

# PALISADE

P.O. Box 631 Historical Society

Palisade, Colorado 81526

www.historicpalisade.org

## SEE OUR PEACH PACKING DEMO AT PEACH FEST

Don't miss the Palisade Historical Society's peach packing demonstrations **starting at 10:45 on Saturday, August 19** at Peach Fest in Riverbend Park! We'll show you how Palisade peaches were commercially packed 60 years ago!

Our display and demonstrations will be in the Chef booth close to the entrance. Experienced peach packers will demonstrate wrap-packing, and then invite others to try their hand at this historically important job.

Wrap packing peaches in wooden boxes



*(Photo courtesy of the Duncan Washington Davis Collection)*

In the first half of the 20th century, packing peaches was a very demanding job during harvest. The Palisade-invented Edwards Grader eased the challenge of selecting similar-sized peaches to maximize the number of peaches to fit in alternating rows. It was important to ensure fruit wouldn't shift or bruise during the long shipments via refrigerated railroad cars.

Also look for our entries in the 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning parade including our 1951 Chevrolet Hoopie where we'll be handing out peaches from local growers along the route.

## August 2017

### HISTORY OF FRUIT AND WINE AT GRAY GOURMET

*Tues. Aug. 22nd at 11:30 a.m.*

The Historical Society's upcoming August 22 program at the Palisade Gray Gourmet luncheon features photos and details about Palisade's fruit and wine grape growing history. The program starts at 11:30 and is followed by lunch.



Gray Gourmet is Mesa County's Senior Nutrition Program with low cost lunches at the Palisade Community Center, 120 W. 8th St. Reservations are important, so **please call Gray Gourmet at 243-9844 x4 a day in advance.**

### HISTORIC GUIDED WALKING TOURS

The next scheduled historic guided walking tours are in October through New Dimensions. Please check their catalog for dates and how to sign up. We will offer two tours - "An Hour With Colonel Bower" led by Dave Cecuga, and "Fire and Brimstone" with Priscilla Walker.

Tour Guide Charlene Widener gave the third tour of Palisade's Town Center for the Town's Recreation Program on August 3. We hope to have tours scheduled for the upcoming guide of Town Recreation programs.

Charlene with Lana Vindiola pause at the Kiosk after the Aug. 3 Guided Walking Tour



## HISTORIC HARVEST PHOTOS AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Without a public display space for our growing collection of historic Palisade photos, we appreciate Keli Fraser at the Town of Palisade's interest in prominently featuring historic photos from our collection in the newly remodeled entryway. Charlene Weidner hung new photos with a harvest theme.



Charlene Weidner hangs new harvest-themed photos in the Palisade Municipal Building entryway.

## Sign Up or Renew Your Membership Today!

We are an all-volunteer non-profit organization. Everyone is invited to belong to the Palisade Historical Society—through volunteer time with committees and projects—and by membership. Annual memberships in the Palisade Historical Society start at just \$25 for Individuals, \$50 for Families, \$100 for Businesses, and \$500 for Patrons. There are also 10-year memberships for \$200 and Lifetime memberships for \$400. If you haven't signed up or renewed your membership, please do so today! Mail your tax-deductible checks to the **Palisade Historical Society, P.O. Box 631, Palisade, CO 81526.**

**Look for us on two Facebook pages:**

**The Grand River Diversion Dam  
Celebrates 100 years 1915-2015  
and  
Palisade Historical Society**

## GETTING THE RIGHT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ROLLER DAM

In our never-ending effort to ensure we are providing historically correct information, we make extra efforts to debunk the popular—but incorrect—story about the rollers in the Grand River Diversion Dam in DeBeque Canyon. Our research of Reclamation Service records for the 100th birthday of what locals call the "Roller Dam" revealed the metal rollers were not on a German ship sunk by the British as part of the embargo leading to World War I. Though the unique design is by a German firm and other parts of the Dam were manufactured in Germany and shipped to the site, the only set of the seven round metal rollers was made in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Most recently, we met with Jude Splinter, one of the 25 Amtrak narrators—and self-described "history buff"—who came across a newspaper article with the untrue story and began her research. She also reviewed the U.S. Reclamation Service records to find correct information. Jude contacted us and we showed her the collection of photos and information created for the Roller Dam's 100th birthday party in June 2015.

We appreciate Jude's interest in local history, attention to detail, and perseverance to find the truth!



Jude Splinter, historian and Amtrak narrator, with the Historical Society's "Mobile Museum" of photos and details on the construction and operation of the Dam created for its 100th birthday in June, 2015.

## STUB DITCH PUMP STILL ON THE JOB

Since 1919, this machine efficiently uses gravity and water from the lower-level Government Highline Canal to pump irrigation water—without any engine, fuel, or electricity—into the higher elevation Stub Ditch which serves users, including orchards and vineyards north of Palisade and west to 30 Road.

The Grand Valley Water Users Association, which operates the Grand River Diversion Dam and Government Highline Canal, recently updated buildings and made improvements at the



Stub Ditch pumping plant. The pump, however, works the same as it did when it was installed in 1919.

Pump Tender Jay Hammel stands next to the Stub Pump in July 2017.

The same pump in 1919.

(Photo courtesy of the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District)



We have raised funds to digitize 1472 issues of *The Palisade Tribune* for the Colorado Historic

Newspaper database website:

[www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org](http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org)

Please help us get more issues digitized!

Yes, I would like to help digitize historic Palisade Tribune Newspapers

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Please enclose check or money order payable to the Palisade Historical Society and mail to the:

Tribune Newspaper Digitization Project

Palisade Historical Society

P.O. Box 631, Palisade, CO 81526

Don't forget to designate the Palisade Historical Society as your charity of choice, and Amazon will donate

0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases



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Bill Beckwith

Jaime Cox — [jaimejcox@gmail.com](mailto:jaimejcox@gmail.com)

Barb Hampton — [blh93@hotmail.com](mailto:blh93@hotmail.com)

Gary Hines — [gwhines@msn.com](mailto:gwhines@msn.com)

Nancy Morrison — [nancykmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:nancykmorrison@gmail.com)

Frank Nemanich — [westiecolorado@bresnan.com](mailto:westiecolorado@bresnan.com)

Kaylan Robinson — [kaylanmrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:kaylanmrobinson@gmail.com)

Priscilla Walker — [pbwalker630@acsol.net](mailto:pbwalker630@acsol.net)

Charlene Weidner — [charw@acsol.net](mailto:charw@acsol.net)      Page 3