

Park County Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter - November 2010

www.parkcountyhistory.com

LETTER from the PRESIDENT

There has been very much that has happened at the McGraw Memorial Park this summer. The Keystone Bridge deck and handrail has been installed. The new black paint helps make the bridge look outstanding along with the black Essex style handrail. Most of the flagstone paths are completed. There is some yet to install near the end of the Keystone Bridge. That work will be starting in late October and completed before the ground freezes. The two restrooms are framed in and functional with the exception that the utility bars for ADA are not installed nor are the paper towel and toilet paper holders. The exterior needs to be finished which includes installing the siding the trim and then painting. The interior of the restrooms will be painted by Jean and Doug Stephens. The old hiking trail has been rebuilt but the loop at the top and the switchbacks down to the river are yet to be designed. The landscaping portion of the grant has been completed except the flower beds around the building are outlined but not built. The flower beds will be planted next spring with the help of the High Altitude Gardening Society. The lawn was reseeded but does need more work. The large trees and plants are in place. The flower beds will have blue granite rock outlining them and that is still in process. The landscape work was possible only with the volunteer help from many of the Destination Bailey people. The deck and handrail installation on the Keystone Bridge would not have been complete as quickly without those volunteers, so a very warm thank you from PCHS.

There were some glitches though that stalled the completion of the project. The quality of some of the workmanship was not up to the standards of the co-administrators Arthur Hall and Susan Lambert as well as the PCHS executive board. The contractor refused to do some rework to comply with those standards; so the contractor stopped work leaving much to be finished. Freestone Aquatics was contacted and they provided a proposal to do some rework and to complete the restroom construction, complete the flagstone paths, and reroof the annex. Freestone Aquatics are the people that installed the steps to the fishing dock and the steps for the kayak launch, as well as laid the flagstone for the paths. The rework includes removing the bridge handrail and reinstalling with a better type of fasteners, removing the platform at the stairway end of the bridge and realigning it, rebuilding the stairway and pulling up the bridge decking to align the edges and resetting the bridge deck beams. The proposal also includes moving the fence on the Bailey Water property inward to provide more parking spaces for use by PCHS. That portion of the project may get pushed into next year because of the late season and the ground is beginning to freeze. There will be some rework inside the annex that includes replacing the plastic fittings in the water pipes with brass ones and covering the water pipes with a soffit. A wall and doorway will be installed to enclose the mechanical room at the front of the annex.

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Letter from the President continued

The McGraw Memorial Park was open on Bailey Day. Bailey Day was rated a success as well as the activities at the Park which included gold panning, the display of our items for sale, the lamas, and the quilters had their display of handmade quilts. A highlight was the display of the 'Historic Quilt' with pictures of the caboose, Entriiken Cabin, Wren Cabin and the Keystone Bridge sewn into the panels. The Historic Quilt was auctioned by the Platte Canyon Area Chamber of Commerce as a fundraiser for PCHS. There were tours of the buildings and of course the favorite is a visit to the caboose by young and old. The Park had many more visitors that day then in recent years. The end of the "duck race" was at the Keystone Bridge which gave the bridge a good test as there were over seventy people standing elbow to elbow to watch the plastic ducks being caught below, and to see who won the duck race.

Arthur Hall president



Above is a picture of Doug Stephens receiving the check on behalf of PCHS from Bill Kulenberg the president of the Platte Canyon Area Chamber of Commerce? Doug is also the winner of the quilt at the auction. The check was from the auction of the Historic Quilt pictured in the background. Photo by Arthur Hall

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Field Trips 2010



Como Reunion

On 6/19/10, the members of the Park County Historical Society and the Rocky Mountain RR club came to the Como Roundhouse work day. We inventoried old rail and replaced the wall on the back of the roundhouse, where the boiler room was. Lunch was provided by Roundhouse owner Dr. Brantigan. Thanks go out to the volunteers who attended and Dr. Brantigan for providing lunch.

Pictured are from left to right, Kirk Thode(Son of RMRRC founding member Jack Thode), PCHS Secretary Doug Stephens, Pat Mauro, Chris Cervantes and Zoe.

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PCHS Tour of Geneva Park/City

