

Full hearts, busy schedules

A special gratitude edition



It is the time of year for the leaves (and for some, our neighbors) to change. Not forever but just for the seasons ahead. While I am always sad to see the flowers go, I'm always reminded of the growth ahead by the seeds they put out.

This newsletter was a joy to write because it is full of some exciting events, a lovely family connection, and a recap of my first volunteer appreciation luncheon.

If you haven't had the chance to check out the updates at the teacherage, you absolutely should.

At Florissant days I saw many people making use of the new ramp that was installed and heard many compliments overall.

As always, please feel encouraged to send me an email with any thoughts you have on the newsletter. If there's anything you have wondered about, surely we can find the person who has the knowledge to share. I can't wait to hear your thoughts!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Community Happenings
- 3 A Florissant Family
- 5 Gee, Thanks!

Community Happenings

November

November 11, 11:00am

Florissant Pioneer Cemetery
Veteran's Day Memorial

November 19, 2:00 pm

Lake George Charter School
Chautauqua:

Pikes Peak Historical Society presents Gary Ziegler, broadly defined as an explorer, archaeologist, mountaineer, sailor, cowboy, lawman, and sometimes philosopher at their November Chautauqua. Ziegler is a field archaeologist, researcher, and experienced Andean explorer with a background in geology.

His father was one of the organizers of the first Pikes Peak Marathon and Ziegler ran it at 14 years old. During the 50 Year Anniversary in 2005, he ran it as a guest of honor. "I was the only one they could find alive who had run the Peak in the early years," he quipped.

While he attended Colorado College with a break for the Peace Corps in South America, his parents had built their small mining company, Ziegler Mining and Minerals, into a successful operation. They assembled exceptional personal collections of Colorado crystals and minerals and supplied specimens to collectors and museums around the world.

"Looking for calmer places and a new direction, I saw an ad for a place for sale near Westcliffe which looked appealing. It turned out to be three hundred fifty acres and a group of run-down, abandoned buildings," he explained.

He purchased Bear Basin Ranch in 1970; learned the art of horse trading, purchased more property around the ranch, began Outfitting, Guiding, and Outdoor Recreation, created Arkansas River Tours, became a member of Peak Range Riders, did some rodeo, and became a recognized Inca specialist.

During the summer of 1980, he met his wife-to-be, Amy Finger. She stopped in for a ride, applied for a job, and never left. "I admit it took a few nights with my old Gibson guitar and campfire romancing to close the deal," he said.

Ziegler has done Filming work with the Discovery Channel, BBC, History, and Science Channels along with funding from National Geographic and the Royal Geographical Society of London. And as John Rakowski, President of PPHS said, "You really have to meet this guy." Ziegler will present a summary of his observations of indigenous human-created structures in the Peruvian Andes and in Colorado. He will also address Incan features near Machu Picchu as well as interpret Native American-created features in Colorado.

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A Florissant Family

By Robyn Proper



As you drive Highway 24 into Florissant from Lake George, to the right you can see structures and outbuildings that represent the remains of the hundreds of acres that once belonged to Ervin Clark and his descendants. Ervin came to Florissant in the late 1880s. He and his family members were ranchers and farmers who helped to develop this area.

Julia Elizabeth Clark was born to Ervin and his wife in 1893. Julia's granddaughter, Cindy Domenico, was in our Schoolhouse Museum on Heritage Day looking for the names of her ancestors in our rosters for the Florissant School. Cindy found the name of her mother, Helen Honey, on one of the school rosters from the 1930s. Julia Clark had married a cattle rancher named Fred Honey. Their daughter, Helen, was born in 1920. Helen rode her horse to the Florissant School until the family moved to Boulder when she was 16.



Cindy Domenico describes her grandmother, Julia Clark Honey, as a real rockhound. Cindy remembers hunting for smoky quartz crystals and fossils on visits to Florissant. She has great memories of visiting in the summers with her mother and grandmother. Cindy believes her grandmother was very happy when the fossil-rich land of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument became protected through legislation. The family members would also visit the Florissant Cemetery to care for the graves of Ervin and Idella Clark and James Honey, Fred's father.



Cindy feels tied to this land and tells about pictures of the stumps and boxes of ribbons awarded for successful crops from the crop expo part of county fairs in the past. She has collected items related to her ancestors and has wonderful stories about the many strong women in her family.



The Schoolhouse Museum, the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum, and the Florissant Cemetery all contain pieces of the puzzle and displays which include Cindy's family. Tracing family history can be complicated, and there are many more stories to tell. The Pikes Peak Historical Society members are proud to be the custodians of the places and information related to the past of this beautiful area.

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.

Gee, Thanks!

There are many things that make our organization and our museum unique. The location, the content, but what makes us stand out are our people. We have a spectacular membership of wonderful people that help sustain our organization and we have an outstanding group of volunteers. Truly our volunteers are unlike any others in the area and we are so very fortunate.

