

PALISADE

Historical Society

www.historicpalisade.org

TAYLOR ELEMENTARY SECOND GRADERS LEARN ABOUT PALISADE HISTORY

For the first time since April 2019, Palisade Historical Society volunteers were able to present the *Historic Palisade Coloring Book* and answer questions about Palisade's history in two classes of 2nd graders at Taylor Elementary. We appreciate their teachers—Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Graham's—interest in using information from the Coloring Book for their local history curriculum.



Taylor 2nd Grade Teacher, Mrs. Moore, back left, in her classroom with Jaime Cox, and her son, Kyle. Brelynn Lopez is holding the pair of wooden stilts.

Historical Society volunteers Susan Barstow, Jaime Cox, and Priscilla Walker brought a picking sack, a pair of stilts, and a piece of coal to augment

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June 2021

Palisade's interesting history summarized in the Coloring Book.



Mrs. Moore's students are engrossed in the *Historic Palisade Coloring Book*

Among the students' favorite illustrations were the map of Palisade, pruners on stilts, various containers to hold freshly picked Palisade peaches, and all the fruit grown in the Palisade area. Thanks to area Rotary Clubs, elementary school students receive these Coloring Books at no cost.

In March, with Covid 19 restrictions, we were able to answer Chatfield Elementary 2nd graders' questions about Palisade History via Google, rather than through class presentation. We look forward to having students from all grades visit the Palisade History Museum.

2021 PALISADE PEACH CROP EXPECTED TO BE GOOD!

After the disastrous freeze in April 2020, which wiped out most of Palisade's fruit crops, this summer's harvest looks to be almost normal, if a bit late. Many area fruit stands opened in late May and expect to have fresh Palisade peaches in early July.

However, the unexpected freeze last October was devastating to cherries and grape vines, as well as the Angelus, Rich Lady, Ryan Sun, and Summer Lady varieties of peaches. As a result, some vineyards and fruit trees will have to be replanted.

Older Palisade residents reflect on the similarity to the 1963 winter kill where temperatures plummeted 70 degrees to -20 on January 12. With sap still in the trees, it expanded and burst with the sudden cold. Approximately half the fruit acreage was wiped out and drastically changed Palisade's fruit industry. Much of the former orchard land was used for other purposes, including residential development. Five

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fruit growers opted to plant wine grapes instead, which led to Palisade's becoming the center of Colorado's wine production, as well.

Palisade fruit orchards are in much better shape than those in the North Fork Valley near Hotchkiss. The October 2020 freeze was a 70-degree dip in temperatures which killed the trees - similar to Palisade's 1963 devastating event.

COLORADO AG WATER BIKE TOUR LEARNS ABOUT IRRIGATION

The Colorado Ag Water Alliance created a seven-mile bike tour event held on May 21st to help people learn about our local agriculture and water resources in Colorado.

The group first visited Brant Harrison's fruit orchards on Rapid Creek, and Gwen Cameron's Rancho Durazno produce farm in the Vineland. After bicycling to the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District, they enjoyed presentations by OMID Manager Max Schmidt and Gary Hines of the Historical Society.



OMID Manager Max Schmidt talked to the Co Ag Water Alliance biker group at the May 21 event.

Max gave a wonderful view of the history of the District's existing pumping and hydroelectric plants and the major challenges of building a new hydroelectric plant to replace the aging one currently in operation. The new plant comes with a price tag of \$8.3 million and would be in operation by 2023. He also shared the difficulties of operating in low water years like the last two, and the importance of Colorado River water rights.

Gary has a unique insight into Palisade's irrigation history as his grandfather Carver was the caretaker
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for 33 years of the Grand River Diversion Dam – the orange roofed “Roller Dam” in DeBeque Canyon which turns 106 this month. His grandfather Hines was a user of water from the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Canal No 2. Gary also gave an overview of Palisade's other canal histories, including the Stub and Price Canals, which like the Orchard Mesa Canals, are part of the Grand Valley Project with water supplied by the Roller Dam's Government Highline Canal.

After their stop at the OMID, the group rode on to Sauvage Spectrum in the Vinelands for lunch and listened to Jaine Vanwinkle before returning to Rapid Creek Cycles in Downtown Palisade.

HISTORY OF CAMEO ON DISPLAY AT NEW SHOOTING RANGE COMPLEX

Perhaps nowhere else on the planet is there an area that started out as a coal mining town, then became an electrical power plant, and is now a shooting range. Cameo - two miles from Palisade in DeBeque Canyon - has this fascinating and unique history.

With Gayle Madden's graphic art expertise, the Historical Society created a display with a timeline and photos for everyone to learn about this interesting history. Coal mining began in Cameo in 1885 when John Nichols opened a mine there. The McNeil family and later Wilford M. Kerr Sr. and his son, "Nibbs," operated the Cameo mine until 1964.

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The Cameo photo and timeline display at the Cameo Shooting and Educational Complex with Michaela and Dakota, Colorado Parks and Wildlife employees.
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At one time, the town of Cameo had 30 houses, a school, boarding houses, a bathhouse, and the Cameo Mercantile store and Post Office as well as a pool hall used for church on Sunday. Over 200 people were employed in the mine which produced 1.2 million tons of coal.

Nibbs bought the Cameo mine and townsite from McNeil in 1955 and sold the townsite in 1956. In September 1957, the Public Service Company of Colorado began operating a 22-megawatt power plant using coal from the Cameo mine. It later added 44-megawatts of power. Most houses and buildings in Cameo were moved or demolished prior to the startup of the first Public Service unit. Xcel Energy took over operation of the power plant in 2002 and decommissioned it in 2010.

The Town of Palisade purchased the land and created a formal partnership with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife. In 2017, Colorado Governor Hickenlooper fired the first shot, and the Cameo Education and Shooting Complex formally opened in September 2018.

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 be part of this organization.

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
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Look for us on Facebook and Instagram:
Palisade Historical Society

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.

AMAZON SMILE PURCHASES ALSO BENEFIT THE 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 the 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.**



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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