



FORT CASPAR MUSEUM Newsletter

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Great Holiday Shopping at Fort Caspar Museum!

Plan to do some Christmas shopping at FCM. Members get 15% off, and your tax dollars stay local. We have the best selection of history books in the state, as well as unique—and uniquely Wyoming—gifts.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS AT THE FORT

DECEMBER 4TH & 5TH • 5:30 TO 8:30 PM



Period re-enactors invite visitors to keep warm by the campfire during a cold and snowy *Candlelight Christmas*.



Ana, Rachel, & Friends will perform period music on December 5th. Photo credit: Al Kalbfleisch



Kids learn history while having fun at events like *Candlelight Christmas* where they get to interact with living historians.

Fort Caspar Museum and the FCMA (Fort Caspar Museum Association) will be presenting *Candlelight Christmas at the Fort* on two evenings. This year's event will be held on Friday, December 4th and Saturday, December 5th from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

Visitors will find the fort

buildings open and illuminated by candlelight. There will be 19th-century re-enactors on the fort grounds, and the Sutler's Store will be selling period souvenirs.

Warm up inside the Museum with free hot cocoa and cookies, craft-making activities for the kids, exhibits,

a photo "booth" for pictures, and great holiday shopping.

We are proud to feature local favorites Ana, Rachel & Friends, who will perform period music on Saturday, December 5th.

This is a FREE event, and all are welcome.

FORT CASPAR MUSEUM NAMED TO TOP TEN

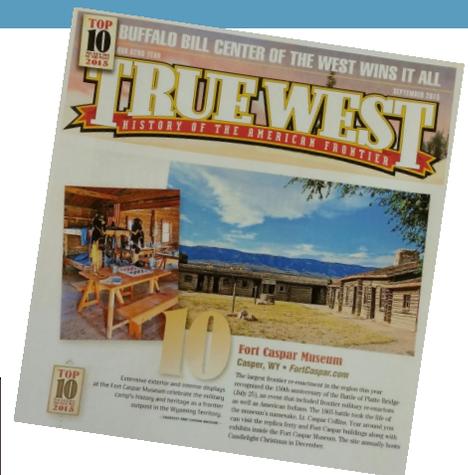
Fort Caspar Museum was recently honored to be named to *True West* magazine's "Top Ten Western Museums of 2015."

The September 2015 issue ranked FCM with other notable museums of the West such as the Buffalo Bill Center, Stuhr Museum, Boot Hill Museum, and the North Dakota Heritage Center. Others named were the Autry National Center of

the American West, Northfield Historical Society, Northeastern Nevada Museum, and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum.

Museum Manager Rick Young commented: "We are often... overlooked, since we are a small, local institution, but this is very prestigious company to be associated with. We couldn't be more thrilled."

From *True West* Magazine's September 2015 issue.



FCMA Board

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Con Trumbull

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Front Desk
Debra Webb * Megan Royer

FCMA, Exhibits, "Etc."**Wearable Wyoming: Fur as Fashion**

Before the invention of Gore-Tex and Thinsulate, people relied on clothing made from animal fur to keep them warm during the harsh winters of Wyoming. This exhibit examines many of the different kinds of animals used for winter fashions over the years.

Our curators have gone deep into collections storage to find a wide array of rarely-seen items made with fur. From functional to frivolous, on display will be coats, shoes, hats, muffs, and stoles made from fox, mink, ermine, rabbit, coyote, bear, bison, and beaver.

The exhibit will include a touch section where visitors may feel the many varie-

ties of animal furs and their different qualities.

This exhibit will be on view November 28th thru November 2016.



Front window of downtown Casper's Byron Furs, 121 S. Center Street, next door to the America Theater, early 1950s. Schulte Family Collection, Casper College, Western History Center.

Barn Here: The Unique Barns of Wyoming

Fort Caspar Museum is hosting another traveling exhibit from the Wyoming State Museum in Cheyenne titled *Barn Here*.



Photo of the barn at Pixley Ranch, Uinta County, Wyoming, taken circa 1900, by J.E. Stimson. Collection of Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office.

The exhibit organizers assert that Wyoming barns differ greatly in style and function from those found in many other parts of the United States. Using photos of barns from throughout the state, this exhibit examines how and why Wyoming's barns are so unusual.

Creation of *Barn Here* was made possible by a grant from the Wyoming Council for the Humanities. It will be on view November 18, 2015 through January 16, 2016.

FCMA Board Members Elected at Fall Membership Meeting

The FCMA's Annual Membership Meeting was held at the October 3rd Lunch & Learn. We welcome two new Board members: Daniel Mattern and Johanna Wickman. Leaving us are Bruce Berst and Diane Mattern: thank you for your service! And a big thank you to returning Board members Con Trumbull, Patti Wood Finkle, Steve Dacus, Allen Crowder, and Doug Cubbison.

Local Artists, Local History

Fort Caspar Museum will mount an exhibit of paintings by local artists that feature historic scenes in the Caspar area. Long-time supporter of the Museum, Liz Rea, will be one of the artists on display. Also on view will be works by local artist Bob Evans and others.

This exhibit will be on view January 21 to April 16, 2016.

"West B Street," date unknown, watercolor on paper, by Liz Rea. Collection of the artist.

**"Etc."**

Bike Path Underpass Completed: The tunnel under Wyoming Boulevard at Fort Caspar is finally open. It looks great and is already getting a lot of use.

Wheels Back on Caissons: Wheels on the World War I-era caissons (ammunition wagons) located in the parking lot and along WY Blvd are back in place after being sent to Colorado for repair.

