

C O L O R A D O

Heritage

The Magazine of History Colorado

March/April 2016

Switzerland in Colorado

Winter Sports Come to Hot Sulphur Springs



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Colorado Vagrancy Laws—A Retrospective
- Patty Limerick Is the New State Historian
- Winter and Spring Programs Around the State

History Colorado Center

1200 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80203
303/HISTORY

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1 membership card, 1 guest ticket, 1 Georgetown Loop Railroad® ticket

NEW! Dual \$75 (2 adults or 1 adult and 1 guest)

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NEW! Senior Dual \$70 (2 adults age 65+ or 1 senior and 1 guest)

2 membership cards, 2 guest tickets, 2 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets

NEW! Grandparent \$80 (2 adults, up to 4 grandchildren under 18)

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Explorer \$150 (2 adults, children or grandchildren under 18, 2 guests)

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Historian \$500 (2 adults, children or grandchildren under 18, 6 guests)

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2 membership cards, 10 guest tickets, 8 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets, 4 lecture tickets, exclusive events, recognition in Annual Report and Donor Wall, private collections tours, concierge service, Smithsonian Affiliates benefits*

NEW! Pioneer \$3,000 (2 adults, children or grandchildren under 18, 6 guests)

2 membership cards, 12 guest tickets, 12 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets, 6 lecture tickets, exclusive events, recognition in Annual Report and Donor Wall, private collections tours, concierge service, Smithsonian Affiliates benefits*, access to museum leadership

NEW! Visionary \$10,000 (2 adults, children or grandchildren under 18, 6 guests)

2 membership cards, 14 guest tickets, 14 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets,

10 lecture tickets, exclusive events, recognition in Annual Report and Donor Wall, private collections tours, concierge service, Smithsonian Affiliates benefits*, access to museum leadership

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- Unlimited free admission to the History Colorado Center
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- Discounts on popular history lectures, tours, treks and events
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- 10% discount in History Colorado Center's Café Rendezvous
- Discounts on research and photo services in Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center
- Benefits and privileges at Time Travelers® museums and historical sites nationwide

Tiny Library Concerts

The Tiny Library Concert series at the History Colorado Center features acoustic shows by Colorado musicians in the unusual and intimate setting of the Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center. For ages 2 and up! Members \$7, nonmembers \$10

Danielle Ate the Sandwich

Tuesday, March 15, 7 to 8:30 P.M.

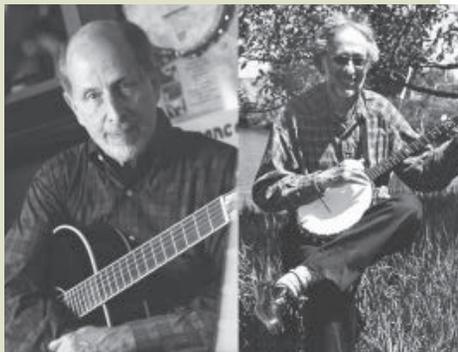
History Colorado is excited to welcome indie-folk songwriter and ukulele player Danielle Ate the Sandwich to the Tiny Library Concert stage! Danielle Anderson's career began at open mic nights in Fort Collins. Her songs incorporate the ukulele, sweet vocals, thoughtful lyrics and a unique personality. Danielle Ate the Sandwich has shared the stage and collaborated with acts like Pomplamoose, Lauren O'Connell, Leo Kottke and Mumford & Sons.

Legends of Colorado Folk: Harry Tuft and Dick Weissman, with special guest Julia Hays

Tuesday, April 19, 7 to 8:30 P.M.

History Colorado presents two legends of Colorado folk music, Harry Tuft and Dick Weissman, with special guest Julia Hays. In 1962, guitarist Harry Tuft (the Rocky Mountain region's "godfather of folk") opened the Denver Folklore Center, which became the epicenter of Colorado's folk revival. He was a founding member of the folk group Grubstake. Banjo master Dick Weissman started his career in Greenwich Village in the 1960s and was a member of the trio The Journeymen with John Phillips (later of The Mamas and the Papas).

He co-authored the award-winning *Folk Music Songbook*. The two are joined by Julia Hays, a virtuoso fiddle player with roots in blues, jazz, country, Celtic and Irish fiddle styles.



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ON THE COVER

A bobsleigh team rounds a bend on Bungalow Hill, with mixed results, and participants pose for the closing ceremony of the First Annual Hot Sulphur Springs Winter Sports Club Carnival in 1912. In front of the pole is carnival founder John Peyer. Farther left, holding the impressive Hot Sulphur Springs Cup for the ski-jump competition is Norwegian champion Carl Howelsen; holding the second-place Colorado Cup is Williams Fork resident Gunnar Dahle. Peyer proposed the winter sports festival—Colorado's first—after moving to Colorado from his native Switzerland. See page 18.

All images are from the collections of History Colorado unless otherwise noted.

HISTORY COLORADO CENTER

1200 Broadway, Denver

Open: Daily, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Extended evening hours! Open till 9 P.M. on Mondays, March 21, April 18 and May 16.

Admission: Members free; nonmember adults \$12; seniors and students \$10; children \$8; children 5 and under free. **303/HISTORY**, www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org

Admission: Members free; nonmember adults \$12; seniors and students \$10; children \$8; children 5 and under free. **303/HISTORY**, www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org

BYERS-EVANS HOUSE MUSEUM

1310 Bannock Street, Denver

Open: Gallery and Gift Shop open daily, except Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. House on view by tour only, 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Admission: Members free; nonmember adults \$6; seniors and students (with ID) \$5; children (6–12) \$4. Group tours available. **303/620-4933**, www.ByersEvansHouseMuseum.org

EL PUEBLO HISTORY MUSEUM

301 North Union, Pueblo

Open: Open Monday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Sunday, noon to 4 P.M.

Admission: Members free; nonmember adults \$5; seniors, children 6–12, and students with ID \$4; children 5 and under free; children 12 and under free on Saturdays. **719/583-0453**, www.ElPuebloHistoryMuseum.org

FORT GARLAND MUSEUM

25 miles east of Alamosa off U.S. 160

Open: January–March, by appointment only. April–September, daily, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. October–December, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.; closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Admission: Members free; nonmember adults \$5; seniors \$4.50; children (6–16), \$3.50. **719/379-3512**, www.FortGarlandMuseum.org

FORT VASQUEZ MUSEUM

13412 U.S. 85, Platteville; 35 miles north of downtown Denver

Opens for the season on March 2.

Open: Wednesday through Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. April–September, daily, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. To schedule tours, call 303/866-4591.

Admission: Members and children under 5 free; nonmember adults \$3; seniors \$2.50; students (6–16) \$2. **970/785-2832**, www.FortVasquezMuseum.org

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Georgetown/Silver Plume I-70 exits

Call **1-888/456-6777** for reservations or visit www.georgetownlooprr.com.

GRANT-HUMPHREYS MANSION

770 Pennsylvania Street, Denver

Open: For rental events, including receptions, weddings, and business meetings. **303/894-2505**, www.GrantHumphreysMansion.org

HEALY HOUSE MUSEUM AND DEXTER CABIN

912 Harrison Avenue, Leadville

Open: Daily, May through October, 10 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Group tours (20+) can be arranged in winter (depending on availability) with reservation.

Admission: Members free; nonmember adults \$6; seniors \$5.50; children (6–16) \$4.50; children 5 and under free. **719/486-0487**, www.HealyHouseMuseum.org

PIKE’S STOCKADE

Six miles east of La Jara, near Sanford, Colorado, just off Highway 136

Open: Memorial Day to October 1, or by appointment.

TRINIDAD HISTORY MUSEUM

312 East Main Street, Trinidad

Open: Tuesday–Saturday, 10 A.M.–4 P.M.; May 18–September 30, Tuesday–Friday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Closed on state holidays. Free self-guided tours of garden and grounds, Monday–Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Baca House, Bloom Mansion and Santa Fe Trail Museum available by appointment for groups of six or more.

Admission: Members free. Nonmember ticket options for Historic Homes Guided Tours, Santa Fe Trail Museum self-guided tours, Friday Heritage Garden Tours, and combination tickets at adult, senior, and child rates. Children 5 and under free. **719/846-7217**, www.TrinidadHistoryMuseum.org

UTE INDIAN MUSEUM

17253 Chipeta Road, Montrose

Closed for expansion

Open in temporary office space, Montrose Visitor Center, 170 S. Cascade **970/249-3098**, www.UteIndianMuseum.org



From the
CHAIR

Why does history matter? How can we make Colorado history relevant? Our new State Historian, Dr. Patty Limerick, shared this idea: “As state historian, I will continue as I have been doing for years here, trying to be a good cheerleader for how important historical perspective is and how society suffers if we go around in an amnesiac state. It doesn’t help an individual to have amnesia. And it doesn’t help society.”

Limerick voices the motivation that drives those who are engaged with History Colorado. Stories, places, people, objects, and documents can convey and share history, with academic, cultural, and political influences affecting their impact. We’ve been working to assess how best to advance the saving and sharing of Colorado’s history in the least, or best, “filtered” way.

Our historic preservation and archaeology programs work directly with places that can be primary sources for learning with three-dimensional perspectives of the past. Whether through the National and State Register programs or our robust State Historical Fund grants, we preserve and perpetuate the built part of our historic record. I’m delighted to share that in the past year, History Colorado provided nearly \$8 million in grants in nineteen counties. In 2016, these and other programs take the spotlight with the fiftieth anniversary of the benchmark of our nation’s preservation ethic: the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act.

