

THE PALISADE TRIBUNE

PALISADE, SHERA COUNTY, SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1903

NUMBER 1

VOLUME 1

PALISADE NEWS NOTES.

Hurray For the Tribune

Special issue, prepared by our staff, has been published today. It contains a full and complete list of all the names of the subscribers to the Tribune for the year 1903. It is a most interesting and valuable list, and one which will be of great service to the publisher.

Our Business

The business of the Palisade Mercantile Co. is now in a most flourishing condition. The company has a large and complete stock of goods, and is prepared to meet the needs of the community.

Money for Business

Kluge & Kuhlbeck,

Drugs, Patent Medicines, and Druggists' Sundries.

Sole Proprietors in Connection

E. W. White's Barber Shop

Shed-Cutting, ETC.

J. M. FERGUSON, Restaurant and Short Order

Break Bread Always on Hand.

INSURANCE

Blacksmithing!

C. BOWEN,
The Palisade Blacksmithing Co.

ARE YOU AWAKE

Palisade Mercantile Co.

We Are Now Showing Complete Lines of Summer Dress Goods

Department of Groceries

Home Furnishings Our Specialty

We Handle All Kinds of Groceries

The Palisade Mercantile Co.

Harness and Shoe Repairing

M. J. McKeel

Board and Room

The Palisade Restaurant

BANCROFT & REED

Real Estate, Loans, Insurance

PALISADE, COLORADO

Saving the Tribunes

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Saving the *Tribunes*

Mission Accomplished!!

The Palisade Historical Society is happy to report progress in our effort to preserve archival copies of *The Palisade Tribune*, the town's newspaper of record from June 6, 1903 until it was shut down March 13, 2014. Our volunteers persevered and "angels" stepped up to the daunting task of dealing with nearly 5,500 issues which weigh about a ton!

Even before we incorporated as a non-profit organization in 2010, we relied on our local newspaper as an invaluable source of history. Over the past four years, we were allowed to look at the original papers stored in a back room of the Tribune building for research. We were surprised by the condition of the papers. During that time, the papers' various owners and managers declined our offers to get the frail, original newspapers into acid-free boxes.

From talking with librarians and museums across the state, we knew just having the papers exposed to air and proximity to plain cardboard sharply increases the speed of natural disintegration.

On February 4, 2014, we learned the owner, Grand Junction Media, Inc., was closing the Tribune offices in a building owned by former publisher, Bob Sweeney. Bob sold *The Palisade Tribune* to the parent company of *The Daily Sentinel* in 2012, but kept the Third Street building. In our angst over the papers' fate, we again offered to help. We were told the papers were not our responsibility and there was no rush to do anything with them!



Archival Tribunes were stacked on shelves in a back room of the building before we began work.



Loose newspapers on shelves and exposed to air.

The Tribune ceased on March 13

As we feared, the *Tribune* ceased with the March 13 issue. Palisade Historical Society Chairman Priscilla Walker emailed Susan Cesario, who lives in Lakewood, with the sad news. Susan's parents, Bill and Margaret Lorenzen, published *The Palisade Tribune* from the early 1950s until July 1979. Even though it was Sunday, Susan called Jay Seaton, the Executive Vice President of Grand Junction Media, Inc. Jay told her he wanted the Palisade Historical Society to have the archival copies of the paper in the building.

In spite of Jay's wishes, Tribune staff wanted the town's public works crew to toss the old newspapers—as they were—into trucks and take them to the empty, non-secure old high school before the Tribune building lease was up on April 7, 2014. Thankfully, the Historical Society prevailed!

The donation agreement for the archival newspapers was signed on May 19 and the Historical Society was given a key to the building the first of June.



Bundles of Palisade Tribunes and Fruita Times papers on the floor in June 2014.

Bob Sweeney allows papers to remain

Priscilla emailed Bob Sweeney, who has been a member of the Palisade Historical Society from the beginning. He also appreciates how important the newspaper is for preserving Palisade history. Bob agreed to let the archival newspapers stay after the lease expired to give us time to negotiate an agreement for the newspapers, and prepare them for the inevitable move. As the April 7 deadline evaporated, so did the interest from those opposed to the Historical Society's having the newspapers. However, the building was listed for sale and we anticipated at least a 30 day notice when it sold.



We got the building key on June 1

Once we could get into the building, Historical Society board members Priscilla, Ralph Branch, and Charlene Weidner started by sorting through the maze of bundles of papers on the floor, desks, and tables. We hoped to find historic photos and digital copies of recent issues stashed somewhere. There were none in the building. However, just clearing a path to walk through the building and make a place to sort was an accomplishment!

We filled more than truckload of *The Fruita Times*—interspersed in the bundles of *Tribunes*—to the History Center in Fruita. Both papers had been owned by the same publisher since 2002. Extra copies of the *Tribunes* were recycled. We also sorted through reams of non-newspapers, including copies of agendas with notes from various meetings, letters to the editor (published or not), resumes, payroll records, and bank statements.

Among the “angels” who helped us were Scott and Jill Faskin of Colorado Document Security who donated shredding services on two occasions to securely dispose of several bins of paper containing potentially personal or sensitive information.

We contacted museums & libraries for help

Susan and Priscilla contacted museums in Grand Junction, Craig, and History Colorado in Denver as well as librarians at CU Boulder, the Denver Public Library, and CMU and others. We asked for best practices and tips on what to do with the *Tribune* archives. One suggestion was to get a vacuum, which did not take into account the frail state of our papers. Just picking them up—even with white gloved hands—sent pieces flying in all directions.

