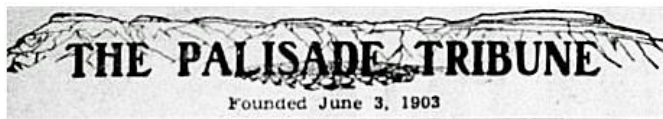


# PALISADE Historical Society

## THE ORDINARY FELLOW WINERY MONTHLY TALKS – Thursday, Aug. 18th - 6 p.m. Bob Sweeney



For the August history talk, Bob Sweeney, publisher of *The Palisade Tribune* for two decades from 1992-2012, will present the "History of Newspapers." Bob has incredible newspaper publishing credentials.

The program is open to the public and Le Snack Fine Foods will be on the patio serving food starting at 4 p.m. The Ordinary Fellow Winery is located at 202 Peach Street in downtown Palisade in the former United Fruit Growers' Association packing facility. Thanks to Kristina and Tim Pike for donating a new speaker and microphone!

## Last month's talk was "Palisade in 1922 with Mayor C Bower"

Dave Cecuga entertained the crowd at The Ordinary Fellow Winery July 21<sup>st</sup> in the persona of Palisade pioneer Christopher Columbus Bower. He researched online articles for photos and stories about what Palisade was like 100 years ago when "Colonel" Bower was the mayor of Palisade.



Dave Cecuga showing Palisade in 1922

## August 2022

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

## The History Museum Celebrates its 1st Birthday this month!

We have come a long way in a short time! August is the first birthday of Palisade's first history museum with the official dedication August 18, 2021. More than 700 people-locals and visitors-have come to the Museum since then and enjoyed exhibits explaining Palisade's unique and often overlooked history.



Shadowbox created by Deb Tsakalos with the ribbon wrapped peach branch, and photos from the ribbon cutting ceremony last August.

Thanks to new and continuing donations of financial support, photos, and artifacts, we've added attractive displays and made improvements  
(continued)

to the renovated pre-1939 log building. We have expanded days and are open four days a week – Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. all year long with volunteer hosts. Many visitors find our website and want to learn more about our history. We also host groups on their way to or from lunch at Palisade restaurants and visiting wineries.



The Palisade History Museum at 3740 G Road has had over 700 visitors since May 2021 – 83 in July 2022 alone!

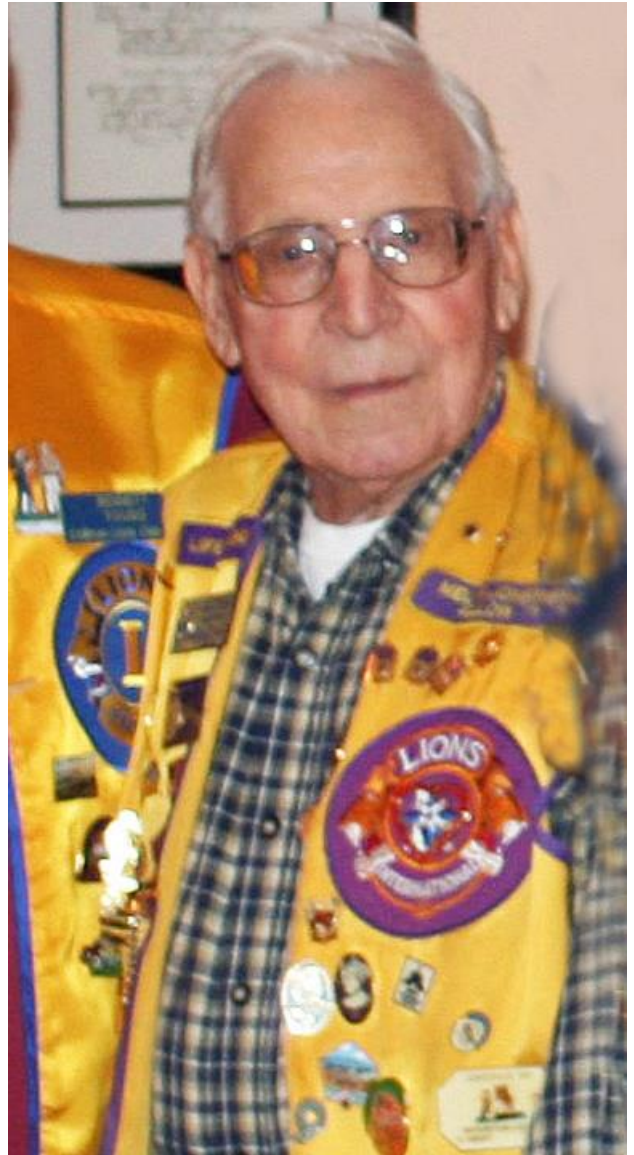
## **WILLIAM “BILL” FLORYANCIC PASSES AWAY AT AGE 104**

