



**Historical Society Events  
 During Peach Fest 46 —  
 August 14 - 17**

☐ **View the Dam Documentary — Thursday,  
 Aug. 14 from 5 pm to 7 pm at  
 Canyon View Church**

The countdown to the 100th birthday of the Grand River Diversion Dam in DeBeque Canyon officially begins with the premiere of the documentary created by Larry Seibert (InFilms & Design, Inc.) and his longtime associate, video photographer and editor, Scot Stewart.

The documentary will be shown continuously from **5 p.m -7 p.m. on Thursday, August 14 at Canyon View Church** in the Purcell Building at **Third and Main Streets** in downtown Palisade before the 46th Annual Peach Fest's Ice Cream Social begins at the Plaza across Main Street.

Stop by to view the documentary and see the newly created "mobile museum" exhibit containing never-before-seen photos and information detailing the construction of the Diversion Dam, known locally as the "Roller Dam" The official Congressional Dedication of the Dam was June 29, 1915, and this event is the first event of the Historical Society's planned 100th birthday celebration.

The documentary and "mobile museum" exhibit explaining why the Roller Dam makes life in the Grand Valley possible, will be on display at the Palisade History Center, 311 South Main Street, for the next year. During Peach Fest, the History Center will be open Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., during Saturday's parade, and for the Sunday Farmer's Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



☐ **Take Guided Walking Tours on Friday,  
 Aug. 15 at 10:30 am and 12:30 pm**



The Historical Society will offer its popular **Guided Walking Tours of Downtown Palisade at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Friday, August 15th.** You can make reservations for tours in advance by calling (970) 464-2177. Routes and more information are on [www.historicpalisade.org/index.php/historic-guided-walking-tours/](http://www.historicpalisade.org/index.php/historic-guided-walking-tours/). For a \$5 suggested donation, you can select from four tours with different routes offered at those two times, depending on the information you want and the part of downtown you want to see.

The History Center will also be open during Saturday's Peach Fest parade which starts at 9 a.m. Look for the Historical Society member's old cars in the Parade. Don't miss the Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast in Palisade Park from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**The Logo for the Roller Dam  
 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Unveiled**

The theme for the Roller Dam's 100th birthday was created by Historical Society member Maggy Reese-Fellman, and Gayle Madden turned it into the logo at the left. It calls attention to the fact that the Dam makes living in the Grand Valley possible. Without it, there would be no agriculture, no economy. Our mission with this project is to communicate that information.

## Facebook Page for the Roller Dam Birthday

Thanks to Palisade Historical Society Member Gary Hines, the Roller Dam's 100th Birthday is on social media! Gary, whose grandfather, Earl Carver, was the caretaker of the Roller Dam for nearly one third of its nearly 100 year existence, has created a Facebook Page to increase the audience for our 100th Birthday celebration. On your facebook page, search for Grand River Diversion Dam Celebrates 100 years.

## New Window Display at the History Center Features Peaches and Inventions

Just in time for Peach Fest, the History Center window display now features Palisade peaches and unique inventions! When you stroll by the History Center for Peach Fest, you'll see the results of hard work of Jennifer Lasley and Charlene Weidner. Among other interesting features, they created hand-painted peaches out of paper mache to make the contents of wooden peach boxes more realistic. Also featured are local inventions, including the Edwards Grader, orchard heaters, picking sacks, and stilts. The popular fruit labels still attract attention, and many of the previous items in the Cameo display were moved inside.



*Jennifer Lasley (l) and Charlene Weidner (r) with handmade paper mache peaches.*

A newly created "Dam Room" features photos and information about the Grand River Diversion Dam on the "mobile museum" display boards and a DVD player for the Dam Documentary.

## Work Continues on *The Palisade Tribune* Archives



*Susan Lorenzen Cesario (l) talks with Nancy Morrison and Syble Seckinger about their tireless work on organizing and securing the archival issues of *The Palisade Tribune*.*

In July, Historical Society members Susan and Lee Cesario made a trip to Palisade to help with the Tribune Archive project headed by Syble Seckinger and Nancy Morrison. This project has special interest for Susan as her father, Bill Lorenzen, was the publisher of the *Tribune* from the 1950s until July 1979.

Susan, her mother and three brothers, also worked long hours to get the newspaper out. During that time, hot lead was used to set the lines of type, and then were melted down each week. The headlines were set letter by letter until the offset process began in the seventies. Susan's brothers had responsibility for the tearing down process that was referred to as "hot lead and ink." *The Palisade Tribune* was one of the last papers to employ the linotype method.

We received more donations for the Tribune Archive Fund to purchase archival storage boxes for *The Palisade Tribune* and begin digitizing past issues.

**We are still seeking funds for the project. Please make your tax-deductible check** payable to the Palisade Historical Society and mail it to P.O. Box 631, Palisade, Colorado 81526.