The Park County Historical Society tour of Geneva Park/City on 7/18/10 was another fantastic, hair raising adventure. The caravan made their way to the home of Lynn Keyes of Geneva Park. Lynn grew up at Tumbling River Ranch, and her wealth of knowledge of the Geneva area is incomparable. We went to her home in Geneva Park (also known as Cowboy Flats), which was originally homesteaded in 1893 by Thomas McGuire. The cabin was built before 1893 however. East of her home are the remnants of a former sawmill, and a gravity fed spring that supplies her home also. Lynn spoke of the history of the homestead, covering the span of time from 1893 till the present. The homestead consists of her home, another smaller cabin, root cellar, and some sheds. We explored the interior and exteriors of the homestead, furnished with many great artifacts from the area. After enjoying the homestead, our caravan made our way up the road to Geneva City. As we made our way, Lynn noted an old corral, which used to be used for ranching in the area. We continued making the climb, with fantastic vistas of the meadow, and the Continental Divide ahead of us. We made a stop at the site of the old Geneva Smelter. Lynn recalled how a large brick chimney was on the site when she was younger. We found old bricks, foundation sections, and slag remnants from the smelter. We crept our way up the 4 wheel drive road, passing avalanche chutes, and other cabins as we proceeded. As we approached timberline, we emerged at the site of 2 larger buildings, a boarding house and blacksmith shop. An arsenic tainted lake was to the north of those buildings. These were on the east side of the Geneva City area. We enjoyed our sack lunches at this site. After lunch, we drove up to the Warren mine, which Jack Kimberly had mined. Lynn knew Jack when she was younger, playing poker and listening to his stories of mining and living in the area. We entered the mine and photographed it, which was an amazing experience. From there, we saw the Revenue mine above us to the north. We went further to northwest, and Lynn pointed out other mines in that area, the Silver Queen 1 and 2. We were also able to see what was left of the main mine operation at Geneva City, on the south side of the valley. Josephine Lake and Mine were farther down the valley on the south side. We continued across the valley, stopping at the creek. Here was the site of Jack Kimberly's cabin. Lynn had a photo she'd taken of Jack in the cabin. We stood at the location that the picture was taken, comparing the angles and views to the present day view. The cabin is now strewn around the area. Up creek from Jack's cabin, was a cabin owned by Mr. Friend. It is still standing, and we examined it thoroughly. Onward to the south side of the valley, we made our way to the larger mining facility there. Office buildings of the mine and the mine itself were viewed. Moving downhill from the continental divide, we viewed the barn that Jack used. We found a fen southwest of the barn, with it's beautiful green hues. This concluded another spectacular adventure of the Park County Historical Society. Join the society, to keep history alive in Park County! www.parkcountyhistory.com

Pat Mauro, Vice President

Park County Historical Society

Geneva/Park City Guests



Geneva/Park City Host Darlene Keyes

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Trout Creek Pass Guests



Trout Creek Pass Cabin Remains

**PCHS meetings are held 1st Friday of
each month at 6:30 at the Shawnee
Community Center!**



Trout Creek Pass Ron and Boiler

Photos by Pat Mauro and Doug Stephens

Park County Historical Society

Trout Creek Pass

On Sunday December 10th the Park County Historical Society visited a mine site in Park County near Trout Creek Pass. Nine members and guests enjoyed a brisk fall day to tour the mine site following a short, uphill hike from the road to the site. The trip was hosted by Judi Wright, Ron Hill and Pat Mauro, Vice President, Park County Historical Society.

Judi Wright's Great Grandfather Hugh Wright filed the claim in 1897. Along with the mine site there is a homestead site nearby under separate ownership. Hugh worked the claim until his death in 1911. Hugh is buried next to his Brother Seth Wright in Greenwood Pioneer Cemetery in Canyon City Colorado. Seth was a Union Civil War Veteran.

Hugh and his partners built several buildings on the site. Hugh was over sixty years old when he filed his claim and worked the site until his death. The remains of a blacksmith shop, cabin and the tunnel to the mine are still in evidence despite the ravages of time and Park County weather. Several rock walls and a road were hand built by Hugh. One of the most spectacular remains is of a portion of boiler with a rock chimney theorized to melt snow for drinking water.

The boiler remnant came from a sawmill explosion that killed two men years before the Wright claim was filed. Portions of the boiler not used by Wright are on display in Fairplay at South Park City according to Judi. While preparing the area for logging Jerry Davis removed the other boiler remnants to South Park City. Jerry Davis surveyed the site and documented its history as an archeologist for the forest service, from which he is retired.

The artifacts at the mine site are "protected," catalogued and indexed by the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado Historical Society archives. While Ron and Judi were gracious host and hostess trespassing on the area is not advised. Evidence of a large, furry, hungry watchman was dispersed across the site and while said watchman was not seen his presence was defiantly in the air.

By Doug Stephens correspondent and Park County Historical Society Secretary.

PARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Student K-12 \$5 ☐ Senior Individual (60+)\$10 ☐ Individual \$15 ☐ Family \$30 ☐
Sponsor \$50 ☐ Sustaining \$75 ☐ Patron \$100 ☐ Corporate \$150 ☐ Life \$500 ☐ Member of the Shawnee Branch ☐

I would like to help with:

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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E-MAIL _____

☐ Check here if address label on reverse side is correct.

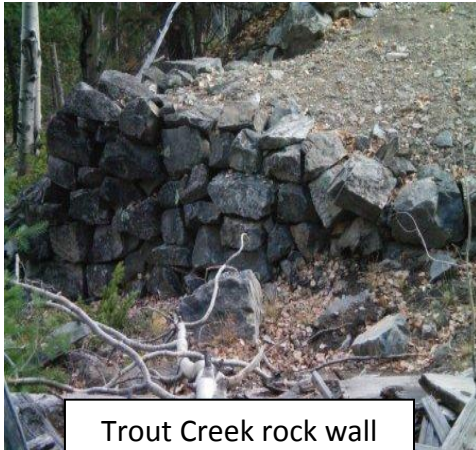
Please join or renew your membership today!

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

Your membership in the Society helps preserve the history of Park County

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Trout Creek rock wall



Watchman evidence!!



Trout Creek mine entrance

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Look for your membership renewal date on your mailing label. Address correction requested.
Would you like your newsletter emailed? Please email Yvonne Garrison.