



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

A New Year! A New Normal?

I don't know about you, but I'm not seeing that "New Normal" yet. But I have hopes. We made it through 2020 . . . finally. I thought that year was never going to end. But what's ahead for us in 2021? And what were we able to do in 2020?

We weren't able to have any Chautauquas last year, and there are none scheduled for this year yet. Right now we are still waiting to see what the covid restrictions will be and what we will be able to do. But we are hopeful. And we will get any information to you as soon as we are able to.

Breaking News . . .

We are scheduling dates for a Museum Clean-Up, looking to open the Museum on a limited basis in May. See more details on page 5. When the Museum does reopen we will have a fun new exhibit; you can read about it on page 3.

People are still stopping by our geocaching sites. That is something you can easily do while maintaining social distancing, and it seems like a lot of people tried to get out and enjoy our incredible Colorado outdoors during 2020. If you haven't visited the PPHS sites, you might find it interesting. There is another installment of Kathy Perry's article about the Geocaching sites that PPHS sponsors, as well as an update on Kaelin, starting on page 4.

Our annual auction and the Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery did both take place in 2020. We had 25 persons, socially distanced, at the Veteran's Day Ceremony, and you can read about our successful on-line Auction on page 2. A HUGE thank-you goes out to Kathy Perry, Marianne Mogon, and John Rakowski for organizing this.

Your Pikes Peak Historical Society is still alive and well, and we always need your support and help to stay that way. We hope we can all get together and start finding that New Normal this year.

Stay Healthy!



PPHS photo

Waiting for our return.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 A New Year! A New Normal?
- 2 2020 Online Auction; Board of Directors
- 3 Dad's Indian Things
- 4 It's All About Geocaching
- 5 Somethings Coming; 2020 Calendar of Events
- 6 Membership Info; Thanks!; Amazon Smile; Florissant Pioneer Cemetery Info
- 7 Membership Form

Pikes Peak Historical Society

2020 On-Line Auction

WooHoo! Our 2020 On-Line Auction was a success. This year we made \$7,577.43 with minimal expenses. As with so many events in these odd and difficult times, we had to try something different . . . and the 2020 Auction was held on-line rather than in person. Huge thanks to Kathy Perry, Marianne Mogon, and John Rakowski for figuring it all out and making it work. Lois Voeltz, Wayne Johnston, and Robyn Proper also contributed greatly in making our auction a success.

As you know, PPHS is among the largest non-profits in Teller County, with almost 500 members, and we own and operate two museums: The Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum and the Schoolhouse Museum. PPHS volunteers also manage the historic Florissant Pioneer Cemetery on behalf of Teller County and present free educational programs. 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.

The pandemic restrictions kept us from opening the museums or offering our other programs in 2020, but the expenses continue. The money from the Auction will go a long ways toward keeping our heads above water until our normal operations can resume. A big thanks to all who participated.



2020 PPHS Board of Directors

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

Members at Large

Lois Voeltz, *Membership Chair*
Diane Burton, *Board Member at Large*
Robyn Proper, *Board Member at Large*
Jeff McCammon, *Board Member at Large*

Other Chairs

Wayne Johnston, *Facebook & Website Chair*
Marianne Mogon, *Chautauqua Chair*
Sheila Naviasky, *Museum Docent Chair*
Kathy Perry, *Geocache Chair*

Advisory Board:

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

Newsletter Committee:

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



A New Exhibit for The Ute Room: Dad's Indian Things

ByCarolynne Cummings Forster

When our PPHS museum re-opens there will be a new exhibit to enjoy! My thanks to Board Members Robyn Proper and her husband Jeff, who found and transported the perfect sized display case; John Rakowski, who got the case in place and wired the light system; and Lois Voeltz, who assisted with creative placement of items and their descriptions. I'm also grateful to Celinda Kaelin for sharing her knowledge of these items and encouraging me to share them, and my Dad's story. I feel confident my Father would approve of his beloved collection being appreciated by a larger audience than just his family. And I'm grateful to PPHS for providing a safe home for "Dad's Indian Things" – as they were called in his will to me.

Frank L. Cummings was born on the Ute Reservation in White Rocks, UT in January of 1918. His mother, Anna, was Ute, and his father, Owen, was Scottish. He had a rough time as a half-breed, as neither the Catholic side nor the Native American side either accepted or embraced him. His father died of TB when my Dad was only eight, and his mother struggled. He was proficient at hunting and fishing at an early age, helping to feed his family, but also finding in nature the peace he longed for. His childhood was mostly friendless, so he'd entertain himself outdoors. A favorite activity was climbing the steep red rock cliffs, taking off his shirt and lying motionless—until the turkey vultures would swoop down to investigate. He delighted in jumping up and startling the big birds!

I grew up in Denver but spent summers at our little cabin in Alma. I was outside hiking and exploring those mountains from after breakfast until dinnertime! My Dad and I walked miles together with our dogs, and he'd tell me the names of plants and what they were used

for. He showed me how to move carefully and observe what was going on around us.

I don't know the whole history of the beautiful artifacts in the new display case—oh to be able to have one more day with him and ask all my questions! But I hope you will enjoy looking at them and know that they exist together today because they were collected and cared for by a very special man.



Cummings made the ceremonial pipe and stone ward club as educational items for his Boy Scout Troops. Other items in the new display case include arrowheads, a coup stick, baskets, pottery, many beaded items, clothing, jewelry, ceremonial items, and other authentic Ute items.

It's All About Geocaching

By Kathy Perry

PPHS View of Crystal Peak

A cache by Pikes Peak Historical Society

Hidden : 05/29/2016

N 38° 56.390 W 105° 20.035

All of the Pikes Peak region was the ancestral land of the Tabeguache Band of Ute Indians. If you look to the north/northeast, you will see Crystal Peak, the pyramid-shaped peak. Ute Indians made pilgrimages to this peak to collect its crystals of topaz, smoky quartz and amazonite. It is one of the best places in the world where amazonite crystals can be found. Another site is near the Amazon River, in Brazil, and is the origin of this mineral's name.

Ute Indians considered these crystals to be very sacred. After collecting these crystals, they continued their pilgrimage to Pikes Peak where the crystals were blessed in a Vision Quest on its summit. Culturally scarred trees, called Prayer Trees, mark the route of this pilgrimage. By the early 1870s, miners flocked to the Crystal Peak area to collect smoky quartz. There, they encountered what the Indians already were well aware of: exceptionally beautiful amazonite crystals growing with smoky quartz, often together in the same pockets. Today, the ama-



Crystal Peak from Beaver Pond.

zonite crystals from Crystal Peak are generally considered the best in the world. Smoky quartz crystals there can grow to some of the largest in North America. Crystal Peak is privately owned, and trespassers are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Wildhorn / CR3 passed by Crystal Peak and was one of the lodge pole trails to Denver. Lodge Pole Trails were wide enough for a horse pulling a travois, and were used when the villages were changing location.

Geocaching Update

Travel Bug Kaelin is still sheltering in place in Germany since March 22, 2020. Germany is a nice place to be, but he has also been daydreaming about his past travels and hoping he can get moving again soon. He agrees with all of us that it will be great to get back to normal.

Since the last report in our Fall Newsletter, the geocaches have been found 43 times. As always, visitors have been very complimentary of our caches. People are still able to do this fun activity through the restrictions of covid, and the visits will probably increase with the coming good weather. If you haven't tried geocaching yet, now may be the time.

Where might I go next?



Some things Coming

Finally things are beginning to open a little more, and we are planning clean-up days at the Museum. In order to maintain social distancing, we are going to spread the clean-up over two days (plus there's a lot to do after having been closed since November 2019) and hope to have about 5 volunteers working each day. We have scheduled Friday and Saturday, April 16 & 17, for this, with April 23-24 as back-up dates in case of bad weather, and plan to work from noon to 3:00 pm each day. Contact Sheila Naviasky to schedule.

As a rough schedule, on Friday we plan to do general vacuuming and dusting, clean the blinds and the tile entry area, do a thorough cleaning of the bathrooms and a pumice cleaning of the toilets, and clean up the flower beds outside. On Saturday we will do a good cleaning and neatening of the Research Room and get the refrigerator cleaned out and back on. Then we will concentrate on the display cabinets and glass windows and dividers, cleaning all glass and plastic and scraping off tape and the like. Outside, we will focus on new signs for the outdoor exhibits, stabilizing the metal on the wood pipe, clearing out the storage shed and getting all the junk to the dump.

Later in April or in May, we plan to paint the chuckwagon and buckboard and install a replacement outdoor Museum sign.

After that we are hoping to try a trial opening of the Museum, starting with weekends in May. It will be great to be back! Again, please contact Sheila with days you will be willing to work.

What else?

Well the annual Memorial and Veterans Day Ceremonies are pretty much a certainty on May 31 and November 11, and we expect to have our annual auction in October, whether virtual or live.

We will be 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 in the Museum parking lot, perhaps in July. We have always had close ties with the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club, and this should be a fun joint venture.

Don't know about Chautauquas yet. The Lake George Charter School, which has been such a great venue for us, is still closed to anything other than actual classes. We will just have to wait and see what the year brings for that.

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

Coming in the next Newsletter

Two years ago we had an article featuring the Fossil Inn and other buildings in downtown Florissant. In our next issue you can look forward to a fun article about the Shack, a previous incarnation of the Fossil Inn.

2021 Calendar of Events

Pikes Peak Historical Society

Chautauquas:

We'll see what we can do.

Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 31, 10:30 am, Florissant Pioneer Cemetery

PPHS/Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

We are trying for a joint lapidary show in the parking lot perhaps in July.

PPHS Annual Auction

Will be held, most likely in October. Please consider helping out and donating items this year.

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 all who participated (by donating or purchasing items or otherwise helping out) in our Annual Auction to benefit the Pikes Peak Historical Society and our Museum.

Special Thanks to Kathy Perry, Marianne Mogon, and John Rakowski who creatively made the auction work in this very strange year.

Thanks to Park State Bank and Trust for a generous \$2000 donation.

Thanks to any of you who made an end-of-year contribution to PPHS.

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

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

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

BULK RATE
US Postage
PAID
Permit No.
00000

Addressee or Current Resident