

# PALISADE

## Historical Society

### THE ORDINARY FELLOW WINERY HISTORY TALK

**“Then and Now” - Orchard Mesa  
Irrigation District History by Jackie  
Fisher, General Manager  
THURSDAY, MARCH 21st - 6pm**

The March history talk will be on Thursday, the 21st at 6 pm at the Ordinary Fellow Winery. Jackie Fisher, general manager of the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District will present the interesting history of the OMID which was formed in 1907 and began pumping irrigation water in 1910. In 2022, it replaced its 1933 hydro plant with its new Vinelands Power Plant.



**Historic photo postcard of a woman in a white dress at Orchard Mesa Irrigation District in 1910.**  
*(Photo courtesy of Joel Prudhomme)*

History Talks are open to the public at The Ordinary Fellow Winery 202 Peach Avenue. It is a relaxed and comfortable setting to learn about Palisade's unique history and enjoy a glass of wine. The tasting room opens at noon.

### **“Historical Puzzles” by Bob Silbernagel**

**Thursday, April 25th - 6pm**

The April History Talk will be by local history author Bob Silbernagel. Historical puzzles have always intrigued him, so his program will examine why people make certain actions that significantly affected the outcome of major and minor historical events.

## March 2024

### LAST MONTH'S TALK

**Curtis Martin - “Bright Beads and  
Rusted Relics: Innovative Archaeology  
on a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ute Indian Site”**

The February history talk program was Curtis Martin, principal investigator for the Wickiup Project and author of *Ephemeral Bounty: Wickiups, Trade Goods and the Final Years of the Autonomous Ute* published in 2016.



**Some of the standing room only audience for  
Curtis Martin's program.**

His talk explained how returning to previously known Native American sites with metal detectors they discovered glass beads and metal tweezers, knives, and ammunition as evidence the Spaniards were in Western Colorado in the mid-1800s including at the McMillen Archaeological site near Delta.

### THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS 14 YEARS OLD!

The Palisade Historical Society is 14 years old, as it was incorporated as a non-profit in March 2010. The Annual Meeting was held February 13 at the Palisade Branch Library. The meeting topics included the budget, and the many accomplishments of the past year. Ralph Branch and Nancy Eighmy were reelected to new three-year terms on the board, and Joe Burtard was a new board member elected to a three-year term.

**JoAnn Rasmussen,  
Ralph Branch, and  
Nancy Eighmy  
celebrate the  
organization's 14<sup>th</sup>  
birthday!**



## 120 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.

### Palisade was incorporated in 1904

In as much as Palisade was formally incorporated as Palisade in April 1904 – making the Town officially 120 years old this year – we found some interesting articles about the Town's founding.

#### From the March 5, 1904 issue:

The incorporation committee presented the petition of forty property owners and qualified electors to the county judge yesterday asking that he call an election of the qualified electors in the proposed limits of the town of Palisade for the purpose of voting on the proposition of incorporation. The committee secured the names of all who were asked to sign the petition with the exception of four or five. That the proposition will carry goes without saying.

#### Another article in that issue piqued our interest about some of the motivation for incorporating:

The gentleman who is thinking of erecting a \$20,000 brick hotel in Palisade says he will have to see the town incorporated before he will do so.

We surmised the "gentleman" was Lige Jordan who had begun the process of creating the two-story brick hotel and office building he was planning to build on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Main Street. The Jordan Inn opened in 1908, and unfortunately, burned to the ground in November 1915, forever changing downtown Palisade.

Mandatory election notices were published on March 12<sup>th</sup> as well as March 19<sup>th</sup>, and April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Election was held May 2, 1904. The Notice included the following excerpts from those issues:

