

HISTORY OF FRUIT AND WINE IN PALISADE – FEB. 15TH AT NOON

Founding Palisade Historical Society Board Member Harry Talbott will present an interesting program about Palisade's Fruit and Wine history for this month's Mesa County Historical Society's Oral History program. It will be **Thursday, February 15th at noon** in the **Whitman Educational Center** at the Museums of Western Colorado 248 South Fourth Street **in Grand Junction**.

Palisade has been growing the best tasting peaches for over 130 years, and is also the center of the newer Colorado Wine Country which includes grape growers and wineries. Harry will tell the story of how Palisade got to be famous for its fruit and is home to 25 of the state's more than 140 wineries.



Harry Talbott

SEE HISTORIC DISPLAYS AT BASE CAMP RV PARK

The RV Park on North River Road east of Palisade has been open for reservations and is gearing up for a busy camping season. The formal opening is planned for later this spring. In the meantime, Charlene Weidner created an interesting display at the Camp's store. There are several photos of our agriculture and coal mining history as well as a pair of stilts and a picking sack with its 1900 patent.

The Camp's location—about a half a mile east of Palisade—puts the Camp in the center of Palisade's mining past. Visible from the north side of the camp are "Devil's Slide" and the Stagecoach trail which were both created to reach the upper workings of the Mt. Lincoln Coal Mine. The load out near the

(continued next column)

railroad tracks across from the RV Camp was later used by the Hickman family to load boxes of Sunset Brand peaches into refrigerated railcars.



The display in the store at Base Camp RV Park includes stilts, a picking sack, and historic photographs and videos of Palisade agriculture and mining activities. *(Photo courtesy of Keith Ehlers)*

You can also see mine workings of the Stokes Mine to the east near Rapid Creek. Across the River to the south was the Midwest Mine which had a trestle across the River to reach the railroad tracks across North River Road from Base Camp RV Park.

In addition to photos, videos, and artifacts to view, our publications are available in the Base Camp store for a donation. The Historical Society may also offer guided tours for campers.

"RAILROAD HISTORY OF PALISADE" PROGRAM DREW A LARGE CROWD

Matt Darling's Railroad History Program January 31st was another well-attended event in our "Palisade Reflections" series. Matt is also the Site Manager of Cross Orchards. He was spell-binding in his presentation of Colorado and Utah Railroad History. The audience was enthusiastic as he shared photos and information about the pivotal role the railroads played in Palisade's coal mining and fruit growing history. We appreciate the Palisade United Methodist Church making its facilities, including the new audio/video and recording equipment available for the program. Chris Portell installed it and ensured everything worked perfectly.

Railroad
Historian
Matt Darling
presented
Palisade's
Railroad History
to an enthusiastic
audience



Wesley Rosette joined the Colorado State Patrol on July 18, 1936, a year after it was founded. He was a beloved member of our community who frequently gave safety talks to groups of adults and at schools

Other members of law enforcement with ties to Palisade who have passed away in the line of duty include Ed Innes. He was working as a jailor in Grand Junction and died September 27, 1906 from injuries inflicted by an escaping prisoner.

Government Highline Canal Tunnel #3 collapsed March 8, 1950

(Photo courtesy of the Marie Tipping Archives)



In this photo, an eastbound freight train is halted while workers repair massive damage to the Government Highline Canal Tunnel #3 just east of Palisade.

The ominous March 10, 1950 headline of *The Palisade Tribune*:

Grand Valley Tunnel 3 Out, 38,000 Acres Dry

A 450 foot section of the 1.75 mile long tunnel collapsed. Workers feverishly drilled from the four exposed ends of the tunnel to finish ahead of schedule. Initial expectations were repairs would not be completed until July. Water began flowing May 4 to the five canals supplied by the Government Highline Canal in time to save the fruit orchards.



Audience members enjoying the Railroad History Program presented by Matt Darling at the Palisade United Methodist Church January 31st.

MEMORIAL FOR WESLEY ROSETTE

A marker located about 100 feet from the Colorado-Utah border on Eastbound I-70 is a memorial for Wesley Rosette, the second trooper in Colorado's history to lose their life in the line of duty.

A 31-year resident of Palisade, Rosette was killed near Price, UT in a collision with two trucks. He was traveling with Grand Junction Sheriff E. E. Redmon on the way to pick up a prisoner. Rosette was unfortunately killed instantly from the January 31, 1951 collision. Sheriff Redmon survived with injuries. *(continued)*



Register for New Dimension Classes

Registration for the next semester of classes begins February 12 and ends the 19th. Look for the Palisade Historical Society class on the History of Riverbend Park and new this semester, an historical guided walking tour of Fruita. Their website is www.newdimensiongj.org or call 970-270-8425



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.**

Look for us on two Facebook pages:

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

Volunteers welcome!

Please contact us if you're interested in meeting and talking with people who want to learn more about Palisade history, and/or working on various committees and projects.

2017-2018 Directors of the Palisade Historical Society

Bill Beckwith

Jaime Cox — jaimejcox@gmail.com

Barb Hampton — blh93@hotmail.com

Gary Hines — gwhines@msn.com

Nancy Morrison — nancymorrison@gmail.com

Frank Nemanich—westiecolorado@bresnan.net

Kaylan Robinson—kaylanmrobinson@gmail.com

Priscilla Walker — pbwalker630@acsol.net

Charlene Weidner — charw@acsol.net



Thanks to generous donors, and grants from CHRA, we have raised funds to digitize 1,707 issues of *The Palisade Tribune* for the Colorado Historic Newspaper database website: www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org

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Main Street looking North circa 1904
The Hugus Building in the distance on the left was built in 1903. The Purcell building on the east side of Main Street was not built until 1905.



(Courtesy of Steve and Denise Hight)