

PALISADE

Historical Society

www.historicpalisade.org

TOWN DONATES ASPINALL GAVEL TO THE PALISADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Town of Palisade Mayor Greg Mikolai presented a proclamation and formally gave a gavel—originally presented to the Town by Congressman Wayne N. Aspinall—to the Palisade Historical Society at the Town's February 9th Board Meeting.



Priscilla Walker holding gavel, left, receives proclamation from Palisade Mayor Mikolai
(Photo courtesy of Karla Oglesby)

The gavel is made from 19th Century wood salvaged during the 1949-1952 renovation of The White House. Congressman Aspinall, who grew up in Palisade and represented Colorado's 4th District from 1949-1973, received it as a member of Congress.

We are proud to fulfill Mr. Aspinall's original wish for the gavel to be honored and publicly displayed. We especially appreciate Town Board Members Ellen Turner and Bill Carlson as well as Karla Oglesby's efforts to make this happen.

February 2021



The Aspinall Gavel

CMU HISTORY CLASS FEATURES WAYNE ASPINALL

Dr. Pamela Krch, Instructor of History at Colorado Mesa University, contacted the Palisade Historical Society to enhance her senior-level Introduction to Public History class this semester. We were able to supply information and photos to expand the class' knowledge and discussions about the capstone project on Wayne Aspinall.



Dr. Krch visited the Aspinall Room display at the Palisade History Museum.

The class' primary resource was Steve Schulte's book *Wayne Aspinall and the Shaping of the American West*. We provided a copy of *Mr. Chairman*, Aspinall's biography, as well as information about his early years in Palisade as a teacher, lawyer, school board member, and election to local, and state offices before becoming a U.S. Congressman.

(continued)

Page 1

Of course, Aspinall is best known for his work as Chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee which was responsible for major water storage and recreation projects in the Western U.S.

FIELD MUSEUM IN CHICAGO SENDS PHOTOS OF TURTLE FOSSILS FROM THE BLUE FLAME MINE

In 1962, Blue Flame Coal Mine owner Willis Barstow contacted the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago about fossilized turtle shells in the roof of the coal mine. A representative came to Palisade and took the shell and two shell fragment fossils back to Chicago.

Based on information from Susan Barstow, Charlene Weidner contacted the Museum. William F. Simpson, Head of Geological Collections and McCarter Collections Manager, Fossil Vertebrates at the Gantz Family Collection Center, sent a half dozen photographs he took of the turtle fossils.



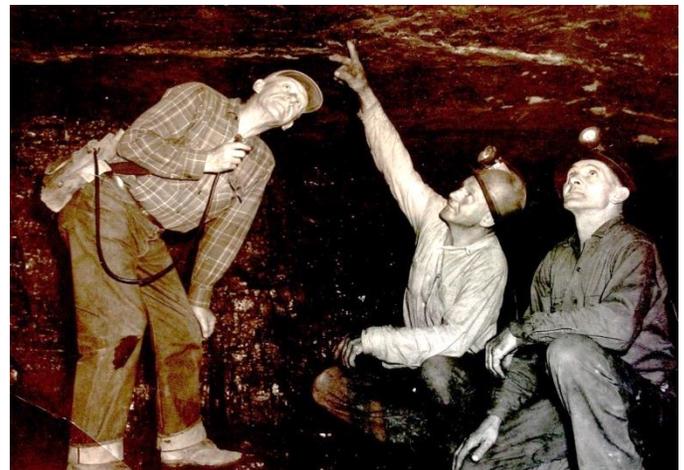
This photo is described as “the natural mold of the underside of carapace” which is the turtle’s shell. The blue scale bar in the photo measures 10 cm.

Bennett Young, professional geologist and primary resource for our *History of Coal Mining in Palisade, Colorado* booklet, saw these fossils in the mine before they were removed. He explained the turtles were fossilized in the coal and the adjoining shale made the resulting mold. He later saw dinosaur tracks in the Ohio Creek #2 Mine west of Crested Butte which was a similar undercut and blast coal mine. Both mines are in the Mesa Verde Formation and Book Cliffs Coal Field. (continued)



This photo is of the top side, or the carapace. The white lines are adhesive to fit broken pieces back together to reconstruct the shell. They are not part of the fossil.

The Grand Valley has been a source of interest from the Field Museum since 1900 when Elmer Riggs, the Museum’s first curator of paleontology, unearthed and named a *Brachiosaurus* at what is now known as Riggs Hill on the Redlands. Riggs also discovered an *Apatosaurus* at Dinosaur Hill near Fruita which has been on continuous display at the Field Museum in Chicago since 1908.



Field Museum representative, left, with mine owners Paul Peterson and Willis Barstow looking at the turtle fossil in the Blue Flame Mine in 1962. (Photo courtesy of Susan Barstow)

The best source of local fossils is at the Museums of Western Colorado’s Dinosaur Journey in Fruita which did not exist when the turtle fossils were retrieved. Dinosaur Journey now has 15,000 fossil specimens, cast skeletons, and robotic

(continued)

reconstructions of dinosaurs to tell the story of the history of life in western Colorado and surrounding areas.

Dr. Julia McHugh. Curator of Paleontology at the Museums of Western Colorado said, “fragments of turtle shells are common in late Cretaceous rocks in the Grand Valley, but nearly complete shells like these are rare, which is probably why the Field Museum made the trip to western Colorado to collect them.”