History Colorado’s newly reorganized exhibit team, working with Limerick and other leaders, is in the research and development of a new phase of exhibits at the History Colorado Center. The exhibits will thematically approach historical issues and make use of our vast archives and collections. And some of our biggest exhibit news is the over 3,000-square-foot expansion of the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose, which will increase capacity for event rentals, education programs, and a renewed exhibit on Ute culture and history. Built in 1956, the museum celebrates Colorado’s longest continuous residents. It’s one of the few, possibly only, state-owned museums dedicated to a single indigenous group. History Colorado has consulted with the three Ute tribes on the building design and exhibits to develop a truly collaborative project. The State has recognized the importance of the museum, approving \$2.4 million for renovations. Additional, private support is being raised for new and updated exhibits.

All these efforts make history relevant and meaningful. I’m reminded of Teddy Roosevelt’s quote: “The more you know about the past, the better you are prepared for the future.” We’re working to bring Colorado’s past into the future. I’m excited that you’re with us on the journey.

Ann A. Pritzlaff, Chair, Board of Directors

New & On View

Denver

History Colorado Center (unless otherwise noted)

Searching for Home: Homelessness in Colorado History

On view now

In the 1880s, “Baby Doe” Tabor and her husband Horace were the wealthiest couple in Colorado. But the global depression that threw the nation into upheaval destroyed their fortune. When Baby Doe died of exposure in a crude Leadville shack, her story exposed Coloradans to an uncomfortable truth: homelessness can happen to anyone. *Searching for Home* invites you to consider Colorado’s long history of economic struggle and the complexities of an issue often reduced to stereotypes. History Colorado staff developed *Searching for Home* with a community advisory committee.

This exhibit is made possible by the support of a generous anonymous donor, Guaranty Bank and Trust, Housing and Homelessness Funders’ Collaborative, the Denver Foundation, and the Kenneth King Foundation.



Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, X-29161



Pueblo

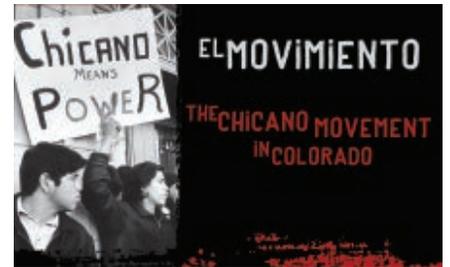
El Pueblo History Museum

EL MOVIMIENTO THE CHICANO MOVEMENT IN COLORADO

On view now

El Movimiento illuminates the Chicano fight for justice and equality in Colorado in the 1960s and early '70s through images, personal stories and artifacts. The exhibit is based on the popular ongoing exhibit at the History Colorado Center in Denver. History Colorado collaborated with community advisors throughout Colorado to create the exhibits.

Sponsored by AARP, Ready Foods, Inc., and Colorado State University-Pueblo

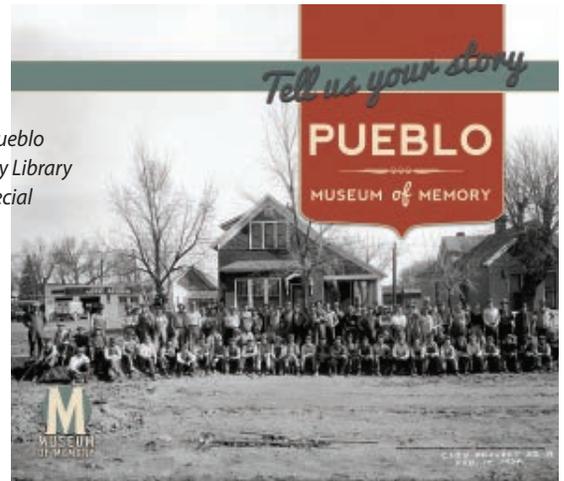


Museum of Memory

On view now

Museum of Memory is a public history project that preserves Pueblo’s stories. Community members can add memories to the Pueblo map, write and share stories and describe the Pueblo neighborhoods they grew up in and live in now. As part of *Museum of Memory*, El Pueblo is developing tools to help people talk to their loved ones with memory loss.

Courtesy Pueblo City-County Library District Special Collections



Platteville

Fort Vasquez Museum

Jack Roberts Paintings Unveiled

Saturday, March 19, 2 to 4 P.M.

Celebrate the addition of two Jack Roberts paintings to the museum, on loan from the Dee and Joe Carlson Collection. Refreshments served. Event sponsored by Kaiser Permanente Free!

History Colorado Awards Announced

Congratulations to the winners of the 2015 History Colorado Awards!

The City of Leadville, Mayor Jamie Stuever and the Overland Property Group won this year's Governor's Award for

Historic Preservation, for the rehabilitation of the Tabor Grand Hotel to accommodate 37 affordable apartments. The Caroline Bancroft Award went to the San Juan Mountains Association for its Wooden Canvas Project.

The City of Greeley Museums won the Josephine H. Miles award for its Nathan Meeker letters preservation and exhibit project. Honorable mentions for the Miles award include the Denver Public Library for its Western History/Genealogy and Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library website; Eagle County Historical Society for the publication *Boom Town to Ghost Town: The Story of Fulford*, by Richard Perske; and Monte Vista United Methodist Church for the preservation project Honoring the Past/Preserving the Future.

Winners of the 30th Annual Stephen H. Hart Awards for Historic Preservation include Stewards of the Little Church in the Pines for that church's preservation and David Tomkins and Partners for the restoration of Como Depot. The 6th



Courtesy Honey Lindburg

Patty Limerick Named State Historian

History Colorado and the University of Colorado at Boulder have formed a collaborative partnership to advance the understanding and appreciation of Colorado's vast history. A key component is the appointment of CU-Boulder professor Patty Limerick as the new State Historian.

"This strengthened partnership between these two higher education agencies is a demonstration of Colorado's collaborative spirit and a testament to the work that state agencies can do together," says Governor John Hickenlooper.

Limerick will continue in her role as the faculty director of the Center of the American West and as a professor at CU-Boulder. Among other initiatives, she and her team will consult and collaborate on History Colorado Center exhibits, put on a range of public events at History Colorado and develop a university course to give students practical training in exhibit development.

"Patty Limerick is an exceptional historian with a well-deserved international reputation, and her characteristic energy and expertise will serve the State of Colorado

extremely well," says University of Colorado President Bruce D. Benson. "Her appointment will also further important ties between History Colorado and the University of Colorado, which will benefit our students and our state."

Limerick co-founded the Center of the American West to serve as a forum for the civil, respectful and problem-solving exploration of important and often contentious public issues. She has published widely, and her book *Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West* is regarded by many as a groundbreaking text that helped revitalize the field of western American history. A recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship and other regional and national awards, Limerick was recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate to membership on the National Council for the Humanities.

History Colorado Calls on Coloradans to Suggest Exhibit Stories

As Patty Limerick begins her role as State Historian, she is asking Coloradans to help develop History Colorado's next exhibits. "As I begin my term, I ask for your help," she writes in an open letter. "As a Coloradan who appreciates the value of history in our lives, you have ideas, inspirations and aspirations I should have in mind."

History Colorado has been dedicated to talking to visitors and collecting feedback for the past several years. The creation of exhibits has relied on community advisory groups and ideas from our visitors. This new form is available online in hopes to reach the entire state. Share your ideas at historycolorado.org/colorados-story-form or via email to jason.hanson@state.co.us.

Annual State Archaeologist's Award went to Roxborough State Park for fostering a positive public appreciation of the park's archaeological heritage.

May Is Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month

The National Historic Preservation Act turns 50 this year! The act established historic preservation as we know it—including the National Register of Historic Places, our nation's list of esteemed historic buildings and sites—and the mandate that every state must maintain a State Historic Preservation Office. In Colorado, that's History Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. There's no better time to get involved with preservation than this landmark year. Mark your calendars to get out in May and experience a preservation event in your community to celebrate Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month. A schedule of statewide events is at ahpm-colorado.org.

Transformation and Preservation: The Evolution of Downtown Denver from 1858 to 2046

Tuesday, May 10, 10:30 A.M. to noon
(student project previews start at 10 A.M.)

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, History Colorado hosts graduate students from the University of Colorado Denver's College of Architecture and Planning. They'll reveal how downtown Denver's built environment has evolved since the city's original settlement and highlight preservation victories and defeats. They'll explore the environmental, cultural and economic forces that transform urban places and take a peek into downtown Denver of 2046.

Members \$4, nonmembers \$5



Photo courtesy Ken Schroepel

Thank You Volunteers!



National Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 10–16) celebrates the extraordinary contributions volunteers make in their communities. History Colorado thanks its volunteers for their commitment to preserving and promoting Colorado history. Our volunteers come from all over Colorado, serving their state and communities by telling their unique stories, preserving historic artifacts and engaging visitors. For more about volunteering at History Colorado, visit HistoryColorado.org/volunteers.

New Volunteer Orientation

Byers-Evans House Museum
Saturday, March 19, 9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Volunteers help guide tours, assist in the visitor center and work with school groups. If you're interested in volunteering, please come! Information: 303/620-4933



Conversation and Book Signing: Anne Evans

Byers-Evans House Museum
Saturday, March 26, 2 P.M.

The Byers-Evans House hosts a conversation and signing with Barbara Edwards Sternberg and Evelyn Waldron, authors of *Anne Evans: A Pioneer in Colorado's Cultural History*, in celebration of Anne's induction into the Colorado

Women's Hall of Fame and Colorado Business Hall of Fame. Enjoy desserts, tea and a partial tour of the house museum including the library, Anne's bedroom and the sitting room. Space is very limited so reserve your spot at 303/620-4933.

