



Main Street, 1905.



First Town Board, 1904.

Sept. 4, 1881
Ute Reservation opens to Anglo-American settlement.

1881
Grand Valley Canal and weir construction begins south of Palisade.

1882
First settler, J.P. Harlow, establishes farm. By 1888, he harvests over a ton of peaches from his Rapid Creek Orchard.

1884-85
Coal mining begins. George Smith develops Book Cliff coal mine north of Grand Junction and Cameo Coal Mine opens.

1888-89
J.P. Harlow diverts water from Rapid Creek; and Col. C.C. Bower diverts water from Grand River in Poverty Flats for irrigation.

1910
Orchard Mesa Irrigation district dam and pumping plant completed.

Sept. 1910
New Palisade school opens on 8th and Peach Streets for grades 1-12.

1912
Construction begins on first of three tunnels for the Highline Canal.

June 1915
Grand Valley Diversion Dam and Government Highline Canal begin. The dam is a roller crest design, the largest of four in the U.S.

Nov. 1915
Jordan's Inn, hotel with commercial space burns. (Most of the land at 3rd and Main St. remains vacant until 1962).

1916
Palisade Volunteer Fire Department forms.

1919
First Palisade Day celebrated.

1941
Gymnasium and band room additions to Palisade High School.

Aug. 1943
Over 1,000 people quarter in new Migrant Labor Camp west of the CCC Camp.

Aug. 1944
250 German prisoners housed at the CCC Camp for work in peach harvest.

1947
Tomato Cannery on Bower Ave and the railroad tracks burns.

1949
New bridge on 8th Street changes State Hwy 6 route; no longer through downtown Palisade.

1949-73
Palisade's Wayne N. Aspinall serves as U.S. Congressman from 4th District; heads Interior & Insular Affairs Committee which builds dams for flood control and recreation in the West.

Early 1960s
Palisade streets paved for the first time.

1962
Bill's AG Market moves to a new building across Main St. from the former Bancroft Grocery location.

Winter 1962-3
Severe temperature change severely damages most fruit trees in the Valley.

1965
Migrant Labor camp shuts down due to Federal regulators; growers make alternate arrangements for seasonal workers.

Nov. 1966
The Post Office relocates from Main St. to new building at 3rd St. & Kluge Ave.

1968
Palisade Library/former Bower Garage on 3rd St. demolished; replaced by Municipal Building with jail, police, Town offices, Board Room, and Library.

1969
Cameo Mine closes.

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

1890
Denver & Rio Grande and Midland jointly operated railroad extends from New Castle to Palisade. Post Office at Harlow (Rapid Creek) opens May 17.

Apr. 7, 1891
Palisades Post Office opens, W.A. Pease, Postmaster.

1894
Benton Canon plats the Town of Palisade.

Late 1890's
George Smith opens Mt. Lincoln and Farmers' Union Mines.

Aug. 1900
School on 4th & Kluge replaces first school building on 2nd St.

1902
Reclamation Act withdraws land proposed for Government Highline Canal from development.

1903
Palisade Tribune begins June 6. Highline Mutual Irrigation Co. authorizes construction on Stub Ditch.

1904
Palisade Fruit Growers Association organizes. Mt. Lincoln powerhouse and canal damaged by spring run-off. Palisade Irrigation District forms.

Apr. 4, 1904
The Town of Palisade incorporates. (previously called Palisades).

1905
Palisade Fruit Growers Association builds Valley's 1st cannery. Palisades National Bank established.

Dec. 15, 1906
First Chamber of Commerce meets. \$1 initiation fee draws 50 members. (Later becomes the Palisade Business Men's Association).

Aug. 1, 1907
First "lowa Day" held in Palisade to celebrate large number of lowa immigrants.

1909
Palisades National Bank opens on 3rd & Main; Grand Junction Fruit Growers builds in Palisade.

May 1923
Orchard Mesa Irrigation District constructs siphon under Colorado River.

1923
United Fruit Growers Association forms.

1924
Mt. Lincoln High School closes.

1925
Palisade High School opens west of the 1910 Palisade School.

1927
Palisade Chamber holds first Annual Awards Dinner.

1936
Civilian Conservation Corp. Camp BR-59-C built along River south of Palisade for unemployed Depression-era men working on Bureau of Reclamation projects including irrigation canals.

1937
New "State Bridge" completed near the former bridge across from Rapid Creek east of Palisade.

1939
Colorado Peach marketing order agreement allows growers to work together for promotion, research, education, and quality inspections.

Mar. 1950
Highline Canal Tunnel #3 collapses. Congressman Aspinall mobilizes government assistance to save fruit orchards.

1951
Palisade School District consolidates with Mesa County schools. Palisade Mine closes. It was the third largest producing coal mine in the area.

1952
Palisade Library relocates from former school/office on 2nd St. to Bower Garage on 3rd St.

1954
Child and Migrant Services (CMS) founded.

Mar. 1958
New Palisade Elementary School opens on Brentwood Dr. (Renamed Taylor Elementary in 1960 to honor long-time principal, Avon E. Taylor).

Late 1950s
Public Service Company makes natural gas available for home heating, reducing the need for local coal producers.

1970
1910 High School building demolished in Nov.

1971
Mountain Lion & United Fruit Growers Association merge. Mountain Lion platform burns in August.

1975
Refrigerated semi-trucks replace rail cars for shipping peaches.

Jan. 9, 1977
United Fruit Grower's platform west of Kluge Ave. burns to the ground.

1992
New Palisade High School opens on G Road west of Palisade.

Aug. 1996
"TLC" project complete — local business, Town & private contributions plant trees, install new lights, and replace concrete sidewalks.

1998
Riverbend Park opens; located between former CCC & Migrant Labor Camps — Peach Festivals held here since 2003.

Dec. 1999
Last operating coal mine, Powderhorn/Roadside Mine closes.

Mar. 2010
Palisade Historical Society incorporates as a non profit organization.

2011
Library relocates to former Independent Lumber Company building on 3rd Street.

2013
Fire Department relocates to remodeled annex of the 1925 school; Wineries are the biggest tourist attraction in the Grand Valley. Palisade has 19 of the 25 wineries.

Mar. 13, 2014
Palisade Tribune ceases publishing.

2014
Legislation introduced to make Palisade Peaches official State Fruit; Town and Chamber celebrate CEN-TEN (Centennial Plus Ten).



Palisade coal truck.



Pruning peach trees on stilts in the 1950s.

Photos courtesy Museum of Western Colorado, Colorado National Bank, Shirley Rice and Shirley Rowley Maurer.

PALISADE
Historical Society
CEN-TEN
TIMELINE