



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Greetings HCHS Members.

The annual meeting of Huerfano Historical Society will be held at the Huerfano Heritage Center, located at 114 West Sixth Street in Walsenburg, on

**Wednesday, October 4, at 6:00 PM.**

We encourage members to attend and find out what our organization has accomplished this year. In addition we will be discussing plans for the coming year.

The Board of Directors will be elected and a Board meeting will follow.

Hope to see you there!

Sharon Vezzani,

President

## UPTOP GATHERING SUCCESS!

*By Lois Adams*

If you weren't there, you missed a great time! "Weren't where?" you ask. Why, the HCHS event, *Crossroads in the Clouds: Three Cultures on LaVeta Pass*, of course! There were about 125 history-loving folks who did attend it and by the reports all left satisfied and happy. Attendees came from Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, New Mexico and of course Huerfano County to enjoy the location and soak up some good history.

The event, held on Saturday June 24th, offered an opportunity to visit the Ghost Town of Uptop on old LaVeta pass and to learn about three cultures who passed through the area. Since early times the La Veta pass was inhabited and traveled by an interesting array of cultures and

groups including the Utes, the legendary Juan Batista de Anza who crossed the Pass with his troops after killing Cuerno Verde, and more recently railroad and lumber men. The day at Uptop provided an opportunity to explore all of these.

A special thank you to the presenters who made the day so special and to Uptop owners and keepers Deb Lathrop and Sam Law for being gracious and knowledgeable hostesses. Our speakers were John Wesley Anderson, who talked about the history of the Utes and taught us about their culturally modified trees, Manuel Molles, ecologist and Juan Batista de Anza fan, and Carolyn Newman, Huerfano County historian. Books about the

area and its history were available for further study thanks to The Mining Museum and Bob DeWitt, owner of DeWitt Enterprises in Colorado Springs. And, of course a big round of applause to Little Stinkers in Trinidad who donated the use of one of their porta-potties!

At the end of the day, the event had earned \$2,000 for the Huerfano County Historical Society, funds which will be put to good use at our Heritage Center in Walsenburg. A great time was had by all, and requests for an Uptop repeat were heard as folks pulled out of the parking lot! Let us know what interests you have in Huerfano History and let's see if we can put something together to explore them.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Sharon Vezzani, President

The last few months have been busy and successful.

Our Heritage Center is attracting visitors and researchers. Thank you to Carolyn and John Van Keuren for continuing to volunteer on Tuesdays. Identifying and categorizing photos keeps them busy. Currently numerous binders with headings such as; businesses, government, sports, etc. depicting our local history, are available and continually growing. John also mans the center on Wednesdays and Fridays from 2-5 and Thursdays from 11-3. Our phone number is 719-738-2456.

HCHS recently was awarded a \$1000 grant from El Pomar Foundation. It is designated as a general operating grant and will be used to assist in projects at the Heritage Center. Thank you El Pomar Board for your generosity and belief in our local history. A special thank you to Judge Dennis Maes, board member for continuing to support our community.

Included in the donation by San Isabel Board of the Appliance Building, is the historic granary located directly behind the Heritage Center. Our budget for improvements stands at approximately \$5300, plus the \$1000 El Pomar grant. At our September board meeting funds

were approved to repair the granary roof and pursue installing electricity to the granary. This will provide excellent storage space for our ever-growing collection. Thank you again to John Van Keuren for assisting with the cleaning of the granary building. Please stop by and see all the improvements and collection!

Currently, we are working with John Galusha, Huerfano County Administrator, on a project of choosing photographs depicting our county's history. These photos will be beautifully displayed on the newly renovated halls of our historic Courthouse. Look for them in the future.

A note of appreciation to Karen Austin, our current Secretary / Treasurer. Karen has served as Treasurer for the past three years and last year as Secretary / Treasurer. Under her astute guidance our financial status is in excellent condition! Many positive changes has been made because of her participation on our board. We will truly miss her!

