

March 2017

The picking sack and silver medal G. W. Bowman won for apples at the 1904 Saint Louis Exposition are in the display.

COLORFUL CHARACTERS AT HERITAGE RENDEZVOUS

This year's Heritage Rendezvous theme is "Colorful Characters on The Sunset Slope." The display opened to the public March 3rd and will be at the Museum of the West, 462 Ute Avenue in Downtown Grand Junction through October 16th. Members of the Palisade Historical Society will receive free admission to see the exhibit.

Our display is at the front of the exhibit hall. The centerpiece artifact from the Wayne N. Aspinall collection—the prototype statue created for his Memorial in Palisade Park—welcomes visitors and points toward other displays.



Wayne N. Aspinall display

The first "Colorful Character" is John Petal Harlow who planted some of the Valley's first fruit orchards in Rapid Creek and partnered with Grand Junction founder George Crawford in ranching, mining, hotels, restaurants, and other ventures. Harlow's grave site in Rapid Creek is on the National Historic Register.

Another featured Palisade pioneer is George W. Bowman, long-time president of the Palisades National Bank and one of the founders of the United Fruit Growers' Association. He invented and patented a "fruit gathering bag" and a fire escape.

George W. Bowman's patented "picking sack" at the Heritage Rendezvous Exhibit.



Besides Congressman Aspinall, another Palisade educator featured is Mary Rait. She was an original faculty member at the local college. During her 42-year tenure at Mesa College, she also served as the Dean of Women as well as vice-president. Her 1931 Master's Degree Thesis, the "Development of Grand Junction and the Colorado River Valley to Palisade from 1881 to 1931" is a widely used resource for local history. *(continued)*



Photos and information about Mary Rait include copies of her Thesis

Palisade's Wayne N. Aspinall had a distinguished career in public service. His mark on water conservation in the West, our national parks, and resources is unmatched. Before being elected to Congress, he taught at Palisade High School, served on the Mt. Lincoln School Board, and was a Trustee for the Town. After serving in the Colorado House and Senate, Aspinall was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1949 from Colorado's 4th District, a position he held until 1973.

Other Aspinall memorabilia on display includes letters he received from Presidents Kennedy and Johnson and the pen LBJ used to sign H.R. 3846 which authorized the dams constructed when he chaired the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. Many of these items were displayed at the History Center in Palisade before it closed in January, so it's nice to have them available for public viewing again.



Gary Hines, right, presents a check from the Palisade Historical Society to Tom Oliver, Museum Board Vice President at the display's opening night.

This is the fourth year the Palisade Historical Society has participated in the Museum's popular Western Slope historical event.

MADDENS RECEIVE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION HERITAGE AWARD

Palisade Historical Society members given recognition at the Museums of Western Colorado's March 7 Heritage Awards event were Dr. Hugo and Gayle Madden who received the MWC Preservation Award. It is given to honor distinguished and long-term efforts to preserve Mesa County's historical treasures.

The Palisade Historical Society and Lower Valley Heritage Chapter's Steve and Denise Hight jointly nominated the Maddens for their countless hours of work to preserve a number of items in our collection.

Starting in 2014, the first project the Maddens jumped on was creating a display of Palisade High School Senior Class photos, starting with the class of 1906. Their work preserved 70 years of deteriorating original photos into our most popular display. Another project the Maddens completed was turning a scrapbook of newspaper articles into a 400-page book and searchable CD. *The Government High Line Canal Newspaper Article Archive 1904-1910* is available on Amazon and through the Palisade

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Gayle Madden, left, with her award and award-winning book and Priscilla Walker at the Heritage Awards ceremony.

Historical Society. The articles—originally stored at the Grand Valley Water Users Association—detail the early challenges of creating our essential irrigation systems.

CURTIS MARTIN HONORED AS ARCHAEOLOGIST OF THE YEAR

We are thrilled another Palisade Historical Society member and volunteer, Curtis Martin, was recognized for the equally prestigious Archaeologist of the Year award at the March 7 Heritage Awards event. The Museums of Western Colorado annually designates leaders and organizations in several categories who significantly contribute to the community's heritage. This is the second year a Palisade archaeologist has received the award, as the late John Lindstrom was last year's recipient.



Curtis Martin, center front row, and Gayle Madden to his left, with other 2017 Heritage Award recipients Commissioner Rose Pugliese, Mike Calabro, Steven Baker, and Kay Fredette.

David Bailey, the Museum's Curator of History, nominated Curtis for his many accomplishments as a research archaeologist for the Grand River Institute and Dominguez Archaeological Research Group. He was also principal investigator for the Colorado Wickiup Project, which received the 2014 Governor's Award. Curtis' recently published book, *Ephemeral Bounty*, adds a "whole new chapter to the Ute Indian cultural history," said Bailey.



Museum Curator David Bailey, left, with Curtis Martin accepting the 2017 Heritage Award for Archaeology.

Look for us on two Facebook pages:

The Grand River Diversion Dam
Celebrates 100 years 1915-2015
and
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 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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Before there were stilts...

(Photo courtesy of the Bowman Family Collection)



This photo postcard—postmarked 1909—shows men pruning fruit trees in the winter. They stood on modified ladders with steps fixed on center poles which probably made them lighter than conventional wood ladders. Later, men used stilts to step between trees as a faster way to prune the highest branches. Now, fruit trees are not allowed to grow this high, so tall ladders and stilts are no longer used.