



HISTORY DETECTIVE

by Carolyn Newman

WALSENBURG - If you have 1743 newspapers piled up on your desk, the pile might reach the ceiling. But those 1743 issues stored on your computer would be much easier to handle!

Right now you and your computer can access those papers of the old Walsenburg World, thanks to financing by the Huerfano County Historical Society and the Colorado State Library.

To find papers online from March 8, 1889, to Dec. 30, 1920, go to —

coloradahistoricnewspapers.org.

Use the site which mentions the Colorado State Library. Search by the newspaper name Walsenburg World and then search by date or your great-great grandfather's name. Or try Jeff Farr's name and it pops up 294 times, each time highlighted in yellow.

There is a problem sometimes. A machine, an optical character recognition machine, has done the work finding Jeff Farr's name. The original newspaper page shows on the screen, and on the side, the text of the article has been typed in. That OCR machine can't read the old stained or torn or creased newspapers properly, and the text might be typed very strangely. Just look at the original page on your screen and maybe you can make out the garbled portion.

The Walsenburg World was only one of Walsenburg's newspapers so you are looking at only one version of the news (and Sheriff Jeff Farr was part owner of that newspaper). The other paper of the

time, The Independent, has not been digitized nor have the La Veta papers or the early Cactus and Herald. The papers, the actual papers, are stored in the new Huerfano Heritage Center, 114 E Sixth, in Walsenburg (next to La Plaza Inn). You are welcome to stop in to search them.

In the very earliest newspapers, when telephones were rare, the articles were very brief and mix personal opinion in with the facts. Spelling wasn't always consistent, especially with names, so try different spellings for persons you are searching.

Up to 1922 newspapers are in the public domain with no copyright restrictions. However these online articles are not to be used for commercial purposes.

Will more local papers go online? What has been done so far cost the Historical Society about \$15,000 from the Alton M. Tirey Endowment Fund. If more donations come in, it would be possible to digitize more of the papers.

Have fun searching events and places and persons.

The History Detective is a service of the Huerfano County Historical Society —

huerfanohistory.org
carlynewmn@aol.com

The hours of the Heritage Center are 2–5 pm Wednesdays and Fridays and 11–3 pm Thursdays. Also open for Mining Day on Saturday. Or call the History Detective or the Center 719-738-2346.

UTE SPIRIT TREES

The presentation “Legacy of the Utes: Spirit Trees in Huerfano County” will begin at 7 p.m. in the La Veta Library on the evening of Thursday, September 29. The Huerfano County Historical Society and the La Veta Library are cosponsoring this event and have set a suggested donation of \$5.00 per person to defray speaker costs.

Mr. Anderson has a reputation as a dynamic speaker and a leading authority on Culturally Modified Trees (CMTs) within southern Colorado. He is particularly interested in trees shaped to form prayer offerings. Many culturally modified trees can still be found today that were cultivated between 150-450 years ago. To shape the trees, the Utes and other Native Americans tied saplings in the way they wanted the trees to grow using ropes made from yucca fiber. These trees were modified for many reasons: to make medicine, gather food, send messages, mark trails, designate a burial site, offer prayers, and forecast prophecies. For more details and images, go to spanishpeakscountry.com.

The Ute Tribe's Legacy in Huerfano County will be the featured topic.

STEELWORKS TOUR

A fun and educational tour on a commercial tour bus is heading to Fremont County Oct. 15 (Rockvale, Williamsburg, and Coal Creek plus Florence). Lunch, transportation and a commemorative booklet is included in the \$65 price for Steelworks members and \$75 for non-members. Leave Pueblo at 8:30 am and return 4:30 pm. The focus will be on the CF&I coal camps but other sights will be thrown in. I know a home in Rockvale was the former Colorado Supply Store, built on the same plan as in Huerfano County. Time will be given too to shop the Florence antique shops. To sign up contact Victoria Miller at 719-564-9086.

