

## Over the Fence...

*Musings from the editor*

Change is inevitable as the saying goes. But it is not always something that many of us like to accept. Styles change. Seasons change. The weather changes. Change is something that occurs in our daily lives, even if it is on a minute scale. (*Did you change your socks today?*) Change should not be feared - for often change is for the better. We should all look upon change as a fun, exciting adventure.

This is my last newsletter as Editor. It is time for someone else to take over the keyboard and put their style, their thoughts, and their words down on paper for the membership to enjoy. As the grandchildren grow (and change) my husband and I want to enjoy them before the years fly past us and college looms in their future. That means we need to make time for them.

A new Editor is needed! It is not necessary to 'wax on eloquently' about this and that. Just have fun and be yourself. For those interested, please contact John Rakowski, 719-748-8259 or 719-748-3861.

I have greatly enjoyed compiling this newsletter for all of you. Thank you for reading it!

*Jeanne Gröpp*, Editor



**Thank you** to the following for their  
generous donations of time and materials:

§§ Allan Appelbaum	Kathy Perry	§§
Linda Applebaum	Rudy Perry	
Judd's Glass		
(new display case)		
§§		§§



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## Calendar of Events

Sasquatch Investigations of the Rockies  
**Mike Johnson**

Sunday, June 11, 2pm  
Florissant Library

Florissant Heritage Day  
Saturday, July 29, 10am-2pm  
Florissant

PPHS Annual Volunteer Brunch  
Saturday, September 16, 12:00pm  
Florissant Library

PPHS Annual Auction  
Saturday, October 21,  
Preview @12:00pm  
Auction starts @2:00pm  
Lake George Charter School Gym

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

Mining Reclamation  
**Newmont Mining Corp.**  
Sunday, November 19, 2pm  
Florissant Library

PPHS Christmas Party  
Saturday, December 16, 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**

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



## 2017 Pikes Peak Historical Society Board of Directors

John Rakowski, President

Scott Adams, Vice President  
Barbara Hickok, Secretary  
Carolynne Forster, Treasurer

Diane Burton, Board at Large  
Jeanne Gripp, Board at Large  
Wayne Johnston, Board at Large  
Brian Stewart, Board at Large

### Advisory Board:

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

**Thank you to the following newsletter contributor –  
Marge Heine (photographs)**

### 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](mailto:jbcstewart@msn.com); or use the 'Contact Us' form via the website [www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org](http://www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org). Please notify the Membership Chairman also of how you wish to receive the newsletter – email, US mail, or both.

March 1<sup>st</sup> 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>

## PPHS Annual Meeting

The Pikes Peak Historical Society Annual Meeting was held in March at the Florissant Library. President John Rakowski spoke to those who attended about what the organization had accomplished in 2016 and where 2017 will take the group. An election of members to the Board of Directors took place with only two of the four vacancies being filled. PPHS members, Barbara Hickok and Diane Burton were elected to fill two of the vacancies. Barbara Hickok volunteered to become the new PPHS Board Secretary.

Departing the Board of Directors were Allan and Linda Appelbaum along with Kathy and Rudy Perry. Thank you for your time and years of dedicated service. And for helping guide the organization to where it is today. You will be missed.

All members are encouraged to become an active part of the Pikes Peak Historical Society. You can do a little or do a lot – whatever your time allows. Volunteer to become a greeter at the museum, submit photos or stories for the newsletter, help keep the cemetery clean or become a part of one of the various committees.

## WANTED!

### Newsletter Editor

Someone is needed to take over the duties of compiling and composing the PPHS Newsletter.

Contact John Rakowski at 719-748-3861



## WANTED!

### Speakers needed for Florissant Heritage Day!

Short (20 minute) presentations will be given at the PPHS Museum beginning at 10am with the last talk at 1pm. Possible subjects – geology, mining, railroad, history, or anything to do with living in the Pikes Peak backcountry. Interested or know someone who might be?

Contact Jeanne Gripp at  
[woodespryte@gmail.com](mailto:woodespryte@gmail.com)

Mapping of the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery is currently taking place. This mapping will allow for better recognition of the graves already there as well as enable for future plots to be located with certainty.

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THANK YOU to those who helped with the Spring Cleaning at the Museum! The dust and cobwebs have been banished for another year.

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Upcoming on June 10th will be the annual Highway 24 cleanup. Let's help keep our little corner of paradise clean! For more info call 719-748-8259 or 719-748-3861

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Florissant Walking Tour maps are now available at the PPHS Museum.

### Chautauqua videos can now be seen online!

Did you miss a Chautauqua? Want to see one you attended again?

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!



## PPHS Members' Corner



Article from: Salida Mail, February 17, 1891

### NOTHING BUT COPPER.

The reported gold strike at Florissant last week created quite a little excitement. Many of the papers were taken in by the fake, and under flaring headlines told of the immense wealth discovered at Florissant. Our esteemed contemporary, the News, got a scoop on it, and devoted about a column to an account of the richest strike ever made. For a day or two Florissant enjoyed quite a boom; but the bubble burst when it was discovered that the reported gold was only shining copper. The next day after the discovery, the Denver News contained the following; The reported gold find at Florissant proves only to have been shining copper. But until a scientific analysis had been made everyone was certain that it was gold. Colorado Springs, Colorado City, Manitou and the whole Ute pass country was tremendously excited, and the public pulse beat high. The event recalls the early days when one sanguine pioneer brought a number of large gunny sacks in which to pack his gold dust, which he expected to find in the sands of Cherry Creek. It is a pity the find was not gold. What a glorious mining boom it would have started,

Article from:

Buena Vista Democrat, September 2, 1891

The Colorado Midland Railway calls attention to the new mineral district known as Cripple Creek, which has lately been discovered in the vicinity of Florissant Station on the line of its road. The developments lately made at Cripple Creek indicate that it is going to be quite an important mining district, and the mines can be reached via Florissant quicker than any other way, as the Midland has lately succeeded in getting a stage line established between Florissant and Cripple Creek. The stage leaves Florissant daily, except Sunday, about one p.m.; arrives at Florissant at eleven a.m.; fare \$ 1.00 in each direction. Twenty pounds of baggage carried free. For further information see their agent at this point.



