

The WFP Underground

A Quarterly Publication by the Wyoming Frontier Prison

Quarterly Con-versation: *Keeping busy*

Summer is in full swing here in prison, and we're happy to report that we've been keeping very busy. Days full of tours, upgrading the museum, a new community garden and the occasional splash of extracurricular fun have kept things upbeat and interesting.

Our full tour season began Memorial Day weekend and we've had a lot of wonderful folks from all over the world take tours and enjoy the museum. Business has been picking up, and we hope that more and more visitors will be joining us as the summer continues. We've also hosted our first night tour of the year and had quite an interesting mix of a Sweet 16 birthday party and a motorcycle gang! We certainly had a lot of fun, and sure hope they did too. We've had several other inquiries regarding night tours and will be offering more as the summer wears on. If you've got 10 people, and would like to set up a special night tour, contact us at (307)324-4422.

While giving 9 tours every day, all week long, we've also been using every spare moment to turn attention to ongoing grant projects. The museum is the focus of four different grants amounting to over \$12,000.00. The focus of these funds is collections care, artifact numbering, as well as upgrading the museum displays.

The renovation of the museum is an exciting venture. While it is proving to be a difficult undertaking, the work will contribute to our constant efforts to make the whole WFP experience better and better for our visitors.

Another major project in progress is the restoration of the baseball field in the prison Exercise Yard. Like the museum upgrade, this multifaceted project has many things happening at once. One of the original wells that provided water to the penitentiary during its operation has been tested and deemed fit to supply water to irrigate the restored field. Many other aspects of the project are in mid-planning stages. If all goes as planned, substantial progress will be made by fall, and the project will be completed next year.

The new Rawlins Community Garden on the West side of the WFP grounds has been a delightful addition to summertime. The garden almost seemed to spring up overnight, and with growing interest (pun intended); we hope this is something that will be around for many years to come. For more information on the Rawlins Community Garden, please see Reports from the Warden on page 3.



Conservator Terri Schindel, from the Museum Training Network, explains techniques for surface cleaning corrosion from metal artifacts.

Totally Random Prison Fact

The cornerstone of the original Wyoming State Penitentiary was laid in 1888, but construction would continue for 13 years amidst funding shortfalls and poor weather conditions until the doors finally opened to receive the first groups of inmates, transferred from the Territorial Prison in Laramie, in December of 1901.

Old Pen Joint Powers Board

- Glenna Kaupillia-Chairman
- Leigh Nation-Secretary
- Dennis Carpenter-Treasurer
- Mary Pat Whitfield
- David Michie III
- Bob Pixler
- Gary Hansen

Friends of the Old Pen

- President-Tiffany Wilson
- Vice President-Leigh Nation
- Treasurer-Kathy Hiatt
- Secretary-Tina Hill

The Friends of the Old Pen meet at Square Shooters, the first Wednesday of every month, at noon.

For membership information, please contact the Old Pen at (307)324-4422 or wfp@tribcsp.com or visit wyomingfrontierprison.org.

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Everyone knows that all work and no play is no way to live. Granted, we sure enjoy our work around here, but we like to play hard too. On June 24th the staff enjoyed Take Your Pet to Work Day, and in the spirit of our pet-friendly nature, we encouraged our visitors (even more than usual) to bring their pets on tour! We also had a staff party on the 4th of July, complete with dinner, a fabulous view of the fireworks from the prison grounds, and a rousing game of Sardines.

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer, and no matter how hectic your schedule, we recommend taking some time for a little extra fun on the side!

Friends of the Old Pen Update

Galen Hiatt- Old Pen Gift Shop Manager

As a life-long Rawlins native (well, Sinclair native, but close enough) I am honored to have a chance to work at the Wyoming Frontier Prison. I have always felt the Old Pen was the heart of Rawlins, and is certainly the most unique aspect of our remote little town. I have volunteered on the Halloween tours for several years now, but being here during the normal season is a completely different experience.

As with all new jobs, there has been quite a learning curve in managing the Old Pen Gift Shop. Due to the seasonal nature of this position, the gift shop has changed hands a good many times over the years. This has, of course, resulted in quite a bit of clutter building up, as well as no



Inmate made items.

consistent managing style being established. I have therefore made organization one of my main objectives over the coming summer. Currently, I have completed a comprehensive inventory of the gift shop's merchandise, and I am now focusing on ways to keep that inventory current and accurate. Following that I will tackle organizing the files and invoices, and hope to have that completed by July.

Speaking of merchandise, I'd like to take this chance to mention some of the products the gift shop currently has available. The items

I am personally most excited about are our inmate-made products, courtesy of WY Brand Industries. We have several metal-work items available, including napkin holders and license-plate lunch boxes and birdhouses, as well as pillows and table runners sewn at the Wyoming Women's Center in Lusk. I have also brought back the handcuff bracelets and necklaces which were so popular in previous years. Of course, we still have our signature T-shirts and Hoodies available, with more on the way in the near future. Finally, the gift shop now boasts a fully stocked cooler of Coke products, not to mention a varied selection of popular candy. Just don't eat any of it on the tour, please.

