

# Collections Report

## Campbell County Rockpile Museum – June 2021

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### 1. **7 Digital Photographs of Tommie M. Butler in Military Uniform**

Source: Tom Butler – Gillette, WY

Square footage of storage space required: 0 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Add to the Permanent Collection

The museum does not have any photographs of Tom Butler from his military service. Tom Butler entered the U.S. Air Force in March 1954 and completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. From Lackland, he went to Chanute Field in Rantoul, Illinois where he went to school for jet engine mechanics. After completion of school, he was chosen to be an instructor of jet engine mechanics to Air National Guard Units. He was assigned to an Air Force Field Training Unit. He taught at seven different locations, with a brief hiatus due to rheumatic fever, then he was discharged at the seventh location (Dow Air Force Base in Bangor, Maine) in November 1957.

### 2. **2 Chinese Silk Paintings**

**Promotional Pens and Pencils from Local Businesses (1940s-1990s)**

**Needlework from Meta Daly, Jane Daly, and possibly Geneva Daly**

**Pre-1967 Clothing that belonged to Meta Daly**

**Beaver Fur Coat that belonged to Helen Louise Daly Wright**

**Wyoming Homemakers Club booklets – 1947-1972**

**Blank Record Book Sheets from John T. Daly Store, 1920s**

**2 Hays Agency Pocket Diaries – 1959, 1960**

**Dish/Lid that belonged to Jane Daly**

**15 Needlecraft Magazines – 1926-1940**

Source: Nancy Darnell – Newcastle, WY

Square footage of storage space required: 5.15 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: See Attached List for Recommendations

The Chinese paintings belonged to Geneva, Louise, and Lenore Jane Daly (aka Mrs. John T. Daly). They both were stamped with Chinese seals that belonged to the same person, but that person is unknown. While they belonged to local women, they do not have a strong connection to the PRB or a story that would make them useful for exhibition. It is recommended they be declined.

The Wyoming Homemakers Club booklets belonged to Meta Daly (aka Mrs. James H. Daly) – the donor's grandmother. The club usually met in the Library basement and had lunch. Hostesses were charged with welcoming people to meetings and setting up the lunches; the names of the hostesses are listed in the booklets by date. The donor's mother, Helen Louise Daly Wright, was also a member of the club. Several booklets contain handwritten information and names of Daly family members.

For the promotional objects being offered, all businesses were located in Gillette, except for one business that was in Sheridan, WY. They all relate to the Powder River Basin. On the

attached list, any promotional objects that are not already represented in the collection are listed in the “Permanent Collection” recommendation section.

**3. Digital Photograph of a Pool Hall in Gillette (interior view) with Harold “Bill” Edwards (center)**

Source: James Edwards – Gillette, WY

Square footage of storage space required: 0 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Add to the Permanent Collection

It is believed that this was Hank Baumfalk’s establishment, located between the Montgomery and Lipman’s store in Gillette, WY.

**4. 2 Hats: CAT 797 Mining Truck and The Carter Mining Company – Gillette (1982) Framed Photograph of Rawhide Mine, 1982 – Safety Award with Name Plate “James D. Peterson”**

Source: Brenda Peterson – Gillette, WY

Square footage of storage space required: 1.12 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Add all items to the Permanent Collection

Rawhide Mine was owned and operated by Carter Mining Company at the time this photograph was taken. The 1982 photograph of the mine is a view that is not currently in the museum’s collection. Additionally, all items belonged to James D. Peterson, an employee of the mine from 1979-1998. The museum previously took a framed aerial photograph of Rawhide Mine from 1998, which was presented to James Peterson at his retirement party. These items would contribute to that collection, documenting a local man’s career with Rawhide Mine, as well as to the aerial photograph collection of Rawhide Mine.

