

PALISADE

Historical Society

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IS 13 YEARS OLD!

The Palisade Historical Society is officially a teenager, as it was incorporated as a non-profit in March 2010. The Annual Meeting was held on February 23 at the Palisade Branch Library.



Board members JoAnn Rasmussen,
Ralph Branch, and Nancy Morrison

The meeting topics included the budget, and the many accomplishments of the past year. Jaime Cox, Nancy Morrison and JoAnn Rasmussen were re-elected to three-year terms on the board.

THE ORDINARY FELLOW WINERY HISTORY TALK “Legends of the Grand Mesa” Thursday, March 23rd at 6 p.m.

The March history talk at The Ordinary Fellow Winery on Thursday, the 23rd will be the Community in Motion Film and Video created by Grand Valley Magazine in 2015 “Legends of the Grand Mesa.” Directed by David Bailey, it features the iconic thunderbird symbol and interviews with Palisade’s John Lindstrom and Ute Indian Museum Director C. J. Brafford.

The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 23rd 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. The tasting room opens at noon, and Le Snack Food truck will be onsite with food available for purchase at 4:30, so come early. *(continued)*

March 2023



Thunderbird on Grand Mesa
(Photo courtesy of KEKB)

Last month’s talk “Lining the Government Highline Canal”

The February history talk at The Ordinary Fellow Winery on Thursday, the 16th included historic and current work to line the Government Highline Canal. Over the years, the methods changed. Palisade’s Civilian Conservation Corps used cement to line the canal in the late 1930s.

Tina Bergonzini, General Manager of the Grand Valley Water Users Association, presented photos and information about the success of current lining methods which use GPS guided equipment and PVC membrane. Lining just 6,150 feet of the canal near Palisade controls 3,083 tons of salt from ending up in the Colorado River each year and saves another 2,829-acre feet per year of water lost to seepage. She hopes for funding to line the canal north of Palisade from Tunnel #3 to Elberta Avenue.



Tina Bergonzini, GVWUA General Manager, at
The Ordinary Fellow Winery program

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

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

WHAT'S NEW AT THE PALISADE HISTORY MUSEUM

Two original paintings by renowned local artist Ruth Phillips which have been on display at the Municipal building most of the time since 1965 were returned to the Palisade History Museum.

The painting at the top is the Purdy Hotel – Palisade's first hotel built in 1884 at 124 East 3rd Street just east of the Palisades National Bank building. The lower painting is the Livery which was on Third Street just east of the hotel and next to what is now the Town of Palisade/s Municipal Building.



Two of Ruth Phillips original paintings on display at the Palisade History Museum

The Town also donated a Direct Reading Colorimeter Water Quality tester manufactured in
(continued)

1965. The water department used this to ensure its Municipal water was high quality. It identified and measured metals including iron, manganese, and zinc, as well as chlorine, fluoride, turbidity, and other impurities.



Direct Reading Colorimeter from the Town Water Department is now on display at the Palisade History Museum.

3,347 DIGITAL ISSUES OF THE PALISADE TRIBUNE NOW ONLINE TO SEARCH AND READ



Thanks to generous private donors, and support from the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection, 207 more issues of *The Palisade Tribune* are digitized and available on the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection (CHNC) and Wyoming State Library databases! You can now browse, read, or search 3,347 issues of Palisade's Newspaper of Record - from June 6, 1903, through December 25, 1970, at: <https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org> and Plains to Peaks Wyoming website: <https://www.ppc-historicnewspapers.org>

MOUNTAIN LION BUILDING BOARDED UP – WILL NOT BE A WINE MUSEUM

The iconic Grand Junction Fruit Growers' Association office in downtown Palisade, locally known as the Mountain Lion Building, was built in 1909. It has been empty for decades, and was boarded up in January to prevent further damage as a rock was thrown through one of the front top leaded glass windows. It will not be renovated as a wine museum.



