

Over the Fence...

Musings from the editor

What is Winter good for? I have heard that question asked many times by people whose dispositions do not agree with the cold and quiet time of the year. Winter is a blessing in disguise. It is a time of rest and ruminating. But ruminating is such a large word. I prefer to think of it as pondering.

Something I pondered this winter, was what makes a person or organization great. A great person is a leader - someone who is able to overlook the shortcomings of those around him and yet bring those people together to work towards a common cause. A great person is caring and kind to everyone they meet, even if they are met by hostility or aggression. A great person shares their wisdom and knowledge with others. A great person freely shares of his time and energy with an organization or a person.

A great organization is filled with great people. Even though the members may not see themselves as great, the time and energy the members give to the group is invaluable.

The Pikes Peak Historical Society is truly a great organization. We are blessed with a multitude of great members. People who willingly donate their time, energy and talents towards the preservation of the history which made our corner of the world grand. If it wasn't for the members, we wouldn't have a marvelous museum or the variety of events which help to educate and entertain those from far and near.

Each and every member of our organization has a talent, a bit of knowledge or wisdom, a friendly smile or kind word to share with others. Because of the generous donations of time, energy and talents of the members, the PPHS has been able to move forward towards reaching many of its goals.

Thank you to each and every one of you for all the wonderful talents you share! May 2016 be the BEST year yet!

Jeanne Gröpp, Editor



Celinda and Harold Kaelin holding their 'Memory Quilt'

Visitor Comments

- A really fantastic FREE museum with friendly, knowledgeable docents. Especially fantastic world famous Smoky Quartz crystals
- There is a gift shop with a good selection of books on local historic topics. The best part is their mineral collection. Specimens are from the region, which is known for some of the best mineral collecting in the world. The museum has two giant smoky quartz crystals from the area, about 4 feet tall, which are truly exceptional. Definitely worth a visit!
- The museum has so many interesting things. Loved seeing the history of the area. The artifacts, giant smokey quartz and fossils were very cool.

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Calendar of Events

Wildlife Management in Teller County
Tim Kroenig, Colo. Dept. of Parks & Wildlife
Sunday, February 21, 2pm
Florissant Library

PPHS Annual Meeting
Saturday, March 19, 12:00pm
Florissant Library

Geocaching, A Modern Day Treasure Hunt
Kathy & Rudy Perry
Sunday, April 17, 2pm
Florissant Library

Isabella Bird
Christine Ford
Sunday, May 15, 2pm
Florissant Library

The Vendetta of Felipe Espinosa
Adam James Jones
Sunday, June 19, 2pm
Florissant Library

Heritage Day
* Information Pending *

Tabeguache Ute Dance
* Information pending *

PPHS Annual Volunteer Brunch
Saturday, September 18, 12:00pm
Florissant Library

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

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

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 woodespryte@gmail.com

Thank you to the following newsletter contributors –
Celinda Kaelin **Kathy Perry**
Wayne Johnston

Calendar of Events (cont.)

PPHS Christmas Party
Saturday, December 17, 12:00pm
Florissant Library

Chautauquas are a public service of the Pikes Peak Historical Society. There is no charge for admission and refreshments are served.
Chautauquas are normally held at the Florissant Library unless otherwise noted.

Looking Ahead into 2016

The 2015 Annual Fundraising Auction was held at the Lake George Charter School. This was the first time at that site and the extra room allowed more safety and versatility in the handling of the auction. We outgrew the prior site at the Florissant Library due to the enthusiasm of members and public for our Auctions. The 2015 Auction results were among the best ever, raising \$9,547! We appreciate the support given by PPHS members, local businesses and the public in achieving this feat. The new format for the auction allowed bidders to see a contents list of each lot offered before the auction and bidders appeared to favor that method.

In 2016 we will continue our programs caring for the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery, caring of the Florissant stone signs and kiosk, placing summertime flowers in the central Florissant town site, performing roadside cleanup along US 24 and caring for the main Museum and the Teacherage. We are continuing the efforts to identify and preserve the culturally modified trees of the region and we will continue our aid to the Utes for their return to this area. Our popular Chautauqua's, which attracted hundreds of attendees during the year, will continue in 2016. We started a Geo-Caching effort with the first site near the Museum and other sites are planned for historically important spots in the area. We are trying to plan for more extensive working exhibits for Florissant Heritage Day in late July.

Although there are no regular open hours for the Museum from November to March, we encourage schools, social groups, families and other visitors to contact us (719-748-3861) so we might open up especially for them. We expect to resume a weekend schedule for the Museum by the end of March. Our Museum attendance was up more than 10 percent in 2015 and the visiting public made generous donations. A new reliable computer and updated software was obtained which will greatly assist the Board. The exterior stairs, ramp and deck were stained in 2015 to preserve them. This year we will seal and restripe the parking lot to protect that asset and expect to repaint the exterior of the Teacherage Museum. A stone monument in memory of our recently deceased Ute Elder Loya Arrum was constructed and we'll be moving a fence to make it more accessible to the public.

Membership Information

The PPHS needs accurate contact information in order to notify you about new and exciting happenings.

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 the Membership Chairman, Brian Stewart, at jbcstewart@msn.com; or use the 'Contact Us' form via the website www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org. Please notify the Membership Chairman also of how you wish to receive the newsletter – email, US mail, or both.

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).

<http://www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org>

We encourage members to actively participate as Docents to help visitors enjoy the Museum or to actively join in any of our other activities. Efforts put into helping our PPHS result in a greater enjoyment of the history and background of the area, plus it is fun!