#### Notice of Election

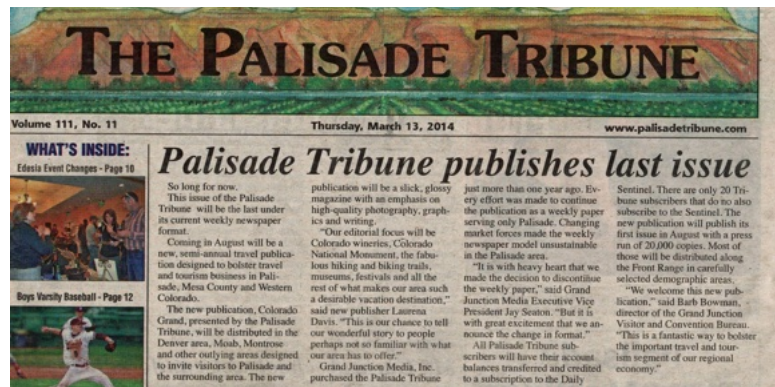
In the Matter of the Incorporation of the Town of Palisade. Notice is Hereby Given, that under and by virtue of the order of the county court of Mesa county,

Colorado, made and entered of record on the 7th day of March, A. D. 1904, the same being a regular juridical day of the March 1904 term of said court the undersigned were appointed as commissioners to call an election of all the qualified electors residing within the territory proposed to be embraced within the limits of the town of Palisade as hereinafter described and in pursuance of the petition filed in the county court of said county on said 7th day of March, 1904. Therefore, public notice is hereby given that an election of all the qualified electors residing within the territory described in said petition, and hereinafter set forth, will be held at Bancroft & Reed's real estate office in the town of Palisade, in the county of Mesa and state of Colorado, on the 4th day of April A.D. 1904, between the hours of ten o'clock and six o'clock of said day...

To search or browse for more history in *The Palisade Tribune*, click on this link:  
<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>



## THE PALISADE TRIBUNE STOPPED PUBLISHING 10 YEARS AGO



Palisade's Newspaper of Record from 1903 focused on local news until it ceased in March 2014. You can browse or research 3,753 archival issues on the Colorado Historical Newspaper database, thanks to the Palisade Historical Society and our generous donors.



## 2024-2025 Directors of the Palisade Historical Society

Ralph Branch – branchcolorado@gmail.com  
Joe Burtard – jrcarriage@gmail.com  
Jaime Cox – jaimejcox@gmail.com  
Nancy Eighmy – eighmyn@bresnan.net  
Gary Hines – gwhines@msn.com  
Nancy Morrison – nancykmorrison@gmail.com  
JoAnn Rasmussen – joannrasm@gmail.com  
Priscilla Walker – pbwalker630@acsol.net

### DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Need more deductions this year? Whether you become a member or donate to the Palisade Historical Society, your donation is tax deductible. Our non-profit tax ID is 27-246812.



### PALISADE NATIVE JERRY NISBET PASSED AWAY JANUARY 10

Palisade native Jerry Nisbet, son of George and Rena Nisbet, was born November 8, 1924. He graduated from Palisade High School in the class of 1942 and served in the Army in Europe during World War II. He earned a Ph.D. in Biology from Purdue and worked at Ball State University in Indiana for 33 years as a professor and chairman of the Biology Department.

Jerry and his wife, Janice Hampton, also a Palisade native and daughter of Kermit and Eulalah Hampton, PHS class of 1946, moved back to Palisade in 1983. She passed away in 2017. Jerry shared several

photos with the Historical Society, including photos of the Town's water system improvements in the 1940s. His father was the Town Manager from 1935 until he retired in 1972.



Laying municipal water pipes in the Vineland.  
(Photo courtesy of Jerry Nisbet.)

### BECOME A MEMBER!

If you or your business aren't one of the current 113 members of the Palisade Historical Society, please join us. 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)

There is a membership & donation form at the end of this newsletter that explains all of your options.

### 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.

## WHAT'S NEW AT THE HISTORY MUSEUM



Bennett Price donated a gorgeous, original quilt handmade by Ruth Ann Feild, local quilt historian, who created it in 2004 to celebrate Palisade's Centennial Anniversary.

### STOP BY AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!

The Palisade History Museum is open four days a week: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. Stop in and see us at 3740 G Road. Every time you visit, something new (and old!) will catch your eye!



### 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.

You do not have to be a member of the Palisade Historical Society, and you don't have to live in the area to participate!

### THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US. WE APPRECIATE YOU!





## 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 3,753 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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