

Over the Fence...

Musings from the editor

Another Autumn is upon us. Crisp morning air, colorful foliage, and abundant harvests remind us to enjoy the warm days while they are here, before Ol'Man Winter decides to cover us once more with his billowing blanket of snow.

Enjoying the bounty of the season is an enjoyable end to the tilling and weeding of the Summer season. There's nothing like eating a fresh tomato to make a person forget about the aching back or dirt under the fingernails. And who hasn't been on the receiving (or possibly giving) end of an excess bounty of squash?

Growing up in Southern Colorado, we had a great climate to raise all manner of produce. But potatoes were the main vegetable of choice for many farmers. And well, San Luis Valley potatoes rival those from Idaho - at least in this writer's (*unbiased*) opinion. How well I remember seeing the potato trucks drive through town on their way to the cellars where the potatoes were sorted and shipped out to stores.

The area we live in has a similar climate and at one time there were fields of vegetables being grown to supply food to those in the nearby mining camps and towns. Evidence of this can still be seen in the antiques left behind or even the terraces of nearby meadows.

Enjoy these lovely Autumn Days while they are here! Explore Teller County! Discover some of the glorious tidbits of history that are hidden away - often right under our noses.

By the way, if you didn't get a chance to see the **Florissant Historic Maps** which came out at Florissant Heritage Day, then you are missing a treat! These maps not only tell the locations of historical buildings in and around Florissant but also give a brief description of them. The maps are the creative handiwork of Pam & Scott Adams and are a remake of an older version. The maps can be found at the PPHS Museum.

Jeanne Gripp, Editor



Antique Potato Picker

The Pikes Peak Historical Society would like to say
THANK YOU! to **Newmont Mining Corp.**
for the grant to purchase Accession software and
peripheral items!

The Pikes Peak Historical Society would like to say
THANK YOU! To **PC Touchup of
Woodland Park** for the upgrade to the PPHS
computer!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Over the Fence, Thank You's!
- 2 Calendar of Events
- 3 Ute Visit & Memorial Dedication
- 4 Isabella Bird, Geocaching 101
- 5 Felipe Espinosa, Heritage Day
- 6 Museum Parking, Auction Notice,
Florissant Pioneer Cemetery Info
- 7 Membership Form

Calendar of Events

PPHS Annual Auction
Saturday, October 15, 2:00pm
Lake George Charter School Gym

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

Ute Legends
Celinda Kaelin
Sunday, November 20, 2:00pm
Florissant Library

PPHS Christmas Party
Saturday, December 17, 12:00pm
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.

Thank you to the following newsletter contributors –

Christine Ford (photo)
Marge Heine (photo)
Wayne Johnston (photos)
Kathy Perry (photo)
Andy Weinzapfel (photo)

Save the Date!
October 15th, 2:00pm
PPHS Annual Auction!

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



2016 Pikes Peak Historical Society Board of Directors

John Rakowski, President
Scott Adams, Vice President
Rudy Perry, Secretary
Carolynne Forster, Treasurer

Linda Appelbaum, Board at Large
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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

Recent Comments left at PPHS Geocache sites --

"thoroughly enjoyable"

"love this series"

"thanks for the history of the area"

From the one at the Cemetery - "finding this geocache was so much fun. Thank you PPHS"

From the one at the Teacherage - "great to see the historic buildings being preserved"

"a teacherage - like a parsonage. New word for me"

"especially cool for a school librarian"

Tabeguache Ute Visit and Loya Arrum Memorial Dedication

The annual return of the Tabeguache Ute Indians to their ancestral land took place the first week of August with the tribal members having a full schedule of events. A special program on Ute culture and storytelling by Kerry Cesspooch took place at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument on their last day in Florissant.

Central Colorado was once home to the Tabeguache Band of the Ute Indians. In 1881, the Tabeguache were removed from their ancestral lands and their sacred mountain, Tava. Pikes Peak is called "Tava", or Sun, in their language. "Tabeguache" is derived from the Ute word Tava, and it means 'People of Sun Mountain.' The Pikes Peak Historical Society recognizes that Pikes Peak or



Tava, is very sacred to the Tabeguache Ute people and has sponsored a Tabeguache homecoming to Tava each year. For fifteen years, Northern Ute/Tabeguache elder Loya

Colorow Arrum led this homecoming delegation. After she passed away in 2014, her daughter Kerry Cesspooch took over her duties.



