



Derek Cooke hopes hard work pays off / D1

# LARAMIE BOOMERANG

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 12, 2014 | LARAMIE, WYO | LARAMIE'S VOICE SINCE 1881

\$1.50



Church looks to keep 30-foot rose window in move / C1

## SUNDAY PROFILE

# Knowing the land

### Archaeologist reflects on career

By EVE NEWMAN  
even@laramieboomerang.com

Three years ago, George Frison, an emeritus professor of anthropology at the University of Wyoming, remembers sitting in a hospital waiting room while his daughter underwent open-heart surgery.

The magazines were of no interest to him and the only thing on TV was a soap opera, so he found a note pad on a table by the telephone and started thinking back.

"I started writing down a few things about my daughter when she was very young," he said.

When his daughter, Carol, was moved to her recovery room and Frison told her about his project, she encouraged him to expand it into a memoir.

Frison followed his daughter's advice, and those scribbles on a notepad turned into a book-length publication, "Rancher Archaeologist," which was published by University of Utah Press earlier this year.

The story, Frison said, is exactly what the title suggests. He recounts a mid-life transition from rancher to university student to professor of anthropology.

Drawing on experience working with and hunting large animals, Frison focused his research on hunting practices of Paleoindians who occupied the northern plains.

During his decades at UW, Frison researched almost a dozen bison bone beds, became the first Wyoming state archaeologist, authored dozens of articles and books, and garnered international recognition for his work.

According to Todd Surovell,



University of Wyoming professor emeritus George Frison stops for a photo Wednesday in the UW anthropology lab among bison skulls excavated in 1971 from the bison kill Casper site.

JEREMY MARTIN/Boomerang photographer

See Frison, A9

## ENERGY

# UW opens oil and gas drilling lab

By GREGORY NICKERSON  
Wyofile.com

During the past two years, the University of Wyoming has installed a supercomputer, a virtual-reality cave with 3-D graphics and, now, an oil and gas drilling rig simulator.

University officials recently hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the Energy Innovation Center to dedicate the new WPX Drilling Simulator Teaching Lab. Those attending included former Gov. Dave Freudenthal; representatives from WPX Energy; Rep. Kermit Brown, R-Laramie; Rep. Glenn Moniz, R-Laramie; Sen. Eli Bebout, R-Riverton; and Petroleum Association of Wyoming President Bruce Hinchey. Academics, students, members of the university foundation and Board of Trustees were also in the audience.

The centerpiece of the lab is a simulator called the DrillsIM-5000, which consists of virtual-reality screens with myriad of gauges, valves, levers, buttons, and wheels. The simulator helps familiarize students with the mechanical operation of a rig, as well as how to manage potentially dangerous situations like well blow-outs.

University President Dick McGinity said he considers the drilling simulator an important tool for training students who will work as engineers or drillers.

"This type of benchmarking, in which this university clearly shows its dedication to this industry and to improving its operations, sets us apart from other universities,"

See Lab, A11

## CITY COUNCIL

# Trailer park trouble

### Code change next year could affect mobile homes

By THADDEUS MAST  
thaddeusm@laramieboomerang.com

While safe for now, older mobile homes in Laramie could be phased out if code changes emerge next year.

A housing study is currently being reviewed and is scheduled for discussion at the Nov. 12 Laramie City Council work session. The results of the study could affect mobile homes made before 1976.

"(In 1976), federal safety standards

kicked in," said Randy Hunt, community development director. "Before that, nobody was required to inspect (mobile) homes."

These un-inspected mobile homes worry city planners, and inspecting a home now could mean it's declared uninhabitable, City Planner Charles Bloom said.



Trailer homes line Blake's Mobile Home Ranch in West Laramie on Friday afternoon.

JEREMY MARTIN/Boomerang photographer

See Trailer, A8



Follow us on Twitter  
@WY\_Boomerang



Like facebook.com/  
Laramieboomerang

INDEX: Comics/Abby . . . . . B5 Opinion . . . . . A4-A5  
Calendar . . . . . A2 Legals . . . . . C6 Sports . . . . . D1-D6  
Classifieds . . . . . C6-C10 Obituaries . . . . . A6 Weather . . . . . A2

To Subscribe  
(877) 452-3789





# Frison

Continued from A1

director of the George C. Frison Institute at UW, Frison "wrote the book on Wyoming archaeology."

