President’s Corner

So many things going on right now, from planning for the lighting replacement to discussions about throwing a centennial celebration for the Smokestack, which turns 100 years old next year! Because we are replacing lights in the cabinets, several cabinets must be cleared. Now, clearing and restaging nine cabinets seems a little daunting, but we’re looking forward to the opportunity to create new, more informational displays, especially for the Native American and military exhibits. Our goal continues to focus on relating exhibits to our local stories, because those stories are the history that make Salida unique!

If you haven’t been in to the museum for a year or more, consider a visit! There are many new posters and items, so we’d love to see you at the museum and tell you a story or two.

Susan Jesuroga, President

Summer Visitation. The Museum set another recent record for visitors this summer, with a total of 686 people signing the Visitors Log. The total included 253 visitors from Colorado and 106 visitors from Salida. The Salida number doubled our total from Salida for last summer. We speculate that more exposure on our Website and Facebook, and also articles in the Mountain Mail had something to do with the greater numbers. Also, our new exhibit format has been very popular.

Thanks to Volunteers. Our volunteer docents did another great job this summer. The museum was open every day of the week, thanks to Judith Kinzie, Ed Kinzie, Susan Jesuroga, John McCarthy, Larry Kovacic, Bob Campbell and Ron & Janet Regenold. Thanks also to our substitute docents, Gail Franke and Denise Woodruff, who filled in when our regular docents couldn’t make it. The museum wouldn’t function without our docents; thank you very much.

Winter Hours. The museum will be open again on weekends this winter. From Labor Day to Memorial Day, hours will be Saturday and Sunday, 1:00PM to 5:00PM. Watch our website and Facebook page about the closures surrounding the lighting replacement work. You can also call our number to see if we are open. 719.539.7483

High Country Bank Matches Museum Fundraising

This summer High Country Bank of Salida offered the museum matching funds for all donations made toward replacing the lighting in the museum. With a deadline to meet, the museum was able to generate $2500 in donations, which HCB then matched to give us the funding necessary to get the job done.

We will now be able to replace the old fluorescent lights in the museum with modern LED bulbs. These bulbs emit no ultraviolet radiation and will not deteriorate the artifacts on display. The replacement will take place this winter when the museum can be closed for a period of time.

Many thanks to High Country Bank and the many people and businesses who donated to the fund; we are so grateful for your support.
Did You Know…..

Looking east from downtown, one can clearly see Spiral Drive and a huge white “S” on Tenderfoot, which is often called “S” Mountain. So, where did that “S” come from? Well, the 1932 senior class of Salida High School decided to place and whitewash rocks in the form of a giant “S” on the hillside. We can assume, because we all know about high school seniors and school spirit, that the “S” stood for “Spartans,” the mascot of the high school, and not for Salida. Over the years, it has become one of the largest town letters in the state, measuring 80 feet tall by 50 feet wide. The “S” receives a fresh coat of paint periodically, courtesy of school groups, usually the football team.

Right: a photo along F Street from 1938.

Museum News

Smokestack Update. Work on replacing the vandalized fence at the Smokestack has begun, and we’re lucky to have new neighbors in the building next to our property. We’ll have a new security light in the area, and we’re hopeful that the added presence will help cut down on vandalism to the Smokestack and adjacent buildings. 2017 Centennial: We’re looking for Smokestack Stories to be used in conjunction with the 100 year anniversary of the historic site next year. If you have a Smokestack Story, we would love to hear it.

Salida Museum Website & Facebook Page. Visit the Salida Museum Website, www.salidamuseum.org, for articles on local history, events, photographs, quick facts, and other useful information. Also check out the museum Facebook Page, where you can search Salida Museum and then peruse photographs of museum artifacts along with historical photos. You can also access our Facebook page from the museum website.

Maysville School Gets New Ceiling. The Historic Maysville School received a new ceiling in the teacher’s quarters this summer, beautiful tongue-in-groove beadboard that replicates the original. A team of South Arkansas Land Owners Assn. members, led by Mike and Jane Swantek, did all the work, including installation. Many thanks to these folks, including Robin Rockney, our museum director representing the Maysville area.


Drawing Donation. The museum recently received 6 original drawings from local artist Jon MacManus. They depict segments of the Zebulon Pike Expedition through Colorado in 1806 and will form the nucleus of a new Pike Exhibit in the museum. Thank you, Jon!