

# PALISADE

## Historical Society

### THE ORDINARY FELLOW WINERY MONTHLY TALK

#### “The Historic Crissey House” by

**JoAnn Rasmussen**

**Thursday, Jan. 25th at 6 p.m.**

The January history talk at The Ordinary Fellow Winery on Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup> will be presented by JoAnn and Kirk Rasmussen, owners of The Historic Crissey House in Palisade. Join us as they share some of their adventures, and what it's like living in and rehabilitating a property on the National Register of Historic Places. Hear what it means to be an amateur archaeologist in your own home, and why they'd do it all again in a heartbeat!



The house at 218 West First Street was built in 1908 by pioneers Grant and May Sayles Crissey. It is the only house in Palisade on the State and National Historic Registers.

*(Photo courtesy of JoAnn Rasmussen)*

The history talk program will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> 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 to learn about Palisade's unique history and enjoy a glass of wine. La Sabrosita food truck will be on site with delicious tacos and more available for purchase. The tasting room opens at noon.

*January 2024*

### Last month's talk was “Celebrating 80 Years of Legacy on the Colorado Plateau”

For the December history talk, Ashton Peterhans, Interpretive Specialist and Contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management, explained how uranium changed Grand Junction at a critical time in the nation's history.

On March 23, 1943, 2nd Lt. Philip C. Leahy arrived in Grand Junction to procure as much uranium as possible from the Colorado Plateau which comprised 14% of the uranium used in the Manhattan project.



Ashton Peterhans talking about the Atomic Cabin at 2597 Legacy Way in Grand Junction near the Orchard Mesa Cemetery. It is now a museum open to the public.

### February 22<sup>nd</sup> history talk - is Curtis Martin - “Bright Beads and Rusted Relics: Innovative Archaeology on a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ute Indian Site”

The February history talk on Thursday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Ordinary Fellow Winery, will be presented by Curtis Martin, principal investigator for the Wickiup Project and author of *Ephemeral Bounty*. He will talk about interesting findings at the McMillen Archaeological site near Delta.



## OLDE FASHIONED CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The Palisade Historical Society participated in Palisade's holiday celebration. At the Friday, December 1st Parade of Lights, the Society's entries were led by JoAnn and Claire Elise Rasmussen holding the banner inviting parade viewers to visit the Palisade History Museum.



JoAnn and Claire Elise led the way.

Following them was Priscilla Walker driving her 1930 Model A Ford with Santa and Mrs. Claus - portrayed by Historical Society Members Pete and Wanda Robinson - in the rumble seat.



Mr. and Mrs. Claus in the 1930 Model A Ford rumble seat with Dave Cecuga standing in the background.

Dave Cecuga walked the route waving to the appreciative crowd and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

A new Palisade Historical Society parade entry was a 100-year-old 1923 Star Open Delivery driven by Tom Schaffer with Lisa Marye in the passenger seat. *(continued)*



Tom Schaffer and Lisa Marye with the 1923 Star Open Delivery truck

The Star truck was made by Durant Motors, which was created in 1922 by Billy Durant, the original founder of General Motors. The Star would have been seen in the 1920's bringing fruits and vegetables from farm to market.

Our volunteers also informally shared the history of the Palisade United Methodist Church and two long-time Methodist Church member families--the Aspinalls and the Avon Taylors. The talks concluded with Rena Mary Taylor's 1942 Christmas poem at the Church program on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## BEST WISHES FOR 2024!

If you didn't visit the Palisade History Museum in December, you missed seeing Volunteer Host Joan Forrey's creative holiday decorations.



Festive tree and window decorations  
in the front room of the History Museum

*(continued)*





Christmas Tree  
at the History Museum in December

## 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](http://www.historicpalisade.org)

## 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.

## 2023-2024 Directors of the Palisade Historical Society

Ralph Branch – [branchcolorado@gmail.com](mailto:branchcolorado@gmail.com)

Jaime Cox – [jaimejcox@gmail.com](mailto:jaimejcox@gmail.com)

Nancy Eighmy – [eighmyn@bresnan.net](mailto:eighmyn@bresnan.net)

Gary Hines – [gwhines@msn.com](mailto:gwhines@msn.com)

Nancy Morrison – [nancykmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:nancykmorrison@gmail.com)

JoAnn Rasmussen – [joannrasm@gmail.com](mailto:joannrasm@gmail.com)

Priscilla Walker – [pbwalker630@acsol.net](mailto:pbwalker630@acsol.net)

## PIONEER MONUMENT TOP GETS MUCH NEEDED REPAIRS



Local stonemason Charles Harrington repaired the monument top in December.

The Plateau Valley Historical Society received permission to make much-needed repairs to the top of the stone monument at I-70 Exit 47. It was originally located on Highway 65 near the entrance to Plateau Canyon. It was dedicated June 14, 1931, by the Grand Junction Elks Lodge 575 B.P.O.E on what was the "Colorado River Highway." It was moved to its current location in 1965 when I-70 was widened. The stone mason who repaired the monument's top in December, Charles Harrington, grew up in Rifle and remembers seeing the monument in its original location.

The Plateau Valley Historical Preservation Society continues fundraising to get the missing brass plaques replaced and create a new sign with historical information erected nearby to make the monument more visible.

## RECENT VISITORS TO THE HISTORY MUSEUM

We're pleased to say we've averaged more than 500 visitors a year to the Palisade History Museum  
(continued)

in the past three years. It's open four days a week – Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 3740 G Road in Palisade. In December, one of our favorite local artists Phyllis Bennett Barker, and her daughter, Marla Barker Norman, came to see what's new since their last visit in July 2022. They also enjoyed seeing Phyllis' artwork in the front office.



Phyllis Barker (Center), with daughter, Marla Norman, (left) and Priscilla Walker, Palisade Historical Society founding chair



Phyllis Bennett Barker at the display in the History Museum of her Palisade High School Senior Class of 1945 photos

## NANA'S DOWNTOWN AND THE WILDFLOWER DONATE A MEMORIAL WREATH

The Wildflower's Charlotte Meiners, left, and Nana's Becky Davis created a holiday tribute wreath for wonderful Palisade fruit growers who passed away.



The wreath will now be displayed in the History Museum to encourage the cooperative spirit to move forward. We will research additional orchardists who created and sustained Palisade's supportive agricultural heritage which makes this community very special.

## 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 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 3,549 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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