

22nd Annual  
**Leonard J. Arrington**  
**MORMON HISTORY**  
**LECTURE**

**Patricia Nelson Limerick**

*Presents*

*“Hair-Raising Tales from the Department of the Interior: A  
Report from the Front Lines of the Battle Against Boredom”*

Thursday, September 29, 2016, 7 p.m.

Logan LDS Tabernacle

50 N. Main, Logan, Utah

Contrary to the stereotype of the boring bureaucrat, the stories of the men and women who have worked for the agencies of the Department of the Interior carry intrinsic interest and give rise to thought-provoking interpretations of and insights into the American West's past and present. Enormously important in the shaping of the American West, federal employees have been unjustly and inaccurately classified as "boring." Formed just as the United States completed its coast-to-coast conquest of contiguous land, Interior became the pivot point for the nation's attempts to absorb and manage the West's peoples and lands. In this talk, Patty Limerick will make the case for directing more sustained and robust attention to the roles of federal clerks, surveyors, engineers, superintendents, agents, rangers, teachers, inspectors, and scientists in shaping the region.

**Patty Limerick** is the Faculty Director and Chair of the Board of the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado Boulder, where she is also a professor of environmental studies and history. In addition, Patty was named to serve as the new Colorado State Historian and appointed to the National Endowment for the Humanities advisory board called The National Council on the Humanities. Patty was nominated by President Obama in Spring 2015 and was confirmed by the United States Senate in November of 2015. She is the author of *Desert Passages*, *The Legacy of Conquest*, *Something in the Soil*, and *A Ditch in Time*. A frequent public speaker and a columnist for the *Denver Post*, Limerick has dedicated her career to bridging the gap between academics and the general public, to demonstrating the benefits of applying historical perspective to contemporary dilemmas and conflicts, and to making the case for humor as an essential asset of the humanities. A recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship and the Hazel Barnes Prize (the University of Colorado's highest award for teaching and research), she has served as president of the American Studies Association, the Western History Association, the Society of American Historians, and the Organization of American Historians, as well as the vice president for teaching of the American Historical Association. She received her B.A. from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and her Ph.D. from Yale University.

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