

News from the Palisade Historical Society

July 2011

HISTORIC PALISADE COLORING BOOK NOW AVAILABLE!

The *Historic Palisade Coloring Book* with more than 20 original illustrations by local artists Ron Jaynes, and Melanie Kerrigan, and Illinois artist, Sarah Walker, and interesting details that capture Palisade's rich history is now available at area retailers.

The illustrations include pruning peach trees, picking sacks, packing peaches, orchard hoopies, railroad trains and refrigerator cars, Ron's drawing of an Army Jeep used when German Prisoners picked peaches in WWII, a coal-mining scene, and historic locations including the Roller Dam, and the Orchard Mesa Pumping Plant.

A prototype of the coloring book was tested and approved by third graders and teachers at Taylor and DeBeque Elementary schools in May. Their comments were incorporated into the final version which is now hot off the press!

The Coloring Book is available **at local retail outlets including the Slice o' Life Bakery, Kokopelli Farm and Produce (I-70 Exit 46), Varaison Vineyards, Z's Orchards, Talbott's Mountain Gold, Mumzel's, Clark Family Orchards, Alida's Fruits, High Country Orchards, and The Palisade Tribune.**

This delightful Coloring Book should be of interest a wide audience of locals and visitors. We want youngsters as well as adults to learn more about Palisade and appreciate how our delicious, and world-famous peaches have been an important part of the Grand Valley since the 1890s.

Thanks to a generous \$1200 donation from Palisade's Sunrise Rotary Club, the Palisade Historical Society will provide these coloring books at no cost to all third grade students at Taylor and DeBeque Elementary Schools.

Stop by a local retailer, or come to the Historical Society booth at Peach Fest to get your copy. Proceeds from donations for the coloring books will be used for Historical Society projects, including finding secure, climate-controlled storage for our growing collection of historical items.

MICHAEL BERRY IS NAMED CHAIR OF PREHISTORY COMMITTEE

Palisade Reflections Program planned for the Fall

At the June Board meeting, the Historical Society established a prehistory committee and appointed Michael Berry, who recently moved to Palisade, as its chairman.

Michael has conducted extensive archaeological research in the American Southwest and Great Basin. He retired from federal government in 2010 and currently works for the Dominguez Archaeological Research Group in Grand Junction. Michael has a B.A. History from Fort Lewis College, an M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Utah. His primary areas of research interest include the culture history of the Southwest, Great Basin, and the Western Slope of Colorado. He has authored several recent publications including *Tree-Ring Dates and Demographic Change in the Southern Colorado Plateau and Rio Grande Regions*.

“It’s an exciting opportunity to expand the focus of the Historical Society and help fill in some gaps in the area’s prehistoric activities,” said Richard Mathews, vice-chair of the Historical Society.

“We know about the petroglyphs just south of Rapid Creek, and there has been some research conducted about the Ute Trail on Mt. Garfield, but we want to find sites close to Palisade which will yield valuable information. When Michael approached us, it just made sense to let him head this effort,” Mathews explained.

The first step is to identify sites close to Palisade which will yield clues about the ancient people we know lived here. Currently, the only sites which have been formally researched are on the Grand Mesa watershed. These were identified by organizations like the Dominguez Archaeological Research Group as part of the compliance work required for the gas pipeline laid there.

“The most likely places to find prehistoric evidence are in all the various canyons east and south of Palisade as well as near the Colorado River.” Berry explained. “I am new to Palisade, so we need to draw on the experience of locals who have hiked around the palisades, Rapid Creek, Horse Mountain, and other areas,” Berry said.

Once areas are identified, the Historical Society can apply for grants to formally investigate the area and identify prehistoric sites.

Michael is also preparing a prehistory presentation for another Historical Society “Palisade Reflections” program planned for October. Look for more details in the next newsletter. In the meantime, **if you have seen sites near Palisade with visible pre-historic activity**, please **contact Michael** at 464-2753 or e-mail msberry49@gmail.com or the Palisade Historical Society.

DON’T MISS HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS AT THE PEACH FEST IN AUGUST

Under John Galloway’s direction, the Palisade Historical Society will have a greater presence at next month’s Peach Fest. At Riverbend Park, we plan to share a booth with the Chamber of Commerce and display interesting historical items, as well as the Coloring Books. Downtown, we are planning to offer three or four guided walking tours for small groups. Some guided walking tours will be led by historic figures in costume--including Colonel Bower--as portrayed by Historical Society volunteers. Additionally, our “mobile museum” with old photos and information about Palisade will be on display.

As you might guess, **we are in need of volunteers for the Historical Peach Festival activities, so please contact John Galloway**. John has also been an integral part of the downtown “Palisade Happens” group which is actively drawing more people to Palisade’s Town Center.

RENEW YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Annual Membership in the Palisade Historical Society is just \$25.00 for Individuals, \$50 for Families, \$100 for Businesses, and \$500 for Patrons. If you haven’t signed up or renewed your membership, please do so today. **Mail your tax-deductible checks to the Palisade Historical Society P.O. Box 631, Palisade, CO. 81526.**

Everyone is invited to join the Palisade Historical Society-through volunteer time with committees and projects-and through annual memberships.

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.

Directors of the Palisade Historical Society:

Bill Beckwith blbeckwith@gmail.com

Ralph Branch Ralph@stairliftrentalsinc.com

Doris Butler johnanddoris@q.com

John Galloway john@wagnergalloway.com

Richard Mathews

Harry Talbott harry@talbottfarms.com

Priscilla Walker pbwalker630@earthlink.net

Note: If you received this e-newsletter by mistake, or would no longer like to continue receiving e-mails from the Palisade Historical Society, please reply to this e-mail and type discontinue on the subject line.