

SALIDA MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Serving Chaffee County and Visitors for 60 Years

Spring 2014

Salida Museum

406½ West Hwy 50

Salida, CO 81201

719-539-7483

Salida Museum Board

President: Judy Micklich

Vice Pres: Bob Campbell

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Treasurer: Larry Kovacic

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Kathy Moore

Web Master

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First Ever Winter Museum Season

Museum Open 2 Days a Week: Keeping the museum open on weekends over the winter proved successful. We enjoyed visitors on both days most weeks, although Saturday was much more popular. The practice will continue next winter as long as we have volunteers to open the doors.

2013 Attendance: The attendance figures for calendar year 2013 were in line with the past several years. A grand total of 447 people visited the museum, 280 visitors from Colorado, 165 from Chaffee County, and 160 from Salida. Many of the Salida visitors had never been to the museum before.

2014 Summer Opening: The Salida Museum will open for the 2014 Summer Season on Saturday, May 31. Hours of operation will be 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. We currently have volunteers working every day of the week except Thursday and Friday. Give us a call if you are interested in helping on either of those days.

From The President: “A Little Bit of History” (continued)

Salida Opera Houses: In 1889, the Salida Social Club, with George Pickett as President, was organized to have weekly dances at the Opera House. That same year the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers had a party that finally broke up at 4:00 AM. February 12, 1889, the deed to the Masonic Hall was given by the Opera House Association to Salida Lodge A.F. & A.M. for \$2500, and arrangements were being made for the B. of L.E. and Order of Railway Conductors to use it for meetings.



Some of the performances at that time were “Kerry Gow”, “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”, with uniformed bands, “Father & Son”, “Bonnie Fish Wife”, and “Inshayoque”, by the Felix A. Dramatic Co. The Swiss Bell Ringers, a Katie Field lecture on the Mormon Monster, sponsored by the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Fish Jubilee Singers performed at the Opera House, along with Lily Clay’s Colossal Gaiety Company, with “forty of the handsomest ladies in the world”, a clean show in spite of the clergymen’s fears.

Other programs in the late 1800’s included Frank Mayo in “Davy Crockett”, Nick Roberts in a mirth-provoking nonsensical conglomeration called “Humpty Dumpty”, Rice Oddities in “Kathleen Mavoreen”, and “Fun in our Boarding House”. John T. Kelly, Dan Mason and Lena Merville appeared in “Tigers”, Madame Jahausheck, the Tragedienne, appeared along with Barlow & Wilson Mammoth Minstrels, Harry & Eva Webber, and the little child actress, Carine Webber, in “Nip & Tuck” and “Bessie’s Burglar”.

Local talent was also represented at the Opera House. “HMS Pinafore” was presented May 19-20, 1885, by Salida children 7-15 years old. Under the direction of Professor Swain Back, a chorus of more than fifty voices assembled, and the scenery was painted for the occasion.

(Most of this information was taken from the Mountain Mail, Monday, Oct. 28, 1957)

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 & 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. 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 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Mail this coupon with your payment to:

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



Museum News

Maysville School Open House & Garage Sale: June 6 & 7 are the dates of the Maysville School Open House and Garage Sale in Maysville, CO. The historic red schoolhouse is located about 10 miles west on Hwy 50 from Salida, on the south side of the highway. You can't miss it. Proceeds will go toward painting the exterior of the school, and you will get a free tour of a well-preserved piece of Chaffee Co. history.

Deck of Historical Playing Cards: The Salida Museum continues to solicit 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.

Phil's Wall: Many thanks to Phil Sasso for volunteering to build a new non-permanent wall around the museum kitchen area. The wall now features an expanded FIBArk exhibit thanks to Susan Jesuroga. We continue to be grateful for all our generous volunteers.

Museum Exhibit Downtown: We now have a rotating exhibit in downtown Salida in the new "F" Street Five & Dime store. Currently the exhibit features historical railroad items, and these will be replaced shortly with a FIBArk display. Stop by our new downtown merchant and let us know what you think of the museum display.

New Board Member: The Salida Museum Association welcomes Kathy Moore as a new board member. Kathy has been helping with historical research as many of the museum displays were redone to achieve a more accurate depiction of Salida history. Thanks to Kathy for her willingness to volunteer.

Caboose Move: The historic DRGW caboose residing behind the museum in Centennial Park has been moved to downtown Salida. The City of Salida is restoring the caboose and hopes to use it as a representation of Salida's railroad history. The caboose is now located at the end of F Street. The illustration at left was done by Salida Mayor Jim Dickson, who was instrumental in the caboose move.