The Annual meeting will be held at the Heritage Center on Wednesday October 4 at 6:00 P.M. Board election will be held and refreshments served. Immediately following the Board will meet. Please plan to attend the Annual meeting!

# WALSENBURG

## MINING MUSEUM

Four "saloon girls" in all their finery paraded during the Mountain Mining Day Sept. 9 to invite people to "come see us." They did! More than 40 came to the Walsenburg Mining Museum that day with free admission for all. The girls were Debbie Gross, Ramona Soellers, Margaret Gleisberg, Carolyn Newman, with Margaret's grandson, Dominick, as chauffeur in an open top bright blue vehicle.

Now the museum prepares to close down for the season Sept. 30.

The next event may be a parade entry in the Parade of Lights Nov. 24.

A welcome will be extended for Nov. 5 to the tour group from the Pueblo Steelworks Center.

The museum volunteers are happy to open the museum any time by request - willing docents and their phone numbers are posted on the museum door. Unfortunately the museum phone is not checked regularly during the off season. Or try Carolyn Newman [carlynewmn@aol.com](mailto:carlynewmn@aol.com).

The museum gift shop is open for suggestions on books to stock and local handmade items for the next season.

### Our Board Of Directors

- Sharon Vezzani – President
- Karen Austin – Secretary - Treasurer
- Kay Beth Avery — Lois Adams
- Agnes Bechaver — William J. Bechaver
- John Carlson — Margaret Gleisberg
- Carolyn Newman — Jerry Skryznear
- Lola Spradley — John Van Keuren

### 2017 — CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Mining Museum Close	September 30th	—	Mining Museum
HCHS ANNUAL MEETING	Wednesday, October 4th	6:00 p.m.	Heritage Center

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

**HCHS ANNUAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2017**

**AT 6:00 p. m.  
WALSENBURG HERITAGE CENTER  
114 WEST SIXTH STREET**

**HERITAGE CENTER NEWS**

*by Carolyn Newman, Historian*

Thanks to community volunteers, the Universal Alliance for Communities, excess shelving donated by the Spanish Peaks Library was moved from its basement storage to the granary storage building owned by the Historical Society behind the Huerfano Heritage Center, 114 W. Sixth, Walsenburg.

Marvelous historical donations have been coming to the Heritage Center. Edi Sheldon, daughter of Bill and Jeannette Thach donated her parent's collection of historical photos, maps, books, and documents to the Society. They are housed at the Heritage Center and are slowly being processed.

Because of the Heritage Center's location in downtown Walsenburg, and next to La Plaza Inn, more patrons are making use of the resources. John Van Keuren is on hand to help researchers, especially those looking for family

information, Wednesdays 2 to 5 pm, Thursdays 11 am to 3 pm, and Friday 2 to 5 pm. Will Bechaver is back in town for awhile and is assisting with requests also.

Volunteers are needed Tuesday mornings to help with organization of materials. For example, one person could put in order the 1960s loose newspapers. Or help identify people in photos from the old Huerfano World. Use the bound newspapers to record the dates and names of obituaries appearing in the papers from about 2000 to the present (all earlier newspapers have already had the obits indexed by Ben and Dorothy Ree). John could use help in erecting the new shelves.

Society president Sharon Vezzani is checking into having the granary roof replaced and then bringing electricity to the building.

**PRESERVATION**

The premier preservation event in Colorado is the one Jan. 31 through Feb. 3, 2018, at the Colorado Convention Center, Denver. Included are tours within Denver, workshops, a day at the capitol, and announcement of the 2018 Colorado's Most Endangered Places. The theme is The Power of Place: From the Mountains to the Plains.

**- HISTORY TIDBIT -**

Look to the west of I-25 at exit 67. You will see a small white building standing there by itself. That area was once Apache City, serving travelers with a cafe, store, and gas station.

**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)!

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☞ Thank You! ☛