## **PPHS Members' Corner**



Article from: **Aspen Democrat, July 30, 1913**

### **Colorado Inhabited By Race of Pigmies?**

Was this region inhabited by a race of prehistoric pigmies, when the world was still in the making and mighty glaciers covered the slopes of the Rocky Mountains? This is the question that F. H. Knowlton and Edward W. Berry, two of the foremost geologists of America, will attempt to answer by an exhaustive investigation of the fossil beds near Florissant in Ute Pass. Knowlton, whose investigations are for the Smithsonian museum, has charge of the geological work of the United States geological survey. Berry is special investigator for John Hopkins University and is known all over the world among scientific men.

Working under the auspices of the government and aided by a score of laborers, the two will delve into the fossil fields near Florissant in an effort to show the truth or falsity of the theory, advanced two years ago by Professor John F. Farnsworth, of the British museum, who, after a summer's work in the fossil beds, expressed the opinion that this region was probably inhabited by a race of diminutive pre-historic men. Farnsworth found what he was almost certain were traces of human existence, but the coming of the fall made it impossible for him to pursue his investigations further. The government geologists now propose to take up the work where it was left by the scientist.

Article from: **Fairplay Flume, February 23, 1893**

A young lady of Florissant, Miss Selma Quist, has earned for herself a reputation for good marksmanship that many old hunters might envy. While visiting recently at the ranch of W.C. Vermillon, near Lake George, her attention was one day attracted to a large wild cat, which was prowling around on the hill, about 100 yards from the house. Finally the animal perched upon the limb of a tree and the young lady concluded to try a shot at his catship. Obtaining a 50-110 Sharp's rifle from the house, she took an off-hand shot at the animal, sending a bullet fairly through his neck, killing him instantly. Miss Quist is but sixteen and of slight frame, and as the rifle was about all she could hold the shot is considered a remarkably good one, especially when the distance is taken into consideration.



Article from: **Fort Morgan Times, December 14, 1894**

### **FOUND DEAD IN A CAVE.**

Some time ago Joseph Hurtgen, a specimen hunter of this place, discovered a natural cave on Badger Mountain, ten miles west of here. Some distance back from the mouth

of the cave is a crevice in the rock going down to a depth of thirty feet, at the bottom of which are fine specimens of crystallized lime. Mr. Hurtgen placed a rope at the top of the crevice as a means of going up and down. On going to the cavern today the rope was found to be broken a short distance from the top. A new rope was procured, and on reaching the bottom he came upon the dead body of a man. He was lying in a heap, and to all appearances had been dead several days. He did not recognize the man. The coroner has been notified.



## **Drilling, Fracking, Earthquakes & Our Energy Bills**



mid-section of this country. John Rakowski worked as an exploration and exploitation geologist in the oil and gas industry for over 40 years. He is now retired and living in the Florissant area.

John Rakowski spoke to a large crowd who were in attendance for the February Chautauqua. These inquisitive people listened with rapt attention as John presented an informative presentation on fracking; what it is and how it ultimately affects us all – through our utility bill. Beginning with the history of fracking in post-Civil War times, John spoke about what fracking is and how it effects the environment. He went on to explain the association between fracking and the earthquakes which are now occurring in the

## **The Life & Times of Henry Hoder and the Wildhorn Dude Ranch**

The Wildhorn Dude Ranch has been a part of Florissant history for more than half a century. Owned and operated by the Hoder Family, the Ranch has seen everything from cowboys when it was a working cattle ranch to moonshiners and mafia shootouts during the Prohibition Era to a variety of celebrities coming to stay when it was a dude ranch. Steve Plutt, local historian, presented a fun and informative talk about the Wildhorn Dude ranch at the April Chautauqua. A large crowd filled the Florissant Library, eager to hear the rich and lively history presented. Steve Plutt knew Henry Hoder while Henry was alive and a lot of the information presented in his program came first hand from Henry himself. Steve Plutt grew up in Teller County and has had a fondness for Colorado history since he was in elementary school. For 20 years, Steve has been a member of the Park County Historic Preservation Commission. Steve and his wife, Kim, live in the Tarryall area of Park County.

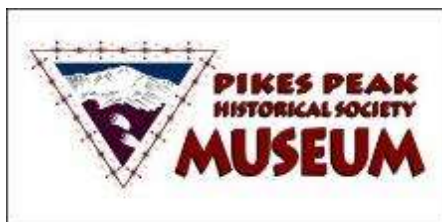


*A young Henry Hoder with the Cameron-Cadle Kalahari Expedition. 1928*

### **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 the PPHS at 719-748-8259 or John Rakowski at 719-748-3861 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 Culturally Modified Tree Committee researches and records Native American Culturally Modified 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Trees \_\_\_\_\_

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)*



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Florissant, CO 80816

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