New Member Welcome Wagon and Member Open House

History Colorado Center
Friday, March 18, 6 to 8 P.M.

Whether you're new to History Colorado or you've been a member for years, this is a fun-filled evening to explore all the History Colorado Center has to offer.

Meet staff, see rare collections and learn about all the ways you can make the most of your membership! Register at: h-co.org/MarchOpenHouse or by calling 303/866-6524.

Thank You for Your Feedback

History Colorado conducted a member survey in late 2014. Feedback from that survey is helping us to enhance your museum experiences. You told us that you enjoy seeing objects from our collections. So, this past December curators at the History Colorado Center pulled some treasures from the collections and featured them in *Who Knew?! Everything Old Is New Again*, allowing visitors an up-close view of special artifacts. This year, we'll continue to find new ways to share more items from the collections.

We appreciate your valued input and look forward to seeing you soon. Feel free to contact us with feedback at members@state.co.us.

Save the Date!

Members-Only Mother's Day Brunch

History Colorado Center
Sunday, May 8

Celebrate Mom's special day with a delicious brunch buffet and views of downtown Denver and the Rocky Mountains. Stay tuned for details, or call 303/866-4477.



Give Mom the Gift of Membership!

What better way to show Mom how much you love her than with the opportunity to enjoy History Colorado year-round! As a special thank-you to our members, enjoy a **20% discount on NEW Mother's Day gift memberships** purchased between now and April 29.

With the beautiful History Colorado Center in downtown Denver and many museums and historic sites just an adventure away, a History Colorado membership is a meaningful way to tell Mom how much you love her! She'll enjoy these privileges:

- Unlimited free admission to the History Colorado Center
- Unlimited free admission to History Colorado museums and historic sites statewide

Include History Colorado in Your Legacy Plans

Society 1879 honors those individuals who include History Colorado in their estate plans. A spring luncheon will celebrate this group of special supporters. For more about Society 1879, or to learn how to include History Colorado in your will, contact us at 303/866-4477 or development@state.co.us.



Stay Updated!

Want to stay up to date with History Colorado happenings, special events and offers? Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter! To subscribe, go to: historycolorado.org/update. While you're there, you can also update your mailing address so you never miss out on invitations and offers.



Platteville

Fort Vasquez Museum

Traders Market

Saturdays, April 23, May 14 and 28, June 11 and 25, September 10 and 24, October 8 and 22, 7 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Vendors are invited to sell their wares at a series of all-day markets. Information: 303/866-4591.

- *Colorado Heritage* magazine
- Discounts on lectures, tours and gift shop and café purchases
- Invitations to members-only events
- And much more!

To ensure mail delivery to the gift giver by May 8, purchase by April 29 by visiting h-co.org/mom2016, calling 303/866-3639 or coming in to the History Colorado Center.

Special offer applies to new memberships purchased as a gift for another household. Not valid on renewals. Gift memberships will be mailed to the purchaser and are valid for 12 months from purchase date. Offer valid through April 29, 2016.

FAMILY FUN

Denver



Junior Museum Camp
Come discover Colorado through excursions and explorations that bring stories to life.

Fun-filled Weeklong Day Camps
Designed for students entering grades 2-5

- June 20 – 24: **Behind the Scenes**
- July 11 – 15: **Colorado Up Close**

HISTORY Colorado CENTER

Visit h-co.org/juniorcamp or call 303/866-2394 for more information.

STEP INTO THE STORY

Members \$250, or sign up for both weeks at only \$225 per week

Doors Open Denver

Byers-Evans House Museum
Saturday, April 23, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

This two-day, citywide event invites visitors to explore Denver’s architecture. Enjoy brief (10–15 minutes) guided tours through several rooms of the first floor of the Byers-Evans House.

Members’ Behind-the-Scenes Collection Tours!

History Colorado Center
Third Tuesdays, May 17, August 16 and November 15, 1 to 1:30 P.M.



Ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at the museum? Join us to learn how our collections are stored and cared for. Visit rarely seen storage and processing spaces and get an up-close-and-personal view of artifacts. Preregister for this exclusive opportunity! Make a day of it and enjoy the daily lunch special in Café Rendezvous. (*Limited to 12 people*) Free for members! Register at: h-co.org/BTSMay

First Wednesday Preschool Story Time

History Colorado Center
Wednesdays, March 2, April 6 and May 4, 9:30 to 10 A.M.
Bring the kids (age 2–5) to story time. We’ll read stories and then have playtime in the exhibit before the museum opens. Free with admission!

FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES at the History Colorado Center!

These are just highlights, and performances are subject to change, so check HistoryColoradoCenter.org for updates. Free with admission.

MUSEUM THEATER AND PERFORMANCES

The Life of a Mountain Man

Saturday, March 5, 10:30 A.M. to 2 P.M.—
Ever wonder how the mountain men lived? Doc Grizzly tells us how he got things done in the 1830s.

Meet a Buffalo Soldier

Saturday, March 26, 11:30 A.M. to 2 P.M.—
Meet Buffalo Soldier Sergeant Jack Hackett.

Vaquero Performance

Saturday, April 2, 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.—
Meet a *vaquero* (Spanish cowboy) and learn about special rope and whip techniques.

Native American Beading Demonstration

Saturday, April 9, 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.—
Angelique Acevedo-Barron demonstrates Native American beadwork on her loom.

Colorado Beekeepers

Saturday, April 23, 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.—
Meet Colorado beekeepers, see a hive and learn about bees.

Meet William Green Russell

Saturday, April 30, 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.—
Meet gold prospector and miner William Green Russell.

Fort Garland

Fort Garland Museum

Fun Fridays at the Fort

Fridays, April 8, 15, 22 and 29, May 6, 13, 20 and 27, 10:30 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Ages 5–10. Fort Garland Museum presents an eight-week Friday day camp for kids. Each day is full of play-based activities that help kids develop skills in art, reading, math, science, history and the performing arts.

Free (donations for supplies appreciated)

ADULT PROGRAMS

Denver

March is
Women's History
Month!

Art Tour and Tea

Byers-Evans House Museum
Saturday, April 9, noon to 2 P.M.

Enjoy an art-focused tour of the historic Byers-Evans House. Visitors will learn about the fine art collected and created by the Evans family. Highlights include reliefs, leather tooling and landscape and portrait paintings. After the tour, enjoy a three-course tea with fresh fruit, muffins, scones, tea sandwiches and desserts.

Members \$20, nonmembers \$25, children \$20

Reservations: 303/620-4933

(Tea is prepared offsite and has a set menu, which may contain nuts. Special requests must be made at the time of reservation.)

Members' Behind-the-Scenes Collection Tours!

Byers-Evans House Museum
Monday, March 21, 11 A.M. to noon

Celebrate Women's History Month by taking a walk through the Byers-Evans House with the museum director. Learn more about the home and the women who spent time there, including 2016 Colorado Women's Hall of Fame inductee Anne Evans, her mother Margaret, Elizabeth Byers and the women who worked in the home.

Reservations: 303/620-4933

Members free, nonmember adults \$6 (seniors and students \$5)

COLLECTIONS & LIBRARY PROGRAMS at the History Colorado Center

Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center

Members \$4, nonmembers \$5 (unless otherwise noted)

RSVP required. Call 303/866-2394, or register online!

All programs require a minimum number of registered participants and may be canceled if the minimum is not met 48 hours ahead of time. Early registration recommended!

Collections Close-Ups: Take Me Out to the Ol' Ballgame

Saturday, March 12, 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.—Baseball has a long history in Colorado. Join History Colorado's Patrick Fraker for a fun and enlightening look at artifacts related to that grand old pastime.

Preserving Your Treasures

Friday, March 18, 1 to 2 P.M.—History Colorado staff and

conservator Paulette Reading explain and demonstrate techniques used to maintain and preserve your treasured family artifacts including photographs, documents and textiles. See these techniques in action as Reading cleans and repairs a large garrison flag from the Golden History Museums collection (see page 9).

Family History Resources at History Colorado

Saturday, March 19, 1 to 2 P.M.—History Colorado's research collections include a wealth of materials for visitors interested in their Colorado roots. Join our reference librarian to explore our family history resources in a program designed for genealogists of all experience levels.

COLORFUL COLORADO at the History Colorado Center

Members \$4, nonmembers \$5 (unless otherwise noted)

Meet Colorado authors, History Colorado curators and others. Call 303/866-2394 to reserve your spot, or register online!

All programs require a minimum number of participants and may be canceled if the minimum is not met 48 hours ahead of time. Early registration recommended!

Colorado's Territorial Days

Monday, March 14, 1 to 2 P.M.—Colorado's early territorial history witnessed an epic struggle between Golden and Denver over which would remain the state's capital. While most of Denver's early territorial buildings are now gone, the streets of Golden retain elements from those days of yore. Within the basement of Golden's 1863 Loveland Building—where the territorial legislature once convened—was found a magnificent 38-star American flag representing Colorado's entry into the Union in 1876. Join experts from the Golden History Museums to learn about early territorial history, the shady decision to move the capital back to Denver and the mystery behind this historic flag. You'll even see this 12-by-24-foot masterpiece undergoing conservation work!

MEET THE LEGENDS

Isabella Bird: A Lady's Life . . .

