

# PALISADE Historical Society

## THE ORDINARY FELLOW WINERY MONTHLY TALKS – “The History of Wine in Palisade” Friday, May 20 - 6 p.m.

Learn the interesting history of our grape growing and wine making industry. The program will include insights from Gerald Ivancie’s children. Gerald and his wife Mary owned and operated one of Colorado’s early modern commercial wineries, Ivancie Cellars, in Denver. Wanting to save shipping costs for grapes from California, he introduced Western Colorado to its modern phase of Vinifera grape growing. The program will also detail the growth of the industry in which Palisade has 31 of the State’s 170 wineries and the vast majority of the 800 acres of grapes in the State.

Palisade’s Danny Bracken in his vineyard in the 1970s.



*(Courtesy of the Bracken Family)*

*(continued)*

## Become a Member!

If you aren’t a current member of the Palisade Historical Society, please send your check to P.O. Box 631 Palisade, CO 81526. For credit cards, call (970) 464-2177 or include your information on our contact tab at [www.historicpalisade.org](http://www.historicpalisade.org)

*May 2022*



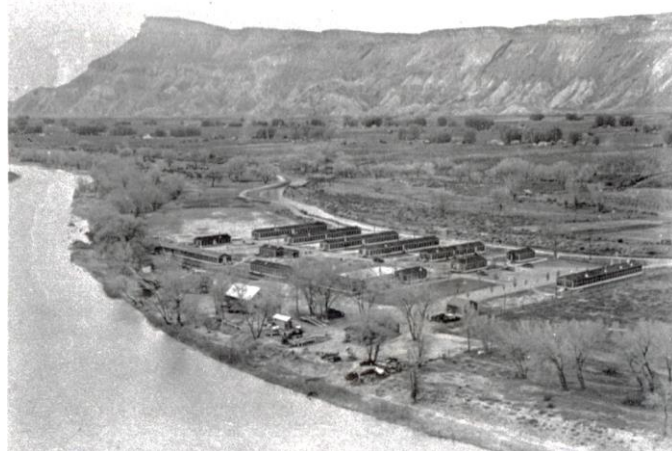
Mary and Gerald Ivancie with their award-winning wine in 1968 (Photo courtesy of Museums of Western Colorado)

## “The History of Riverbend Park”

**Thursday, June 23 at 6 p.m.**

Palisade’s Riverbend Park is located south of Palisade between the Colorado River and the Grand Valley Canal. Currently the home of Palisade’s many festivals, it has a fascinating history. Over the years, it offered creative solutions for Palisade’s agriculture labor needs.

*(Photo courtesy of the Foss Family)*



The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp in Riverbend Park in 1938. German Prisoners stayed at the camp in 1944 for harvest.

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*Page 1*

## Last month's talk was the D&RGW video on growing Palisade Peaches

The popular 30-minute video about Palisade peaches drew an enthusiastic crowd interested in seeing how our peaches were grown and processed in the 1950s. Most peaches were Standard Elbertas and shipped in refrigerated boxcars filled with ice from Colorado lakes.

Check our website: [www.historicpalisade.org](http://www.historicpalisade.org) and Facebook posts, and The Ordinary Fellow Winery's social media for dates and topics of future programs.

## TAYLOR ELEMENTARY 2nd GRADERS LEARN ABOUT PALISADE HISTORY

Taylor Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> graders got in-class presentations for our *Historic Palisade Coloring Book*. Thanks to Rotary Club donations, students received copies to study and color the wonderful illustrations. Historical Society volunteers Shirley Voorhees and Priscilla Walker were again able to bring a pair of stilts, a picking sack, and a piece of coal to Connie Moore and Beth Graham's classrooms to explain Palisade's unique history.



Priscilla Walker, standing left, and Shirley Voorhees hold the pair of stilts.

## 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 being a host at the new Palisade History Museum. Send an email message with your contact information to [historicpalisade@outlook.com](mailto:historicpalisade@outlook.com) to learn how you can be part of this organization.

## 2022-2023 Directors of the Palisade Historical Society

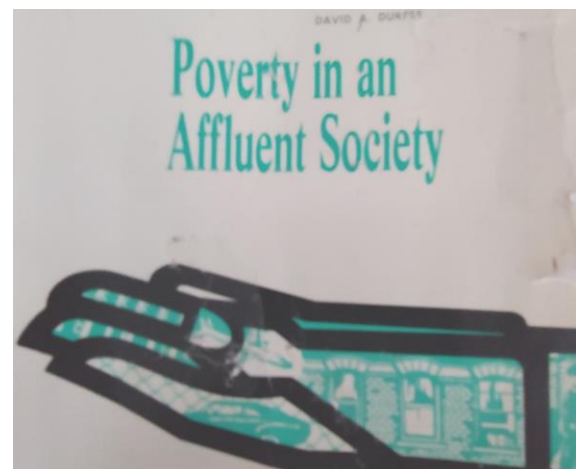
Ralph Branch – [branchcolorado@gmail.com](mailto:branchcolorado@gmail.com)  
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Jaime Cox – [jaimejcox@gmail.com](mailto:jaimejcox@gmail.com)  
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Priscilla Walker – [pbwalker630@acsol.net](mailto:pbwalker630@acsol.net)  
Charlene Weidner – [charw@acsol.net](mailto:charw@acsol.net)

## WHAT'S NEW AT THE PALISADE HISTORY MUSEUM

Among new acquisitions at the Museum are aluminum soda cans and textbooks found in the walls of the now demolished Palisade High School. The soda cans appear to be discarded after 1969 as this Mountain Dew logo was used from 1969 until 1996. Patio Root Beer was a Pepsi Cola product. Pepsi Cola officially changed to Pepsi in 1961.



