



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

Editorially Speaking:

Spring? Already? What's Up?

Well, Okay, it's not Spring yet, but it's coming. Time to dust off and get ready for it. We have a new Chair for the Chautauqua Committee this year, Toni Ratzlaff. Welcome, Toni, and thanks for taking on this important position. And also a big Thank You! to Jeanne Gripp for all your past work on the Chautauquas! Much appreciated.

One change to the Chautauquas this year is that they will be held at the Lake George Charter School. The School is just a short drive west of Florissant, on the east side of Lake George and the south side of Highway 24. As always, help is appreciated in setting up and taking down chairs, arranging refreshments, welcoming people, cleaning up, and keeping lists of people who might want to join PPHS or just want Chautauqua information.

We had a lovely Holiday party / luncheon / meeting in December. It was fun seeing everyone. I know we don't usually put recipes in here, but the green beans were exceptional and many asked for the recipe which Debbie Orlowski was kind enough to share:

Green Bean and Bacon Casserole

2-3 (16 oz.) pkgs frozen green beans
1 lb. bacon, cooked and chopped
2/3 C packed brown sugar
1/4 C soy sauce
1 stick melted butter
1 1/2 tsp garlic powder

Place green beans in greased 9x13 dish. Sprinkle bacon on top. Combine remaining ingredi-

ents and pour on top. Bake at 350 degrees 30 min. (longer if beans are still frozen).

Thanks, Debbie, we all sure enjoyed the beans and all the other great food!

Thank you, Brian Stewart, for all you have done for PPHS over the years! Be sure to read the article on Brian on page 2. And I loved the article on The Fossil Inn on page 4: When I was a child (60 years ago?!) we would drive up the Pass every weekend for lunch. We often stopped at Val's, The Fisherman's Inn, The Fossil Inn, and other favorite restaurants along the Pass. What memories do you have of our area in years past?

Our Spring Clean Up of the Museum will be March 23 at 10:00 (snow back-up date March 30). Please come help us get the Museum ready for our summer visitors. We do our "Adopt A Highway" clean up in May or June; we need more volunteers or we may have to discontinue this service.

Be sure to attend our Annual Meeting and Potluck at 12:00 on March 16 at the Lake George Charter School. PPHS will provide the meat; please bring a side dish or dessert. We will have elections for the PPHS board and conduct other important business.

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Indispensable

Indispensable is a word Celinda Kaelin has used to describe Brian Stewart. It was my great pleasure to sit down and talk with Brian about his time serving the Pikes Peak Historical Society. There are many people who keep our society running, but Brian has been working for us since the society was called the Florissant Heritage Foundation.

Brian became involved in the mid-90s when he moved to the area from Texas. He is the kind of person who looks for ways to get involved and make the world a better place. Florissant was blessed when this kind and unassuming man became a member of our community.

With Celinda as a guide, Brian became involved and brought computer literacy to all aspects of the organization. Think of a job that is vital to the Pikes Peak Historical Society, and you will find that Brian has been an important part of it. Brian has been involved in running our auction paperwork. He solved a tremendous problem by donating his barn for storage of large auction items. He and Harold Kaelin would pick up items, and Brian would store them. Brian credits many volunteers for making the museum happen. He was one of those involved in all efforts to get our museum up and running. He has organized cemetery records and arranged burials. He developed our current system to deal with membership records and emails to provide information. He also worked with the format of the newsletter.

Brian fondly recalled exciting auctions with bidding wars and standing room only. He remembered crowded and busy Heritage Day events. He spoke of the enthusiasm of all of the volunteers pitching in to help with everything, then to now. He described the parking lot and signage for the museum as indicative of our museum being a "classy and cared for place." Imagine how exciting it was for him to be a part of it all and to keep watching our mortgage shrinking!

Unfortunately for us, Brian now feels it is time for him to slow down. He is confident that Lois Voeltz is a "bundle of energy," and that she will do a great job taking over his current duties. His wish is that more businesses will come to Florissant and that the future will find us trying new things and getting more people involved. The man who brought us into the computer age wishes more exciting changes for our future.

Brian Stewart has given a great deal to this community. His work goes beyond PPHS to include important areas such as our library system. He can rest assured that this community is a better place because he was an indispensable member of our team.

