

News from the Palisade Historical Society

April 13, 2011

The first three months of 2011 have been very busy for the Palisade Historical Society! We recently unveiled our most ambitious project to date, the *Historic Palisade Coloring Book*. We also held another “Palisade Reflections” program, celebrated our 1st anniversary, reached a milestone with 25 members, and recognized individuals who help preserve Palisade’s history among other activities.

PALISADE SUNSHINE ROTARY CLUB DONATION WILL MAKE THE HISTORIC PALISADE COLORING BOOK AVAILABLE SOON

The *Historic Palisade Coloring Book* has more than 20 original illustrations by local artists Ron Jaynes and Melanie Kerrigan and interesting information that capture Palisade’s rich history. Featured in the coloring book are peach harvest activities, orchard hoopies, coal mining, and historic locations.

A prototype of the coloring book is currently being tested by third graders at Taylor and DeBeque Elementary schools. The final version will incorporate suggestions from the teachers and students, and be available this summer at local retail outlets.

Third grade teachers, Mrs. Hurt, Mrs. Kohl, and Mrs. Galloway, are pleased to have a new tool to help students learn about Palisade. Hopefully, they will share what they learn with their families so more people will better understand Palisade’s history.

Thanks to a generous \$1200 donation from Palisade’s Sunrise Rotary Club, the Palisade Historical Society will be able to provide coloring books at no cost to third graders at Taylor and DeBeque Elementary Schools.

IRRIGATION HISTORY PROGRAM DRAWS A GOOD CROWD

Following a well-received presentation at the Western Colorado Historical Society’s January banquet about the “History of Fruit and Grape Growing in Palisade,” Harry Talbott drew an enthusiastic crowd to the Palisade Historical Society’s third “Palisade Reflections” program in February.

Harry, owner of Talbott’s Mountain Gold, explained the complex history of irrigation projects in the Valley, including the ill-fated Smith and Struthers Ditch in 1898, and the starts and stops of building the Grand Valley Project Diversion Dam, more commonly called the “roller dam,” in DeBeque Canyon.

The program also mentioned the documentary “Moving Mountain” which detailed the dramatic events of the collapse of Highline Tunnel #3 in March 1950. A timely rebuild of the tunnel got the water flowing again by early May and prevented damage to Palisade fruit orchards. National news magazines covered the story, as well. If you know more about the documentary, please let us know.

WE CELEBRATED OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY and ADDED A 25th MEMBER

The Palisade Historical Society reached two milestones in March, including our first anniversary as a non-profit organization, and signing up our 25th Member, Kokopelli Produce. Brant and Carol Harrison of Kokopelli Produce became our second business level member. The first business member was the Bob Crum Company in Florida. Bob

Crum worked for several peach marketing firms during his more than fifty-year career in the industry, and recently contributed historic information for Historical Society projects.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Palisade Historical Society and helping make our first year successful! Memberships start at \$25 for individuals, \$50 for families, \$100 for businesses, and \$500 for patrons. We appreciate financial support at every level. Please send your tax-deductible checks to P.O. Box 631, Palisade, CO. 81526.

SHEILA SMITH AND THE PALISADE TRIBUNE HONORED FOR PRESERVING PALISADE HISTORY

At the end of March, the Palisade Historical Society presented Certificates of Appreciation to Sheila Smith, former Town of Palisade employee, and Darralee Mathews of The Palisade Tribune, for their efforts to preserve Palisade's history.

Sheila was recognized for her selfless efforts to save historic items including the Municipal Building's bronze plaque from its 1968 dedication, the oak gavel given to the Town by Congressman Wayne Aspinall, and paintings donated by local artists.

The Palisade Tribune generously covers all of our programs and activities, displays several items from our growing collection in the Tribune office, and adds to our knowledge of Palisade history with the weekly column featuring articles originally published 50, 75, and 100 years ago.

DIRECTORS APPOINTED/OFFICERS RE-ELECTED

At the Annual Meeting in February, Ralph Branch was appointed as the seventh director of the organization. A tireless volunteer, Ralph is the videographer for our Oral and Video History Project, recording seven interviews and three presentations in the past few months. At the March 16 board meeting, the organization's officers were elected to second terms. Priscilla Walker will continue to serve as chairman, Richard Mathews as vice-chairman, Harry Talbott as secretary, and Bill Beckwith as treasurer.

LINK: www.historicpalisade.org

ABOUT THE PALISADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The mission of the Palisade Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and communicate the unique history of Palisade, Colorado, and to foster, encourage, stimulate, and develop public appreciation of this history.

Everyone is invited to join the Palisade Historical Society-through volunteer time with committees and projects-and through annual memberships. If you haven't signed up or renewed your membership, please send your tax-deductible checks to P.O. Box 631, Palisade, CO. 81526.

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