President’s Corner

Hello, all, and happy Fall. We are very pleased with the success of the museum this summer, which included hosting 650 visitors from around the country, and a few from overseas. In fact, one UK visitor, who is a curator at a London museum, told our volunteers that our museum is one of the best small museums she had seen. This is something we should all be proud of, given the work of our volunteers, and the great stories and artifacts we have on exhibit from around our area. I’m thankful that we have such committed volunteers who are willing to put in the hours every week to keep the doors open.

Susan Jesuroga, President

Calendar Sales. The museum put together an historic 2016 calendar this summer after neglecting the task for many years. Judy Micklich used to do a calendar on an annual basis, and its popularity caused Judy and Susan to revive the effort. The calendar features historic photos of Salida and the surrounding area. You can buy one at the museum and other businesses in the area, including The Mixing Bowl, The Book Haven, and The Junque Drawer. Call the museum if you can’t find one.

Capital Project. The museum building is in need of some TLC, including updating the bathrooms and the exterior doors, improving the wall between the exhibit area and the back room, and replacing the lighting. The current fluorescent lights give off quite a bit of UV light, which is degrading to paper and fabrics in particular, but can affect anything. In order to be good stewards of our artifacts, it is time to improve the existing lighting. We’ll be in touch over the winter to let you know more after we get some estimates and develop a plan to tackle these much-needed infrastructure projects. If any of you would like to help, give us a call.

Museum 2015 Summer Season

We enjoyed an active summer season this year, with attendance increasing over past years to 650 visitors. Many local and ex-local friends came in to find information about their ancestors in Salida, or to see how Salida has changed since they moved away. Our remodeling activities over the winter received rave reviews. The restructured exhibits seemed to give visitors a more comprehensive view of our local history.

2015 Winter Schedule: The Salida Museum will be open this winter on Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 PM to 5:00 PM. These times will be dependent on the availability of volunteers. We apologize if we have to close when you choose to visit the museum.

Thanks to our Volunteers: Ron & Janet Regenold, George DeRoos, John McCarthy, Judith Kinzie, Bob Campbell, John Skinner, Susan Jesuroga, and Larry Kovacic, kept the museum open this summer. Many thanks to these folks for their dedication to keeping local history alive.
Did You Know…..

The Salida Chapter of the Red Cross was established March 21, 1917. Members of the Tuesday Evening Club were authorized as a temporary organizing committee. On April 12, 50 societies and churches convened to organize the chapter for Chaffee County. County schools were added as auxiliaries, including 1425 students. The American Red Cross was founded in 1881 by Clara Barton, focusing on domestic and over-seas relief efforts, including aiding the military during the Spanish-American War. During World War I, President Woodrow Wilson, as honorary chairman of the Red Cross, urged Americans to help the Red Cross meet the needs of the thousands of young men joining the Allied forces on the battlefields of Europe. As a result, the number of chapters grew from 107 in 1914 to 3864 in 1918. By war’s end, nearly one third of Americans either donated to or volunteered with the Red Cross.

Salida departments included:

**Surgical Dressings, Garments, Knitting,** making garments, socks, bandages, and comfort kits. **Home Service,** providing communication between troops and their families, financial aid, and information and guidance on government assistance programs and military regulations. **Canteen,** providing food and comfort to military personnel passing through town. **Motor Service,** running ambulance services to move wounded personnel and their families, support canteens and other errands for hospitals and camps.

Our own Harriet Alexander was quite active in Red Cross activities, including working with the Canteen Departments and facilitating communications with soldiers and their families.

Stop by the museum and see the new display that includes armbands, knitting needles and instructions, pins and other items from the early Salida Red Cross efforts.

Pictured above is Emily McGary, Salida Red Cross volunteer.

### Museum News

**Maysville School Open House & Garage Sale, June 5 & 6:** This event was a great success. The School Fund was increased by about $1500, which will go toward further renovations of the historic building.

**Salida Museum Website & Facebook Page:** 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. 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. We extend our grateful thanks to the **Salida Chamber of Commerce** for their assistance with our website and newsletter activities.

**Open House 2016:** We’re planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Open House on May 14, 2016, with free admission and entertaining presentations. More info later...