Bill Floryancic passed away peacefully in his sleep on July 23 at the VA Community Living Center in Grand Junction. He was born March 9, 1918 in Salida, Colorado, and grew up in Grand Junction, graduating from high school in 1936. A WWII Veteran, he became a Palisade icon when he bought Bancroft Grocery in 1958 and then built Bill’s AG Market across the street in 1963. He successfully expanded and operated the store until 1987 when he sold it to the current owner. Bill was always actively involved in *(continued)*



Bill was Palisade’s first Town Grouch

the Palisade community, especially through the Palisade Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce. He was selected as the Chamber’s first “Town Grouch” by popular vote in 1983. Palisade history was very important to Bill, and he was supportive of the Historical Society’s efforts. Before then, his projects to preserve history included creating “Then and Now,” a self-guided walking tour brochure of downtown historic buildings, and a video of historic Palisade photos. for the Town’s 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in 2004.



Bill in his much-decorated vest at a Palisade Lions Club meeting in 2015

You can learn more about Bill’s interesting life from his Oral History the Palisade Historical Society recorded in 2010. The summary is on our website: <http://www.historicpalisade.org> Click on the Oral Histories tab and find Bill’s name.

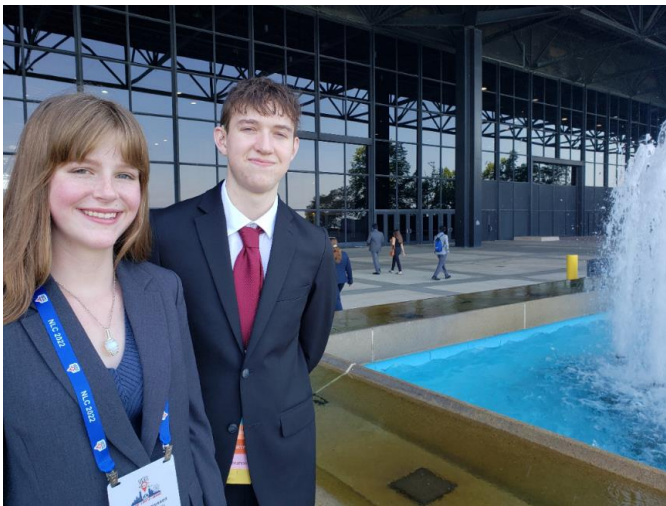


## Historical Society Volunteer Earns National Recognition

Palisade High School students Claire Elise Rasmussen ('24) and Layton Tobin ('23) recently earned a trip to the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference in Chicago.

In addition to attending the workshops, Claire Elise presented a mental health and photography Capstone Project for competitive review, and Layton competed in Computer Problem Solving. Both students and their PHS FBLA advisor, Ms. Melissa Wright, had a great time at the conference and exploring Chicago!

Claire Elise is also volunteering at the Palisade Historical Society, where she is creating more PHS senior class photo composites for the display in the History Museum. Her goal is to complete the remaining classes in the 20th Century.



Claire Elise Rasmussen, left, and Layton Tobin in front of McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago on their recent trip to the national Future Business Leaders of America conference.

## 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)

## ANOTHER POEM BY RENA MARY TAYLOR

The Historical Society recently received copies of poems written by Rena Mary Taylor and collected by Ramel T. Bell. Rena Mary is most known for being a State Legislator from 1950 until 1962, serving in both the State House of Representatives and Senate. Her ability to convey our special Palisade life makes these poems unique.

With Standard Elberta peaches as the dominant variety, when Rena Mary lived in Palisade in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, harvests were usually in August.

### Harvest is Over

Harvest is over; The crowd's disappeared:

The orchards are empty and still.

Trees stand much straighter since their burden's gone;

There's already been frost on the hill!

The gold of the pear and the rose of the peach

Will now but a memory be;

But Autumn, the painter, with her magic brush,

Will bring us new beauty to see.

Soon in our orchards an odd sound we'll hear;

The disc and the tractor will whirr,

Then man will get ready with faith in his heart

For new harvests, as earth his plows stir.

Always, regardless of good years or poor,

Ground must be turned, and trees given care:

"Next year will be better"—if he can endure—

With this hope disappointment he'll bear!

But really it's not for money alone

That man prunes his orchard and digs in his  
ground:

It's the living so close to Nature and God—

No finer life ever'll be found.

For, at dawn, in the orchard, his Maker can speak

In the flash of a bluebird's wing;

While the soft breath of spring—the fragrance of  
bloom—

Quite equal the wealth of a king!

And so through the years he goes steadily on—

Bearing his losses, sharing his gain—

Hoping and working; waiting with faith

Unshaken in sun or in rain!

—Rena Mary Taylor

## Recent Palisade History Presentations



Gary Hines presented the “History of Irrigation – Waters of the Valley” to a class of middle school students from Grand Junction and Fruita for the RiversEdge West’s Wellspring Project. The class focused on water use and the value of the Colorado River as a natural resource.



Some of the crowd at the first “Did You Know” event at Paddleboard Adventure Company, 3816 North River Road. Priscilla Walker talked about Palisade beginnings and showed the video created by Gayle Madden for the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town’s founding in 1904.

## 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 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)  
Ronda Clark – [rc\\_2040@msn.com](mailto:rc_2040@msn.com)  
Jaime Cox – [jaimejcox@gmail.com](mailto:jaimejcox@gmail.com)  
Gary Hines – [gwhines@msn.com](mailto:gwhines@msn.com)  
Nancy Morrison – [nancykmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:nancykmorrison@gmail.com)  
Priscilla Walker – [pbwalker630@acsol.net](mailto:pbwalker630@acsol.net)  
Charlene Weidner – [charw@acsol.net](mailto:charw@acsol.net)

## Visitors to the Palisade History Museum



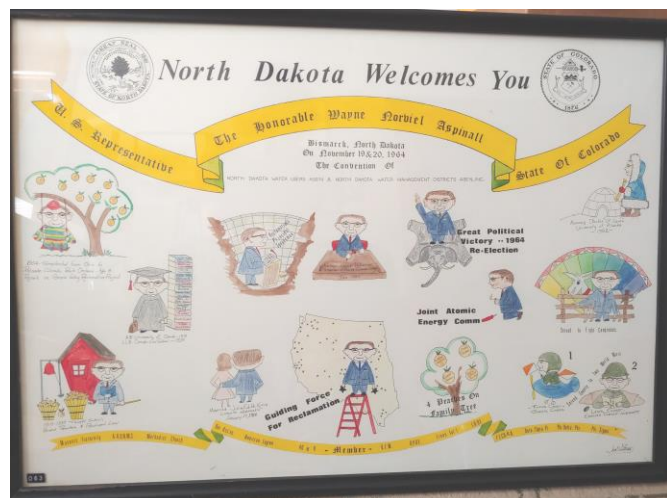
Marla Norman, left, her mother, Phyllis Barker, center, and husband, Michel, right.

One of our favorite local artists, Phyllis Bennett Barker, celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday early when her daughter Marla, and son in law, Michel Thibault were in town. They made a trip to Palisade to visit the History Museum and see the newest of Phyllis’ paintings on display in the front office.

Phyllis’ grandfather, E.G. Bennett, initially operated a bicycle shop on Main Street in the early 1900s. In 1923, his son, Earl, joined him and they built and operated Bennet Motors and Chevrolet Dealership on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Phyllis’ paintings on display include the bicycle shop – and the original photo she used for reference, Bennett Motors, and the Hugus Building and Additions across the street.

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

## Now on Display at the Palisade History Museum – A pictorial biography of Wayne Aspinall



The Art Center in Grand Junction recently donated a pictorial biography of Wayne N. Aspinall from the Tillie and Pat Bishop Estate, wanting to have it housed with other Aspinall memorabilia. This clever sketch is now displayed in the Aspinall Room at the Palisade History Museum with other Aspinall items which Tillie, a long time friend and advocate of Congressman. Aspinall, donated to the Historical Society over the last few years.

The detailed drawings—by Jean Walkerson—were created for the Nov. 19-20, 1964 Bismarck, North Dakota Convention of the North Dakota Water Users Association and North Dakota Water Management Districts Association. Palisade's Wayne Aspinall was known throughout the country for his work in Congress for water conservation and recreation projects as head of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

The information depict different aspects of Aspinall's life, including growing up in Palisade, serving in two World Wars, earning a law degree from the University of Denver, teaching school, practicing law, being elected to Congress, serving as a "Guiding Light for Reclamation" and as a member of the Joint Atomic Energy Commission, among his other notable events and accomplishments. It also lists his memberships in various organizations and other details about his family and career.

## AMAZON SMILE PURCHASES BENEFIT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

amazon



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.**

## 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 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.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (for newsletters) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_