

*News from the
Palisade Historical Society
September 2013*

**ENJOY ICE CREAM AND PALISADE PEACHES AT
THE MESA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PICNIC
Thursday, Sept. 26, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M.
Cross Orchards – on Patterson Road**

The Palisade Historical Society will again provide peaches and ice cream for the Annual MCHS picnic. It starts at 5:30 p.m. on **Thursday, September 26th** at Cross Orchards on Patterson Road. We're expecting to serve late season fresh Palisade peaches. If you plan to attend, please **RSVP to Michael Menard at the Museum of Western Colorado (970) 242-0971** and bring a dish to share. This is a wonderful event for the Valley's historical organizations and to see Palisade memorabilia at Cross Orchards.



**Palisade Historical Society
"slicers and scoopers"
at the 2011 MCHS picnic**



**HISTORY CENTER OPEN HOUSE
AFTER HOMECOMING PARADE**

Alumni from the PHS classes of 1962 and 1963 are attending a special Open House at The History Center after the Homecoming Parade on **Friday, September 27**. The Parade starts at 1:00, so the History Center will stay open later that afternoon. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Thanks to local artist, Jennifer Lasley, the Historical Society has a new and improved sidewalk sign which is displayed when the History Center is open. Jennifer completed her handiwork in time for

Peach Fest. Three costumed Tour Guides--Charlene Weidner, Priscilla Walker, and Dave Cecuga, aka "Colonel Bower," and Volunteer Coordinator Joan Forrey, second from right, show off the new sign. A record number of participants took Guided Walking Tours during Peach Fest weekend.

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J.P. HARLOW'S G G GRANDDAUGHTER VISITS THE HISTORY CENTER

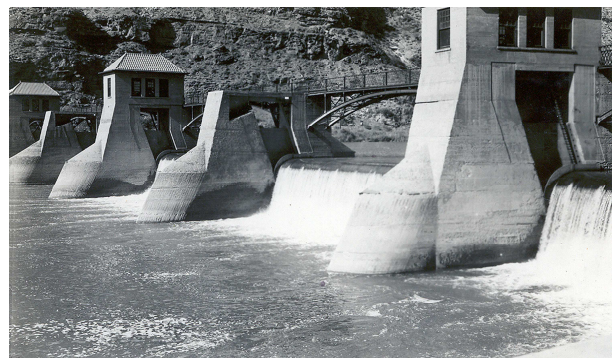
Winnie and Jim Mading from Wisconsin included the Palisade History Center during their genealogy research trip to the Western Slope. Winnie's great, great grandfather, John Petal Harlow and his second wife, Kate, came to the Grand Valley in December 1881. He is credited for planting the Valley's first fruit trees and successfully raising fruits and vegetables his Rapid Creek ranch. He also developed irrigation canals, and operated what later became the Farmer's Riverside coal mine across the River from the ranch. The Harlows had a restaurant and other business interests in Grand Junction as well.

"Judge" Harlow, as he was known from his position as one of Mesa County's first Justices of the Peace, passed away in March 1891. His gravesite was added to the list of State Register of historic sites in 1995. Winnie, a self-described "genealogy addict" visited the Harlow homestead and gravesite, and found new information and places John lived, including Gunnison, before coming to Palisade.

PLANNING STARTS FOR THE ROLLER DAM 100TH BIRTHDAY PARTY - JUNE 2015

Roller Dam - 1939 Courtesy of the Peska Family

The Palisade Historical Society has begun a Planning Committee for the 100th Birthday Party of the Grand Valley Diversion Dam in DeBeque Canyon--better known as the "Roller Dam." The official date of the celebration is June 15, 2015, a mere 650 days away!



One of the activities we hope to include during the event is recreating a photo taken 100 years before at the dedication ceremony. If you have seen a photo with men and women walking on the catwalk and know where it is displayed or included in a publication, please call Priscilla at (970) 464-2177. We're working with various other groups who appreciate how the Roller Dam makes agriculture and living in the Grand Valley possible, including the Palisade Chamber of Commerce, Bureau of Reclamation, and Grand Valley Water Users.

Look for more information on this very special dam celebration in future communications.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR A WORK DAY FOR PHS SENIOR CLASS PHOTO DISPLAYS

We are asking for volunteer to help organize and display photos of Palisade High School graduates. Thanks to the recent donation of a display rack, we will be able to make the collection of PHS Senior Class photos from 1906 to 1953 more accessible.

Originally, Paul and Evelyn Rice donated the collection to the Palisade Library in 1972. It is a popular attraction for visitors to the History Center, especially families of PHS graduates who can see photos of their relatives and friends. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Joan Forrey at (970) 234-0424 with possible days this fall when you could help.

RENEW YOUR PALISADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Our efforts are made possible only through the work of volunteers and donations. Annual Membership in the Palisade Historical Society is just \$25 for Individuals, \$50 for Families, \$100 for Businesses, and \$500 for Patrons. 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.** Everyone is invited to join the Palisade Historical Society-through volunteer time with committees and projects-and with annual memberships.

LAST CHANCE TO SEE THE "GARAGES OF PALISADE" WINDOW DISPLAY AT THE HISTORY CENTER

If you haven't seen the rotating window display at the History Center, 311 South Main Street, please drop by. Historical Society Directors Charlene Weidner and Ralph Branch are planning a new window display soon to be unveiled.

In addition to fruit box labels, you will see interesting photos and memorabilia from six garages which repaired automobiles. There were at least seven other garage locations near Palisade, though not all were in operation at the same time. The History Center is **open Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** and **Sunday the 22nd for the last Farmer's Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

LINK: www.historicpalisade.org

(more)

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.

In the three and one-half years since we became a 501 (c) (3) non-profit in March 2010, we've accomplished a lot. In addition to keeping the History Center open with interesting displays, we encourage people to donate photos to supply the Palisade Tribune for their *Historical Photo of the Week* feature. We also record oral and video histories of people who grew up in Palisade, present historical programs of interest, and Guided Walking Tours of downtown Palisade during special events and by request.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Sunrise Rotary Club, we created and provide copies of the *Historic Palisade Coloring Book* to 3rd Graders at Taylor Elementary and two other schools at no charge. More than 275 students and teachers were enthusiastic recipients of the *Coloring Book* this past school year.

In 2012, we digitized and revised the "History of Palisade" which was first compiled in 1963 for use at the Palisade Public Library.

Most recently, thanks to donations from the Palisade Lions Club, we updated the self-guided *Historic Walking Tour* brochure which provides additional history, photos, and details about the buildings than covered in our four Guided Walking Tours. The brochure is distributed in various businesses around Palisade, including the rack in front of the Palisade Chamber of Commerce and in Lupita's Bizarre Bazaar, Too! on the corner of Main and Third Street.

2013-2014 Directors of the Palisade Historical Society:

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