

# Collections Report

## Campbell County Rockpile Museum – July 2021

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### 1. **Book – Leland Hove's Vietnam Experience (2020)**

Square footage of storage space required: 0.40 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Add to the Permanent Collection

Leland Hove has been a resident of Gillette since 1976, moving here shortly after his Vietnam War service was over. In 1988, he established a business in Gillette which is still here today – Chemical Consultants Incorporated, which supplies quality chemicals to the oilfields. The museum currently has no record of Leland Hove's business, life, or military record. This book would not only contribute to this gap in our collection, but it is a rare personal account of a Vietnam soldier which would contribute to the small amount of Vietnam material in the collection.

This book contains photographs taken in Vietnam and/or Cambodia, as well as the military record and certificates related to Leland Hove's service during the Vietnam War. At 18 years old, he joined the army. Private First Class (Specialist Four) Leland Hove was in the Army for 2 years (September 25, 1969 to April 4, 1971). He served in Vietnam from March 9, 1970 to April 4, 1971.

When he arrived in Vietnam, after country training, he was sent to his unit – Company B 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (a mechanized unit with armored personnel carry tracks). He started out in the Macon Delta. In the book, he describes their missions into Cambodia, being at the rear, and the five-man ambushes that occurred. When he was 20 years old, his 2-year term ended and he returned home. He wrote this book in June 2020.

### 2. **Sewing Bird**

#### **2 Mounted Documents about Sewing Birds**

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

Recommendation: Add Sewing Bird to the Permanent Collection. Add the documents to the Education Collection.

The sewing bird and documents belonged to the donor's mother, Joyce Bowman. The bird also belonged to Joyce's mother before her. Joyce's parents were Irvine and Pearl Owens, who homesteaded south of Rozet, WY. The documents show images of sewing birds and how they were used; they also describe the history of the sewing bird. This particular bird appears to be from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century or later as it has a pincushion attached to the top.

There are no sewing birds in the collection. This could potentially tell many stories, including stories about early homesteaders in the Powder River Basin, items used by women in the household in the early 1900s, evolution of sewing technology, and more. The documents are related to the object and would be a good reference or visual for exhibits, but would be

better suited for the Education Collection, as it is unknown if they belonged to the homesteaders or were made later.

**3. Items from Duane Evenson's time in office, 2003-2010 (See Attached List)**

Square footage of storage space required: 5.77 ft<sup>2</sup> for frames; 3.92 ft<sup>2</sup> for other objects and documents

Recommendation: See Attached List for Recommendations

**4. Digital Scans of Items related to the White, Riley, and Mead families (See Attached List)**

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

Recommendation: See Attached List for Recommendations

Jesse and Jessie White homesteaded in Moorcroft, WY.

Chester Garner was born in Iowa but later moved to Casper, WY and worked for the railroad for about 35 years. He married Ruby (Johnston) Garner and they had 6 children in Casper, WY: William James Garner (adopted), Ruby Garner (died on date of birth), Carol Donald Garner (died at 1 year old), Charles Lee Garner, Roland Robert Garner, Helen Jane Garner, and Joyce Garner (Died January 14, 1978).

The family history documents contain a mix of people who settled in the Powder River Basin and some who never lived here, but all of these are a record of the donor's family history; the donor is a resident of the Powder River Basin. It is recommended that these documents be added to the Museum Staff Collection for reference material related to the donor and the families that lived in the Powder River Basin and Wyoming.

The items recommended for the Education collection are relevant to the donor's family history and could be used as reference material, but are not a great fit for the permanent collection. The Moorcroft Leader newspaper contains information and photographs of families in Moorcroft, as well as photographs of schools and other places in Moorcroft from the early 1900s to more recent times.

**5. Items related to the WWII Military Service of Nels Norberg**

**Items related to the Vietnam War Service of Gary Norberg and POW Lt. Col. George E. Day  
War-related photographs, correspondence, and objects**

**Womens Christian Temperance Union Oratorical Prize Badge**

**See Attached List of all Items**

Square footage of storage space required: 0.88 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Add all items related to Nels Norberg, Gary Norberg, and Lt. Col. George Day to the Permanent Collection, except the Belgium photographs – add these to the Education Collection. Add the photographs of the Mattox family to the Education Collection. Decline the WCTU badge, Postcard of WY State Capital Building in Cheyenne, and the Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. newspaper clipping.

Private Nels Norberg, son of Andrew and Estella Smith Norberg of Pringle, SD, enlisted in the Army on October 2, 1942. He was wounded in action in France on August 1, 1944. Nels Norberg moved to Gillette in 1961 with his wife Lucille and worked as a roustabout for L & L Production until he retired. He died in 1983. The donor said that she is pretty sure that the WCTU Oratorical Prize Badge belonged to Nels' mother, who would not have been local to the Powder River Basin; further, the donor was not completely sure about the owner and provided no associated stories.

Private Ormand Andrew Mattox was born in Pringle, SD and attended high school in Custer. He was inducted into the U.S. Army on April 13, 1943. He was in Company B 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion 1<sup>st</sup> Replacement Depot (Infantry). Previously thought to be missing in action, but on May 24, 1944, the Rapid City Journal reported that he was killed in action when his ship sank in the European Theater. He died on November 27, 1943. In 1960, his mother, Oma Mattox, applied to have a headstone placed in the Black Hills National Cemetery, Sturgis, SD. He is a relative of the Norberg family, as Andrew Norberg was his grandfather. Due to the impact of his death on his family, the donor has asked that if this photograph were to go on exhibit, that his mother's picture be included as a memorial to Ormand and the loss that the family has been through. Because they were not residents of the Powder River Basin, but are related to a local family and tell a portion of the WWII story, it is recommended these photographs be added to the Education Collection.

