

# SALIDA MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

Serving Chaffee County and Visitors for 59 Years

Spring 2013

### **Salida Museum**

406½ West Hwy 50

Salida, CO 81201

719-539-7483

### **Salida Museum Board**

President: Judy Micklich

Vice Pres: Bob Campbell

Secretary: Earle Kittleman

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Members: Judith Kinzie

John Skinner

George DeRoos

Robin Rockney

MeLanie Roth, Ex.Off.

Ann Ewing, Ex.Off.

### **Web Master**

Gail Brooks

### **Welcome to the 2013 Season**

**Museum Opens Saturday, May 25:** The Salida Museum will open for the 2013 Summer Season on Saturday, May 25. Hours will remain the same: 11am – 5pm, Monday thru Sunday. We currently have six days covered with volunteers to man the desk, and there are good possibilities for covering the seventh day.

Thanks to Bob Campbell and John Skinner for keeping the Museum open on Saturdays during the past Fall and Winter. They hosted an unexpectedly large number of visitors, and so the Board is wondering if we could find volunteers to keep the Museum open more days during the off season in the future.

The Salida Museum is able to remain open only because of our wonderful volunteers. There will be days during this summer season when volunteers are not available, and the Museum will be closed. We apologize in advance for this situation and will try to keep the closings to a minimum.

### **From The President: “A Little Bit of History”**

**The Monte Cristo Hotel and Eating House:** When the D&RG connected with the D&RGW Railway in 1883, Salida became a division point on the major East-West railroad, which necessitated feeding and transfer facilities. The Monte Cristo Hotel and Eating House was constructed and was opened to the public on May 14, 1883, with Pacific Express passengers taking dinner at 11:45am. The building was predominantly frame construction with a basement under the entire floor area. The main part of the building was three stories, and the wing was two stories. Estimated cost was \$38,000, which provided twenty-five sleeping rooms, four of them being suites. Original furniture was of cherry, ash and black walnut. Brussel carpets were used throughout the building, raising the total cost of furnishings to \$8,000.



The first floor of the hotel was finished in ash, the second floor in pine, and the third level was painted throughout. Stairways were heavy ash and handsomely constructed. Bedrooms were 11' x 14', steam heated, and provided with electric bells, transoms, and patent locks. Pantry, kitchen, laundry and storerooms were located in the basement. Along with a small kitchen, dining room and lunch room, the first floor included an office, reading room, sample room, and porter's room. The elegant dining room measured 31' x 50', with a 16' high ceiling, handsome gas fixtures, shutters of ash and hard polished

floors. On busy days the tables in the dining room accommodated 75-100 guests.

The Hotel Monte Cristo did a booming business until the narrow-gauge “Shavano” passenger train was discontinued in November, 1940. This rendered the hotel an economic liability, and it was demolished within a few years. So ended one of the finest examples of Salida narrow-gauge railroad history.

*Judy Micklich, President*

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

Visit the Salida Museum Website, [www.salidamuseum.org](http://www.salidamuseum.org), for articles on local history, events, photographs, quick facts, and other useful information. The Links tab gives you addresses for Colorado museums and adventure organizations. You can access museum volunteer and membership information as well as the latest Museum Newsletter. We are always happy to receive feedback on our website, so check it out and give us your suggestions. We extend our grateful thanks to the Salida Chamber of Commerce for their assistance with our website and newsletter activities.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this coupon with your payment to:

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



## Museum News

**Maysville School Free Open House & Yard Sale:** As part of the Great US 50 Yard Sale, the annual Maysville School Free Open House & Yard Sale will take place on May 17 & 18, 2013. The school will be open 9am – 2pm each day and is located 6 miles west of Poncha Springs in Maysville, just off Hwy 50 on CR243. The yard sale will feature historical items, collectables, furniture, toys, and much more. For more information, contact Robin Rockney, 719-539-3322.

**Deck of Historical Playing Cards:** The Salida Museum is soliciting sponsors for the creation of a complete deck of historical playing cards. Each card will feature a historical photo from Chaffee County along with a caption and the name of the sponsor. You can sponsor a single card or multiple cards, with the cost of the card varying with denomination and suit. Contact Bob Campbell at 719-221-2171 for information.

**New Railroad Exhibit:** Friends of the Salida Museum, the summer of 2013 will see some nice and fun changes to our exhibits. We are proud to announce the addition of a new train display by Jim Dickson. Jim has a background of art and fabrication, having honed his talents in sign painting and display manufacturing. His talent shines with a wonderful display of an old-time locomotive appearing to come out of a tunnel. The engine is from the early days of steam operation and pictures an engineer and fireman in the front windows, with a side display of the engineer's control panel. It is certainly an educational addition to our railroad exhibit area. We extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to Jim for this new display.

*Bob Campbell*

**Caboose Painting Party, Saturday June 29:** The caboose behind the Museum needs a new paint job, and once again the Salida Sherwin-Williams paint store has graciously agreed to supply materials. Weather permitting, we will start at 9:00am on Saturday, June 29. Anyone interested in helping can call Larry Kovacic, 719-539-5372, for more information.