Monday, March 28, 1 to 2 P.M.—Meet Isabella Bird, pioneering adventurer of the female persuasion who rocked the late 19th century with her independent world travels and strong opinions, all captured in her writings. Rocky Mountain National Park ranger Sue Langdon brings Bird to life in a first-person account that looks at her 800-mile journey through the Rockies in 1873, when she reached Estes Park and ascended Longs Peak. You'll also learn



more about Isabella Bird's life before and after the publishing of her fourth book, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*.

MEET THE LEGENDS

The Buffalo Bill Experience

Monday, April 11, 1 to 2 P.M.—Colorado-based Buffalo Bill reenactor “Gunny” Jeff Norman guides audiences down the wild trail that was Buffalo Bill Cody's life, in a costumed living history presentation that's as entertaining as it is informative, colorfully blending humor, drama and little-known anecdotes. The show is chock full of all the wagon train driving, Army scouting and Pony Express riding adventures that made Cody an American icon, all the while gathering legendary friends like Wild Bill Hickok, Kit Carson, Annie Oakley, Sitting Bull and General George Armstrong Custer.



Remembering Lost Denver

Monday, April 25, 1 to 2 P.M.—Newcomers to Denver have always remarked on how “new” the city seems and how proud its citizens are. Heady boom times have inspired waves of city builders eager to make their mark with grand new edifices. Often, these new wonders replaced older structures once admired as great accomplishments. As Denver has grown into a major American metropolis, many remnants of its heritage have vanished, leaving newcomers to ponder, “What makes Denver Denver?” and long-time residents to ask, “Where has my Denver gone?” *Lost Denver* author Mark A. Barnhouse evokes memories of Denver's glorious—and not so glorious—lost buildings.

FREE!

Place of Refuge: Photographing Burmese Refugees for History Colorado

Friday, April 29, 1 to 2 P.M.—Since 2014, photographer Angela Buckley has documented the lives of Burmese refugees in the Denver metro area for History Colorado. Join Buckley, curator of photography Megan Friedel, and refugee advocate Jill Toffa to view pictures from the project and learn about the culture and community of Burmese families who call Colorado home.

RSVP: goo.gl/forms/JUIALbwJal

MEET THE LEGENDS

Baby Doe: A Colorado Legend Lives On

Monday, May 9, 1 to 2 P.M.—Mythologized in Colorado lore, Elizabeth McCourt “Baby Doe” Tabor intrigued Coloradans in her lifetime and has captivated succeeding



generations. The subject of books, documentaries and an opera, her classic rags-to-riches-to-rags story epitomizes the boom-and-bust cycle that defines Colorado history. Historian Debra Faulkner portrays Tabor in her later years in a first-person presentation, telling the tales of triumphs, hardships and hidden details that bring deeper clarity, empathy and understanding to this clichéd “homewrecking floozy” of popular lore.

Territorial Flag to Undergo Conservation

One of the most storied and visually arresting of the nearly 15,000 objects in Golden History Museums' collection is an impressive 12-by-24-foot American flag. It bears 38 stars, representing Colorado's admission as the 38th state of the Union, and was the country's official banner from 1877 to 1890.

Melinda Koenig Reed gave the flag to Golden History Museums in 1980. Her grandfather, Nick Koenig, was the proprietor of Koenig Mercantile Co. and a prominent member of the Golden community. He bought a building for his dry goods company from Miranda Loveland, wife of William A. H. Loveland, in 1883. The building had been used as a meeting place for the Colorado Territorial Legislature in 1867. (The Koenig/Loveland building is today's Old Capitol Grill restaurant.) Found in a burlap bag on the second floor, the flag passed down through the Koenig family.

Oral tradition and museum records tell us the flag flew over Golden's capitol building while the legislature was in session. Records also claim that a 38th star was added when Colorado gained statehood. But recent research calls this long-held belief into question. Little visible evidence suggests that a star was ever added to the flag, so it's unlikely the flag was made before Colorado became a state. Also, the flag's sheer size would require a massive pole to fly it, and preliminary evaluation shows little evidence that it flew outdoors. Despite its spurious legend, the flag is an important object directly tied to two of Golden's founding families.

In March, the flag will undergo textile conservation work to help preserve and repair it. Work will include documentation of its condition, a cleaning, stabilization of tears and holes, humidification to relax creases and preparation for storage using acid-free materials. Given the flag's massive size, Golden History Museums is partnering with the History Colorado Center for the conservation work.

See Conservation Work on the 38-Star Flag

History Colorado Center
March, 15, 16 and 17, 2 to 4 P.M.

See conservation work in action as conservator
Paulette Reading cleans and repairs the large garrison flag.

Free with museum admission

Tours & Treks

Take a Guided Trip Into the Past (To register call 303/866-2394)

Dynamic Denver Streets: Exploring Broadway

Wednesday, March 30, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Colfax may have the notoriety, but there's another street with fascinating stories to share—a street that binds the metro area together. From its humble beginnings in a neighborhood guise in the north, through its grandeur and history in downtown, to its steady march along with the cities to the south of Denver, Broadway is a street for the hoity-toity and hoi polloi. We'll explore the many faces of this important metro thoroughfare, which is more than just a Miracle Mile dividing west from east.

Members \$39, nonmembers \$50

(Includes bus transportation and a break for lunch on your own dime.)

Denver's Bizarre Buildings by Bus

Saturday, April 23, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

What makes a building a building? Pretty simple: walls and doorways, ceilings and floors, right? But what makes a building art, or just plain bizarre? Now that's a harder question, so join us as we seek the answer. With fanciful rooflines, ostentatious ornamentation and everything in between, it's a voyage into the quirky. No judgments here, just the good fun of breathtaking buildings. You might even be inspired to renovate your house and join our bizarre building bazaar!

Members \$39, nonmembers \$50

(Includes bus transportation and a break for lunch on your own dime.)

Encore! Denver's Historic Theaters

Tuesday, May 3, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Stage theaters—some corny, some queenly—provided respite from the mundanity of life. And when movies arrived, the city fell in love. Movie theaters often had themed designs to attract people's attention. The lights may have dimmed, but venues both theatrical and celluloid remain with us. Time for a dose of the limelight as we drive by and discuss some of the theaters still entertaining us, with a guided tour of northwest Denver's grande dame, the old Elitch Theater.

Members \$59, nonmembers \$75

(Includes bus transportation, all guides, interpretation and preservation donations. There will be a break for lunch on your own dime.)

Travel Through Time: Sights of Northwestern Colorado

Wednesday, May 18 to Sunday, May 22

Register by April 15

Time to leave the tumult behind for the tranquility of northwestern Colorado. We'll trace the footsteps of ancient giants at Dinosaur National Monument, learn the tragedies and triumphs of the Utes in Meeker, tread where the pioneers did in Steamboat Springs and much more. Hayden, Craig, Rangely and other towns will fill out our roll call, and above it all the transcendental tapestry of the mountains. Free time in Steamboat and two nights at the iconic Rabbit Ears Motel will



Exploring Broadway



Denver's Bizarre Buildings



Denver's Historic Theaters

provide a respite along the journey. Breathtaking and historic in northwestern Colorado!

Members \$725, nonmembers \$800 (single supplement \$225)
(Includes four nights' lodging, bus transportation, guides and interpretation, admissions and eight meals, including a welcome dinner.)

Roaming Wyoming: An Eastern Wyoming Trek

Wednesday, June 15 to Sunday, June 19

Register by May 13

Continuing our march around the states bordering Colorado, it's time to explore the incredible number of historic, geologic and scenic offerings of eastern Wyoming. Where mighty dinosaurs once thundered, where Native Americans found prosperity and tragedy, where settlers left their marks in soil and stone, we'll pack the day full with sights. And while we're so close, we'll bound across the border into Montana to spend a day at the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. Many of the tales have direct connections to Colorado and its history, so don't miss out on the wealth of wonder in store in Wyoming!

Members \$950, nonmembers \$1,025 (single supplement \$325)
(Includes four nights' lodging, bus transportation, guides and interpretation, admissions and seven meals, including a welcome dinner.)

Let's Get Wet!

Green River and Lodore Rafting Adventure

Friday, June 24 to Sunday, June 26

Register by May 27

History Colorado is proud to team up again with Adrift Adventures to offer an amazing four-day whitewater rafting

adventure on the Green River in Dinosaur National Monument and the Gates of Lodore. Find action, excitement, geology and history on the Green River as you cavort with cowboys, outlaws, explorers and more. See it all alongside historian Dr. Andrew Gulliford from Fort Lewis College. Bring the kids and let's get wet!

Members \$849, nonmembers \$909, children 7-12 \$650
Space is limited. Information and reservations: Adrift Adventures, 1-800-824-0150.

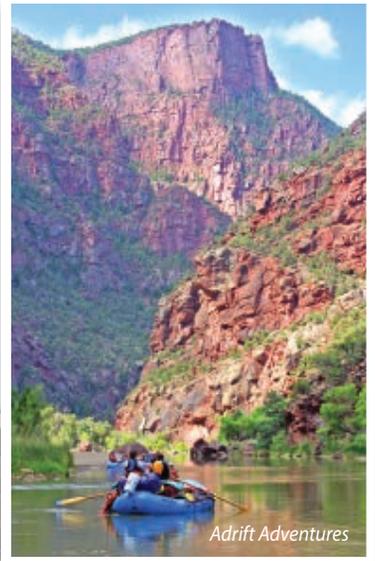
Paddles Up! Gunnison River Canoe Trek

Friday, August 19 to Sunday, August 21

Register by August 1

History Colorado and Centennial Canoe Outfitters offer this exciting trip through a wild, remote area with fascinating history. As you journey along the Gunnison, historian Dr. Andrew Gulliford of Fort Lewis College shares stories of the colorful characters who helped shape the western landscape. There will be time for day hikes to see Ute Indian rock art and majestic walls of red sandstone. The river is gentle with occasional small rapids to add spice to the journey. Camping along the river's banks and exploring a deep box canyon will surely leave you in awe.

