



Park County Historical Society
N E W S L E T T E R



P.O. Box 43, Bailey, CO 80421

January 2010

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

There are a great number of accomplishments in 2009 to celebrate. Listed in a random order are some of the important items. Last spring, the wind blew portions of the roofing off of the Wren cabin. John Rankin, Cheryl Pelton, and Arthur Hall replaced the roofing with a more wind resistant type. The Annex roof suffered wind damage to one third of the North West side, so John and Arthur repaired that roof with new shingles donated by Moore Lumber. Roger Christenson was elected to fill the membership chair, and Doug Stephens was elected to the board as Secretary. The Shawnee Historical Society joined the PCHS as a sub-group. This union will enable the Shawnee Historical Society the use of the non - profit 501 (c)3 status of PCHS; plus other benefits. The PCHS web site is up and going well thanks to Jim Sapp. Rodger has set up a Face Book account for PCHS and may set up an eBay account if we provide auction items and a separate checking account. The grant for the Salt Works Ranch is near closure because the work is complete for that part of the project. Another grant is being applied for to use for restoring the interior of the main house. PCHS is the non-profit flow through for those grants. Cowboy Christmas was resurrected and hosted by the Rustic Square LLC and Destination Bailey. PCHS did their part as the Memorial Park was open to all that day. Doug Stephens provided hot cider to all that visited the caboose. Pat Mauro hosted some exiting and successful field trips this past summer. The pot luck supper held at the Community Center in Shawnee was an excellent event that should be scheduled each year about the same time. A portion of a movie was shot at the Memorial Park on August 29, 30. The movie will be available in early summer. Numerous notices will be posted when the movie is available. We made some friends with the producer and director of the movie. Some of the actors would be interested in doing a fund raiser for PCHS. Let's put it together! The GOCO grant application was delivered to the County on the last day of the deadline. What a squeaker that event was. Meeting that deadline would not have been possible without the intensive effort from the Destination Bailey members lead by Susan Lambert and supported by some PCHS board members three lots into one large one will be included, and be approved after the rezoning application is approved. PCHS membership is increasing. Progress on other items such as the Como Depot, Glen Isle etc. cannot be included because of the lack of space.

The handcart event planned for September on Kenosha Pass was not held as PCHS could not provide the requested liability insurance at that time. There are plans in the works to resolve the liability issue; one is to purchase the handcart if it is for sale. Updates on this item will follow from Pat Mauro over the spring.

Some events in the planning stages for 2010 are Casino Night in March at Sweet Fanny Adams; and possible flea market or garage sale events or both to be planned early in 2010, one event in the spring, and one event in the fall.

The chair position in PCHS is open for a liaison member between PCHS and PCHPAC. We do need a member to represent us at the PCHPAC meetings. So please someone, volunteer for the honor of representing PCHS.



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Some of you may have thought that one of the most important events that affect PCHS in its entire history may not be mentioned. So here it is! PCHS has been awarded the GOCO grant in full. In brief the grant will provide the funding to repaint the Keystone Bridge and replace its deck and build a new steel stairway at the South end of the bridge. It will provide the funding to add public restrooms to the Annex and cover the cost of the new roof for the Annex. Some good hiking trails will be build on Morrow Mountain and accessed from the Keystone Bridge. Picnic tables will be replaced with high quality types; and the Memorial Park will be completely landscaped with plants native to this area. Much more is available because of the grant and updates will be sent out as progress moves forward. 2010 is going to be a very busy year of activity for PCHS. Please help PCHS in any way you can as we will need it. 2009 was a challenging, but a highly successful year. 2010 looks to be more challenging and will be much more successful. I am looking forward to the excitement and to completing the many different projects made available to us by the GOCO grant.

Arthur Hall, President.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next PCHS meeting will be held on
Friday, January 8th at 6:00 p.m.

At the annex building in McGraw Memorial Park

SECRETARY'S ADDRESS

Thank you Park County Historical Society for allowing me to serve as Secretary.

Hi, I am Doug Stephens. Y'all read a little about my connection to Park County and its history in the last newsletter. To recap my Great-Great Grandfather Charles F. Weller had property along the Platte River and for the first time last August my family and I had a chance to tour the site with the Historical Society.

I asked to be nominated as secretary because I believe it will be an ideal position to learn about the history of Park County. I have already learned much from PCHS members and am eager to learn more. I enjoy the stories of the early residents and current Park County characters as well.

Now that the GOCO Grant is finalized I look forward to assisting the PCHS board in any possible to ensure a positive outcome for McGraw Park and Park County.

Doug Stephens, Secretary

HISTORIC PARK COUNTY HAPPENINGS!

With 2009 coming to an end, I thought I would give an update on some of the ongoing projects throughout the county. While my project of releasing the Helen McGraw classic film, *The Old Colorado & Southern and Engine #9* has been ongoing for a mighty long time, I do have more progress made towards producing a final product! At this point, the best video we have is from the VHS version made by Helen. The version we had made from the original movie footage, by