JANUARY 1956 EARTHQUAKE DAMAGED PLATEAU CANYON

Palisade native Vera Edelen Creagar shared photos from her family album of the results of a January 18, 1956 earthquake in Plateau Canyon. The earthquake and resulting rockslides damaged the road.



Vera and her brother, Dick Edelen, show how extensive the damage was to the road to Mesa in Plateau Canyon.



The earthquake caused a rockslide on Highway 65 in Plateau Canyon halfway between mile markers 53 and 54.

COLORING BOOK PRESENTATION AT CHATFIELD ELEMENTARY VIA GOOGLE

Previously, Palisade Historical Society volunteers traveled to local elementary schools with a picking sack, a pair of stilts and a piece of coal to talk about Palisade’s interesting history. Thanks to Rotary Club donations, we provide students with copies of our Historic Palisade Coloring Book which the 2nd graders have studied and colored the wonderful illustrations before the presentations. Since schools closed in March 2020, we were not able to share this interesting history until Robyn Carmine, teacher at Chatfield Elementary, reached out in January to ask if the presentations could be done remotely.



Chatfield Elementary second graders in Robyn Carmine’s class ask questions about Palisade Coloring Books (*Courtesy of Robyn Carmine*)

We appreciate Ms. Carmine – who has used our Coloring Book as a resource for several years - and Mr. Shaw – for continuing this unique learning experience in their classes in this challenging time. We look forward to being back in classrooms when restrictions are lifted and hosting classes for field trips to the Palisade History Museum when it is open.

SYLVIA WILHELM’S ROLLER DAM PAINTING IS AT THE MESA COUNTY LIBRARY

The Mesa County Library in Grand Junction currently has artist Sylvia Wilhelm’s "DeBeque Canyon Roller Dam" painting on display through March 5th. It was inspired when she attended the plein air session held at the Grand River Diversion Dam in anticipation of the Historical Society’s 100th (*continued*)

birthday celebration in June 2015. Sylvia had a different entry in the "Dam Art Show" held in conjunction with the birthday party.



Sylvia Wilhelm's "DeBeque Canyon Roller Dam"

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

Volunteers Welcome!

Please contact us if you want to meet interesting people, learn more about Palisade history and/or work on committees, projects, fundraising, or creating displays for the new Palisade History Museum. Send a message with your contact information to Gary at historicpalisade@outlook.com to learn how you can help.

2020-2021 Directors of the Palisade Historical Society

Susan Barstow – susanbarstow.ak@gmail.com
Ralph Branch – branchcolorado@gmail.com
Jaime Cox – jaimejcox@gmail.com
Gay Hetland – ghetland@outlook.com
Gary Hines – gwhines@msn.com
Nancy Morrison – nancykmorrison@gmail.com
Priscilla Walker – pbwalker630@acsol.net
Charlene Weidner – charw@acsol.net

SMILE PURCHASES BENEFIT THE PALISADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For your on-line shopping, please go to:
<https://smile.amazon.com>

On your first visit, you can use the same email and password as you set up for Amazon. Then, select Palisade Historical

Society from the Charity Lists. If you bookmark Amazon Smile, you will automatically be taken there instead of the regular Amazon site when you shop. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases. **You may need to renew or update your charity choice before your next purchase.**



YOUR PURCHASES AT CITY MARKET BENEFIT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Palisade Historical Society is grateful to participate in the City Market Community Rewards Program. If you have a City Market loyalty card and have used the City Market's website, just log into <http://www.citymarket.com> and search for the Palisade Historical Society. Select it as your designated community non-profit. It is another painless and amazingly effective way to support the Historical Society.



If you do not have an account, you will need to create one by providing some basic information, a valid email address, and a City Market/Kroger loyalty card number. You can get a loyalty card at any Kroger, King Soopers or City Market store's customer service desk. You must swipe your registered loyalty card or use the phone number attached to the card for your purchase to benefit the Palisade Historical Society.



Become a part of History - Donate to the Palisade Historical Society.

The Palisade Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

The Historical Society relies on donations to facilitate projects that enhance our community by documenting local history and promoting our heritage. You can join us with your support in a targeted way that interests you most. Make a donation for any or all of the following categories:

- Become a member and enjoy notification of events and news
- Contribute to the **Palisade Tribune** Digitization Fund that will save invaluable Palisade history
- Donate to complete renovations for the Palisade History Museum at the Bunte Shop. It will feature displays and educational media to engage locals and visitors year-round.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Annual Memberships (check one)

Individual \$25 Family \$50 Business \$100 Patron \$500

Extended Memberships

10-year (Family or Individual) \$200 Lifetime (Family or Individual) \$400

PALISADE TRIBUNE DIGITIZATION FUND

We have raised funds to digitize 2,650 issues of *The Palisade Tribune* for Colorado Historic Newspaper Newspaper database website. Please help us get more issues online for browsing and searching from anywhere!

\$1,000 \$100 Other \$ _____

PALISADE HISTORY MUSEUM AT THE BUNTE SHOP

We are in our final fundraising phase to open the Museum. Help us at any level.

\$1,000 \$500 \$100 Other \$ _____

\$2,500 (receive a "Proud Supporter" sign)

\$5,000 (advertise in the Museum for your business)

For credit card payments, call (970) 464-2177.

For checks or money orders payable to Palisade Historical Society, mail them with your confidential contact information to: **Palisade Historical Society, PO Box 631, Palisade, CO 81526.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail (for newsletters) _____ Phone _____