce Fect, Steve Garris

