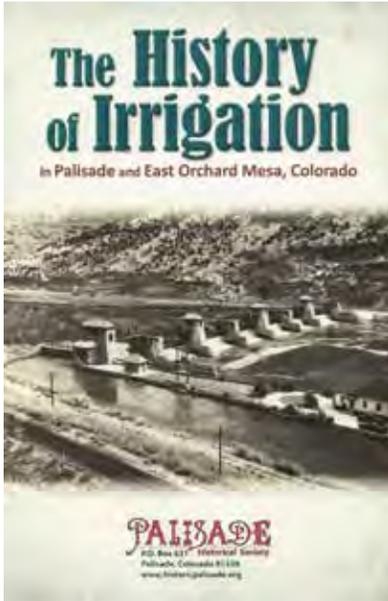


New Booklet on the History of Irrigation Now Available



The History of Irrigation in Palisade and East Orchard Mesa, Colorado, a 32-page Booklet of photos and information about the history of irrigation water in the Grand Valley, is now available from the Palisade Historical Society.

The booklet was created as part of the Historical Society's celebration of the 100th birthday of the Grand River Diversion Dam, known as the "Roller Dam." The congressional dedication of the Dam was June 29, 1915.

"Irrigation water is the lifeblood of the Grand Valley," said Priscilla Walker, chairman of the Palisade Historical Society who served as editor.

This booklet highlights the surprising history of irrigation projects, including many early projects which failed. Though it began in 1897 and took nearly 20 years to complete, the Grand Valley Project that became the Grand River Diversion Dam and Government Highline Canal is the successful solution that turned the Grand Valley into one of the most productive agricultural regions in Colorado and the Intermountain West.

Contributors to the Irrigation History booklet include Paul H. Bardell, Jr., author of "Peaches and Politics in Palisade, Colorado," and Jeffery M. Widener, professor at the University of Oklahoma, whose dissertation is tentatively titled "Holding True: Agriculture in Colorado's Upper Grand Valley."

Additional information resources are government publications, including US Reclamation Service annual reports, the Bureau of Reclamation's "Grand Valley Project" by Wm. Jo Simonds, and the four irrigation districts and the Drainage District participating in the Centennial celebration.

Many of the booklet's photos are courtesy of the Grand Valley Water User's Association, the Museum of Western Colorado, and Danny Williamson, whose grandfather worked to build the Grand Valley Project from 1912 to 1915. Photos from the original Orchard Mesa Irrigation District dam, canal, and

pumping plant construction in 1909 and 1910 are courtesy of the Denver Public Library's Western History Collection.

Additionally, Palisade Historical Society photos from the Peska Family Collection, Robin Turcotte, and Gary W. Hines whose grandfather, Earl Carver, was the caretaker of the Roller Dam for one third of its nearly 100 years make this booklet a unique resource of historically interesting photos and information. Lisa Harmon is the graphic artist and Dean Rickman served as the printer broker. The booklet is available for a donation from the Palisade Historical Society and from area retailers.

100th Birthday Media Coverage

Grand Valley Magazine - March issue - pick it up at The Blue Pig Gallery or on-line: www.grandvalleymagazine.com



KREX: News Channel 5 This Morning with Emily Fredrick: http://www.westernslopenow.com/story/d/story/100th-anniversary-of-the-palisade-roller-dam/42402/eOxajuaNdkqbgf_FWkc7xw

Historical Society is Five Years Old!

Members and guests of the Palisade Historical Society celebrated our fifth birthday at the annual meeting on February 18th. Other business included re-electing board members Bill Beckwith and Charlene Weidner to three-year terms, and appointing Nancy K. Morrison to fill the remaining two years on Harry Talbott's position. Harry, a founding director, announced in January his resignation was effective at the annual meeting.



Harry Talbott receives certificate of appreciation from Priscilla Walker at the Annual Meeting.

Historical Society Five Years (continued)

The Board presented Harry with a certificate of appreciation for his contributions as a member of the Chamber of Commerce History committee which became the Palisade Historical Society when it incorporated in March 2010.