Although I have only just begun to understand all that is required to manage a shop well, I can say with confidence that I am going to love spending the summer at this momentous site. I have already found myself spending my Saturdays wishing it was Monday and I was back at the Pen. I hope that feeling never fades.

Reports from the Warden: New Rawlins Community Garden

Tina Hill-WFP Historic Site Director

The Old Pen Joint Powers Board and the Wyoming Frontier Prison Staff are very excited to be partnering with the UW Extension Office, Carbon County Higher Education, local businesses, and local citizens in bringing a new Community Garden to Rawlins. The Garden is located on the west side of the Old Pen property, along Seventh Street.

I had been looking for a project that would allow our local population to spend more time on our spacious grounds, while remaining true to our mission to preserve the old Wyoming State Penitentiary. The Garden meets this goal perfectly.

In the publication *History of the Wyoming State Penitentiary at Rawlins*, written by Robert A. Murray in September 1977 for the Wyoming Board of Charities and Reform, "Gardening activities in Rawlins expanded in 1926, and according to Warden Frank Hadsell's report to the Board, produced sufficient beets, carrots, rutabagas, turnips, and parsnips to supply the institution for the winter...along with green peas, beans, onions, radishes, head lettuce, greens and green corn throughout the summer."



In 1934 gardening was continuing to occur at the Wyoming State Penitentiary. In his book "In Wyoming's Prison Hungry Men May Become Vicious Men 1901-1981" former WSP Warden Duane Shillinger writes, "Too, prison managers were successful in assigning prisoners to work in such endeavors as raising gardens; raising hogs, chickens, and rabbits; maintaining a dairy and slaughter herd; and performing agricultural work on prison leased lands: all in addition to the other service work at the prison." Later, Duane writes, "As the Cherokee lease expired, so ended the majority of agricultural activities at the penitentiary; however, as late as the mid 1970's chickens

were raised at the prison and, much to the chagrin of many Rawlins residents, horses were pastured on prison grounds. Large gardens were tended by prisoners with trusty status, and Edwin "Ed" Wise received many kind words for the huge cabbages that he raised."



Currently, the Community Garden consists of 25 members and boasts 12 raised beds with plans for building several more beds for next year. Composting has begun and two perennial flower beds have been staked out. We are even using Tower 4 as our gardening shed!

This Garden wouldn't exist without the generous support from the Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District, Robert Jack Smith & Associates, Inc., the Rawlins Daily Times, the Community Resource Center/Interagency-Rawlins, the Rawlins Community Association, the BLM Rawlins Field Office, Jackalope Printing, the Rawlins National Bank, the Bank of Commerce, City Market, Alco, True Value, Build Rite, Pamida and the hard work of the Community Garden members.

If you are interested in joining the Community Garden, please feel free to email me and I will point you in the right direction. And, please, come spend some time with us in the new Garden!

View from the Fish Tank: Tour Guide Tales

C.J. Young- Old School WFP Tour Guide



I have always loved working at the Old Pen as a Tour Guide and this is my third summer doing so. I worked the summers of 2006 and 2007 and now returned to work the summer of 2011. A lot of faces have changed since I last worked in 2007, but one thing that has remained the same is having weird experiences in the Old Pen. Now you might be thinking I am talking about the paranormal, but that is not the case. Although, I have had my share of odd and unexplained experiences in the Old Pen. In fact, it was just at the start of June this year when I was giving a one person tour that I thought I saw out of the corner of my vision a man standing at the end of Cell

Block-B. It made me jump and rattled me enough I had to restart my story. However, I believe the real odd experiences are no matter how much I have read and researched on this place it is almost an everyday occurrence to learn new facts.

I often find myself digging through old inmate files, history books and other sources of information we have regarding the history of the Old Pen. I love to find the little details to tell on my tour and sometimes even find a new story or two to tell. It is amazing how sometimes I find facts regarding stories that we had told here for years and that little fact can add something to a story that has remained the same for a long time. I find that many visitors love the little details because it brings the story to life in front of their eyes! For example, I have spent a lot of time and research to tell the 1955 B-Block riot which was the largest in our history with painstaking and accurate details. The result has been that it is now one of my key stories and I often receive complements regarding this story from visitors.

