



HISTORICAL ANNUAL MEETING

by William J. Bechaver

Walsenburg — The Annual meeting of the Huerfano County Historical Society was held Wednesday of last week at The Spanish Peaks Library in Walsenburg. The entire board was in attendance, with a few guests.

The evening began with an interesting and insightful presentation by Lois Adams about Ute Indian Prayer Trees. In short, they are trees that were altered by ancient peoples hundreds of years ago. Mostly, their growth patterns were changed to convey some spiritual message. Some, altered hundreds of years ago, are still alive, and growing, some presumably, in our local forests. These mysterious trees have only recently been identified as the historic treasures that they are, and there is now becoming a concerted effort to record and preserve these historic artifacts.

Reports were given by all of the museums and facilities under the auspices of The Historical Society. The Francisco Fort Museum, which resides under the domain of the City of La Veta,

contains the collection which belongs almost entirely to Huerfano County Historical Society. The museum is now seeking a new director for the next tourist season. The Mining Museum in Walsenburg reported upon their successful tourist season, and about repairs and improvements to be made during this, their off season. The Alton M. Tirey Local History Center Archival Research Facility, also located in Walsenburg, upstairs in The Washington School Building, reported on improvements made, and equipment upgrades to accommodate the increasing number of requests coming in for historic research.

Board members reported on the success of the historic tours held this past summer. Kay Beth Avery reported on the tour of the county Hippie Communes, which was held in conjunction with the Chuckwagon celebration in Gardner. A video presentation was given, documenting the tour, the popularity of which seems to have demanded that another such tour is imminent for the coming year.

Financial Reports were given, and concern was expressed in the decreasing number of members, with even fewer active members. As in all things, how to increase participation was addressed, with several suggestions being made about having an active membership drive.

At the Official Meeting of The Board that followed, the board for the coming year was elected, and the officers chosen. A motion was made to retain the current officers for the following year, and the motion was passed unanimously. Historical Society board members are, Sharon Vezzani, President, Lois Adams, Secretary, Karen Austin, Treasurer, Kay Beth Avery, Gary Bailey, Agnes Bechaver, Will Bechaver, John Carlson, Margaret Gleisberg, Carolyn Newman, Jerry Skryznear, Lola Spradley, David Steffan, John Van Keuren. All board members are thus instated for the next full year.

Adjourned, another Annual Meeting for The Huerfano County Historical Society is in the books.