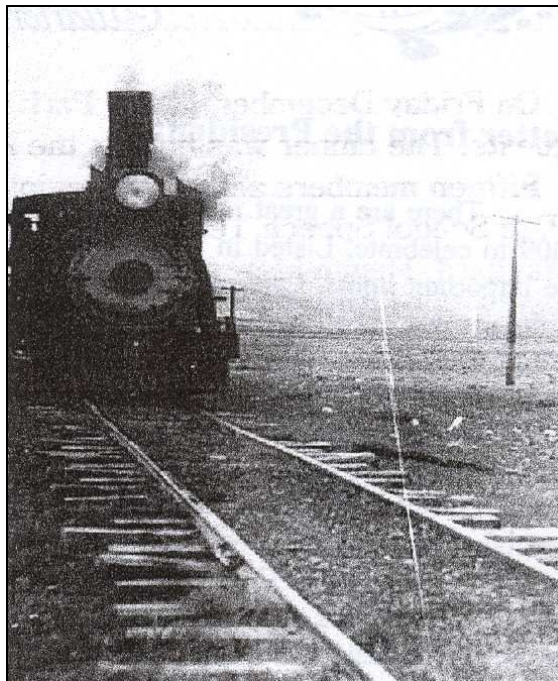
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Susan Gilbreath, had worse quality than the VHS version. The soundtrack did seem better however, and with the assistance of Society Membership Chairman, Roger Christenson, we have run off copies of the soundtrack. We have taken both copies of the soundtrack to RP Studios in Pine Junction/Hidden Valley Ranch. Bob Hockenberry, owner of RP, is working on cleaning up the soundtracks in his studio. He believes he will be able to clean up the noise in the old soundtrack, and enhance it. This should help to clear up the vocals that Helen made in 1954, along with other audio levels within the soundtrack! We will then merge that with the video from the VHS version, and we hope that will be an enhanced product, from what the original is now! Helen's legacy will live on!



Work train on Kenosha Pass in 1937, tearing up the once great DSP&P Railroad!

The Como Depot has made tremendous strides towards being preserved! They have won 2 State Historic Fund grants this year! The building has been leveled now, and the foundation has been restored, by the expert work of Mr. Mike Perschbacher! The foundation has been kept in the original style as it was originally, per Historic Fund specifications. The last grant, just awarded last week (December 7), will be to have the roof replaced! The progress being made on the depot has been astounding! It's a great testament, of how a historic preservation project can come together, with the assistance of many community groups assembling to complete the project! The icing on the cake is, Mike Pershbacher's Grandfather and Great Grandfather, both worked for the Railroad, in the Como Depot! Plans are starting to come together at the Como roundhouse also!

I had discussed a few options with Dr. Brantigan, at Railroad Day in August, which I had mentioned in the last newsletter. We are narrowing down what the Dr. would like to move forward with now. At this point, it looks like plans to add the boiler room back onto the



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roundhouse will commence. Other projects include, more work on the turntable pit, more cleanup, and possibly laying rail in the yard!

Another project that has made great progress is the Salt Works Ranch! Former PCHS President, April Bernard, has been spearheading that project, along with owner Ty Fanning. The exterior of the grand old house has now been restored! It is truly wonderful, to see an extraordinary Park County relic being preserved. I would also like to thank April Bernard for her McGraw Park improvement plan which she assembled in 2001.

Her project was the seed that greatly enhanced our chances to win the GOCO grant we just won! I don't think we could have assembled the grant with the speed we did, if we did not have her project ready to lay on the table. Thanks April!

There are more projects going on around the county, such as the Shawnee Historical Society, Lake George, Guffey, Alma, Fairplay, and Hartsel, and Garo! Please contact me if you would like more updates on these projects, and to coordinate helping with them. This is a large county; with so much history hiding in the nooks and crannies, there is never a shortage of fun, rewarding, preserving projects for us to work on!

Pat Mauro

PARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTS DECEMBER DINNER by Doug Stephens

On Friday December 4th the Park County Historical Society held a dinner for society members and guests. The dinner was held at the Platte Canyon Community Center in Shawnee.

Fifteen members and guests enjoyed a pot luck dinner and a presentation by The Platte Canyon High School Speech Team led by Amanda Waterhouse. Presenters included Paul Linne, Jaron Maggard, Megan Mercer, Connie Long, Matt Vangnick, and Alicia Meyrink. The program was a real treat as the speakers tuned up for their Chatfield Tournament Win the following day; as reported in the Flume December 11, 2009 page 15. All in attendance appreciated the students' presentations all the more realizing they needed to leave early Saturday morning for the tournament.

Following the speech team presentation Park County Historical Society Vice President Pat Mauro showcased his finds from the Pete Smythe estate sale. Pat also recommended Pete's book, *Big – City Dropout*. The book is available at the Bailey Library and chronicles Pete and families adventures in the Platte Canyon area, specifically at the River Cliffe resort.

Lynn Keyes showed pictures of Geneva City and told stories of the resident Jack the Swede who stayed in his cabin year round.

Park County Historical Society President Art Hall reminisced on the building of the community center. He also told the group of the success of the Great Outdoors Colorado grant for McGraw Park and Marrow Mountain. Doug Stephens spoke on the Weller home site.

The Park County Historical Society invites members and guests to our next meeting and program tentatively scheduled for Friday February 5, 2010. For further details and a calendar of all the PCHS events please visit our web site. www.parkcountyhistory.com



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PARK COUNTY LOCAL HISTORY ARCHIVES

For the past few months the archives has been located in the McNamara building in Fairplay; however, because the building was recently condemned we were forced to vacate. We are currently located in the downstairs of the Bailey library. Due to space limitations much of our collection is in storage. We can still do extensive research and will make every effort to assist our patrons. Thanks to Patty Chapman and Yvonne Garrison for making this space available to us. Be sure to visit our website: parkcoarchives.org.

Contact information: parkcoarchives@yahoo.com and 719 - 836 - 4153

Jane Gilsinger

2008 - 2009 OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

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