

A Lot Of Great News From **THE FORT**

Submitted by Kim McKee, Director

Although the museum is closed for the season, lots of work has been happening around the old adobes! Winterizing is always a big chore: covering windows and exhibits, taking down delicate objects, final adobe repair/stabilization, moving indoor items into storage and outdoor items into shelter, organizing so that spring set up is a bit easier!

We had a full slate of volunteers for our fall inventory and were able to finish all but three rooms! HUGE thank you to all who came and counted, scribed and laughed with us! Now the incredible task of getting the computer and program up and running and all that wonderful information properly placed in digital format! Anyone interested in helping with input over the winter, volunteers will be showered with goodies and hugs!

We were very fortunate to have the services of an intern last summer, who worked in our projectile point collection. The culmination of that effort, was a full day visit by Mark Mitchell, PhD, with Paleocultural Research Group. He generously donated his time, and is in contact with us to continue the correct dating/cataloging/exhibiting of the points in our collection. While there was much work done in the previous exhibit, there were many errors, and many new scientific breakthroughs's which we will

be able to more accurately portray in the coming season.

We were able to procure, free of charge, 12 museum storage cabinets and 7 museum storage shelves, from a museum in Fort Collins. These will be wonderful to properly store our artifacts and collections that are not on display!

Last but not least...

Mark your calendars for December 20, 21, 22, for our "HO HO HO RADIO" Holiday musical production! This is a fund-raiser for Friends of Francisco Fort Museum. Last summer, the 'Friends' raised and spent over \$13,000.00 on very important items that the museum would not have been able to acquire without them! Here's just a short list of how they helped: new 16' tipi for display/use, computer, collections management program, gift shop point of sale system, donor brick walkway, outdoor exhibit signs, new signage for the museum, educational programs for local students, performances for Fort Day, archivist, interns, carpentry work on displays, restoration of floors in five rooms and MORE!! Please come help celebrate the season AND support the Francisco Fort Museum! Francisco Center for the Performing Arts, \$15.00 tickets available at North by Southwest or call the museum for more info. 742-5501

Our Board Of Directors

Welcome to the new Society board members – a talented group. Kay Beth Faris Avery, an author and retired school librarian, comes from the early Faris pioneer family. Her books channel some of our early history into a fiction form. Ken Willson practiced for 22 years as a Doctor of Chiropractic. He and wife Kim McKee are now touring musicians, especially for schools. He hears almost daily about local history, as Kim is director of Francisco Fort Museum. Lola Spradley, a Colorado native, was an AT&T assistant vice present and was speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. Serving on the Colorado Preservation Inc. board and related organizations, she has demonstrated her interest in preservation. Sharon Biggi Vezzani, a Huerfano County native, just retired as a teacher in the La Veta schools. With her family's involvement over the years with Huerfano institutions, she has a deep concern for local history.

Board officers elected for the next year are Carolyn Newman, president; Sharon Vezzani, vice president; Jerry Skryznear, secretary; and Margaret Gleisberg, treasurer, assisted by Ken Willson. Sharon and Ken are the only ones new to their positions. Other members are Lois Adams, Agnes Bechaver, William J. Bechaver, John Carlson, Katharine Emsden, Jewel Geiger, Bruce Johnson, Elaine Lenzeni, Dennis Rains, David Steffan, and Sandy White. The board's next meeting is 4 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 8, in the Walsenburg library (the first Wednesday is New Years Day). Society members and the public are welcome.

REPORTS

At the end of January, the Huerfano County Historical Society has assets of \$14,557.57. The Historical Society's endowment fund has \$21,975.22 in checking and \$161,999.07 in investments.

| 2013 – 2014 — CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| EVENT | DATE | TIME | LOCATION |
| Holiday Musical Fund-Raiser | December 20, 21, & 22 | All Day! | Francisco Fort, La Veta |
| Historical Society Meeting | Wednesday, January 8th | 4:00 p.m. | Walsenburg Library |
| Historical Society Meeting | Wednesday, February 5th | 4:00 p.m. | Francisco Fort, La Veta |
| Greek Orthodox Church Commemoration | Sunday, April 20th | To Be Announced | Ludlow |
| Family History Day | Saturday, May 17th | T. B. A. | Ludlow |
| Ludlow Commemoration | Sunday, May 18th | T. B. A. | Ludlow |

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

Digitized News

Wouldn't it be wonderful to read the 1890 newspapers online?

The Society has voted \$15,000 to begin the digitizing of the Huerfano County newspapers through the state library, which has the original microfilms made from the original newspapers in the Tiry Local History Center.

However the digitizing and indexing is a very expensive process — so much so the large city newspapers have not done so. To see what the smaller papers have done, go to —

coloradohistoricnewspaper.com

Our \$15,000 would pay, for example, the Walsenburg World from 1889 through about 1915. But even this much would help prevent some of the old fragile newspapers from being handled so much. Total cost for all the Walsenburg Worlds through 1928 would be \$25,085.81.

And then for the Walsenburg Independent another \$17,779. The library did not give a bid on the La Veta Advertiser.

These old papers are used rather frequently for obituaries to aid in genealogy research, for local history research, and even for legal matters.

The \$15,000 came from the Alton M. Tiry estate. And you may be seeing some fund-raising for more digitizing work.

HONORARY

Betty Elwell, long-time board member who recently retired from the board, has been voted as an honorary member. Always the first to offer to bake cookies and to arrange social events, Betty was known for her humor and interest and insight into the Society's doings.

FOX THEATER

The Historic Fox Theater in Walsenburg recently encountered a technological renovation. The antiquated 35mm film projection system has been replaced by a state-of-the-art digital system, including all new surround-sound. The update was mandatory for the theater to maintain operation, as film distribution companies are no longer providing film prints for theatrical projection.

Montoya Ranch Update

Regretfully the Society board voted to decline to execute the contract with the State Historical Fund for the construction documents on the Montoya Ranch (Farisita). The contract required a 50 percent match (which the owner, Jim Gerkin, was supplying). The complexity, the eventual future outlay of more money, the uncertainty of the end use of the privately owned building, all contributed to the declining of this fourth grant.

LUDLOW

One Colorado history professor says the 1913-14 coal strike and the Ludlow massacre had more impact on Colorado than any other event in the state's history.

For this 100th anniversary, events, speakers, and publications are coming to the forefront. Three film-makers from Athens, Greece, came to the area to do a documentary on Louis Tikas, the Greek union leader brutally killed in Ludlow. (See the book *Buried Unsung* about Tikas). Another group from Boulder arrived to update their 1976 video. It was in 1976 they taped many local people talking about coal mining and the strike. Those transcripts, hopefully, will be made available locally soon.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Information for the next quarterly issue should be submitted via e.mail to —

hchistorian@rocketmail.com

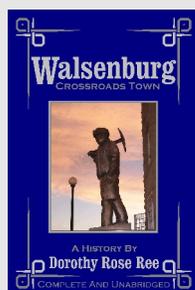
The deadline for submissions of articles, announcements, notices, and calendar events is —

Wednesday, February 5th, 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 for details! This is an excellent gift idea for the upcoming holidays! Give it to a special historian in your life!

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Antique Ave.
& Boutique Blvd.

611 Main Street, Walsenburg



Chae Organics

5218 Cty. Rd. 421, La Veta



Community Banks
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Huerfano County
Branch



La Veta
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118 W. Sixth St., Walsenburg



All Seasons Real Estate
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5540 Highway 12, La Veta



SPRADLEY CHEVROLET



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The Signature
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Thank You!