



THE COMPOSITE EXHIBIT



The Legislative Composite Exhibit is arranged with the House of Representatives pieces displayed to your right from this point and the Senate pieces displayed to your left. The individual pieces are displayed in decades and the accompanying narratives are different for the House and Senate collections. The first House and Senate composites after statehood are displayed on the second floor in their respective lobbies along with the current composite for the sitting legislature.

To begin your tour of those who served in the House of Representatives, notice the Seventh Territorial House Assembly begins on your left. The Seventh Assembly is the oldest House composite available, since the first through sixth territorial House composites are missing. Room 308, which is located just beyond this door, was the location in which the House of Representatives convened after the Capitol building was constructed. The rest of the House composites can be viewed by proceeding to your right.

The Senate exhibit begins on your left. There is only one territorial composite for the Senate and it is located on the second floor at the entrance to the Senate Lobby, just opposite the elevator.

All of the narratives focus on the issues facing the state during each period and how state policy markers addressed the challenges of their time. You will notice social, cultural, and demographic differences in the display of the decades.

Material for the narratives was derived from the *Wyoming Blue Book* and T. A. Larson's *History of Wyoming*. Most of the composites can be seen on the third floor, with the exception of more recent ones located on the second floor, which may be viewed when the Legislature is not in session.

Many of the narratives also include a section at the bottom titled "did you notice," that includes fun facts or thought-provoking questions about the times.

Enjoy the collection and a fascinating journey through Wyoming's history that spans from the Territorial Legislature before Wyoming became a state through today.



HOUSE COMPOSITE DIRECTORY

TITLE	LOCATION
WILLIAM JEFFERSON HARDIN 1880 TO 1889	Right of 1882 Assembly, left of 308 door Pillar on Right of door to Rm.308
HIGH PLAINS PROGRESS	Right side 10 th Assembly photo
LIVESTOCK OPERATORS	Between Rms. 309 & 310
WEATHER ON THE HIGH PLAINS	Right side 11 th Assembly photo, Right of Rm. 310
THE WILD WEST LIVES ON	Left of E. Rotunda Stairwell N. wall
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT	Below the 3 rd State Leg. Composite
THE PASSING FRONTIER 1900 TO 1910	Below 1901 House Composite Between H18 doorway & 1907 above the thermostat.
1911 TO 1920	Left of 1911
MARY GODAT BELLAMY	Left of 1911
POLITICAL ILL WILL 1920 TO 1929	Beside 1915 either L or R Committee Signage Left of H8 or between & below 1921 & 1923
THE ROLE OF OIL	Right of Rm. 301 Left of 1925
NELLIE TAYLOE ROSS	Right of 1925
THE AIR AGE 1931 TO 1940	Pillar Left of 1927 Composite Far left & below 1931
NEW REVENUE	Far right & below 1939
1940 TO 1949	Left of Unisex restroom Right of staircase on north wall
WYOMING WAR EFFORTS	Right of H16 Left of 1945
POSTWAR WYOMING	Right of 1947 Left of H16
A BLUSTERY ENDING 1950 TO 1959	Right of H16 Left of 1949 South wall right of H12 either mount w/1961-69 on single mat
POST WAR CALM	Between 1953 & 1955
CRITICAL DEVELOPMENT	Between 1955 & 1957
THE CLOSE OF THE 1950s 1960 TO 1969	Right of 1959 Left of H12 Far right of H12 at top of staircase
DEFENDING THE NATION	Right of 1967 Left of H11
VERDA JAMES	Left of 1969
THE ENERGY ECONOMY(A)	Grouped together below 1973 and beside 1976
THE LEGISLATIVE LEGACY (B)	Grouped together below 1973 and beside 197
VIETNAM IMPACTS WYOMING (C)	Grouped together below 1973 and beside 197
NATURE'S REMINDERS 1980 TO 1989	Right of 1979-80 Above light switch Above "Tax Adjustments" Right of doorframe left of 1981-82
TAX ADJUSTMENTS	Grouped with above
DON'T MESS WITH MOTHER NATURE (A)	Grouped below 19889-90, Right of 1987-88 with item below
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ISSUES (B) 1990 TO 1999	Beside Fire Hose Below 1997-98



WILLIAM JEFFERSON HARDIN



William Jefferson Hardin was Wyoming's first African American legislator. Hardin was elected twice to the Wyoming Territorial Legislature, first in 1879 and again in 1881. He was born a free man in Kentucky around 1830. His mother was a free black and his father was white. Because of his free status, Hardin was allowed to receive an education and he briefly became a school teacher in the city of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Sometime after 1850, Hardin left Kentucky to seek his fortune, perhaps heading first to the California gold fields. For the next decade he apparently wandered a great deal, living in Canada, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska. In 1863, Hardin settled in Denver, Colorado.

Between 1863 and 1873, William Hardin became a prominent member of Denver's black community where he was known as a dynamic speaker. His speeches were largely political and promoted integrated public schools and black suffrage. With the end of the Civil War and the passage of civil rights legislation for black men, Hardin became an important member of the Republican Party in Colorado.

He was able to secure a job at the United States Mint in Denver through the party patronage system. Although he was successful in his public life, Hardin became involved in a scandal in his private life that cost him his position at the Mint and destroyed his reputation in Denver. In 1873, he moved to Wyoming.

After opening and operating a barbershop successfully in Cheyenne for the next decade, Hardin became known and respected in the community. His speaking ability and outgoing personality won him both business and political success. As a result in 1879, he was nominated by a fusion of Democrats and Republicans to represent Laramie County in the Wyoming Assembly. Upon completing his second term in the Legislature, Hardin apparently decided to leave the territory. Hardin reportedly killed himself in 1889.





1880 TO 1889



The population of Wyoming Territory in 1880 was 20,789. Livestock production (primarily cattle), and mineral production (primarily coal), brought growth and prosperity to the territory. In 1884, Laramie County and the City of Cheyenne were identified as the richest county and city per capita in the United States.

During this period, Wyoming's young territorial government began to significantly impact citizens' lives with notable legislation creating historic political, social, and cultural institutions, regulations, and building infrastructure. In 1886, the Wyoming Territorial Legislature passed legislation establishing free county libraries. The Laramie County Library was established that same year and later was the first county library to receive a Carnegie endowment with which an elegant library was built on the corner of 22nd Street and Capitol Avenue.

In 1884, Governor Francis E. Warren proposed constructing a Capitol and the Legislature approved a \$150,000 budget for the project. Funds were also provided for a university and, in the words of the statute, an "insane asylum." A proposed institution for the "blind, deaf, and dumb" was not funded. By 1887, the cornerstone of the new Capitol was laid and in January 1888, the Tenth Territorial Legislature convened in the not quite completed building. During that session, the Legislature appropriated funds, (not to exceed \$100,000) for a new penitentiary in Rawlins.

The statehood issue was propelled forward in 1889 when, on September 30th, a Constitutional Convention was held in Cheyenne. A group of 49 men were selected from around the territory to write a suitable Constitution for statehood. There were 32 Republicans and 17 Democrats who composed the document for voter approval. On November 5, 1889, the Wyoming Constitution was approved by 6,272 voters.

DID YOU NOTICE?

As you look through the 1880s composites, pay attention to the formality of the clothing and prevalence of facial hair. What do you observe as the 1880s begin to transition into the 1890s?





HIGH PLAINS PROGRESS



Progress on the new territorial Capitol began in September of 1886. The cornerstone was laid in May of 1887 and the building was completed and dedicated on March 29, 1889. Population growth and distribution added Johnson, Fremont, Crook, Converse, Sheridan, and Natrona counties to the original Laramie, Albany, Carbon, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties by 1890.

Human impact on the wildlife resources in the Wyoming Territory resulted in the Legislature establishing the first bag limits on big game, specific dates for fishing seasons, and the banning of non-resident hunting during this decade. In 1889, the last wild buffalo was killed in the territory.

On the national scene, attention focused on the famous and infamous. In 1881, "Big Nose" George Parrott, leader of the Hole-in-the-Wall band of outlaws was hung by vigilantes in Rawlins. William F. Cody, (Buffalo Bill), started his Wild West Show in 1882. In 1889, Harry Longbaugh (the Sundance Kid), was granted a full pardon by territorial Governor Thomas Moonlight after serving only 18 months of a sentence for grand larceny. The pardon was granted based on "good behavior and earnest desire to reform."

In 1885 Congress passed the Dawes Act, (General Allotment Act), which distributed land to individual Indians, not just to the tribes. Residents of the Wind River Reservation were able to secure ownership of land individually and determine how to use it independently.

Despite many setbacks during the decade of the 1880s, the Territory progressed on many fronts. In 1881, Cheyenne had the first Wyoming telephone exchange and by 1883 the city also had its first electric streetlights. The first oil well was drilled near Lander that same year.

DID YOU NOTICE?

What do you see about the way these photos are displayed compared to the others hung in the Capitol? Why do you think these composites are different?

Please take a moment to look at the photographic display about the construction of the Capitol on the south wall of the Rotunda.





LIVESTOCK OPERATORS



Wyoming Territory's political, social, cultural, and economic landscape changed throughout the 1880s. British investment in American cattle in the 1880s was equal to \$45 million. The value of a single animal in the first half of the century was approximately \$30. By 1885, there were 1.5 million cattle in Wyoming Territory.

Control of livestock operations was overseen by members of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, which listed 443 members in 1886. Pioneer cattleman, John Clay, described these individuals in his *Chicago Livestock Notes* in 1923 as, "brilliant, resourceful, courageous, but they were deficient in business ability."

By the middle of the decade, the stock operators were dealing with numerous problems that could not be resolved internally and, in 1884, the Wyoming Territorial Legislature became involved in livestock management. By 1888, all oversight of livestock operations was assigned to the Territorial Board of Livestock, which the operators supported both philosophically and financially by contributing a portion of their sale of maverick livestock to pay for the operation. By the end of the decade, due to devastating losses, the operators could not afford to pay for the operation of the Board and the Legislature appropriated \$10,000 to maintain oversight.

In 1888, Wyoming cattlemen shipped 126,355 cattle to Omaha, 114,490 to Chicago, and 102,209 to Saint Paul. Each animal weighed between 1,000 and 1,200 pounds. In 1874, the Stock Growers' Association employed one detective. By 1885, they employed 21 brand inspectors and detectives, whose salaries were paid by the Association and the counties. As the decade closed, the massive cattle herds grazing on hundreds of miles of open range were disappearing.

DID YOU NOTICE?

How many different styles of beards and moustaches can you identify during this period in Wyoming's history?





WEATHER ON THE HIGH PLAINS



Between 1886 and 1888, settlers on the high plains experienced weather conditions that had not been seen since the arrival of the railroad in 1867. Drought conditions were present in both 1886 and 1887. The open-range grass was sparse and nutrient-deficient during those years and huge herds of cattle that grazed over hundreds of miles were not able to thrive. The winter weather of 1887-1888 dealt the final blow.

Severely cold temperatures, continuous snowfall throughout the fall and winter, followed by devastating blizzards in March and April reduced the herds by approximately one-third. Some operators were wiped out. Low market prices destroyed many other operations. English investors lost approximately \$10 million and the Scots lost between \$7 and \$8 million. Livestock operations in 1889 represented approximately one-half of the territory's wealth compared to three quarters of it in 1884.

Membership in the Stock Growers' Association was opened to small ranchers who owned only a few hundred animals, and who routinely provided the animals with shelter and food. In contrast, the Cattle King operators had huge herds that grazed over hundreds of miles of open range. The influential livestock operators, Cattle Kings, built the infamous Cheyenne Club in 1880, but membership later dropped dramatically and, in 1936, the property was sold.

Simmering racial and labor conflicts erupted in 1885. In Rock Springs, on September 2, an anti-Chinese riot occurred resulting in the death of 28 Chinese. The United States Congress voted to pay \$147, 748.74 to the Chinese in Rawlins for the losses they suffered in violent riots that year. In 1889, conflict about range management and livestock ownership resulted in the hanging of James Averell and Ella Watson, better known as Cattle Kate. Watson is reported to be the only woman ever lynched in Wyoming. Even political leaders with livestock interests were not immune from the conflicts. Governor George W. Baxter, a Democrat, was removed from office for fencing government land. Even the powerful Republican Senator Frances E. Warren was found to be engaged in the practice of illegal fencing some years later.

Please proceed around the corner to continue your tour.





THE WILD WEST LIVES ON



Having achieved statehood, the simmering conflicts of the 1880s boiled over in the 1890s. In 1892, “regulators,” an illegal posse of stockmen and Texas gunmen, invaded Johnson County, Wyoming in an attempt to put a stop to cattle “rustling.” Known as the “Johnson County War” or “Johnson County Invasion,” the event became one of the most highly publicized chapters in Wyoming history.

Native Americans in Wyoming continued to seek solutions and leaders in their struggle with the white man. In 1890, Sitting Bull, a Northern Arapaho disciple of Wovoka, the Ghost Dance Messiah, left the Wind River Reservation and became the great prophet of the native people on the southern plains.

However, during this period, cowboys and mountain men had begun to fade from the scene. The Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo, known as “The Daddy of ‘em All,” was founded in 1897 to preserve the history and legend of the “cowboy west,” while Lander had been holding a commercial rodeo since 1893. In 1898, mountain man Jim Baker (friend of Jim Bridger and Kit Carson, and a scout for General C. Fremont) died. The “wild west” wasn’t quite done for yet. In 1899, Butch Cassidy and “Flat Nose” George Currie held up a Union Pacific mail train on June 2nd, at Wilcox. They were believed to have dynamited a bridge to prevent the arrival of the second section of the train. They escaped to Montana with \$60,000 in unsigned bank notes.

National political unrest also visited Wyoming during this decade. In 1894 the Coxeyites passed through the state on their way to Washington, D.C. They were supporting General Jacob S. Coxey’s plan for national public works projects. The group commandeered a train, which was recovered at Green River, Wyoming. Fifteen leaders were arrested. This group of American workers marched on Washington in protest of unemployment caused by the Panic of 1893, an economic crisis precipitated by a run on the gold supply.

DID YOU NOTICE?

How are the ties the men are wearing in these photos different from those men wear today?





WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT



By the end of the 1890s, the people of the State of Wyoming realized the value of the abundant number and variety of wild animals, birds and fish they controlled. Dwindling numbers of some species caused concern and the Legislature directed attention at preserving the resources where necessary. The growing number of interested out-of-state hunters and fishermen showed the value of the resources as a means to finance the needed administrative and field management services. In 1899, the State provided for a state game warden and the superintendents of the state fish hatcheries became game wardens. All out-of-state hunters were required to hire a guide for a \$10 per-day fee. Resident hunters were required to pay \$1 for a gun license. Hunting seasons were enforced.





THE PASSING FRONTIER



Although the federal government declared the “Frontier” officially closed in 1890, in Wyoming the frontier way of life still existed in 1900, but was slowly passing from the forefront.

In 1900, two great Indian leaders died. Shoshone Chief Washakie ended his 60 years as the leader of the Eastern Shoshone at the age of 102. The Arapaho Chief, Sharp Nose, also died that year at the Wind River Reservation. Sharp Nose was the last of the Arapaho chiefs to use his Indian name, rather than adopt a European name.

On the lighter side of frontier life, President Theodore Roosevelt visited Wyoming in 1903 and rode horseback 36 miles from Laramie to Cheyenne. In 1907, Chief Medicine Crow brought 1,000 Crow Indians to Sheridan on a goodwill tour. That tour is considered the forerunner of Sheridan’s All American Indian Days celebration, which was held from 1953 until 1978. The celebration was designed to recall the visit of the Crow tribe in 1907 and to be a means to preserve the history and pageantry of the Native American people. It was also established to aid in bringing economic development through encouraging tourism in northeastern Wyoming.

DID YOU NOTICE?

In 1897, W.H. Kelley was the first Native American elected to the Wyoming Legislature.

What do you notice about the size of the House of Representatives? Did the number of members decrease or increase from previous years and why?

What do you see that is different about the facial hair and hair styles?

There is only one legislator wearing a white tie in the 1901 composite. Can you find him?

Please proceed to your right and down the stairs to continue reading the narratives in the exhibit.





1900 TO 1910



The population of Wyoming in 1900 was 92,531. The first decade of the 20th Century evolved more methodically and resulted in less dramatic action by the new state's leaders and lawmakers. Controlling unacceptable behaviors, protecting and developing Wyoming's natural resources, overseeing the activities of the livestock and mineral industries, and continuing to develop infrastructure and opportunities for new settlement appeared to be the focus of the government during the decade.

In 1901, the Wyoming Legislature passed laws prohibiting gambling. They also changed the name of the Stinking Water River to the Shoshone River. The Legislature also approved \$750 to purchase bronze medals for the Wyoming Spanish American War volunteers who served with honor in the Philippines. The penitentiary in Rawlins finally opened and was occupied on December 14, 1901.

In 1904, the people of Wyoming decided, by popular vote rather than the two-thirds majority required by statute, the permanent location of the Capitol would be in Cheyenne. Permanent locations for the university at Laramie, the penitentiary at Rawlins, and the "insane asylum" at Evanston were also resolved.

The following year, 1905, the Legislature created the Wyoming State Board of Horticulture. The first official residence for the Governor was completed that year as well. This building, the Historic Old Governors' Mansion, is located at the northeast corner of 21st Street and House Avenue, six blocks southeast of the Capitol and is open to the public.

In Douglas, the State Fair was held for the first time on land donated for that purpose by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. The fair is still held annually at that location every August.

Please proceed to your left to continue viewing the history of the decade from 1900 to 1910.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Can you find legislators that continue to serve year after year in these composites?





1911 TO 1920



The population of Wyoming in 1910 reached 145,965. Wyoming's young state government struggled with issues that varied widely and signaled the slow passing of the 19th Century and the rapid pace of the 20th Century.

The first woman was elected to serve in the Wyoming Legislature in the House of Representatives when Mary G. Bellamy of Laramie won her seat in 1910. In 1917 she would be sent to Washington to represent Wyoming women during the national campaign for the 19th Amendment, the nationwide suffrage bill for women. Local political entities were also recognizing women's contributions. In 1911, Mrs. Susan Winsler, of Dayton, was the first woman to be elected to the office of mayor in Wyoming.

The young state's infrastructure was rapidly taking shape. The Shoshone Dam, now known as the Buffalo Bill Dam, was completed near Cody. In 1911, Pathfinder Dam, the first power, reclamation, and recreation project on the North Platte River was also completed. Laborers, using hand picks, shovels, and burros, completed the Wind River tunnel for transportation. The project took one year to complete and was 18 miles long. With all the dangerous heavy construction that was taking place during the decade, the Legislature took steps to protect workers by passing the Workman's Compensation Law.

Smaller, but significant structures, were also developed during the decade. A \$100,000 College of Agriculture building at the University of Wyoming was under construction. The Plains Hotel in Cheyenne and the Virginian Hotel in Medicine Bow opened and two wings on the Capitol were completed by 1917.

The first legislative session held in the new chambers, which is their current location, marked the adoption of the official state flag and flower. The flag was designed by Vera Keays, and the state flower, the Indian Paintbrush, were adopted on January 31, 1917.

DID YOU NOTICE?

By 1913, two years after the first woman legislator was elected, two other women were elected to serve in the House of Representatives. Can you find them?





MARY GODAT BELLAMY



Mary Godat Bellamy, also known as “Mollie” to her friends and family, was elected to serve in the Wyoming House of Representatives in 1910. She was the first woman to be elected to the Legislature in the state’s history.

Mary Godat was born December 13, 1861, in Richwoods, Missouri. She moved to Laramie, Wyoming with her widowed mother in 1873 at the age of 12. Mary became one of the first students to attend Laramie High School. She became a teacher and taught in Nye County, Nevada, Johnson County, Wyoming, and Laramie. In 1886, she married Charles Bellamy of Boston, Massachusetts, a civil engineer who received the first license to practice engineering in the state of Wyoming and served as the first water commissioner under State Engineer Elwood Mead.

They had three sons, Benjamin and twins, Fulton and Freeman. Freeman died in infancy. Both surviving sons also became engineers. This connection with engineering resulted in a lake in the Snowy Range being named for Mary. Lake Marie located west of Laramie was given that name by Charles Bellamy in honor of his wife while he surveyed in the area. He also named another lake in that area Bellamy Lake.

Mary, a Democrat, began her political career in 1902 when she was elected county superintendent of schools in Albany County. As a state legislator, her record showed support for issues affecting the welfare of women and children. She sponsored changes to Wyoming’s probate laws that allowed women to serve as administrators and executors. Mary sponsored and supported bills that created industrial education and raised the mill-levy for the University of Wyoming. She also supported changes in the treatment of both female and juvenile prisoners in Wyoming institutions.

An active member of the Council of Women Voters and friend of Carrie Chapman Catt (organizer of the League of Women Voters), Mary Bellamy was Wyoming’s envoy to the great rally for women’s suffrage in 1917. She died on January 28, 1955, in Laramie, having received an honorary doctor of law degree from the University of Wyoming.





POLITICAL ILL WILL



John Charles Thompson, leading Republican political reporter for the *Wyoming State Tribune*, wrote in his column "Old Wyoming," 26 years after the 1913 legislative session that it was "the most disorderly" in Wyoming history. Thompson recalled the session with the following passage, "conspiracies, counter-conspiracies, contests, cross, double-cross, and super-double-cross, shouting, tumult, riot, criminal charges. For more than a fortnight the state was agog."

Disputes and chicanery centered on the efforts of both political parties to hold control of the House of Representatives. The session ultimately ended when the freshman neophyte Speaker of the House, Martin Luther Pratt, physically assaulted the Speaker Pro Tem, W. J. Woods and hurled him from the rostrum, dramatically ending a lengthy filibuster.

All other legislative delegations in both the House and Senate have routinely had their photographs mounted in a single non-partisan composite frame for exhibit in the chambers. Due to the ill-will generated in 1913 between the two parties in the House, these photos were framed separately by party affiliation.

By 1915, although the central issues in the dispute had been resolved, partisan ill will was still perceptible and a dispute between unidentified members of that Legislature resulted in the 1913 democratic composite being damaged in an ensuing physical "fracas."

DID YOU NOTICE?

The fight that occurred in the House Chamber was because one of the Democrats switched sides and joined the Republicans. The tear in the Democrats' picture happened when one of the representatives became angry, grabbed the picture and started to hit another representative over the head with it. That man put up his hand to protect his head, which broke the glass and tore the picture.

To continue your tour of the House exhibit, please proceed to your right and up the stairs to the Rotunda. The exhibit continues on your left at the top of the stairs.





1920 TO 1929



The population of Wyoming in 1920 was 194,402. During the decade of the 1920s, the Wyoming Legislature was called into special session by the Governor on three occasions. The state's young government was being called upon more and more to address the complexities of a growing nation and the impacts of 20th Century market and technology changes.

The first special session of the Legislature during this decade was convened on January 26, 1920. There were two major issues in question: the ratification of the amendment to the United States Constitution extending the right of suffrage to all women and the need to establish specific irrigation districts within Wyoming. Both issues were successfully addressed. The session lasted two days.

The next regular legislative session in 1921 created the last two counties in the state, Teton and Sublette, as a result of continued slow but steady population growth during the previous decade. This Legislature also created two new departments of government, the State Historical Department and the Department of Game and Fish. Requests from the Secretary of State's Office to modify the official State Seal resulted in the Legislature approving a smaller version of the existing design. That design is the one currently in use.

Although the 1920s were historically recorded as economic boom times for the nation, the story in Wyoming was quite different. Because two of the primary economic activities in Wyoming, agriculture and coal mining, declined after the war in Europe, the people of Wyoming suffered from drought, deflation, bank failures, foreclosures and a full-blown depression. During the decade, 101 state and national banks closed their operations in Wyoming; the year 1924 alone saw 45 bank closures. Most of these failures came as a result of farmers and ranchers defaulting on real estate and livestock loans.

In 1923, tragically, 99 miners were killed in a Kemmerer coal mine explosion. Near the end of the decade, on May 18, 1927, floodwaters washed out part of Slide Lake, near Kelly, Wyoming, destroying the town and killing six people.

Please proceed to your right to continue.





THE ROLE OF OIL IN WYOMING



With 87 miles of oiled roads and more than 24,000 automobiles in the state, the 20th Legislature, in 1929, approved the process of identifying vehicles by county. Each county in Wyoming was assigned a number based on property valuation, that number appears on vehicles registered in that county to this day.

The 1920s were the first years that Wyoming received real benefits from the oil industry and resources. In 1922, Standard Oil Company located in Casper was said to have the largest refinery in the world. The state received \$1.7 million from oil royalties in 1924.

However, the oil business did not come without problems. In 1922, the United States Department of Interior secretly leased the Teapot Dome Oil Reserve, near Casper, to the Sinclair Oil Company to develop. Complaints from independent oil men led to a congressional investigation which revealed that Interior Secretary, Albert Fall, and Navy Secretary, Edwin Denby had signed a contract with Harry F. Sinclair's Mammoth Oil Company for development of Teapot Dome without competitive bidding. Both Denby and Fall resigned their positions in disgrace. Fall, along with Harry F. Sinclair, was prosecuted for the affair. Both men were convicted and served federal sentences. Fall's case was heard by Judge T. Blake Kennedy in Federal District Court in Cheyenne and dominated the national and local news.

Fearing that similar situations would lead to the depletion of Wyoming's oil without financial and economic benefit to the people of the state, discussions began on whether to impose a state severance tax on oil in 1923. On October 10, 1927, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the Teapot Dome Oil Reserve belonged to the federal government, which had sole rights to develop it.

DID YOU NOTICE?

In the 1925 composite one of the legislators has a cigar in his mouth. Who is it?

What differences do you find in the way the men's names are printed compared to the women's?





NELLIE TAYLOE ROSS



The death of Governor William B. Ross in 1924 required the election of a new governor to serve out the balance of his term, under the Constitution of the State of Wyoming. With Ross dying on October 2, there was little time for either his Democratic party or the opposing Republicans to select and campaign for the position of Governor before the November 4 election. On October 14, 1924, both parties held conventions to nominate their candidate. The Republicans nominated Eugene J. Sullivan, a Casper attorney, who served as Speaker of the Wyoming House of Representatives in 1919.

The Democrats nominated Governor Ross' widow, Nellie Tayloe Ross, a political novice. Mrs. Ross had been a kindergarten teacher in Omaha, Nebraska briefly before her marriage. After marrying Ross in 1902, she kept busy as a homemaker raising their three sons.

While Sullivan campaigned rigorously for three weeks, Mrs. Ross, who was still in mourning, remained in Cheyenne. She stated, "I shall not make a campaign. My candidacy is in the hands of my friends. I shall not leave the house."

Mrs. Ross won the election by more than 8,000 votes. Many said that her election was based on sympathy alone. Some considered her a front for the Democratic Party in Wyoming. By securing the election, Nellie Tayloe Ross also secured her place in the history of the state and the nation. She was the first woman to serve as Governor of any state in the nation and the first and only female Governor in Wyoming to date. Although she would fail to win re-election as Governor of Wyoming, Nellie Ross proved to be a good manager, leader, and politician during the rest of what would be a distinguished career. She became an active member of the Democratic National Committee and, in 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt appointed her director of the United States Mint. She served in that role until 1953. She died on December 19, 1977 at the age of 101.

DID YOU NOTICE?

The 1925 House composite includes a picture of Governor Nellie Tayloe Ross. No other composites to date, House or Senate, have included pictures of governors.

Please proceed to your right to view the remainder of the 1920s House exhibits.





THE AIR AGE



Although the oil industry was riddled with scandal in Wyoming during the 1920s, the air industry was bringing both a positive image and financial reward to the state. Wyoming secured its place on the transcontinental airmail route in 1920. Both Cheyenne and Rock Springs were among 14 stops on the route. Cheyenne's municipal airfield was one of the best equipped in the country by the end of the decade.

