

Park County Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter - March 2014

From PCHS President Dee Brown

Exciting news for McGraw Memorial Park:

There is an anonymous donor who wishes to donate monies for improvement in the McGraw Memorial Park. This donor chose the park because said donor wishes to give back to the community and believes the park is the best place to spend money on where all of Bailey can come to and enjoy. We will be raising money in kind to match part or all of this donation. Work may begin as early as May, weather depending, so not to interfere with Bailey Day. I see the work in progress as a huge draw for the park with community interest in what is happening.

The of May will also bring out people interested in kayaking, hiking, picnics and interest in history of the park along with organizations holding special meetings and outdoor crafts.

I plan to have an interpreters meeting the last week of April or the first week of May. May is also History Month. If anyone is interested in doing a special presentation about history in May, please contact me and we will set it up.

Bailey Day is June 14. The park will be open with several interpreters, re enactors, a cake walk and other activities. We will keep you updated on this as time draws closer.

Come out and enjoy the wonderful scenery and activities at the park,
Dee

President and Curator
(303) 838-6025/wfbdjbuis@aol.com

Visit the PCHS website at www.parkcountyhistory.com

Newsletter in Review

From PCHS President Dee Brown
A letter from the Vice President
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Mark Your Calendar!!!
PCHS Membership Form
2013 – 2014 PCHS Board

A letter from the Vice President

I personally want to acknowledge and thank all those who helped last fall to make our fundraisers successful. These folks are: Dee Brown, Craig Christenson, Linda Wood, Jim and Sue Glenn, Jim and Patty Sapp, Ann Kulenburg, Bill and Lyn Kulenburg, Torrey Shutes, Pat Mauro, Roger Christenson, Marilyn Boccuzzi, Jim Price and Glenda Marshall, Judi Wright, Betty Redmond, Beth and John Atherton, and Janie Allen. I also want to thank Judy Jeute for providing a dish and helping in the kitchen last year. To anyone I missed...thank you! You are all appreciated more than you know.

A special thanks to Dave Rogers, Manager of King Soopers, for providing a store gift card to purchase food items we need for our events.

Lastly, a huge thank you to our speakers/presenters: Linda Bjorklund, John Redmond and Rex Rideout. Rex brought in 81 attendees which topped our record of 76 when Kenn Hicks was our speaker on the Roberts tunnel. I hope to have another tunnel presentation in the near future. The tunnel's construction began in 1956, during one of the worst droughts in Colorado's history. The 23.3-mile tunnel, which diverts water from Dillon Reservoir under the Continental Divide to Grant, west of Bailey, was completed in 1962. Kenn Hicks, Clyde Johnson, Jack Lane, Hank Bode, Bob Jones and Bill Rader are a handful of men who worked on the tunnel.

With this being just the beginning, the monies we have raised for the caboose will be used to restore the cushions. Local resident Troy Phillips will be taking on that task. He owns an upholstery business and does restoration. Troy is also the Head Track and Cross Country Coach at our Platte Canyon High School.

Dee Brown and I will do our best to make 2014 as informative and educational as we have the past 3 years.

A letter from the Vice President continued...

Our speaker on March 15th is John Woodward. John is a 5th generation Park County resident. His father, Robert, wrote a book titled Deer Valley...the story of the Deer Valley Park Association 1888-2004. A copy was signed by him and donated to the Park County Historical Society. The Archives and Library also have a copy of this book.

Bernie Nagy will honor us with a slide show of his photography on April 19th. Bernie has written and published 3 books. All are spectacular and I encourage folks to purchase one or all of them.

We're working on a speaker for our May 17th presentation and will announce who that person is in April.

We now have close to 200 members which is nearly 130 more than we had in 2011. Anyone is welcome to join. The annual cost is minimal: \$5.00 for students; \$10.00 for seniors (60 and over); \$15.00 for individuals.

Dee and I are in need of people to learn about McGraw Park and occasionally donate their time to educate visitors of its history. Please call Dee if you're interested in volunteering some time. She can be reached at (303) 838-6025.

