

PALISADE Historical Society

www.historicpalisade.org

A FAMILY OF PEACH QUEEN ROYALTY!

In the last 111 years of Palisade's Peach Queens, one family stands out. Though Peach Fest was altered with coronavirus restrictions, the tradition of selecting a Peach Queen and court was fortunately continued by the Palisade Chamber of Commerce.

Interestingly, this year's Peach Princess is Hadara (Haddie) Beatrice Hanna, a 4th grader at Palisade's Taylor Elementary. She is the daughter of Cayenna Hanna, owner of Spun, Studio and Yarn Shop in the historic building on 3rd Street (Stop #29 in our walking tour brochure). Haddie's grandmother is Amy Taylor Dyer, her great grandmother is Nancy Maurer Taylor, and her great-great-grandmother was Helen Swisher Maurer, who was in the 1921 Peach Queen court. Haddie's great-great aunt, Agnes Swisher, was elected by Mesa County voters as the 1909 Peach Queen.

(Photo courtesy of Jim Cox)



Peach Princess Haddie Hanna, left, with Queen: Addelaide (Addie) Steele a Palisade High School Senior, Junior Attendant – Abigail (Abi) Pearl Lemon an 8th grader at MBVS Charter School, and Senior Attendant Hailey Languer, also a Palisade High School Senior.

(continued)

September 2020

In 1921, the Peach Queen was Juanita Strong, and the attendants included Helen Swisher, Haddie's great great grandmother.



1921 Peach Queen and Court. Attendants standing left to right: Helen Swisher, Mary Mosier, Ruth Wolfe, Jo Schneible, Agnes Eyer Seated from left: Mary Edith McKay; Dorothy Echternach; Dorothy Nuckolls. *(Courtesy Marie Tipping Archives, Palisade Library Collection)*

Agnes Swisher was perhaps the Palisade Peach Queen who got the most national recognition. At age 17 in 1909, Agnes received 2,375 votes from Mesa County voters, far more than second place Stella Frank of Grand Junction who garnered 1,756 votes. In fact, Agnes was so far ahead, the last batch of Palisade votes overwhelming for her—which arrived just at the closing deadline—were not counted.



1909 Peach Queen Agnes Swisher and court greet President Taft at 1909 Mesa County Fair. *(Courtesy Bowman Family Collection)*

From the September 18, 1909 edition of *The Palisade Tribune*, available on-line, we learned that Agnes and her 19 maids of honor had an unusual and

(continued)

Page 1

very important task of greeting President Taft who attended the Mesa County Fair on Thursday, September 23, 1909. We believe he is the first of nine U.S. Presidents who have enjoyed fresh Palisade peaches. His visit to the Grand Valley was critically important to get approvals to build the Grand River Diversion Dam and Government Highline Canal.

The front page of the issue features Agnes' photo—which also appeared in Denver newspapers—to highlight Denver Peach Day. This event was a Colorado Midland Railroad advertising feature to promote our state to tourists—"one set who were going west for the winter and another set returning from the west where they spent the summer." It reports the unparalleled success of the crowd gathered in downtown Denver on California Street between 16th and 17th Streets where—for 3½ hours—women gave away 18,000 fresh Palisade peaches and 17,000 cantaloupes which grown in Clifton. The crowd of enthusiastic people stood in long lines to get their delicious peaches and cantaloupe.

This is one of 2,650 issues of *The Palisade Tribune* on the Colorado Historic Newspaper website: <https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/?a=d&d=PLT19090918-01&e=-----en-20-PLT-1--img-txIN%7ctxCO%7ctxTA-----0-Mesa->

Denver Peach Day was also likely an event where the Colorado Midland brand – a mountain lion – had a peach inserted in its mouth to promote delicious Palisade peaches. About that time, that graphic became the familiar Mountain Lion brand for the Grand Junction Fruit Growers' Association.

MUSEUM FUNDRAISING GOAL ALMOST MET!

The Palisade Historical Society's final capital fundraising campaign edges closer to being able to finish renovating the Palisade History Museum. Please help us reach our goal with a donation – by check to P.O. Box 631, Palisade, CO 81526 – or for a credit or debit card, call (970) 464-2177 with card information. Donations over \$500 will be acknowledged on the permanent Legacy Donor plaque on the building.

In the meantime, we continue to create interesting displays of photos and artifacts at the History Museum and hope to have the grand opening yet this year – when the Coronavirus sanctions are lifted.

NEW DIMENSIONS VIRTUAL TOUR OF PALISADE OCTOBER 8th - 1:00 P.M.

In another attempt to bring our interesting programs to the public in these challenging times when gatherings are not permitted, through New Dimensions we will offer our popular "Fire and Brimstone" guided walking tour as a Zoom class. On October 8, Priscilla Walker will lead the virtual tour showing photos of what you would see now on the 4,000 step guided walking tour around downtown Palisade as well as historic photos of what was there before. Featured stops include buildings which burned, and various churches.