The correspondence regarding Colonel Day tells an interesting story about Prisoners of War and the networks of families and centers that operated in Wyoming and throughout the country during the Vietnam War. The donor said that when she was around 15 years old and her brother Gary was in Vietnam, a local organization was handing out POW bracelets and she got George Day's (as did other people). She said that she prayed for him and wrote to him; the correspondence being donated shows this correspondence with the organization in Casper, WY and with Lt. Col. Day.

The museum has very little in the collection regarding the Vietnam War. There are no items in the collection related to Nels or Gary Norberg.

## **6. Saddle and Saddle Blanket**

Square footage of storage space required: 6.25 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Add the Saddle to the Permanent Collection. Add the Blanket to the Props Collection.

This saddle belonged to John Ellis McGee, who was a rancher/farmer and Campbell County Sheriff from 1958-1966. John used the saddle on the ranch, not when he was performing his duties as Sheriff. The saddle was handmade by Jim Alley, a rancher and saddle maker on Adon Road; a maker's mark is located on the back of the saddle. John McGee bought the saddle when it was new and used it for about 58 years. According to the donor, John was still riding until he was 85. Near the end of his life, his son, Tom McGee, helped his father on the ranch and used the saddle as well. Tom McGee said that everything is original, except for one of the leather straps which he replaced.

The blanket has no stories associated with it.

There are no saddles from this local saddle maker in the museum collection. There are also no objects, only archival items, related to John McGee in the collection.

**7. Curtis Mathes VHS Camera in Case with a cable cord - Model HC768**

**Curtis Mathes Video Cassette Recorder in Case**

**Camera Tripod**

**Brief Case containing a set of keys for the case, a Curtis Mathes Battery Pack and sleeve with safety information, Antenna selector, instructions for using video camera carrying case, Stickers for Videocassette (Scotch, Fuji, Q.B.T., Curtis Mathes, and Maxell), Controller with cord, Input/Output Cords of various styles, 2 cable cords, and three manuals -- Operating Instructions for Curtis Mathes Model HC768 Color Video Camera, Operating Manual for Curtis Mathes Color Cassette VCR Model HV773/HV775, and Operating Manual for Curtis Mathes Color Cassette VCR Model HV729**

Square footage of storage space required: Briefcase - 1.48 ft<sup>2</sup>; Camera/Case -- 0.53 ft<sup>2</sup>; Video Cassette Case -- 0.32 ft<sup>2</sup>; Tripod -- 1.36 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Decline Battery but add battery sleeve and all other items to the Permanent Collection

Purchased from Radio Shack in Gillette in the late 1970s, this equipment was used at Duane and Ruth Naser's auto repair business located on Little Powder River Road (as well as for other family events) -- donor said it was called both Naser Enterprise and Naser's Auto Repair.

There is currently a 1983 Zenith camcorder with color video camera, video cassette recorder, tuner adapter, three batteries, miscellaneous cords and adapters, and black case in the collection. The camera being offered is slightly different and unlike the Zenith model, this equipment was used by a known local business, but one that we currently have no record of in our database. It could contribute to both local business history, as well as to the collection of cameras that the museum has, as there are no Curtis Mathes cameras in the collection.

**8. Three Christmas Ornaments from Davis Chevrolet – 1989, 1990, 1991**

Square footage of storage space required: 0.36 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Add to the Permanent Collection

In 1962, Clifford H. Davis bought the Chevrolet Dealership and started D & I Motors (Davis Chevrolet). The donor said that these ornaments came from Davis Chevrolet, though the name of the business is not present on the ornaments, only "From the Davis Family." We do not have any Christmas Ornaments from Davis Chevrolet in the collection. The 1991 ornament would have been made the year after the death of Clifford Davis.

**9. 2 Covid-19 Vaccination Promotional Buttons and 1 Bookmark from Protection & Advocacy System, Inc. in Cheyenne, WY**

**Book – “Wyoming – Home of the Women’s Vote: Celebrating 55 Amazing Campbell County Women”, 2019. Autographed by featured women.**

**Booklet – 2019 Pioneer Dinner**

**Political Leaflet – Vote DG Reardon for County Commissioner and Detached Card**

**Proclamation – National Historic Preservation Month – May 2019, signed April 16, 2019 by Mayor Louise Carter-King**

**Envelope – Barlow Agency, Inc. (No contents)**

**Photocopy – Acknowledgement of Surety and Oath of Office, stamped and signed in Campbell County July 29, 1999 – Stephan T. Pate, Kevin Lee Wayne Anders**

**Magazine – “Wyoming: The 75<sup>th</sup> Year” – originally from the Arrowhead Motel in Gillette – belonged to Ralph Kintz**

**Book – “Frontier Industrialists: Fifty Years of Innovation at L&H” – in plastic**

Square footage of storage space required: 0.67 ft<sup>2</sup>

Recommendation: Add the COVID-19 items to the Education Collection. Add all other items to the Permanent Collection.

The COVID-19 items tell a story about the pandemic and vaccination in Wyoming, but they are from outside of the Powder River Basin and do not specifically relate to anybody living in the basin who has received the vaccine. It is recommended that they go in the Education Collection.