



Ouray County Historical Society

Winter Newsletter

2007

www.ouraycountyhistoricalsociety.org

Dear Members and Friends of OCHS,

Our 2007 Season is winding down and what a great season it has been! It has been one of improved attendance, improved exhibits and another very successful presentation of "Vignettes of History; Reflections of Colorado Women," and, yes, changes.

Changes After six years as President of your society, I have elected to step down and accept the Vice Presidency. Kevin Chismire, formerly Vice President, has agreed to take over the Presidency. Kevin is an ophthalmologist who practices with Colorado West Ophthalmology in Montrose several days a week. He has served as Vice President for the last six years and has undertaken many special projects on behalf of the Society during this time. Please welcome Kevin to his new position and continue to offer him the support and encouragement you have offered me during my term as President.

Jennifer Loshaw, our Co-Director for the last year and a half took a position with the La Plata County Museum in Durango in July, leaving Maria Jones as our Director. We will miss Jennifer's good eye, enthusiasm and computer skills. While Jennifer left in mid year, we were very fortunate to be able to persuade retired Board Member Gail Zanett-Sanders to accept a staff position to assist Maria in her duties for the remainder of the season.

Additional changes in the Board have taken place (1) George Moore, author of *Mines Mountain Roads and Rocks* has been appointed to the Board to fill the unexpired term of Alan Stahle who has left the Board after many years of faithful service (2) Ted Zegers, former Secretary, has relinquished those duties to Penny Hanshaw and (3) the Board has created a new position of Curator and appointed Board Member Don Paulson to that position.

After nearly a decade of service in planning and producing the Society's successful *Evenings of History* programs, Bob and Sue McCulloch have decided to retire. Their duties will be picked up by Don Paulson. We cannot thank Bob and Sue enough for all their efforts in producing this most successful and educational program on behalf of the Society. It is through this program that we have been able to attract many new members and bring to life the beauty and fabulous history of our county. A most sincere thank you to Bob and Sue for their dedication and service.

After all the changes, your Board stands as follows:

President - Kevin Chismire
Vice President - Tom Hillhouse
Secretary - Penny Hanshaw
Treasurer - Bud Zanett
Curator - Don Paulson
Board Members:
George Moore
Walt Rule
Phil Icke
Mike MacLeod
Ted Zegers
Two vacancies

Sincerely yours,
Tom Hillhouse
Vice President

The Search for Chief Ouray's Ouray House

Steve Baker of Centuries Research in Montrose presented an Evening of History Program last summer summarizing his 30 year search for Chief Ouray's Ouray House.

Starting in 1988, spurred on by an 1880's photo by William Henry Jackson's Detroit Publishing Company, Baker conducted a field study of the site above the Wiesbaden Spa at 5th Street and 6th Avenue and discovered evidence of a rammed earth adobe style structure underneath a modern day cottage. In 2003, with grant funds awarded OCHS by the State Historic Fund, additional evidence of site occupation in the form of several bottle bases with the same manufacturing marks as those found at the Los Pinos Indian Agency Site dating from the 1870's were discovered. In addition, a second photograph by H.H. Buckwater of the same ruin dated a decade later also turned up. Since Steve's presentation several residents and OCHS members have not only suggested that suitable signage or a monument be erected, but have backed up those suggestions with donations to help fund the effort. To date over \$750 has been raised. If you would like to help contribute to the effort, please do so by sending your donation to OCHS designated "Chief Ouray."

OCHS Celebrates Doris Gregory's 90th

On Saturday, September 22, OCHS hosted a special celebration at the Tundra Restaurant at the Beaumont Hotel in honor of Doris Gregory's 90th birthday. Doris was honored by many of her friends for her dedication and devotion to our local history over more than a quarter of a century. In those years Doris researched and wrote 12 books on our local history, beginning in 1982 and providing Ouray County with a written history of its heritage, one that many locations much larger than Ouray do not have. In addition to her scholarship, Doris was recognized for her generosity in donating her life time of local history research and photographs to the Society for future generations to appreciate.



A happy Doris Gregory at her 90th birthday celebration.

Winner of OCHS 2007 Quilt Raffle



OCHS Member Celie Matteson (left) was the lucky winner of the raffle quilt for 2007, "Architectural Gems of Ouray County." Her winning ticket was drawn at Oktoberfest on October 6th. She was delighted!

2007 Quilt Show Viewer's Choice



Peggy Cox proudly displays her winning ribbon for Viewer's Choice at the 2007 Quilt Show.

This year's quilt show was again one of the Museum's most successful events with 30+ entries. A beautiful embroidered double wedding ring quilt made by members of Lester and Peggy Cox's family for their 50th Wedding Anniversary was awarded the Viewer's Choice Award. It is truly beautiful.

