

# PALISADE

P.O. Box 631 Historical Society

Palisade, Colorado 81526

www.historicpalisade.org

## Olde Fashioned Christmas Dec. 1 and 2<sup>nd</sup>

Look for the Historical Society at the Town's Olde Fashioned Christmas Celebration. We will have home-made cookies and historic displays at the Palisade Library on Saturday, December 2.

### CREATING AND RENEWING MEMORIES AT CROSS ORCHARDS

Avaleen Walsh and Levi Fink looking closely at individually wrapped peaches in an authentic wooden box in the Cross Orchards barn.



We were invited to participate in Fall Day on the Farm at Cross Orchards in October. Our display took visitors back in time to when Palisade peaches were individually wrapped in paper and placed in alternating rows inside wooden boxes for shipping. Using equipment donated to Cross Orchards years ago from the Bowman family's packing shed in Palisade, visitors, especially youngsters, enjoyed the chance to earn a nickel by packing foam squeeze-ball "peaches." Five cents is what most packers got for packing a whole box 60 years ago! Adults who tried packing quickly learned how hard and exacting the job was. As thousands of workers across the Grand Valley were needed for harvest—especially teenagers—some older visitors shared their memories. One person—who packed Palisade

## November 2017

peaches before the 1950s—remembered the going rate for packers was only two and one-half cents a box. Experienced packers demonstrating the technique at Cross Orchards included Jane McFarland and Dina Fitzpatrick.

### More than just packing peaches

In addition to wrap-packing peaches, Palisade Historical Society volunteers Ralph Branch and Dave Cecuga demonstrated how George W. Bowman's patented picking sack works. Other packing shed activities included how lids were nailed on the peach boxes using a nail stripper to evenly sort the nails for faster nailing.



Historical Society members Jane McFarland, left, with Ralph Branch – wearing a "fruit gathering bag" invented and patented by Palisade pioneer George W. Bowman in 1900—and Dave Cecuga between demonstrations in the barn at Cross Orchards.



Isabella and Victoria Crown examine the box of wrap-packed foam ball "peaches" at Fall Day on the Farm. (continued)

Page 1

## Fall Day on the Farm -continued

Outside the Cross Orchards barn, the bustling crowd watched blacksmith and woodworking demonstrations, cookie baking, apple cider making, and enjoyed train rides along with other turn of the last century activities popular at the event. Charlene Weidner coordinated the volunteers and activities. Other Palisade Historical Society members/volunteers at the event included Gayle Madden and Frank Nemanich, photographer.

## THE HISTORY OF FRUIT AND WINE IN PALISADE



New Dimension lifelong learners in the Palisade Baptist Church Sanctuary—turned classroom—for the “History of Fruit and Wine in Palisade” program presented by Barb Hampton. Look for Palisade Historical Society classes and tours in the upcoming semester.



Barb, right with Gary Hines, center, and Priscilla Walker, left, in front of the “mobile museum” photos and information panels at Barb’s program. Gary videotaped the program.

Barb’s program also included the 30 minute video, “Colorado Peaches,” produced by the Peach Board of Control in the early 1950s.



Barb Hampton with Historical Society members Rita and Kent Brown who are also instructors for New Dimension classes.

## FAMILY HISTORY FAIR AT THE MAIN LIBRARY

Also in October, Barb Hampton and Gary Hines displayed Palisade Historical Society publications and showed visitors to the Family History Fair at the Grand Junction Main Library how to access archival copies of *The Palisade Tribune* newspapers for online genealogical research at [www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org](http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org). Interested genealogists can search for information and obituaries of their ancestors.



**Look for us on two Facebook pages:  
The Grand River Diversion Dam Celebrates  
100 years 1915-2015  
and  
Palisade Historical Society**

## **ANOTHER BLOW TO PALISADE RETAIL**

The Palisade Historical Society is saddened to learn Portell Computers—which has been housed in the former Presbyterian Church/Masonic Temple—lost their conditional use permit. The retail store at 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Kluge Avenue was closed in October.



