Earl Madsen, BA '60

Everyone needs a contact.

In many ways, the University of Wyoming is no different than any other organization — it needs to know who to talk to, who will get things done, and it needs to know who can put it in touch with the right person for the right information — in essence, a contact.

In many ways, Earl Madsen, BA '60, has been just that person for the University of Wyoming in the state of Colorado. Whether it involved the UW Art Museum, the College of Commerce and Industry, or the University's athletic programs, Earl Madsen has been the man to ask. As one of his many admirers says, "Earl has been an uninterrupted and outspoken supporter of everything Wyoming."

"I have always had a strong feeling about the University of Wyoming," Madsen says. "Every time I have started a result of my years in Laramie. Members of the faculty and staff went out of their way to help me when I really needed it."

Madsen was an active student, playing in the concert orchestra, the student theatre production's pit orchestra, in various intramural athletics and the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He completed his degree in political science and economics in 1960, and went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Illinois in industrial relations and a law degree from the University of Colorado in 1964.

Since that time, Madsen has built a reputation as one of the top labor lawyers in the Rocky Mountain region. For the past 14 years he has been a partner in the Golden, Colorado law firm of Bradley, Campbell and Carney, representing some of the most successful companies in the nation. Because of his expertise in labor law, he serves as an adjunct professor of labor relations at the Colorado School of Mines, and he is a past chairman of the Colorado Bar Association's Labor Law Committee.

But Madsen has somehow found the time to devote a great deal of his energies to the betterment of the University of Wyoming. He served as president of the UW Alumni in Colorado in 1972, and was instrumental in founding the Cowboy Joe Club, a fund-raising booster organization promoting UW athletics. He also serves on the UW Art Museum's Financial Planning Committee and on the advisory council of the College of Commerce and Industry.

Madsen has been invaluable to the University at a contact for prospective students and prospective donors, putting in countless hours recruiting top prospects for UW from Colorado and participating in the first major fund-raising drive conducted for the UW Art Museum.

"My work for the University has always been fun," Madsen says. "The Wyoming guys here in Colorado have in stick together and try and help our university. The program at Wyoming are uniformly good — some are excellent. Our graduates have to be able to compete nationally, and I think the University is reaching for excellence in each of its programs."

Madsen and his wife Barbara have three children, Kirsten, Kenneth and Earl. Kirsten is already continuing the family tradition, and is a sophomore at the University of Wyoming.

Despite his tireless efforts, Madsen is humbled by being named a Distinguished Alumnus. "My friends, who nominated me for this award, have a gift for exaggeration, I think," he says. "I have never done anything for the University by myself. There were always a number of other people who chipped in as well."

H.T. "Ted" Neuman, BA '39

The number of University of Wyoming graduates who have family ties to the first beginnings of the 96-year-old institution is a small one — but it includes H.T. "Ted" Neuman, BA '39.

Neuman is the grandson of Hermann Ernest Langbeld, a sealer who arrived in Laramie in 1886 — the same year the University was founded. Neuman's mother, Theresa, graduated from UW in 1911, and her son Ted came to the Laramie campus in 1936 to earn a degree in business administration and to play basketball for Coach Dutch Wine.

Following graduation, Neuman joined his father's trucking business and participated in the founding of Wyoming Trucking Association. During World War II, he served in both the US Maritime Service and the US Navy, returning to the family business in Rawlins in 1946.

Neuman became president of Neuman Transit Co. in 1953, and since that time has expanded the company's operations to include terminals throughout the state. In keeping with the family's close ties to the University, he has educated all seven of his children at UW. "My mother once said, 'If you want to live in Wyoming, go to school here.'" Neuman said.

Neuman has been recognized as one of Wyoming's great advocates of youth and youth activities, and recently had a 40-acre recreational park in the town of Rawlins named in his honor. He has been active in the founding of organizations ranging from little league football teams to the University's own Cowboy Joe Club.

"I travel the entire state on business, and I get the feeling that the University of Wyoming has strong support everywhere," Neuman said.

His activities with the University include membership on the advisory board of the College of Commerce and Industry and organizing the Banquet of Champions each year in Rawlins, with the proceeds going to fund youth activities and scholarships. Neuman is also a director of the Rawlins National Bank, a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity and a recipient of the Wyoming State Kiwanis Club Distinguished Service Award, an honor made all the more special because Neuman is a member of the Rawlins Booster Club.

Neuman is a lifelong member of the UW Alumni Association and serves as a trustee of the Wyoming Trucking Association's scholarship trust fund. He is also a past president and director of the Cowboy Joe Club and a past president of the Wyoming Trucking Association.

With such a distinguished and impressive background, Neuman was still surprised by his selection as one of this year's Distinguished Alumni. "I am deeply flattered and honored that the UW Alumni Association has chosen me," Neuman said. "One reason I am so pleased is that my mother, who will be 92 this October 4, will be able to come down to Laramie during Homecoming for the ceremony. The family is looking forward to having her there with us. It will be a very special day for all of us."

Robert Ousen, BA '29, MA '34


"I suppose my distinction is that I have not confined all my activities to business and professional life," Ousen says. "My background has been very broad and it would be hard for me to pinpoint any one thing as the most important. I have been a teacher, a soldier, a public servant and a civic leader. Those are four areas identified Bob Ousen, I think.

Ousen came to the University of Wyoming in the fall of 1925 as an all-state center from Rock Springs. He earned four letters in basketball, was a member of Iron Skull, Scalbard and Blade, "W" Club and served as vice president of his sophomore class. Ousen graduated from the University with a bachelor of arts in 1929, a year which did not offer great opportunities to young men fresh out of college.