*Thank you to the Members of the Fort Caspar Museum Association! The FCMA supports much of our programming and this publication.
Call for membership information: 307-235-8462*

Mission:

Fort Caspar Museum collects, preserves, and exhibits materials related to the history of Fort Caspar, the City of Casper, Natrona County, and central Wyoming.

Fort Caspar Museum
4001 Fort Caspar Rd
Casper, WY 82604
307-235-8462



www.fortcasparwyoming.com

Hours of Operation:

October - April: Tuesday thru Saturday, 8 am to 5 pm
May & September: Daily, 8 am to 5 pm
June - August: Daily, 8 am to 6 pm

Double the Ghost Tours in 2015

Fort Caspar Museum again partnered with the Casper Area Paranormal Seekers (CAPS) on four nights, October 23rd & 24th and 30th & 31st, for tours of the fort buildings using paranormal detecting equipment. We sold all but a handful of the 480 (!!) tickets this year. Thank you, CAPS!

Fort Caspar Museum Events Calendar—Fall/Winter 2015-2016

- Nov 18 Exhibit OPENS: *Barn Here*
- Nov 26 & 27 Museum CLOSED for Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov 28 Museum OPEN 8-5pm: skip the mall crowds & do some Christmas shopping here!
- Nov 28 Exhibit OPENS: *Wearable Wyoming: Fur as Fashion*
- Dec 4 *Candlelight Christmas at the Fort #1*, 5:30-8:30pm—FREE Event**
- Dec 5 *Candlelight Christmas at the Fort #2*, 5:30-8:30pm—FREE Event**
- Dec 12 Hands-On Workshop, 1-3pm: “Make a Historic Holiday Ornament”
- Dec 25 Museum CLOSED for Christmas
- Dec 26 Museum OPEN 8-5pm—Bring your out-of-town visitors!
- Jan 1 Museum CLOSED for New Year
- Jan 2 Museum OPEN 8-5pm
- Jan 9 Fremont Family Funday, 1-3pm: “Build a Popsicle Stick Guinard Bridge”
- Jan 16 Exhibit CLOSES: *Barn Here*
- Jan 21 Exhibit OPENS: *Local Artists, Local History*
- Jan 23 FCMA Winter Lunch & Learn: topic TBD
- Feb 5 “Date Night at the Museums: Valentine Edition:” ticketed event; locations TBD
- Feb 27 Fremont Family Funday, 1-3pm: “Make a Thaumatrope Game”
- March 26 Fremont Family Funday, 1-3pm: “Make a Watercolor Painting of the Fort”
- April 16 Exhibit CLOSES: *Local Artists, Local History*
- April 22 Murder Mystery Fundraiser; details to follow
- April 23 Fremont Family Funday, 1-3pm: “Build & Pack a Paper Wagon”
- May 28 Fremont Family Funday, 1-3pm: “Heirloom Gardening with Allen Crowder”
- June 25 Fremont Family Funday, 1-3pm: topic TBD
- July 23 *Casper Collins Day 2016—mark your calendars!***

Please note: events may be subject to last-minute changes; please call the Museum or check our website for the latest details.



Fort Caspar Museum
 4001 Fort Caspar Rd
 Casper, WY 82604

We're on the Web
www.fortcasparwyoming.com

We're on Facebook too!
www.facebook.com/fortcasparmuseum
 & www.facebook.com/fremontferret

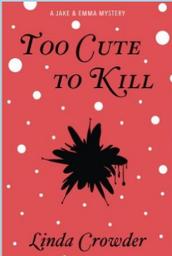
- ## Save the Dates
- **Winter Lunch & Learn** will be on January 23rd from 12 to 2pm. Douglas Cubbison will present on Casper & the Army Air Base during WWII.
 - **FCMA 2nd Annual Murder Mystery and Fundraising Event** is scheduled for April 22nd. Details to follow.
 - **2016 Caspar Collins Day** will be held on July 23rd.

MURDER AT THE FORT?!

Unless you've read the first novel in the new Jake & Emma Mystery series, you may not know there was a murder committed at Fort Caspar! Local author and FCM volunteer Linda Crowder set the discovery of a dead body in her debut novel, *Too Cute to Kill*, during a fictionalized holiday event at Fort Caspar Museum, based on FCM's own *Candlelight Christmas*.

Jake & Emma Rand are Linda's Casper-based husband-and-wife crime solving duo, and there are now four books in the series.

FCM's gift shop has several signed copies of each. We are proud of you, Linda!



Too Cute to Kill (2012), self-published, \$10. Also available electronically from Amazon.

150th Event: Hard Work Paid Off



The three-day 150th Anniversary Event/Caspar Collins Days held in July was a great success. This was due in large part to the dedication of the Planning Committee and the 11th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry Re-enactors. We also wish to acknowledge the scores of visiting re-enactors, the presenters, FCMA volunteers, vendors, local sponsors, and the over 7,000 visitors who attended the various events. Thank you!

“Shout Out” to Donors! We would like to extend a special thank the many individuals—most of whom are FCMA Members—who donated money to *The Platte Bridge 150th Event*.

The Banner Ranch	Richard & Vicki Diamond	Patricia Lavin	Rev. Wayne S. Pavela
Erle & Charles Barto	Fred Eiserman	Ted & Bebe Leik	Nancy Rauchfuss
Gregory Brondos, MD	Pinky & Jackie Ellis	Robert & Nancy Martinson	Jim Ruble
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Connie Cropsey	Roy & Joan Holman	Randy & Kaye Parke	Max & Barbara Willard
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	Viola & Clyde Kranenberg		& many anonymous donors