Portell Computers has been located in the former Presbyterian Church/Masonic Lodge since 2015.

The Presbyterian Church was organized in Palisade on October 11, 1908 with 33 members. Services were held in Hugus Hall until February 1912 when this building was finished. The church dissolved April 12, 1951, and the building was home to the Palisade Masonic Lodge until 2012. The nearby Palisade First Baptist Church purchased the property, and Chris and Tammy Portell opened the computer store in 2015 after extensively and carefully renovating the building

The Palisade Historical Society features this building on our “Fire and Brimstone” Guided Walking Tour. We do not have a photo of the building showing the front entrance on 5<sup>th</sup> Street when it was the Presbyterian Church in our collection. If you or anyone you know has photos—perhaps of family members who were married in the church before 1951—please contact us at (970) 464-2177 or send an email to [palisadehistorical@outlook.com](mailto:palisadehistorical@outlook.com). We will scan and return original photos.

The Portells will continue their excellent on-site computer repair business. The phone number is (970) 712-8399.

## **HARRY TALBOTT CHOSEN FOR COLORADO AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME**



The Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association announced Harry Talbott, of Talbott’s Mountain Gold, will be honored. They cited his dedication and family history with the local fruit industry. Harry is a third generation fruit grower, and two more generations are involved in the business. He also helped pioneer the Mesa Land Trust in addition to being a founding director of the Palisade Historical Society.

## **ORAL HISTORIES NOW ON LIBRARY WEBSITE**

The Museums of Western Colorado and the Mesa County Public Library are partnering to preserve the 3,000 deteriorating cassette tapes containing Oral Histories of pioneers and their children which were recorded in the 1970s and 1980s. The tapes are being digitized and made available—both audio and transcripts—on the Library’s website: <https://mesacountylibraries.org/mcohp/>

On our website, you can read summaries—with additions and clarifications—of oral histories given by Palisade pioneers. The Palisade Historical Society is currently recording video oral histories. Summaries of these interviews are on our website: <http://www.historicpalisade.org/index.php/oral-histories/>

### **2017-2018 Directors of the Palisade Historical Society**

Bill Beckwith

Jaime Cox — [jaimejcox@gmail.com](mailto:jaimejcox@gmail.com)

Barb Hampton — [blh93@hotmail.com](mailto:blh93@hotmail.com)

Gary Hines — [gwhines@msn.com](mailto:gwhines@msn.com)

Nancy Morrison — [nancykmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:nancykmorrison@gmail.com)

Frank Nemanich—[westiecolorado@bresnan.com](mailto:westiecolorado@bresnan.com)

Kaylan Robinson-[kaylanmrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:kaylanmrobinson@gmail.com)

Priscilla Walker — [pbwalker630@acsol.net](mailto:pbwalker630@acsol.net)

Charlene Weidner — [charw@acsol.net](mailto:charw@acsol.net)

# COLONEL BOWER'S GUIDED WALKING TOUR

(Photo courtesy of Kaylan Robinson)

New Dimension class members on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street enjoy "An Hour with Colonel Bower," the guided walking tour given by Dave Cecuga aka "Colonel Bower."



The tour included the Slice 'O Life Bakery, which was the Elberta movie theater until the late 1950s.

**AMAZON SMILE  
PURCHASES CAN  
BENEFIT THE**



**PALISADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Don't forget to designate the Palisade Historical Society as your charity of choice, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases. Start your on-line shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com>.

## 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 have raised funds to digitize 1,707 issues of *The Palisade Tribune* now available on the Colorado Historic Newspaper database website: [www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org](http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org)

Please help us get more issues digitized!

Yes, I would like to help digitize historic *Palisade Tribune* newspapers

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

- \$1.00
  - \$10.00
  - \$100.00
  - \$1,000.00
  - \$10,000.00
  - \$100,000.00
- Or, \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

Please enclose check or money order payable to the Palisade Historical Society and mail to the:  
Tribune Newspaper Digitization Project  
Palisade Historical Society  
P.O. Box 631, Palisade, CO 81526

## 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.**