



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020

The Times They Are A-Changin'

Almost time to close up the Museum for the season . . . but wait! We never actually opened this season. So many things have been different about this year, but PPHS is still going strong. And we hope you are, too.

So, what's going on? On Saturday, September 26, we had our Highway 24 road-side clean-up. Ten volunteers came out and gathered 40 large bags of trash and numerous miscellaneous larger pieces. Great job! Thank you for making our area better.

People are still stopping by our geocaching sites, and we have a report on that elsewhere in the newsletter, plus a short update on Kaelin. If you haven't visited the PPHS sites, you might find it interesting.

There is also another installment of Kathy Perry's article about the Geocaching sites that PPHS sponsors. This one is about the Teacher-age in Florissant near the Grange, and was prepared by Celinda Kaelin.

We have had to cancel all Chautauquas this year, but we will be back next year with some great ones. And I'm certain we will all be ready to enjoy and learn from them.

There are still two items remaining on our calendar that will take place this year: Our annual auction and the Veteran's Ceremony on November 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery. The auction is even more important to us this year, as it is our only source of income with the Museum remaining closed. There is a great article about how you can participate. This year's Auction will be held on-line, and a HUGE thank-you goes out to Kathy Perry and Marianne Mogon for organizing this. Please consider

items you might donate, and be sure to participate in the auction starting October 23 through October 29.

Also please consider making an end-of-year donation to PPHS. We need your support more than ever in these difficult days.

Stay Healthy!



PPHS photo

Waiting for our return.

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Pikes Peak Historical Society

2020 On-Line Auction

by Marianne Mogon

Each fall, the Pikes Peak Historical Society holds an auction as its major fundraising event of the year. This year, due to Covid restrictions, the auction is being conducted on line. The auction will go live off the PPHS website:

<http://www.pikespeakmuseum.org>

just look for the auction icon that will take you to the auction site. Once there, everything is self-explanatory.

Donations of items for the auction can be made by emailing; auction@pikespeakmuseum.org. "We are looking for services, gift certificates, trips, guided tours, handmade quilts, craft items, artwork, and cash donations are always welcome," said Kathy Perry, one of the organizers of the event.

PPHS is among the largest non-profits in Teller County, with almost 500 members. Over 99% of the annual revenue is applied toward the museums and various programs. 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 the intersection of Teller County Roads 31 and 3 (Wildhorn). PPHS volunteers also manage the historic Florissant Pioneer Cemetery on behalf of Teller County and present free educational programs. The organization installed beautiful sandstone signs for the town of Florissant and built an informational kiosk on the east side of town. All of these programs, and more, are done without taxpayer money. They are funded completely by donations, memberships, grants, and the generosity of the citizens of Teller and Park Counties. They are an IRS qualified 501(c)(3) [FID #84-1259188] non-profit organization, incorporated and operating since 1988.

With pandemic concerns, they were unable to open their museums or offer any programs, but

the cost of upkeep continues, which is why it was decided to hold the annual auction on line.

The auction will go live on October 23 to view all items. Bidding will begin at 10:00 am on October 24 and run through October 28, ending at 7:00 pm. To access the auction, go to Pikes Peak Historical Society:

<http://www.pikespeakmuseum.org>

If anyone has something to donate or any questions regarding the auction, please email auction@pikespeakmuseum.org.

2020 PPHS Board of Directors

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| Darice Zimmermann | daricezimmermann@gmail.com |
| Robyn Proper | robynproper@gmail.com |
| Donna Knudten | |

PIKES PEAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS AUCTION 2020



Handmade Quilt



Peridot on Basalt
Matrix, Arizona



Orbicular Granite



"Hummers"

Watercolor by
local artist
Kathy Crowther

VIEW ITEMS—OCTOBER 23
BIDDING STARTS—OCTOBER 24 @ 10:00 AM
ENDS—OCTOBER 29 @ 7:00 PM



It's All About Geocaching

By Kathy Perry

PPHS Teacherage

A cache by Pikes Peak Historical Society

Hidden : 04/11/2016

N 38° 56.895 W 105° 17.670

An intact school complex that includes the original school house, teacherage, out houses and coal house.

This museum is open for Florissant Heritage Days or arrange an appointment at least 24 hours in advance contact PikesPeakHSMuseum.org or call 719-748-8259. Admission is free.

Florissant's one-room log school built by early settlers somewhere near the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery in the early 1870s could not accommodate all of the new students after the Colorado Midland Railroad arrived in town. A building fund was begun in 1886, and Frank Castello sold an acre of land to School District Number 13 for one dollar.

Florissant's little white school was built with its entryway facing south, toward the Ute Pass Wagon Road and West Twin Creek. This little room was lined with brass coat hooks on one wall and wooden shelves on the opposite wall. These shelves were used by students to store their lunch buckets, made from a half-gallon size lard or syrup pail. Most lunches consisted of a

jelly sandwich, or perhaps a fried egg sandwich, placed on thick slices of homemade bread or biscuits. It wasn't unusual to find that the bread had frozen while sitting in the anteroom, and had to be toasted on the top of the pot-bellied stove. These sandwiches were washed down by cold spring water, brought up from the creek and shared from a common dipper.

With the addition to the school in 1889, Florissant loosened its purse strings for an embellishment—a large bell tower with a Queen Ann-style turret. This school bell was essential to the life of the Florissant community. It not only called the children to school, but also rang in case of any emergency, especially fire. Somewhere around this time, the school district also added a shack for storing coal out behind the schoolhouse. This shack was later used in the early 1900s as a cook shack when hot meals were served to the children. A teacher's residence was also added in the early 1900s. All of these buildings, including the school, were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. In 1960, the Florissant School was shut down and the teacherage was moved to Woodland Park. Then, in 1993, the Florissant Heritage Foundation was awarded a grant to restore the old school. The teacherage was returned to its original location, and restored with donations and is now the Florissant Schoolhouse Museum. (In 2001, The Florissant Heritage Foundation changed its name to the Pikes Peak Historical Society.)]

TAVA - Rising majestically above the Florissant Valley in the east is TAVA, the Ute name for Pikes Peak, which means "Sun" in their Uto-Aztec language. The Spanish were the first Europeans to document Pikes Peak, and their chronicles refer to it as "El Capitan" or "Chief." This naming probably came from Ute informants. However, in the Ute dialect of the Aztec language, the words for Sun and Chief are interchangeable, therefore they found no discrepancy between these two names. The ancestral Ute who





first frequented the Pikes Peak region called themselves the “Tabeguache.” When John Wesley Powell lived among the Utes in 1868-69, they taught him that in their culture they identified themselves as “belonging to the earth” at specific places. Therefore, the band name “Tabeguache” means the “People of Sun Mountain.”

Pikes Peak is a sacred mountain to the Ute People. Not only do their creation legends refer to Tava, but archaeological and cultural evidence also document it as central to Ute spiritual and ceremonial use. Amazonite crystals were gathered by their poowagut (holy men and women) from Crystal Peak and taken to Pikes Peak to be blessed in ceremony. Each summer, a Sundance Ceremony was held on Pikes Peak. Even today, the Ute People still follow this tradition.

UTE TRAIL TO DENVER On the east side of the School House Museum is County Road #3, which was originally a Ute lodge-pole trail leading to Crystal Peak, and then on to Denver. A special Ute agency was established in Denver to accommodate the Northern Utes.

Chief Piah was the traditional chief of these “Denver” Utes. He was the brother of Chipeta, and after his wife died, she and her husband Ouray adopted all of his children. Ouray was the traditional chief of the Tabeguache Band of Ute, and the U.S. Government named him as chief of all the Ute. This was a violation of Ute tradition, but made it easier for the government to negotiate treaties. Piah frequently visited Ouray’s camp to see his sister and his children. Florissant’s main street, now Highway 24, was originally named “Piah Street.”

West of the kiosk is a rocky hilltop that holds

the remains of a Ute stone fort. Ute scouts were posted here to prevent enemies from encroaching on their territory. This is called Fortification Hill, and on its eastern base the open meadow is a Ute battlefield. Famous mountain man Kit Carson witnessed a battle between the Ute Indians and the Comanche at this site in 1852.

Geocaching Update

Travel Bug Kaelin is still sheltering in place in Germany since March 22, 2020.

Since the last report on June 18, 2020, the geocaches have been found 49 times. Following are some comments by people enjoying our PPHS geocaches. Several mentioned they were sorry the museum was not open. We are too!

Museum: “Beautiful museum.” “We were sorry that the Museum was closed. We loved reading the descriptions on each of the caches put out by your group. Thanks for the fun and education.”

Twin Creek Ranch: “Kit Carson! He is one of my favorite historical characters. I love the detail you put in the cache descriptions. Thanks.”

Geology 101: “Nice geology lesson.”

Ute War Trail: “We just finished James Michener’s “Centennial” which mentions the Colorado Utes and their various wars. It was nice to touch that history.”

Cemetery: “Thanks for the history lesson of the area. Beautiful cemetery.”

2020 Calendar of Events

Pikes Peak Historical Society

PPHS Annual Auction--ON-LINE

Viewing begins October 23, with the auction running October 24-29, closing at 7:00 pm MDT

Veterans Day Ceremony

Wednesday, November 11, 10:30 am Florissant Pioneer Cemetery

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 Lois Voeltz for organizing our old data records at the Museum.

Thanks to Carolynne Forster setting up the New Ute Display and to Robyn Proper for tracking down the cabinet.

Thank you to Wayne Orlowski for his grass cutting and upkeep at the Museum, Kiosk, and Florissant stone signs.

Thanks to Kathy Perry and Marianne Magon for organizing our on-line auction.

And a big THANKS to all our volunteers who continue to support PPSH and our Museum through these difficult times.

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 Voeltz, Membership Chairman, at PPHSMembers@gmail.com; or use the 'Contact Us' form via the website:

www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org

Memberships may be renewed either online through the PPHS website using PayPal or via the U.S. mail (PO Box 823, Florissant, CO 80816).

Remember you have the option of receiving your Newsletter by email or regular mail.

ATTENTION! The Editor is always looking for articles, old clippings, old photos, and story ideas for upcoming newsletters. Email the Editor with your submission. daricezimmermann@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. 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

COMMITTEE INTERESTS

Sustaining \$20/year

Auction

Beautification

Cemetery

Family \$30/year

Geocaching

Hwy 24 Cleanup

Museum

Supporting \$50/year

Refreshments for Chautauqua

Castello Life \$200

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 02/14/2020)



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

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