



"Sharing The Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

NSFWA Newsletter

President's Message

Greetings NSFWA Members!

The NSFWA Board of Directors hope that you had a great and enjoyable summer season. On June 10 – 11, we held a "Spring Fun Days" located in southwest Montana. We visited the old towns of Bannack, Virginia City & Nevada City. Bannack was the first Territorial Capitol of Montana and thrived, as did Virginia City & Nevada City, due to its rich gold deposits. Our group toured each old town with a guide at each location, and were allowed to go behind the tourist viewing areas to get a much closer look at the wagons, coaches, and blacksmith and wheelwright shops. NSFWA Members who participated all mentioned that they had a great time.

On August 27 – 28, the Montana Heritage Commission of Virginia City & Nevada City, Montana asked for an extra NSFWA Member to meet with visitors and share information. I attended, along with NSFWA members Harlan & Joel Olson, and spoke with tourists and guests about stagecoach and wagon travel of yesteryear. Harlan & Joel also volunteer their time to MHC throughout the year.

Unfortunately, our 2022 NSFWA Conference in Fort Davis, Texas was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control. Please express your thanks and gratitude to Glenn and Patty Moreland for their planning efforts to organize that conference. NSFWA and its members will continue to organize, host, and sponsor future events.

We introduce a new page to our Newsletter, showing some before & after photos of coaches, wagons, buggies and other vehicles that our members conserved and/or restored from a vehicle that was non-useable. Their efforts turned into either an elegant usable or beautiful display piece. If you enjoy this section, or have a completed project and wish to share, then please make a comment to a Board Member or send your story to info@stagecoachfreightwagon.org. We will inform you of upcoming events.

Respectively submitted,

Jeff McManus, President

The NSFWA and American Chuck Wagon Association (ACWA) have agree to share mutual advertising space in upcoming newsletters in support of both organizations. Visit www.ameranchuckwagon.org to see their mission, history, and upcoming events.



American Chuck Wagon Association

www.ameranchuckwagon.org

Email: acwa@chuckwagon.org

Spring Fun Days Celebration – June, 2022



The Historic Hotel Meade at Bannack Montana

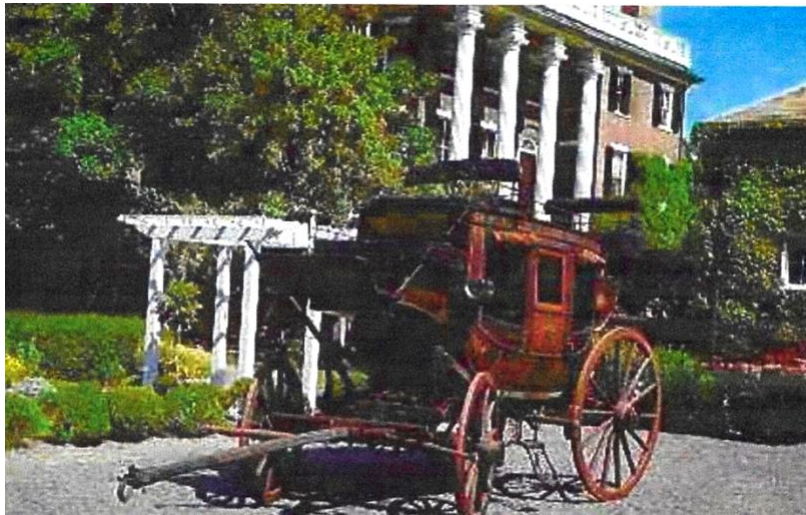


NSFWA Members & Guests attending the event @ Virginia City

During June 10 -11 the NSFWA held a "Spring Fun Days" celebration. We had an enjoyable time which included, local historians both guiding our group and giving history of the once rich in gold mining area. Our tour took us to Bannack, Nevada City and Virginia City Montana. The general response to its success was, "We haven't had this much fun in a long time." We hope so because the NSFWA was happy to organize this event. The people we'd like to thank for their help are Michael & Linda Hanley, Cameron Bean (Speakers), Harlan & Joel Olson (Guides), Matt Clover, coach owner and driver of Rolling Ranch Stage Lines (Chuck wagon Dinner), and John Phillips (Historian and Guide at Bannack) To each of you, Thank You.



Before and After: Harold Dircks of south St. Paul, Minnesota



This coach was sold by a museum to one of my customers, Richard Ledstrom, he unfortunately stripped all the paint and repainted it. I did the trim work, 18 sides of leather went into the project, all the cushions were stuffed with horse hair. The original interior back rest cushions had timothy grass for stuffing, topped with a thin layer of horsehair and cotton batting so I reused it. The headliner material had a nice floral pattern, not sure if it was a wool or cotton material but it was badly tattered. Richard found a company in Germany that had a fabric similar to the original pattern but it was slightly heavier in weight but it worked as a replacement.

A sign painter did the goldleaf and murals and another pin stripe artist duplicated all the original striping. The striper commented "man, these guys were very talented artists."

I do not know where this coach ended up after Richard passed away, but somebody must know where it is. This coach is too big to be hiding somewhere and it should be shared with the public as part of our history.



Do you have a story to share? Please send your story and pictures to info@stagecoachfreightwagon.org for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Before and After: Victor Haenny of Haenny Wagon Works

An 1860 M.P. Henderson coach Original owner: Ben Holladay.

This coach ran from Sacramento, California to Portland, Oregon ca. 1860-1887



Before and After: Jem Blueher at Anvil Wagon Works

A Yellowstone Park touring coach #38

Orig. Owner 'Yellowstone Park Transportation Co.'" (YPTCo.) used 1800's to 1916



Yellowstone Park Transportation Company No. 38

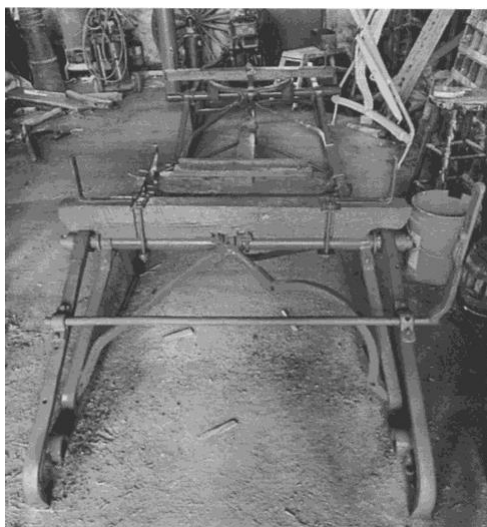


The gear (above) and
its 3 passenger seats (below)

Before and After: Michael Hanley, conservation and restoration

A US mail wintertime sleigh that converts to wagon wheels (Rare)

Original ordered & owned by Northwest Stage Co. circa 1800's to 1900's



Before and After: Patrick Goodknight and Randall Miller

A 1915 IHC-Weber one-horse farm wagon completely rebuilt over several years. The wagon was found in a fallen down barn in western Missouri about 4-5 years ago. Patrick completed the woodwork and Randall repaired the iron and paint.



Call for Facebook Administrator

The NSFVA is in need of a Facebook Administrator. If you, or someone you know, is interested in managing the NSFVA Facebook page, please contact the Board of Directors by phone or email at info@stagecoachfreightwagon.org. The Administrator will vet incoming content and correspondence as well as generate posts supporting the NSFVA mission, interests, and activities.

Before and After: Pomajevich Collection

Studebaker Mountain Stage

In the early 1900s Mountain Stage Wagons were frequently used for short run transportation. There were two companies run by local families still living in the Flathead: Meulis and Vinsons.



We obtained this running gear and wooden remnants in the condition seen here and over the course of a couple of years turned it into a conservation/replica/restoration of a Mountain Stage.

This Studebaker wagon is the middle size of the three Mountain Stages built by Studebaker.



To the pleasure of the locals here in NW Montana we have had this in the Dayton Daze Parade and won Judge's Favorite. The local history really helps.

My son Jason and I rebuilt the gear and together with Jeff Meslin a local cabinet maker built the box and front boot. Bill Twigg built the wheels and did the upholstery on the seats amongst other work on the Stage Wagon. Lowitz Custom Shoppe in Kalispell did the top.