You can **register** for the Zoom class from **September 8 until September 11 at 5 p.m.** at www.newdimensionsgj.org or call 1-970-425-6129. No membership fee will be charged for this Fall term.




New Dimensions Lifelong Learning Institute offers Grand Valley adults 50 and over the opportunity to enroll in a variety of non-credit classes focused on academic and personal enrichment.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOINS WITH PALI-TOURS TO OFFER GROUP HISTORY TOURS

PALISADE HISTORICAL TOURS

GET AN INSIDER'S VIEW OF PALISADE'S FASCINATING PAST



(970) 697-8134

PALISADE Historical Society
www.historicpalisade.com

Pali-Tours and the Palisade Historical Society are joining up to take a trip into the past. Call to arrange your tour today!

"Still Walkers" 1930 photo courtesy of Bill Floryancic

Another guided tour option to safely learn about Palisade history during the pandemic is from Pali-Tours. Dave Smith has partnered with the Historical
(continued)

Society to add new tours featuring Palisade's unique history. The 2½ hour tours for groups of four to ten people will be in "Pinzy," a 1975 Pinzgauer 6X6 made in Austria for the Swiss Military. Historical Society volunteers narrate the tours and show historic photos about Palisade's interesting agriculture and coal mining past.

Dave drives an adventuresome route around historic Palisade sites. Groups of four or more should contact Pali-Tours at (970) 697-8134 for more information. The tours will be offered weekday mornings, depending on demand.

Volunteers Welcome!

Please contact us if you want to meet interesting people, learn more about Palisade history and/or work on committees, projects, and fundraising for the new Palisade Historical Museum at the Bunte Shop. Send a message with your contact information to Gary at historicpalisade@outlook.com to learn how you can help. Right now, we are especially interested in volunteers to assist tour guides and hosts when the History Museum is open.

AMAZON SMILE PURCHASES BENEFIT THE PALISADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For your on-line shopping, please go to:
<https://smile.amazon.com>

On your first visit, you can use the same email and password as you set up for Amazon. Then, select Palisade Historical Society from the Charity Lists. If you bookmark Amazon Smile, you will automatically be taken there instead of the regular Amazon site when you shop. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases.



YOUR PURCHASES AT CITY MARKET BENEFIT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Palisade Historical Society is participating in the City Market Community Rewards Program. If you have a City Market loyalty card and have used the City Market's website, just log into: <http://www.citymarket.com> and search for the Palisade Historical Society. Select it as your designated community non-profit. It is another painless way to support the Historical Society.



If you don't have an account, you will need to create one by providing some basic information, a valid email address, and a City Market loyalty card number. You can get a loyalty card at any King Soopers or City Market store's customer service desk. You must swipe your registered loyalty card or use the phone number attached to the card for your purchase to benefit the Palisade Historical Society.

2020-2021 Directors of the Palisade Historical Society

Susan Barstow – susanbarstow.ak@gmail.com
Ralph Branch – branchcolorado@gmail.com
Jaime Cox – jaimejcox@gmail.com
Gay Hetland – ghetland@outlook.com
Gary Hines – gwhines@msn.com
Nancy Morrison – nancykmorrison@gmail.com
Priscilla Walker – pbwalker630@acsol.net
Charlene Weidner – charw@acsol.net

**Look for
on Facebook
and Instagram:**

Palisade Historical Society



Become a part of History - Donate to the Palisade Historical Society.

The Palisade Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

The Historical Society relies on donations to facilitate projects that enhance our community by documenting local history and promoting our heritage. You can join us with your support in a targeted way that interests you most. Make a donation for any or all of the following categories:

- Become a member and enjoy notification of events and news
- Contribute to the **Palisade Tribune** Digitization Fund that will save invaluable Palisade history
- Donate to complete renovations for the Palisade History Museum at the Bunte Shop. It will feature displays and educational media to engage locals and visitors year-round.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Annual Memberships (check one)

Individual \$25 ☐ Family \$50 ☐ Business \$100 ☐ Patron \$500 ☐

Extended Memberships

10-year (Family or Individual) \$200 ☐ Lifetime (Family or Individual) \$400 ☐

PALISADE TRIBUNE DIGITIZATION FUND

We have raised funds to digitize 2,650 issues of **The Palisade Tribune** for Colorado Historic Newspaper Newspaper database website. Please help us get more issues online for browsing and searching from anywhere!

\$1,000 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other ☐ \$_____

PALISADE HISTORY MUSEUM AT THE BUNTE SHOP

We are in our final fundraising phase to open the Museum. Help us at any level.

\$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other ☐ \$_____

\$2,500 (receive a "Proud Supporter" sign) ☐

\$5,000 (advertise in the Museum for your business) ☐

The names of donors contributing \$500 or more will be included on a permanent legacy donor recognition sign displayed on the Museum. ('In memory of' or 'In honor of' may be noted)

For credit card payments, call (970) 464-2177.

For checks or money orders payable to Palisade Historical Society, mail them with your confidential contact information to: **Palisade Historical Society, PO Box 631, Palisade, CO 81526.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail (for newsletters) _____ Phone _____