Frison's grandfather founded the family ranch in 1901 near Ten Sleep in the Bighorn Basin. His father grew up on the ranch but died three months before Frison was born. Frison grew up there too, raised by his grandparents.

"The ranch was the only place in my world for a long time," he said. Indian trails passed through their land, and as a five-year-old, in 1929, he found a stone spear point on the ground. He spent his days in the saddle scouring the ground for more artifacts, which was fine with his grandfather as long as the cows didn't stray.

He also remembers finding burial sites in caves up in the hills.

"Some pretty interesting things came out of those caves, some things that were well preserved," he said.

From childhood onward, inspired by the traces of prehistoric life on the ranch, Frison was fascinated with the archaeological history of Wyoming.

"There was so much history and archaeology all over that I just got really interested, even in grade school," he said.

During World War II, Frison served in the Navy. After his discharge, he went straight back to the ranch. His interest in archaeology continued, and he spent his ranching years gathering artifacts.

As the years passed and he grew older, he gradually realized collecting artifacts was a far cry from the work of professional archaeologists. He grew tired of being an outsider, and he felt a growing tug to pursue his passion.

The decision to upend his life and leave the ranch became easier when he began to experience back troubles stemming from his military service and ranch work. A neurosurgeon in Billings, Montana, told him he should quit ranch life before he crippled himself.

"Eventually, I took his advice," Frison said.

In 1962, at 37 years old, Frison and his wife, June, moved to Laramie to work on an undergraduate degree. He then earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in a total of three years.

"I was in a hurry," he said.

Five years after he started school, Frison returned to Laramie, this time as a faculty member in the newly formed Department



A bison skull dating 10,800 radio carbon years was excavated from the bison kill Casper site in 1971.

JEREMY MARTIN/  
Boomerang photographer

of Anthropology. He became department chair his first year when the other two professors refused the job.

That same year, the Wyoming Archaeological Society lobbied the state to create an official state archaeologist. The terms of the position required the individual have a Ph.D. in archaeology and be a member of the UW Anthropology Department. Frison, on a nine-month appointment, was the only eligible person and served until 1984.

"It was a strange sort of adventure," he said.

During his early years as a professional, Frison said, archaeology was a lightly regarded discipline at UW. Geology was the important science when it came to things underground.

Frison often funded his research with grants from the National Science Foundation and, over the coming decades, discovered a wealth of archaeological resources in the state.

"Wyoming turns out to be as prolific a state as there is in certain kinds of archaeological resources," he said. "Fortunately again, it's some of the oldest human occupations we know of here in the plains and Rocky Mountain area. I got into it at just about the right time."

During his ranch years, Frison often guided big game hunters and knew the habits of deer, pronghorn, elk, bison and mountain goats. The serious study of bison kill sites began in the 1950s and 1960s, and Frison realized that scientists generally didn't know much about large animal behavior or hunting.

He joined the work of excavating animal kill sites and applied his knowledge of animal behavior to understanding prehistoric sites and hunting strategies.

Bison were sometimes stampeded over cliffs, driven into traps or pushed into corrals. Prehistoric sites usually presented piles of bones mixed with weapons and tools for

butchering meat.

Working with geologists, paleontologists and other scientists, Frison gained an understanding of strategies used to trap and kill bison, how old the animals were, what time of year the kill took place and how much meat the hunters harvested, among other findings.

"It was a really a multidisciplinary approach, and it worked out very nice," he said.

This information allowed insights into the lives of the hunters themselves.

"You could establish something about the social activities and social behavior of people who were doing the hunting," Frison said.

During his career, he wrote dozens of articles and had a hand in six books. Additionally, his text, "Prehistoric Hunters of the High Plains," first published in 1978, became a go-to resource for information about the archaeology of the plains and Rocky Mountains.

His many honors include a lifetime achievement award from the Society for American Archaeology and Regents' Fellowship Award from the Smithsonian Institution. UW has honored him as distinguished faculty, distinguished former faculty and outstanding alumnus. He was named to the National Academy of Sciences in 1997.

Frison retired in 1995 and has continued his research as a professor emeritus. He works now in a laboratory inside a brand new building at UW devoted to anthropology.

This summer, Frison explored a site near Guernsey that's a source of iron ore and hematite. The site is also a source of red ochre, which was used as a pigment in the prehistoric world. Frison said red ochre probably had ritualistic value, but there's still a lot to learn.