For the first time in a few years, we held a volunteer appreciation luncheon. There were tasty treats, plenty of laughs, and John took the time to say a few things. While I don't have a perfect transcription of what he said, I tried to get close. It made me so proud to be part of this organization, and I hope that reading it gives you a similar feeling.

Our volunteers. That's what makes this organization run, you can talk to people with other organizations through the coalition, and they'll tell you that they have a tremendous problem keeping their museums open, even though they can pay people to come in and act as docents. We're unable to do that, but we have a better number of open times than many of the other museums in the Pikes Peak region. And it is because of the docents here. (and the efforts of Sheila to get everyone coordinated). Sheila has been doing such a great job keeping us all organized. Even though we're only open this summer for 3 days a week, I took a look at some numbers from a couple of years ago...

Right now we're open 12 hours a week. In the past, we were open 5 days, 6 hours a day (30 hours a week pre-covid).

Our giftshop sales are pretty close to what we had at 30 hours. It's lower, but not that low. The number of sales and donations we see is much more per hour of volunteering and open time than we've ever had in the past. Occasionally we even get a \$100 bill that someone slips in the donation box. That is a testament to the docents that we have and the hellofa good job they do. We see many twenties, and it is great to see folks enjoying the museum.

The docents really keep everything going.

The board members have been very diligent this year and past years keeping everything moving. Carolynn has been recovering, but still acting as treasurer (she can still compute, in her words, as long as she doesn't have to type with her toes).

Some docents have put in as many as 7 days this year. Many have put in 5 days.



5 days or more

- John Kurth
- Betty Merchant
- Barbara Hickok in addition to secretary to the board and cleaning day
- Bill and Linda Steele, in addition to cleaning the museum and highway cleanup
- Norma Engelberg
- Elaine Godsoe, in addition to over 7 days as a docent, and the painting on the teacherage

4 days or more

- Jim and Kathleen Moriarty 4 days this year
- Sheila Naviasky as a docent

3 days or more

- Judy and Leon Hummer
- Debbie Orlowski
- Maureen Hatch

Every bit of that helps out.

Special projects

- *Scott Adams manages mowing, tipi cover up and down, ramp at the teacherage, veteran presentation for Florissant days, a docent, Veterans Day memorial, road clean up*
- *Wayne Orlowski does the trimming of museum grass and the stone signs and kiosk. Also worked to get the museum a grant for \$500 in addition to his 20 hours of volunteering. (programs like this have gotten us 15k over 7 years)*
- *Kathy Gue at the cemetery. This work comes all hours with little notice. Meeting people within the hour, helping families to take care of what's important for burials or planning.*
- *Rudy and Kathy Perry do the work for our geocaches. They draw in a number of people from all parts of the country. The ones put together here are based on historical facts or items in the area. We hear all sorts of compliments from the people visiting and learning.*
- *Marianne Mogon has written numerous nice articles about our activities and has been getting knowledge of our events out to the public. Her article about the teacherage brought us a donation of \$1000 for the project. The published articles make a wonderful difference.*
- *Robyn Proper, for once again welcoming (230!) people to the teacherage during Florissant days. As well as always being ready to help with this newsletter.*

Special thanks

- *Jack Lindsey and his wife Jean are folks who initiated efforts to replace the rotting doors and window frames at the teacherage. They also contributed the seed money for the project. We had 37 donations for the teacherage to get it all done.*
- *Ginger from Outpost feed donated flowers for the museum.*
- *Dan Harper is a CPA in Tarryall who does our IRS Form 990 non-profit tax return. We gather information and send it to Dan and he completes our returns for us, which otherwise is a nightmare that used to take about a week manually.*

- *Steve Gorman, had great feedback from how he educated people at the Florissant days about old-time miners. People enjoyed the interactive nature of having someone in the character of a historical miner to learn from.*

We've been involved in quite a bit of activity this year as always.

The things that get done, get done because of you all.

It is fantastic, and it has been fun to work with all of you. I sure appreciate all that you have given.

Surely we have unintentionally left out things people have done, but I thank you, the board thanks you. We all thank you.



Anyone who has crossed paths with John will agree with what Sheila Naviasky stood up to say –

You're thanking all of us, but we don't know where we'd be if you hadn't been the one to take over the management of the historical society. You are here, and you take care of everything, and that is greatly, greatly, appreciated.

In this newsletter, I wanted to show off our wonderful volunteers and show our gratitude. I also wanted to show the many different ways that we can contribute to the success of our organization. Your contribution, however it may come, is what helps give this organization longevity and this group community.

An extra Thank you to the Indian Creek Property Owners Association for their donation for \$100, and for contributing to the wonderful sense of community in Florissant.

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.



Pikes Peak Historical Society
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