Thank you and we hope to see many new faces this year.

Karen Christenson

Park County Historical Society Vice President/ Events Coordinator/Membership
(303) 838-8241



Drawing of Entriken Cabin by Vincent Toplo

Camp Santa Maria History and Stories

*By Douglas Stephens
The Flume Correspondent*

Camp Santa Maria, former site of the Casells homestead ranch and hotel, in Park County near Shawnee, welcomed sixty four guests with sunshine and smiles on Sunday October 6, 2013. History of the Casells resort and Camp Santa Maria was shared by current camp caretaker David Gruber and grandson of the first caretaker (Ed Bell) Larry Bell. The tour was under the auspices of the Park County Historical Society and facilitator Pat Mauro.

With the coming of the Denver South Park and Pacific Railroad to the Platte Canyon in the 1870s a resort was established in 1882 and a hotel built, which was subsequently replaced by a hotel that burned in 1905. 1912 saw the death of David Cassell. He is buried in Fairmont Cemetery next to his son, David Cassell Jr. who died in 1900.

The 160 acre property was purchased in 1929 by John and Mary Dower. Mary was the daughter of Irish immigrant miller John Kernan, J.K, Mullen who, at the age of twenty-eight, saw the opportunity to open his own flourmill. He leased the old Star Mill in north Denver with a partner, Theodore Seth, in 1875. Later, Mullen bought Seth's half of the mill and renamed it J. K. Mullen and Company. During the following years, Mullen took over several flourmills.

In 1885 Mullen created the Colorado Milling and Elevator Company to oversee his vast milling productions. In addition to milling, Mullen was involved in the land and cattle business. These businesses included the J. K. Mullen Land and Cattle Company, the Platte Land and Cattle Company, and the Riverside Land and Cattle Company. Mullen's many businesses were successful and he became a millionaire. Mullen died August 9, 1929 at the age of 82.

The Dowers also bought four homesteads adjacent to the Cassells property named the Phantom Ranch. This brought their holdings to almost 1000 acres. They built a house on the camp property that was later torn down. Current caretaker David Gruber told the attendees that he wanted to save the house when he started as caretaker but the decision had already begun to remove the house and demolition was already started on the interior of the house.

Gruber did, however, show the attendees a barn and ice house that is thought to be from the Cassells era. There is a cabin on site where the logs are obviously hand hewn. From the railroad era the wait station, similar to the one in McGraw Memorial Park, still stands in excellent condition. There is also a luggage platform left near the wait station. Power for the early camp was generated by a water wheel turbine. The turbine house and part of the flume that diverted water from the North Fork of The South Platte River are still in evidence on the property. Upon Mary Dowers death in 1952 ownership of the property passed to the Mary Dower Benevolent Corporation.

In 2007 the Boulder Colorado Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) took over management of the camp operations. They hold summer camp on site each summer. The property is also available for group or individual rental when camp is not in session. Weddings and family reunions have been held at the camp.

Ed Bell House

Ed Bell, Larry Bell's grandfather built a house on the property when he was caretaker. Larry Bell told attendees that one of the conditions of Ed being caretaker was that he had his own home on the property. David Gruber told attendees that then patrolman, now Sheriff, Fred Wegener lived in the Bell house for a time. Park County Sheriffs deputies have lived in the home since to protect the grounds of the camp.

Sheriff's Fond Memories

Reached by phone after the event, Sheriff Fred Wegener related fond memories of his stay in the Ed Bell house. "My family lived on site from October of 1993 to October of 1995. Previously I was living in a rental house in Burland and it was put up for sale," he said. How did you like living on site in that house? "I enjoyed my time there. The fireplace in the Ed Bell house had green grout. I didn't know why until I hiked up to the statue and saw the green grout in the grotto. The Vales must have redone the fireplace when they worked on the grotto's grout," he said. Wegener was complementary of Gruber and camp staff saying they were good people. Wegener also said his then two young children enjoyed living at the camp. "The kids liked the swings and had fun living there," he said. Like the attendees who hiked the road to the statue Sunday, Wegener was also in awe of the construction and presence of the statue. "I like the way the base was formed," he said.

