

Over the Fence...

Musings from the Editor

The approach of Summer can be seen and felt around us – grass becoming green, flowers in bloom, leaves on the trees. But nowhere can the approach of Summer be felt more than in the classrooms.

Children sit anxiously at their desks, awaiting the final school bell of the year which will free them to run and play and seek out the adventures that only a summer break from school can bring.

While all children think that school is hard, today's generation has no concept of what school was like 100+ years ago. Walking to school in a blinding snow storm (uphill both ways!), sharing a tablet or book with a sibling, sharing the classroom with several other grades, or running out back to use the outhouse. While many of us didn't have experiences like these, school was markedly different for us than for today's youth. And sometimes it is good to take a walk down memory lane to help people realize how far we have come, to truly appreciate the conveniences of our modern living.

In this issue is a short article on the books found in the Schoolhouse Museum (the old Teacherage building). These are a treasure that could have been lost if someone hadn't had the foresight to save them. If you haven't had a chance to visit this little gem of a museum, I encourage you to do so. And the upcoming Heritage Day celebration is a perfect time to go see it. A visit to a real 'ol' fashioned' schoolhouse might be fun (and informational) for the children or the family. Plus there'll be lots of other fun activities going on!

And while we are taking a walk down memory lane, let's remember two wonderful people who have recently 'retired'. Their drive and untiring efforts have helped the PPHS grow and flourish and become the great organization it is today. Let us carry on in their footsteps.

Jeanne Grípp, Editor

Museum Greeters Needed!

Do you have a friendly face? Do you enjoy meeting new people? Do you have time to work one day a month at the museum? Then you are perfectly qualified to be a Museum Greeter (docent)!

The PPHS Museum is in need of friendly people to greet the visitors that come through the doors. Being a Museum Greeter (docent) is not hard and most of the visitors have three basic questions that they ask - **Do you have a bathroom? Where are the Fossil Beds? Does this road go to the top of Pikes Peak?**

A vast knowledge of the Pikes Peak region is not needed to be a Museum Greeter (docent). Just a vast amount of smiles and kind words are necessary.

So sign up today! You won't be disappointed and the generous gift of your time will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Scott (719) 748-9035 or Sheila (719) 748-0102 for more information.

Chautauqua Video Library

Thanks to the efforts of PPHS member Ed Held, the Chautauqua Video Library is beginning to grow. The DVD's will soon be available for check-out at the PPHS Museum.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Clean-up Day along Hwy 24
Saturday, June 20, 9:00am
PPHS Museum, meeting place

Chautauqua: Science of Bigfoot
Leon Drew, speaker
Sunday, June 21, 2:00pm
Florissant Library

Heritage Day Celebration
Saturday, July 26, all day
Florissant Grange, PPHS Museum and
Schoolhouse Museum

Tabeguache Ute Dance at FFBNM
Saturday, August 8, 7:00pm
Florissant Fossil Beds Nat'l Monument

PPHS Annual Volunteer Brunch
Saturday, September 12, 12:00pm
Florissant Library

PPHS Annual Auction
Saturday, October 17, 1:00pm
Lake George Charter School Gym

Chautauqua: Portrayal of Doc Susie
Hedy Boyce, speaker
Sunday, November 8, 2:00pm
Florissant Library

Veteran's Day Ceremony
Wednesday, November 11,
Florissant Pioneer Cemetery

PPHS Christmas Party
Saturday, December 12, Noon
Florissant Library

Chautauquas are a public service of the Pikes Peak Historical Society. There is no admission and refreshments are served.

Chautauquas are normally held at the Florissant Library unless otherwise noted.

Don't forget to **Like** Us on Facebook!



Highway 24 Cleanup Day

PPHS does highway cleanup every year along US 24 through Florissant and west to the county line. Shavano Wyckoff will organize the effort again this year as he has successfully done in the past. When the project is done, Shavano will do the honors of cooking bratwursts at the Museum for the folks who help out. We're asking volunteers to meet at the Museum at **9:00AM on Saturday June 20**. This worthwhile effort has been lots of fun in the past so please come to help.