Members \$409, nonmembers \$469, children 6-12 \$339
Space is limited. Information and reservations: Centennial Canoe Outfitters, 1-877-353-1850.



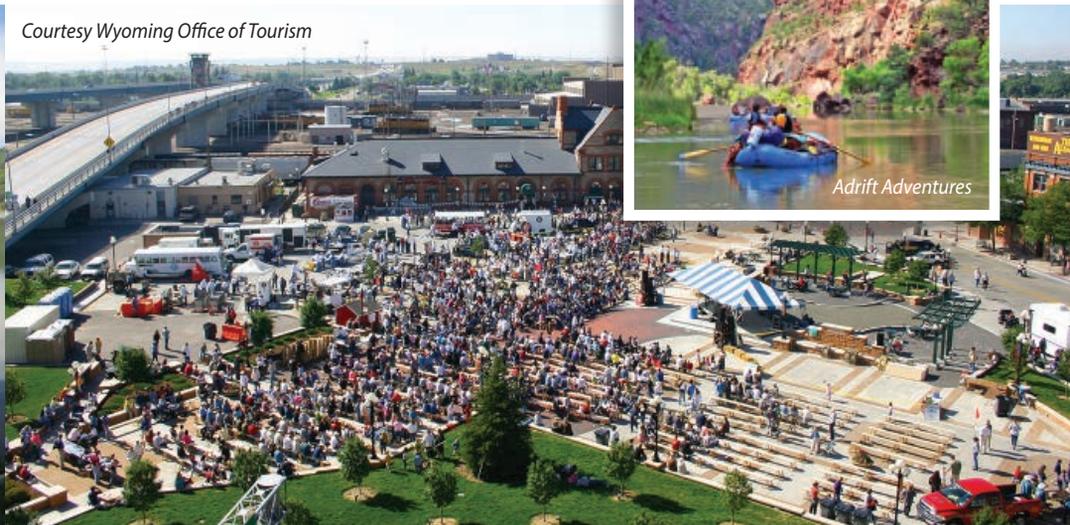
Adrift Adventures

Green River and Lodore Rafting Adventure

Courtesy Wyoming Office of Tourism



Sights of Northwestern Colorado



Roaming Wyoming

2015–16 Lecture Series

The World Around Us

At times, the ideas, people and reputation of Colorado transcend its borders and engender transformative changes in the wider society. Other times, outside forces influence Colorado in ways large and small. The 2015–16 lecture series uncovers Colorado’s place, in *The World Around Us*. All lectures are at 1 and 7 P.M. at the History Colorado Center. Call 303/866-2394 for more information.

Sponsored by the Walter S. Rosenberry III Charitable Trust

Deep History in the Colorado River Headwaters: Centennial Reflections on Rocky Mountain National Park

Monday, March 21

Dr. Thomas G. Andrews, award-winning author of *Killing for Coal: America’s Deadliest Labor War*, introduces his new book and explores what we can learn from a high country valley tucked into an isolated corner of Colorado’s most popular national park. Alongside native peoples, miners, homesteaders, tourists and conservationists, Andrews considers elk, willows, gold, pine beetles and water as vital historical subjects. In the process, he examines the unintended consequences of federal preservation policies.

Courtesy American Prairie Reserve



Montana’s Lessons for Colorado’s Imperiled Grasslands

Monday, April 18

The short-grass prairie of eastern Colorado is an often-misunderstood landscape steeped in lore and rugged beauty. What was once a vibrant home to native peoples and wildlife is today a fragmented collection of parcels. This compromised landscape is rife with possibilities, as a 21st-century paradigm shift brings renewed interest in restoring some of the prairie ecosystem. Montana’s American Prairie Reserve is pioneering this concept by assembling land to build an “American Serengeti.” The project offers key insights for Colorado’s own conservation struggles. American Prairie Reserve senior manager Gavin Clark argues for the importance of preserving a landscape that shaped our nation.

Courtesy National Park Service



Calendar

MARCH

12 Saturday

COLLECTIONS CLOSE-UPS:
THE OL' BALLGAME
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

14 Monday

COLORADO'S TERRITORIAL DAYS
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

15 Tuesday

LIBRARY CONCERT:
DANIELLE ATE THE SANDWICH
History Colorado Center
See page 1.

18 Friday

PRESERVING YOUR TREASURES
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

MEMBERS' OPEN HOUSE
History Colorado Center
See page 5.

19 Saturday

JACK ROBERTS' PAINTINGS
UNVEILING
Fort Vasquez Museum
See page 4.

NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
Byers-Evans House Museum
See page 5.

FAMILY HISTORY RESOURCES
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

21 Monday

HISTORIC DENVER WOMEN
Byers-Evans House Museum
See page 8.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL PARK
History Colorado Center
See page 12.

28 Monday

ISABELLA BIRD:
A LADY'S LIFE
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

30 Wednesday

DENVER STREETS:
EXPLORING BROADWAY
See page 10.

APRIL

9 Saturday

ART TOUR AND TEA
Byers-Evans House Museum
See page 8.

11 Monday

BUFFALO BILL
History Colorado Center
See page 9.

18 Monday

MONTANA LESSONS FOR
COLORADO GRASSLANDS
History Colorado Center
See page 12.

19 Tuesday

LIBRARY CONCERT: HARRY TUFT,
DICK WEISSMAN, JULIA HAY
History Colorado Center
See page 1.

23 Saturday

TRADERS MARKET
Fort Vasquez Museum
See page 6.

DOORS OPEN DENVER
Byers-Evans House Museum
See page 7.

BIZARRE BUILDINGS BUS TOUR
See page 10.

25 Monday

REMEMBERING LOST DENVER
History Colorado Center
See page 9.

29 Friday

PHOTOGRAPHING
BURMESE REFUGEES
History Colorado Center
See page 9.

Repeated Events

FIRST WEDNESDAY
PRESCHOOL STORY TIME
History Colorado Center
March 2 and April 6
See page 7.

FUN FRIDAYS AT THE FORT
Fort Garland Museum
April 8, 15, 22 and 29
See page 7.

38-STAR FLAG CONSERVATION
History Colorado Center
March, 15, 16 and 17
See page 9.

View an original 38-star Colorado flag at the History Colorado Center in March. See page 9. Courtesy Golden History Museums, City of Golden Collections



Keeping Things Affordable

The Death and Life of the Tabor Grand Hotel

BY JOSEPH SALDIBAR
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES MANAGER, HISTORY COLORADO

When it opened in 1885, the Tabor Grand Hotel represented Leadville at its zenith: a handsome four-story building with 117 luxurious rooms, steam heat, an elevator, and a lavish restaurant. The city's backers had long planned for a luxury hotel in what began as a rough collection of tents and log cabins. When the original funding ran short, Leadville fixture Horace Tabor opened his wallet to ensure that the hotel opened on time—and got his name on the side of the building as a result.

A century later, it could be argued that the Tabor represented Leadville at its lowest: worn and faded, with the town in the grip of an economic downturn. Some locals recommended tearing down the building and replacing it with a parking lot. Luckily, history repeated itself in 1993 when a group of investors stepped in, opened their wallets, and transformed the old hotel into thirty-seven units of affordable housing.

After twenty years, the apartments and utilities were worn and outdated. The Overland Property Group undertook a \$9 million renovation of the building. Overland committed to keeping all of the affordable units, a critical asset in a town where the median income is \$20,000 below the state's average.

Overland's renovations included restoring more than eighty original wood-framed windows by cleaning, repainting, and sealing each unit to provide weathertight protection without sacrificing the original window glass or the fourth floor's distinctive pointed-arch sashes. Inside, apartment units were renovated and modernized, utilities were upgraded, and surviving hotel elements such as the massive circular radiator in the former hotel lobby were carefully restored. On the roof, a state-of-the-art electric heating system keeps ice from building up during Leadville's long mountain winters. Future projects include the installation of solar panels to take advantage of the city's 310 days of sunshine per year.

Because the Tabor Grand is located within the Leadville National Historic District, the multimillion-dollar project received more than \$1 million in tax credits through the Federal Investment Tax Credit program, and \$50,000 in credits from the State Historic Preservation Tax Credit program. Retaining the thirty-seven units of affordable housing netted the project an additional \$650,000 in Low

Income Housing Tax Credits.

Thanks to recent changes in state law, future Leadville projects will be able to take advantage of a new state historic preservation credit of up to \$1 million.



New Listings

In the National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation.

Bross Hotel

Paonia

The 1906 Bross Hotel is the only two-story Late Victorian style hotel of its era remaining in Paonia. It provided accommodations to Paonia visitors, investors, fruit brokers, and associates of the Westmoreland Coal Company, among many others. William T. Bross built the hotel by making about 100,000 bricks on site from the clay excavated from the cellar. When it opened, a local newspaper called it Delta County's "only really first class hotel." In its early years it hosted numerous social and civic meetings and events. The Bross family owned and operated the hotel into the late 1930s. It continued in operation until 1969, when it closed for a time; today, it operates as a bed and breakfast.