After the presentation at the Florissant Fossil Beds, a memorial to Loya Colorow Arrum was dedicated at the PPHS Museum. This memorial was built by PPHS member, Don Crites, and is located on the west side of the museum, near the elk.

Ute Culturally Modified Tree Committee

The Ute Culturally Modified Tree Committee has been hard at work training with Celinda Kaelin to learn as much as they can about Ute Trees.

Under the leadership and guidance of Andy Weinzapfel, the committee's new chairman, the committee members have gone to several locations to learn the characteristics of these sacred living artifacts. On a recent field trip, the group found their first prophecy tree.

Trees which have been determined to be true Ute Cultural Trees will be tagged to help prevent the tree from future harm.

Should you or someone you know have what you think is a Ute Cultural Tree on your property, contact the Pikes Peak Historical Society, 719-748-8259, to schedule a visit by a committee member to view the tree.



Geocaching 101

The June Chautauqua was about Geocaching, a real-world, outdoor navigation sport which uses GPS-enabled devices to locate hidden 'treasure'. Rudy and Kathy Perry spoke to an attentive crowd about what geocaching is and how to get started in this fun, family oriented activity. The Perrys are Florissant residents and active Board members of the Pikes Peak Historical Society.

Geocaching participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. Geocaches can be found all over the world. It is common for Geocachers to hide caches in locations that are important to them, reflecting a special interest or skill to the cache owner. Currently there are 2.7 million caches listed in over 200 countries, including 26,000 in Colorado.

The Perrys found their first geocache in 2003 in Texas. Since then, they have found over 250 in twelve different states and one at the highest point at a national park in Thailand. Finding caches when traveling can take a person to new places.

The Perrys started the PPHS geocache committee to share the unique history of Florissant in a different way by hiding geocaches at historical sites in the area. The PPHS Geocache Committee currently has a total of seven caches in various spots in and around Florissant.

For more information, go to www.geocaching.com.



A Rocky Mountain Lady



Imagine being told to travel for your health. It is 1873 and you are a single woman.

That is what Victorian travel writer Isabella Bird was told by her doctors. So she made a solitary 600 mile long ride through the Colorado Rockies in early winter. Isabella, who was forty-two at the time, rode her Indian pony Birdie from Denver to

Colorado Springs, up Ute Pass to Divide, Florissant, and Lake George, before turning north along the remote Tarryall Mountains to return to Denver.

The May Chautauqua was the portrayal of Isabella Bird, told in Isabella's own voice and words which brought to life her journey and life in the Colorado Territory of the early 1800's. Taken from many of Birds' travel novels, this candid narrative spoke about a woman's solitary ride through amazing natural beauty and severe winter weather, enduring extreme solitude and dangerous conditions. A journey not for the faint of heart. Nor the faint of will.

A Rocky Mountain Lady was an engaging hour's journey through the past of the Pikes Peak High Country. It was written and performed by Florissant resident Christine Ford. Christine is a freelance author and photographer. She and her husband, John Lloyd Magoon, own High Country Realty located in Florissant, Colorado. John and Christine live on the banks of Twin Creek in the shadow of Fortification Hill.

Their website is: www.OhGetMeAHome.com,

August Chautauqua

Author, Adam James Jones, was the speaker at an unexpected August Chautauqua. Jones had originally been scheduled to speak in April, but a nasty Spring storm had prevented safe travel.

Mr. Jones spoke of the years of research he had done for his book, "*The Vendetta of Felipe Espinosa*". A sweeping historical saga which tells of Confederate guerrillas, marauding Indians, a severe religious order, vigilante miners, and a migrant family looking for peace in a violent country which would come to be known as Colorado. As the Civil War raged and goldfields beckoned, a gunman stalked the mountains of central Colorado on a divine mission to kill American settlers. Felipe Espinosa would elude governors and armies, bounty hunters and posses, until his demise at the climax of a fierce high country manhunt. By then, he would have claimed more than thirty lives.

Adam James Jones grew up in South Park, Colorado. Adam is the recipient of the 2012 Homestead Foundation Fellowship from the Western Writers of America. His work has appeared in numerous publications, including *Southwestern American Literature*, *Wild West*, and *Darker Times* (UK). Adam lives in New Mexico with his wife, the actress Catharine Pilafas.

His website is www.adamjamesjones.com



2016 Florissant Heritage Day

Florissant Heritage Day saw a variety of activities for all ages this year. Children young and old enjoyed the toymaking found at the Florissant Library. In fact, new technology (Youtube video on a cell phone) enlightened attendees on an old toy – how to make string figures like Cat's Cradle.