**5. Photographs from CCHS Reunions – Class of 1934**

- a. 2 B/W Photographs – 1954, 20<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion
- b. 1 B/W Photograph – 1959, 25<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion
- c. 4 Color Photographs – 1974, 40<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion
- d. 3 Color Photographs – 1979, 45<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion
- e. 2 Color Photographs – 1984, 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion

**Envelope send to John & Margaret Boyle, containing a letter dated 1994 that references the Class of 1933’s 60<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion (June 24, 1994) and 9 color photographs of Class Reunions in 1992-1994**

Source: Roberta Pitman – Littleton, CO

Square footage of storage space required: 0.83 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Add to the Permanent Collection

There are no photographs of the Campbell County High School Class of 1933 or 1934 reunions in the collection, but the museum does have reunion photographs from other classes. These photographs show graduates and their spouses and/or guests to these reunions. The donor said there was often a dinner one night followed by a picnic the next

day for these reunions. She also said many of the reunions were held at the back of the Goings Hotel. The donor identified her parents – John Boyle and Margaret DeCoursey Boyle -- as well as Dale Johnson, Bill Maycock, Audrey Maycock, Roscoe McCalla, LaFern McCalla, and Helen DeCoursey Marshall (Class of 1932). Many people are unidentified, but further research might reveal who they are.

## 6. 2 Blue Glass Mason Jars

### Kodak Instamatic M65 Movie Projector

Source: Daniel L. Rhodes – Gillette, WY

Square footage of storage space required: Movie Projector -- 0.49 ft<sup>2</sup>; Jars -- 0.15 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Decline

These items were purchased by the donor from a yard sale. They have no provenance and would not contribute to the artifact collections. Education staff were consulted and have declined the items for the Props Collection as well.

## 7. Half Shade Polariscope

Source: Megan Taylor – Vancouver, WA

Square footage of storage space required: 1.95 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Add to the Education Collection

The State department of Agriculture was contacted about the State Identification Tag (Number 010-000725) for legality of the donation. The public information officer checked to make sure it was not still inventoried in their system. He said it was surplus and is legal to be donated.

This tool was patented in 1907 and was used at the University of Wyoming. This item does not come from the Powder River Basin or relate to any specific individuals in the PRB, but it could potentially be used in exhibits or programming about agriculture in Wyoming, such as the use of equipment in the sugar industry and plant experimentation. The light that would have been used with this tool is not included in the donation.

According to the Bulletins from the Wyoming Experiment Station at UW, a polariscope (not necessarily this polariscope, as the earliest Bulletin dates prior to this Polariscope) was used to:

Calculate Sugar Content in Beet Juice:

“In analyzing beets the juice is extracted and its specific gravity determined; that is, its 'weight compared with an equal volume of water. From this is calculated the per cent of solid matter, including sugar, in the juice. **The amount of sugar is then determined by the polariscope.** Since about 95 per cent of the beet is juice, subtracting five per cent of this give the per cent sugar in the beet. Dividing the per cent sugar in the juice by the total solids in the juice gives the "purity." For example, if there are 20 per cent of solid matter and 15 per cent of sugar, the purity is 15 divided by 20, or 75.” Bulletin No. 36, 1898

Determine the alkaloid of the bulb of Death Camas:

“Fifty grams of bulb were exhausted as nearly as possible by repeated extraction with boiling 95 per cent. alcohol. When the first portion of the extract, measuring 500 c.c., was concentrated, it deposited crystals of sucrose. The combined extracts were then concentrated under reduced pressure to a small bulk and finally allowed to dry out over sulfuric acid in a desiccator. The residue was next boiled with 150 c.c. 95 per cent. alcohol and the undissolved portion (which had a sticky consistency) removed and boiled with a second portion of alcohol. The final residue, which was granular in character, weighed 3.771 grams and represented 7.54 per cent. of the bulb. When heated upon platinum foil the substance produced caramel; tested with Fehling's solution, it showed slight reduction. **Examined with the polariscope it showed the constants for cane sugar mixed with a trace of reducing sugar.**” Bulletin No. 94, 1912

#### Chemical Examination of Larkspurs:

“**A weighed portion dissolved in alcohol and observed in a polariscope**, exhibit optical activity (dextrorotary). This is the only one of the larkspur alkaloids that is optically active. The crystals belong to the Orthorhombic system and the Bipyrarnial class. Detailed measurements have been concluded. The melting point of the amorphous alkaloid is indefinite.” Bulletin No. 120, 1919

**8. Book – “From Wagon Wheels to Jets: 45 Years in Wyoming, A History and Recollections...and Sagebrush Philosophy” – Wyoming’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, by George Heald, copyright 1963**

Source: Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center – Belle Fourche, SD

Square footage of storage space required: 0.72 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Decline

There is already one copy of this publication in the Education Collection and that copy has a cover that is in better condition.

