

PALISADE Historical Society

www.historicpalisade.org

**WE'RE SO CLOSE –
HELP US FINISH!**



The Palisade History Museum at the Bunte Shop is almost complete! Though the stay-at-home order slowed construction and donations in April, we are still hopeful to be open to the public this summer.

We are eternally grateful to local electrician Adam McEvoy for stepping up to complete unfinished work when Gary Rupp passed away in mid-March. One Source Lighting also donated some lights and provided others at cost. Jaime Cox is working with Carpetime to get flooring installed, and Russ Bell finished the sewer and water connections and other backhoe work. When the occupancy permit is obtained, and flooring installed, we can move our collection from storage and set up displays.

This is our final phase of the capital fundraising campaign. We have received 80% of our \$125,000 goal from more than 100 donors—46 of whom are Legacy Donors who have given \$500 or more. Their names will be on the permanent plaque on the building. Any amount in these uncertain times is appreciated. To donate or increase your donation, please send your check, payable to the Palisade Historical Society, to P.O. Box 631, Palisade, CO 81526. Or, please call (970) 464-2177 with your credit card information.

May 2020

SEVERE SPRING FROST REDUCES 2020 PEACH CROP

Just as most Palisade peach trees were in full bloom on April 14 and 15, temperatures plummeted to as low as 19 degrees on East Orchard Mesa, 23 in Rapid Creek, and mid 20s in areas around Palisade. Most growers suffered major damage. Current estimates are it will be less than 10% of a normal crop. Fruit growers in the North Fork also suffered crop losses.

1999 was another year local growers mention when spring frosts reduced the crop below 20%. In looking at past issues of *The Palisade Tribune* in the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection database we find indications of crop losses in all decades, starting in the early 1900s.

Severe weather in the spring is not uncommon in our history. There were even reports of blizzards in April 1911 and on May 1, 1915 that severely damaged crops! The winter kill in December 1962 and January 1963 that damaged the fruit trees was truly a pivotal event in Palisade's fruit growing history.

An article in the May 2, 1908 *The Palisade Tribune* caught our eye. This excerpt captures the optimistic outlook required to get through tough times.

"WE ALL HAVE OUR FROSTS"

Canon City Cannon

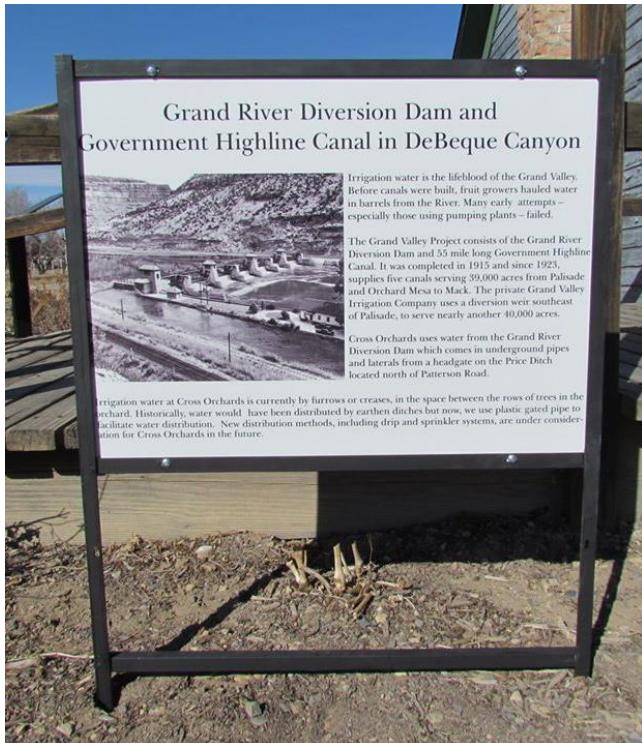
"A trouble's a ton or a trouble's an ounce
or a trouble is what you make it
And it isn't the fact that your hurt that counts
But only how did you take it."

"The fruit grower isn't the only one who knows suspense, disappointment or despair. We all have our frosts. It is the man or woman from ruin and loss learns the lesson of new hopes and bravely rears a new castle of dreams from the wreckage of the old, that is the man or woman worthwhile.

If the fear and depression of the last few days has taught us anything, it is the beauty of bravery.

There is no satisfaction equal to that of knowing you have faced the future with level brows, clear eyes and spirit unafraid. Surely it is a purer soul that cannot live bravely, kindly, tolerantly one little day—and we are but asked to live today."

NEW IRRIGATION SIGN AT CROSS ORCHARDS



When Cross Orchards, the Farm History Museum on Patterson Road in Grand Junction, is open next month, you will see this new sign. The Grand River Diversion Dam and Government Highline Canal supplies Cross Orchards' irrigation water for its new apple trees, vineyard, victory garden, and other crops. Your Sign Company graciously created a more permanent sign which is now in a visible location across from the Barn at Cross Orchards.

BARBARA JUNE LEONARD PASSED AWAY LAST NOVEMBER

We just learned Palisade native Barbara June Leonard passed away at age 94 on November 23, 2019 at Swedish Hospital in Englewood, Colorado. She was born in Palisade on March 15, 1925 to Ralph Burwell Stoolfire and Elizabeth Scott Stoolfire.

Her mother's Scott family operated the deadly Midwest Mine in the Vineland, and Barbara shared wonderful photos and interesting details about Palisade's coal mining history. Most recently, she contacted us about her father's obituary. She was an infant when he was killed in a car accident. Fortunately, it coincided with the 1926 *Palisade*

(continued)

Tribunes being digitized and added to the CHNC database. We mailed a photocopy of Mr. Stoolfire's 1926 obituary last September. She sent a nice thank you note in return.

Barbara is survived by her sons, Bruce Ollinger (Linda), and Tim Ollinger, six grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOINS WITH PALI-TOURS TO OFFER GROUP HISTORY TOURS

PALISADE HISTORICAL TOURS

GET AN INSIDER'S VIEW OF PALISADE'S FASCINATING PAST



(970) 697-8134

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"Stilt Walkers" 1930 photo courtesy of Bill Floryancic

Pali-Tours and the Palisade Historical Society are joining up to take a trip into the past. Call to arrange your tour today!

Dave Smith, operator of Pali-Tours, has partnered with the Historical Society to add new tours featuring Palisade's unique history. The 2½ hour tours for groups of four to ten people will be in "Pinzy," a 1975 Pinzgauer 6X6 made in Austria for the Swiss Military. Historical Society volunteers will narrate the tours with information and historic photos about Palisade's interesting agriculture and coal mining past. Dave will drive an adventuresome route around historic Palisade sites.

Groups of four or more should contact Pali Tours at (970) 697-8134 for more information. The tours will be offered weekday mornings, depending on demand.

Look for us on Facebook and Instagram:

Palisade Historical Society

AMAZON 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.



2020-2021 Directors of the Palisade Historical Society

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Nancy Morrison – nancykmorrison@gmail.com
Priscilla Walker – pbwalker630@acsol.net
Charlene Weidner – charw@acsol.net

Volunteers Welcome!

Please contact us if you want to meet interesting people, learn more about Palisade history and/or work on committees, projects, and fundraising for the new Palisade Historical Museum at the Bunte Shop. Send a message with your contact information to Gary at historicpalisade@outlook.com to learn how you can help. Right now, we're especially interested in volunteers to assist tour guides and hosts when the History Museum is open.

PALISADE TIMELINE ON THE MUSEUM'S WEBSITE

Stephanie Lukowski, Curator of Education at the Museums of Western Colorado, updated educational materials on the Museum's Website, including a more graphic look for our Palisade historic timeline. The new link to Palisade's history – from 1881 to the 2000s is:

<https://museumofwesternco.com/palisade-history/>

PALISADE HISTORY PROGRAMS ON LINE THIS SUMMER

We're working with the Mesa County Library to turn some of our popular Palisade History programs into online programs to be available in June and July. The programs will be on the Museum website and as shareable links via Facebook and YouTube. Watch for more information in future newsletters or on our website or Facebook page.

YOUR PURCHASES AT CITY MARKET BENEFIT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a loyalty card number. You can get a loyalty card at any 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 on our way to opening in the summer of 2020. Help us with any level.

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

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

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

The names of donors contributing \$500 or more will be included on a permanent legacy donor recognition sign displayed on the Museum. ('In memory of' or 'In honor of' may be noted)

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 _____