Also to be found at the Library were informative displays explaining about early life as a Pioneer. Visitors to the Teacherage were greeted by Docents (or were they truly School Marms?) who spoke about early one-room schoolhouses. While at the PPHS Museum, Friendly Docents greeted visitors and a variety of speakers gave short talks on subjects ranging from the native Utes to paranormal Florissant and a couple topics in between. Tours at the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery spoke of the Civil War veterans and their families who settled in the area.

While tired at the end of the day, the volunteers spoke of the fun that had been had and the new friends which had been made.

I would like to offer my heart-felt gratitude to everyone who volunteered their time at Florissant Heritage Day this year! It is through your hard work and creative endeavors that Heritage Day was such a success. It couldn't have happened without you!

THANK YOU! Jeanne Gripp, *Florissant Heritage Day Chair*



PPHS Museum Parking

The PPHS Museum parking lot was resealed and re-striped in July. This will allow for many more years of use and gives the area a clean, fresh appearance.

Unfortunately, there have been several incidents of parking problems in the museum parking lot this year. Vehicles have been left dripping fluids or leaking oil on the newly sealed lot. In both instances there was no way to contact the vehicle owner.

As PPHS members, you are welcome to park at the museum as another benefit of membership but you are kindly asked to let us know whenever possible. The new NO PARKING signs will give us the ability to tow problem parking violators.

If someone wants to leave a vehicle temporarily they may do so with permission and we ask that contact information is left in case of an emergency. Board Members or Docents can grant the permission to park or you may just leave a note on your windshield that you are a PPHS Member with your last name.



PPHS Auction Notice!

The annual PPHS Auction will soon be taking place. This is a main source of funding for the Pikes Peak Historical Society.

Want to help, but not sure what to donate? Cash donations are always welcome! Anyone making a cash contribution to the auction will have their name **in the front of the auction booklet!** Contact John Rakowski or Scott Adams at 719-748-8259 for more information.

Membership Information

If you have any questions or need to make changes to your contact information, members may call [719-748-8259](tel:719-748-8259) and leave a message for a call back; or call Pres. John Rakowski at 719-748-3861; or contact Brian Stewart, Membership Chairman, at jbcstewart@msn.com; or use the 'Contact Us' form via the website www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org.

March 1st is now the expiration date for all dues paying members. Your expiration date is shown on the address information of this newsletter. Memberships may be renewed either online through the PPHS website using PayPal or via the U.S. mail (PO Box 823, Florissant, CO 80816).

ATTENTION! The Editor is looking for articles, old clippings, old photos for upcoming newsletters. Email the Editor with your submission. woodespryte@gmail.com

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 Pikes Peak Historical Society at 719-748-8259 to secure your future at this historic site.



MEMBERSHIP

The Pikes Peak Historical Society (PPHS) 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.

Pikes Peak Historical Society 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 CR1 (across from the Florissant Post Office) and the Schoolhouse Museum, located at Teller County Roads CR31 and CR3 (Wildhorn Rd.).

Our Cemetery Committee manages the 1874 Florissant Pioneer Cemetery on behalf of Teller County. Our Beautification Committee sponsors an area-wide clean-up each spring and plants flowers throughout the town of Florissant. Our Chautauqua Committee sponsors free educational programs during the year and our Ute Tree Committee researches and records Ute Culturally Scarred Trees. In addition, we maintain a fund for returning the Ute Indians to the sacred mountain, Tava, each year. If you become a Docent (Museum Volunteer), you act as host at the Museum, and meet wonderful, exciting people from all over the world.

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 10% discount on all items at the Museum Gift Shop.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (please print):

NAME(S): _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ e-mail1: _____

e-mail2: _____

I prefer Newsletter by: Email____, US Mail____, both Email and US Mail____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

___ Sustaining \$20/year

___ Family \$30/year

___ Supporting \$50/year

___ Castello Life \$200

COMMITTEE INTERESTS

Auction____ ANZA____ Beautification____

Cemetery____ Chautauqua____ Geocaching____

Heritage Day____ Kiosk____ Museum____

Trails____ Ute Trees____

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____ DATE: _____

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

OR JOIN ONLINE AT:
www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org

For more information, call John at 719-748-3861. Thank you.

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Pikes Peak Historical Society
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Florissant, CO 80816

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