**9. Book – Gillette Lodge #28 AF & AM, The First 100 Years (2021)**

Source: Mark Young – Gillette, WY

Square footage of storage space required: 0.68 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Add to the Permanent Collection

According to the donor, who is also one of the co-authors, this is a limited edition as there were a small number that were printed and there are no plans to print more. The donor/author has been a member of the Gillette Lodge #28 for approximately 20 years, and he has been putting together the book for about a decade. He said that the pictures in the book came from many places, including the lobby of a local hotel and the Courthouse (which were photos that came from the museum). The book contains a history of the Lodge from 1908-2008, including information about the past Masters of the Lodge, biographies of Charter Members, meeting minutes, and a timeline of events.

#### Items on Hold from April 2021 Board Meeting:

**1. Child Size Brown Wool Coat and Attached Cape**

**Framed Photograph of WWI AEF forces in front of French Hospital**

**Framed Photograph (Reproduction) of Château-Thierry, France, 1914**

**Framed “On the Danube” glass artwork**

**2 Scrapbooks with photographs and documents - primarily Glassley, Eveland, and Lynn families (See Attached List)**

**WWI Letters (See Attached List)**

**Zenith Hearing Aid (See Attached List)**

**Certificate from the Bureau of Mines to Ben Lynn of Gillette, WY for completing course for giving First Aid to the injured – 1934**

**Copy of a WWI photo of Ben Lynn and Paul Locker on the stairs of a building**

Source: Freda Lynn – Gillette, WY

Square footage of storage space required: Coat - 4.62 ft<sup>2</sup>; Framed - 3 ft<sup>2</sup>; Other - 1.24 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Decline Christmas box and hearing aid, framed photo of Chateau-Thierry, and “On the Danube” artwork. **Accept photographs in scrapbooks as Digital Scans to the Permanent Collection, but decline any that are not relevant to the PRB or are duplicates.** Add all other items to the Permanent Collection.

After speaking with the donor, it was determined that almost all the photographs, excluding those from Nebraska or a few from unknown locations, were taken in the PRB. “Morris Place” was located just to the North of Wyodak. It was at this location where Frank Eveland lost his leg; he made it back to the main road and was found by a Wyodak employee. This place was sold right before the family moved to Gillette. The house where the family used to live is still out there. The Powers family lived out there as well before they moved to Sheridan; Lottie Lynn’s sister was married to Charlie Powers. The “Home Place” would have been in Wyoming, somewhere around Gillette, where the family lived prior to living by Wyodak. When they moved to town, Rosie Eveland lived behind the Presbyterian Church and ice house; the photos of her in the garden at this location are in the scrapbooks. She later went to Pioneer Manor to live, becoming the 2<sup>nd</sup> patient there. The donor said her husband, Marky Lynn, was born in a two-story house, near where the Experimental Farm is located, in 1931. After the Morris Place, Ben and Lottie Lynn lived at 701 Richards with their children and those photos are included in the scrapbooks. The donor and her family later lived at 701 Brooks.

In accordance with the standards set forth in the Collections Policy, the Collections Department staff recommend that no items or parts of items be physically accepted into the museum without officially being cataloged in one of the three collections – Permanent, Educational, or Props. Therefore, since some items are duplicates or not relevant to the collection and cannot be removed from the scrapbooks, it is recommended that **the relevant photographs** be accepted as **only Digital Scans**. Additionally, the donor has family that is interested in taking several physical photographs from the scrapbooks when they are returned. All of the photographs in the scrapbooks have been scanned and the physical scrapbooks can be returned to the donor.

**All documents** relevant to Gillette and/or the PRB that were stored in the scrapbooks but not attached to the scrapbooks are recommended be **physically added to the Permanent Collection**.