

Call before May 8 to Reserve Your Guided Walking Tours on Saturday, May 10

The next scheduled Historic Guided Walking Tours are Saturday, May 10 as part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Colorado Historical Society's promotion of Historic Preservation Month in May. The first event was the Fruita History Fair on April 26. One Grand Junction Historic Preservation Board event is a May 13 presentation about the recent preservation efforts for the Wayne N. Aspinall Federal Building and US Courthouse. The Museum of Western Colorado also has events throughout May. Call (970) 464-2177 by May 8 to reserve a spot for the Palisade Historic Guided Walking tours. For other local events, call the Museum of Western Colorado at 242-0971 for further information. A complete listing of statewide events is on the History Colorado website.

Taylor Elementary Third Grade Classes Take Historic Guided Walking Tours

Palisade Historical Society Tour Guides Dave Cecuga, Charlene Weidner, and Priscilla Walker recently gave guided walking tours to sixty-six third graders, teachers – Mrs. Broe, Mrs. McEvoy, Mrs. Tobin – and parent volunteers from Taylor Elementary. The classes eagerly went on "field trips" to learn about Palisade's interesting past. The guides shared stories and photos of Palisade's homes, founders, early businesses, packing shed locations, railroad depots, churches, and coal mining, as well as a visit to the History Center.

Students were also treated to the 12 minute video of "Palisade in 1904" prepared by the Historical Society for the town's CEN-TEN celebration. One of our favorite spontaneous student reaction was "Palisade is a great place!"



Guide Dave Cecuga (in hat), Parent Volunteer Amy Adams, Mrs. McEvoy (back left) and students on the "Hour with Colonel Bower" tour.



Third graders pose at the Aspinall Memorial in Palisade Park on the way back to school.



"Town Center" Tour Guide Charlene Weidner shows an interesting photo of a downtown building for students from Mrs. Tobin's class.

(Guided Walking Tours, continued)



Parent Volunteers and Mrs. Tobin's third grade students stop at a point of interest on the "Fire and Brimstone" Walking tour with Guide Priscilla Walker.

Palisade Historical Society Enters "Colonel Bower" in Beard and Mustache Contest

Dave Cecuga, below, portrayed town founder "Colonel Bower" on a recent Guided Walking Tour. He stopped shaving for the Beard and Mustache Contest, which is part of the Blue Grass Festival on June 11. Prizes will be awarded as judged by breadth, length, and style of facial hair.



Plans continue for the Roller Dam's 100th Birthday

The Palisade Historical Society has made progress in planning the 100th Birthday of the Grand Valley Diversion Dam in DeBeque Canyon — known locally as the "Roller Dam" because of its distinctive roller crest design. Events will be scheduled for the weekend of June 27-28, 2015, which would be close to the official Congressional Dedication date of June 29 – 100 years earlier.

We still need the photo taken at the Congressional Dedication with men and women walking on the catwalk above the hoist houses. If you know where this photo is displayed or was published, please call Priscilla at (970) 464-2177. Look for continuing information about this very special dam celebration.



*Roller Dam under construction in 1914-1915.
(Photo courtesy of Robin Turcotte)*

Coal Mining in Palisade booklet used at Mesa State University

We were thrilled to learn Steve Renner, an adjunct professor at Mesa State University uses our "Coal Mining in Palisade" booklet as a reference in his mine land restoration class. Copies of the booklet are available – for a donation – from the Palisade History Center, Lupita's Bizarre Bazaar, Too! or the Palisade Chamber of Commerce.

Original St. Ann's Church Dedication Photo Recreated



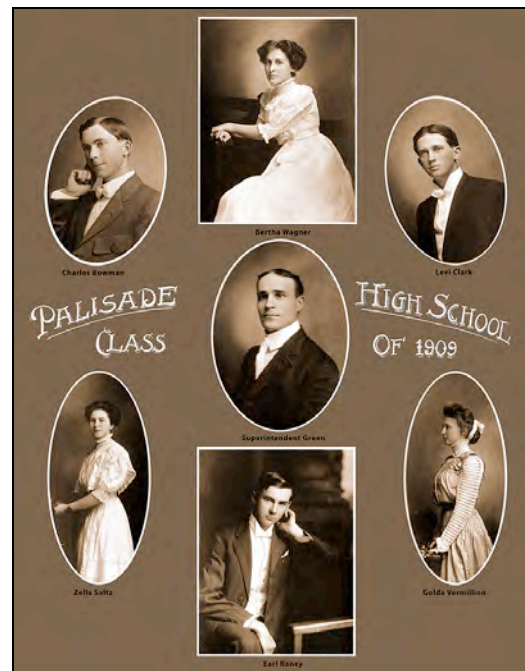
St. Ann's Catholic Church members gather at the original church building. Pick up the Walking Tour brochure or stop by the History Center to see the 1914 photo.

