



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



P.O. Box 43, Bailey, CO 80421

September 2009

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT by Art Hall

The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant application has been completed and delivered to Gary Nichols. The 25 year partnership agreement between Park County government and PCHS for the GOCO grant has been completed and delivered to the county commissioners. They have signed off with us on the project. The purpose of the grant is to expand the recreation portion of the Helen McGraw Memorial Park in accordance with the original agreement between the Helen McGraw Tatum family and PCHS. The 20 acres across the river, known as Morrow Mountain, is accessed by the Keystone Bridge and is to be kept as open space and include hiking trails and observation decks. Easy access along both sides of the river for fishing is included in the agreement. Renovation of the Keystone Bridge is a major expense as it needs sanding, painting, and a new walkway. It will also receive new wrought iron railings to replace the chain link fence. Public restrooms are required for recreation sites that GOCO funds, so restrooms are planned to be built in front of and attached to the Annex building. New picnic tables will be purchased and, lots of landscaping is planned. There is more but this space does not allow it to be listed. The draft amounts of the GOCO grant are still not set as actual bids will need to be gotten to know the actual amount of monies needed. Tentatively the total grant is for \$231,000 which \$149,000 comes from GOCO and \$20,000 in cash matching funds and about \$62,000 from in-kind funding. It looks like a go. The application contains 77 pages. Awesome numbers aren't they? It is an awesome project and we can do it justice. We will know sometime in December if we are awarded the monies.

The PCHS property is actually three lots. Two of the lots are small where the historical building are, and are zoned commercial. The Morrow Mountain property is zoned residential so the plan is to rezone the Morrow Mountain property to commercial, and then combine the three lots into one large lot. Residential zoning does not permit the property to be used for recreation. The application to rezone the residential property to commercial and then combine the three lots will be filed with the county planning board the first week of September if not sooner.

A new policy has been implemented by the executive board that will allow all members to vote at the executive board meetings. The board also encourages members to submit articles or bits of news to Yvonne Garrison, Pat Mauro, John Rankin, or myself for publication in the newsletter. The newsletter is your property so please help to support it.

Within a few years, two of the buildings in the Memorial Park will need new roofing. There are no grants available to repair buildings unless the buildings are registered with Colorado Preservation. To replace the roofing will require lots of fundraising. Give us ideas for fundraising so we can plan them and execute them. We are also planning on more field trips in the summer time and programs indoors during the winter.

PCHS needs a full time secretary as our charter with the IRS as a 501(c)3 non-profit could be threatened. We need to list the name of the secretary on some of our documents with the IRS. When the GOCO grant is approved, we will need to fill out additional forms to report to the IRS the amount of the grant as it is over the \$25,000 amount that is normally reported on a postcard size form. The plea to membership has gone out numerous times for a secretary. It is not a difficult position. It entails taking notes of the meetings or recording the meetings and writing up



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the results. The newsletter editor Yvonne Garrison or John Rankin will send them to the membership. So, someone please step forward and volunteer to be on the executive board as the PCHS secretary.

The GOCO grant application would not have been completed in time to meet the August 26, 2009 filing deadline without the excellent leadership of Susan Lambert and the members of Destination Bailey. The grant was written to meet all of the requirements requested by GOCO. Gary Nichols is our contact with Park County government for the PCHS and Park County partnership. Gary's statement about the grant says it best, "Because the project possesses all elements of a successful GOCO project (landowner participation, community and county support, cash and in-kind matching commitments, demonstrable objectives, immediate and tangible benefits, detailed plan and budget), I am very optimistic about our grant request." We all should be very optimistic.

Arthur Hall
President, PCHS

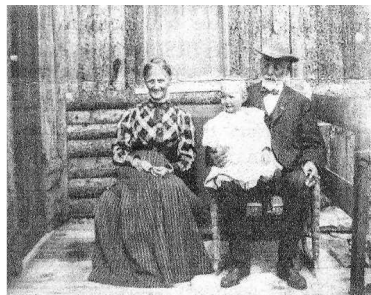
PARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY VISITS WELLER SITE

by Douglas Stephens

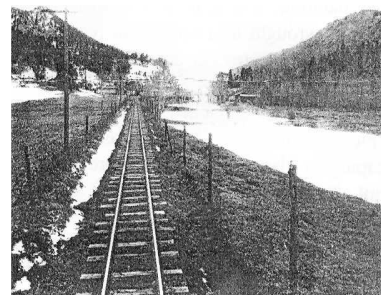
The Park County Historical Society, led by Vice President Pat Mauro, visited the historic site of Chaseville/Weller on August 30, 2009. Among the guests were C.F. Weller's great granddaughter Bobette C. Stephens of Denver, and C.F. Weller's great-great grandsons Michael Stephens of Highlands Ranch and Doug Stephens of Bailey.



Pat Mauro, Rhonda Dusatko and Brian Heber review the handouts before the tour.