Other business included reviewing a budget for 2015-2016

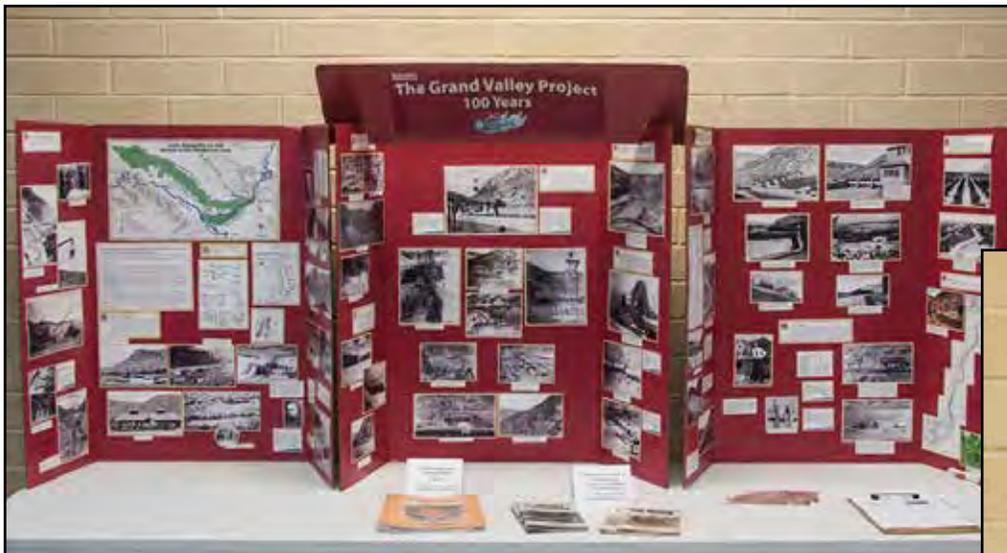
fiscal year, and discussing priorities and accomplishments. Highlighted projects included saving archival copies of the Palisade Tribune, and activities with the upcoming 100th birthday of the Roller Dam.

Irrigation History Program — PRESENTED TWICE IN FEBRUARY!

Gary Hines presented the “History of Irrigation” program twice last month including for the Mesa County Historical Society’s monthly oral history program held at the Museum, and for the Palisade Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet at Wine Country Inn. The “mobile museum” with photos and

information about the construction and operation of the Grand River Diversion Dam and the Historical Society’s publications were also available for viewing at both events.

Gary’s grandfather, Earl Carver, was the caretaker at the Roller Dam for nearly 1/3 of its 100 years, making him uniquely qualified to present the program which highlighted irrigation projects in the Grand Valley and focused on the importance of the Roller Dam to our agriculture and economy.



The “Mobile Museum” historic photos of the Roller Dam.



(Photos of Gary and the Mobile Museum courtesy of Wesley Allen)



Historical Society Volunteer Deb Tsakalos was honored as the “Volunteer of the Year” by the Palisade Chamber.



Audience members at the MCHS Oral history program included Palisade historical Society Members Bill Ellicott, Jean Moores, Ann Culberson and Dave Cecuga.



Gary includes photos of his grandparents who lived at the Roller Dam in his presentation of the Irrigation History program.

Western Slope Heritage Rendezvous — *THE WAY WE WORK*

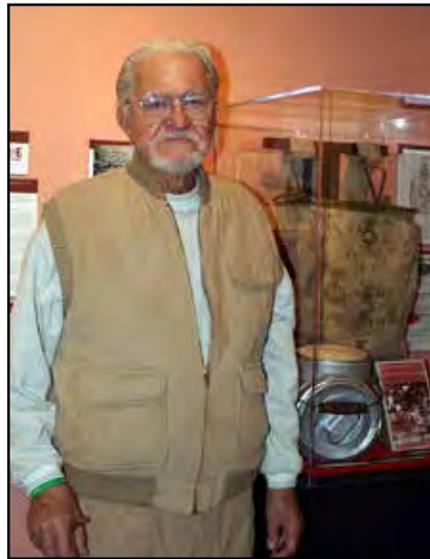
Charlene Weidner created one of the more interesting of the dozen displays from museums around the Western Slope at the Museum of Western Colorado's Heritage Rendezvous exhibit. At the February 19th opening reception, she also took the opportunity to invite everyone to the Roller Dam's 100th birthday party on June 27th. The exhibit is at the Museum, 462 Ute Avenue in Grand Junction until May 2.

Members of the Palisade Historical Society get free admission to the interesting work-filled displays.

