



HIGH PLAINS
ARBORETUM

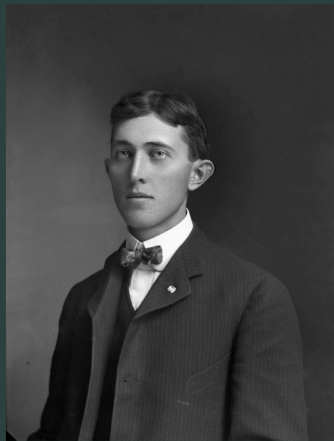
Making Wyoming a more beautiful place in the past, present and future.



The research on the station literally changed the landscape of Wyoming, as demonstrated by these views of the station in 1929, before construction was completed; in 1933, after shelterbelts were planted; and in 2021. Shelterbelt research was conducted in cooperation with landowners all over the region. Farms and ranches across the state received shelterbelt trees provided by the station. Many of those trees are still alive today and continue to provide protection from the wind.



The station buildings were designed by renowned Wyoming architect William Dubois, who designed the Wyoming State Capitol house and senate wings, the Agricultural Hall at the University of Wyoming, dormitories at the Wyoming State Hospital in Evanston, as well as many public buildings and private residences in Douglas, Green River, Basin, Rock Springs, Casper, and Cheyenne. Dubois also served in both houses of the Wyoming Legislature.



Thousands of fruits and vegetables were tested to find those that could produce in Wyoming's tough climate. When a suitable variety could not be found, researchers crossbred native species with cultivated varieties to create new strains of pumpkin, tomatoes, strawberries, raspberries, plum, flowers, and shrubs. Cheyenne Botanic Gardens is working to preserve these varieties and make them available to the public.





Two Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps were located on the station between 1935-1942. A veterans camp helped with daily labor, maintenance, and construction of two buildings on the station grounds. The junior camp beautified the area around the Roundtop Water Treatment Plant by planting trees and building terraces, bridges, and other stone structures. The park they built has been used by the Girl Scouts of Wyoming since the 1970's. The water treatment facility is one of the earliest in the state.



In 1974, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) changed the focus of research to examine the effects of livestock grazing, mining, and the environment on Wyoming grasslands. Research collaborated with the University of Wyoming (UW) began in 1975 and continues today. These long-term experiments have provided ranchers with important information on the effects of grazing management on vegetation, soil, and livestock gains. New research collaborating with local ranchers, UW, and 4-H and FFA students is exploring targeted grazing by sheep and cattle for control of weeds using new technology for precision animal management.



A living collection of around 600 historic trees and shrubs remain from the horticultural research conducted from 1930-1974. Having survived very minimal irrigation and care since 1975, these plants have proven their ability to thrive in the harsh climate of the high plains. With the restoration of the historic greenhouses, these tough plants and others from Wyoming's native forests can be propagated and made available for reforestation and community beautification efforts across the state.



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