Charles and Kate Weller with their grandson. Charles Frederick Weller Crandell. They are seated on the back porch of the Weller Cabin at Weller (Chase), CO. Photo taken 1908. Photo from collection of W. Weller Crandell



Weller Station. Photo from Whatley Collection CO History

Charles Fredrick Weller (May 1844 – May 1924) purchased the site on the 3rd day of October 1905 for \$6,000.00 from Albin R. Elder and Anna R. Elder. Also known as Chaseville, the site had a Post Office, train depot and the first permanent ranger station in the Platte Canyon area east of Kenosha Pass. The ranger station was dismantled in 1939 when a new station was built in Bailey. There also was a U.S.F.S. camp ground on the site, now long abandoned. Family stories indicate C.F. Weller, then president and owner of Richardson Drug Co. 902 Jackson in Omaha



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NE, built a lodge to house company guests. The Weller family would take the train from Omaha, Nebraska, stopping in Denver. They would then board the train to the Weller property and stay in C.F.'s lodge. Among those guests was Ralph E. Crandell (1901 – 1990) father of Bobette C. Stephens and grandfather of Michael, Daniel and Doug Stephens.

The society and guests were treated to an in depth look at the Post Office and Old Barn buildings by the current owners, Mark and Carolyn Neely, and caretaker Terry Bruce. Many thanks to Mark, Carolyn, and Terry for their hospitality!



Weller Post Office



Old PO Boxes at Weller PO



Weller Home



Weller Carriage House

We also toured the Weller Home site. This is owned separately from the Barn and Post Office sites. The current owners have restored and improved the buildings. They stressed that they have remained true to the original buildings and site footprint and have reused all the original wood they could in the restoration. Among the restored buildings include the Weller home, Carriage House and Root Cellar. The lodge burned. The historical society would also like to thank the owners of the Weller home site for your hospitality and tour.



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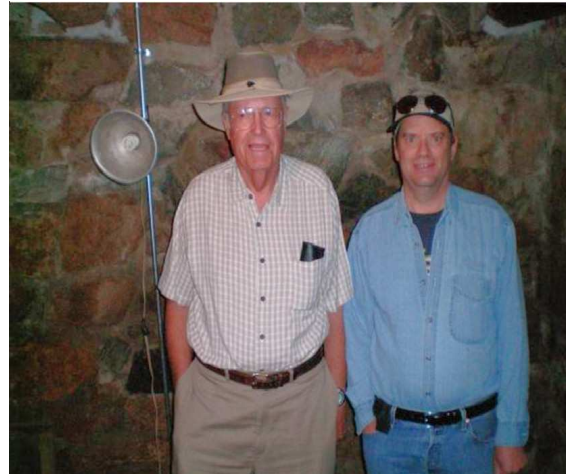


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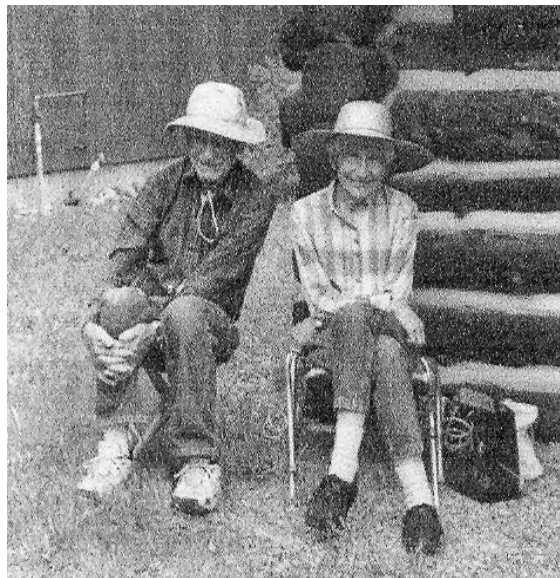
Bobette C. Stephens in the outhouse window at Weller



Ralph L. Stephens and son Michael Stephens in the Root Cellar. Note the original stone work.

Personally, I would like to thank all the Weller property owners for preserving the legacy and history of C.F. Weller and these important Park County sites. I am sure C.F. Weller would be pleased with the care these sites receive from the current owners and staff.

After the Weller tour, the group moved on to Grant to match old photos and building placements to the current day buildings and sites. Then the group moved on to Guanella Pass for a picnic lunch.



This photo shows Ralph and Theme Morgan in front of the Wren Cabin McGraw Memorial Park in 2005.

The final stop of the day was at Rhonda Dusatko's home where she enthralled the group with the history of the Ben Tyler Gulch and homestead area including tales of the Tyler family, Charlie in



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particular. Thanks to Rhonda for all her in depth knowledge on the Tyler's of Shawnee, and showing us the homestead.

She would love to hear from you...

Theme Morgan
20545 North Lake Pleasant Road
Peoria, AZ 85382

COMO DEPOT AND ROUNDHOUSE UPDATE

The Como Depot restoration is moving swiftly, after receiving State Historic Funding this year! Mike Perschbacher, from Salida, is the contractor selected to work on this phase of the restoration.