Mary McCarthy of the Colorado Historic News-papers at the Colorado State Library was especially helpful with sources for acid-free boxes.

She also alerted us to a funding opportunity from the Colorado Historical Records Advisory Board. We applied and received a grant for purchasing boxes specifically designed to store newspapers.



Some issues of The Palisade Tribune & The Clifton Tribune had been bound by previous publishers.

Two dedicated Historical Society members and volunteers, Nancy K. Morrison and Syble Seckinger, took on the task of methodically inventorying and organizing the papers. Another “angel” who helped was Michael Amos at CPC Printing in Grand Junction who donated rolls of acid-free paper for safer handling.



Stacks of Tribunes in the back room of the Tribune building were inventoried and organized.

Nancy and Syble worked all summer

Over the summer and into the fall, Palisade Historical Society volunteers spent nearly 200 hours at the Tribune building. Nancy and Syble went through each issue and put them in order from 1914 to 1903. Actually, the pages of the 1903 issues are too fragile to touch. All archival issues are now in order by week and year. Importantly, they compiled a catalog of all available and missing issues to aid in future research and digitizing. They also created a pile of “orphans” and pieces of newspapers which may be matched to their correct issue in the future. There was still more work to be done.



Nancy and Syble methodically sorted and organized, wrapping each year in protective acid-free paper.



These newspapers from the 60s, 70s, and 80s sorted by year and shown ready to be stored in acid-free boxes.

Measuring paper sizes – surprisingly hard

The next step was to measure the papers and order acid-free boxes to fit, which was more difficult than it sounds. Mary McCarthy warned us we should measure three times before ordering the boxes!

Priscilla and Charlene measured the papers in June, and Syble and Nancy measured later and came up with a different estimate. Susan had yet a third estimate of how many and what size boxes to order. One reason for the variation was the newspapers changed size—even during the same year! We needed to finish inventorying and measure again.

Then came November 8.

We had barely two weeks' notice to finish.

Unbeknownst to the Historical Society, the former Tribune building had been under contract to sell for more than a week. The realtor left a note on the volunteer work sheet at the building, noting everything had to be cleared out by November 24th. However, no one from the Historical Society saw the note until November 8 when Priscilla stopped to research an article in an old issue!

Priscilla immediately called Susan and talked about options. They feared the papers would have to be put into mismatched liquor store boxes and stored in an unsecured or not climate controlled space as others proposed last March. We expected it could take weeks to get the right acid-free boxes.

Hollinger Metal Edge, Inc. expedited the box order

Fortunately, more angels stepped in, including Benita, in the Virginia office of Hollinger Metal Edge, Inc. She worked on Veteran's Day to process our order of 63 acid-free archival newspaper storage boxes in four different sizes. Susan and her husband, Lee, made a third trip to Palisade to help with the *Tribunes*. They arrived just minutes ahead of the boxes on November 18 and began work.

In the meantime, two anonymous donors offered a secure, climate-controlled space for the *Tribune* archives with enough room for us to continue work to preserve the newspapers as well as research this irreplaceable source of Palisade history.

The Cesarios got the papers boxed & moved

Since March, Priscilla added volunteer names to a Tribune 911 call list-- mostly people who hadn't lived in Palisade in some time! She knew a dozen of them would drop everything to help move the papers. However, Lee and Susan worked out a very efficient process and, with extra help for the heavy shelves, they completed packing and moving the newspapers in less than two days!



Lee and Susan Cesario cut archival paper to match the acid-free box sizes and carefully put the papers inside to protect them.



Wearing white gloves is important in touching the fragile newspapers.

The Palisade Tribune archival issues were boxed and moved, and the former Tribune building was cleared by Friday, November 21st - three days ahead of the intended closing date!



Lee Cesario, a retired water engineer with legible handwriting, was chosen to neatly identify the box contents on archival labels.



111 years of Palisade Tribunes - plus Clifton Tribunes and even some Bulldog Barks from Palisade High School—in their new safe, climate-controlled space.

When you see the now neatly-stacked, acid-free boxes and bound volumes of newspapers, those who don't know the work involved might be tempted to think "so what was the big deal?" It took more than 260 volunteer hours to accomplish these first steps to organize and catalog 111 years of newspapers, get the original papers in acid-free boxes, and then moved to a safe, climate controlled space.

Next step is digitizing the archives

There is still more work to be done to put remaining issues into acid free boxes and digitize as many issues as possible. Digitizing the *Tribune* will make the history of Palisade contained in the approximate 5,500 issues searchable on the internet. We are working with previously microfilmed copies held by the Museum of Western Colorado and with the Mesa County Library on options. This will be an incredible resource for professional historians as well as individuals searching for family stories!

The following include the volunteers and contributors who made
Saving *The Palisade Tribune* possible.

Anonymous

Palisade Historical Society Board

Supported in part by an award from the Colorado Historical Records Advisory Board, through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives Records Administration

CPC Printing, Michael Amos

Colorado Document Security - Jill and Scott Faskin

Michael Menard, Museum of Western Colorado

Lauren Stapleton - CU Library

Mary McCarthy - Colorado State Library

Benita - Hollinger Metal Edge

Bob Sweeney

Priscilla Mangnall

Susan Cesario

Lee Cesario

Nancy K. Morrison

Syble Seckinger

Melody Mariner

Ralph Branch

Bill Beckwith

Roger Rawlings

Priscilla Walker

Charlene Weidner

Bruce Walker

Palisade Branch Library Auxiliary

Palisade Altrusa Chapter

Nancy Meuret

Phyllis Barker

Gerri Burdick

Robert Burdick

John Lorenzen

Dara Miller

Doris Butler