Denver & Rio Grande Locomotive No. 168 (Amendment)

Colorado Springs/Antonito

This amendment reflects a move of the locomotive from a

Colorado Springs park to the Antonito Depot and Yard of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. Once the locomotive is in working order it will return to service on the historic Denver & Rio Grande Railroad line between Antonito, Colorado, and Chama, New Mexico, pulling trains on the same narrow gauge line where it operated more than 100 years ago.

Good to Know

National or State Register listed properties may be eligible for investment tax credits for approved rehabilitation projects. Listed properties may also be eligible to compete for Colorado State Historical Fund grants. These grants may be used for acquisition and development, education, and survey and planning projects. The next nomination submission deadline is June 3. For information, call 303/866-3392.

For more about these and all National and State Register properties in Colorado, go to HistoryColorado.org/oahp/national-and-state-registers.

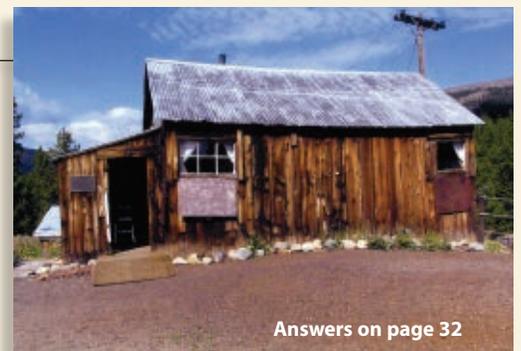
Winegar Building (Removal)

Burlington

This 1907 commercial building was demolished in 2013 and removed from the National Register.

Do you know this building?

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Where is it? | 2. When was it built? | 3. What was its original use? |
| a) Goldfield | a) ca. 1872 | a) Assay office |
| b) Gladstone | b) ca. 1888 | b) Boarding house |
| c) Leadville | c) ca. 1904 | c) School |
| d) Rico | d) ca. 1920 | d) Mining superintendent's cabin |

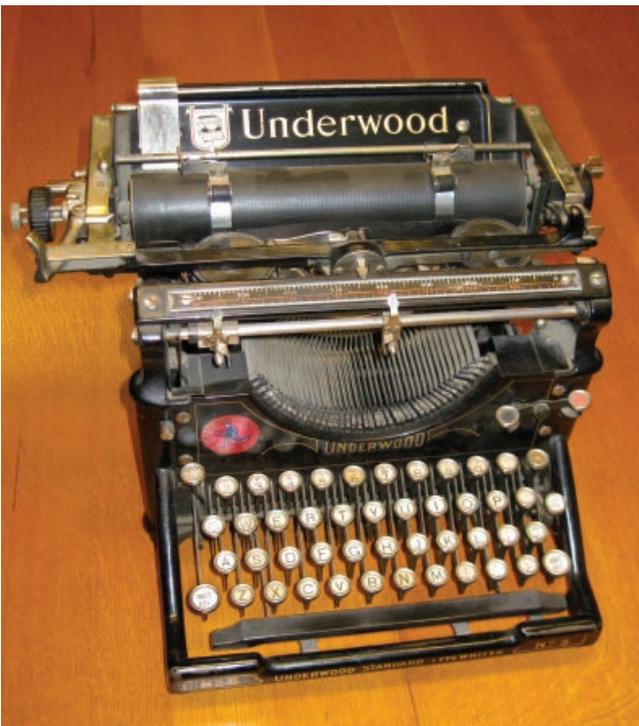


Answers on page 32

The Emery Family Endows Support for Explorations of the Recent Past

BY KEITH SCHRUM,
SENIOR CURATOR OF ARCHIVES

“The Pollsters Don’t Miss ’em Far Any More,” read a *Denver Post* article on October 19, 1952. An accompanying photo showed two women, one with a clipboard in hand making notes as the other spoke to her. The woman with the clipboard was a pollster collecting a random sampling of political opinion for Research Services, Inc.



Today, public opinion surveys are a staple of American culture. Just about every week one or more media outlets shares a new poll, expressing people’s views on any of a wide range of topics covering business, social life, culture, and (of course) politics. But that hasn’t always been the case. Public opinion polls have grown in popularity as their utility, value, and application have been realized and accepted.

In 1946, Yale graduates William McPhee and William Pearson created the first political and public opinion survey company in the Rocky Mountain region: Research Enterprises. It was the right time and place for the Denver-based entrepreneurs. Denver and the surrounding counties that would comprise the Front Range were experiencing a post-World War II boom. Palmer Hoyt, managing editor of *The Denver Post*, saw the value of collecting and assessing public opinion for reporting local, state, and national politics and contracted with the firm.

Two years later, the company became Research Services, Inc. (RSI). William McPhee left to enter the world of academia, but in 1950 his brother-in-law, John W. Emery, took the helm as research manager and represented the company in its relationship with the newspaper. The *Post* relied heavily on RSI for political polling but also utilized the firm to capture opinions about the paper’s readership and marketplace. At the same time, RSI conducted surveys for iconic Colorado businesses such as Coors and Public Service (now Xcel Energy), Ideal Cement, and U.S. National Bank. In addition, local governments, school districts, banks, commercial airlines, utility companies, sports organizations, newspaper publishers, and television and radio broadcast companies turned to RSI for assistance. RSI even worked for

small businesses including a soda shop and a pizza parlor! During its existence (1946–92), Research Services built a national reputation as an impartial and reliable regional polling firm.

The Research Services Collection

John W. Emery passed away in 1980, and his son, John “Jake” W. Emery, Jr., succeeded him, going on to manage Research Services for another twelve years. In 1999, Jake worked with History Colorado (then the Colorado Historical Society) to donate the business records of the company.

The Research Services, Inc. Collection (Mss 01791) contains significant records and reports crafted by RSI focused on business, politics, education, and other public policy issues. Nearly 1,600 files document a wide spectrum of public opinion across the latter decades of twentieth-century Colorado—a period of increasing interest to historians, educators, researchers, and museum visitors. The collection is available through the Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center.

The Emery Family and History Colorado

The Emery family and History Colorado have known one another for many years. Jean Jackson Emery, wife of the late John W. Emery and a descendant of famed author Helen Hunt Jackson, was instrumental in working with the Colorado Historical Foundation and the Helen Hunt Jackson Commemorative Council of Colorado to produce the documentary *Loving Rebel: A Portrait of Helen Hunt Jackson*. The production focused on the life of the Colorado Springs resident and activist who tackled tough subjects such as parental abuse of children and wilderness preservation

but who may be best remembered for her 1881 treatise, *A Century of Dishonor*, a nonfiction study of the mistreatment of Native Americans, and her 1885 novel, *Ramona*, the story of a mixed-race Scots–Native American girl who experienced love and hardship in Southern California.

John W. Emery Family Endowment

In summer 2014, Jean Emery visited History Colorado to donate additional items for the Research Services Collection. In meeting with staff members, the conversation turned to the focus of future collecting efforts as well as education and exhibition programs. Those present realized the RSI collection contains a wealth of information useful in supporting History Colorado as it works to develop its mission serving the people of Colorado.

Over the next several months, the Emerys met with staff to brainstorm ideas and offer generous support to History Colorado. In February 2015, the family established the John W. Emery Family Endowment, aimed at supporting History Colorado’s endeavors for collecting, interpreting, and programming contemporary Colorado history through the lens of the state’s history from the end of World War II to the present. Colorado’s recent past is key to understanding who we are today and who we will be in the future.

Through collecting, oral histories, exhibits, programming, and strategic community partnerships, History Colorado will help Coloradans engage with a living past and a changing present in order to help make sound decisions about the future. The endowment will give History Colorado the opportunity to engage new and more diverse audiences, create stronger community relationships, and demonstrate our commitment to social responsibility through civic engagement.



Page Four

ROCKY MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MAGAZINE, SUNDAY, JULY 13, 1947

POLLSTERS can't MISS!

Scientific opinion polls which provide accurate predictions and analyses on public issues have become a recognized national institution. The behind-the-scenes story of just how THE POST was able to predict in advance, with astonishing accuracy, the outcome of Denver's recent municipal election is told by one of the partners of Research Enterprises, Inc.

By E. D. Whittlesley,
Special Contributor to the Rocky Mountain Empire Magazine.

LEGG NEWTON walked into office last month as Denver's new mayor after receiving 53 per cent of the popular vote on May 20. And the day before the election, May 15, on page one THE LITERARY DIGEST predicted on the basis of a Research Enterprises poll that Newton would win—with 53 per cent of the vote!

How could a poll of 1,000 actual voters predict exactly what

was apparent that the small Stapleton vote would not be affected seriously by additional candidates who might enter the race. Votes for other candidates would most certainly come out of the Newton total. Who would they be and how strong would they be? That question had to be answered before POST readers could have the answer as to "who will be Denver's next mayor?"

A list of the most likely candidates was prepared. Several different studies were made on all of these. In one, prospective voters, scientifically selected so as to represent an actual miniature of the total population, were shown pictures of the various candidates identified by name only. In another, pictures of the candidates plus a brief biographical sketch were shown in a sample population. This was an attempt to duplicate the probable effect of a newspaper

out first whether the person is registered and, therefore, eligible to vote. Other factors include the individual's interest and intensity of feeling about the particular election, and his previous voting record. These considerations are then adjusted by complicated formula to arrive at a prediction based on those who will be voters in practice as well as in theory.

The final poll in the Newton-Morrissey-Stapleton race, taking into account all of the factors of economics, education, age, sex, status and interests, was completed the Saturday evening before the Tuesday election. Interviewers talked to only 1,000 persons and yet the results enabled Research Enterprises to tell how 139,000 individuals were going to vote.

