



## SAN ISABEL BUILDING DONATION

by Sharon Vezzani, President, HCHS

San Isabel Electric General Manager, Reg Rudolph, attended our January 6 HCHS Board meeting. Accompanying Mr. Rudolph were San Isabel Electric Association Board members, Jacque Sikes and Ray Garcia. Mr. Rudolph announced, during his presentation, the generous offer of donating San Isabel's former appliance store, located at 114 West Sixth Street, Walsenburg, to the Historical Society. Included is the two story brick grainery behind the building, once owned by Fred Walsen.

Our current location of the Tirey Center is located on the second floor of Washington School. We felt it necessary to seek a new location for the archives housed there since the roof leaks damaged some of the collection. In search for a new, safer and more accessible location, we found that the San Isabel building was on the market for sale. After speaking with some San Isabel Board members, one of whom was Jacque Sikes, a proposal was made by her to donate the building to our organization. Their board unanimously voted to offer the building as a gift to the Society.

Alton Tirey, long time Huerfano County resident and former SIEA Board member, generously named Huerfano County Historical Society as a recipient of a portion of his wealth. He stipulated in his Will that the money be used for "general museum purposes" displaying

artifacts specifically from Gardner, Redwing, Malachite and Walsenburg. This wonderful gift of the building will be used to house and display some of his personal belongings in a Western Heritage Center and Research facility.

At the HCHS board meeting, after much discussion, a vote was taken and SIEA's offer was accepted. Funds were allocated for renovations to the building. \$15,000 was approved, \$10,000 of which will come from the Tirey Endowment Fund and \$5,000 from HCHS's operating budget. Included in renovations are; floor repairs, painting and miscellaneous other small projects to get the building ready for our collection.

We are pleased to be able to be a part of revitalizing downtown Walsenburg. We look forward to creating a presence for Huerfano County Historical Society in the community.

Sincerest appreciation goes to the San Isabel Electric Association for their very generous offer. THANK YOU!

Our hope is to occupy the building by this summer. We will need volunteers in a variety of capacities. If you are interested in joining us in this new and exciting venture please contact me at 719-738-6034 or 719-680-1975. We look forward to a busy few months preparing the center. We will be able to honor Mr. Tirey's wishes and provide a new location for our Archival Collection.

## THE FORT

by Gary Bailey, President

The Dec. 16 (meeting) with the La Veta Town Board was cancelled. The FFM Board will now have to wait until January 13 to get the SOP finalized, until then we can't seek a director or summer employees because the job descriptions are in the SOP. We still need another board member. Our board meets regularly each 3rd Thursday at 7:00 – FF Capps Bldg. FFM Board is using a new agenda as agreed. We now have a History Moment. Will Preston gave us our first program, covering the old D&RG Railroad Coaling tower. Will works with Dave Steffan on the reconstruction of the Bell Tower Repair. Also on the new agenda, a report from the "Friends Of The Fort" will be required to enable the town and FFMB to see where donations are needed and spent. FFMB will no longer use the IMP Charge Card. DeEtta is treasurer and will work with (the) town. Members voted to have several committees for a better operation of the board. We look forward to scanning records — accessioning Margarite's ox yoke. Thanks to Pat & Laurie at Town Hall for their help. Looks like a great New Year. Thank you.

### Membership Renewal

We remind all of our members that now is the time to renew your HCHS membership for 2016, if you haven't already done so. Below, attached to this newsletter you will find a renewal form for your convenience.

### Our Board Of Directors

Sharon Vezzani — President  
 David Steffan — Vice President  
 Lois Adams — Secretary  
 Karen Austin — Treasurer  
 Kay Beth Avery, Gary Bailey, Agnes Bechaver, William J. Bechaver, John Carlson, Margaret Gleisberg, Carolyn Newman, Jerry Skryznear, Lola Spradley, and John Van Keuren.

### 2016 — CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Saving Places Conference	February 3rd – 6th		Denver
Faces Of CF&I Benefit	Saturday, February 20th		Pueblo
Historical Society Meeting	Wednesday, March 2nd	4:00 p.m.	Library, La Veta
Colorado-Wyoming Museum Conference	April 28th – 30th		Casper, Wyoming
Mother Jones Annual Dinner	Saturday, April 30th		Walsenburg
Mining Museum Opens!	Monday, May 2nd		Walsenburg
Historical Society Meeting	Wednesday, May 4th	4:00 p.m.	Library, Walsenburg
HCHS Railroadng Tour	Saturday, August 6th	TBA	TBA

Events or Dates or Times or Locations may be subject to change.

## Pioneering Interviews

During the Great Depression out-of-work writers were hired to interview Colorado pioneers, and Huerfano County's old timers were among those interviewed. History Colorado is in the process of putting these interviews online on the History Colorado website. Apparently they are not on yet, but do check occasionally. They will be under the Library & Research Catalog listing. This writer has seen the hard copies in the History Colorado library; there is much detail of interest.

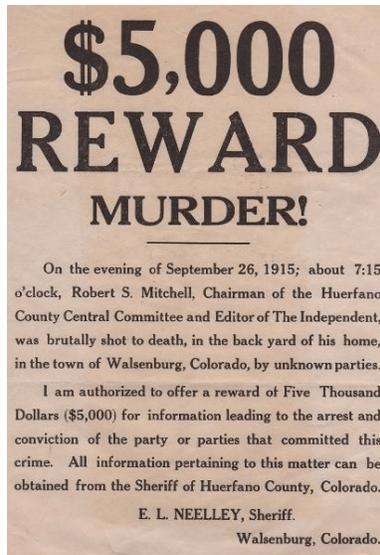
## News Of Note

- The Saving Places Conference will be held in Denver, Feb. 3 – 6. For more information, visit [coloradopreservation.org](http://coloradopreservation.org)
- The *Faces of CF&I* Benefit Dinner for the Steelworks Center of the West in Pueblo will be held Sat. Feb 20. For more information, visit [steelworkscenter.org](http://steelworkscenter.org)
- On Mon. Apr. 4, College students will visit The Mining Museum and the Ludlow site.
- The centralized theme at The Walsenburg Mining Museum this year will be — 140 Years Of Railroads in Walsenburg!

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Information, announcements, and events, for the next newsletter should be submitted via e.mail to — [hchistorian@rocketmail.com](mailto:hchistorian@rocketmail.com)  
An archive of past newsletters will soon be available on the website!  
Visit us at [huerfanohistory.org](http://huerfanohistory.org)!

## Interesting Journey



Here is a story of one piece of paper's journey during the past 100 years. From Huerfano County, to Denver, to Pueblo West, and back to Walsenburg.

In 1915 a newspaper man was collecting facts on Sheriff Jeff Farr's election fraud. The man was killed in his own backyard. No one was ever arrested for the crime, but the next sheriff sent out a flyer offering a \$5,000 reward (and that is huge in 1915) for information.

The flyer was neatly folded and apparently mailed to the Pinkerton Detective Agency in Denver, where it was placed in a file for 50 years. In the 1960s a young Pinkerton investigator saw the flyer thrown in the trash during a move to a different office. Gary Owens rescued the flyer and for another 50 years it was in his file. Jan. 4 this year at his home in Pueblo West, he pulled it out and called Carolyn Newman. They met the next day and Carolyn bought it. No one was ever arrested for the murder.

Lesson: Don't throw away anything historic; someone would love to have it. And this explains why Carolyn's house is such a mess!

## Historic License Plates

A crusade for a special Colorado license plate with *SAVING HISTORIC PLACES* and an image of historic buildings is underway. But before the state approves a special plate, 3,000 signatures from Colorado registered vehicle owners are needed (there are 700 plus now). The link to add your name is found at Colorado Preservation Inc. Signing the online petition does not require a plate purchase or a money donation. A donation page will pop up but is not for CPI - only for the online petition service. You may ignore it.



History Colorado has granted – over the years – \$1,586,532 to Huerfano County through 20 grants.



**The La Veta Union High School safe was burglarized in July 1939. Fingerprints were found on the safe's door and were sent to the FBI in Washington, D.C.**

## Our Member Sponsors

All of this is made possible by the following —

### Butte Members

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Lola Spradley

Huerfano County Branch  
First National Bank  
of Trinidad

1899 B & B Inn

Max & Sharon Vezzani

— And Members Like You!

☞ Thank You! ☛