Using open-cockpit planes that had been converted from military use, the airmail service was able to provide delivery of the mail across the country quickly. The most commonly used plane, the DeHavilland bi-plane, was capable of reaching 100 miles per hour and attaining an altitude of 10,000 feet.

Originally, night flights of the airmail were not considered. The mail would be transferred from planes to trains for overnight transport and then transferred again to planes during the daytime. In February of 1921, night flights were started on an experimental basis using bonfires for beacons located at 50-mile intervals between Chicago and Cheyenne. By 1924, the United States Postal Service sought congressional approval for funds for night time airmail service cross-country. United States Senator Francis E. Warren supported those measures and obtained a \$3 million appropriation to aid night flight.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Do you notice one of the legislators with an unusual hair cut? Who is it?

What do you see in the way the representatives smile? Do you see any of their teeth?

What representatives are wearing bow ties and which are wearing pin-stripe suits?

To continue your tour of the House composite exhibit, please proceed to your left to the House Balcony. The 1930s display will be found on your left when you enter the Balcony.





1931 TO 1940



The population of Wyoming in 1930 was 225,565. The 1930s found Wyoming still plagued by depression and drought. The Wyoming Legislature could do little on its own to ease the burdens of the residents of the state during the first half of the decade. Their efforts were directed at fine-tuning the existing governmental structure and administering the federal funds directed to the states to provide relief and economic stability to a nation devastated by the Great Depression.

In 1930, the Legislature revised the process of issuing motor vehicle license plates, turning the duty over to the county treasurers rather than the Secretary of State. The treasurers would then transfer the funds to the Department of Revenue.

The repeal of national prohibition and the passage of the 21st Amendment to the United States Constitution brought nearly 71 percent of Wyoming voters to the polls in 1932. On November 13, 1933, with three-fourths of the states having ratified repeal, Governor Leslie A. Miller called the Legislature into special session from December 4 through December 23 to deal with the issues related to the repeal. In 1935, the Wyoming Legislature established the State Liquor Commission.

By 1933, significant federal assistance began to flow through to the states to offset the effects of the Depression. The single largest federal project in Wyoming was the Casper-Alcova Reclamation Project, which was started in 1933 and completed in 1938. In Cheyenne, work was completed in 1933 on a new federal office building. The building is located on 21st Street between Carey and Pioneer Avenues on the site of the Joseph M. Carey mansion. Work also began on a new State Supreme Court and Library building, which was completed in 1937. Renovations and redecorating were also completed on the Wyoming State Capitol during this same period.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Which legislator's photo is missing in the 1933 composite and why?

There is something unique about the 1935 and 1937 composites. Can you identify what it is?





NEW REVENUE

The 1934 federal Taylor Grazing Act ended the homesteading era on a national level. The act allowed federal leasing of grazing land nationally, including 16 million acres of federal land in Wyoming. On February 18, 1935, the Wyoming Legislature approved legislation enabling Wyoming to comply with the act.

The election of 1934 created a profound change in the political history of the state, which had traditionally been a Republican stronghold. In a landslide, Democrats won every state elective office and the majority of the seats in the Legislature. Democrat, Joseph C. O'Mahoney was also elected to his first full term in the United States Senate. O'Mahoney had succeeded Senator John B. Kendrick in 1933 when Kendrick died in office at the age of 76. O'Mahoney was serving as assistant United States Postmaster at the time of his selection. He would serve in the Senate from 1934 to 1941. A new federal office building, built in the 1960s, was named after Senator O'Mahoney. The structure is located on the west side of Capitol Avenue between 21st and 22nd Streets.

The decade of the 1930s also saw its share of the passing of notable Wyoming leaders. In 1931, Governor Frank C. Emerson died unexpectedly at the age of 49. Former United States Senator and Wyoming Governor, Robert D. Carey died in 1937. Justice Willis Van Devanter resigned from the United States Supreme Court that same year at the age of 77. Van Devanter would die in 1941.

DID YOU NOTICE?

There is "something" missing from the 1933 composite. What is it?

In the 1935 composite, can you identify a popular women's clothing item that might cause controversy if a current legislator were to wear one?

Please proceed to your right. The 1940s exhibit is located on the north wall of the House Balcony.





1940 TO 1949



The population of Wyoming in 1940 was 250,742. The state observed its 50th anniversary and the United States Postal Service honored the occasion by issuing a postage stamp, which displayed the Great Seal of the State of Wyoming. Along with the rest of the country, Wyoming was still struggling with a depressed economy. However, technology, federal programs, and time gave hope for a brighter future.

In October of 1940, the first radio station in Wyoming began operation in Cheyenne. KYAN became defunct the following year, but KFBC Radio started broadcasting from Cheyenne in December of 1941 and the call letters are still being broadcast today.

The first legislative session of the decade created the State Board of Probation and Parole in 1941. They also continued to refine the management of official records by requiring that all marriage and divorce records be kept by the State Department of Vital Records. With the unsettled state of world affairs, the Legislature also saw fit to provide for a state guard force and established councils of defense (Civil Defense System.)

As the rest of the country and the world were changed forever on December 7, 1941, so too were the people of Wyoming. By October of 1942, in light of a full-scale war, the federal government began relocating Japanese Americans away from "sensitive" areas, which resulted in the opening of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Park County. The population of the camp was recorded at 10,872. At Heart Mountain, between Powell and Cody, these "evacuees," primarily from the United States West Coast, were kept under surveillance by the War Relocation Authority until 1945. Most of the Heart Mountain detainees were American-born citizens, loyal to the United States. In fact, 900 of them served their country in the United States Army, including 20 that were killed in action. In 1947, the federal relocation center land was opened for veteran homestead entries after nearly all the remnants of the camp's existence had been erased.

DID YOU NOTICE?

During the 1940s, how many women can you identify in the House of Representatives?





WYOMING WAR EFFORTS



By 1943, Wyoming had three military installations: an expanded Fort Francis E. Warren in Cheyenne, which was a Quartermaster Replacement Training Center; a new Army-Air base in Casper; and a prisoner-of-war camp at Douglas, which was constructed in 1943.

The national war effort required rationing of various commodities, including shoes, sugar, coffee and all food by 1943. The gasoline ration was four gallons per week, per household.

During the labor shortage due to the war, women had an opportunity to prove themselves by filling various jobs. However, Wyoming state labor laws restricted women's working conditions. The Wyoming Legislature enacted the Female Labor Law, effective in June of 1943, to allow women to work more than eight hours a day and more than five days a week during the "emergency."

The battleship, *USS Wyoming*, which was commissioned early in the 20th Century, served with distinction through the end of World War II. The ship was decommissioned in 1946. The ship's beautiful silver service was permanently returned to the state and her people. Cheyenne jeweler, H. E. Buechner, a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives in 1882, designed the service as a gift from the people of Wyoming when the ship was commissioned. The silver service is on display at the Wyoming State Museum.

In 1947, Fort Francis E. Warren was renamed Francis E. Warren Air Force Base. The historic military post was established in Cheyenne as an outpost during the construction of the transcontinental railroad and as a supply depot during the "Indian Wars" under the name Fort D. A. Russell. The subtle distinction of changing the name from Fort Warren to F. E. Warren Air Force Base in 1947 might appear unimportant. However, it would prove critical to the base, the City of Cheyenne, and the nation within just a few short years with the coming of the Cold War.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Do you notice anything unusual about two of the photographs in this composite?





POST-WAR WYOMING



The 1945 session of the Wyoming Legislature focused attention on the issues relevant to a post-war Wyoming. Legislators passed the Junior College Bill, which authorized any school district in the state with an accredited four-year high school program to vote to impose a special levy, up to two mills, to establish a junior college program. The legislators were attempting to anticipate the needs of the returning veterans. The City of Casper established Wyoming's first junior college. Veterans were also granted an exemption of \$2,000 in the assessed valuation of their property in that same session.

Having observed the expanding role of the airplane and air power during the war years, the Wyoming Legislature established the Wyoming Aeronautics Commission during the 1945 session.

The culminating event of the 1945 legislative session was the adoption of a joint resolution memorializing approximately 35,000 men and women of the State of Wyoming serving in the armed services, "who offered not only their endeavor and sacrifice but even life itself on the altar of our country, bringing glory and credit to the state of Wyoming." During World War II, 1,095 Wyoming men were killed or died in service during the war.

On March 7, 1945, the Army-Air Field at Casper was deactivated. Germany surrendered unconditionally in May and Japan followed with an unconditional surrender in August. World War II was over!

The 1946 election saw United States Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney and Governor Lester Hunt, both Democrats, run for re-election on a platform of too much centralized government in Washington, D.C. Both men were re-elected, along with four Republicans filling the other statewide posts.

DID YOU NOTICE?

How have the hairstyles changed in this composite compared to those you have seen so far?

How has the composition of women changed from the 1930s to the 1940s?





A BLUSTERY ENDING



The year 1949 literally *blew* in with the arrival of the infamous “49” Blizzard. The storm began on January 2 and raged in the southeastern part of the state for three days. Parts of the state were paralyzed for weeks. Roads and rail lines were blocked and people were marooned in trains and at locations along the closed roads. Human lives were lost due to the storm. There were also heavy livestock losses. Governor Arthur Crane appealed to President Harry S. Truman for aid and all government agencies joined the State in opening roads and rescuing people and livestock. While meeting despite the storm, the Legislature appropriated \$700,000 for emergency relief.

To continue your tour, please proceed to the opposite side of the House Balcony. The 1950s exhibit is located on the south wall.





1950 TO 1959



The population of Wyoming in 1950 was 290,529. The first year of the decade marking the middle of the 20th Century in Wyoming was significant in defining progress toward true equality for women. On February 29, 1950, the Yazzie case was filed in Albany County and women were called for jury duty for the first time in Wyoming since 1871. The case was appealed when the lawyer for the defense questioned the constitutionality of the so-called "Woman Jury Law." The Wyoming Supreme Court decided that the word "men" in the State Constitution meant men and women and that they were equal before the law. The jury service of women progressed again in May 1950 in Green River when Mrs. Louis Spinner Graf was selected as the jury foreman in District Court. Mrs. Daisy Conyers served at the next District Court session in Rawlins. After 80 years, women were again judging their peers in Wyoming's courts.

In 1950, the Wyoming Legislature was called to a special session between February 14 through 23, 1950 in order to provide funds to control a grasshopper infestation and possible agricultural disaster.

The battle between Wyoming's concerned citizens and the federal government over the establishment of the Jackson Hole Monument by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1943 was resolved in a compromise bill, which saw most of the disputed land in the area added to Grand Teton National Park.

Wyoming's Shoshone people were also again engaged in a legal case, which was filed in the United States Court of Claims. The Shoshone were seeking to right the wrongs done to them in the Brunot Agreement of 1872 in which the Wind River Reservation was diminished by nearly one-third and the ceded area was opened to white settlement. In 2006, issues relating to the Brunot Agreement and the United States Department of the Interior were still frequently in the headlines in Wyoming and throughout the western United States.

DID YOU NOTICE?

What do you notice that is different in the 1957 composite compared to previous composites?



Please proceed to your far left to view the exhibit in chronological order.





POST-WAR CALM



By the middle of the 1950s, Wyoming's place in the post-World War II economy and culture was well-defined. With no significant changes to the state's economy without industrialization during the war, Wyoming's residents remained dependent on the state's natural resources. Mining, agriculture, and tourism were still the principal economic activities in 1955. There was no large-scale expansion in any of those economic sectors, with the exception of the extensive development of uranium mining, which was being controlled by the federal government.

The Legislature also took a slow and deliberate approach and maintained a vigilant attitude regarding controlling government growth and costs. In 1955, the Legislature reduced the \$2,000 property tax exemption for veterans to \$800. They also abolished a \$500 property tax homestead exemption.

With the reduction in the number of urgent issues before them, the Legislature was finally able to address the question of an official state motto. The territorial motto had been "*Cedant Arma Togae*," which translated, "Let arms yield to the gown," which roughly meant, "Let military authority give way to civil power." That motto was displayed on the official territorial seal, but did not appear on the official state seal and was never adopted as the state motto. The phrase "Equal Rights" did appear on the State Seal when it was officially adopted in 1921. On February 15, 1955, the Wyoming Legislature officially adopted "Equal Rights" as the state motto.

They also passed legislation adopting the song "Wyoming" by C. E. Winter, a former member of the Wyoming delegation in the United States Congress, as the state's official song. In other action, the Centralized Microfilm Department was created to record state records for preservation.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Did you know that Representative Kenny Sailors, who served in the Wyoming House in the 1950s, invented the "jump shot" while attending and playing basketball for the University of Wyoming? He also played professional basketball from 1946 through 1951 before becoming a legislator.





CRITICAL DEVELOPMENT



The year 1956 became a watershed year for the economic development of Wyoming and the nation, especially the West. Action by the United States Congress regarding funding for construction of highways and water projects brought infrastructure and economic development to Wyoming. Jobs and population growth followed.

First, Congress approved the Upper Colorado River Project. A reclamation project of massive proportions, Flaming Gorge Dam and Reservoir captured water to provide for the various needs, including electric power, of Wyoming and six other western states. Construction required years to complete and brought jobs and people to southwest Wyoming. Following completion, the project provided water and power for continued future growth and development for the remainder of the century.

That same year, Congress also placed the National System of Interstate and Defense Highway Project under the overall direction of the Federal Bureau of Public Roads. The Bureau monitored the construction of the interstate system, which was supervised by the individual state highway departments. Private contractors were hired to actually construct the millions of miles of roads, creating thousands of jobs and putting millions of dollars into state and local economies. The federal government provided 93 percent of the money for interstate highway projects, making it the 20th Century equivalent of building the transcontinental railroad in the 1860s. Wyoming's first four-lane highway project was the construction of Interstate 25 northbound.

Nevertheless, Wyoming state officials were concerned with controlling the size of state government. The state retirement law required that all state employees over 65 that wanted to stay on the payroll be certified by their departments. The Wyoming Building Commission, the state's five elected officials, authorized the state building superintendent to discharge all workers over 70 years old.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Can you identify unusual ties worn by a few of the representatives in this era?





