



I look forward to this term as the Pikes Peak Historical Society President. The lineage I'm following is daunting. Each of the preceding presidents has done so much to enhance and improve the PPHS. The foundation of support provided by the membership, especially those of you who volunteer in so many ways, is what makes the PPHS such a fantastic organization. Really! You, who volunteer, are the envy of the region when it comes to making a museum run. And that doesn't even include the other things we do. Marianne is running full steam ahead into Flo-Geo Heritage Day. Robyn has so much good stuff to put on the shelves in the Gift Shop. Kathy is working hard in the cemetery and would welcome help. We all appreciate Lois's, communications and cheery notes. Barbara and Carolynne work so diligently behind the scenes keeping the organization operating smoothly. And thank you, Eva, for putting together another great newsletter! My chore is simple, but not easy. I just need to stay our everyone's way and let you keep doing all the great things you already do.

- Scott Adams,

In this newsletter:

Community Happenings

Meet Hayme Jr.

Flo-Geo Day

Information

Thanks

Families of Florissant - Then & Now

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

April 18 Museum Clean Up Day | 9:00 AM

Help prepare the museum for the season - help dust, vacuum, sweep, and tidy up. (*Alternate April 26 9:00 AM, in case of snow*)

April 19 Chautauqua | 2:00 PM Lake George Charter School

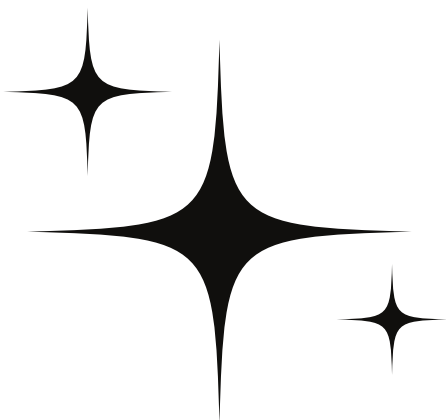
Local author Mary Ellen Johnson will be showcasing her latest book, The Golden Promise of Cripple Creek. In the book, Johnson gives a detailed description of the Colorado Labor Wars, with emphasis on the Cripple Creek District. She offers biographies of the primary players as well as her reasoning for believing that the widely accepted narrative regarding the perpetrators of the Independence Depot is incorrect.

July 25 Flo-Geo Day | Florissant & Lake George (details page 5)



OPENING SOON

MAY 2, 2026



2025 PPHS Board of Directors

Scott Adams, *President and Teller County*

Historical Advisory Board Rep

Darice Zimmermann, *Vice President*

Carolynne Forster, *Treasurer*

Barbara Hickok, *Secretary and Coalition Rep*

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Kathy Gue, *Cemetery Chair*

Robyn Williams, *Gift Shop Chair and Newsletter*

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(Open), *Facebook & Website Chair*

Marianne Mogon, *Chautauqua Publicity Chair and Coalition Rep*

Sheila Naviasky, *Museum Docent Chair*

Kathy Perry, Rudy Perry, *Geocache Chair*

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John Rakowski, Lenore Hotchkiss, A.J. Hotchkiss,

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Hayme Bear Jr.

By Marianne Mogon



Betty Merchant, a longtime member of the Pikes Peak Historical Society and a docent for the museum, has generously donated a wooden carved bear to the museum that was made as a symbol of the Hayman Fire.

A plaque on the carving itself reads: "Hayme Jr., Hayman Fire, June 8, 2002, Lake George, Colorado, Limited Edition 45 – 200." The Coalition of the Upper South Platte (CUSP) states they were given a larger version. After talking with several people to attempt to determine more about the bear's origins, the details are sketchy due to the lapse of time since their creation. The only information learned has been that a Woodland Park resident, Bill Lawson, who owned a carving business called "Tree People", carved the bears using wood from the Hayman Fire burn area. It is alleged that Mr. Lawson has since passed away. The bears were sold at various places, and Merchant says she purchased hers from an Arts and Crafts show in Salida. "I thought he was cute and because the money was going toward restoration efforts in the burn scar, I bought one," she said. If anyone has further information, please contact the writer at jmmogon@gmail.com.

