

## Frank Lloyd Wright's artist studio at Teater's Knoll



### Archie B. and Patricia Teater

In 1949, Archie and Patricia Teater purchased the property on top of the basalt cliff where Teater Knoll now sits with the hope of an artist studio. Archie spent his youth in Hagerman Valley and loved its beauty. He was a landscape painter who had achieved a regional reputation for his portrayals of the Teton mountains.

In 1951, Patricia wrote to Frank Lloyd Wright saying "We would like to build a spot of interest to humanity", and asked Mr Wright if he would design an artist studio for them looking over the Snake River. At that time Frank Lloyd Wright was at his peak of influence and creativity and was busy with the construction of the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. The Teaters were surprised and delighted when Mr Wright said yes.

Construction began in 1953 and it took four difficult years to complete the building. Teaters were not easy to work with and money was always short - Patricia tried to pay bills with Archie's paintings which was not always appreciated by suppliers or workers.

The Teaters spent spring and fall at the studio each year with summers in Jackson Hole. Archie died in 1978 and Patricia in 1981.

### Henry Whiting

When Henry Whiting first saw Teater's Knoll in 1982, the place had been vacant



for several years and neglected. With a background of landscape architecture and a student of Frank Lloyd Wright design, Henry purchased the studio and began the first in a series of extensive renovations.

Whiting has devoted his life to the preservation of this incredible structure and the appreciation of Wright's work. His loving care of the Teater Studio has been his home for the last 35 years. With extensive knowledge of Frank Lloyd Wright's work, Whiting has written two books, "At Nature's Edge: Frank Lloyd Wright's Artist Studio" and "Teater's Knoll: Frank Lloyd Wright's Idaho Legacy," along with numerous articles about the studio.

Henry is a long time member and supporter of the Hagerman Valley Historical Society and has been generous offering to open his home for this fund-raising tour for the new building.

### Master Craftsman of Teater's Knoll

Two of the master craftsman who worked on Teater's Knoll include Kent Hale and Paul Bates. Kent Hale was a master stone builder who laid most of

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the Oakley stone at Teater's Knoll. He worked on the home both for the Teaters during the initial construction as well as for Henry Whiting during the substantial renovations. The picture above is of Kent laying the rock work of the walkway to the Bunkhouse. Paul Bates is a master wood worker and furniture maker whose work can be seen throughout the house including the large Frank Lloyd Wright designed triangle desk.

