

**Stop at the
History Center
for the Art & Chocolate Walk
on Saturday, November 26th**

The History Center, 311 South Main Street, will be open for the Blue Pig Art Gallery's Art and Chocolate Walk on **Saturday, November 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** You can see our interesting displays, videos, and historical photos, while you nibble on chocolate, and mingle with the crowd!

Since our History Center is located in the heart of Palisade's art community, you can then stroll around to enjoy a vast variety of fine art, gourmet foods, toys, jewelry, and one-of-a-kind gifts.

Pick up a punch card at participating merchants and get it punched at each location to be eligible to win a big gift basket brimming with art and chocolate!



**OLDE FASHIONED
CHRISTMAS**

with the

**Palisade Historical Society
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd
Guided Walking Tours
10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.**

And the next Saturday after the Art and Chocolate Walk is Olde Fashioned Christmas with the Palisade Historical Society! **On Saturday, December 3rd**, we will offer our popular **Historic Guided Walking Tours** of downtown Palisade at **10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.** For a suggested \$5 donation, you can **select from three different tours**. All tours start at The History Center, **311 South Main Street**, and take about an hour. Call 970-464-2177 to reserve your spot in a morning or afternoon tour for you or your group/family.

The History Center will be open and staffed by volunteers from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 so again, you can browse interesting displays and historic photos.



November 2016

**Historical Society Receives
CHRA B Grant for Tribunes**

The Palisade Historical Society is pleased to announce it received a matching grant from the Colorado Historic Records Advisory Board (CHRA B) for our work to digitize more than 615 issues of *The Palisade Tribune* which are available on the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection Website. CHRA B funding is from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives Records Administration.

**Albert J. (Peanuts) Merlino
passed away October 13**

One of the Palisade Historical Society's favorite and most reliable resources peacefully passed away October 13 on Grand Mesa. Albert, or Peanuts, as he was often called, was 95 yet still had an incredible memory for which we are forever indebted. He could identify historic photos and people in them. We talked with him virtually every week for the last six+ years asking questions about the Town and especially the Palisade Insectary where he worked from 1946 until he retired in 1984.

Peanuts was also our Palisade baseball historian. Fortunately we captured some of his memories in

*Photo Courtesy of The Loyd Files Library,
Peach Board of Control Collection*



Al Merlino, standing left, and Jim Hampton examine trays of laboratory host potato tuber moth larvae at the insectary in the 1950s. Each tray contains 100 female egg laying parasites, the *Macrocentrus ancylivorus*.

our video oral and history program. The written summary of this interview — and subsequent information he added — is on our website: <http://www.historicpalisade.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Albert-Merlino-summary.pdf>

Peanuts was an excellent athlete, playing several sports. He graduated from Palisade High School in 1939, and played baseball as an adult with a number of local teams. He touched many people in the community as a school bus driver, the mayor of Palisade for 10 years, Palisade Fireman, and in American Legion Post #50, among other roles.

He generously donated historical items, including the nail stripper used to make wood fruit boxes by hand which is currently in the front window of the History Center. He also shared photos, PHS annuals, and his wife, Marion Bertram Merlino's wonderful oil paintings for our permanent collection. She passed away in 2009.



Albert J. Merlino
July 24, 1921-October 13, 2016

Al Merlino appreciated the respect he earned from the community for being elected mayor and his many other accomplishments and enduring legacy. As he said in his oral history, "growing up in Palisade is a privilege." Our condolences to his two sisters, nieces and nephews, and families.



"Scoopers and slicers" at the September 6 Mesa County Historical Society potluck were left to right, Barb Hampton, Dave Cecuga, Charlene Weidner, Kim Henderson, and Kent Brown.

This was the fifth time the Palisade Historical Society served fresh Palisade peaches and ice cream for the MCHS annual potluck picnic. This year, it was held at Cross Orchards.

Historic Buildings get new life in Palisade

There are changes to some of the historic buildings in Palisade's downtown business district.



Walking Tour Brochure stop #7 was a longtime location of *The Palisade Tribune* at 117 South Main Street. It is now the office of Attorney Tammy Tallant. The building has a new paint scheme, a leaded glass front door, and reflective, weather-proof windows. After the *Tribune* moved to Walking Tour Brochure Stop #21 on Third Street, this building was later the office of Attorney Layne G. Brown, Jr., and most recently, the Spa Depot.



In the Purcell Building at 3rd and Main Street (stop #1 in the Historic Walking Tour Brochure), Rapid Creek Cycles has expanded into the adjoining space on the corner, which was originally the Palisade Drug Store. From 2003 to 2008 it was Tucan Coffee. Most recently, it was the remote location for Canyon View Vineyard Church.

Look for us on two Facebook pages:

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



Originally the Presbyterian Church, and for a long time, the Palisade Masonic Lodge at 5th and Kluge, is now Portell's Computers. The building is now owned by the Palisade Baptist Church, and Chris Portell has done a remarkable job of remodeling the building for his computer sales and repair location.



With new ownership, the long-time Palisade Cafe (stop #23) is now Palisade Cafe 11.0 to honor previous owners of the 3rd Street restaurant located in the Hugus Addition. You can even pick up a copy of our printed Palisade Historic Walking Tour brochure there! Of course the e-book version is available anywhere as a Kindle E-book.

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.

The Distillery adds a Vodka Column

Palisade's first railroad depot was built in 1890 and moved before 1915 to the north side of the railroad tracks. It is now 144 South Kluge (stop #18). For decades, it was the offices of the United Fruit Growers' Association. Peach Street Distillers purchased the former depot in 2014 and recently added a glass enclosed vodka column west of the depot/office where the United stored bushel baskets.



Former Railroad Depot/United Fruit Growers' Association building is now part of Peach Street Distillers. The new vodka column--used in the distilling process--is visible in the building west of the former depot.

Curtis Martin presents program about Ute Indians

Palisade archaeologist Curtis Martin was the presenter at the Mesa County Historical Society's monthly oral history program in October.

Curtis, who lives in Palisade, is an acclaimed research archaeologist and the principal investigator for the Colorado Wickiup Project. His program included photos of remaining wooden structures the Colorado Utes left behind. He also brought artifacts from these sights.

His new book, *Ephemeral Bounty*, describes the final years of the Ute Indians, and is available from local book stores and Amazon.com.

Palisade Historical Society Directors

Bill Beckwith

Jaime Cox – jaimejcox@gmail.com

Gary Hines – gwhines@msn.com

Nancy Morrison – nancykmorrison@gmail.com

Priscilla Walker – pbwalker630@acsol.net

Charlene Weidner – charw@acsol.net

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.**

Doris Butler Retires from Society Board of Directors

Founding Palisade Historical Society Board Member Doris Butler retired from the Palisade Historical Society in September, though she will continue to be involved in the organization. She was awarded a certificate of appreciation at the October board meeting for her many contributions. She was a member of the Chamber of Commerce History committee which became the Palisade Historical Society when it incorporated in March 2010. She also served as treasurer of the organization.



Back row standing, left to right: Dave Cecuga, Jaime Cox, Charlene Weidner, and Nancy Morrison. Sitting, left to right: Gary Hines, Retiring Board Member Doris Butler, and Priscilla Walker.