The Hayman fire is a significant part of the area's history in the past 20-30 years. The Hayman Fire was named for a mining ghost town near Tappan Gulch, which is about 1.5 miles southwest of Tappan Mountain on the south side of County Highway 77, in Park County.

At the time, the Hayman fire was the largest fire in Colorado history, but has since been surpassed by the Pine Gulch fire (139,007 acres burned) in Mesa and Garfield Counties in August 2020. In September 2020, the Cameron Peak fire (208,913 acres burned) in Larimer and Jackson Counties and Rocky Mountain National Park is now the largest in Colorado's recorded history. In October 2020, the East Troublesome fire burned 193,812 acres in Grand and Larimer counties, becoming the second-largest fire in Colorado history.

The Hayman fire started in Park County on June 8, 2002, and covered parts of Douglas, Jefferson, Park, and Teller counties, and was 22 miles southwest of Denver and 35 miles northwest of Colorado Springs. The fire was contained on June 28 after burning 137,760 acres. Hundreds of firefighters from across Colorado and other states participated in fighting the fire, which cost nearly \$40 million. The fire burned 133 homes and forced the evacuation of 5,340 people. One civilian died as a result of the fire, and five firefighters died from injuries sustained from a June 21 traffic accident en route to the fire from Oregon.

Most of the burn area was within Pike National Forest and was started by Terry Barton, a forestry technician with the United States Forest Service. She set a fire in a campfire ring, and the fire quickly spread out of control. A federal grand jury indicted Barton on four felony counts of arson. In December 2002, Barton pleaded guilty to two of the charges: setting fire to federal forest land and lying to investigators, and was given a six-year sentence in federal prison. Barton, 44, was released from federal prison in Texas in 2008 and is serving 15 years of probation and must pay millions in restitution. She was also required to perform 1,500 hours of community service in at least one of the four counties scarred by the fire.

Hayme Junior currently sits next to the bench near the front entrance of the museum—until he starts wandering around the museum to highlight display in the museum.

“We’re really happy Hayme found a home in the PPHS museum. The Hayman Fire left a profound imprint on the community, and he’ll help us keep that memory alive,” said Scott Adams, PPHS Board President. “Hayme will be a great ambassador, and we look forward to helping him showcase so many of the really unique artifacts, gems and minerals and the characters and stories of Florissant’s past,” he concluded.



Flo-Geo Day 2026

2026 marks the year that we celebrate 250 years as a nation and Colorado celebrates 150 years since becoming a state. The state has organized a statewide collaboration of local celebrations all across the state, and is encouraging small rural communities to participate.

A committee was formed of various local community members willing to participate, including the Florissant and Lake George areas. What was decided was to reincarnate the popular and vibrant celebration previously known as Flo-Geo Days and expanding what has been occurring with Florissant Heritage Day in more recent years. For this year's 250/150 Celebration, our area will celebrate with what is coined as Flo-Geo Heritage Day which will take place on July 25, 2026.

Numerous activities are planned in both communities, and will be published via the state website for 250/150. The website will link to a local website, which is currently being worked on, that will list all the activities being planned. And it has turned into quite the day, starting with the Pancake Breakfast at the Florissant Fire Protection District.

PPHS is participating with both museums being open. At the main museum, as well as being open to visitors, we will have a Lapidary Demonstration and a Storytime and Crafts in the Tipi presented by the staff of Florissant Library. At the Teacherage there will be an art contest in conjunction with the art students at Lake George Charter School. Students will participate and the winners will be acknowledged July 25 with their artwork on display in the Teacherage. Scott Adams will also be giving his special presentations on Civil War Heroes at the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery.

The committee hopes to have the website live soon. This will showcase all the activities and times, etc., as well as a listing of all sponsors.

