

IN MEMORIUM



Pete "Bison" Pete Gardner Passed in 2012

It is difficult to enter into a discussion of Plains Archaeology in general or Wyoming Archaeology in particular without some reference to *Bison*. All aspects of bison studies expanded rapidly in the 1960s with serious archaeological study of procurement sites. Along with this came the realization that a lack of information on bison physiology, paleontology and behavior were hindering research. This initiated a search for comparative faunal material and discussions with persons familiar with year-round management of bison.

Pete Gardner managed a herd of 500 bison in the Goshen Hole east of Wheatland, Wyoming. We contacted Pete in 1972 and inquired about skeletal material. He said he had a cow that had died several days before and that we were welcome to salvage anything we could. When Pete realized we were willing to retrieve the bones from an animal in an advanced stage of deterioration, he became a major source for materials to build up our present faunal collections, recognized as one of the best in existence.

In 1974, the Plains Anthropological Conference was held at the University of Wyoming. The

highlight of the affair was a symposium on bison procurement and utilization. The results of the symposium were later published (Davis and Wilson, editors 1978). Pete Gardner was asked to participate in a panel discussion that included nearly everyone involved in bison studies at that time. Pete provided valuable information on managing a bison herd that was taken seriously by most members of the panel. I could add to the list of Pete's contribution to our archaeology program. I sincerely believe that he deserves a place in the history of Wyoming Archaeology.

*George Frison
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REFERENCE CITED

Davis, Leslie B., and Michael Wilson (editors)
1978 *Bison Procurement and Utilization: A Symposium. Plains Anthropologist Memoir*
14. Lincoln, Nebraska.