



# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021

## Summertime! And the Living is Easy?

Things are starting to get back to normal. The Museum is open to visitors and there are more activities in our community. We do have plans underway for the annual Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, and we will have our annual auction (on line) in October.

The Museum is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Fewer hours than previous years, but a huge improvement over last year. Sheila Naviasky is doing her usual great job of scheduling and organizing all the volunteers who keep our Museum open and running smoothly. If you are interested in becoming a docent and volunteering at our Museum, contact Sheila at (719)748-0102 or sheilan@mesanetworks.net.

We are trying something new this year. The Pikes Peak Historical Society will be joining with the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club to host a joint lapidary show on the west side of the Museum on July 31. Read more about it on page 3. We have always had close ties with the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club, and this should be a fun joint venture.

THANKS to John Rakowski and Scott Adams for placing a new informational sign at our Florissant Pioneer Cemetery. We appreciate your diligent work!

Please think about volunteering to help with any of our planned events. As always, we need you and your support for PPHS.

In the meantime, get out and enjoy this beautiful place we live in. Try geocaching, visit the cemetery, walk through the Fossil Beds, visit your friends and neighbors. Enjoy Colorado.



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# Pikes Peak Historical Society

## Geocaching Update

By Kathy Perry

Some good news and not such good news.

We had to archive the War Trail geocache after it was stolen again (fourth time). We were sorry to stop this one since it was really popular.

Also, an update on Travel Bug Kaelin—as of February this year, he was not spotted in the cache that he'd been in during the Pandemic. Not sure if he will show up in the future.

We have had geocachers finding and enjoying the caches. Total finds to date are 1,193 with 114 favorite points awarded by geocachers. I have included some of the recent comments. People have continued to learn some of our history and have enjoyed the geocache series.

Rudy and I have checked all the remaining caches to do maintenance and all are in order ready for the season.

### Museum

Thanks for another great find and history lesson!

Thank you!!!! A great find, especially for kids. This entire series is top notch!

Visiting the area from the Pacific Northwest! Enjoyed logging many caches today on our journey to and from Pike's Peak. This cache series gave some nice quick history about this area.

### Twin Creek Ranch

A pretty easy find. I always love the PPHS caches, so much history.

### War Trail

Wonderful. Easily a personal favorite. It's so cool to know that a random turn off on a highway could have such a rich history.

### Cemetery

We read about all the people who started Florissant. It was interesting to see the headstones and know what the people did.

I read them the descriptions and we talked about life back then.

Solved the puzzle and loved the cache! Certainly deserves a favorite from me.

Thanks for the fun!

### 2020 PPHS Board of Directors

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Robyn Proper	robynproper@gmail.com
Donna Knudten	

# What's Happening at the Museum?

## Tipis, Visitors, and Gems

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The tipi cover was finally placed on the tipi poles at the museum. The installation was delayed due to splits in the seams of the tipi canvas and torn smoke flaps. Rick Favinger used his heavy duty sewing machine and with the help of Andy & Susan Weinzapfel and John Rakowski the areas were sewn up. The smoke flap area was reinforced with leather. Then Leroy Trusty, John Kurth, Susan & Andy Weinzapfel and John Rakowski got the canvas cover onto the tipi poles. The tipi is a great attention grabber for the museum.



We have opened the Museum for the summer and are welcoming visitors. Not surprisingly, our numbers (and gift shop sales) are down from previous years . . . but well above those for last year when we had to remain closed. A big thanks to Elaine Godsoe, Doris Kneuer, John Kurth, Mary Mavon, Jeff McCammon, Betty Merchant, Kathleen Moriarty, Robyn Proper, and Scott Adams for getting our Museum all spruced up and ready for visitors and to all our docent volunteers for keeping it open to visitors this summer.

And do plan to attend the special Lapidary Presentation hosted by the Pikes Peak Historical Society on the west side of the Museum on Saturday, July 31st from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

### PIKES PEAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTS A LAPIDARY PRESENTATION

By: Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

**JULY 31ST - 10AM TO 2PM**  
**AT THE MUSEUM - 18033 CR 1, FLORISSANT**

The display will feature several diamond bladed saws cutting flat slabs from rough material as well as units used to grind pieces from those slabs into the curved top gems called cabochons. Then there will be displays of wire wrapping the cabochons into rings, earrings or other finished jewelry.



# The Shack

By Jerry McLain

A previous Newsletter contained an article featuring the Fossil Inn and other buildings in downtown Florissant. Here is another piece of the history of the quirky building at the corner of Highway 24 and Teller 1.

In the early 1970s Sandy and Laura Sanborn bought the building and opened a restaurant called "The Shack." A handful of Sanborn Camp staff helped renovate the structure and created a popular eatery and gift shop at the crossroads of western Teller County.