It will be a fun-filled day allowing the communities of Florissant and Lake George to share our heritage, our culture, and our life in the mountains. So, mark your calendars for July 25 and stay tuned for the website, flyers, and other information.



GEE, THANKS!

Wayne Orłowski recently submitted his resignation from the Board. He wants to use his time to more effectively continue his work to maintain grounds around the Kiosk on the east end of town, around the sandstone signs entering town and the museum. Wayne through his ongoing efforts uses his volunteer time to apply for significant grants offered through his previous employer, Conoco-Phillips Oil Company. We extend a big thank you to Wayne for his service and continued support of PPHS.

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to PPHS Webmaster, Wayne Johnston, on his retirement after more than 12 years managing the PPHS website and other internet portals. We so appreciate Wayne's abilities and effort to establish a world class website presence and capability to accept online payments which radically enhanced the way the PPHS did business. We will miss Wayne's energy, effort and leadership. He leaves big shoes to fill. Thank you, Wayne!

THANK
YOU!

NOTICE

Due to unforeseen circumstances, The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club will not be holding their show in Lake George during Lake George Days this year. This year the show will be July 3, 4, and 5 in Cripple Creek. They will set up in the parking lot of the Cripple Creek District Museum, 510 Bennett Ave, Cripple Creek. They are looking for alternative locations in Lake George to hopefully be able to keep the show in Lake George. More information will be shared.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you have questions or need to make any changes to your contact or mailing information (including receiving this newsletter by email or regular mail), call 719-748-8259 and leave a message for a call back. Of course, you can always contact Lois Voeltz, Membership Chair, at PPHSMembers@gmail.com.

With any questions, you can visit the website and use the **Contact Us** form to get in touch. Our website is www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org
Membership may be renewed either on our website using PayPal or via U.S. Mail at PO Box 823, Florissant, CO 80816



FLORISSANT PIONEER CEMETERY

The PPHS Cemetery Committee is in need of volunteers to help with various aspects of maintaining our cemetery to honor those who rest there now or will in the future. Our cemetery is of vital importance to our loved ones and the community. We need volunteers to help our friends and neighbors choose their special spot, keep the records in order, and clean up grounds, to name a few possible activities. Funeral planning is difficult and stressful, but being able to help them during that time is of the utmost importance. We need volunteers who are willing to help with this process. Help us continue to provide a clean, attractive, welcoming place of honor for all who come to visit their loved ones and those who are considering it as a final resting place.

If you are interested, please call the museum at 719-748-8259. Thank you.

Kathy Gue, Cemetery Chair

Families of Florissant - Then & Now Photos

By Lois Voeltz

Are there photographers in our PPHS Membership? Wouldn't it be fun to see the NOW photos of the THEN photos posted? When you take the photo, please send it to PPHSmembers@gmail.com



1870: James & Catherine Hughes Castello built a log cabin in Florissant, Colorado.

1873: James built the Ute Trading Post

1878: James died and his son, Frank, took over the Trading Post and named it the Florissant Mercantile. James W. Horrigan & Charles McLaughlin managed the store.

1892: William C. and Dora Allen bought the store and combined it with the Post Office and Drug Store.

"The store had everything from groceries, general merchandise, and furniture to a drug department and post office. Back of the store there was farm machinery of every kind. The store was in service to the Florissant area for 44 years. But they were too good-hearted and had so much money outstanding on the books that they went broke."

William C. Allen died in 1936 (buried at Crystal Valley Cemetery, Manitou Springs, CO) and Florissant Mercantile was sold. Florissant, Colorado by Leo Kimmett. The quote is from their granddaughter, Kathleen Cramer, and great-nephew, Chester Allen.

Charles (1851-1901) and Mary Byron McLaughlin lived in the home at the end of the street. Note the little girl and dog in the photo. The building was also a stagecoach stop.



The date on the back of this photo is 1922. Can you identify the buildings?

From what direction was this photo taken?





Pikes Peak Historical Society
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