



December 2016

total—more than 15% of the issues ever published—in which you can browse or search for specific names or information.



Thank you for a great year!

We sincerely appreciate the generous support and encouragement of our donors and everyone who is interested in our efforts to preserve and communicate Palisade's unique history! It's been another interesting and productive year for the Palisade Historical Society! Happy Holidays and best wishes for 2017 from the Palisade Historical Society!



The CHNC website address is: <https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>. Select Mesa County from the list of locations and click on Palisade Tribune to bring up the collection.

Historical Society Offers Three Classes for New Dimensions

The Palisade Historical Society was asked to offer three classes for the upcoming semester of learning experiences for adults 50 and over. You can be added to the contact list so that you receive information about these and other winter/spring classes at www.newdimensionsgj.org, or call 970-314-9911.

New Dimensions offers a variety of classes in the spring/winter semester in addition to our three classes. Participants can enroll in any number of classes on a space available basis with a membership fee of \$50 for each term in which you register.



"Railroad History of Palisade" 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25

For the next Palisade Reflections program, Matt Darling, a dedicated railroad buff, will present an interesting program about the vital role the Railroads played in Palisade's history. It will be held at the Community Center, 8th and Main Streets beginning at 7 p.m.

Matt is a fourth generation railfan. He began building scale model trains at age six and studied railroad history most of his life. Born in Lafayette, Colorado, Matt has lived in Grand Junction since 1981. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in U. S. History from Mesa State College and is a 10+ year member of the Rio Grande Modeling and Historical Society. As an avid hiker, he has explored several abandoned and active railroad grades of Colorado and Utah. He also volunteers at the Loyd Files Research Library. This is free and open to the public. Don't miss this program!

"Coal Mining in Palisade, Colorado" Our first class is at **2 p.m. on Thursday, February 23rd**. Palisade Native and geologist, Bennett Young, will present the popular program with updated photos and details about Palisade's dozen coal mines.

"Palisade's Riverbend Park." The second class is at **2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22**. Priscilla Walker will present a new program with historic photos and information about the CCC Camp which later housed German Prisoners of War, and the Migrant Labor Camp located two miles west.

Additional issues of The Palisade Tribune are on the Colorado Historic Newspaper Website!

Another reel of issues from *The Palisade Tribune* is now available on the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection website! Beginning with the first issue, published June 6, 1903, there are now 843 issues

The "Town Center" Guided Walking Tour is the third class, starting at **2 p.m. on Thursday, April 6**. Charlene Weidner will guide participants along a seven block stroll in Palisade's downtown looking at historic buildings and learning stories about the businesses, homes and people in Palisade history along the route.

Palisade Lions Club donates to finish the PHS Senior Photo Display

The Palisade Lions Club, one of our most generous donors, has contributed additional funds to get the remaining 13 classes digitized for the Palisade High School Senior Class Photo display.



Thanks to previous donations from the Lions Club, there are 70 years of photos — beginning with the Class of 1906 — currently on display at the History Center.



Art & Chocolate Walk and Olde Fashioned Christmas were fun and tasty!

The History Center was a busy place for the day-long Nov. 26 Art & Chocolate Walk. Visitors enjoyed chocolate treats and a glimpse into Palisade's past. At Olde Fashioned Christmas Dec. 3rd, Charlene Weidner, Dave Cecuga, and Priscilla Walker dressed in historic costumes and led Guided Walking Tours during the festive holiday event. Fortunately the weather cooperated and was a balmy 50 degrees for the afternoon tours. Historic Guided Walking Tours are also available on request for five or more people by calling (970) 464-2177.



Palisade history enthusiast David Burleigh with hosts for the Art and Chocolate Walk, Dave Cecuga and Jaime Cox.



Gathering at the History Center before the morning Guided Walking Tours were Frank Nemanich holding "History Dog" Maxx, Gary Hines, Priscilla Walker (in historic Tour Guide dress), Doris Butler, Barb Hampton, and Dave Cecuga, also in his Tour Guide outfit, as Palisade founder, Col. C.C. Bower.



History Center afternoon hosts at Olde Fashioned Christmas also included Jodi Buchan and Nancy Morrison, pictured above with Gary Hines.

(Photo courtesy of Jim Cox)



Participants dressed warmly for the "Fire and Brimstone" Historic Guided Walking Tour led by Priscilla Walker. The group paused at former Palisade Mayor Herman Kluge's house.

Historical Society Provides Photos and Information for New Sign at Island Acres

There's a new sign with local history and photos at the James M. Robb Colorado River State Park, also known as Island Acres, off I-70 Exit 47 east of Palisade. We were pleased to be able to provide information about our vital irrigation systems and photos of the Grand River Diversion Dam, and other interesting local Colorado River history.



New Colorado River History Sign at Island Acres

The sign was placed in a key location earlier in the fall. It is the first sign you see after you pass the welcoming booth and turn left on Cobblestone Trail towards the picnic areas. We appreciate being able to share photos from our collection, courtesy of the Bureau of Reclamation, Loyd Files Library, Palisade Library Collection, and Shirley Ryan.

1940s photo of Edwards Grader in action



Thanks to Ida McKay Shrum for sharing this "peach eye view" photo of a unique Palisade invention, the Edwards Grader. It was the brainstorm of

enterprising Palisade residents Billy Edwards and his financial partner, Raymond Peebles.

These machines processed millions of fuzzy Elberta peaches which were harvested from the orchards. Sorters—the two women standing on the side of the grader—picked out fruit that was blemished or too ripe for shipping. Then the horsehair brushes of the mechanical "defuzzer" gently removed the peach fuzz. The brushed fruit was graded according to size as it moved down the spinning, gradually widening rollers in the foreground. The largest peaches rolled to the end before dropping onto a conveyor belt. Similar sized peaches were directed from the belt into a bin where peach packers could quickly fill the boxes with individually paper-wrapped fruit.

In the first half of the 20th century, Elberta was the primary variety of peaches in Palisade. That meant peach harvest was just three weeks—usually in late August and early September. Peaches had to be picked, packed, and shipped in a very short time to arrive at stores - primarily in the Mid-west - in optimum condition. The Edwards Grader made this labor-intensive process easier.

Volunteers welcome!

Please contact us if you're interested in meeting and talking with people who want to learn more about Palisade history and/or working on various committees and projects.

We're especially looking for additional hosts for the History Center which is currently open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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.**

Look for us on two Facebook pages:

The Grand River Diversion Dam
Celebrates 100 years 1915-2015
and
Palisade Historical Society