Mike is the same contractor that worked on the DSP&P depot in Buena Vista, so he's familiar with the task. He is now working on leveling the floor and re enforcing it, and actually straightening out the leaning building. After this phase is completed, the exterior and roof of the building will be redone. The goal of David and Moya Tompkins is to restore the depot and hotel to the grandeur of the era when the two buildings first existed together in 1896. A grant for the hotel is also in progress, and it will be brought back to its original natural brick color. As the work progresses plans for the future are progressing also. David is planning to upgrade the heating system in the hotel, including adding solar energy to the mix as a heating option. Making the depot a museum is a good possibility.



Joint project pulls together for work day at the Como Roundhouse

On August 15th, Railroad Day, I worked at the Como Roundhouse, and had a nice conversation with Dr. Charles Brantigan and his wife Kathy, owners of the roundhouse. I explained to the doctor that PCHS is the primary 501c3 organization to be used for historic preservation projects within the county. He was unaware of this, and was glad to hear of how we've worked on projects like this in the past (Salt Works Ranch, etc.). He would like to have the boiler room recreated in the southwest corner of the building, as it previously existed. Some work has been done on the turntable and pit area, and options for that were discussed. Dr. Brantigan suggested that a rail line be rebuilt between the roundhouse and depot, as it previously existed. I told him I would be able to work on assembling that project for him. The rail that exists will have to be checked for compatibility for the rebuild. So, in the near future, we may actually see rail running in the Town of Como once again! Stay tuned for more exciting historic preservation projects as they unfold in Como!



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On June 27th, members of the Park County Historical Society and Rocky Mountain Railroad Club assembled for a work day at the Como Roundhouse. General cleanup in the yards and roundhouse were completed. In the turntable pit (used to align locomotives to enter the roundhouse bay) cleanup of the ties that the turntable used to rotate on, were dug out. This made a great improvement to the turntable. The appearance on the grounds was improved, with cleanup of scrap and lumber. Many thanks to Deb Queen-Stremke, and Dr. Charles and Kathy Brantigan for coordinating for the work day, and also supplying a great lunch at the Como Depot restaurant! For more information, see www.parkcountyhistory.com or www.rockymtnrrclub.org.

Pat Mauro

"THE HERE BETWEEN", A SHORT DRAMATIC FILM

An exciting activity took place at the Helen McGraw Memorial Park. About 25% of a movie was filmed there on August 29 and 30. The film crew arrived on the 28th to remove the chain link fence from the Keystone Bridge, and install rigging in the top of the bridge. Some steel posts were camouflaged with willows cut from the river bank. Some blue dumpsters were also covered with willows to hide them. The rest of the park was untouched.

All total, there were about thirty to thirty-four actors, actresses, film crew, and PCHS staff on site for the two days of filming. The era of the movie was early 1930s, so chain link fences were not common nor BBQ s, nor plastic chairs. No modern vehicles were allowed to use the parking lot on Saturday where they could be picked up by a camera. A dressing room and makeup station was set up in the annex building. Some of the filming crew camped out at the park so the bathroom in the annex was available all night. The lunches and suppers were catered by Elk Creek Catering. Coffee and other items were purchased at the Knotty Pine. Michelle Stuerke provided a horse for the set. Tangra Productions Corp. is the film company; Julie Pearson is the producer, Julian Ilev is the director. It was a great experience for all.

Oops, I forgot to answer the question, what is the movie about? Why did the movie production company want to shoot a portion of the movie at the Keystone Bridge? The movie is an adaption from a short story authored by Ambrose Bierce. Ambrose Bierce (June 24, 1842-1914?) was a writer and journalist. He is acclaimed for his Civil War and supernatural stories, as well as for his legendary wit. The Bierce story that the current movie is based on is *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*. Three Bierce films were produced and directed by Don Maxwell, *Ambrose Bierce: Civil War Stories* made its screen debut in Kansas City on September 8, 2006. Independently produced in Kansas City as a trilogy, the film includes a truncated version of Michigan filmmaker's Brian James Egan's *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*, which is integrated seamlessly into the Maxwell's film www.donswaim.com

The original version of *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge* is a psychological drama of a man who sees his life flash before him as Union troops hang him as a spy from a railroad bridge. Hence, a railroad bridge was a must to stay true to that part of the original story. The Keystone Bridge was perfect. It is old, a railroad bridge from the past, photogenic, and very special for PCHS as well as for Tangra Productions Corp. The adaption from the original story is not military but of a vigilante town that has plans to hang a black lady. I cannot tell you more. The premier will be shown in Denver in the spring and you will be notified of it. I am going to plan



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on having a showing next summer somewhere up here. The title, *The Here Between*, is the production name of the film. It is common to change the title of the film after the editing, and the likely hood is this film will be renamed. I am hoping that the film will be available on DVD and that we could make an agreement to sell them as fund raising. I will keep you updated as the project moves ahead.

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