Memberships may now be renewed online through the PPHS website using PayPal.

<http://www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org>

The Thymekeeper, Mari Marques
"The Healing Power of Plants"



Have an idea for a story?
Got a tidbit or two you'd like to share?
Or maybe you just want to say "Hello!"
Email the Editor at woodespryde@gmail.com

Thank you to the following newsletter contributors –
Mary Humphreys Wayne Johnston
George Scheaffer

Newsletter Distribution

We want to make you aware of Email as a way to receive your PPHS Newsletter in addition to, or instead of having a copy mailed to you. This newsletter distribution option will begin with our Summer Issue coming to you in June.

We know that some people like the convenience and lack of clutter from an electronic newsletter but also we know that many people like the feel of a newsletter in hand and the ability to sit down in a comfortable chair to digest the wonderful stories and news. We will accommodate you in either way. With an Emailed file of the newsletter you will be able to print selected pages or all of it at your discretion.

Your choices:

1. By US Mail, as you are receiving it now, with no change.
2. By Email and we would ask you to verify your address or addresses. Also, you may provide us with up to 2 Email addresses. The newsletter will be sent in the Adobe Reader PDF format.
3. View the newsletter on the Society's website, www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org. The newsletter will be in the Adobe Reader PDF format and printable.
4. Receive the newsletter by Email and US Mail newsletter.

Please make your choice and respond by Email to Brian Stewart at jbcstewart@msn.com or by leaving a voice message at [719-748-8259](tel:719-748-8259). If you do not respond, you will continue to receive the newsletter by US Mail.

The Healing Power of Plants

© George Scheaffer 2015

On February 15th, local certified herbalist Mari Marques presented a Chautauqua about the healing properties of nature. Owner of The Thymekeeper shop in Florissant, Marques has over 15 years of botanical experience (source: thethymekeeper.com).

According to Marques, humans used to have a profound understanding of plants, but we lost that understanding somewhere along the way. "Plants communicate with us," she said, "but not in English." To demonstrate this, she showed a heart-shaped plant that can be used to cure Malaria.

Marques also stands up for weeds and other plants that are generally despised. Dandelions, for example, are actually incredibly nutritious and can be used to make multivitamins. They also have digestive enzymes and can help the liver, the eyes, help heal eczema, and remove warts. While considered a noxious weed in the state of Colorado, the stem of Mullein plants can help with respiratory issues and ear infections. Chamomile is also considered noxious in this state, but it is anti-viral and calming. Aspen tree bark is anti-inflammatory and is used in Aspirin and sunscreen, not to mention it can ease menstrual cramps.

Marques discussed many other plants with healing properties. One called Usnea is anti-microbial and can boost the immune system. It can also help with Strep Throat and E. Coli poisoning. Juniper's berry-like seeds can help with urinary tract infections, and gin gets its taste from this plant as well. Osha, or "bear root," is used in cough syrup and is one of the best treatments for viral infection. Red and Yellow Sweet Clovers are a blood cleanser and have even been used in cancer research. Many other plants are anti-viral or anti-bacterial, and some can even be made into soaps.

The Thymekeeper has her own website and Facebook profile, and Marques is a contributing writer for the local newspaper, Ute Country News.

PPHS Annual Meeting and Election

The annual PPHS membership meeting was held on March 7, 2015 at the Florissant Library. An abundance of food and good conversation was enjoyed by the members in attendance. Reports by the various committee chairs were given. Updates about the museum comprised the bulk of the news - a new roof was put on in 2014, new displays were added, new LED lights were installed. The need for two clothing display cases was discussed. The museum attendance for 2014 was 4,600 people. In 2015, more local groups and classes from local schools will be encouraged to visit the museum.

The annual election took place at this time as well. The new Board of Directors was introduced and spoke briefly about themselves. The governing body was voted in by a unanimous vote.

The PPHS has a total of 16 committees (see list below). If you would like to volunteer, please contact John Rakowski or Scott Adams for more information.

2015 Pikes Peak Historical Society Board of Directors

John Rakowski, President
Scott Adams, Vice President
Rudy Perry, Secretary
Deb Etherton, Treasurer

Pam Adams, Board at Large
Linda Appelbaum, Board at Large
Allan Appelbaum, Board at Large
Wayne Johnston, Board at Large
Kathy Perry, Board at Large
Brian Stewart, Board at Large

Advisory Board:

AJ Hotchkiss	Lenore Hotchkiss
Celinda Kaelin	Sally Maertens
Andy Weinzapfel	Susan Weinzapfel



2015 Pikes Peak Historical Society Committee List w/Chairman

Adopt a Highway (Shavano Wyckoff)
Anza (Celinda Kaelin)
Auction (Scott Adams)
Beautification (Board)
Cemetery (Corky & Mary Capps)
Chautauqua (Jeanne Gripp)
Coalition PP Historical Museums (Teresa Micelli)
Facebook (Wayne Johnston)
Florissant Heritage Days (Scott Adams)
Friends of Flo Fossil Beds NM (Wayne Johnston)
Membership (Brian Stewart)
Museum (Kaelin/Adams/Kneuer)
Newsletter (Jeanne Gripp)
Ute Cultural Trees (Celinda Kaelin)
Ute Visit (Celinda Kaelin)
Website (Wayne Johnston)



Long Time Members Retire From 'Active Duty'

After more than 20 years serving in various positions on committees as well as on the Board of Directors of the Pikes Peak Historical Society, Celinda and Harold Kaelin have now 'retired'. Their enthusiasm, vibrant personalities, and generosity brought out the best in people and they were able to achieve so much for this mountain community to be proud of.

Through their guidance and leadership, the Florissant Heritage Foundation became the Pikes Peak Historical Society. Many goals were achieved and ambitions realized during these years - the Florissant Schoolhouse was restored and the Teacherage was returned to Florissant. The new museum building was purchased, an informational kiosk was erected on the east side of Florissant, and "Florissant" sandstone signs were placed at the entrances to town. And most importantly, the Northern Utes were able to return to their ancestral lands. Most of the work on all these projects was through grants obtained by Celinda as well as donations of time and materials from local individuals and businesses. It was also at this time that the Pikes Peak Historical Society took over the stewardship of the Pikes Peak region.

Celinda & Harold joined what was at the time the Florissant Heritage Foundation, because of their love for history, a desire to keep that history alive, and to become active in the community. They both have so many memories, but for Celinda, one of the most memorable was restoring the Grange (original Florissant School) which has since become a huge asset to the Florissant community. She feels that the building's renovation brought the community together, and still does. As for Harold, the most unforgettable moment was the PowWow held in 1999 at which members of the Northern Ute tribe were in attendance. Harold remembers how moved the crowd was by the words of Roland McCook of the Northern Ute, who said that *"this is the first time we have been back in over 100+ years."*

Even though they are now taking a less active role in the PPHS, Celinda will remain on the Board in an advisory capacity. Both she and Harold are looking forward to catching up on their reading and doing 'some things' that they have put off. We will miss their smiling faces and boundless enthusiasm in the day to day operation of the PPHS but they both have earned a much deserved 'spectator seat'. And their guidance is only a phone call away.

When asked if she had words for future generations, Celinda said, "***We must remember where we came from so we don't get lost in the future***". Wise words we should all live by.



Florissant School Books

by Mary Humphreys

edited by Jeanne Gripp

The Florissant School opened in 1887 to serve the needs of educating the local youth. But many changes took place as the years went by; families moved away, kids grew up, and by the 1960's local children were being bused to Woodland Park.

When the school closed, a longtime member of the community, Betty Burns, had the foresight to gather up the books that were being used in the school. Betty stored the books in the Florissant Grange, not knowing what would eventually happen to them.

The building next to the school was originally the Teacherage. This building, like the children of the area, made the trip to Woodland Park but came back home in 1993. It was placed on its original foundation and restored to house the original Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum.

When the Teacherage was being put together, those involved wanted part of the school furniture to be included along with the museum items. That large supply of books which Betty Burns had rescued now came in handy! Ben and Mary Humphreys sorted the books and placed a sample of each of the various kinds of schoolbooks in a bookcase in the building.

Every year, until the late 1990's, there was a reunion held at the Grange for those who had been a student or a teacher at the Florissant School. During those reunions, some of the schoolbooks were placed on tables for those attending the reunions to take with them any books which might have a special meaning for them or maybe had a name in it that they remembered. Today, the books may be scattered around the globe and maybe some former students, children, or grandchildren have looked through the books and wondered about School in bygone days.

Most pioneer schoolhouses had a bible on the teacher's desk. The bible seen at the Florissant Schoolhouse Museum belonged to Katie Harp, the mother of PPHS member Mary Humphreys. Katie was born in 1898 in Oklahoma Territory where her father had settled during the Cherokee Strip Outlet Land Run.

*Betty Burns (1927-2014) was a founding member of the Florissant Heritage Society and was an active member in many organizations in the Florissant community.



FLORISSANT PIONEER CEMETERY

Florissant's cemetery received its first permanent "guest" in 1874. This is not surprising, since the town of Florissant was established by Judge James Castello in 1870. What is surprising, however, is that Frank, James' son, waited until 1886 to incorporate a Florissant Cemetery Association. This was probably in anticipation of the boom that would come to the area with the arrival of the Midland Railroad. The Pikes Peak Historical Society maintains this tradition of stewardship with its management of the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery on behalf of Teller County. If you meet the residency requirements; you may also secure a final resting place in this historic cemetery. Donations of \$300 are requested for a full burial, and only \$150 for cremains. Call Harold Kaelin at 719-748-3562 to secure your future at this historic site.



MEMBERSHIP

The Pikes Peak Historical Society is a non-profit corporation organized under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). The purpose of the Society is to encourage the preservation of the history of Florissant and the west slope of Pikes Peak, and to educate the public regarding this historical legacy.

The Pikes Peak Historical Society (PPHS) is funded solely through memberships and donations, and supports its mission through volunteers who serve on its numerous committees.

PPHS owns and operates two museums; The Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum, at 18033 Teller County Road #1 across from the Florissant Post Office, and the Schoolhouse Museum located at Teller County Road #31 and Wildhorn Road (CR #3).

Our Cemetery Committee manages the historic Florissant Pioneer Cemetery on behalf of Teller County. Our Beautification Committee sponsors an area-wide clean-up each spring, cleans along Highway 24, and plants flowers throughout the town of Florissant. Our Chautauqua Committee sponsors free educational programs each month, and our Trails Committee support these efforts in the area. The Tree Committee records Ute Culturally Scarred trees.

The volunteers and members of the Pikes Peak Historical Society make all of these community projects possible. Your membership entitles you to our tri-annual newsletter. Life Members receive a ten percent discount on all items at the gift shop.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (please print):

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Please circle how you would like to receive your newsletter –

Email US Mail Both

Membership Type

_____ Sustaining Member \$20/year
 _____ Family Membership \$30/year
 _____ Supporting Member \$50/year
 _____ Castello Life Member \$200

Committee Interests

Museum _____
 Cemetery _____
 Beautification _____
 Chautauqua _____
 Trees _____
 Trails _____

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____ DATE: _____

MAIL TO: PIKES PEAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P.O. BOX 823
 FLORISSANT, CO 80816

For more information, call John Rakowski at 719.748.3861



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