The previous business had been known as "The Fishing Shack," featuring equipment and licenses for local sportsmen, a blue ceiling with glowing stars, a bamboo bar, and exquisite chrome-plastic furniture. It catered to folks who were headed for Eleven Mile Reservoir, Lake George, and the highly regarded rivers and creeks in the area to fish.

The building started as retired Trolley Car #71, which had been hauled up Ute Pass from Pueblo in the late '30s and operated as a restaurant known as the Sidetrack Inn. During the 1950s the sign on the building said, "VAL'S TAVERN, Good Food, Bar, Dancing and Liquor Store."

By the time the Sanborns acquired the building, rooms had been added to the original trolley car through the years and there were 15 rooms, including a photography lab and a creepy cellar full of cobwebs. At the east end was a two-room living quarters with a bathtub in the hallway.

A demolition crew of Joan Wallace, Tina Moschetti, and Mike Rummerfield had a great time knocking holes in the sheetrock and tearing out some of the walls. Mike was especially talented in creating decorative walls and counters of silvered weathered corral wood from the Walter Witcher Ranch on the Sanborn Camp property.

Joined by Mike Roselius, the crew unearthed

the dome of the trolley car by removing layers of paint from the original mahogany and brass, crafting the stained glass windows, and mounting velvet fabric on the curved ceiling above the windows.

Local brothers Pete and Bill Heisler, who built many of the buildings of the new girls camp at Sanborn, rearranged the walls to create a large and a small dining room, installed modern restrooms, and opened up two rooms that became the gift shop.

Jane and Laura Sanborn wallpapered the restrooms and entryway. Patterned brick floors, sun snatching skylights, and collages of historic relics gave The Shack a truly unique atmosphere.

THIS YEAR'S EDITION  
Circa 1974-1975

RESTAURANT  
COCKTAILS  
GIFTS  
ART & CRAFTS

THE  
SHACK

P.O. BOX 167  
FLORISSANT  
COLORADO 80816  
748-3322

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EDITOR IN CHIEF  
J. Rabney

SILENT PARTNERS  
G. B. Post

HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
By George B. By Gaily

FOOD EDITOR  
Cliff LaJaque

## YES, VIRGINIA, IT'S A TROLLEY CAR!

**DINNER at THE SHACK**

Dinners served with:  
Assorted Relish Tray  
Homemade Soup or Chilled Juice  
Tossed Green Salad  
Baked Potato or Curry Fries or Green Beans Almandine  
Basket of Homemade Rolls

<b>FROM OUR CHARBROILER:</b>	
<b>TOP SIRLOIN STEAK</b>	
Belle Cut (6 oz.)	4.75
Wrangler Cut (10 oz.)	5.75
Cattlemen Cut (12 oz.)	6.50
Western Cut (16 oz.)	7.00
<b>BEEF KABOB on a skewer</b> ..... 4.50	
beef, tomato, green pepper, onion and mushrooms served on a bed of mixed rice	
<b>FILET MIGNON</b> wrapped in bacon	6.50
<b>CHOPPED SIRLOIN</b>	3.00
<b>FROM THE SEA</b>	
Deep-fried GOURMET SHRIMP	4.75
Pan-fried ROCKY MOUNTAIN TROUT	3.95
<b>THE SHACK SPECIALTY:</b>	
Belle Cut SIRLOIN STEAK and SHRIMP	6.25
<b>SHACK PLATE:</b>	
Charbroiled SHACKBURGER served with curly fries and soup	2.25
<b>A LA CARTE DESSERTS</b>	
Homebaked Pies	.60
Cream Pies	.65
Ice Cream	.30
A La Mode	.75
Wine Sundae	.50
<b>BEVERAGES:</b> ..... .25	
Coffee	Milk
Tea	Lemonade
	Coke
	7-Up
	Pepsi
	Squirt
	Dr. Pepper
Ask your waitress for Our Children's Menu No Substitution, Please	

Welcome to The Shack. While you are waiting for your meal to be prepared, you might enjoy reading about your unique surroundings.

Chowday in many opinions, the main dining room is not General Faber's vintage railroad car, nor is it a replica of the Grand Saloon of the SS Trolley. It is a trolley car which began its career running up and down the streets of Pueblo, Colorado. Around the turn of the century, trolley cars came as this one provided clean, reliable and speedy transportation to many Colorado cities.

You may want to spend a few minutes examining the handsome natural wood interior from several seats of oak, the heavy little windows, and the handy buttons used to signal the conductor for the next stop.

Over the years various owners added rooms to the original trolley car until in the 1960's the complex had grown to fifteen rooms and a cellar full of cobwebs. The kitchen was a photography lab and the far east room was a two room living quarters with a bathtub in the hallway.