"We find it in just about every archaeological site, and we don't understand all of it," he said. "It's pretty interesting stuff."

During his ranching years, Frison trailed cattle across land that would later reveal major Paleoindian sites. Despite the disparate nature of the two halves of his working life, the one constant has been the Wyoming landscape.

He reflected that he was lucky enough to step into his career at a time when research funding was plentiful and he was able to bring an innovative approach to an unexplored realm of plains archaeology.

"I think if I had to do it over again, I'd do the same thing," he said.

**Mardell Aragon** BUY OR SELL...  
Associate Broker, CRS CALL Mardell!!  
Cell: (307) 399-4182  
www.buylaramie.com  
Advantage Real Estate • mlaragon@yahoo.com

**Protect your world**  
Auto • Home • Life • Retirement

Call me today to discuss your options.  
Some people think Allstate only protects your car. Truth is, Allstate can also protect your home or apartment, your boat, motorcycle - even your retirement and your life. And the more of your world you put in Good Hands®, the more you can save.

Betty Buckman  
307-745-3202  
318A E Bradley St  
Laramie

**Allstate**  
You're in good hands.  
Auto Home Life Retirement

Insurance subject to terms, qualifications and availability. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Co., Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Co., Allstate Insurance Co., Allstate Indemnity Co., Life insurance and annuities issued by Lincoln Benefit Life Company, Lincoln, NE, Allstate Life Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL, and American Heritage Life Insurance Company, Jacksonville, FL. In New York, Allstate Life Insurance Company of New York, Hauppauge, NY, Northbrook, IL. © 2010 Allstate Insurance Co.

**HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
Rev. Edward Hiller

Join us in Celebrating  
Sunday, October 12 at Trinity Lutheran Church  
107 S. 7th Street  
Open House 2-4 PM with 3 PM Program

Please send cards to:  
1517 Palomino Drive  
Laramie, WY 82070

STEP INTO THE SHADOWS, GATHER YOUR NERVES & DISCOVER:

**Ghost Tours of Laramie City**

**OCTOBER 18, 24, 25, 30 AND 31<sup>ST</sup>**  
TICKETS: \$15 PER ADULT, \$10.00 FOR 12 & UNDER

TOUR TIMES ARE : 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 & 9:30pm  
Each tour is 1½ hours, includes: Prison Grounds (Horse Barn), Hayride (Historic Downtown) & Wyoming Territorial Prison Lights Out Tour

**RESERVATIONS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**  
RESERVE YOUR TICKETS NOW BY CALLING: 307.760.8835  
OR STOP BY & RESERVE TICKETS AT MISS ETTA'S, 115 IVINSON.

**HAUNTED HISTORY!**

**REGAL CINEMAS**  
Bargain Shows ( ) ★ Pass / Discount Ticket Restrictions Apply  
**FOX THEATRE 6 505 S. 20TH ST**

ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO [CC,DV] (NR)	(100 410) 650 900
THE JUDGE [CC,DV] (NR) ★	(1240 350) 710 1015
DRACULA UNTOLD [CC,DV] (PG-13)	(110 420) 720 950
ANNABELLE [CC,DV] (R)	(120 430) 730 1000
GONE GIRL [CC,DV] (R) ★	(1230 340) 700 1010
THE MAZE RUNNER [CC,DV] (PG-13)	(1250 400) 710 950

**Your Choice!**

**Cowboy Burger (1/3 lb.)**  
**\$4.25**

- OR -

**16 oz. Blend (Butterfinger or Heath)**  
**\$3.39**

**The Best Onion Rings and Malts in Town!**

**CHERRIES**  
Ice Cream & Grill  
1253 N. 3rd  
Hours: 10:30am-10pm  
7 Days a Week!

**First Interstate Bank**

it's bigger than banking.

It's not just a place to cash your checks—it's someone working behind the scenes to make your life easier, your future brighter, and your big decisions a little less stressful. You live here because you love it here, and so do we. It's bigger than banking. It's you and **FI** together.

**Forbes 2014 BEST BANKS IN AMERICA**  
©2014, Forbes Media LLC. Used with permission.

Member FDIC, Equal Housing Lender.

**OCTOBER**  
is  
Breast  
Cancer  
Awareness  
Month!