Another weird fact that keeps popping up in my recent readings is the name Lorenzo Paseo inmate #1444. He was here for a death sentence and had it commuted for life in prison. Paseo was not happy about this and told the Warden that he would rather be executed then spend the rest of his life here. Paseo was later involved in a massive escape in 1912 when 28 inmates escaped the walls. Paseo was shot and killed in a gun battle taking place in the streets of Rawlins by the Captain of the Guards who was in pursuit. This history about Paseo is well known! What is not well known is how involved in other incidents Paseo was before his death in 1912. I have discovered him mentioned many times in prison records such as Paseo being involved in the stabbing of another inmate in A-Block and how he was one of the main men involved in the lynching of inmate Frank Wigfall earlier in 1912. These are just a few examples of how his name keeps popping up in the research I do about the Old Pen and seeing his name over and over brings back to life the rough character that Paseo must have been.

In conclusion, I love history and the history of the Old Pen. I love to dig out the little nuggets of historical facts and share them with my fellow tour guides who also love the history of the place. It also gives me fresh fuel for the fire when visitors ask questions about the darker side of Wyoming's history!

C.J. Young, WFP Tour Guide, was recently accepted into the University of Wyoming College of Law.

WFP Underworld

WYOMING FRONTIER PRISON



The Show & Shine Car Show, in Conjunction with Summerfest in Rawlins, started at the Wyoming Frontier Prison bright and early for the first stop of their poker run, July 9th!

WFP Assistant Site Director Kathie Morelos and her husband Dave took first place in the Pickup category with their 1956 Chevy!



The WFP Guides and a few of our favorite people gathered on the roof of B-block to watch fireworks on our nation's birthday!

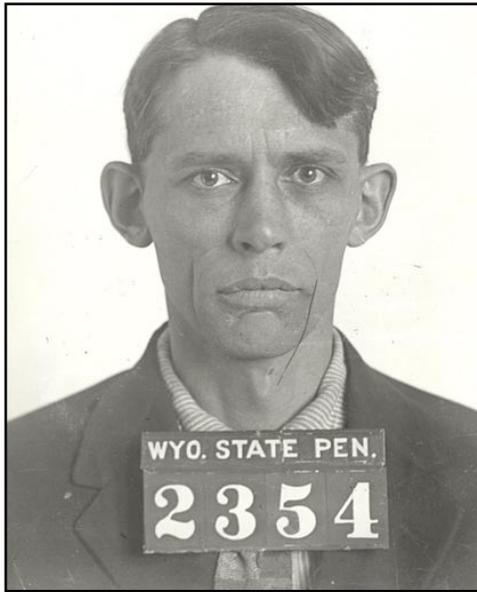


WFP Tour Guide Cassandra Hill and Count Yossarian WerePom enjoying A Block on Take Your Pet to Work Day



Windi Cragoe and Desi Cragoe (WFP Tour Guide) recently planted flowers on the grounds. We've been particularly fond of this beauty, a Black Dahlia.

Inmate Snapshot



Name: Bill Carlisle
Age: 26
Number: 2354
Date of sentence: May 11, 1916
Length of sentence: Life
Crime: Train Robbery
Details: Robbed the Union Pacific Railroad on 4 separate occasions. Originally sentenced to serve life in prison, the sentence was commuted September 5th, 1919 to 25-50 years. Carlisle attempted escape November 15th, 1919 by packing himself in a shirt crate just prior to its' transport out of the prison. Captured and returned to prison, he was released January 8th, 1936 after earning 2,372 days "good time".

Other Stuff...

We'd like to thank...

Gizmo's for the use of a freezer to aid in our conservation efforts of the prison's historic textiles.

Windl Cragoe for plating flowers in an effort to beautify the WFP Grounds.

Rawlins BLM Field Office for providing a Bobcat to remove snow in preparation for the WCCA Dinner.

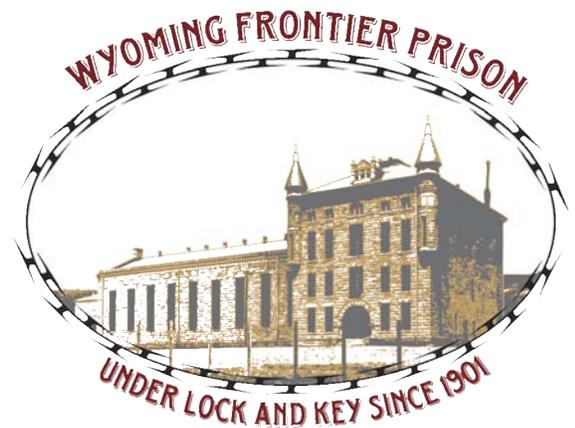
Bob Pixler & Steve Howleson for assisting with snow removal in preparation for the WCCA Dinner.

L&L Electric for donating the ballast repair kit.

Wish List

As a non-profit organization, we're always finding ourselves in need of different things, and even the smallest donation is an immense help to us! These are some of the things that we're lookin' for these days...

A new external hard drive
Paper clips Metal & Plastic coated
Acid free photo albums
Photo paper (gloss or semi-gloss)
Pens
Mechanical Pencils
Clear Packing Tape
Binder Clips
New Vacuum Cleaner



Questions, comments or concerns?

Contact us

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