

# YELLOWSTONE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

January 2019

**“If you want to understand today you have to search yesterday.”**

*Pearl S. Buck, American novelist (1892-1973)*

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## Histories Mysteries 2019

With another annual event (2018) behind us, it is time to start planning for the 2019 Histories Mysteries tour. This program is providing valuable exposure for our Society to the general public—and each year we have picked up a few memberships, as well as more people learning that we exist.

Two different themes have been talked about for 2019. One is to focus on schools—starting with the first school in Billings (which was actually in Custer County at the time). The other possibility is to continue with the parks theme started last year, continuing on up river to the west. A parks theme could *potentially* cover the following locations:

- ◆ Riverfront Park & the Amanda White Homestead site (a new fishing access site) both near the South Billings Boulevard

- ◆ bridge crossing the Yellowstone Josephine Crossing Park (1816 Lost Creek Road)
- ◆ Duck Creek Fishing Acres Sub-division
- ◆ Sundance Lodge Recreation area (Thiel Road)
- ◆ Riverside Park, Laurel (YHS POW camp sign)
- ◆ Yellowstone National Veterans Cemetery (Laurel)
- ◆ Canyon Creek Battlefield Memorial (Lipp Road & Buffalo Trail Rd) (a potential bonus site and another location where YHS has a plaque)

Rather than having the same 3 or 4 people do all the research in putting a program together, we would like to try something different this year. We

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## Spring Programs

### January 18: Kid Curry.

his career in 1894 with the "Bunch", robbed a train we curator of the Phillips Coal Lab in Billings, will enlighten

### January Program Change

**Almeda Bradshaw is one of Montana's talented Western singer songwriters. Her love and appreciation for the western way of life is expressed in heartfelt songs that give voice to the westerner: cowboys, cowgirls, ranchers, farmers and more. A lifetime of writing and playing stringed instruments places her work above the ordinary.**

began  
"Wild  
; past  
Dino

**February 15: Pepsi Bottling Company.** The Dimich Family has been involved with Pepsi-Cola bottling of Red Lodge and Billings since 1937. Second generation Willie Dimich is our presenter. Celebrating 90 years of business, the Pepsi-Cola company and Dimich Pepsi story is told in a book titled "Coal Miner to Pepsi Bottler the story of Pepsi-Cola Bottling Billings Mt." All members will receive a book at the January meeting. The books will be part of the presentation so please review and bring them to the February meeting.

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## MEETINGS

YHS meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month, at the Elk's Club on Lewis Avenue. This year we will begin with a **social hour at 5:30 pm**, with dinner served at 6:00pm. Society **business**, announcements, etc. **at 6:30pm**, and the **speaker at 6:45pm**. You can attend the speaker presentation only without dinner if you desire.

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**March 15: Lake Elmo State Park.** Jessica Goosmann and Terri Walters will present a history of the Lake Elmo State Park. They will share how this reservoir not only supports agriculture in Yellowstone County, but how it also meets recreational needs of the community. Lake Elmo became an irrigation reservoir in 1904, it now serves over 130,000 visitors per year. Jessica and Terri will share interesting facts about this highly visited Montana State Park.

**April 12: Rocky Mountain College Aviation Program.** *(note meeting this month is on the 2nd Friday due to Good Friday)* Rocky, as we know it, is definitely a college for students to explore their passions and to enjoy Montana. John Pulasky's earlier career was teaching the Aviation/Airway Management and Operations course at RMC. He will share the challenges and the successes of careers the program has impacted. You may know John better as a local "weatherman" or one of the faces of "Our Montana".

**May 17: Bakers Battle.** You're probably aware of many Indian-U.S. Calvary battles in Montana, and even in the greater Billings area, but do you know the story of a skirmish between a group of Cheyenne & Sioux warriors and a cavalry detachment protecting a group of Northern Pacific Railroad surveyors near present day Billings in 1872? Come learn about this lesser known battle.

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## Coming Events

**Jan. 18—**  
YHS monthly meeting at the Elk's; 5:30 PM

**Jan. 29—**  
Genealogy Class @ Billings Library: City Directories, Phonebooks & Newspapers; Noon -1:00 PM

**Feb. 15—**  
YHS monthly meeting at the Elk's; 5:30 PM

**Mar. 15—**  
YHS monthly meeting at the Elk's; 5:30 PM

**Apr. 12—**  
YHS monthly meeting at the Elk's; 5:30 PM

**May 17—**  
YHS monthly meeting at the Elk's; 5:30 PM

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## Dinner

### Reservations

Our callers contact members the weekend before for dinner reservations. If they miss you & leave a message and you want dinner it is important that you let your caller know no later than Monday evening so we can turn a preliminary head count in to the Elks. **If you sign up for dinner and do not attend you may still be charged for the meal** because we have to pay the Elks. If plans change and you can't attend, call Karen Tooker at 656-2786 no later than 8 pm Thursday evening to cancel and avoid being charged.

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## Our Montana

Learn about area history via archived programs on the Community TV 7 website. Go to their archived stories webpage at: [comm7tv.viebit.com/](http://comm7tv.viebit.com/) Scroll down the "Video on Demand" picklist on the left side of the page and click on "**Our Montana**" and it will display all of the archived "Our Montana" programs.

Two recent episodes specifically related to YHS are Oct. 23, 2018 and Nov. 2, 2018

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would like to have a group of 2 to 4 people "adopt" each site, do the research and prepare information to display at the site during Histories Mysteries. At the January meeting we will discuss (and hopefully decide) on a theme for this year's event and then have a sign-up sheet for groups to work on the project between now & next fall. If you can't make the January meeting, but have an interest in working with the event in 2019, Please contact Prudy Ladd at 967-2229 or send an e-mail to our general e-mail account, [yhs.membership@gmail.com](mailto:yhs.membership@gmail.com)

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## Field Trip

Although not completely locked in yet, the officers are working on a spring field trip to visit & learn about an interesting piece of area history. In case it falls thru, we don't want to release too much information just yet, but we hope to announce details at one of our upcoming meetings.

Stay Tuned!

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