

SALIDA MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Serving Chaffee County and Visitors for 36 Years

Spring 2012

Salida Museum

406½ West Hwy 50

Salida, CO 81201

719-539-7483

Salida Museum Board

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Vice Pres: Bob Campbell

Secretary: Earle Kittleman

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Salida Museum Opens May 26, 2012

2012 Museum Opening: The Salida Museum will open for the 2012 season on May 26. Hours of operation this year will remain the same: 11:00am – 5:00pm, seven days a week. If you have a group that wishes to tour the museum at a time outside the normal operating hours, contact us and we will be happy to accommodate you.

The Museum can always use volunteers who are willing to “man the desk” and show people around the displays during business hours. If you would like to give this a try, call the Museum and ask about available hours.

The Salida Museum is particularly grateful to Bob Campbell for keeping the Museum open on Saturdays during the past winter. Visitation on Saturdays was encouraging, and we are considering opening the Museum more days next winter if volunteer attendants can be located.

From Our Secretary

Thanks for the New Roof

The shingles flying off the Museum roof this month have been there since 1975. As a new roof goes up, it is time to thank everyone for sustaining the little jewel that is the Salida Museum.



Harriet Wright Alexander started it in 1954 with her personal collection. She was 72 years old, having served as the first woman on the Salida City Council.

Harriet’s friend, the equally energetic Byrd Raikes Fuqua, founded the Byrd Colony dude ranch at Mount Princeton. Byrd donated parts of her extensive artifact collection to the fledgling museum.

Their seed collection of Indian and pioneer objects grew to overflowing at the Hot Springs Pool, where it was first displayed as the Frontier Museum.

By 1966, there were stuffed animals, Indian artifacts and a gem collection waiting to be showcased. The City built a permanent home with \$10,000 bequeathed in Harriet Alexander’s will, \$10,000 from the Colorado Centennial-Bicentennial Commission, \$3500 from Chaffee County and \$5000 in public subscriptions.

The new 1500 square foot Salida Museum opened in 1975. This year the City stepped up again, giving the Museum a 30-year lease and funding a new roof to protect Salida’s heritage.

Many thanks to all who have contributed over the years,

Earle Kittleman, Secretary

Salida Museum Association
406 1/2 W. Hwy 50
Salida, CO 81201

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Salida Museum – Where the Present Meets the Past

Salida Museum Website News

The Salida Museum Website, www.salidamuseum.org, continues to populate itself with inspiring information about the Museum, Salida and Chaffee County. Check out the Quick Facts tab and find out where the cheeseburger was invented. Go to the Events tab and read letters from 2nd graders who visited the Museum. Or mosey through the Galleries tab and see photos of old printing blocks used “back in the day for newspaper and promo material”. Kudos to Bob Campbell and Earle Kittleman for updating our website on a regular basis; thanks to our Webmaster Gail Brooks for her generous support with the Museum website; and thanks also to the Salida Chamber of Commerce for assisting with our website and newsletter activities.

Museum News

Support the Salida Museum Association

- Donate to the Museum. Send a check to the address on the front page. Amount donated _____.
- Join the Salida Museum Association. Annual membership is \$10, lifetime membership is \$100.
- Volunteer for the Museum and help with ongoing projects. We will contact you.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail this coupon with your payment to:

Salida Museum Assn., 406 1/2 W. Hwy 50, Salida, CO 81201



Maysville School Garage Sale: On May 19, a garage sale will be held at the Maysville School. All proceeds go toward the continued restoration of the school, and any items left over will be taken to the Angel of Shavano Hospice for sale. May 19 was chosen for the sale because it coincides with the 13th Annual Great U.S. 50 Yard Sale, an event that “serves to promote tourism along U.S. 50, to unite the many diverse communities, to provide opportunities for fund raising by civic organizations, to aid the environment through recycling, and to serve as an opportunity for individuals to enjoy a great weekend of sales”. For information on bringing items to the sale or attending the event, call Robin Rockney at 719-539-3322.

Fire Hose Donation: This winter the Museum donated a fire hose cart dating from the turn of the century to the Maysville Volunteer Fire Department. Donated to the Museum by Allen Talbert, the hand-drawn cart was used at Wagon Wheel Gap and then the Monarch Quarry. The cart will be displayed in front of the new fire station in Maysville, 10 miles west of Salida on US Highway 50.

Maysville School Tours: The Maysville School will be open for Tours on the 4th of July. Come see what a One Room School was like in the early days of Maysville. Check out the Teachers Quarters, and Ring the Bell as well! Any donations will be accepted to continue the Restoration Process!! See you on the 4th: Maysville Residents and the Historical Register welcome You!!!!

Museum Exhibits: Several exhibits in the Museum have been rearranged and updated for your viewing pleasure. The Gem & Mineral Exhibit features new lighting that showcases the items for a cleaner look. The Salida Photo Wall has been consolidated to give a comprehensive feel for Salida’s growth in the early years.

Don’t Lose Touch: “Fewer and fewer Americans possess objects that have a patina, old furniture, grandparents’ pots and pans / the used things, warm with generations of human touch, essential to a human landscape. Instead, we have our paper phantoms, transistorized landscapes. A featherweight portable museum.” Susan Sontag, 1933-2004, American writer, activist, critic. We remember this quote when thinking about why people should come and visit the Salida Museum.