2016 — CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Prayer Trees	Thursday, September 29 th	7:00 p.m.	Library, La Veta
HCHS Annual Meeting	Wednesday, October 5 th	6:00 p.m.	Francisco Fort, La Veta
Steelworks Tour	Saturday, October 15 th	8:30 a.m.	Pueblo
Historical Society Meeting	Wednesday, May 4 th	4:00 p.m.	Library, Walsenburg

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

TALKS AND TOURS

David Steffan's August 6th historical tour celebrating 140 years of railroads in Huerfano County turned out to be both educational and exceptionally engaging. Participants learned a great deal about the history of the Denver & Rio Grande and the engineering prowess of the men who built it. The tour culminated with a visit to the Uptop ghost town, 9,000 feet above sea level, where Sam Law gave a short talk about the four Ts that developed our area: tribes, train, timber, and tourists.

The August 13th Taos Trail Tour also had a good turnout (about 77 participants with the majority from the Santa Fe Trail Association, Bent's Fort Chapter). Together the two tours grossed more than \$1100.

Huerfano County Historical Society has already begun to brainstorm ideas for future programs, which should include at least two historical tours in the summer of 2017 plus something new entertaining indoor historical talks that will be presented by guest lecturers during the fall and spring seasons of the year.

The first historical talk is scheduled for September 29th and features John Wesley Anderson's Legacy of the Utes: Spirit Trees in Huerfano County.

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Information, announcements, and events, for the next newsletter should be submitted via e.mail to —

hchistorian@rocketmail.com

An archive of past newsletters will soon be available on the website!

Visit us at huerfanohistory.org!

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be Wednesday, October 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Capps Building at Francisco Fort Museum. All HCHS members, prospective members, and anyone interested in hearing more about our activities is invited to attend.

Huerfano Heritage Center Now A Reality

The Huerfano Heritage Center participated in the Saturday, September 3 Mining Days Celebration by hosting a reception beginning at 10:30 a.m.

In addition to providing a beverage table in front of their new building, members of the Huerfano County Historical Society distributed a handout containing the following information. (Made possible through the Alton M. Tirey Endowment)

114 West Sixth Street
Walsenburg, Colorado 81089
Phone: (719) 738- 2346

These are just some of the holdings:
Issues of Walsenburg newspapers dating from about 1890 to present

Many issues of the La Veta Advertiser
Digitized issues of Walsenburg World dating from 1889 to 1920 (digitization paid for by Huerfano County Historical Society and accessible through the Colorado Historic Newspapers website)

Oral histories, those available on the Spanish Peaks Library website plus many more.

USGS maps, early Walsenburg maps, and many Sanborn maps of our area.

Obituary Index for Walsenburg newspapers from 1890 to about 2000.

Many historic photographs available for duplication in both digital and print formats, subject to copyright.

Historic Sites Surveys of Huerfano County.

Rotating displays of the eleven Huerfano County Centennial Ranches currently featuring the Garcia Family.

Memorabilia donated by the Alton M. Tirey family.

Antique stove and building donated by the San Isabel Electric Association.

Copy and research services are furnished by staff for nominal fees. Materials are also available for patrons to do their own research.

Mining Museum

Bright flower boxes are adding color to the front of the Walsenburg Mining Museum. Thanks to Max and Sharon Vezzani for providing these to the museum; they are a fundraising project for the Museum of Friends and Sangre de Cristo Center for Youth. The museum closes for the season Sept. 30, but there is still time to see the 2016 railway exhibit. Mike Hurley has been welcomed as a docent and already has done some repair work - especially for a broken window. The pattern of visitors has been different this season; admissions have been good even in late August. As schools now open in mid-August, it is only home-school families and retired couples who have stopped by in late summer. We find it fascinating to talk with visitors - one man from Israel stopped by to find out about his grandfather, a Huerfano County sheriff some years ago. We were able to help him as his name appears in some of the museum's books. Feel free to call if you wish someone to open the museum outside of regular hours, which are Monday through Friday 10 to 4 and Saturday 10 to 1. Museum phone is 719-738-1992 or call Carolyn Newman 719-738-2840 or any docent.

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— And Members Like You!

☞ *Thank You!*™