Charlene with Sandra Walter, winner of the drawing for the Blue Bird fruit box label, at a Business after Hours event at Wine Country Inn to raise money for the Historical Society's exhibit at the Heritage Rendezvous.



Experienced stilt walker and Historical Society Business Member Brandt Harrison enjoyed the exhibits which featured stilts, a picking sack, coal mining lunch pail and a copy of Hands that Harvest from Palisade's Child & Migrant Center.



Jack Webb, who loaned the coal miner's lunch pail for the exhibit and also underwrote the cost of the Coal Mining in Palisade booklet, poses in front of the Heritage Rendezvous display.



Charlene Weidner speaks at the opening reception and invites everyone to the Roller Dam party in June.

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. 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.**

2015-2016 Directors of the Palisade Historical Society

Bill Beckwith — blbeckwith@gmail.com

Doris Butler — johnddorris@q.com

Gary Hines — gwhines@msn.com

Ralph Branch — branchcolorado@gmail.com

Nancy Morrison — nancykmorrison@gmail.com

Priscilla Walker — pbwalker630@acsol.net

Charlene Weidner — charw@acsol.net

Gray Gourmet with the Society on March 3

The Palisade Historical Society was pleased to show the music video and “mobile museum” at the first of this wonderful community program for seniors in Palisade. Be sure to attend the next Gray Gourmet lunch at noon on Tuesday, April 7th when the Palisade Family Chiropractic will provide the program.



Marsha Kosteva (l.) and Sheli Apodaca (r.) from the Gray Gourmet.



John Lindstrom at the Mobile Museum that traveled to the Gray Gourmet.

Heritage Awards at the Museum of Western Colorado

By Charlene Weidner

The Museum of Western Colorado awarded their 2015 Heritage Historian Award to Priscilla Walker, chairwoman of the Palisade Historical Society during their annual meeting on March 3, 2015. She was nominated for this award by Steve and Denise Hight of the Fruita Preservation Board. Steve says of Priscilla, “ the Palisade Historical Society....is a success

due to the efforts of many people, but its establishment and much of its impetus is due to the efforts of Priscilla Walker.”

Of the honor, Priscilla says “I am lucky to be the leader of a wonderful group of inspired and dedicated volunteers who are the heart of the Palisade Historical Society. And without them, and our generous members and donors these many



Steve Hight (above) of Fruita Preservation Board introduces Priscilla who is shown below with other award winners.



Museum of Western Colorado 2015 Heritage honorees.

Museum Heritage Awards (continued)

accomplishments would not have been possible.”

The Society was incorporated just five years ago, transformed from a committee of the Palisade Chamber of Commerce into a separate non-profit. Priscilla’s Palisade roots go back to her grandparents, George and Nancy Bowman, who helped shape the Palisade we know today. Priscilla and her husband live in the historic Bowman home on First Street where she grew up. Surrounded by her family’s collections of peach growing implements and artifacts of everyday life, we’re glad that Priscilla was inspired to help create the Palisade Historical Society.

The Society board is proud of the work that has been accomplished since its inception under the direction of

Priscilla Walker. Thanks to her leadership some of the trials and triumphs of Palisade’s story will be preserved. Congratulations Priscilla!

The Museum also recognized other individuals at their March 3 Annual Meeting and 50 Year Celebration. Among the recipients were former Museum Director Mike Perry who received the George Callison Paleontological Award, the Mount Garfield Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution which received the Museum Service Award, Jon Schler who received the Preservation Award, and George Decker who received the Museum’s Archaeology Award. Also, Alpine Bank was recognized with the Heritage Enterprise Award for their support.

HISTORIC PHOTO OF THE MONTH **Original Orchard Mesa Dam 1922**

This photograph shows the original Orchard Mesa Irrigation District diversion dam constructed in 1910 about 3000 feet upstream from the Roller Dam. We think this photo was taken in about 1922 - before the dam and power canal were abandoned when the siphon under the newly-named Colorado River was completed in 1923. Since then, the Government Highline Canal supplies water to the OMID power canal and pumping plant on 38 Road at the base of East Orchard Mesa, which serves two canals on Orchard Mesa. The Government Highline Canal also supplies irrigation water to the Price and Stub ditches. Though the photographer focused on the D&RGW train across the river, most of the OMID dam is visible. The angled concrete box below the train can still be seen in DeBeque Canyon near the former dam site.

(Courtesy of the Granat Family)

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.

