

PALISADE Historical Society

PALISADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT THE JULY 4TH PARADE



Sorting cherries and loading the hoopie with baskets to hand out to parade watchers along the route. *(Photo courtesy of Ralph Branch)*

The Palisade Historical Society's 1951 Chevrolet orchard hoopie was a popular entry in the Town's July 4th Parade. As peach season hadn't started, members and volunteers handed out bags of fresh cherries donated by Noland Orchards, Talbott's Mountain Gold, Clark's Family Orchard, Kokopelli Farm Market and McLean Farms.



(Photo courtesy of Kent Brown)

Ralph Branch drove Dale, the orchard hoopie. Volunteers helping in the parade included Dave Cecuga, Frank Nemanich, and Nancy Morrison, and Lifetime Members Rita and Kent Brown,

August 2019

and Judi Towns, Judi's family, including Raely-Ann, LaRae, Kimberly, Ruby, and Elizabeth, and volunteers Carrie and Rob Daugherty and their family members Shayde, Robby, Toby, and Maddy, also walked beside the hoopie and handed out cherries along the parade route.



(Photo courtesy of Hugo Madden)



Volunteers put cherries in bags before the Parade. *(Photo courtesy of Ralph Branch)*

Look for the Historical Society parade entries in the **Peach Festival Parade on Saturday, August 17 at 9 a.m.**

BIGGEST PALISADE PEACH CROP IN 20 YEARS!

Palisade fruit growers are hard at work with a "bumper crop" this year. Fresh Palisade peaches have been available from early season "cling" varieties starting in June and will last until early October.

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Part of the reason for the big crop is the trees are healthy from a mild winter and no spring frosts. Also, there are more new orchards coming into production than orchards going out.

Kokopelli Farms workers Francisco and Victor in the peach orchard
(Photo courtesy of Ralph Branch)



Significant hail damage to orchards in the North Fork Valley around Cedaredge and Delta, has meant growers there are buying Palisade peaches to keep their fruit stands open. Also, since our market is mainly in the upper Midwest for commercial shipments—and the crops in Michigan were pretty much wiped out from severe weather—there is ample demand. The 2019 Colorado peach crop is estimated to exceed the 34 million pounds produced in 2012.

Comparing Palisade's current peach crop to historic bumper crops is difficult because of changes in how shipments were counted. Before 1975, bushels and wrap-packed wooden boxes of peaches were mostly shipped in refrigerated railroad cars. A typical railroad car would hold about 500 bushels or 1,400 boxes of fruit. The United Fruit Growers and Mountain Lion marketing cooperatives tracked shipments by railroad carlots, not millions of pounds.

According to Bruce Talbott of Talbott's Mountain Gold, "we are only about 40% of the crop Palisade produced in the late 1940s and early 1950s, but a healthy 40%."

In 1952, 1.2 million bushels of peaches were shipped in 21 days. If a bushel typically weighed 50 pounds, the 1946 crop of 1,315,559 bushels would have been 65.7 million pounds of peaches. Talbott continued, "Now, Palisade will produce about 600,000 bushels."

Retail prices for peaches this season are similar to previous years, though the relationship with wholesale buyers has also changed. The long-term personal relationships of 20 or more years have been replaced by computerized purchases.

Another reason for growers to celebrate this year is the record-setting rain and snowpack in Colorado which continues to keep the Colorado River full in contrast to last year's drought. At the start of the 2018 season in late March, the flow of water was only 1,660 Cubic Feet per Second (CFS). This year, the River peaked at 23,500 CFS on July 1—and almost four times the peak volume of May 27, 2018 of 6,700 CFS.



The Colorado River is still higher than normal at the Grand Valley Canal Weir east of Palisade in late July.

ALUMNI INVITED TO PHS CLASS OF 1999 20TH REUNION HOMECOMING WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 13-15

Mark your calendars for an All-Alumni Weekend for Palisade High School's Homecoming festivities in September. Events include the Parade at 1 p.m. on Friday the 13th—different class years and State Champion athletic teams are encouraged to enter floats. The homecoming football game is Friday evening at 7 p.m. at Stocker Stadium where the Hospitality Suite has been reserved until 11 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person and includes dinner. Tickets can be purchased on the PHS website or Alumni page. Other events include a golf tournament on Saturday with a reunion event at Talbott's

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Mountain Gold in the evening. The Historical Society will have our PHS senior class photo display with 72 years of photos beginning in 1906. "The Buttered Biscuit" will be at Palisade High School on Sunday from 8-2 p. m. for "family fun day" which includes a tour of the school and other activities. For more information, check the Facebook Page or contact Trevor Taylor ttaylor@taylorfarmranch.com

PALISADE HIGH SCHOOL BAND DIRECTOR NEWELL HOSKIN PASSED AWAY

Newell Hoskin, the band director at Palisade High School from 1962-1967, passed away in June. Newell followed long time band director Homer Flick who taught from 1936-1962 except for two years when he was band director at Grand Junction High school.

Ron Veselack was a contemporary of Newell's as the band director at Fruita High School in the 1960s. Ron later became a Palisade resident and was very active in the Palisade Masonic Lodge. Ron passed away in March. Our condolences to the Hoskin family, including wife Jane, son Kevin (Sally), daughter Tamara Haggstrom (Chris), two grandchildren; and three great grandchildren, and to the Veselack family, as well, including his wife, Marilyn, and children Mark (Frederick) Hairston and Joan (Rob) Gennarini.

Below Newell Hoskin and the Palisade High School Band at 1966 dedication of Palisade's "new" post office. Wayne Aspinall is at the podium. Band Director Newell Hoskin, standing.



BROWSE PALISADE HISTORY TIMELINE ON MUSEUM'S WEBSITE

The Museums of Western Colorado has our detailed timeline and photos of Palisade history as part of the Grand Valley's history on its Website: <https://museumofwesternco.com/learn/history-of-grand-valley/palisade-history/>

2019-2020 Directors of the Palisade Historical Society

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AMAZON SMILE PURCHASES BENEFIT THE PALISADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**Look for us on Facebook:
Palisade Historical Society**

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 it's time to renew your membership—please do so today! Mail your tax-deductible checks to the **Palisade Historical Society, P.O. Box 631, Palisade, CO 81526.**

Volunteers welcome!

Please contact us if you're interested in meeting new people, want to learn more about Palisade history, and/or work on committees, projects, and fundraising for the new permanent home for the Historical Society. Contact a board member to find out how you can help.

Handing out fresh Palisade cherries to July 4th parade viewers lined up on Iowa Avenue.

(Photo courtesy of Kent Brown)



Thanks to our generous donors, grants from CHRAB, and support from the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection, we have raised funds to digitize 2,493 issues of *The Palisade Tribune* for the Colorado

Historic Newspaper database website:
www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org

Please help us get more issues digitized!

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