Camp Santa Maria Caretaker David Gruber shows attendees of the Park County Historical Society tour one of the cabins at the camp. Here Gruber points out the hand hewn logs on the cabin. "The logs were hewn with an adze," said Gruber. A adze has a handle like an ax but the blade is longer to peel the wood from a log to form a flat side. Note the joints are hand cut as well.



A photo of Larry Bell, grandson of Ed Bell, listens to David Gruber talk to attendees of the Park County Historical Society tour of Santa Maria Sunday October 6, 2013. Larry's grandfather built a home at the camp and was the first caretaker.

Christ of the Rockies

The Christ of the Rockies statue was built between 1930 and 1934. Messrs Gruber and Bell spoke of the construction of the road to the statue site before construction of the actual statue could begin. In the depression days, the Dowers wanted to build the statue of Jesus. Out of work men were recruited in Denver and came on site to build the road. The road included a bridge which was later removed. In the 1930s after the statue was built, the Dowers would travel from their home at the camp to the statue in a 1930s Ford Touring Car. Today the road has narrowed with time and is only suitable for hikers. The statue is 33 feet high and rests on a 22 feet high base. The base includes a grotto with statuary of the Christ in death attended by two angels. The grotto is sealed by a heavy wood door with iron hinges and accents.



David Gruber, the third caretaker in Camp Santa Maria history speaks to some of the 60 attendees touring the camp Sunday October 6th. Gruber spoke of the history of the area from the time of Cassells resort, the railroad era to the modernizing of the camp in the 1970s. Gruber and Larry Bell spoke of the building of the statue Christ of the Rockies.

The statue is constructed with a steel frame and terra cotta tiles for the robe. The pieces were fired and glazed in Denver and brought up to the camp on the train. Later they were carried to the statue site. Concrete was poured into the frame and the tiles attached. The hands and head are of individual piece construction fired to a glossy white to reflect sun and electric lights. The outstretched arm of Christ signifies protection for the children attending camp.

After lunch twenty attendees led by Gruber and Bell hiked to the statue from camp. The trail is 1.5 miles long and the elevation gain was measured at over 427 feet with the starting elevation at 8,437 and the statue measured at 8,864 at the base. Along the trail were placed the Catholic Stations of the Cross. The pilgrimage took approximately one and one-half hours to hike from the camp to the statue.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!



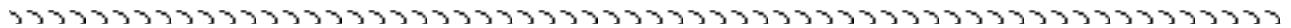
PCHS Fundraiser

John Woodward will speak on
Deer Valley Park Association from 1888-2004

Saturday, March 15th at 5:00 p.m.

\$7.00 at door

At Shepherd of the Rockies Lutheran Church on Rosalie Rd.
Call Karen at (303) 838- 8241 if you would like to bring a dish!



*Save the Date!

SHAWNEE HISTORY DAY

Sat. May 10th

11-5pm

Platte Canyon Community Center

For details

Contact

Art Hall or Barbara Jerome Behl 303-880-8193

All welcome!!

Please join us and celebrate the season. Feel free to dress in period or your favorite historical style! [www. HistoricShawnee.com](http://www.HistoricShawnee.com). 303-880-8193

Visit the PCHS website at www.parkcountyhistory.com

2013/2014 PCHS Board Members

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Park County Historical Society Membership Form

Student K-12 \$5 Senior Individual (60+) \$10 Individual \$15
Sponsor \$50 Sustaining \$75 Patron \$100 Corporate \$150 Life \$500

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

I would like to help with:

- Shawnee Branch
- Education & Research
- McGraw Memorial Park
 - ___ Host
 - ___ Maintain
 - ___ Help with collections
- Local History Archives
- Membership
- Historic Preservation
- Publicity & Public Relations
- Staff Support

Please join or renew your membership today!

Send check and completed form to: Park County Historical Society, P.O. Box 43, Bailey, CO 80421
Donations are fully tax-deductible – Park County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation