

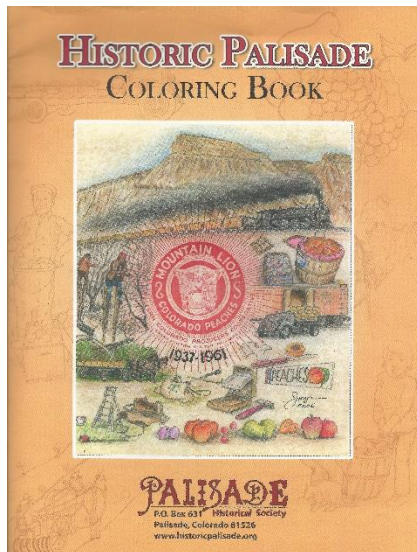
PALISADE

Historical Society

www.historicpalisade.org

PALISADE SUNRISE ROTARY DONATES FOR HISTORIC PALISADE COLORING BOOK

The Palisade Sunrise Rotary Club continues its support of the Historical Society's popular *Historic Palisade Coloring Book* with another \$500 donation. The Club's generosity allows us to provide the books free to area elementary students. This donation goes toward the 4th printing of these unique books which have helped more than 2,000 students and their families in seven schools in the last 10 years better understand Palisade history.



HARRY TALBOTT, HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDING DIRECTOR PASSES AWAY MARCH 14th

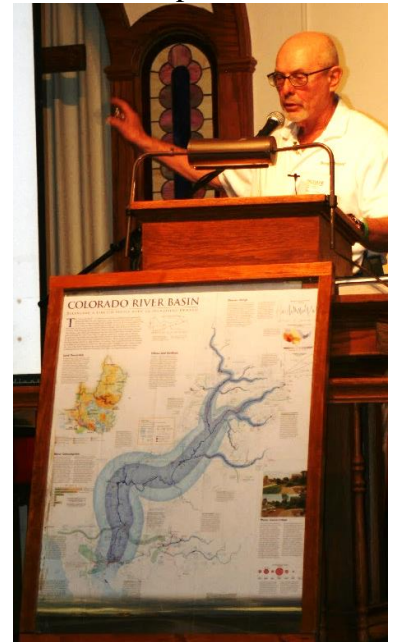
Harry C. Talbott, a founding director and officer of the Palisade Historical Society, passed away at his home after a brief illness on March 14th at age 86. Harry was a fourth-generation fruit grower and graduated from Palisade High School in 1952.

His maternal great-grandfather, Joseph Yager, was the first generation to grow fruit in Palisade coming from Iowa in 1907. Harry's mother, Margaret Yager Talbott continued the Talbott's legacy as a founder of the Child and Migrant Services which still serves Palisade's much needed seasonal agricultural workers. (continued)

April 2021

Harry led the transition of the family business from primarily growing and selling apples under the Western Grown label and peaches through the Mountain Lion Brand Marketing Cooperative. Now, Talbott's Mountain Gold is the largest peach producing and packing operation in the State. It also offers cider, hard cider, and wine products from a near year-round tap room and retail sales presence in Palisade as well as the wholesale side. He also ensured its longevity by enticing his sons and several grandchildren into the business.

Harry presented the "History of Irrigation in Palisade" at an Historical Society "Palisade Reflections" program in 2012.



Another lasting accomplishment when agricultural land was being ravished in the Oil Shale boom in the 1970s, Harry and his wife of almost 63 years, Bonnie, were key players amongst the original founders of the Mesa County Land Conservancy to preserve rich agricultural land in the Grand Valley.

Harry received many honors for his farming and community involvement, including from the Western Colorado Horticultural Society as "Peach Grower of the Year" and was named an Honorary Lifetime Member. In 2018, he was inducted into the Colorado Agricultural Hall of Fame.

For the Palisade Historical Society, Harry was an invaluable resource of information and ideas. He served on the inaugural history committee and then as an officer on the Board for its first five years.

He also presented several programs, including the "History of Fruit and Wine in Palisade" for the January 2011 Western Colorado Horticulture Society

(continued)

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Conference which combined fruit growers and viticulturists for the first time. He also presented the “History of Irrigation in Palisade” for several audiences in addition to our Palisade Reflections program series. Recently, he led a tour of fruit processing facilities for a class we offered through the Western Colorado Community College.



Harry and Bonnie Talbott are Legacy Donors of the Palisade History Museum

The Historical Society’s memorable 100th birthday event for the Grand River Diversion Dam (the “Roller Dam” in DeBeque Canyon) was a successful day-long celebration attended by 500 people on June 27, 2015. It was Harry’s idea. With his wonderful – and always present, pun-loving and dry sense of humor, he proposed it would be a “Dam Birthday Party.”

Harry spearheaded another inventive project to preserve Palisade’s unique *Magnolia Soulangtari*. A bare-root tree was found abandoned in a boxcar of box shoo – pre-cut lumber for the wood shipping crates for peaches. It was planted on West First Street in the 1930s and thrived for decades, despite Palisade’s moderately alkaline soil, cold winters, and low rainfall which are not conducive to magnolias. In 2000, scions of the tree were sent to the Gossler Farm Nursery in Oregon. The grafts were successful and cultivated as “Palisade Peach.” Harry paid for several of the trees to be distributed as a fundraiser for the Historical Society.

**Look for us on Facebook and
Instagram:
Palisade Historical Society**



Harry shows off the first five magnolia trees he wanted to distribute as a fundraiser for the Palisade Historical Society

SUSAN BARSTOW ELECTED VICE CHAIR

At the Historical Society’s March Board meeting, Susan Barstow was elected Vice Chairman, replacing Charlene Weidner who served in that position for the past four years. Re-elected to their current positions were Priscilla Walker, Chair, Gary Hines, Secretary, and Jaime Cox, Treasurer.

MERLINO SISTERS VISIT HISTORY MUSUEM

We hosted a tour of the History Museum to members of the Legacy Donor Merlino Family in March. Ann Merlino Mendicelli and Margaret Merlino Coe, as well as Ann’s daughter JoAnn and son-in-law Bob Peters, toured the not-yet-open museum. They gave a thumbs-up to its progress and were especially pleased to see the PHS senior class photo display. They located all six of the Merlino siblings who graduated from Palisade High School. Their parents, Joseph and Carmella Merlino moved to Palisade in 1932. The sisters also appreciated the coal mining displays because their father worked in area coal

mines and was an owner of the Palisade Coal Mine. Margaret also enjoyed the fruit box label display as she remembered gluing the labels on the wooden box ends for the United Fruit Growers' Association.



Ann Merlino Mendicelli stands in front of the PHS senior class display with photos of her 1935 class members.

2021-2022 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

Volunteers Welcome!

Please contact us if you want to meet interesting people, learn more about Palisade history and/or work on committees, projects, fundraising, or creating displays for the new Palisade History Museum. Send an email message with your contact information to historicpalisade@outlook.com to learn how you can help.

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. **You may need to renew or update your charity choice before your next purchase. It just takes a minute to update.**



YOUR PURCHASES AT CITY MARKET BENEFIT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Palisade Historical Society is grateful to participate 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 and amazingly effective way to support the Historical Society.



If you do not have an account, you will need to create one by providing some basic information, a valid email address, and a City Market/Kroger loyalty card number. You can get a loyalty card at any Kroger, 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.



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) ☐

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.**

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E-mail (for newsletters) _____ Phone _____