By Robyn Proper

2018 PPHS Board of Directors

John Rakowski, *President*
Scott Adams, *Vice President*
Barbara Hickok, *Secretary*
Carolynne Forster, *Treasurer*

Members at Large

Wayne Johnston, *Facebook & Website Chair*
Brian Stewart, *Membership Chair*
Lois Voeltz, *Membership*, pphsmembers@gmail.com
Jeanne Gripp, *Chautauqua Chair*
Diane Burton, *Board Member at Large*
Robyn Proper, *Board Member at Large*
Jeff McGammon, *Board Member at Large*

Other Chairs

Andy Weinzapfel, *Culturally Modified Trees Chair*
Sheila Naviasky, *Museum Docent Chair*
Kathy Perry, *Geocache Chair*

Advisory Board:

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

Newsletter Committee:

Darice Zimmermann	pphsnews@gmail.com
Robyn Proper	robynproper@gmail.com
Donna Knudten	



Brian Stewart at a Friends of the Florissant Library event. He has been active supporter of all activities in the Florissant area.

Geocaching: The Continuing Adventures of Kaelin

Kathy Perry

When we left Kaelin, he was with geocacher Hives, who took him to several states before heading to Europe for more fun. He had traveled 14,468.2 miles. On October 9, Hives said farewell to Kaelin, dropping him in the Colorado 'Explore Geocache,' placed in 2014 to celebrate 50 years of Wilderness Preservation after President LBJ signed the Wilderness Act.

On the 24th, another geocacher, Hegenor, retrieved Kaelin to take with her on a road trip to Utah. Hegenor is a geocacher from Norway who rented a campervan to go geocaching and exploring in the western part of the US. They stopped at several caches in Utah including the John Wesley Powell River History museum and the oldest cache placed in Utah as well as an earth cache relating to unique geoscience features, 'Sunnyside Rock Asphalt.' Here they learned more about this deposit of asphalt estimated to contain some 800 million tons: enough to build three 64-foot roads encircling the globe.

Hegenor and Kaelin parted ways in Longmont, Colorado, where he joined Colorado geocacher Jasperdakota, who loves to do puzzle caches. They have done over 150 together, visiting the "Land of Eccentrics" where they saw 150 welded sculptures by artist Bill Swets in a park near Ft. Collins, and learned some chemistry while doing the 'Winter Recipe Time' puzzle cache.

After Christmas, they went to Nevada where they continued working geocache puzzles, including 'The Las Vegas History Quiz' cache and several 'NV Planetary' cache puzzles. They stopped at the Clark County Heritage museum on the way to Hoover Dam, where they visited 'A Virtual Reward for a Dam Cool Dog' cache and learned about the Hoover Dam mascot who, every morning while the dam was under construction, boarded a transport and put in a full day's work along with the other workers. The workers opened a bank account for him to pay for food and his dog license, and the commissary packed a lunch for him every day which he soon learned to carry it in his mouth when he boarded the transport. At the construction site, he placed his sack with the workers' lunch pails and went about his business. When the whistle blew, the dog raced for his sack and sat patiently until someone opened it for him. Kaelin especially loved that story.

They visited another earth cache at 'Rainbow Gardens' east of Las Vegas with many beautiful exam-

ples of rock dating from the Precambrian to almost the present day. One of the most conspicuous rock formations in this area is the Rainbow Gardens Member of the Horse Spring Formation, which consists primarily of limestone and conglomerate, overlain by limestone, conglomerate, dolomite, and sandstone. These rocks were laid down in the Miocene Epoch, and are on the order of 19-26 million years old.

Another earth cache visited was the 'Frenchman Mountain Great Unconformity'. This was named by Clarence Dutton in 1882 to describe the dramatic exposures in the Inner Gorge of the Grand Canyon. This Earthcache in the Frenchman Mountain area east of Las Vegas is a more western exposure of that famous geologic feature and requires significantly less effort to visit.

They headed back to Colorado where they attended the Puzzling Workshop and Trackable Swap where they got to meet other geocachers to solve puzzles together. They are continuing to solve puzzle caches. Kaelin had no idea there were so many. He is having the time of his life with more than 250 caches visited over 19,791.5 miles. Can't wait to see what new adventures await.



The Fossil Inn

By Donna Knudten

In 1983, when my husband and I moved to Florissant, the buildings in town were much like they are today—only the occupants have changed since then.

Castello's Coffee House was a realtor's office. To the east, the current realty office housed the Post Office (with intriguing Post Boxes opened not with a key, but with a combination lock). A gift shop was connected to the Post Office. Outside was a pay phone box. It cost a quarter to place a call. Calling to Colorado Springs was long distance.