THE CLOSE OF THE 1950S



The closing year of the 1950s saw the Wyoming Legislature disregard federal regulations requiring white stripes on interstate highways when Wyoming passed the Yellow Stripe Act. The act required ALL highway markings in the state be yellow on the premise that the color showed up better during snowstorms. The Federal Highway Commission settled the matter by ruling that all states must conform to white stripes or lose federal aid.

During the year, the Lincoln Monument was unveiled at the summit of U. S. Highway 80. A 12 1/2 foot, three-ton bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln, by artist Robert Russin of the University of Wyoming Art Department, was created in Mexico City and placed on a 30-foot granite base near the roadway. The bronze honored Lincoln's support for transcontinental transportation. With the completion of U.S. Interstate 80 across Wyoming, the monument was moved to the highest point along that route.

The 1959 Legislature transferred the Historical Landmark Commission to the Archives and Historical Department. They also asked the United States Congress to issue birth certificates for foreign children adopted by American citizens and passed an act to enable Wyoming schools to accept funds available to public schools through provision of the federal National Defense Education Act for Public Schools. On April 25, 1959, the people of Wyoming joined the City of Cody celebrating the opening of the new world-class Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney Gallery of Western Art.

The BIG news in 1959 occurred at 11:37 p.m. on August 17th in West Yellowstone. A 20-foot high wall of water swept down Madison Canyon and half of a 7,600-foot mountain came crashing into the mouth of the canyon. Eighty-million tons of rock created a dam that blocked the canyon's entrance and created Quake Lake, all the result of a severe earthquake. The event confirmed speculation that a similar event may have led to the end of the ancient, indigenous Sheepstealer culture in what is today northwestern Wyoming. That name was given to a particular band of Shoshone that was proficient at hunting Big Horn Sheep, which they then used in all of their daily cultural, social, and religious activities.

Please turn to your right to continue your tour. The exhibit of 1960 photos is located on the staircase.





1960 TO 1969



The issues at stake for the Wyoming Legislature in 1961 were reapportionment and federal aid for education. The reapportionment of the Legislature resulted in an increase in the House from 56 to 61 members and the Senate decreased from 27 to 25 members. All of the counties, except Laramie and Natrona, were represented by a single senator, while Laramie and Natrona County each were represented by two senators. On October 8, 1965, the federal court decreed that Wyoming would be required to reapportion the Wyoming Senate.

On February 16, 1961, the Legislature passed an act that prohibited distinction, discrimination, or restriction because of race, religion, color, or national origin. In 1965, they repealed the Miscegenation Law, which prohibited interracial marriage.

During the decade, the Legislature also adopted a “right to work” law, which provided that employment could not be conditional upon membership or non-membership in, nor upon the payment or non-payment of money to, a labor organization. They created the Department of Insurance and the Department of Economic Planning and Development, replacing the Wyoming Natural Resources Board. Members also revised the inheritance tax and raised the sales tax from 2 to 2.5 percent and the minimum wage from 75 cents to one dollar per hour.

Two million dollars of the Common School Permanent Land Fund of the State were invested in an emergency school-construction program in 1961, due to the impact of the post-World War II “Baby Boom.” Jade was adopted as the State’s official gemstone on January 25, 1967. Laws concerning child abuse and pari-mutual gambling were also passed in the 1960s.

DID YOU NOTICE?

What positions are women beginning to assume during this time period in the House of Representatives?

The 1961 through 1967 exhibit pieces are on your right. The 1969 exhibit piece is behind you to your left.





DEFENDING THE NATION



Wyoming's role in national defense loomed large in the 1960s. In 1962, test drilling began in the Cheyenne area to determine potential sites for Minuteman I missiles. Twenty-four Atlas missiles eventually surrounded Cheyenne. On March 25, 1965, the 389th Strategic Missile Wing was activated at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base with 200 Minuteman I missiles. It was the nation's largest Intercontinental Ballistic Missile unit.

In 1963, the United States had 16,000 "military advisors" in Vietnam under the Southeast Asia Mutual Defense Treaty, fulfilling a pledge to resist communist aggression. By March of 1965, the first United States Marines had landed in South Vietnam. In 1966, the Wyoming Air Guard moved more than 800 Vietnam wounded over worldwide flight routes. They had also carried more than 2.8 million pounds of cargo, mostly war materials.

In 1968, Governor Stan Hathaway approved a Pentagon plan calling for the Wyoming National Guard to halt cargo runs and concentrate solely on the evacuations of the wounded from Vietnam. The Wyoming unit was one of three selected. The others were from Pennsylvania and West Virginia. By the end of 1969, there were 541,500 United States troops in Vietnam.

Wyoming's native people were represented not only on the battlefield but also at home when, in 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed the first American Indian in the state's history, Herman St. Clair, to the local draft board. St. Clair, 67 years old, was a tribal leader at the time of his appointment.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Can you find and name a former Wyoming governor in this composite?

The 1969 exhibit piece is behind you. To view the 1970s House composites, please proceed down the stairs, if the Legislature is not in session.





VERDA JAMES



Verda James was the first woman elected as the Speaker of the Wyoming House of Representatives, serving during the 1959-1960 session. Miss James was the daughter of a railroad official and was born in Stratford Ontario, Canada.

She came to Wyoming in 1935 to teach school after attending college in Iowa, where she had been living since the age of two. She had also lived briefly in Minnesota and South Dakota and attended the University of Colorado, Denver University, the University of Maryland and the University of Iowa.

In addition to teaching at Natrona County High School, Miss James was a remedial reading consultant for Natrona County School District No. 2 and Assistant Superintendent of Natrona County School District No. 1. She went on to work for the Wyoming Department of Education for 12 years, serving as the Director of Special Education and eventually Deputy Superintendent. Verda James also assisted in creating children's safety education programming and became an instructor at Casper College.

She belonged to numerous professional and community organizations and strongly believed that women, no matter their background or education, could and should play an active role in their communities. One of her proudest accomplishments was the establishment of the School for the Deaf in Casper.

Miss James served eight terms in the Wyoming House of Representatives, from 1954 to 1970. She chaired the House Education Committee for three terms and was the only Republican woman in the House during most of that time. Verda James' career as an educator and a legislator was summed up in the following quote, "If I can do something to help the children, I will have fulfilled my job."

DID YOU NOTICE?

Which men in this photo went on to represent Wyoming in the United States Congress?

What do you notice about the women's titles compared to the men's?





THE ENERGY ECONOMY



The population of Wyoming in 1970 was 332,416. The national economy was experiencing the worst inflation since World War II during this decade. When federally imposed price controls were removed in 1973, consumer prices went up 8.8 percent.

In 1971, the minimum wage was set at \$1.40 per hour for a period from June 1 through December 31. The wage was set to increase to \$1.50 per hour from January through December 1972. The gradual increase would end on December 1, 1973 when the wage was set to rise to \$1.60. Tipped employees were given a set rate of \$1.10 per hour.

Spurred by a national energy crisis, Wyoming's mineral riches continued to attract attention during the 1970s. The assessed value of Wyoming's minerals in 1970 was \$505 million, of which, 94.5 percent was in coal, oil, gas, and uranium. Wyoming ranked first in the nation in coal reserves, second in uranium deposits, fifth in oil production, and seventh in the production of natural gas.

By 1973, the United States was in a full-fledged energy crisis, including Wyoming. Gas stations were forced to close their doors on Sundays. Gasoline prices rose to 50 cents a gallon. Rationing was seen in large metropolitan areas and people waited in lines to purchase just two or three gallons of gas.

In 1977, the Wyoming Legislature approved a series of bills to help the state and communities cope with rapidly expanding mining and energy development activity. A capital facilities fund established an increase in severance taxes on coal, trona, and uranium that were earmarked for the fund. Additional coal and uranium taxes were put in place and revenues were designated for water development, highways, and the state's general fund.

By the end of the decade the national energy crisis was not over and high gasoline prices deterred tourism. Many in the Wyoming tourism industry suffered a bad year in 1979.

The cities of Rock Springs, Rawlins, and Newcastle were listed by the Internal Revenue Service as being among the 20 wealthiest areas in the nation. Rock Springs was the fifth wealthiest area in the country with a median income of \$17,389, higher than Beverly Hills, California.





THE LEGISLATIVE LEGACY



During the 1970s, Wyoming's Legislature responded to events at the local and national level. Early in the decade the lawmakers dealt with issues of growth and development related to the sluggish economy of the 1960s. At the end of the decade, their actions were often driven by the need to keep up with national events and demands of a growing economy. Due to the national energy crisis and the need to produce more energy, the Legislature had to find ways Wyoming's wealth of natural resources could help.

In 1971, the Legislature created the following new boards, commissions, and departments: Department of Administration and Fiscal Control (DAFC), Advisory Board of Drugs and Substances Control, Wyoming Beef Council, Career Services Council, Community College Commission, Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, Legislative Service Agency-Management Council, State Board of Parole, Peace Officer's Training Commission, Personnel Review Board, State Board of Police, Wyoming State Department of Police, and the Wyoming Real Estate Commission.

The Public Housing Act was passed providing funds for municipalities and counties to construct low-rent housing for persons of low income. The 41st Legislature also authorized the Capitol Building Commission to borrow up to \$4.4 million to build a new State Office Building, now known as the Hathaway Building.

On February 21, 1971, the United States Congress passed the 26th Amendment to the Constitution allowing 18-year old qualified residents to vote. In a special session of the Wyoming Legislature, held July 7 and 8, 1971, the amendment was ratified and was approved by the voters later that year.

DID YOU NOTICE?

What do you notice about the jackets the men are wearing? How about the collars on the shirts? How are they different compared to the other styles you have seen in the previous composites?

What is different about the display of the 1973 composite?





VIETNAM IMPACTS WYOMING



Wyoming sent 5,700 men to serve during the war and 127 of them were killed. At 8:00 a.m. on January 28, 1973, the Vietnam War ended with a cease-fire. The day before the cease-fire, the United States Department of Defense ended the draft.

On March 8, the first draft lottery was held. A number was drawn for each birth date and those birth dates were assigned numbers from 1 to 95, to form a "readily inducible pool" of about 500,000 men, according to Selective Service officials. On June 30, the 1948 national draft legislation expired. However, registration was re-instituted in 1980, by President Jimmy Carter, in response to Russia's invasion of Afghanistan.

Prisoners of war returned home. Major Theodore W. Gostas of Cheyenne returned after five years. Other prisoners from Wyoming who were released included: Major Douglas Peterson; Lt. Col. Alfred Abbot; and Captain Ronald Bliss.

The 1970s and the Vietnam War opened opportunities for women in the military. Wanda T. Banta, a Cheyenne journalist, became the first woman in the history of the Wyoming National Guard to become a commissioned officer with the rank of Major in 1973.

The war had not been popular either nationally or locally. It had cost the state and nation economically and socially. Protests were held at the University of Wyoming. The unity of the people of the state on the subject of the war had been tested and they were thankful to witness its end.

DID YOU NOTICE?

What do you notice about the number of members in the House Representatives during the 1970s compared to the number of Representatives in the House today? Are there more or fewer? Why?

T.A. Larson served in the House of Representatives in the 1970s and wrote a book titled "*Wyoming: A Guide to its History, Highways, and People.*" A great deal of the information in these composites came from his book.





NATURE'S REMINDERS



Wyoming's "unusual" weather made headlines in the 1970s with the severity and rapidity of its changes. Relatively "normal" weather patterns early in the decade saw snowmobiling become a popular winter activity in the state. By 1977, drought conditions forced some communities to ration municipal water supplies. An unusually light snow-pack in the mountains resulted in problems for farmers in southwestern Wyoming and President Jimmy Carter named several counties drought emergency areas, which made those farmers and ranchers eligible for federal assistance.

Spring flooding in 1978 across the northern part of the state brought damage to crops, livestock, and roads. The total damage topped \$15 million in 11 counties. The winter of 1978 and 1979 was one of the coldest for years. Extremely heavy snowfall in the southeastern part of the state repeatedly closed roads and schools. Cheyenne had an excess of 120 inches of snow during that winter. A three-day storm during Thanksgiving week made headlines in newspapers across the country. On July 16, 1979, a slow-moving tornado struck the northern suburbs of Cheyenne. Dozens of people were injured. Hundreds were left homeless. One infant died.

DID YOU NOTICE?

How have the hairstyles changed during the 1970s compared to the composites you have seen so far?

Can you find a representative wearing a much different coat compared to the other legislators in this composite?

What do you notice about the 1977-1978 composites? What is different in the 1978 Budget Session composite?

What House of Representatives member was still serving in the Wyoming Senate during the 59th Legislature in 2007 and 2008?

Please proceed to your right to continue your tour of the House exhibit.





1980 TO 1989



The population of Wyoming in 1980 was 470,000 residents. The United States Census Bureau reported that Wyoming's population increased by 41.3 percent during the 1970s. Wyoming had the third-highest growth rate among the 50 states, but was still next to last in overall population.

The 1980s dawned on the waves of the economic boom created by the previous decade's energy crisis, but there were definite undercurrents of change beginning to appear. While the eleventh coal mine in Campbell County opened in 1980, softness in the price of yellowcake uranium developed when an oversupply allowed nuclear-generated operators to lock in contracts at advantageous prices. Layoffs in Fremont County's uranium fields alone totaled more than 1,000. The state's unemployment rate reached 5.2 percent, higher than at any time since 1963.

The decline in the uranium business was overshadowed by the discovery of what was recognized as one of the biggest oil and gas resources in Wyoming history. Located in the barren hills of southwestern Wyoming, a deep geological formation known as the Overthrust Belt was one of the hottest areas for exploration by oil and gas producers in the country. The resulting boom attracted thousands of new workers. Housing and services were stretched to the limit. A Rawlins newspaper editor wrote, "Anyone who wants a job can get it in Carbon County, but the question remains, can he also get a place to live?" Many could not and that led to people living in tents, campers on public land, or in their cars.