Since this is the third time that Research Enterprises has demonstrated, within less than a fortnight, what the people of

or it is finding out why housewives buy certain kinds of bread or finding consumer and dealer reaction to new products or different packaging.

One businessman said a half interest in a business now worth in excess of 1 and one-half million dollars because the Literary Digest poll of 1935 predicted the election of Alfred M. Landon. The defeat of Franklin Roosevelt meant the end of social security and unemployment insurance and that meant the end of his business which was an advisory business on unemployment insurance and social security and old age legislation.

Poll Proves Itself

Had the businessman retained George Gallup and had confidence in his methods, which were wholly new and unproved in the business community at that time, it would have been worth a fortune to him. While George Gal-



Scientific opinion-sampling now gets accurate results both in political and business surveys. Here interviewer Jessie Stephenson, right, gets full attention from Freddie Batterman, left, baby Doreen Grace Crane and Beale Bennett, as the interview Mrs. B. J. Crane of 1426 Humboldt street.

A MODEST PROPOSAL IN HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS

John Peyer Brings Competitive Skiing to Colorado

BY DONALD DAILEY



Swiss-born skiing aficionado John Peyer's idea that Hot Sulphur Springs should host winter sports contests sparked Colorado's competitive skiing industry.

*On the Sled Run
1912*

All photos courtesy Grand County Historical Association

In June 1911, an imported Martini automobile rolled into Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado. The driver was the Swiss-born John Peyer. Before the year was out, Peyer had launched the state's first recreational winter sports club in this Western Slope town along the famed Moffat Road rail line.

Peyer was born in Zurich in 1880 and came to the United States as a twenty-three-year-old in 1903. He ended up in Hot Sulphur Springs, the Grand County town near Granby that *Rocky Mountain News* founder William Newton Byers had developed decades earlier as a hot-springs resort. Peyer went to work as a real estate agent for the Hot Sulphur Springs Townsite Company.

The company had plans to sell vacant lots in a massive subdivision known as Hot Sulphur Springs Park, complete with an entitled camp name for each lot. Peyer occupied a home atop the picturesque slope of Bungalow Hill in

Camp Argentine. The summer months were busy with the automobile shuttle of visiting clients from the depot of the Denver, Northwestern and Pacific Railroad—the “Moffat Road.” Disappointed that only eight homes and a U.S. Forest Service horse barn were built, Peyer’s employer sold to an investment company.

Peyer then went to work as an automobile tour guide, taking tourists and locals to points of interest throughout Grand County. Soon, *The Middle Park Times* was praising Peyer for his idea of hosting organized winter sports in the area. The *Times* wrote on September 22, 1911, “Mr. Peyer believes that we can promote winter sports here bringing hundreds of people in the winter as in the summer. In Mr. Peyer’s own country, Switzerland, winter sports prove to be a great drawing card, and why would it not work here. We believe our people should get busy on this subject and push it along. We shall say more at a later time.”

The next week’s *Times* editorial voiced concern that the Moffat Road was moving its freight operations to Tabernash, some twenty miles southeast. On October 13 came Peyer’s response:

To the editor: In answer to your editorial of two weeks ago about Sulphur Springs and its future, I will say that I have seen on my travels through Switzerland mountain valleys much less appropriate places for winter sports than here which have attracted winter tourists from all sections of the world. Where else can you find a better ski ground than Mount Bross? And where is it easier to find an ice field than on the baseball field near the Grand River. Or, on Bungalow Hill and through the beautiful pines you can make with very little cost, a fine bob sleigh run as good as they have in Switzerland or Canada. This ought to bring a large number of lovers of sports to your town every winter. The hotels I believe would put heat in their rooms and I am sure there would be something doing. The American people take to sports quicker than others, and there is no doubt that the Moffat Road people would advertise for us if we guarantee them a good ice field and bob sleigh run in every way of winter sports. All we have to do is work together and not expect someone to come along and feed us fried chicken. Yours ready for work.

Peyer followed up a week later with this modest notice:

Those interested in winter sports will meet at the Chamberlain-Gray Drug Store next Monday evening at which time steps will be taken to do something along that line. John Peyer.

On October 23, 1911, twenty-five people formed the Hot Sulphur Springs Winter Sports Club, Colorado’s first. John Peyer was elected chairman of the Carnival Committee. Known for his pleasant personality, Peyer also had a talent for publicity—a talent that helped garner notice from the Denver newspapers and press throughout the state. *The Denver Post* on December 24 and the *Steamboat Pilot* on December 27 published articles about an initial winter carnival where prizes would be offered for speed records set on toboggans, skates, and skis, followed by a Grand Ball that evening. The papers reported that the town hoped to become a year-round resort like Switzerland or Atlantic City.

“SULPHUR SPRINGS TO HAVE CARNIVAL OF WINTER SPORTS,” screamed the page one, column one, *Denver Post* headline on December 29. That day in Denver, New Year’s celebrants boarded a train bound for the winter carnival. Joining them were two Norwegian immigrants, the skiing and ski-jumping champion Carl Howelsen and his fellow skier Angell Schmidt. At Rollins Pass–Corona Station, Howelsen and Schmidt disembarked the original Colorado Ski Train. Each put on skis, backpacks, and rifles, then skied forty-four miles in nine hours to Hot Sulphur Springs. Upon their arrival, they were greeted and hosted by John Peyer.



The ski-jumper's view of Hot Sulphur Springs

The sledding events opened the carnival on December 30 on Bungalow Hill. The first race was a quarter-mile single sled on a toboggan run. The sled driver won with a time of 14 seconds. Carl Howelsen made the same run on skis in 11 seconds. The Grand Award Race with a six-passenger flexible flyer was won by Lee Fuller, a locomotive engineer for the Moffat Road. Fuller's prize was one vacant lot in Hot Sulphur Springs Park. The Fancy Skate Contest was won by John Peyer, earning him a cash prize from *The Denver Post*. Peyer and Maidee Fuller won the Couples' Fancy Skate Contest, along with the Chamberlain-Gray Company award. At the Grand Ball, the Norwegian celebrities Howelsen and Schmidt were formally introduced to the audience. As a bonus, everyone was invited to be on Bungalow Hill at noon the next day for a demonstration of ski techniques.

On December 31 near John Peyer's house, competitors launched off a ski jump made of boxes and logs. Schmidt's longest jump was 59 feet; Howelsen jumped 79 feet. The Norsemen also gave exhibitions of cross-country and downhill skiing. Members of the Winter Sports Club saw the amazement of the spectators, and John Peyer invited Howelsen and Schmidt to return in six weeks, assuring them that the three disciplines of skiing would be added to the existing sled and skate events.

A *Denver Post* headline on January 21, 1912, read, "Hot Sulphur Springs to have 3-Day Carnival and Ski Exhibition." February 10, 11, and 12 had been set aside for the fun, with work completed on the new Bungalow Hill ski course and jump slide.

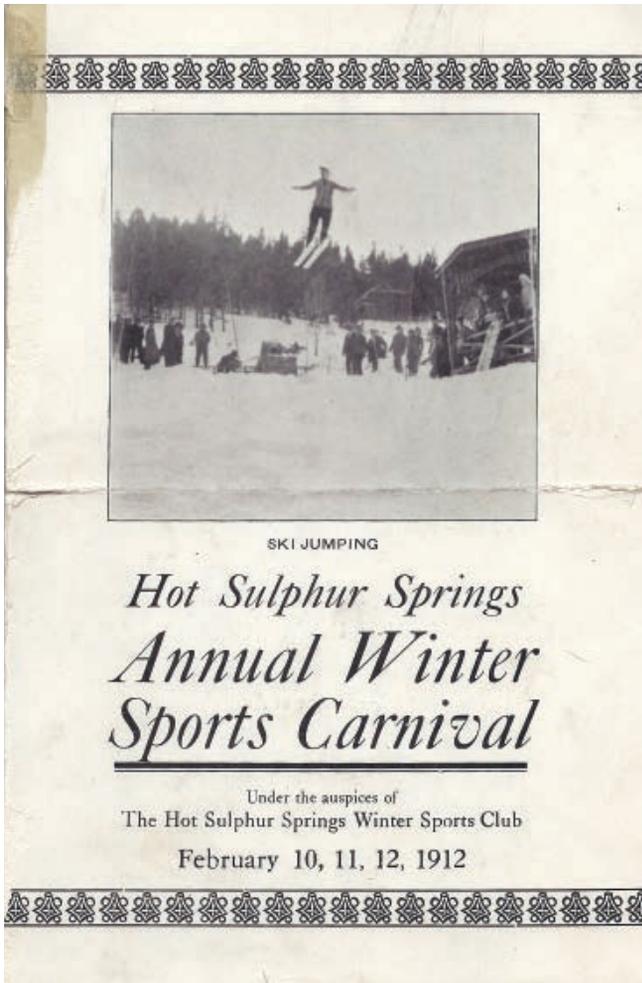
Local citizens young and old tested the venues, and the women showed their talent at ski jumping. Spaulding and Whitney sporting goods stores made sure that all was in perfect working order and donated prizes. The Schwartz Jewelry Company engraved two sterling silver trophy cups: The Hot Sulphur Springs Cup—valued at \$50—would go to the first-place winner in professional ski jumping, while second place would earn the Colorado Cup, valued at \$25.

Visiting Norwegian skier Angell Schmidt inspects the first ski jump—made of boxes and logs—on New Year's Eve, 1911. In the background is John Peyer's home.



Norwegian champion Carl Howelsen jumps from the ski slide near Byers Canyon, with Mt. Cross in the background.





