

## NEWS *from* THE FORT

*Submitted by Kim McKee, Director*

When was the last time you bent down to pick up one copper penny? The museum board of directors rallied together in support of the museum and have been approved by the town board to request a ½% sales tax increase for citizens within the La Veta city boundaries on the April 1 ballot. The purpose for this request is to begin to plan for the future expenses of keeping the museum strong and moving forward. The current ½% tax expires in 2020, and the reserve funds need to be healthy enough to make decisions that will affect the museum beyond 2020. Planning for that ending date will include options such as special districting, an additional ordinance, etc., to ensure the museum's survival. Grants and other funding require matching monies, and this increase will also allow for those options. The cost is exactly .01 per dollar spent, so tourism will account for most of the income, and locals will invest .01 towards the historic jewel of the community!

If you live in the La Veta city limits or know someone who does, have them stop by the town hall or library to look over the 3-Year plan, and help support Francisco Fort by voting FOR this initiative.

Other great news is that planning for the summer programs is nearly complete! Hispano Heritage Celebration will be June 28th, and will include award-winning performers, lectures, hands-on workshops and more! We are absolutely thrilled that the world-class performer, Robert Mirabal has agreed to return for Native American Culture Celebration on July 12th! And this year's theme for Francisco Fort Day will be 'Our Mining Heritage', with a wonderful block of programs including a Nationally recognized performer of Union and labor music, Mark Ross from Butte, Montana. Smaller programs are also in the planning stages, so watch the website or visit us on facebook for all the news!! Happy Spring!!!

## Endangered Place

Huerfano County now has a second historic building listed on the Most Endangered Places list — the site called the Montoya Ranch. Most locals know it as the old Farisita general store and post office along Highway 69. Even earlier it was known as Talpa.

Colorado Preservation Inc. announced the Endangered Places list Feb. 6 in the Colorado Convention Center as one part of the 2014 CPI annual conference on preservation. Because of the bad weather, no one from the Historical Society was able to attend.

A Denver television station earlier filmed the site with the owner, Jim Gerkin of Taos, NM, describing the unique features. The edited film, about three a half minutes long, was shown at the announcement luncheon, along with the other 2014 Endangered Sites, and will be shown on TV.

HCHS was a partner with Gerkin for the first three grants, which provided funds for a structural assessment, designs for preservation and for the surface archaeology study. HCHS is no longer a partner but is much interested in the preservation.

The lowest floor, built by a master adobe craftsman, probably dates from about 1860-1870 and may have been used for defense (interior walls are up to 32 inches thick). The site, originally with Hispanic owners, later was owned by Lebanese, the Faris family. Both cultures are evident in the remains of the sheep pens and outbuildings.

The first historic building in Huerfano County to be listed as an Endangered Place is the 1911 Walsen power plant on the west end of Walsenburg.



Francisco Fort Museum opened in 1957. This year, they celebrate their 57th year!

### 2014 — CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Historical Society Meeting	Wednesday, March 5th	4:00 p.m.	Washington School Walsenburg
Ludlow Play	Thursday, March 6th	Evening	Su Teatro, Denver
Historical Society Meeting	Wednesday, April 2nd	4:00 p.m.	Francisco Fort, La Veta
Greek Orthodox Church Commemoration	Sunday, April 20th	Afternoon	Ludlow
Historical Society Meeting	Wednesday, May 7th	4:00 p.m.	Walsenburg Library
Conference Of Museums	May 8 – 10		Cody, Wyoming
Family History Day	Saturday, May 17th	T. B. A.	Ludlow
Ludlow Commemoration	Sunday, May 18th	T. B. A.	Ludlow
Ludlow Reenactment	Saturday, June 14th	2:45 p.m.	Trinidad

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

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A bonus for renewing your Historical Society membership!

All members as of March 1 will receive a free three-month subscription to the *Huerfano World Journal* by mail, to arrived in your mailbox on Thursdays (if you live in Huerfano County. It will arrive later elsewhere).

If you are already a mail subscriber, your subscription will be extended for three extra months free.

Perhaps you have a multi-year HCHS membership - you will receive the free subscription also.

So - please - get your membership in soon to —

PO Box 3

Walsenburg, CO 81089.

And sign up your children and friends! Make checks payable to —

Huerfano County

Historical Society

- Individual..... \$12 a year (\$30 for 3 years)
- Couple. .... \$18 a year (\$45 for 3 years)
- Family..... \$25 a year.

Benefits: Passes to two museums, quarterly newsletter, discounts in museum gift shops, discounts on most tour fees. Plus the rewarding feeling of preserving local history.

# March Meeting

The March HCHS board meeting will be in the Re-1 school district board room, Washington School, 201 E. 5th, Walsenburg. Afterwards a short tour of the Tirey Local History Center upstairs will be for those interested. The Tirey Endowment Fund pays \$200 a month rent for the three rooms.

A similar history center in Napa, CA was visited by Carolyn Newman in January to learn some of their procedures (of course, they have a paid professional staff). In January at Tirey there were 10 volunteer hours, four written requests received, and three phone requests. All of 2013 Huerfano World Journal newspapers were sent to the bindery (Tirey Center has local papers from 1890 to the present).

The Center does not charge to provide information but does ask for a small donation.

## Our Board Of Directors

- Carolyn Newman — President
- Sharon Vezzani — Vice President
- Jerry Skryznear — Secretary
- Margaret Gleisberg — Treasurer
- Lois Adams, Kay Beth Faris Avery, Agnes Bechaver, William J. Bechaver, John Carlson, Katharine Emsden, Jewel Geiger, Bruce Johnson, Elaine Lenzini, Kim McKee, Dennis Rains, Lola Spradley, David Steffan, Sharon Biggi Vezzani, Sandy White, and Ken Willson.

# LUDLOW

Thirty teachers and townspeople spent half a day Jan. 31 learning about the Ludlow massacre and the 1913-14 coal strike. Victoria Miller, curator for the Steelworks Museum, Pueblo, gave an excellent power point on CF&I and Huerfano County. Bob Butero, Region 5 director for the United Mine Workers, gave the union perspective. Mother Jones, Carolyn Newman, presented a few teaching tips on coal and mining. Barbara Yule organized the free conference as a prelude to the Celtic Festival and student coal projects. Kay Beth Avery assisted.



Did you know — most of the coal mined in our county was used for domestic – home – use and not for Pueblo’s steel mill?

The first roller baskets in a Walsenburg grocery store appeared in July 1939 in *J & J Super Mart* at 388 West 7th, in a building formerly occupied by a skating rink. Operators were Joe and John Cihura.

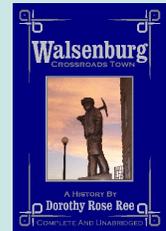
## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Information for the next quarterly issue should be submitted via e.mail to — [hchistorian@rocketmail.com](mailto:hchistorian@rocketmail.com) The deadline for submissions of articles, announcements, notices, and calendar events is —

**Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

If you would rather receive this newsletter by e.mail in the future, simply let us know at the address above, and we'll send you a *colorful* digital version. You will no longer receive a paper copy.

Newsletter Printing Courtesy  
**Saint Mary Catholic Church**  
Walsenburg, Colorado



**Walsenburg – Crossroads Town**  
the acclaimed local history by Dorothy Ree, is still available to all H.C.H.S. Members at a special discounted price! Contact Carolyn Newman, at 719-738-2840, or by e.mail at [carlynewmn@aol.com](mailto:carlynewmn@aol.com) for details!

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*Thank You!*