Members of Palisade's St. Ann's Catholic Church gathered to recreate a photo taken when the building was dedicated nearly 100 years ago. The Church has not held Mass in the building since it caught fire in 1963 and was heavily damaged by smoke. A new St. Ann's Church was built on West First and is home to the congregation. Repairs were made to the original building that was later used as a church by other denominations. Head Start was the most recent occupant, but it has been vacant for some time. Jill and Bob Delavan recently purchased the property and plan to build a home. The 100-year old building is too fragile to move, so the Delavans are making use of as much of the materials as possible, including the decorative circular window above the entrance. Jill's brother, Chris, has taken other windows for use in his new home east of Palisade.

Several members who gathered for the photo attended services in the original building, including Jerry and Billie Kay Huber, Ruth (Huber) Partyka, Judy Cole, Margaret Talley, and Val Talley. Also in the photo is Rose Widegren whose grandfather, Dan Friedmann, constructed this building that was dedicated July 16, 1914. Rose wrote the St. Ann's Catholic Church history used in the updated Palisade History. Though Jill is not in the photo above, she was a member of the congregation since her family moved to Palisade in 1957.

High School Senior Class Photo Display Improvements

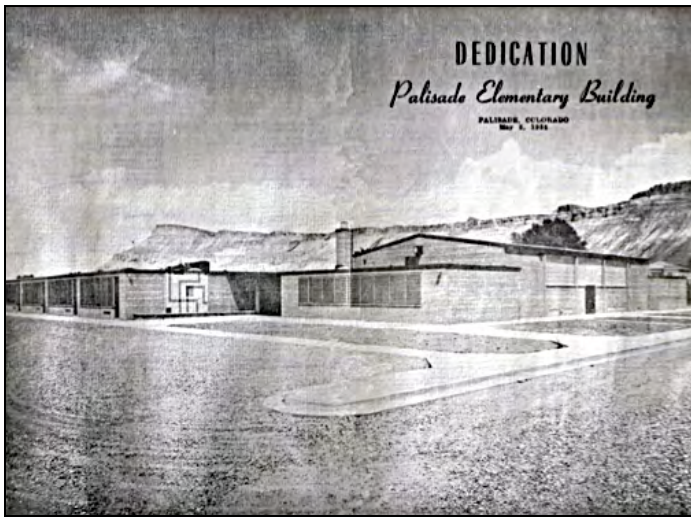
Thanks to the continuing generosity of the Palisade Lions Club, we have been able to improve the popular Palisade High School Senior class photo display that begins with the class of 1906. Volunteers Gayle and Hugo Madden are expertly scanning and enhancing the photos. Terra Staats at Wagner Galloway architects will print the digitized photos to fit in a new and more accessible display rack. Charlene Weidner and Ralph Branch are spearheading the project so visitors to the History Center can easily find photos of friends and family members. The original photos will be securely stored and preserved.



In 1972, Paul and Evelyn Rice donated the original photo display to the Palisade Library in memory of his father, David Thomas. After the Library moved to its current 3rd Street location in 2011, the Library Auxiliary donated the display to the Palisade Historical Society. The display does not include many classes from the 1950s and 1960s. After the original photos are digitized and displayed, we plan to add missing classes to complete the project. If you have annuals, or photos for PHS senior classes including 1952, 1955-59, 1962-71, 1987, and 1988, please contact us. We can scan and return originals.

Palisade Elementary Dedicated May 8, 1958

This dedication program is from Palisade Elementary's official dedication ceremony. The school's name was changed to Taylor Elementary in 1960 when long time principal and educator, Avon E. Taylor, retired.



(Photo courtesy of the Bowman Family Collection.)

Palisade Elementary was open in March 1958 when students from first through 7th grades collected their books and desk contents and walked across Highway 6 to the brand new school on Brentwood Drive. Previously, classes were held in the overcrowded 1910 school building on 8th near Peach Street, and in a two-classroom building at 7th and Lincoln. The new elementary school on Brentwood Drive featured a lunchroom with tables and benches that folded into the walls so it also served as the gymnasium. Marble windowsills and interior bathrooms were considered impressive upgrades. Other architectural features were colorful tile mosaic panels on the north and south entrances that teachers, including fifth-grade teacher Helen Maurer, used as the background in student photos.

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.

Renew Your 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, \$50.00 for Families, \$100 for Businesses, and \$500 for Patrons. New this year are 10 year memberships for \$200 and lifetime memberships for \$400.

Mail your tax-deductible checks to the *Palisade Historical Society, P.O. Box 631, Palisade, CO 81526.*

LINK: www.historicpalisade.org

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.

We've accomplished much since we became a 501 (c) (3) in 2010. Thanks to the generosity of the Colorado National Bank and dedicated volunteers, the History Center at 311 South Main Street is open several hours a week with interesting photos and memorabilia. In addition to compiling an irrigation history booklet in time for the Roller Dam's 100th birthday, our current projects also include, hopefully getting access to scan and use for research the archival issues of The Palisade Tribune beginning with the June 6, 1903 edition.

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