Mountain Lion Building with protective boards on the windows in February 2023



The above photo is the Mountain Lion building in 1962 before the platforms burned in 1971. It was never a passenger depot as people mistakenly assume. Fruit growers brought boxes and bushels of peaches to be inspected and loaded into refrigerated railroad cars on the north side. *(Photo courtesy of Museums of the West, Fred Powell Collection)*

DAVE'S TRIBUNE RESEARCH

Historical Society volunteer Dave Cecuga passionately researches *The Palisade Tribune* archives. He recently found an article about the original building next to Palisade Mayor Herman Kluge's General Store on the west side of Main Street was a saloon. Palisade had three bars (saloons) – the Hub, Jordan's Inn, and the Brown
(Continued)

Palace, all of which closed in 1908. The Hub was the last to close on May 12. The Jordan's Inn saloon closed April 14, after operating less than a year. The Brown Palace closed May 1, 1908. After that, Palisade was a dry town and an example for Prohibition. Dave found this article in the May 8, 1908 issue:

Kluge Buys Store Room.

One of the largest deals in business property made for some time was closed this week when J. C. Lambert sold his store building, heretofore occupied by the Hub bar, to H. W. Kluge, the merchant, for \$5,000.

Mr. Kluge has seen the need of a larger building for some time in order to more fully accommodate his increasing business and will now move his dry goods and men's furnishing departments into the room just purchased, and the same will be fitted up with modern fixtures and connected with his former place of business by a large opening, which will make it one of the largest merchandizing establishments in the county. The present location will be used exclusively for the hardware and grocery department.

Mr. Kluge started in business in a small way a few years ago and has built up one of the most substantial business institutions in western Colorado and it gives the Tribune much pleasure to note his progress.

West side of main street when the Hub Saloon was next to H. W. Kluge general store.



(Photo courtesy of Bill Floryancic)

Herman W. Kluge's stores on the West side of Main Street after May 1908



(Photo courtesy of the Museum of the West, Palisade Library Collection)

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.

JOHN JAYNES PASSED AWAY IN DECEMBER

We were sorry to learn John Jaynes passed away December 30th at the age of 83. He was the oldest son of Oscar Jaynes who managed the Peach Board of Control for decades. The Jaynes family have been supporters of the Palisade Historical Society since before its inception. We were pleased John was able to tour the Palisade History Museum in September 2021. His family said he especially enjoyed seeing familiar equipment for picking peaches and references to his father.

John's brother, Ron was the principal illustrator of our *Historic Palisade Coloring Book* which has reached more than 2,500 elementary students since its initial printing in 2011. John's daughter, Illene Roggensack, has provided encouragement and non-profit consulting expertise, including our application to be a non-profit in 2010.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggested donations to the Palisade Historical Society in his memory.

BARBARA TILTON BOARDMAN PASSED AWAY JANUARY 14th

Barbara Jean Tilton Hyde Boardman passed away at age 98. She was born in Palisade on June 26, 1924 to Forrest (Frosty) and Ruth Zingg *(continued)*

Tilton. Barbara graduated from Palisade High School in the Class of 1941. She shared photos and memories with the Palisade Historical Society about growing up in Palisade

Barbara earned degrees in Horticulture from CSU and later became a County Extension agent in Longmont and wrote gardening columns for several newspapers, including *The Palisade Tribune*.

She was also on the planning committee for Operation Foresight in the 1960s which revitalized Grand Junction's Main Street.

JOHN BUTLER PASSED AWAY FEBRUARY 3rd

John Butler, widower of Founding Palisade Historical Society Board Member Doris Butler, passed away at age 93. John and Doris visited the History Museum on September 4, 2021, the day before their 70th wedding anniversary. Doris passed away later that month. They recorded an oral history in January 2020 in which he shared details about his life. The summary is on our website: <https://www.historicpalisade.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/John-and-Doris-Butler-Final.pdf>



Doris and John Butler shared birthday cake at the Roller Dam 100th birthday party in June 2015.

(Photo courtesy of Darlene Jordan Holmes)

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.

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2023-2024 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

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. *(continued)*

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



It's a painless way to support the Palisade Historical Society. If you do not have an account, you will need to create one by providing a valid email address, and a City Market/Kroger loyalty card number.



Frank Mechau's mural, "Wild Horses," spans the top of this photo of the Palisade Post Office. It is a reproduction of a study for the final version of a 60-foot fresco on an outside wall at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. Installed in the Post office in mid- February, this is a gift to the community from the Mechau family and continues the legacy of his paintings in public buildings.

Post Office Lead Clerk Ty is at the counter in this photo. Mechau did the study in Colorado Springs where the fresco was installed in 1936. The family invites you to feast your eyes on this wonderful painting at our Post Office. To learn more about Frank Mechau, please go to frankmechau.com



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 3,347 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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E-mail (for newsletters) _____ Phone _____