"I was supposed to have been a geologist, but there were just no jobs to be had," Ousen remembers. "I took a job coaching and teaching at Manderson High School. I had to take education courses to qualify for a temporary teaching certificate. At that time, anyone who could get a job of any kind was lucky." Ousen was back in school, and by 1934 he had earned a master of arts in educational administration. In
1945 he was appointed deputy state superintendent of public instruction, and he later served as deputy secretary of state for Wyoming.

A reserve officer with the 415th U.S. Army Reserve Regiment, Outten was called up to active duty in 1940 as a captain. By the time the war ended he was a lieutenant colonel serving in the Philippines.

Outten continued to serve in the military after the war, and in 1958 assumed the duties of professor of military science at the University of Wyoming. He retired with the rank of brigadier general in 1961.

Since his retirement, Outten has been an active and dedicated civic leader, devoting his energies to a wide spectrum of areas, from chairing the State of Wyoming Olympic Committee, to serving as a member of the Legislative Executive Commission on Reorganization of State Government, appointed by Gov. Stan Hathaway. Outten is a former board member of the UW Alumni Association and has served as president of the Wyoming Heart Association, Cheyenne Quarterback Club, Young Men's Literary Club of Cheyenne, Cheyenne Kiwanis Club, Laramie County United Way, and in 1975 he was honored by the Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce as that city's "Man of the Year."

"It is important for an individual to keep adding to the accomplishments of life," Outten says. "The longer you live, the better your record should look."


Jack Rosenthal, BA '52

Jack Rosenthal describes himself as a "gadfly."

"I think the thing which has highlighted my relations with the University of Wyoming has been as one of its severest critics," Rosenthal says. "I try to keep the faculty at Laramie on their toes, offering constructive criticism in an effort to improve the University."

Throughout his distinguished career in broadcasting, Rosenthal has been behind the microphone and the pen, pointing out flaws in the University's structure and system. But at the same time he has also "put money where his mouth is," contributing to the University by supporting several scholarship programs and serving as a director of the UW Foundation's Midland L. Simpson Endowment.

"No one can ever say that I have been a cheerleader," Rosenthal says. "I believe the University is always open to improvement, and I have seen a great deal of improvement during the last 20 years. My purpose has always been to make UW the best it can possibly be."

Rosenthal graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1952, majoring in history and with minors in economics and legal science. His first job was host of radio stations in Casper and Wyoming Hall dormitories, and was named distinguished military student and ROTC Cadet Battalion Commander. He served in the Korean War as a platoon leader and the 19th Regimental Combat Team and returned to his hometown of Buffalo, Wyoming to manage the family's business interests.

In 1957, Rosenthal purchased interest in his first radio station, KBBR, Buffalo. He later purchased several other radio stations, including KASL, Newcastle, KRAL, Rawlins and the family owned KROE, Sheridan. By 1964 Rosenthal was vice president and general manager of KTOO radio and television in Casper. Today he is president of the Harriscrope Broadcasting Corporation's Broadcasting Division, a company which owns radio and television stations in California, Illinois, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

Rosenthal is extremely active in civic and cultural affairs, serving on more than a dozen commissions and committees. His many honors include the Alfred I. DuPont Foundation Award for Broadcast Journalism and honorary membership in both the Shoshone and Arapahoe Tribal Councils.

Rosenthal and his wife Elaine have three children, the oldest son, Michael received his Juris Doctor from UW just last year.

Both privately and professionally, Rosenthal has contributed to the success of University of Wyoming radio station KUOW-FM. Equipment and engineering expertise have been his focal point, and his involvement has filtered into the University's broadcast and public relations departments.

Dr. Robert Weimer, BA '48, MA '49

"It was a long way from Glendo High School to the University of Wyoming," Weimer remembers. "The University of Wyoming shaped my career more than anything else in my life."

Weimer came to the University through the U.S. Navy Air Corps' V-5 program, followed by a year at the University of Southern California, where he studied engineering and obtained a ROTC program. "I had started in engineering, and I knew little about geology when I started," Weimer recalls. "It really was an accident that I ended up in geology. UW had a small but very dedicated staff in the geology department after the war, and it was their quality and excellence that led me finally to an academic career in geology."

Weimer received his BA in 1948, the same year he married Ruth Adams, BA '47. Graduate school followed, under the tutelage of Dr. Don Blackstone, UW professor emeritus of geology. "Don Blackstone was my inspiration to stay on and do graduate work," Weimer says. "He spearheaded the University's improving graduate program in geology after World War II."

After completing his master's degree in 1949, Weimer worked as a petroleum geologist and later as a full-time consulting geologist in Denver. During that time he earned a Ph.D. at Stanford University, and played a leading role in the discovery of a number of significant oil and gas fields in Wyoming.

In 1957 Weimer accepted an appointment to the geology faculty at the Colorado School of Mines. He was named professor in 1964, and served for five years as head of the geology department. He has been a visiting or exchange professor or lecturer at the University of Colorado, University of Adelaide, Australia, the University of Calgary, Indonesia Technological University, Western Michigan University, and the University of Wyoming.

Weimer has played an active role in numerous professional organizations, including the American Association of Professional Geologists (AAPG) and the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists. He has received numerous awards from both other organizations, including the AAPG Distinguished Service Award and holds an Honorary membership in the Wyoming Geological Association.

Robert Weimer received his greatest satisfaction, however, from his continuing work with students. Literally thousands of students have taken his courses at the Colorado School of Mines, and many professional geologists credit their character and skill to his dedication to teaching and technical and logical reasoning.

It is a long way from Glendo, Wyoming to Getty or Prudhoe Bay. But the Distinguished Alumnus Robert Weimer says it has been a nice trip. "I have had a wonderful life," he says, "and my experiences at UW made the difference."