



OCTOBER 2023

THE SEED.

Last month I told the story of how the Larks formed and got here. But there's more to the tale.

Let me take you back to the very beginning in the summer of 2018. I got a call from Trish Peoples asking if I wanted to help build a horseshoe pit. I immediately thought, I'd don't know diddly about building a horseshoe pit, what is she saying? So the pit was to be built at the Rehabilitation Center at the VA. Not wanting to be daunted by a challenge, I googled how to build a horseshoe pit. There are actually "rules" to this in size, spacing, etc. So I printed off a plan and off I went. My husband Norm said we could use his account at Capitol Lumber to charge the materials. So I went there and with the help of the staff, we got all that we needed to build the pit. The staff even cut the wood for me to the right sizes. Yes, this project involved wood, drills, screws, hammers and other tools. Trish also enlisted the help of two Laramie Women with Laramie Women's club, and the four of us set to work one weekend. The lumber company delivered the materials.

Now keep in mind it was in July, 95 degrees and I'm helping to build a horseshoe pit and wondering about my sanity. Luckily one of the residents was in construction all his life, so he gave us some good tips. The Laramie women brought flowers, we went to Lowe's and bought planters, and we made the area very nice. We were very proud of our work.

In the course of the project Trish exclaimed, "wouldn't it be nice if we had a one project club to do a project in the summer and be done? Then she added the snowbirds could participate since they would be back. It must have been the sun beating down on my head because I immediately said, that would be great and I'll volunteer to be the first president. The Laramie women were there so Trish had witnesses. And I immediately thought, what did I just say????

Well, the summer went on, fall came and went and in the spring a set of Bylaws appeared compliments of Trish. Mary Lee was president of GFWC WY at the time, and she submitted the Bylaws (only 1-1/2 pages mind you), to GFWC International, they suggested some changes, sent back, and we had Bylaws. Now for a name. We bounced some ideas around and Trish suggested the Meadowlarks after the State bird. So now we had a name. And now on to membership. We had myself, Trish, and Mary Lee for starters. Then we guessed we could count on Karen Kent, Nancy Kaufman, Sue Tardif, Barb Robertson, and Julie Gliem. So ladies, that was pretty much the “handful” who formed the Meadowlarks. Our resident artist and honorary member Zach, Nancy’s son designed the logo for us. And then came shirts, and nametags, and through word of mouth and friendships more ladies continued to join. And now we are 19 strong.

All of this from one “seed” of an idea. So that’s the rest of the story and the moral of the story is, fair warning, if you hang with Trish, she will plant a seed



in your brain.

I have no one listed in October for a birthday so if this is in error, please let me know.

The members to highlight this month are Mary Lee Dixon and Carol Horam.

*Mary Lee is from Wisconsin. When she goes home to visit, my husband gets some great cheese. She likes to read, quilt, and camp. She and her husband have been “camp bosses” at a campground in the Snowy Range. Her fav book is *The Red Thread*, her spouse is Dennis, she has two children and two grandchildren. Mary Lee is one of the original founders of the Larks.*

Carol was born in West Virginia. She gardens, reads, works puzzles, water colors, and volunteers in her community. Her husband is Joe. She has three children and her first grandchild is on the way. Carol says her bags are not packed yet. Carol joined the Larks in 2020.



PROOF we built the pit.