

PALISADE

Historical Society

SPRING DAY ON THE FARM

New this year in the Historical Society's demonstrations at Cross Orchards' "Spring Day on the Farm" was how peaches were put into bushel baskets. It was important the best-looking peaches (or in this case peach colored Styrofoam balls) were on top! Historical Society Lifetime Member Judi Towns brought her authentic basket turner to the May 4th event to show the alternative to wrap-packing peaches in wooden boxes. Both methods were used by fruit growers 60 years ago.



Left, filling the basket in the basket turner and right, experienced packer Judi Towns with the bushel basket filled with the prettiest ones on top!



Deb Tsakalos with several youngsters enjoying her popular art activities. She incorporates Palisade history through using box stamps and illustrations from our Coloring Book.

May 2019



Historical Society Members volunteering at Cross Orchards were Priscilla Walker, Frank Nemanich, Judi Towns, Deb Tsakalos, and Ralph Branch.

Experienced peach packer, Vicki Stites shows her granddaughter Ellie how peaches were individually wrapped in tissue in the 1950s.



DON'T MISS CROSS ORCHARDS MAY 25 TRUCK SHOW



This is the second annual Antique Truck Show at Cross Orchards. About 50 trucks are expected to participate, ranging from special interest models, busses, and fire trucks to military vehicles.

CAMEO POST OFFICE AND MERCANTILE CLOSED 50 YEARS AGO



Cameo Postmistress Cora Lee Duncan at her desk in January 1969. The Post Office was located in the Cameo Mercantile store. Both closed that month. *(Photo courtesy of Stan Duncan)*

WHY WE NEED WORKING IRRIGATION CANALS

We recently received from Robert Brenton this 1902 photo of newly planted fruit trees at the Griffith Orchard near Cross Orchards in Clifton.



It reminded us how difficult it was to get water to grow fruit trees before the Valley had diversion dams and canals for irrigation. 120 years ago, water was scooped from the River—from sun-up to sun down during the growing season—and hauled in barrels to orchards and farms.

For owners of the 8,200 parcels of land east of 28 ¾ Road—including 769 agricultural parcels which get Price Ditch water—the last week of April 2019 was a throwback to 1902 before the irrigation canals were built and functioning.

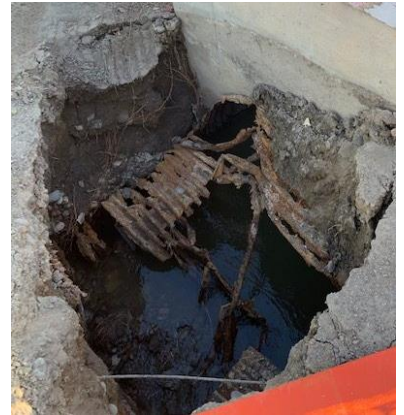
A culvert carrying canal water under G Road between 34 and 35 Roads was badly damaged and the canal was empty for a week for the repair. Growers with newly planted orchards were forced

to haul water from other sources, as it was done 120 years ago. Because the Stub Ditch pump is powered by flows from the Price Ditch, the 2,200 Stub Ditch parcel owners were also without water until the culvert was repaired eight days later.

Irrigation canals are vital to the Valley's agriculture and are as fragile as they are precious. Local media coverage of this unfortunate incident was almost nonexistent.

Damaged Price
Ditch culvert on G
Road

*(Photo courtesy
Palisade Irrigation
District)*



TAYLOR ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES 60 SCHOOL YEARS

The ice cream social to celebrate Taylor Elementary's 60th school year drew a crowd of current and former students, teachers, parents, and administrators. Photos of classes from the 1970s to the present and the 1958 building dedication program were among the popular displays. Several former students from classes which walked across Highway 6 from the 1910 school building in March 1958 to the new Palisade Elementary were present. It was renamed Taylor Elementary in 1960 after long-time principal and educator Avon E. Taylor.