In 1981, Elizabeth Byrd was the first African-American woman elected to the Wyoming Legislature, beginning her service in the House of Representatives. In 1989, she left her post in the Wyoming House and began serving in the Wyoming Senate.

DID YOU NOTICE?

What accessories are beginning to appear in women's clothing during this decade?





TAX ADJUSTMENTS



Wyoming's property tax assessment practices were challenged in 1983 by the railroads that claimed they were carrying an unfairly large tax burden. Homeowners protested proposals that would increase their share of the tax burden.

In 1984, the Wyoming Legislature voted to conduct a statewide property reappraisal. The Board of Equalization ordered an increase in the rate of assessed valuation.

In January 1987, the statewide reappraisal of property hit a major snag. State officials declared default by the Professional Appraisal Company, the company hired to do the job. The bonding company for Professional Appraisal Company turned the project over to Ebert Corporation. Controversies over inaccuracies and valuations continued throughout the year. The uncertainties of the reappraisal process kept the state's long-term tax situation in the air for most of the decade and part of the next.

In 1988, state voters gave overwhelming approval to an amendment to the Wyoming Constitution, which created a tier system of taxation. The amendment arose from a Supreme Court ruling that the existing system of taxing industrial property at one rate while taxing other property at another rate was not in accordance with the state's constitutional mandate of fair and equal taxation. The Wyoming Legislature resolved the problem by creating an amendment that legalized a tier system under which industrial property would be assessed at a rate of 11.5 percent while homes, agricultural property and small businesses would be taxed at the rate of 9.5 percent.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Which member of the Wyoming House of Representatives went on to serve as the Wyoming State Treasurer?

What do you notice in the title of one of the representatives? What does this number represent?

What do you notice about the number of women serving during this decade?





DON'T MESS WITH MOTHER NATURE



The 1980s reflected the historic models of weather and natural phenomena in Wyoming, including significant geological events. A blizzard in April of 1984 killed thousands of sheep and cattle in northeastern Wyoming. The towns of Buffalo, Gillette, and Sheridan were isolated briefly and historians compared the situation to the 1880s.

Also in 1984, four earthquakes measuring 5 or more on the Richter scale were recorded in eastern Wyoming. The largest, a quake of 5.5, was the strongest ever recorded in Wyoming outside of Yellowstone National Park. The heaviest damage was experienced in Douglas.

On August 1, 1985, a thunderstorm dumped six inches of rain and another six inches of hail on Cheyenne in a four-hour period. The storm left 12 people dead, more than 70 injured, and caused millions of dollars worth of damage. Officials called it a one-hundred year event.

Elsewhere in the state that year severely dry conditions contributed to a rash of forest and range fires. A July fire blackened 850 acres of Casper Mountain, while another 6,500-acre fire spread over the Rattlesnake Hills in Natrona County. Fires also burned land in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the Big Horn, Bridger-Teton, Black Hills, and Medicine Bow national forests.

Another dry year for Wyoming occurred in 1988. Precipitation levels were 40 to 70 percent below normal. Forest fires raged through Yellowstone National Park and surrounding forest lands throughout the summer and early fall, blackening thousands of acres and creating smoke clouds that spread over the entire region. More than 25,000 firefighters from all over the nation, including 5,000 United States Army and Marine troops were brought into the area for a fire-containment effort that cost at least \$115 million.

DID YOU NOTICE?

What former representative in this composite made a run for Wyoming's lone seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008?





ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ISSUES



Environmental concerns over the development of the vast resources throughout the West became more strident and active in the 1980s. In 1980, environmentalists were outraged when a draft environmental impact statement recommended limited mineral exploration and development in the Washakie Wilderness. Strong opposition also came in response to proposed oil and gas drilling in the Cache Creek Canyon area of the Bridger-Teton National Forest near Jackson. Pro-development interests said national energy needs made development mandatory. Environmentalists said any exploration or development would destroy the wilderness quality.

In 1982, Wyoming's congressional delegation tried to address the wilderness controversy with a compromise proposal and angered environmentalists and developers alike. The proposal ended up stalled in Congress. In 1984, the Wyoming Wilderness Bill cleared Congress after three years of negotiation. It added one-million acres of national forest land to wilderness designation, but freed another three-million acres for possible development.

A proposed coal slurry pipeline was still in the planning and development stage in 1980. Concerns over water from underground formations and the potential for draw-down of wells in Wyoming and South Dakota had stymied the project. The developer, Energy Transportation Systems, arranged to buy water from South Dakota's Oahe Reservoir. In 1984, Energy Transportation Systems cancelled the planned project.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Several individuals in the 1989 composite are well-known in Wyoming's political arena. Can you identify these individuals and the positions they have held?

To continue your tour, please move to the wall directly behind you. The 1990s exhibit starts on the far left.





1990 TO 1999



The 1990 census was conducted amid predictions that the state's population would be about 475,000. That figure was close to the census of 1980 but far below the 515,000 figure that was estimated for Wyoming at the peak of the energy boom in 1983.

The state celebrated the centennial of statehood in grand style. Events replicating those of 100 years earlier were held in Cheyenne on July 10, 1990. President George H. W. Bush visited the state during the celebration that month. Special events were held around the state and many memorials, plaques, and works of art were completed to memorialize the occasion including the mural created by Mike Kopriva that hangs on the north wall in Legislative Conference Room 302.

The Wyoming Legislature established a new state holiday and named it the Martin Luther King, Jr. Wyoming Equality Day. Additional steps in the reorganization of state government were also approved.

Below-average stream flows were predicted when the state experienced the fourth consecutive year with minimal fall and winter precipitation. Farmers and ranchers were again making adjustments to the weather cycles and urban areas were putting some water rationing into effect. At the same time, conflict arose between tribal officials on the Wind River Indian Reservation and state water management authorities over tribal rights to in-stream flows in the Big Wind River. The Bureau of Indian Affairs was asked to enforce tribal rights.

Kern River Gas Transmission Company announced plans to begin construction of a major new pipeline from southwestern Wyoming to California. The line was expected to carry significant quantities of Wyoming natural gas to rapidly expanding markets on the West Coast. Construction of expanded facilities for the production of soda ash at Tenneco's Green River plant began after a major new joint venture was announced involving Tenneco and Asahi Glass Company, Japan's largest glass manufacturer.

Governor Ed Herschler, Wyoming's only three-term governor, died of cancer on February 5, 1990. In 1994, the Republican Party regained the governor's office when Jim Geringer was elected to his first term. He was successfully re-elected in



SENATE COMPOSITE DIRECTORY

TITLE	LOCATION
THE COMPOSITE EXHIBIT	Left of Rm. 308 and Right of 1882
1888 BALCONY	Left of Rm. 308 and Right of 1882
THE ELEVENTH TERRITORIAL COUNCIL	Left of Rm. 308, Right of 1882
STATE HOOD	Pillar Right of Second Senate Left of 1882
PREPARING FOR A FUTURE	Between Rm. 306 & Rm. 307
THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR	Below 1897
WYOMING SEEKS TO GROW	Top of west Rotunda staircase. N. wall between staircase and Rotunda
TWENTIETH CENTURY RANGE WAR	Right of 1901 Left of west Rotunda staircase
MAN AND THE LANDSCAPE	Between 1909 & 1907
AMENDMENTS AND JUDICIAL HISTORY	Right of S13 Left of 1911
MILITARY HISTORY	Right of 1913 Left of S14
AN ACTIVE LEGISLATURE	Left of 1923 Right of S19
CAREY AND WARREN	Right of 1923 Left of S20
TOURISM BENEFITS ECONOMY	Right of 1927 Below thermostat
INTRESTING 1902s WYOMING FACTS	Below 1929
THE GREAT DEPRESSION	Below & Between 1931 & 1933
LEGISLATURE TACKLES MANY ISSUES	Right of 1935 Left of Rm. 304
THE FADING PAST	Left of 1935 Right of Rm. 303
RECOVERY AND PROGRESS	Right of W. door Rm. 302 Left of 1939
LIFE ON THE HOMEFRONT	Right of S14 Left of 1941
POSTWAR LEGISLATION	Top of S. staircase on W. wall or on archway L. of 1951
WYOMING AND THE COLD WAR	Left of 1951-Committee sign to be located here
MID-CENTURY PROGRESS	Between 1957 & 1959
MOVING FORWARD	Right of S15 Left of 1957
WYOMING'S COLD WAR YEARS	Between 1957 & 1959
CELEBRATING THE PAST	Archway wall L of 1961
POLITICS	Below 1963
THE WEALTH OF NATURAL RESOURCES	Left of 1969 Right of Women's Restroom
ADJUSTING WITH THE TIMES (A)	Grouped together on Archway N. wall top of stairs Right of restroom
THE ENERGY BOOM (B)	Grouped together with above
WYOMING RESPONDS TO ENERGY CRISIS (A)	Grouped together to Right of 1979-80
CHANGING TIMES (B)	Grouped together with above
THE ENERGY BUST (A)	Grouped together Left of 1981-82
THE SPUTTERING ECONOMY (B)	Grouped together with above
NEARING THE END OF THE CENTURY	Right of 1989-90 Left of Fire Hose or right of 1985-86 above thermostat



1888 BALCONY



When the Capitol opened in 1888, this doorway led to the balcony of the original Territorial Assembly Chamber. In that year, the Assembly was composed of 13 members, all male. After the “new” House and Senate chambers were completed in 1917, the Assembly Chamber was designated as the first official Supreme Court Chamber and decorated and furnished accordingly. The massive chandelier hanging in Conference Room 302 was originally purchased for, and located in, this Supreme Court Chamber. In the 1930s, the Work Progress Administration created by President Franklin Roosevelt to help the country recover from the Great Depression distributed substantial amounts of federal money to the states for infrastructure projects. Wyoming’s leaders decided to devote some money to two projects in the Capitol complex, a new Supreme Court Building and renovations to the Capitol. The Assembly/Supreme Court Balcony was closed and several additional offices were created, including three rooms beyond this doorway. Examples of the ornate hardware used in the original Capitol may be observed in the hinges on this door.





THE ELEVENTH TERRITORIAL COUNCIL



This is the only Territorial Council photo composite known to exist, which was the territorial equivalent of the Senate. The 11th and final Territorial Legislature, held between January and March 1890, was the first to meet in the expanded Capitol. Only two members of this Council were “veterans,” R. M. Galbraith and Alexander H. Reel. This session is described by historian T. A. Larson as a “slugfest” because of differences between the Republican Governor, Francis E. Warren, and the Democratic Council (7-5). Livestock producers were the strongest influence in both the Council and the Assembly in 1890. Although Warren was also a livestock producer, a fragile economy, a maximum debt load, and optimism about achieving statehood combined to divide the legislative and executive branches to such a degree that the session adjourned without approving a budget. The most noteworthy legislation passed during this session was the Australian secret ballot bill (origination of confidential ballot voting), which was readily adopted.





STATEHOOD FOR WYOMING



According to the 1890 census, Wyoming's population was 62,555. This number included 1,850 Indians at the Wind River Reservation.

From January 14 to March 14, 1890, Wyoming held what would become the eleventh and last Territorial Legislative Assembly. On July 10, 1890 after years of struggle and disappointment, Wyoming Territory, consisting of 13 counties, was declared the 44th state in the Union by President Benjamin Harrison.

On July 15, 1890, Governor Frances E. Warren, last territorial and first state governor, called a special election for September 22nd in order to name the new state officers. Clarence D. Clark won Wyoming's lone seat in the U. S. House of Representatives by the popular vote.

In October 1890, Governor Warren had called for a special legislative session, which was held between November 12, 1890 and January 1891. The Legislature elected Warren and Joseph M. Carey as Wyoming's first two United States Senators. Warren's inauguration as a Senator on October 14, 1890 left the office of Governor to the chain of succession as defined by the new state constitution. Amos W. Barber, Secretary of State, became the state's second governor within just a matter of months of statehood.

DID YOU NOTICE?

President Benjamin Harrison's grandson, William Henry Harrison, came to Wyoming to practice law in the Sheridan area in the 1930s. He was a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives from 1947 through 1950. William Henry Harrison, a Republican, was elected Wyoming's lone representative in the United State House of Representatives and served from 1951 through 1955. His photo is included in the legislative collection in the House of Representatives.

What is unique about the facial hair, glasses and jackets compared to those of today?

How did legislators pose differently in this composite, compared to the way you see people pose in pictures today?





PREPARING FOR A FUTURE



During the formative years of the 1890s, Wyoming's young Legislature, meeting every other year, directed its energy to issues of large and small significance. Wyoming continued to surprise the nation with progressive decisions.

In 1893, the Legislature adopted the design for the official State Seal, which focused on the young state's commitment to equality. The seal, as approved, is still in use today and is the centerpiece of both the House and Senate stained glass ceilings. The Wyoming Historical Society was created and the position of State Librarian was given custody of all of Wyoming's historical property.

In 1894, Estelle Reel was elected Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction. Her election was the first time that a woman was elected to a statewide office in the United States. By the end of the decade, President William McKinley selected Reel to serve as the Superintendent of Indian Schools, a position she held from 1898 until 1910. Two new counties, Weston and Big Horn, were created during this decade.

Both state and national legislative attention began to focus more intently on Wyoming's abundant natural resources and on the arid conditions throughout the far west. The Wyoming Legislature focused attention on providing for the reclamation of desert lands within the state for the first time as a government activity. At the national level, Senator Francis E. Warren unsuccessfully introduced an arid land bill, the forerunner to the Arid Land Act, in 1891.

Senator Joseph M. Carey sponsored the Carey Act, which was passed by Congress and signed by President Grover Cleveland on August 18, 1894. The act assured federal aid for western irrigation projects. In Wyoming, one million acres of arid federal lands were turned over to the state for reclamation and resettlement.

DID YOU NOTICE?

In 1869, while Wyoming was still a territory, William H. Bright introduced a bill that was passed and granted women the right to vote and hold public office. As the first government to recognize the rights of women, Wyoming is known as the "Equality State."





THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR



In the aftermath of the devastating losses in the livestock industry in 1887-1888, due to blizzards and droughts, Wyoming's still fragile economy was further depressed by the worldwide economic panic of 1893. Several large industries faced bankruptcy. However, coal mining was still thriving and by 1897, a copper boom started in Carbon County near Battle Lake at the Rudefeha Mine.

Other world events crashed on the young state in April 1898 with the beginning of the Spanish American War. "Torrey's Rough Riders," including about 600 volunteers from Wyoming, departed in June for Camp Cuba Libre at Jacksonville, Florida. The group never arrived at their destination because of a train wreck in Mississippi. A memorial to the "Rough Riders" is located on the second floor of the Capitol beside the doorway to Room 213.

In August of 1898, Wyoming National Guardsmen from Evanston arrived in the Philippines, and in December, 125 Cheyenne men, Alger's Light Artillery, also reached the islands.

In 1899, the Wyoming Legislature appropriated \$1,500 toward the erection of a monument on the Capitol grounds in memory of Wyoming's Spanish American War dead. Originally, the monument was erected on the southeast side of the entrance walkway. Today the monument is located on the southeast corner of the Capitol grounds on the corner of 24th Street and Central Avenue.

DID YOU NOTICE?

During this time period, legislators typically did not smile for their composite pictures. Can you identify which legislator in the 1899 composite did smile for his photograph?

Please proceed to your left. The exhibit of material on the 1900s is around the corner.





WYOMING SEEKS TO GROW



The Wyoming Legislature created two new governmental entities in 1907. The Bureau of Vital Statistics, overseen by the State Board of Health, was mandated on February 20 and a new State Department of Immigration was created during the session as well. This new department was created in an effort to compete with all of the other western states in attracting new residents. The efforts included, but were not limited to, advertising and promoting living in Wyoming and establishing homes and businesses here.

The national financial panic that struck the country in October 1907 had less severe impact on Wyoming than it did the East. Efforts to attract population growth were critical to the young state's development. Growth in the area near Cody and the completion of the new reclamation project nearby, Shoshone Dam and Reservoir, resulted in the creation of Park County. By 1909, the registration of birth and death certificates became law.

In 1902, James Cash Penney opened his first dry goods store in Kemmerer, Wyoming. First known as the "Golden Rule Store," J. C. Penney stores operate in all 50 states today.

The mining industry recorded a major disaster in March 1908 at Hanna, Wyoming. Two explosions in the coal mine there resulted in the deaths of 58 men.

Continuing concern for managing Wyoming's precious wildlife resources resulted in all wildlife being declared state property. Killing wild game for trophy heads became a felony and the Legislature introduced a large-scale winter-feeding program for wildlife during this decade.

DID YOU NOTICE?

The Capitol is shown as it was completed in 1890 in this composite. Look closely at the fence surrounding the structure. When it was removed from the grounds, the City of Cheyenne purchased it and erected the fence around the city cemetery located on Pershing Boulevard.





TWENTIETH CENTURY RANGE WAR



Conflicts between the users of the open range also continued in the first decade of the 20th Century. In 1902, about 2,000 sheep were destroyed and a herder was killed by 150 masked men on the New Fork River in the Green River Valley. Infamous stock detective Tom Horn was hanged in Cheyenne in 1903 for the ambush murder of 14-year-old Willie Nickell. In 1905, vigilantes organized in Jackson Hole to arrest “tusk hunters” who killed bull elk just for their tusks (large teeth.)

In the Big Horn mountains, all-out war existed between cattle and sheep operators. Sheep were clubbed to death, wagons were burned, horses were shot and herders were intimidated. Seven prominent cattlemen were arrested in 1909 for the Ten Sleep Raid in which two woolgrowers and one shepherd were killed. Despite all the conflict, Wyoming topped the list of wool-producing states and wool production was rated the leading industry at the end of the decade.

For the first time, the 1885 Federal Fencing Law was enforced in 1907, resulting in embarrassment and some political difficulty for Wyoming’s Senator Francis E. Warren who had continued to engage in ranching in Wyoming and was fencing public land.

Earlier in the decade, Wyoming and Senator Warren relished the spotlight when his daughter, Frances, was married to prominent United States Army Captain John J. Pershing on January 26, 1905. John Joseph Pershing, known as “Black Jack” was born on September 13, 1860, near the town of Laclede, Missouri. Pershing received the rank of General of the Armies, an honor only previously bestowed on George Washington. He commanded the 8th Brigade, the American Expeditionary Force, and was Army Chief of Staff. Pershing served in the Indian Wars, the Spanish American War, Philippine American War and World War I. He received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Order of the Bath, and the Legion d’honneur.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Frances Warren and John Pershing both had streets named after them in Wyoming’s Capital City, can you locate the streets?



MAN AND THE LANDSCAPE



During the period between 1900 and 1910, the Wyoming landscape changed considerably. State and national policy changes and economic shifts, rather than natural or geological events, were responsible for shaping the landscape and its uses. In 1902, work started on Wyoming's first federal irrigation project, the Shoshone Dam. The project was designed to reclaim nearly 200,000 acres of arid land.

That same year, the Shoshone National Forest was established. The Shoshone is now considered to be the oldest national forest in the United States. In 1903, the Wapiti Ranger Station was established as the first station in the country.

The second McLaughlin Relinquishing Agreement was signed during this decade and ceded more than one-million acres of Indian land north of the Wind River Reservation to the federal government. On March 3, 1905, 1.5 million acres of the Wind River Reservation were opened to settlement, which was the amount of land that remained after the Indians received their allotments.

On September 24, 1906, Devil's Tower became America's first national monument. Rather than an open and unsettled area, the landscape of Wyoming was becoming both politically organized and divided and filled with notable historic, geological and natural resource areas.

During this same period, the Union Pacific Railroad abandoned the Dale Creek Bridge on Sherman Hill between Cheyenne and Laramie. In the first decade of the 20th century wagon ruts started to give way to automobile tracks. The first car accident in the state was recorded in 1906. The "New York to Paris" automobile race passed through Wyoming in March of that year. The race was billed by its promoters as an epic test of men and machines – at a time when horses were considered more reliable than machine-powered conveyances. The Wyoming Attorney General recommended legislation to protect travelers on the highways in light of the growing usage of automobiles. He added that this law "should also apply to traction engines, motorcycles, or any other device having a tendency to frighten horses and cause accidents."

Please proceed to your left and down the stairs to the Senate Gallery. The exhibit continues on your left.





AMENDMENTS AND JUDICIAL HISTORY

The first amendment to Wyoming's State Constitution was ratified in 1910. The amendment to Article XV, adding Section 9, created the State Board of Equalization to oversee revenue and taxation issues. The amendment was proposed by the Legislature and passed on March 1, 1909. It was submitted to the public and approved in November of 1910 and became law on December 12, 1910.

On February 24, 1915, the Wyoming Legislature passed a non-partisan Judiciary Law, creating a "transparent" judicial system for the state courts and jurists, removing political affiliation from the system.

The temperance movement and prohibition were not popular with the predominantly male population in Wyoming. State leaders believed that prohibition was impossible in Wyoming until education on the subject could convince the public it was needed. By 1915, pressure from the temperance lobby began to change that view and by January of 1918 Wyoming was on its way to join the rest of the country in adopting the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (prohibition of intoxicating liquors) by a margin of three to one.

In 1910, Willis Van Devanter, first Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court and last Chief Justice of the Territorial Supreme Court, was appointed an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court. Van Devanter came to Wyoming to practice law from his home state of Indiana sometime after 1884. An active, ultra-conservative member of the Republican Party, Van Devanter served in various elected and appointed positions during his career including as an assistant attorney general of the United States and United States circuit judge. He served in the Wyoming Territorial Legislative Assembly in 1888 and his photo can be found in that composite.

DID YOU NOTICE?

How many different types of ties and jackets can you identify in these composites? What does this say about the era?





MILITARY HISTORY



On May 25, 1911, the United States Navy christened a new battleship with the name *USS Wyoming*. A part of President Theodore Roosevelt's "Great White Fleet," the new vessel bearing the name of Wyoming would play an important role in the country's military future. Displays about the *USS Wyoming* may be found on the first floor of the Capitol and at the Wyoming State Museum.

On September 28, 1916, members of the Wyoming National Guard were deployed to the Mexican border in pursuit of Pancho Villa. Regular Army troops, led by General John J. Pershing pushed deep into Mexican territory in an effort to stop Villa's "terroristic" activities on the United States and Mexico border.

General Pershing was still in mourning over the loss of his wife, Frances Warren Pershing, and their three daughters in a fire at the Presidio in San Francisco on August 27, 1915. Mrs. Pershing and the three young girls are buried in Cheyenne's Lakeview Cemetery.

Wyoming's historic role in the nation's defense continued in 1917 when Wyoming's male residents began registering for the World War I draft. In 1918, the residents of Wyoming purchased \$10 million worth of Liberty Bonds. When the war ended, the people of Wyoming erected a memorial to the brave men that sacrificed their lives for their country in the Rotunda of the Capitol, where it remains on the first floor on the east wall near the front entrance.

The future of Wyoming as a key link in air transportation and defense began with the appearance of an airplane at Gillette's Fourth of July celebration in 1911. By the end of the decade regular airmail was flown via routes across Wyoming, establishing the state's crucial role as a link in the nation's 20th Century transportation.

DID YOU NOTICE?

How many of the members appear in profile in their photographs in these composites?

This entire decade is exhibited in this room.





AN ACTIVE LEGISLATURE



The effect of a poor economy on Wyoming government in 1923 resulted in the passage of a one-cent per gallon gasoline tax to help pay for badly needed paved roads. The Legislature also created the State Department of Agriculture to assist farmers and ranchers and to administer the national Farm Loan Act. The act had required Governor William B. Ross to convene another special legislative session for its passage.

The June 23, 1923 special session also dealt with approval for Wyoming's participation in agreements regarding interstate streams, most specifically the Colorado River Compact. Additional work on these issues was required during the 1925 regular session of the Legislature at which time the compact was ratified.

Recognition of the continued importance of wildlife to Wyoming's economy and way of life was signified with the creation by the Legislature of a "Layman" Game and Fish Commission to oversee the operation of the newly created Game and Fish Department.

By 1927, not only was the automobile an established part of daily life in Wyoming, requiring governmental oversight and infrastructure, so too was the airplane. The 19th Legislature created the first Wyoming aeronautics law. Wyoming's place on the original trans-continental airmail route was expected to boost the state's economic growth and would require infrastructure and management. Both auto and air services were believed to be crucial to Wyoming's 20th Century economic growth.

A new Department of Commerce and Industry was created by the 19th Legislature. Another "official" state symbol was created at this time, with the approval of the legislation on February 5, 1927, making the Western Meadowlark the state bird. On December 5, 1929, Governor Frank Emerson called a special session of the Legislature to meet from December 12 to December 17 to address appropriations for the penitentiary, the Girl's Industrial Institute, parks for cities and towns, funds for extension work, a special election for highway bonds, the distribution and payment of gasoline taxes, election issues, and various federal issues.





CAREY AND WARREN



Three Wyoming leaders passed away during the decade. On February 5, 1924, Joseph Maul Carey died in Cheyenne at the age of 79. The state endured the shock of the death of sitting Governor William B. Ross on October 2, 1924 at the age of 50. At the age of 85, Wyoming's senior U.S. Senator, Francis E. Warren, died on November 24, 1929.

Francis E. Warren and Joseph Maul Carey were true Wyoming pioneers and larger-than-life figures who joined forces after arriving in Wyoming during the early days of the Territory. They became strong political allies and led the Territory to statehood under the Republican Party banner. The two men also became independently wealthy and powerful in ranching and real estate. Initially Carey had the strongest political identity, having come to Wyoming as the United States Attorney to the Territory, appointed by President Grant. He became Wyoming's territorial representative to Congress. Warren rose through the ranks of local Wyoming politics in various elective offices.

Each had their own political strengths and weaknesses, but Carey was the more skilled at public speaking and even gave speeches representing Warren during political campaigns. The bond was so strong that the two were known as "Me and F. E." Eventually there was a split in the local and national Republican parties and Carey and Warren chose opposing positions. Warren held a stronger position at the state level than Carey and displaced Carey as leader of the party, causing a lengthy feud between the two men.

Casper resident Patrick J. Sullivan, a Republican and native of Ireland, who was a distinguished political and business leader, was elected to replace Warren. Sullivan's pictures are found in the 1894 and 1898 House composite photo collection and 1900 to 1916 Senate composite photo collections.

DID YOU NOTICE?

How the facial hair has changed compared to earlier photographs?

Can you identify those senators who have beards during this era?





TOURISM BENEFITS THE ECONOMY



During the 1920s, with the aid of the automobile, tourism became a significant contributor to the state's economy. The Wyoming State Highway Department estimated that in 1926 tourists spent between \$6 and \$7 million dollars in the state during the summer.

The nation also recognized the importance of natural wonders, both for preservation of the resource, and for economic benefit, to a region's economy, during this time. As part of this realization, the federal government established Grand Teton National Park in 1929, adding another crown jewel to Wyoming's treasures, along with Yellowstone National Park, created in 1872.

The tour continues to your right and up the staircase.





INTERESTING 1920s WYOMING FACTS



In 1925, Wyoming produced 3.5 million pounds of honey.

In 1926, John E. Higgins of Converse County, willed his estate of \$500,000 to the State.

The year 1929 brought the first of what would become numerous federal Depression-era programs to Wyoming. The Old Age Pension Act, the precursor to Social Security, went into effect on June 1.

Although most of the country was enjoying the "Roaring 20s," Wyoming farmers and ranchers endured many hardships during this time period.





THE GREAT DEPRESSION



During the 1930s, there were 19 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps established in Wyoming. The camps trained young unemployed men from all over the country in skills relating to construction, bridge building, reclamation, range and wildlife management, fire fighting, and basic military training. Guernsey Dam and Guernsey State Park are recognized as excellent examples of the work of the CCC. The Works Progress Administration also funded projects in Wyoming. The mural work in the Capitol Rotunda ceiling is a result of the federal funds devoted to employing otherwise unemployed artists and craftsmen. The murals are one of 475,000 works of art funded in public places during the decade.

DID YOU NOTICE?

In 1931, who was the first woman to serve in the Wyoming Senate?



Please proceed to your left to continue your tour.





LEGISLATURE TACKLES MANY ISSUES

The 23rd Legislature in 1935 was the busiest of the decade. In addition to passing the enabling legislation enacting the Taylor Grazing Act, the Legislature in that year:

- Imposed a two-percent sales tax;
- Established the Wyoming State Highway Patrol;
- Made lethal gas the official method for capital punishment in Wyoming;
- Created the State Department of Public Works;
- Enacted a 60-day divorce law;
- Established regulations relating to commercial motor-vehicle traffic on Wyoming state highways;
- Created the State Planning Board;
- Changed the term of county officers to four years, effective in 1936.

The Legislature also designated December 10 as the annual observance of Wyoming Day in recognition of the action of the Territorial Governor on December 10, 1869 approving women's suffrage. The first observance was held on December 10, 1935.

Women's role in government continued to make strides in Wyoming during the 1930s. Although Nellie Tayloe Ross did not successfully win her own full term as Governor in 1926, she did gain recognition nationally as a leader of the Democratic Party. In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Mrs. Ross the director of the United States Mint. On the home front in Wyoming in 1931, Dora McGrath of Hot Springs County was the first woman seated as a Wyoming State Senator.





THE FADING PAST



Historic images of Wyoming's colorful past began to vanish and change during the third decade of the 20th Century. In 1930, Fort D. A. Russell in Cheyenne was renamed Fort Francis E. Warren. The notorious Cheyenne Club, the social center of the Cattle Barrons of the 1880s, was torn down in 1936.

Fearing that the loss of pieces of the past would continue, the Wyoming Landmark Commission purchased Old Fort Laramie in 1937. The Fort was declared the 74th National Monument by the United States government in 1938. The University of Wyoming held a Semi-Centennial Celebration in 1937 in an effort to preserve the institution's history.

In 1927, the United States Congress addressed a lingering issue 39 years after Shoshone Chief Washakie agreed to allow the Arapaho people to be moved "temporarily" onto the Shoshone Reservation, near Riverton. Congress passed legislation that enabled the Shoshone to file suit in the United States Court of Claims for a settlement from the Arapahos for that portion of the reservation they continued to occupy.

Finally, in 1938, this bitter chapter in the history of the native people living in Wyoming was settled when the final judgment in the United States Court of Claims was reached. After the cost of the suit and government non-treaty expenditures were deducted, the United State government paid the Shoshone about \$4 million. The settlement cleared title to the lands the Arapahos had occupied on a "temporary basis" since 1876. The Arapahos became co-owners of the Wind River Reservation. Today the Wind River Reservation is governed by a Joint Tribal Council, made up of leaders from both the Shoshone and Arapaho people.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Can you identify what men's clothing accessory begin to appear in the 1937 composite? (Hint: it goes in the breast pocket of a suit.)

Please proceed to your left around the corner to the right to continue viewing the exhibit.





RECOVERY AND PROGRESS



Wyoming gained a new United States Senator in 1936 when Harry H. Schwartz, a Democrat, was elected. The Republican Party regained political control of Wyoming in 1938, following passage in 1937 by the Legislature of bills creating the Wyoming Aeronautics Commission and making Columbus Day, October 12, a public holiday.

By the end of the decade, both the state and nation appeared to be regaining a foothold on stability and security. Social Security and unemployment insurance laws were enacted by Congress in 1937. By 1939, all of the main roads in Wyoming were oiled and wells on the Lance Creek deposit were surpassing the oil production at the Salt Creek oil field.

Dignitaries, past and present, dotted the story of the 1930s. In 1936, General John J. Pershing visited Cheyenne, as did President Franklin D. Roosevelt on three separate occasions that summer.

The 24th Legislature appropriated \$7,500 in 1937 for oil portraits of several historic leaders: Francis E. Warren, Joseph M. Carey, John B. Kendrick, Robert D. Carey, and Clarence D. Clark.

DID YOU NOTICE?

To your left, you will see Legislative Conference Room 302. This is the room where the first Wyoming Senate convened before the 1917 additions of the current House and Senate Chambers. The ornate and uniquely designed hinges were installed during the construction of the Capitol in 1887. A 1,000 pound tiffany chandelier, which was originally located elsewhere in the Capitol, hangs beneath a beautiful four-pane stained glass ceiling insert.

An 8 foot by 22 foot mural painted by artist Mike Kopriva, a Wyoming native dominates the north wall. Entitled "Wyoming, the Land of the People, Past and Present" the art work depicts "real Wyoming and also some secrets."

To continue your tour of the Senate composites, please proceed to your right to the Senate Balcony. Once you are in the Senate, proceed to the staircase to your left to view the 1940s composites.





LIFE ON THE HOMEFRONT



On March 16, 1943, President Franklin Roosevelt set aside 220,000 acres of land in northwestern Wyoming creating the Jackson Hole National Monument. Wyoming residents, especially ranchers, were strongly opposed to the action and pressured the United States Congress to abolish the monument through Congressional action. By December of 1944, Congress successfully passed a bill, but President Roosevelt did not sign it.

Another geographic change appeared on the Wyoming map in 1943 when the model oil-refining town of Parco underwent a name change. The town was built as an example of early 20th Century industrial progress. Parco was named using the initials of the builders, the Producers and Refiners Corporation. The town was renamed to reflect the ownership change of the refining operations when Sinclair Oil Company acquired the property in a receivership sale. The name of the town, of course, became Sinclair.

Although Wyoming did not attract war industries between 1941 and 1945 as many western states did, the state's resource industry, particularly coal, iron and oil thrived. Agriculture also assumed new importance based on a theory that "food will win the war!"

In February of 1944, the first session of the Wyoming Post-War Planning Committee formed by Governor Lester Hunt was held. The purpose was to avoid the post-war problems that developed following World War I. In March, the gasoline allotment was cut to two gallons per week. A special session of the Legislature was held in April to approve the Soldiers Vote Act, which set the rules and regulations allowing servicemen who were temporarily away from their voting precincts to vote by mail in the general county, state, and national elections.

In January of 1945, the Wyoming Post-War Planning Committee was suddenly deactivated with the explanation that the Army and Navy felt that postwar planning would lead to complacency and hinder the war effort.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Do you notice anything unusual about the leadership positions in 1943 and 1945?





POST-WAR LEGISLATION



In his address to the Legislature in 1947, Governor Lester Hunt reported that Wyoming's post-war employment was high. The Legislature, relieved of the problems of wartime, declared the official state tree to be the cottonwood, (*populus balsamifera*), on February 1. They also passed laws to remove the authority of municipalities to license drivers, making it a requirement that all drivers obtain a license from the Drivers' License Division of the State Highway Department. Bills were also introduced to establish a right to work law, to move the Wyoming College of Agriculture from Laramie to Sheridan, and to secure a state employee retirement system. All three of those efforts failed.

The State Board of Charities and Reform took action in 1947 to approve the appointment of the Wyoming Welfare Department as an adoptive agency and the Game and Fish Commission successfully established game management units that year as well.

In the concluding years of the decade, the infrastructure in Wyoming required attention and dollars. In June 1948, the Legislature was called into special session and approved \$2 million for the University and other institutions flooded by returning World War II veterans. They also passed a hospital federal-aid enabling act. Other post-war projects that were underway included the Kortess and Boysen dams.

On November 2, 1948, Constitutional Amendment 4 was passed by the electorate permitting a six-mill state tax levy for the support of public schools, which was needed for the "baby boom" students of the coming decades. In that same election, Governor Lester Hunt was successfully elected to the United States Senate.

DID YOU NOTICE?

How many women served in the Wyoming Senate during this time period compared to the number of women who served in the Wyoming House of Representatives?

To continue your tour, please proceed around the corner, to your right.





WYOMING AND THE COLD WAR



During this time, the economy of the state was still dependent on its mineral resources. However, coal's role as the most important mineral was surpassed by oil and uranium in the 1950s. New deposits of uranium were discovered in Crook County in 1950. The Cold War increased interest in, and demand for, yellow cake uranium.

On June 25, 1950, the people of the state and nation were again faced with the prospect of war when Communist North Korea crossed the 38th parallel into South Korea. The United States sponsored a resolution, which the United Nations Security Council agreed to, urging the United Nations to support South Korea in the face of an "invasion." President Harry S. Truman ordered United States forces into the conflict immediately.

On April 1, 1951 the Wyoming Air National Guard 187th Fighter Squadron was activated into federal service in support of the Korean emergency. Eight of the 18 Wyoming pilots called up were killed in the conflict.

In July 1951, armistice negotiations began in Panmunjom, Korea while indecisive fighting continued. On July 27, 1953, an armistice was finally signed establishing a demilitarized zone in the general area of the 38th parallel in Korea. During the years of the Korean War, 1950 to 1953, a total of 10,975 men from Wyoming served their country. Fifty-five of them were killed during the war.

DID YOU NOTICE?

How has facial hair changed during the 1950s compared to earlier composites you have seen so far?

What legislator is wearing the same tie in the 1951 and 1953 composites?

In which year was the county the legislators represented included in their title?

In what year does a senator first wear a plaid jacket?





MID-CENTURY PROGRESS



The 1951 session of the Wyoming Legislature imposed a heavy levy on the retail sale of cigarettes and all wholesalers were required to secure a license from the Board of Equalization. Legislation passed establishing juvenile courts in the state. The Natural Resources Board was created to replace the Wyoming Planning and Conservation Board.

The year 1951 brought more good news on the natural resource front in Wyoming with the discovery of a major uranium deposit in the Pumpkin Buttes area of Campbell County.

In February 1952, the first State Office Building was completed and dedicated. The building is now known as the Barrett State Office Building and is located at 2301 Central Avenue, south of the Capitol.

On May 6, 1952, another small step along the path to equality for women occurred when Mrs. Minnie Mitchell became the first woman to serve as Wyoming State Treasurer. Like Nellie Tayloe Ross, Mrs. Mitchell received her place in history by taking the position following the death of her husband.

The Wyoming State Parks Commission was created by the Legislature in 1953 and they also renamed the State Historical Department to the State Archives and Historical Department. In other action, the Legislature appropriated \$900 to re-gild the Capitol dome.

In Fremont County during 1953, Neil M. McNeice located the highly productive "Lucky Mc" uranium mine and Riverton was on its way to becoming the uranium capital of Wyoming.

On March 21, 1954, station KFBC-TV in Cheyenne became Wyoming's first television station. In November of that year, Minnie Mitchell was elected the first woman State Auditor of Wyoming.

DID YOU NOTICE?

What is the difference in the number of Senators during this time period compared to today? Why do you think it is different?





MOVING FORWARD



In 1957, the national minimum wage was raised to 75 cents per hour. In Wyoming, the taxing authority of the state was drastically retooled as the Department of Revenue under the State Board of Equalization. The Legislature also amended the law that established the office of the State Fire Marshall under the State Department of Insurance, moving it under the auspices of Labor and Statistics, with the Commissioner of Labor serving as the ex-officio State Fire Marshall.

The Centralized Microfilm Department was required to begin microfilming county, as well as state records, in 1957. The State Game and Fish Department established separate resident fishing licenses, rather than combining them with elk and deer licenses.

In a renewed attempt to more broadly disperse more of the state's infrastructure, the City of Casper attempted to have legislation passed that would require the State Highway Department to build their proposed new facility there instead of in Cheyenne. The effort failed. For their part, the State Highway Department was involved in design and construction debates with the federal highway authorities over the construction and routing of the interstate highway system in Wyoming. Efforts to convince the federal authorities that relocating routes in southern Wyoming would be a costly mistake due to the severe winter weather north of Elk Mountain fell on deaf ears. Miles of specially engineered snow fence pay tribute to the State Highway Department efforts.

The 1957 Legislature culminated the session by passing a joint resolution to the United States Congress opposing federal aid for school construction.

DID YOU NOTICE?

During this time period, the minimum wage was 75 cents. What is the minimum wage today?

How are the Interstate 80 issues that face the Wyoming Legislature different today? How are they similar?





WYOMING'S COLD WAR YEARS



The 1950s Cold War affected life in Wyoming. On February 12, 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent the first United States advisors to train South Vietnam's army. On February 1, 1958, Warren Air Force Base was transferred to the United States Strategic Air Command and became the first Atlas Intercontinental Ballistic Missile base in the world.

The year 1958 was another banner year for the state's minority Democratic Party. Gale McGee, a University professor, became one of Wyoming's two United States senators. J.J. Hickey, a Rawlins attorney, was elected Governor. Jack Gage, Sheridan Postmaster, was elected Secretary of State and Velma Lindford, a Laramie high school teacher, was re-elected Superintendent of Public Instruction. Another step in the long progress of women occurred when Ellen Crowley became the first woman appointed to the staff of the Attorney General. The year noted the loss of an early-day leader, when Fennimore Chatterton, acting Governor of Wyoming from 1903 to 1905, died on May 9, 1958.

On October 2, 1959, the first Atlas missile arrived at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base by truck from San Diego, California. On November 4, another historic milestone was reached when the first airborne missile was brought to Wyoming on a military transport C-133.

DID YOU NOTICE?

One of the senators serving in the 35th Wyoming Legislature has something unique attached to his coat. Can you find which legislator it is and what he is wearing?

What kind of eye glasses began showing up in the 1950s that were made popular by a famous singer?

To continue your tour, please proceed to the opposite side of the Senate Balcony. The 1960 exhibit is displayed on the north wall.





CELEBRATING THE PAST



The population of Wyoming in 1960 was 330,066. On April 6, 1960, Wyoming residents proudly unveiled their first sculpture in the national collection in Statuary Hall in the nation's Capitol in Washington, D. C. Artist Arvard Fairbanks, fine art consultant at the University of Utah, sculpted a monumental bronze statue of Esther Hobart Morris. In 1973, a crown of flowers was placed on the statue when the Wyoming Legislature ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. Mrs. Morris was selected, and the statue was created, to emphasize Wyoming's premier role in the story of equal rights in the United States.

During the decade of the 1960s, Wyoming noted the anniversaries of several historical events. In 1965, the state celebrated 75 years of statehood. A celebration commission was appointed to organize statewide events. They published a booklet, *Wyoming the 75th Year*, along with other publications. On August 25, 1966, the United States Post Office issued a new postage stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Park Service. The Wyoming press commemorated the role Wyoming played in the history of transcontinental airmail on February 22, 1968.

The Wind River Reservation observed its centennial on July 3, 1968 by holding a re-enactment of the signing of the Fort Bridger Treaty. The decade's last historical observation was in 1969 when the Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp honoring Major John Wesley Powell's scientific expedition of the Green and Colorado River systems and the Wyoming Legislature passed a joint resolution in honor of the event.

In an effort to preserve and perpetuate Wyoming's history, the 1961 Legislature appropriated \$15,000 to purchase Fort Fetterman and \$7,500 to purchase a replica of the Esther Hobart Morris statue on display in Washington, D. C. The replica was placed on display in Cheyenne in front of the State Capitol on December 15, 1963 where it resides today. In 1967, the Legislature created Old South Pass Historical Preserve.





POLITICS IN THE 1960S



In the November 1962 election, Thyra Thomson was elected as the first woman to serve as Secretary of State. The widow of the late Senator-elect, Keith Thomson, Mrs. Thomson ran and won her office in a full-scale election campaign, in contrast to the election of Nellie Tayloe Ross in 1924.

The state's minority Democratic Party was successful in the 1964 elections. Teno Roncalio was elected to serve as Wyoming's lone member of the United States House of Representatives. Senator Gale McGee succeeded in his bid for re-election. The Wyoming House of Representatives was controlled by Democrats again.





THE WEALTH OF NATURAL RESOURCES

More than half of the Wyoming Senate in 1959, 1961, and 1963 was comprised of members of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. Federal aid in 1963 was needed to revive the sheep industry, placing Wyoming second only to Texas in sheep production. By 1969, one-third of the sheep population in Crook County was wiped out by a severe spring snowstorm between April 23 and April 25. In 1965, the largest cattle sale by a single individual in Wyoming took place in Lander. More than 4,500 animals were sold on August 31.

Wyoming's economy continued to receive significant benefits from its mineral wealth during the 1960s. In 1962, private landowners received almost \$20 million from oil and gas leases and royalties. Of the state's 62.4 million acres, the federal government owned the mineral rights to 39.8 million acres, private individuals owned 17.01 million, the state owned 3.7 million and Indians owned 1.89 million. Wyoming was fifth in the nation in crude oil production. Crude oil and natural gas were being produced in all but two of Wyoming's counties.

In 1966, the United States government, through action by the Department of the Interior, created new policies on land acquisition within Grand Teton National Park in order to protect the rights of all the owners, public and private.

In 1960, Wyoming was second only to New Mexico in uranium production. The estimated amount of uranium deposits in Wyoming was more than 15 million tons. Uranium employment was projected to expand from fewer than 2,000 workers in the 1960s to approximately 9,000 in the year 2000.

Big-game hunting gained a foothold in Wyoming during the 1960s. By 1965, moose hunters in Wyoming killed 900 animals in a single record-breaking season. Resident bird licenses were separated from elk and deer licenses that year. Rabbit was declared a small-game animal and required a hunting license for the first time. In 1969, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department held the first Rocky Mountain goat season.

DID YOU NOTICE?

There is something different about one senator's eye glasses in 1965, what is it?





ADJUSTING WITH THE TIMES



On June 29, 1972, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the death penalty was a violation of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution, prohibiting cruel and unusual punishment. The Court also overruled all state laws restricting or prohibiting a woman's right to an abortion in January of 1973.

The Wyoming Legislature, meeting in 1973, addressed both issues. They failed to amend Wyoming's existing abortion law, which effectively left the state without one entirely. The lawmakers were successful in restoring the mandatory death sentence for murder in the first degree, determined by certain factors. They also extended majority rights to 19-year-olds. The Environmental Quality Act passed, reorganizing the state's natural resource agencies and revising reclamation standards, an action that was critical to the quality of life of Wyoming's residents in the future.

In 1974, Wyoming's Legislature entered a new era by holding the first "budget session," which began on January 22. The first task for the lawmakers was to adopt rules limiting the procedure involved in introducing non-budget bills. The legislators authorized the issuance of multi-year license plates, which would be validated annually with a sticker. They also passed two amendments regarding the mill levy, which were then presented to the voters for approval in November.

The members of the Legislature saw several changes in 1974 due to circumstances other than the election cycle. Senate President Dick Tobin, Natrona County, resigned to have heart surgery. Robert G. Kimball was appointed to fill his seat. Senator Don Jewett, Sublette County, became President of the Senate.

DID YOU NOTICE?

During the 1970s, more women started showing up in the Senate. Can you identify them and what counties they served?

What famous Wyoming symbol shows up in a composite during this era?





THE ENERGY BOOM



Local and national concerns about the environmental impact of energy development resulted in a Sierra Club lawsuit in 1975, which halted the development of coal resources in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming. As a result, there were some mining layoffs and State Treasurer, Ed Witzemberger, predicted that the stoppage could cost the state \$28 million in mineral severance taxes over a three-year period. In 1976, the United States Supreme Court ruled against the Sierra Club and ended the injunction that had stopped development. Four major coal-mining projects moved forward in Campbell County. A new town, Wright, was established to house the workers at Atlantic Richfield's Black Thunder Coal Mine.

In 1975, six companies began seeking permits to construct the \$1.3 billion Laramie River Station power plant near Wheatland. The press was also reporting that uranium exploration activity was "almost frantic." There were as many as 50 exploration companies creating a 30-percent increase in core drilling activity, most of it in the Powder River Basin and the Red Desert.

In the meantime, Wyoming's residents were experiencing the pain and problems of the energy crisis. In 1976, the Wyoming Public Service Commission approved a natural gas rate increase of as much as 60 percent for the Northern Gas and Northern Utilities companies. The process of drilling for oil resulted in the death of four workers near Rawlins in 1977 when a well exploded.

The wide-open prairies throughout the state experienced the impact of mobile homes, roads and services popping up everywhere due to the energy-fed economic expansion and population growth. In 1978, Wyoming had the nation's lowest unemployment rate and was enjoying a budget surplus of \$89 million. Just ten years earlier, the state's treasury was in the red.

DID YOU NOTICE?

What do you notice about the hairstyles the senators have during this time period?

In 1975, what is the biggest change in men's jacket styles?





RESPONSE TO THE ENERGY CRISIS



On November 8, 1973, President Richard M. Nixon, in a message to Congress, stated that there would be a reduction of 15 percent in the supply of heating oil and that Americans would need to conserve all energy supplies. All thermostats were to be lowered six degrees to achieve a national average of 68 degrees in homes. There would be an equivalent of a ten-degree reduction in offices and other establishments. Governor Stan Hathaway urged the people of Wyoming to comply with the President's request. The top story of the year in Wyoming, according to United Press International, was the growing importance of coal development in the Powder River Basin.

By 1974, the energy "boom" in the Rocky Mountain states was fully underway. Governor Hathaway signed the Legislature's Slurry Pipeline Bill, conditionally authorizing the transportation of coal from Campbell County, Wyoming by means of a 1,000 mile-long pipeline, using lower-level ground waters for the movement of coal slurry to Arkansas for a steam-generated power plant.

The Governor also noted the benefits derived from the previous passage of severance tax legislation in the late 1960s and he spoke in favor of the establishment of a Permanent Mineral Trust Fund. Due in part to his support for these legislative actions, Stan Hathaway became recognized as the "father" of the Permanent Mineral Trust Fund. In 1975, Stan Hathaway was appointed United States Secretary of the Interior by President Gerald Ford, the first person from Wyoming to fill a cabinet-level position. A plaque hangs in the Capitol Rotunda noting Hathaway's many accomplishments.

On March 3, 1974, the speed limit in Wyoming was reduced to 55 miles per hour in accordance with federal requirements to conserve energy. In 1979, the Wyoming Senate gained national attention by voting to defy the federal government and raise the state's speed limit to 65 miles per hour. Concerns over lost federal funds killed the bill in the House.





CHANGING TIMES



On April 25, 1974, the Wyoming Supreme Court ruled that state legislators were not constitutionally barred from seeking election to other offices during their term in the Legislature. This decision opened the door for mid-term senators to run for other offices.

Two-term Republican Governor Stan Hathaway decided not to run for a third term in 1974 and Democrat Ed Herschler, a five-term member of the House of Representatives from Kemmerer was elected. Democrats did well across the state gaining a 15-15 split in the Senate and leaving the Republicans only a two-vote advantage in the House.

In 1975, the Wyoming Legislature made a major permanent change in the way it functioned. Legislators voted to approve a constitutional amendment that set aside 20-day legislative sessions in the even-numbered years, strictly for the purpose of establishing budgets. The amendment was later ratified by the voters creating annual legislative sessions instead of biennial sessions. By the end of the session, Governor Ed Herschler had vetoed more bills in his first legislative session than Governor Stan Hathaway did in eight years. Outgoing Governor Hathaway dedicated the first major state office building constructed in 25 years, State Office Building West, now known as the Hathaway Building.

A bill sponsored by Natrona County Representative Patrick Meenan was introduced in 1977 calling for the relocation of the state Capitol from Cheyenne to Casper. The bill never made it off of general file. In 1978, Governor Herschler's plan for a medical school at the University of Wyoming died after he called the Legislature back into session and the Senate remained deadlocked. A special session had to be called in May so that the budget could be adopted since it wasn't completed during the Budget Session.

Ed Herschler succeeded in his re-election bid in November of 1978.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Can you identify some unique types of sport coats that were popular with senators during this time period?





THE ENERGY BUST



Ed Herschler was elected to his third term as Wyoming's governor in a landslide victory in 1982. It was the first time in state history that an individual had been elected to serve more than two terms as governor.

Herschler's third term was faced with an entirely different economic reality. After a decade of booming development, the state's economy was beginning to feel the effects of a national recession. While the overall state economy continued to grow and Wyoming prospered more than most states, the state's unemployment rate nearly doubled as coal miners, oilfield workers, and railroad employees joined uranium miners in the ranks of the unemployed.

A brief ray of sunshine developed when the United States Synthetic Fuels Corporation proposed a multi-billion dollar plant to convert Wyoming coal into gasoline using federal subsidies. The plan was shelved when a primary sponsor backed out.

Wyoming's economy continued to skid, with unemployment reaching higher than 10 percent in 1983. Those levels of unemployment had not been seen since the depression of the 1930s. With more Wyoming workers being laid off, the State's unemployment compensation fund went broke. Governor Herschler called a special session of the Legislature on August 4 and August 5, 1983 to approve a plan that returned the fund to solvency. The downturn became a significant threat to the financial welfare of state and local governments. Booming only a few years earlier, Wyoming's oil industry went bust. The number of drilling rigs in the state reached a seven-year low.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Can you identify the woman that appears in the 1981-1982, 1983-1984, and 1985-1986 composites? What county did she represent? What leadership role did she serve?

What state Senator went on to serve in the U.S. Senate?

How did the clothing styles change by the middle of the decade?





THE SPUTTERING ECONOMY



Another ray of hope appeared on the economic horizon in 1985. A giant natural gas treatment plant was constructed near LaBarge. Employment on the project reached 5,000.

While the nation was in the midst of recovery from the recession that began in 1982, Wyoming's economy continued to decline in 1985. Mining, construction, and agriculture were particularly hard hit.

People from across the state participated in the Wyoming Future's Project in an attempt to better define the economic future of the state. A report by a California research institute predicted continuing problems in the mineral industries and encouraged Wyoming to focus on homegrown businesses and tourism for future economic growth.

By 1986, the drop in oil prices cut state revenues and that caused Governor Herschler to order a \$7.7 million cut in the budgets of state agencies and institutions. In June, a special session was called by the Governor to address problems in the workers' compensation program.

Oil exploration nearly came to a halt as a worldwide glut of oil supplies pushed prices as low as \$9 per barrel. Falling commodity prices were also putting tremendous pressure on farmers and ranchers struggling to meet their debts. Ten banks in the state failed in 1986.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Can you find the Senator in the 1983-1984 composite that was still serving in Wyoming's 59th Legislature during the years of 2007 and 2008? What county does he serve?

What Senator previously served in the House and was the youngest member to serve in that body?

Which Senator later served as the director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?





NEARING THE END OF THE CENTURY



Third-term Governor Ed Herschler decided not to seek another term in 1986. Casper lawyer, Mike Sullivan, defeated Republican Pete Simpson and would ultimately serve two terms as governor. The Democrats would have control of the Governor's Office for 20 years.

In 1987, the Wyoming Legislature refused, for the second time, to change the minimum legal drinking age from 19 to 21. In 1988, the lawmakers reluctantly approved legislation that would change the legal age for drinking when they were faced with the likelihood that Wyoming would lose millions of dollars of federal highway funds unless it complied with federal mandates to raise the drinking age.

Between May 19 and 22, 1987, in yet another special session, the Wyoming Legislature addressed changes to the maximum interstate speed limit and the state's Amendment 4 programs. The Amendment 4 issues dealt with concerns about local school district's use of their six-mill bonding ability and the resulting educational disparities between energy-rich districts and those without mineral wealth.

In 1989, Elizabeth Byrd was the first African-American woman to be elected to the Wyoming Senate after serving as a representative in the Wyoming House of Representatives.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Along with Elizabeth Byrd, what other women do you see in these composites who served in both the Wyoming House of Representatives and Senate?

Who in this composite went on to serve as a Wyoming governor?

To continue your tour of the Senate exhibit, please take the stairs on your right to the second floor (if the Legislature is not in session.) The 1990s display is on the wall to your left as you reach the bottom of the stairs.