The cover of the carnival program highlighted the novel sport of ski jumping.

Antlers Hall. Admission was \$1 per couple. Women and children paid 25 cents.

Sunday morning was dedicated to the ski jumping competition, where a jump of 100 feet was guaranteed by the contestants. So anticipated was the event that the Town of Fraser, 25 miles up the rail line, chartered a train to bring its citizens to the site. The jumpers plunged through the air with the accuracy and precision of winged birds—a new kind of spectacle that proved awe inspiring, sensational, and thrilling to the crowds. Third place went to Angell Schmidt, with a score of 145 points. Coming in second was Williams Fork resident Gunnar Dahle, who racked up 210½ points, winning the Colorado Cup. Taking first was the internationally known winter sports superstar Carl Howelsen, “The Flying Norseman,” who was presented with the Hot Sulphur Springs Cup. The 100-foot jump was not honored because a warm day had made for soggy and treacherous conditions; but it seemed that few noticed the event’s absence.

One future member of the Colorado Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame was in attendance: Horace Button, who was ten years old at the time. Noticing that young Horace was entranced by the events, a man asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up. Horace replied, “I want to be a ski jumper like Carl Howelsen.” Later, Horace placed second in the boys’ 200-yard handicap skating race. Coming in second in the men’s backward skating race was John Peyer.

The Fraser folks boarded their train at 7:30 in the evening to return home.

Monday, February 12, was the final day of the carnivals. In the day’s only competitive event—a five-mile cross-country skiing race—Gunnar Dahle bested his rivals Schmidt and Howelsen with a time of 51 minutes, 50 seconds. The Hot Sulphur Springs Winter Sports Club had much to celebrate, and John Peyer was given great credit for his zeal and untiring efforts. The three-day extravaganza had transformed not only the future of Grand County, but that of the entire state. Colorado’s winter tourism and competitive skiing traditions were born.

The Winter Sports Club reported that the carnivals were a financial success: \$30 was deposited in the club’s treasury. Many volunteers donated in-kind services at little or no cost. Those who contributed were a livery proprietor, ice rink and track crews, ski-jump carpenters, interior designers, and orchestra performers. John Peyer accepted the opportunity to plan the next winter’s carnival.

The advertising committee sent out invitations to all North American ski clubs to assemble for the “First Winter Carnival West of the Mississippi River” and the first “Annual Hot Sulphur Springs Winter Sports Club Carnival.”

The press release read, “For information regarding the carnival and reservations of warm rooms, address John Peyer, Chairman of the Carnival Committee, Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado.” The Winter Sports Club leased the entire Riverside Hotel, with the reception committee taking occupancy of the billiard and card rooms.

The carnivals opened to a jubilant crowd of Grand and Routt County residents, along with fellow spectators from Denver and beyond. Events commenced at 10:00 on Saturday morning, February 10, with a variety of sledding and skiing contests. Carl Howelsen won the professional round of the pro-am quarter-mile ski race with a time of 16 seconds. Lee Fuller won the amateur race with a time of 19 seconds. For those who wearied of standing and watching, a half-mile coasting track offered relief. The day’s revelry culminated with a Grand Ball at the beautifully decorated

In the meantime, Carl Howelsen had moved from Denver to Steamboat Springs (where he would soon pioneer that town's longstanding ski-jumping tradition and annual winter sports festival). In September 1912, Howelsen—a charter member of the Chicago Norge Ski Club—paid a visit to John Peyer in Hot Sulphur Springs. Howelsen was hoping the Chicago club would send its champion jumpers to the next carnival. Peyer put his marketing skills to work and received a consignment of new skis from a ski factory in Ashland, Wisconsin. He sold them for Howelsen to the local populace at \$2.50 and up.

January 31 and February 1 and 2, 1913, brought the Second Annual Hot Sulphur Springs Winter Sports Carnival. This year's carnival was a unified Grand County action. All towns and one region contributed their own



trophy cups. Additional cups came in from the *Kremmling News*, County Commissioner Ed Becker, and the Schwartz Jewelry Company. The Moffat Road provided reduced-price round-trip train fares and sleeping coaches to supplement the town's three hotels. Visitors came from as far as mid-western and eastern states and even a Canadian province.

Fount McQueary donated the use of his Antlers Hall for Friday and Saturday night's dances. "Skijoring" made its United States debut, offering spectators their first chance to see a competition of skiers pulled by horses. Setting the record for a half mile in 1 minute, 17½ seconds was Leonard Wold, winning the *Kremmling News* Cup.

Outdoor Life magazine featured Flora Brinker on the cover of its January 1913 edition. Flora was a young local woman who at the previous carnival had displayed daring feats on skis. Also on the program were sled and skate contests. But the marquee contest was professional ski jumping. National Ski Association jumpers Olaf Benson and Charles Ek were brought in to compete with Carl Howelsen and Gunnar Dahle. Opening the carnival on Friday afternoon, January 31, was the preliminary professional ski jumping, with the final competition held on Saturday morning. Jumping 119 feet, 3 inches was Howelsen, who won \$25 for first place. Gunnar Dahle's second-place jump was 96 feet, 5 inches, for a prize of \$15. Carl Howelsen won an additional \$5 in the standing long jump with a distance of 111 feet. *The Middle Park Times* quipped, "If you don't believe that Hot Sulphur Springs is the best place in the world for ski yumping [*sic*], just ask John Peyer—he knows."

The team effort of skijoring: horse, woman, and man.

The United States debut of skijoring on February 2, 1913, at the Second Annual Winter Sports Carnival



The Moffat Road hired a film syndicate to record the carnival, footage shown on movie screens across America for two years. It was John Peyer's last winter carnival.

Change was imminent for the gentleman who started Colorado's winter sports carnivals and its competitive skiing legacy. John Peyer moved on, becoming a car salesman in Detroit. He relocated to New York City and eventually married and fathered two children. John and Elsa Peyer returned to Hot Sulphur Springs with their children, Helen and Herbert, to spend the 1922 summer at their Camp Argentine home on Bungalow Hill.

The Peyer family settled at DeSoto City, Florida, and opened a hotel, then moved to nearby Sebring, where John owned a machine shop. When at the outbreak of World War II Florida citizens petitioned their congressmen to establish the Sebring Defense School at Hendricks Airfield for a B-17 bomber facility, Peyer helped organize the school and became a machinist instructor. On November 5, 1941, Peyer died at age 61 in his Sebring home. His obituary called him one of the most able manufactures machinists in the United States.

For Further Reading

References to John Peyer's legacy can be found in *The Flying Norseman*, a biography of Carl Howelsen by his son, Leif Howelsen (U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame, 1983), 37–40; *The Ski Train*, by Steve Patterson and Kenton Forrest (Colorado Railroad Museum, 1995), 6; and "1859–1950 Skiing



in Middle Park," in *Grand County Historical Association Journal*, volume 4, number 1 (1984), 13–20. Primary sources for this article were contemporary coverage in *The Middle Park Times* and *Steamboat Pilot*, with occasional references in *The Denver Post*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *Littleton Independent*, and *Denver Republican*. See also *Outdoor Life* magazine, January 1913. John Peyer's obituary appeared in the *Highlands County News* (Florida) on November 6, 1941.

DONALD DAILEY is a fifth-generation Colorado native. His grandfather, great uncles, and mother were officers and members of the Hot Sulphur Springs Winter Sports Club. Dailey is taking part in efforts to add John Peyer's name to the Colorado Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame, the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, and the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame.



VAGRANCY LAWS IN COLORADO HISTORY

Targeting and Removing Undesirables



The twenty-first-century conflict being played out on Denver's Sixteenth Street Mall and other parts of the city over an "urban camping ban" is the latest in a long struggle over the definition of urban social space and the rights of marginalized communities in Colorado. This conflict is also part of a historical trajectory in which vagrancy and related laws have been strategically implemented to cleanse our streets and our state of those deemed undesirable.

BY DR. JAMES WALSH

Facing: A member of the Colorado National Guard stands watch over the Robert Emmett mine in Leadville in 1896. After a splinter group of striking miners tried unsuccessfully to take control of two “scab” run mines in east Leadville, the Guard took control of Leadville and eventually broke the strike. Courtesy Lake County Library.

This struggle extends well beyond Colorado. The Articles of Confederation explicitly denied “paupers and vagabonds” free movement between the states. The English transplanted their own centuries-old vagrancy laws throughout their American colonies, criminalizing any able-bodied person who lacked some form of employment. *Idleness* was considered a serious offense and a threat to public order. By the nineteenth century, these laws were ingrained across the United States, targeting anyone whose behavior, appearance, culture, or politics put them at odds with the dominant norms of Social Darwinism, Manifest Destiny, and the Protestant work ethic.

Following the Civil War, vagrancy laws took on the appearance of race- and class-based exclusion. The Black Codes that defined the postbellum period meant that former slaves across the South lost their right to travel freely without proof of employment. In early Colorado, without a large population of freedmen and women, indigenous and immigrant communities found themselves the targets of such laws. The hunting rights of many indigenous communities such as the Utes were severely restricted through the selective use of laws rooted in these attitudes about race, vagrancy, individual initiative, and private property. In his exhaustive study of the removal of the Utes from most of the state of Colorado to tiny reservations in Utah and southern Colorado, Peter Decker explores the role of the refusal of the Utes to transition from hunters to farmers and how this contributed to justifying the ethnic cleansing that defined their removal. As Decker demonstrates, the arguments behind the battle cry “The Utes Must Go!” are drawn directly from the rhetoric of vagrancy and the fear of idleness. