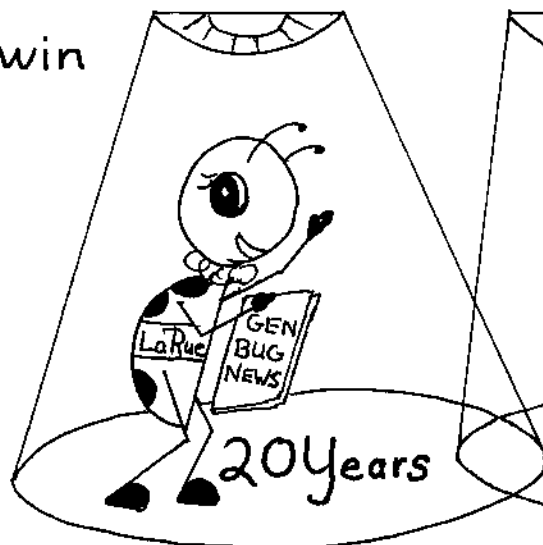


Twin



Spotlights



NEWSLETTER FOR THE YELLOWSTONE GENEALOGY FORUM BILLINGS, MONTANA OCTOBER 2002

FALL GENEALOGY CLASSES

Once again Jason Herman and Judy Cohen are putting on **Beginning Genealogy Classes** for the Yellowstone Genealogy Forum. This is a continuation from the classes that were held in the spring. The classes are being held on the following dates--October 12, 19, 26 and November 2 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 1000 Wicks Lane in the LDS Church. The following topics are being considered: Court Records, Family History Center Library and Catalog, Researching Siblings, Military Records (Civil War), Land Records (BLM), Internet Research and other tidbits, Immigration, Naturalization, Passenger Lists, Ship Lists, Ports of Entry and Church Records. The cost of the classes will be \$20 for all 4 weeks. If you pay and can not attend a day, don't worry. The handouts will be held for you, so you will receive all the information for the whole course even if you can not attend the whole course. The spring classes were a big success and we anticipate the fall classes will be, too. Please come and join us to learn more to continue your journey in tracing your family tree.

SOCIETIES, THANK YOU

THANKS to all the genealogical societies across Montana and neighboring states that helped advertise the MSGS Conference, September 20 and 21 at Billings, MT. For your interest and space used, Louise LaRue and Verba Valentine, Conference Co-chairpersons, wish to express our appreciation in helping make the 13th Annual MSGS Conference one of the best ever!

MSGS CONFERENCE A BELL RINGER!

With genealogists still registering Friday morning, September 20th, the 13th Annual MSGS Conference welcomed keynote speaker, Dr. John Philip Colletta, to a packed room. In all, 163 people attended helping the Yellowstone Genealogy Forum celebrate their 25th anniversary in style. Most came from all over Montana plus one each from Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, North Dakota, Washington, D.C. and California.

The 13th Annual Montana State Genealogical Society Conference was held at the Sheraton Billings Hotel, downtown Billings. Registration and the MSGS Executive Meeting were held Thursday evening with the actual conference scheduled for Friday and Saturday.

Eager genealogists lined up at the Registration table beginning at 7:30 a.m., September 20th and were checked off the list, given a plastic envelope name tag to hang around their neck and a tote bag filled with goodies. Vendors and displays filled 3 rooms off the 3rd floor lobby where people could look, buy and visit. The Wood room was set up as a large classroom of "schoolies" (narrow tables) with tablecloths, pitchers of cold water and glasses and chairs. Dr. Colletta lectured with the use of overhead projector and screen. Before each lecture, outline handouts were passed to each person.

Door prizes were given to Joan Evans who came a long distance from Kerrville, Texas and to Marilyn Bowman of Bigfork, Montana for the earliest registration.

"Celebrate--Educate", our conference
(continued on page 2)

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

We have seen the signs of frost and smelled the coolness in the air. We have walked on leaves of gold and prepared our gardens for the warm sunshine of 2003. The hoses have been stored; soon the golf clubs will follow?

A lot has been accomplished by the Forum in the past few months. Our group has received a signed contract to allow the Gen Room to stay in existence for the next year in the Parmly Billings Library. In September YGF hosted a very successful gen seminar for the State. Beginning October 12--November 2 YGF will be holding genealogy classes again.

Soon it is time for the YGF board to put their heads together to see what changes can be made to make us a better organization. Like the green leaves turning golden, we too must change. It is important that we all understand that change is not bad...it is just different. Seeing 'naked' trees in December is not bad, they just look different than they did in July.

Being on the board is a very good creative outlet. All ideas are brought out into the open and discussed. If you are one of those people seeking an audience for your ideas regarding changes in YGF, please feel free to attend our board meetings. Commonly we meet on the second Tuesday of the month. Our meetings are open to all members. Attending board meetings has nothing to do with how far back you have traced your ancestors. The only criteria are to be a YGF member and to come with an open mind. Let me warn you...this can be a GREAT experience and you may find yourself being a 'regular', and you may find yourself storing those golf clubs!

Your President,
Suzanne

YGF



Website: www.rootsweb.com/~mtygf

President: Suzanne McPherson, 652-4610,
searchandresearch@attbi.com

Program Chairman: Donna Sweeney, 652-2516,
dsweeney@imt.net

Newsletter Editor: Louise LaRue, 252-1070,
louruel917@juno.com

CONFERENCE, continued

theme, came true when Louise rang her Grandmother's school bell to call us to the lectures on a variety of subjects. The purpose of the 8 sessions was to bring information that would help further and inspire our researching of family history.

Dr. John Philip Colletta brought information and enthusiasm with expertise in presenting 5 subjects plus his banquet speech on "Only a Few Bones: How to Turn a Juicy Story Into a Book and a Career" which had us roaring with laughter. His trials and tribulations in running down information made us feel we were right there with him, whether it be Buffalo, NY or the Mississippi Delta country. He is a master at presenting his subject with enough examples and humor that even difficult research didn't sound so hard. His outlines and bibliographies should help us greatly when we try doing it on our own.

Luncheons for the two-day conference were held at the Sky-Top Room which affords a wonderful view over the city of Billings, especially if it's your first time. Friday the table centerpieces were old school photos framed in blue, back to back with copies of old certificates beneath. Following the meal Betty Marshall, MSGS President, asked each society to report on their activities and accomplishments. Door prizes were distributed before returning to the next class.

Three other presenters of classes did an excellent job teaching their subject. Anne Foster, certified archivist and former Director of the Huntley Project Museum, spoke on "Preserving Your Family Archives". This should be a subject that every family should address--knowing how to take care of paper and family heirlooms so they will last. Start with an interior closet at a stable 72 degrees F. temperature if possible. Labeling is very important. How can items be salvaged from water damage? Anne had many suggestions how we can protect our collections.

Since computers have become such an important part of our lives, two local presenters, Richard Davis and Athna May Porter, addressed the use of computers.

Richard Davis, Chemical Engineer for Conoco-Phillips and Program Chairman of the MT Big Sky PAF User's Group and long time genealogy researcher showed us a Power Point program using the Family Search

(continued on page 3)

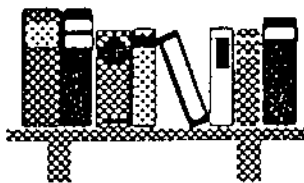
CONFERENCE, continued

Program, www.familysearch.org. This is a highly used website in which he showed us how to maneuver. A thirteen page handout was provided to help researchers learn to use this resource.

Athna May Porter, well-known YGF member, and Assistant Director of the Wicks Family History Center, presented "Checking Out the Latest and Greatest Genealogy Internet Sites". Due to a technical difficulty part of her program was omitted. She reviewed 6 pages of "Top Internet Sites" telling us about their specialties and characteristics which makes it a valuable reference.

The Saturday luncheon tables were each decorated with a stack of resource books topped with an apple for the teacher. Betty Marshall, President of the state society, revealed the Anna Mae Hanson Award winner, Ellen Rae Thiel, from Boulder, MT for a long list of accomplishments. Del Harris sported an unusual headpiece with file cards dangling down and societies were recruited to work on the death indexing at Helena. Gifts of appreciation were given to Verba Valentine and Louise LaRue, Co-chairpersons of the conference. More door prizes were awarded.