At the 60-year Celebration were (l. to r.) District 51 Superintendent Dr. Diana Sirko, current Taylor Elementary Principal Jennifer Morrell, and Karen Bell who was a student when the school opened in 1958.

GRAND VALLEY BANK PURCHASES FORMER PALISADES NATIONAL BANK



Grand Valley Bank signage changed in May

Palisade's long-time bank is now the newest branch of Grand Valley Bank in a transaction completed the last weekend in April. The previous owner, Colorado National Bank—which closed the downtown branch in 2011 and changed the bank's name—was purchased last year by Finetech. After several months, Finetech opted to keep the Denver branch and sell the Palisade location to Grand Valley Bank. The original 1905 bank charter, however, was retained by Colorado National Bank. Last year, Grand Valley Bank purchased land and planned to build a new branch on Elberta Ave. north of the railroad tracks. That property is now for sale, and Grand Valley Bank will operate out of the building constructed at 8th and Elberta Ave. in 1981.

Grand Valley Bank began in 1983 in a modest building on North Seventh Street in Grand Junction. It has grown to nine branch locations in Colorado and Utah with over 100 employees. The bank is locally and employee owned, and is committed to honoring the more than 113 years of service to the community and strong customer base created by the long-time local Palisades National Bank.

Historical items continuing to be displayed include two safes, bills printed by the Palisades National



Bank, and framed collages of photos from the Marie Tipping Archives, Palisade Library Collection.

Historic safe in the now Grand Valley Bank lobby.

2ND GRADERS AT CLIFTON ELEMENTARY LOVE PALISADE HISTORY!

Second grade students at Clifton Elementary learned about Palisade history from the *Historic Palisade Coloring Book* and a presentation by Historical Society Board Members Gay Hetland and Priscilla Walker. The “show and tell” items included a pair of stilts, a picking sack to demonstrate how peaches could be emptied into a picking box without bruising, and a piece of coal. This is the third year Clifton Elementary 2nd graders have enjoyed the Coloring Books as part of their curriculum



Clifton Elementary second graders with teachers Ellie Diekman, Anna Forsman, and Laura Gilbert, and CMU student volunteer Mackenzie King.

PALISADE LOSES ANOTHER LANDMARK SPRUCE TREE

Another iconic, decades-old Spruce tree in the 300 block of West 7th street was removed earlier this month. This tree wasn't targeted by CDOT or Xcel Energy. Rather, it was the victim of severe wind gusts which uprooted and tilted it towards the house at 344 West 7th. Tree specialists verified it would be dangerous and if not removed, could topple onto the house with more strong winds.

Wind damaged
Spruce Tree



2019-2020 Directors of the Palisade Historical Society

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AMAZON SMILE PURCHASES BENEFIT THE PALISADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For your on-line shopping on Amazon Smile, please designate the Palisade Historical Society as your charity of choice. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases. Start shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com>



Look for us on Facebook:

Palisade Historical Society

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 it's time to renew your membership—please do so today! Mail your tax-deductible checks to the **Palisade Historical Society, P.O. Box 631, Palisade, CO 81526.**



Thanks to our generous donors, grants from CHRA, and support from the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection, we have raised funds to digitize 2,262 issues of *The Palisade Tribune* for the Colorado

Historic Newspaper database website:
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 _____

☐ \$1,000.00 ☐ \$100.00 Or \$_____ enclosed

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

PABOR DAY.

**Saturday,
May 18th,
2019.
Downtown
Fruita.**

**Free
Admission.
Family fun!**

**The Fun Begins at
8:00 a.m.**

William Edgar
Pabor founded
Fruita in 1884.
Come celebrate
his achievement
with us!



The Fruita Downtown Advisory Board and the Fruita Historic Preservation Board have created Pabor Day with the 7th Annual Fruita History Fair. The displays will illuminate how the Fruita of today came to be. Expect all day games, period clothing, music, displays and demonstrations, food and fun on Saturday, May 18th in Downtown Fruita starting at 8 a.m. This is a free event.