

PALISADE

Historical Society

THE ORDINARY FELLOW WINERY MONTHLY TALK

“Lining the Government Highline Canal”

Thursday, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m.

The February history talk at The Ordinary Fellow Winery on Thursday, the 16th will focus on the historic and current efforts to line the Government Highline Canal. Over the years, the methods changed, beginning with work done by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s. Tina Bergonzini, General Manager of the Grand Valley Water Users Association, will present photos and information about work currently done to prevent seepage and reduce salinity and selenium loading into the Colorado River.

CCC Camp members poured concrete onto the side of the Government Highline Canal in 1938.



(Photo courtesy of the Foss Family)

The history talk program will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 19th at The Ordinary Fellow Winery – at 202 Peach Avenue in Palisade. This program is open to the public, and The Ordinary Fellow Winery is a relaxed and comfortable setting for people to learn about Palisade’s unique history and enjoy a glass of wine. As food will not be available on site, people can bring food to the program.

February 2023

Last month’s talk “A Bison Tale”

Holly “Sonny” Shelton, archaeologist, faunal analysis specialist, and field crew member for Grand River Institute and Dominguez Archaeological Research Group (DARG presented her work with DARG focusing on human/bison interaction specific to Western Colorado. Radiometric testing results show that bison existed here from 45,000 years ago to the late 1800s.

Check out our website: www.historicpalisade.org Facebook and Instagram posts, and The Ordinary Fellow Winery’s social media for dates and topics of future programs.



WHAT’S NEW AT THE PALISADE HISTORY MUSEUM

Among our recent acquisitions are two essential coal mining artifacts which were used in the Cameo/Powderhorn mine to monitor the air quality and ensure the safety of miners.

Anonometer measures oxygen

The first artifact on display is an anonometer which miners would carry with them into the mine. It measured the amount of oxygen in the air and alerted the miner when the oxygen level was below the minimum level.



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The second new artifact is a flame safety lamp, or “bug lamp” as it was referred to by Palisade area coal miners. It was a complex device which could not be unassembled inside the mine. It was made of brass and contained a flame protected by screens. The miners would hang it where they were working in the mine. If the air quality diminished, the light would change, alerting them to immediately get outside.

Flame Safety Lamp

HISTORY MUSEUM VISITORS

Doug Caskey, executive director of the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board, was in town for the annual Western Colorado Horticultural Society/VinCO Conference & Trade Show in January. He stopped by the History Museum to see our displays and discuss early Palisade wine history with Buck Bracken whose family was a pioneer Palisade grape grower.



Buck Bracken, left, and Doug Caskey at the wine label display in the Palisade History Museum

DAVE’S TRIBUNE RESEARCH

Longtime Historical Society volunteer Dave Cecuga passionately researches *The Palisade Tribune* archives. One of his most recent discoveries is there was an icehouse in a building behind the Purcell building in the early 1900s. In 1921, the icehouse became the location of Hoffman Motors, just east of the Purcell Building.

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Mr. Purcells ice-house just back of his brick block that is going up at the corner of third and main is about completed. The liquid refreshments stored in it will be surrounded by five car loads of ice, eight feet thick on top and five and a half feet on the sides.

Dave found this article in the June 17, 1905 *Palisade Tribune*.



Arrow shows icehouse behind the Purcell building in 1910 (Photo courtesy of The Bowman Family Collection)

If you want to browse or research the 3,140 issues of *The Palisade Tribune* online, they are available on the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection (CHNC) and Plains to Peaks Historic Newspaper databases.

You can learn or improve your skills to access and use the databases for research from the expert—Leigh Jeremias from the Colorado State Library—who will be the presenter at our April 20 history talk at 6 p.m. at The Ordinary Fellow Winery.

Become a Member!

If you or your business aren’t one of the current 108 members 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 send your contact information on the contact tab at www.historicpalisade.org

MARY RHOADES PASSED AWAY IN NOVEMBER

We were sorry to read that Mary Rhoades passed away in Grand Junction. She contacted us in 2015 and shared insights about Palisade in the 1930s, and especially, her parents' stores in downtown Palisade. She and her husband, Bud who survives her, provided encouragement for our early efforts to preserve and communicate Palisade history.

Mary's parents, Joseph and Clara Smith, came to Palisade in 1920. Joe was a tailor and bought a building on the west side of Main Street where he operated The Palisade Tailor Shop beginning in 1921. He ordered and remade suits as well as provided cleaning and pressing services. It was just north of the empty lot where the Jordan's Inn burned in 1915.

Clara Pinkard Smith was a skilled seamstress and ran the successful Palisade Millinery Store in the same building next to the Tailor Shop from 1922 until 1928. Mary told us she made hats for notable people in Grand Junction, including the Prinsters and the Biggs.

Mary was born in Palisade in September 1931 and attended first grade in Palisade. The family moved to Clifton, so she attended schools there and graduated from Clifton High School which was an adobe building where Clifton elementary is now.

In about 1938, her father moved the building where the Tailor and Millinery Store were located to their 20-acre ranch near the "Big Tree Road" on the highway to Clifton.

Some of Mary's childhood memories were the taffy shop in the Vineland, and getting penny candy from the McGinnis Barber Shop on Main St.

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 be a host at the 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.

2022-2023 Directors of the Palisade Historical Society

Ralph Branch – branchcolorado@gmail.com
Ronda Clark – rc_2040@msn.com
Jaime Cox – jaimejcox@gmail.com
Gary Hines – gwhines@msn.com
Nancy Morrison – nancykmorrison@gmail.com
JoAnn Rasmussen – joannrasm@gmail.com
Priscilla Walker – pbwalker630@acsol.net

AMAZON SMILE ENDS DONATIONS TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As of February 23, your on-line shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com> will no longer benefit the Palisade Historical Society or other local non-profits. If you selected us as your charity of choice, we appreciate your support. If you want to continue to donate painlessly, please use the City Market program:

YOUR PURCHASES AT CITY MARKET DO 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 Palisade 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 3,140 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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