The struggling little business was known as the Fishing Shack featuring equipment for local sportsmen, a blue ceiling with glowing stars, bamboo bar and exquisite chrome-plastic furniture.

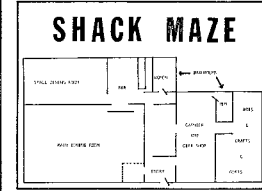
In 1971 rejuvenating the Shack was begun in earnest. Partitions were removed, windows were cleaned, and rooms of wood paneled floors and many owners were removed. Weathered barnwood from aged ranches went on the walls. Local craftsmen revived the set of stained glass windows and Paul Hathaway, a Woodland Park sculptor, designed a giant ballfish for the roof.

From patterned brick floors to sun snatching skylights, from collages of historical relics to period walkover seats, the new Shack emerged—luscious a collage of interesting effects.

Find someone to suggest the building and enjoy the myriad museum of light and color, inclusive pieces that don't fit, fine craftsmanlike—historical irony and evocative beauty.

**JUDGE LAUNCHED TOWN**

The town of Florissant came into being in 1828 when Judge James Cassette established the The Trading Post. He named the village Florissant after his home town of Florissant, Missouri.



**CONSULT OUR WINE LIST on the other side of this paper.**

Setting up the kitchen at the west end of the building was a challenge in itself. Pete and Bill and a crew of staff from the boys camp had to dismantle part of the outside wall to get the stove moved in.

Atop the roof (the massive façade was added later) was a six-foot metal buffalo sculpture designed by Paul Hathaway, a Woodland Park artist friend of Sandy and Laura. The iconic piece titled "Survivor" was later purchased by the Fine Arts Center in Colorado Springs and is now permanently displayed in front of their building.

The main cook was Margaret McCutchan Heisler, who grilled excellent steaks (\$4.75–\$7.00), Shackburgers (\$2.25), and steak and shrimp (\$6.25). Margaret and Cheryl Priestly Fuqua Conley were famous for their home baked pies (\$.60). (Margaret and Pete Heisler were married in 1978 at ages 67 and 69!) The Shack gradually became a "destination restaurant," especially after Sandy managed to acquire one of the first machines to make curly fries, which were cutting-edge at the time.

The east end of the building became a popular gift shop, managed by Betty McLain, featuring local crafts, Christmas ornaments and pine cone wreaths, macramé, stained glass, decoupage art, and candles.

Camp staff members could be found at the grill (waiting tables and tending the bar)—often after a full day working at camp, getting bales of hay into the barn, or teaching classes in the outdoor education program.

It was fun for a while, but in the long run Sandy, Laura and the supporting staff didn't really want to be in the restaurant business. The Shack was sold in 1975 and became "The Fossil Inn."

The new owners built a high profile roof on the squatty building and made it much more visible. It continued to attract diners for many years and finally closed in 2007.

The building recently housed a "flea market" store and now is home to Rocky Mountain Motor Sports.



*This marvellous buffalo sculpture now residing at the Fine Arts Center in Colorado Springs once adorned the roof of The Shack. It was designed by Woodland Park artist Paul Hathaway and welcomed guests to The Shack.*

## 2021 Calendar of Events

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### Pikes Peak Historical Society

#### **Chautauquas:**

We'll see what we can do.

#### **PPHS/Lake George Gem & Mineral Club**

We will be hosting a joint Lapidary Presentation on the west side of the Museum on Saturday, July 31, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

#### **PPHS Annual Auction**

Will be held, in October. This will again be an on-line event. Please consider helping out and donating items this year.

#### **Veterans Day Ceremony**

Thursday, 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 Rick Favinger, Andy and Susan Weinzapfel, Leroy Trusty, John Kurth and John Rakowski for getting our tipi repaired and ready for the season.

Thanks to Sheila Naviasky for continuing to organize volunteers to keep the Museum open and going.

Thanks to John Rakowski and Scott Adams for getting the new information sign up at the Cemetery.

A big thanks to Elaine Godsoe, Doris Kneuer, John Kurth, Mary Mavon, Jeff McCammon, Betty Merchant, Kathleen Moriarty, Robyn Proper, and Scott Adams for getting our Museum all spruced up and ready for visitors

And a big THANKS to all our volunteers who continue to support PPHS 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](http://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](mailto:PPHSMembers@gmail.com); or use the 'Contact Us' form via the website:

[www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org](http://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](mailto: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

Sustaining . . . . . \$20/year

Family . . . . . \$30/year

Supporting . . . . . \$50/year

Castello Life . . . . . \$200

### COMMITTEE INTERESTS

Auction  Beautification  Cemetery

Geocaching  Hwy 24 Cleanup  Museum

Refreshments for Chautauqua

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

OR JOIN ONLINE AT:  
[www.pikespeakhismuseum.org](http://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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