Across Highway 24, the old gas station was an antique store and it was actually open for busi-

ness! The Thunderbird specialized in burgers, as it does today. The now vacant Twin Creek Trading Company building was a restaurant: The Fossil Inn. I thought of the Fossil Inn as the "Holiday Inn" because the waitresses (yes, waitresses—they weren't referred to as waitstaff then) wore costumes during the Halloween and Christmas seasons.

The restaurant's kitchen was available, after hours, for volunteers of the Florissant Fire Department. Here they mixed eggs and pancake batter, and fried bacon and sausage for their annual fundraising Pancake Breakfast. At this time, the Fire Station was located on Teller 1.



WHAT TO DO IN FLORISSANT

Some of you may assume that we have a shortage of activities in Florissant. To you we say: "Ha!"

Just listen to this:

- 9:00 a.m. Post Office opens. And so the community's current events report begins.
- 10:00 a.m. Horses gallop across Highway 24 Monday through Saturday.
- 11:00 a.m. Tour of the new fire station to see the old fire engine.
- 12:00 High Noon — Adjust watches to the correct time.
- 1:00 p.m. Annual visitors' garbage throw.
- 2:00 p.m. Drive down main street.
- 2:01 p.m. End of drive down main street.
- 3:00 p.m. All classification strolling competition — (register strolling style before 1:30 p.m.)
- 4-6 p.m. Visit the Fossil Beds.
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner at FOSSIL INN.
- 8:30 p.m. The outdoor theatre — featuring the coyote quartet.
- 9:00 p.m. Bed down for the next exciting day.



From a post card of the Fossil Inn back in the day.



Two new businesses are in this building now—a pharmacy and a rock shop.

The Fossil Inn opened as a restaurant in the 1950s. Originally called “Val’s,” it was—YIKES—a notorious gambling establishment! How many of the folks from Colorado Springs, enjoying a day in the mountains and stopping for lunch at “Val’s,” knew that the restaurant was, when darkness descended, a gambling hall?

By the 1960s, the restaurant’s name was changed to the “Fisherman’s Inn,” and it became the “Fossil Inn” in 1975. In 1988, it was reviewed in the Colorado Springs Gazette as a “good place for breakfast.” For me, The Fossil Inn was always a GREAT place for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Sadly, the restaurant closed in 2007, but their postcard (pictured) reminds me of the Florissant I knew 36 years ago.

Meetings and Events

March 16, 12:00 pm, PPHS Annual Meeting & Potluck, Lake George Charter School

March 23, 10:00 am, Spring Clean-Up of the Museum

May or June, Adopt a Highway Clean-Up

We will have the schedule out soon for our upcoming Chautauquas; we have several fun and interesting ideas in the works. You won’t want to miss them! Save the dates:

April 14, May 19, June 23, August 18, November 17: all at 2:00, Lake George Charter School

Gee, Thanks!

We always have people and businesses to thank for their contributions to PPHS in the form of money, time, energy, materials; so:

Thanks!

Thanks to Toni Ratzlaff for volunteering to patch the tipi, and to Wayne Orlowski and Jeff Proper who will supervise and help in the set-up and take-down.

Thank you to all our wonderful docents and volunteers for all you do!

What can you do to help PPHS?

Wanted:

A couple of people to help organize Florissant Heritage Day: 27 July 2019. We have people to help advise and get you started on this.

Two or three people to help organize and run the Auction. This is an important fund-raiser for PPHS and we need your help make it a success

Amazon Smile Program

Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know that you can benefit the Pikes Peak Historical Society every time you shop? Amazon has a program to support your favorite charity: Amazon will donate 0.5% of most purchases to your chosen charity, and PPHS is now registered as participating charity. Just go to smile.amazon.com to get started, and select Pikes Peak Historical Society from the list of charities.

Membership Information

If you have questions or need to make changes to your contact information, members may call 719-748-8259 and leave a message for a call back; or call President John Rakowski at 719-748-3861; or contact Lois Voltz, Membership Chairman, at PPHSMembers@gmail.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 always looking for articles, old clippings, old photos, and story ideas for upcoming newsletters. Email the Editor with your submission. pphsnews@gmail.com
Please send us your memories of our area "back in the day."

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 \$400 are requested for a full burial, and only \$200 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 Tree Committee researches and records Native American Culturally Scarred Trees. In addition, we maintain a fund for returning representatives of the Ute tribe to their 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 ___ Cemetery ___ Chautauqua

___ Geocaching ___ Heritage Day ___ Hwy 24 Cleanup

___ Kiosk ___ Museum ___ Trails

___ Trees

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____ DATE: _____

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

OR JOIN ONLINE AT:
www.pikespeakhismuseum.org

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

(Updated 6/8/2017)



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

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