## Identification for “Colorado Peaches” Historic Documentary

Earlier this year, the Palisade Historical Society assisted the Sunrise Rotary Club with the promotional documentary produced in the early 1950s by the Rio Grande Railroad and Peach Board of Control. Now linked on the Rotary Club's website: <http://www.palisadecorotary.org/sunrise/peaches/>, the video received a lot of attention. Our newsletter article also inspired Ari Armstrong to contact his uncle, Bill Everheart, who provided some details about the video.

- Specifically, at 1:06, on the right is the Palisade Coal Mine where Bill's father-in-law and Ari's grandfather, Theo Eversol, mined.
- At 1:14 Bill identified stiltwalkers including Lindy Granat as the tallest on the right; at 1:17 is Bob Ames in the red shirt; and at 1:36, is Carl "Mutt" Hampton.
- From 3:50 to 4:10 is Theo Eversol. Eli Murray is at 4:32 with Theo's tractor and appears again at 4:48.
- At 7:59 is of course, the "Roller Dam" in DeBeque Canyon which diverts water to the High Line, Price and Stub canals as well as two Orchard Mesa canals thru a siphon and the power canal thru Vineland to the pumping plant at base of East Orchard Mesa. He added Theo and Eli stood watch at night on the Dam at times, especially during World War II.
- At 8:41 is Ray Dennison; and at 14:43, the woman sorting peaches on the right is Erna Eversol-Aspinall, Theo's sister.
- Both Ari and Bill identified Ford automobiles from 1951 to 1953 to help date the video.



## HISTORIC PHOTO OF THE MONTH Two Members of PHS Grew Up at the Roller Dam



*(Palisade Historical Society Photo)*

**Show above is the Junior Year for the Class of 1935**

**Back Row: Harold Conner, Alden Roper, Walter Rosette, Delbert Brown.**

**Next Row: Mr. E. M. Day – Sponsor, Maurice Naeve, John Carver, Russell Lassey, Norman Lassey. Second Row: James Reach, Archie Carver, Wilford Kerr, Myrtle Bennett, Betty Hester, Mary Conner, Eleanor Duncan, Jack Merlino.**

**Front Row: Beverly Libby, Helen Eyer, Lottie Stiers, Isabel Vancil, Delma Jones, Martha Bancroft, Mary Esther Gifford, Gladys McKay, Jessie McManaway**

Archie and John Carver grew up at the Roller Dam, as their father, Earl, was Caretaker at the dam from 1926 until 1959. They attended school in Cameo through the 10th Grade and finished at Palisade High School in 1935. Archie (2nd row, 2nd from the left) was about a year and a half older than John (3rd row, 3rd from the left). Because of the way their birthdays fell in the calendar year, Archie was a grade level ahead of John until at some point during their schooling in Cameo, John skipped a grade so the two brothers graduated from PHS together in the class of 1935.

To learn more about the history of the Roller Dam, come to the Palisade Historical Society's countdown to the 100th Birthday of the Roller Dam on August 14 from 5-7 pm at the Canyon View Church at 3rd and Main Streets in Downtown Palisade. You can view the documentary film and a detailed exhibit with photos and information about the Roller Dam.

## Palisade Historical Society Loses Another Resource

We are saddened by the recent passing of another resource for interesting Palisade history. Virginia Gardner Dodd Flager passed away June 30, 2014. She was born November 7, 1926 in Arkansas and adopted by Japp and Stella Dodd when she was nine months old.



*Virginia, Stella, and nephew, Russell Oliver, on July 4 1952. (Photo courtesy of the Dodd Family.)*

After learning to successfully drive an orchard hoopie, as shown in the photo above, Virginia was a businesswoman in Grand Junction. She worked as the general office credit manager for Gay Johnson's, successfully operated a pallet factory, and later, the Check Rite Collection Agency.

Virginia's memory was always excellent, and she provided the Historical Society information about the Kuner Empson canning factory which closed in the 1950s. Virginia also helped us with locations of downtown Palisade business. She even told us about learning to run the projector at the Elberta Theater from operator Merle Boardman.

For the past two years, Virginia has been a wonderful resource to verify information about Palisade's history. We will miss her, and the chance to hear more of her Palisade memories. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her brother, Jasper, and to her niece and nephews.

## RENEW YOUR PALISADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Our success is made possible only through the work of volunteers and donations. Everyone is invited to join the Palisade Historical Society--through volunteer time with committees and projects--and by membership.

Annual Membership in the Palisade Historical Society is just \$25.00 for Individuals, \$50 for Families, \$100 for Businesses, and \$500 for Patrons. 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.**

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### ABOUT THE PALISADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The mission of the Palisade Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and communicate the unique history of Palisade, Colorado, and to foster, encourage, stimulate, and develop public appreciation of this history.

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If you have photos you are willing to contribute for publication in a history book about Palisade, please contact the Palisade Historical Society at (970) 464-2177 or P.O. Box 631, Palisade, CO 81526. Photos will be scanned and originals returned to donors.