Two textbooks published in 1970 - "Poverty in an Affluent Society" - were also found in the walls near the bleachers. As work continues to restore bleachers in the remaining gymnasium/ auditorium, photos and additional items may be found..



## ANN MERLINO MENDICELLI PASSED AWAY MARCH 22 AT AGE 103



Last March, Angelina Merlino Mendicelli was a visitor to the Palisade History Museum. She posed for a photo with her class of 1936 Palisade High School senior photos. She was born September 26, 1918, and passed away in Grand Junction March 22, 2022, at age 103.

The Merlino Family moved to Palisade in 1932, and all seven children graduated from Palisade High School and their photos are in the History Museum display. The oldest, Jack, was in the class of 1935, her younger sister Helen in 1937, brother Albert in 1939, brother Eddie in 1943, sister Margaret in 1945, and brother Jerry in 1949. While raising her family, Ann was very active in The Altar and Rosary Society, Holy Family School, Catholic Daughters, the Girl Scouts, and the Elks Ladies Auxiliary.

Ann is survived by her sister, Margaret Coe, and children JoAnn, Janice, Joe, and Christina, and families. She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph A. and Carmella Marie Massaro, five siblings, the love of her life, her husband of 70 years, Joe, and grandsons Allen Thomas and Vincent Thomas. An active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church for 82 years, Ann's funeral mass services were held April 9. Her oral history on our website is: <https://www.historicpalisade.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Ann-Merlino-Mendicelli-.pdf>

## THELMA ROSE PAHLER HAYS PASSED AWAY APRIL 11th

We were also saddened to learn Thelma Rose Hays passed away in April. She was born April 6, 1930, and spent her childhood on her parent's peach farm in Cameo. She attended the Cameo School until 10<sup>th</sup> grade and graduated from Palisade High School in the class of 1947. She and her husband, Herb Hays, bought property up DeBeque Canyon where the family continues to grow fruit and vegetables today. Among her businesses were the Café Caravan and Mount Garfield Fruit Stand on Highway 6. In addition to donating a dictionary from the Cameo school which is on display at the Palisade History Museum, she recorded an oral history: <https://www.historicpalisade.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Thelma-Hays-for-web.pdf> Thelma is survived by her sons, William, Jack, and Kip, grandchildren and great grand children. Her celebration of life is May 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. at River Orchard View.

## 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.**



## 100 YEAR AGO COLUMN

For decades, one of the most popular columns in *The Palisade Tribune* was the "It Happened Here" page where the editors would summarize news of interest from issues in the past. We have raised funds to digitize 2,930 issues for the Colorado Historical Newspaper Collection. You can see the issues of *The Palisade Tribune* from May 1922 on <https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

Historical Society Board Member Nancy Morrison has used the database to summarize news from four May 1922 *Tribune* issues including:

One hundred fifty Mesa County former service members met to further their cause in upcoming elections. The county organization was perfected under the name of "The Veterans Association of Mesa County." Wayne N. Aspinall was elected president for a two-year term.

Postmaster General of the U. S. requested comment on a proposed rate increase of 1 to 2 cents per parcel. Rates had not been changed since 1913 although costs had risen \$3 million for parcel post in 1921. Locally R.H. Bancroft was appointed postmaster.

J. A. Stoner of Palisade sent a letter to the *Kansas Farmer and Mail and Breeze* after reading that a farmer near Wichita made \$800 on 5 acres. Stoner wrote he made \$40,000 in the last four years on his 8 1/2 acres of Elberta peaches near Palisade and has had only one crop failure in 20 years.

Dr. F. H. Weidlein provided physical exams free of charge for those applying for the Citizens Military Training Camp in Fort Logan.

For growers bothered by ant infestations, especially in young peach trees, Kellogg's Ant Paste which could be secured at the Palisade Drug Co. was recommended.

A fire destroyed most of the inventory of the Edwards Apparel Shop in Grand Junction.

Nineteen members of the Class of 1922 graduated on May 25. Commencement address was given by Mr. Elmore Peterson of the University of Colorado. Their senior class play "Esmeralda" was a sellout.

The pupils of the Mt. Lincoln school will present a program on the lawn across from the school on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The lawn is to be electrically lighted and decorated. "The Stolen Flower Queen" is the subject of the entertainment.

The A.S.H. club donated 100 books as a nucleus of a public library. It also was able to get the Traveling Library sent here which will make a fair sized library available for reading during the summer.

The Independent Lumber Co. displayed articles made by members of the Manual Training Class. Some fine pieces of workmanship have been completed.

Palisade checker team defeated the Collbran team at the community center in Collbran. The match was witnessed by a goodly number of checkers and chess enthusiasts.

The Crystal Theater provided a free matinee of "The Four Seasons" produced by the New York Zoological Society for all school children in Palisade and Mt. Lincoln schools.

Mrs. D. C. Sims died unexpectedly on May 1 of pneumonia. Her husband aged 58 died of the same illness on May 21. They were survived by their four children.

Mr. L. J. Finch who formerly lived in the Vinelands died at his home in Molina.



## 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 the Palisade History Museum for maintenance and creating displays about our unique agriculture and coal mining past. Help us engage with 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 2,930 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

Please 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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