John Rakowski, President



2015 PPHS Auction Team in Action!

Loya Memorial Cairn

*** Editor's Note - The following articles first appeared in the October 2015 edition of the Ute Country News. The articles have been edited for length. The full length versions may be accessed at the Ute Country News website archives (<http://www.utecountrynews.com/archives/2015/october-2015.pdf>) ***

MEMORIAL FOR LOYA COLOROW ARRUM

by Celinda Reynolds Kaelin © 2015

Loya was a remarkable woman in so many ways. She worked as a teacher in the Uintah County School district for over 25 years. Loya and other Ute elders developed a program on Ute culture and traditions and Loya went on to become a Ute Language Immersion teacher. The Ute Dictionary which she helped develop can still be found online at

<http://www.uted.net/utelang.htm>,

and it is her lovely voice that is heard pronouncing the Ute words.

Loya attended to the ancestral spirits throughout the Pikes Peak area. In Ute tradition, the Spirits of their ancestors continue to inhabit the land and are nurtured by the ceremonies conducted by their descendants. "They will usually retreat back into the earth if you try ceremony and you are not of their blood," Loya explained. This is why ancestral lands were so sacred to her – those Spirits were hungrily waiting for their people to return to nurture them with ceremony.

Loya was featured in several documentaries: University of Utah's "We Shall Remain" and "Mystery of the Trees" (2015 Coalition of Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards). Her generous sharing of tribal teachings provided access to other Native tribes that had previously refused to disclose the cultural significance of the modified trees. The current documentary by the Mountain Stewards is narrated by Wes Studi, and prominently features Loya explaining her beloved Ute Prayer Trees.

After Loya made her Journey to the Spirit World in 2014, my husband Harold and I donated a memorial plaque, and master stone mason, Don Crites, donated his talents to build a stone cairn at the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum. These cairns are an ancient Ute tradition, and can be found all over their traditional

territory. The heart of a chief or warrior of exceptional ability was buried at arm's depth, and a stone cairn was erected above it. Whenever anyone needed help from their Spirits, they would bring a stone and place it on the cairn. Loya Colorow Arrum was a "Warrior Woman" who fought to the end.

Loya's daughter, Kerry Cesspooch, is continuing her work. If you would like to make a donation to the Loya

Arrum Memorial fund for Kerry's work, please send donations to: PPHS, P.O. Box 823, Florissant, CO 80816.

DON CRITES: MASTER STONE MASON AND CEMENT ARTIST
by Celinda Reynolds Kaelin ©2015

Florissant is fortunate to be home to at least two master creations of cement and stone masonry by master stone mason, Don Crites.

"Crites Peak," his log cabin, cum stone cave, won an award in 2009 from the American Concrete Institute. A Colorado native, Crites now spends summers in Florissant and winters in Maryland. His pioneer family settled in the Meeker area in the 1800s, and after traveling the

world for his concrete business, the spell of Colorado called Don home.

His latest creation is a stone memorial to Loya Colorow Arrum. An abandoned wellhead was an eyesore at the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum until Don transformed it. Not satisfied with just any local stone, Don drove around the county stone hunting. He finally found what he was searching for near Cripple Creek, and forged a relationship with the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mine so that he could harvest some of their abandoned ore for his project. The result is a five-foot high, gold-ore stone cairn with a brass plaque that reads: "In Loving Memory: Loya Colorow Arrum, *Tatanka Win*, 1947-2014."





2015 Christmas Potluck

Despite a minor delay by Old Man Winter, the PPHS Christmas Potluck was well attended with a bevy of delicious dishes and a hungry crowd, many of whom wore festive attire.



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



2015 Volunteer Brunch The many volunteers who tirelessly give of themselves were treated to a breakfast brunch buffet as a gesture of appreciation. We couldn't do it without you! Thank you!



Doc Susie – November Chautauqua

The November Chautauqua brought a full house to the Florissant Library. Eager ears listened as Hedy Boyce became Doc Susie and gave a rousing performance as she told of the amazing life of this early pioneer woman. Dr. Susan Anderson, more affectionately known as Doc Susie, was one of the first female doctors in the American West. Doc Susie lived in Cripple Creek prior to pursuing her medical degree at the University of Michigan. After graduation, she returned to Cripple Creek to start a medical practice. She eventually moved to Fraser, CO where she practiced medicine for 60 years and eventually became the Coroner for Grand County. Doc Susie is best known as the inspiration for the television show, 'Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman'.



Hedy Boyce is a historian, actress, and a member of the Gold Camp Victorian Society in Cripple Creek. Ms. Boyce speaks of her connection to Doc Susie, "I

have this connection with her. I can relate with her up-hill battle to be accepted as a female doctor in a man's world. I compare it to my battle to get equal treatment for flight attendants in the late 60s. There are several surprising things about Doc Susie. All had to do with her overcoming adversity. She wandered around in a dangerous world out west, however, she was an excellent marksman and always had a revolver in her doctor's bag. If she came upon wild animals or ill-intentioned men, she was capable of dealing with it. But, above all else, she accomplished a lot, including beating TB and living to the ripe old age of ninety."

Doc Susie is buried in the Cripple Creek Cemetery.



Chautauqua videos can now be seen online!

PPHS Chautauqua videos may be accessed via a link on the PPHS website or by searching YouTube for [Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum](#). Subscribe to the PPHS channel!

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 Corky or Mary Capps at 719-686-5617 to secure your future at this historic site.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Museum Docent _____

Cemetery _____

Beautification _____

Chautauqua _____

Ute Tree _____

Trails _____

Geocaching _____

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____

DATE: _____

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

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

(Fees Updated as of 7/1/2015)



Pikes Peak Historical Society
P.O. Box 823
Florissant, CO 80816

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