This year's Quilt Show concluded with a Quilter's Tea, attended by 40+ persons. Ouray Poet Beth Paulson read a collection of poems written about quilters and their art and refreshments were served. It was a fitting conclusion to a lovely and successful show.

Walking tours and cemetery tours of the summer season

This year saw an effort to develop and publicize various historic walking tours. The season kicked off with Roger Henn, former President of both OCHS and Cedar Hill Cemetery leading a walking tour of the cemetery and pointing out the graves of famous and infamous folks that made Ouray County's history.

This was followed up by four walking tours of Ouray, including a rained-out historic tour of town that ended up being held at the museum -- successfully, I might add.

Board Member Don Paulson again conducted two hikes to the Silverton Railroad Corkscrew Turntable site on Red Mountain. Don also conducted a two day hike for Ouray County Railroad Days, sponsored by the Ridgway Railroad Museum along all the extent R& W of the Silverton Railroad in Ouray County.

It is hoped that more such tours will be planned for 2008.

Archival research and donations to our Museum



Volunteer Linda Cracraft accepts a box of donated items for the Museum from Rosie Hall.

The year 2007 has seen more research requests than in previous years, those requests arriving especially during the summer months when visitors come to Ouray to visit the museum and perhaps finds facts on the lives of their ancestors. But by email or letters, people from east and west, North Carolina to California, seek information. These are people who have family who lived here before the turn of the century; people who want to find the roots that have faded from their family history; or those whose objective is writing a book. Carolyn Kelly and Glenda Moore have enjoyed performing these searches, and recently Marianne Zegers has joined our team.

Perhaps the most important element to expedite our research has been the work Marietta and Al Malzer performed in previous years by organizing and indexing the archival materials. Those two left us a legacy by preparing and arranging those assets given the museum

by supporters, those friends interested in preserving the heritage of Ouray County. Another valuable contribution to the archives is Doris Gregory's files that she acquired over the years in preparation for her nine books. The volume and quality of her collection is matchless. We at the museum have been privileged to have professionals such as Dr. Gregory and the Malzers involved in maintaining the paper and photo artifacts of Ouray County.

Continued progress and good work by Red Mountain Task Force

Seventy principals and supporters of the Red Mountain Task Force gathered in Ironton in mid August to celebrate its nine year effort which resulted in the acquisition of 9,000 acres of land for the public in Ouray and San Miguel Counties. The Red Mountain Task Force, under the leadership of member Bob Risch, and with the help of many others including Trust for Public Land, US Forest Service, Fort Lewis College and importantly Colorado's Congressional Delegation have been able to purchase 9,000 acres of historic mining claims from willing sellers in this historic Red Mountain Mining District. The Red Mountain Mining District is not only gorgeous landscape but it is full of unsurpassed cultural and historic richness.

The Red Mountain Task Force has been recognized as a standard for citizen-initiated proactive activities.

Yankee Girl headframe stabilized

Thanks to Mark and Mary Young of Montrose who purchased the Yankee Girl Headframe on Red Mountain in 2006 and a generous grant from the Colorado Historical Society, OCHS Member John Marshall of Massachusetts, and the Gates Family Foundation in Denver, this structure now has been stabilized. Chris George of Red Mountain Equipment and Construction, has done most of the preservation and stabilization work throughout the Red Mountain area.

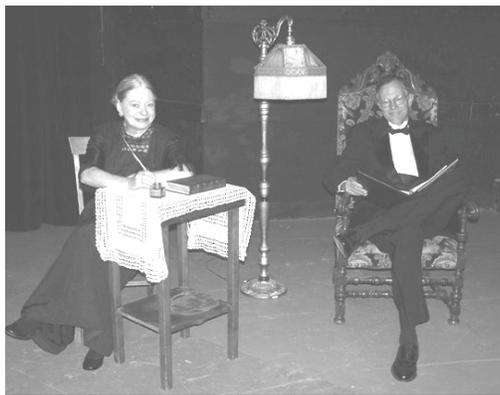
We would like to save paper and mailing costs. **IF** you would prefer to receive your newsletters and future OCHS mailings via email, please send us an email and indicate your preference. We will continue to send newsletters by USPS if email won't work for you.

ochs@ouraynet.com

Vignettes of History -- a Smashing Success!

As you may recall from last year, retired Board Member Gail Zanett Saunders proposed, wrote and produced a play at Ouray's Historic Wright Opera House which featured vignettes of 18 famous Colorado women. This production was so well received and so successful as a fundraiser for the Society, that it was decided to expand it for this year.

The production went "on the road" to the Magic Circle Theater in Montrose on Saturday, September 29th for two performances. Over 200 people turned out to view this year's production, directed by Ouray's Nancy Nixon and enjoy a delicious reception afterwards. Pictured below are just a few of the wonderful women of Colorado's past.



Top Row L-R Mary Marcantonio portrays Molly Brown, Beth Paulson portrays writer Helen Hunt Jackson; Narrator Don Paulson; Virginia Donaghe McClurg played by Karen Risch; Second Row - Susan Anderson played by Dr. "9" Sanders; Anna Lee Aldred portrayed by Alice Billings; Aunt Clara Brown played by Lindsie Mayfield Third Row - Evalyn Walsh McLean played by Sue Hillhouse; Baby Doe Tabor portrayed by Susie Opdahl; and Sister Blandina Segale played by Christina Bonatti.

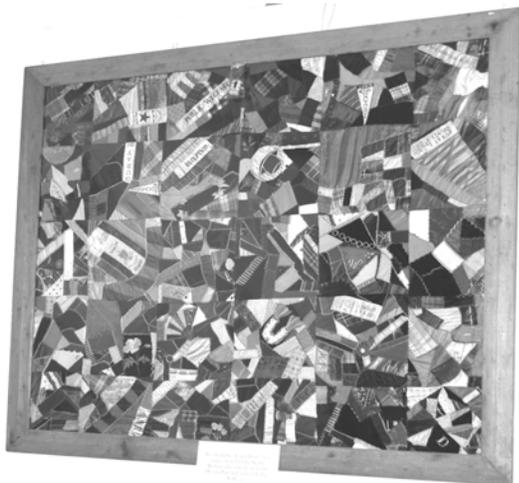
New Displays and Acquisitions at the Museum

There have been many changes at the Museum over the past year. We have labeled over 50 items with information about the company that made the item and the year it was produced as well as information about where the item was used in Ouray.

There are new display cases featuring items from the Rice Lumber Company and the American Girl Mine on Red Mountain Pass as well as new displays on hobnail boots, cut nails which are often called square nails, and hole-in-cap cans. We are currently preparing a display in the basement on mining core samples from the Grizzly Bear Mine. The recent donation of a diamond core drill used in the Camp Bird Mine will be the centerpiece of this display



The old transportation room has been redone as a tribute to Ouray veterans. The display features many uniforms and other items from WWI and WWII including several women's uniforms. The Ouray room now features a collection of 16 original large photos taken by William Henry Jackson during his 1880 and 1882 visits to Ouray County.



Several important new donations have recently been received by the Museum. A 60" x 72" crazy quilt, made in about 1915 by Judge Rathmell's sister-in-law Nellie Hobson, hangs on the wall as you go up the grand staircase. There is now a life-size plastic cut out miner in the Mercy Mine which was made from a photo taken in the Camp Bird Mine more than 100 years ago. He has a long drill rod placed against his right hand which makes him look all the more realistic.



Many historic photos have been donated to the museum in the past year. A set of four pictures taken in 1906 provides the only known views of the Ironton Depot on the Silverton Railroad. These pictures were discovered earlier this year in a barn near Naperville, IL. We also received a set of 12 photos of

the Humboldt Mine in upper Governor Basin that were taken in 1912. A photo album/diary written by a Ouray 4th grader in the early 1940s provides an interesting look at life in Ouray more than 60 years ago. Our Museum continue to grow and become even better as the "Best Little Museum in the West."

Caboose 0575

Last year the Society entered into an agreement with the Ridgway Railroad Museum regarding D&RGW Caboose 0575 which had resided in Ouray's Fellin Park. During the 30 years that the caboose resided in the park, it significantly deteriorated with a number of major structural problems most notably the end sills and roofing. Under the terms of the agreement, the Ridgway Railroad Museum moved the caboose to their site at the corner of CO 62 and US 550 in Ridgway and immediately began to restore it. In just over a year and a half, the Ridgway crew under the direction of its President Karl Schaeffer with the assistance of about a dozen volunteers, has completely restored the caboose to its 1953 appearance. Stop by the Ridgway Railroad Museum to see the results for yourself or visit their website -----

www.ridgwayrailroadmuseum.org

Membership for 2008

It is time to renew memberships for the coming year. The good news is that the average membership has steadily increased since 2003, but the bad news is that we have fewer members. Thank you for your continued and increased support, and please encourage others to become members of this great historical society doing superb work in historic preservation.

Silver King Level - \$25 Individual Only

Guston Level- \$40 Family

Revenue Level - \$50 - \$99

Grizzly Bear Level - \$100 - \$249

National Belle Level - \$250-\$499

Yankee Girl Level - \$500 - \$999

Camp Bird Level - \$1000 and above

Business Member - \$50 and up

Please send your check, along with updated address, phone, and email information to OCHS, PO Box 151, Ouray, CO 81427. Also encourage your friends and neighbors to join.

Thanks so much!

Ouray County Historical Society

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**Next newsletter by email?
Please see page 3.**