Also see: Banquet Celebration
Bookworm Frolic



LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

by Ellen Cushing

1. The Handy Book For Genealogists, 10th Ed.
2. Finding Italian Roots
3. They Became Americans; Finding Naturalization Records & Ethnic Origins
4. The Hidden Half of the Family: A Sourcebook for Women's Genealogy
5. Pennsylvania Births, Buck's County, 1682--1800
Donated by Anita Smith:
6. Up the Swiftwater
Donated by Philip Currier:
7. Currier Family Records of U.S.A. and Canada, Vol. V, VI, VII
Donated:
8. Scituate, Massachusetts Marriages to the Year 1850

9. Scituate, Massachusetts Births to the Year 1850

10. Scituate, Massachusetts Deaths to the Year 1850

11. The Sentinel: University of Montana Yearbooks, 1955, 1956, 1957

LATEST PERIODICALS FOR THE GEN ROOM

July 2002--October 2002

by Athna May Porter

If you have unwanted periodicals that you would like to donate or would like to donate a subscription to a periodical, call Athna Mae Porter, 259-2552 or e-mail porter@imt.net

1. Family Chronicle - Sept/Oct 2002
2. New England Historical & Gen. Register Jul 2002 #156
3. Family Tree Magazine Oct 2002; Dec 2002
4. Germans from Russia Historical Society Heritage Review Sept 2002
5. GFHS Newsletter Sept 2002
6. Heritage Quest - July/August 2002; Sept/Oct 2002
7. Heritage Quest Update Newsletter - July 2002, August 2002
8. History Magazine - Aug/Sept 2002
9. Journal of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Summer 2002
10. American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Newsletter Summer 2002
11. NGS Newsmagazine Jul/Aug 2002
12. National Genealogical Society Quarterly June 2002
13. New England Ancestors Fall 2002
14. Daughters of American Revolution
Owned by Parmly
Three family newsletters that we receive regularly

Bunnell/Bonnell Newsletter

Guest-Guest Quarterly

The Chandler Family Association Newsletter

TIME LINE INCLUDED

For our members who did not attend our recent conference, your Editor has included the YGF "Time Line of Presidents and Events by Year". It is hoped you will enjoy reading our evolution--a sort of "Deja vu" for our older members "who remember back when". Can you remember the year you joined YGF?

Conference attendees received a copy in their tote bag.

ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 5

One of the big choices on our November ballot will be the bond issue for a new library. We all should make informed decisions when we vote. To help us become better informed, the following 4 ideas will help us learn more details.

At our August 27, 2002 YGF meeting, Bill Cochran and Carolyn Boyd came to explain the shape of Parmly Billings Library and reasons for wanting a new facility.

2nd, for those that have Internet, go to the Parmly Billings Library's website of www.billings.lib.mt.us for more details.

Our President, Suzanne, took a library tour and said it was very informative and recommends that all members consider taking a tour to better understand problems with the library building. Tours can be arranged by contacting Bill Cochran at 667-8292 to pre-register. (Don't use his e-mail since it has not been working well.)

An 8-minute tape will be shown at the October 22nd YGF meeting. Copies of this tape can be checked out and shown at other club meetings.

Regardless of your decision, please get out and VOTE on November 5 !!!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Shawna Valentine

It has been several busy months for the YGF Membership Department. Yearly dues were due July 1st and I want to thank all of you that have renewed your membership. However, there are still some who have not renewed. Please check the top line of your Gen Bug mailing label. If it reads "July 1, 2002"--I have not received your renewal. We don't want to lose you, so please send your payment of \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family membership. Additional contributions may also be made to the YGF Book Fund or the NARA Fund to make more National Archive documents available to genealogists. Checks should be made payable to YGF and mailed to:

Shawna Valentine, YGF Membership
3420 Granger So #20
Billings, MT 59102

At the present time, YGF has 141 Current Memberships. Since July 1, 2002 members have contributed \$228.00 to the YGF Book Fund and \$140.00 to the NARA Fund.

E-Mail Address Changes:

Alvin, Laura hlchipmunk@attbi.com
Booth, Ellen ebooth7585@attbi.com, also
new address of PO Box 31082, Billings, MT 59107
Buzalsky, Eleanor ebuzalsky2@montana.com
Hergenrider, Karen & Allan
hobar@nemontel.net
Kimmel, Cleve cleveland@imt.net
Runner, Ed egrunner@att.net
Williams, Peggy mromeew@attbi.com

Phone Number Change

Marchello, Virginia 655-5455

Address Change

Bowman, Harry & Judith 3720 Decathlon Pkwy, Billings, MT 59102

Returning Former Members & New Members

Buckingham, B.R. PO box 283, Billings, MT 59103, 259-6630, br59103@aol.com
Hedges, Betty 9926 S. Frontage Rd, Billings, MT 59106, 655-9709
horseshoe@worldnet.att.net
Hefenieder, Ann 421 Lordwith Dr., Apt. 1, Billings, MT 59102, 248-4039
ahefenieder@qwest.net
Kenney, Judy 3912 Towhee Lane, Billings, MT 59102, 656-3371, judaline@imt.net
Little, Susan, 8128 E. Edgewood Circle, Mesa, AZ 85208
Seter, Betty (Charter Member) 426 Indian Trail, Billings, MT 59105, 252-3333,
gbseter@aol.com
Summers, Diane, 2202 Willowbrook Way, Billings, MT 59102, 656-4084
Trees, June 68 Hap Trees Rd., Fishtail, MT 59028, 328-4234
Wittman, David & June, 1935 Burlington Ave., Billings, MT 59102, 656-6448
juneW2@prodigy.net

WELCOME to all of you!!!

1930 CENSUS

MSGS announced at our recent conference that indexing the 1930 Montana Census would be a tremendous project for our societies. Each society would index their own county. After that, counties without societies would need to be done by neighboring counties.

Explanation of the indexing system will be made at the next state Board
(continued next page)

1930 CENSUS, continued

Meeting which will be held at 11:00 a.m. on October 19, 2002 at Perkins Restaurant, Helena. This meeting is important for setting up the data base. A minimum number of fields will be chosen so the work should not be overwhelming. Perhaps Verba Valentine and others attending can report back to us.

Announcement; This is to let you know that all of the 1930 Montana Census are available on (13 reels) microfilm in the Montana Room at Parnly Billings Library. The 1930 census has just become available this year and many researchers are eager to search for their people on it.

BANQUET CELEBRATION

What a festive sight it was to walk into our banquet hall! Yellow balloons floated above tables set for our meals. Paper programs were handed to each person to inform us of the evening's activities.

The MSGS Memorial Service honored the memory of three deceased MSGS members each as a long stemmed flower was placed in a vase. A musical rendition followed.

Bob Erikson gave the invocation and our dining began. Entrees were a choice of Stuffed Chicken Breast or Herb Crusted Pork Loin. The meals were delicious but when the 3 YGF anniversary cakes and vanilla ice cream in stemmed goblets were served, we had reason to celebrate.

Twenty-fifth Anniversary Recognitions began with Louise LaRue at the microphone. Names of the four Founding Mothers were read. They are Dolly Ziegler, Joan Evans, Farrell Stewart and Betty Seter. All but Dolly were in attendance and came forward for their certificates and thanks for providing the incentive for us to organize on May 26, 1977.

Charter Members were honored next with 5 of the 8 coming forward. They were Louise Erikson, Anita Smith, Louise LaRue, Betty Seter and Farrell Stewart. Those unable to attend were Lyle Jones, Elsie Pollock and Velma Morris Fitzgerald.

Chairpersons and Presidents of YGF were asked to stand as their names were read. Of the 15, nine were in attendance. One, Charles Harmon, died on October 16, 1986. We don't know where Sandra Collins lives. Most of the remainder live out of town. Elsie Johnson, Marie Wescott's daughter from Cody, WY, reported on her

mother. Our society is indebted to our leaders for their guidance and many hours of dedication.

The 13th Annual Conference Planning Committee was comprised of 10 members--two Co-Chairpersons--Verba Valentine and Louise LaRue and 8 additional members. They were Suzanne McPherson, Sue-Ann Jacobson, Athna May Porter, Linda Buckingham, Bernice Mowat, Joan Evans, JoAnne Miller and Myrle Theimer. We depended on you for making things happen.

Keeping track of all our registrations was Shawna Valentine, Chair. She also designed our flyers, name tags, programs, etc. with computer expertise. A big thank you to her.

Myrle Theimer's Decorations Committee added grace and gaiety to our settings. Members of her committee were: Pat Miller, Mae Seyler, Anita Smith, Bernice Mowat and Carlene Taubert. For all the work everyone did whether it was large or small, Verba and Louise want to thank you all!

The yellow ceramic cups sporting the YGF logo and "Yellowstone Genealogy Forum 1977--2002" was the Forum's anniversary gift to everyone who attended the banquet. Enjoy!

Entertainment was "Only a Few Bones: How to Turn a Juicy Family Story Into a Book and a Career" by John P. Colletta. What a purveyor of word pictures! He had us laughing as he reviewed his book and in the end, did not reveal how it ended. That was left for us to find out when we read the book for ourselves. All in all, it was a special evening we'll long remember!!!



TO AN UNGRATEFUL GENEALOGIST

You wanted help and I sent it,
The xeroxed pages and more.
It took the whole morning to do it,
When I should have been washing the floor.

You didn't acknowledge my letter,
Not even a "thank you" was sent.
You really should have repaid me
For the dollar fifty I spent.

So I'll chalk it up to experience
And cross your name off my list;
The next time you need some more data
I'll be far too smart to assist.

----Keyhole Gen Soc of SW PA

BOOK FROLIC AT CONFERENCE
by Donna McKamy

Many "can't live without" books, magazines and pamphlets were on the Book Worm Frolic table in the main convention room, right by the door. All convention goers could look them over to their hearts content, and if they wanted to take the item home, all they had to do was place the price they were willing to pay on the Silent Auction Bid Sheet. Spirited bidding seemed to focus on the huge book TIME LINE. There were many entries also on the bid sheets for the 7th and 8th editions of Handy Book for Genealogists. Items were paid for following the close of the conference at 4 p.m.

(An e-mail from Sandra Guynn said that the Book Frolic brought in approximately \$250 for MSGS. And the best thought is that other genealogists are recycling information that may aid their research.)

I think there's a message here.

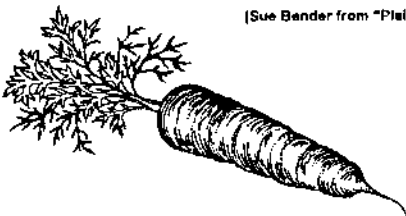


"Vegetable Soup"



"Making a batch of vegetable soup, it's not right for the carrot to say I taste better than the peas, or the peas to say I taste better than the cabbage. It takes ALL the vegetables to make a good soup!"

(Sue Bender from "Plain and Simple")



TOP INTERNET SITES
by Athna May Porter

This paragraph is for any of our readers who did not attend our recent MSGS conference. The second item on Athna May's list of Internet Sites on her handout is a Super Good one. It is very easy to use after locating. You just point and click. And boy! do you get a lot! I will quote from her handout as it is a stepping stone that will provide all kinds of links to a world of genealogy. Give it a try--you'll be glad you did!

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mtygf/websites.htm>
"The link from YGF listing the top sites used in my three Internet Classes of 1999, 2000 and 2001."

Merry Christmas to all!



Before we know it, it will be time to be thinking about Christmas.

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS A NEW SURNAME

Dear Santa: Don't bring me new dishes;
I don't need a new kind of game.
Genealogists have peculiar wishes,
For Christmas I just want a surname.

A new washing machine would be great,
But it's not the desire of my life.
I've just found an ancestor's birth date;
I need now the name of his wife.

My heart doesn't yearn for a ring
That would put a real diamond to shame,
What I want is a much cheaper thing;
Please give me Mary's last name.

To see my heart sing with joy,
Don't bring me a red leather suitcase,
Bring me a genealogist's toy;
A surname with dates and a place!

---Author Unknown

MSGS Newsletter-Dec. 1996

-----shared by Sue-Ann Jacobson

YELLOWSTONE GENEALOGY FORUM

Timeline of Presidents and Events by Year

- 1977 BETTY SETER, Chairperson Organized May 26, 1977, Chose name of "Yellowstone Genealogy Forum", Meeting 3rd Tuesday of month, Afternoon (1:30) and evening (7:00) meetings, Dues \$3 per year, Purchased bulletin board, Began with 4 "Founding Mothers" (Betty Seter, Farrell Stewart, Dolly Ziegler and Joan Evans)
- 1978 BETTY SETER & LOUISE LaRUE, Co-chairpersons 1st Seminar by Evertons (Gay & Albert Kowallis)-115 attended, Raised dues to \$4 per year
- 1979 LOUISE LaRUE & LOUISE EREKSON, Co-chairpersons Sue Picard won book plate contest, "Write It Down" Seminar with Dr. Philip Gray, 1st Board meeting at Louise LaRue's June 12, 1979, 1st donation of 10 books to Parmly Billings Library, 1st summer picnic, 1st November dinner meeting
- 1980 LOUISE EREKSON, President Changed to evening meetings only, 2 Genealogy classes held, By-Laws and Incorporation papers drawn up with help from Attorney, Russell Fillner, Began transcribing cemeteries on July 15, 1980, Velma Morris started newsletter -- "Gen-Bug News", 1st trip to SLC-6 went, chose May as Annual meeting, election of officers and served birthday cake
- 1981 CHARLES HARMON Ron Bremer Seminar (chaired by Louise Erekson), Amended By-Laws, Louise Erekson designed tree logo, Genealogy Room set up at Parmly Billings Library, 1st Data Exchange, 2nd SLC Trip-10 went, Wiley R. Pope mini-seminar
- 1982 SUE PICARD Genealogy classes, 2 Data Exchanges, Raised dues to \$5 individual, \$7 family, 3rd SLC trip-14 went, Purchased used copy machine for Branch Library, Louise LaRue revived "Gen-Bug News" newsletter
- 1983 SANDRA COLLINS Genealogy classes, 4th SLC trip-15 went, Historian purchased disk camera, Ancestor Chart Project began
- 1984 BILLIE GLOVER Book published, "Yellowstone County MT Cemeteries Vol. I", Dr. Arlene Eakle Seminar (chaired by Dick Thayer), Data Exchange, 5th SLC trip-20 went, 1st program on using a computer
- 1985 BILLIE GLOVER Book published, "Yellowstone County, MT Cemeteries Vol. II", Purchased 2 drawer file, 6th SLC trip-26 went, Data Exchange, Genealogy classes, Dick Thayer designed "Wanted" flyer
- 1986 JEAN McCORMICK Book published, "Marriage Records Yellowstone County, MT 1881-1899", Judith Reid Seminar (chaired by Billie Glover), Data Exchange, 7th SLC trip-26 went, Re-organized the Gen-Room
- 1987 LOUISE EREKSON Genealogy classes, Data Exchange, Heritage Quest Road Show, 8th SLC trip-27 went, Ron Bremer mini-seminar
- 1988 JUDY KENNEY Blaine Bake & Neal Southwick Seminar (chaired by Louise Erekson), Data Exchange, 9th SLC trip-26 went, Inventory of Gen-Room, Changed meeting to 4th Tuesday of month, Betty Huss transcribed 6 seminars from audio tapes in the 1980's, Participated in Folk Fest at Rocky Mountain College
- 1989 FLORANCE WAGSTAFF Book published, "Carbon County, MT Cemetery Records" (Montana Centennial Project), Data Exchange, 10th SLC trip-30 went, Gen-Room moves to SW corner of 2nd floor, Returned to meeting 3rd Tuesday of month, Started sign-up sheet for helping

(continued)

researchers in the Gen-Room on Saturdays, Introduced having refreshments at every meeting to further a social time, Folk Fest

- 1990 LOUISE LaRUE Jayare Roberts Seminar (chaired by Florance Wagstaff), Data Exchange, 11th SLC trip-22 went, Ron Bremer mini-seminar, YGF joined MSGS in April 1990, "Voyage Back in Time" (a regular feature-- by Betty Seter for newsletter) began, Inventory updated
- 1991 LOUISE LaRUE Genealogy classes, Raised dues to \$6 individual, \$8 family, Data Exchange, Ella Patte sewed 54 tote bags-"Genealogy is My Bag", Inventory updated
- 1992 MARIE WESCOTT MSGS Seminar with Ken Nelson, Montana Big Sky PAF Users Group organized
- 1993 MARIE WESCOTT Genealogy classes, Amended By-Laws, "Voyage Back in Time" in newsletter ended
- 1994 ATHNA MAY PORTER Kory Meyerink Seminar (chaired by Louise LaRue), School census project began, Anne Frank exhibit, Biography Files in MT Room indexing led by Pat Miller, "How I Solved It" began in newsletter, Cultural Fair at Rocky, Aided legislature on Vital Records Bill, Had table at Educational Fair, 3rd floor of Parmly, Billings Gazette Obituary Project passed from volunteers at Heights F.H. Center to YGF (cards began 1982 on)
- 1995 ATHNA MAY PORTER Meitzler Road Show, Sweatshirts and t-shirts ordered, Fancy name tags by Lester Atwood and others, Yellowstone Chapter of American Historical Society of Germans From Russia presented Life Time Membership from Lincoln, Nebraska, to YGF worth \$400, "How I Solved It" began in newsletter, Bookmarks, Cultural Fair
- 1996 MYRLE THEIMER SLC trip--20 went, Raised dues to \$10 individual, \$15 family, Gen-Room books began being shelved according to modified Dewey system to match SLC's system, "Queries" page added to newsletter, Myrle Theimer chaired leadership on School Census Project
- 1997 MYRLE THEIMER Curt Witcher Seminar (co-chaired by Athna May Porter and Louise LaRue)--celebrated 20th Anniversary of YGF, Sue-Ann Jacobson won "Design Our Pin Contest", "Queries" discontinued in newsletter
- 1998 P. J. SMITH Genealogy classes, Gen-Room cataloging completed by Ellen Cushing with card catalog, "School Census Records, 1914-1930, Yellowstone Co., MT" completed with CD-Rom for sale, Marge Anderson painted YGF logo on Gen-Room glass window, Maggie Miller began extracting Smith Funeral Home Records, Purchased YGF banner, CD writer, & outdoor canopy, Donated \$250 to NARA, Festival of Cultures
- 1999 _____(No president presided-- YGF Board kept us going) Good programs procured by Verba Valentine, Women's Equality Day participation, Festival of Cultures
- 2000 SUZANNE McPHERSON Amended By-Laws, YGF Web page started with Cleve Kimmel as Web Master, Purchased portable overhead projector, Began meeting October 2000 at LDS Cultural Hall, 6th St. West and Ave. D on 4th Tuesday of month, November meeting with refreshments
- 2001 SUZANNE McPHERSON Helped pass legislation on Marriage and Archive bills
- 2002 SUZANNE McPHERSON Genealogy classes led by Jason Herman and Judy Cohen, Signed agreement with Parmly Billings Library regarding Gen-Room-(YGF Committee chaired by P.J. Smith, other members were Sue-Ann Jacobson, Louise LaRue and Athna May Porter), MSGS Conference featuring Dr. John Philip Colletta (co-chaired by Verba Valentine and Louise LaRue)

Honorary Members are Sue Picard and Corky Knebel for outstanding contribution of service to YGF. They receive a free lifetime subscription to the YGF newsletter.

-----Compiled by Louise LaRue, 2002

HOW I SOLVED IT

"Going There IS Best"

While researching my husband's family in Weston, Lewis Co., WV at the courthouse, we were approached by a lawyer who had overheard our conversation with the clerk. He proceeded to tell us why our relatives had come to that part of the country in the mid 1800's, namely to work on the National Road project. He then told us how to get to the famous, or infamous, Fink Creek. For years we had heard about this Fink Creek. And indeed I had found deeds located there. We were in a small motorhome and became a little concerned when we left the paved road although the gravel road was very well maintained. It was a glorious, warm fall day and the sun was filtering through the turning leaves. Although we were in what I'd call the "backwoods", every turnoff had a street sign! As we went around one turn we came to a small white wooden church with bell tower and steeple. We pulled into the driveway and noticed two outhouses at the side. On the other side was a turn-off and there was "Fink Creek", plain as day. About that time a pickup came along and the driver asked if we needed help. What else would he think seeing a motorhome back in the boonies? We told him we were looking for the graveyard and some Kenney graves. After a few more questions he jumped out of the truck, ran over and said, "By God, I'm related to you!" He had a couple of teeth missing and he looked like he might be a "moonshiner" but he wasn't, and he showed us the graveyard, gave us a lot of family history, directed us to more relatives and we ended up spending four days in Pickle Street, Lewis Co., WV. We go back every chance we get to visit some of the nicest relatives we have. You don't have this much fun writing letters!!!

by Judy Kenney

20 YEARS AGO
by Louise LaRue

Twenty years ago in October 1982, yours truly took on the task of publishing the YGF newsletter called "The Gen-Bug News". I wonder if I knew what I was getting into.....

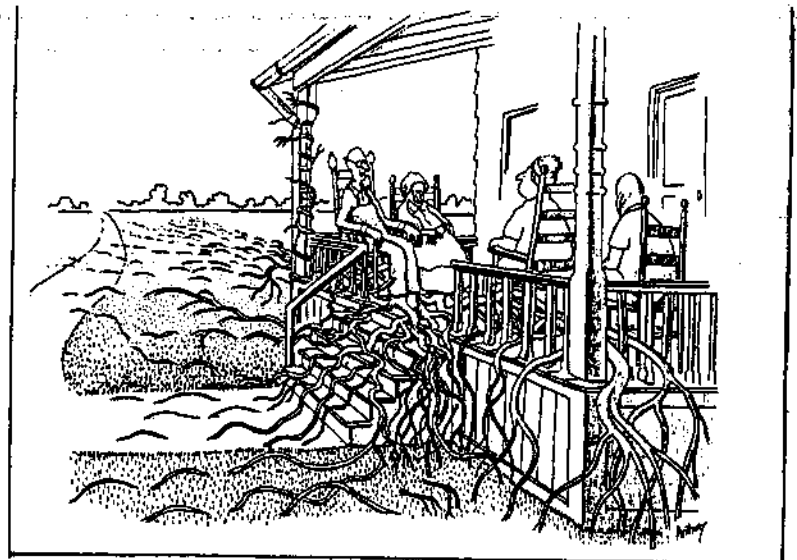
Being an informed reporter has made me attend almost every genealogy meeting since. Having our society's welfare at

stake has made me ask more questions, phone people for answers, go to the library more often, read more exchange quarterlies, save more poems and cartoons and try to present our activities accurately and in an interesting manner. I have changed my vacations and put personal activities on hold so I could get the newsletter put together and mailed on time.

To obtain information, I request reports and articles from YGF officers. Several friends watch for items of interest and hand to me. I would like to encourage anyone to contribute genealogy related items to me for possible publication. If you'd like to help work on the Gen-Bug, some assistance would be greatly appreciated. My phone number is 252-1070.

Over the years I've asked others to print the mailing labels. And usually two members help me collate, fold, label and stamp the newsletters preparing them for the Post Office. Great friendships have resulted from these sessions.

In conclusion, it's been invigorating to keep informed about our society. It's made me a more caring person. I appreciate our successes and feel sad for our short comings. Researching my own family history has reinforced who I am by learning of the times and hardships my ancestors endured. I am richer for the experience. And such can be said for having the privilege of being your Gen-Bug Editor.



"Our roots go way back."

-----Audubon magazine, January 1978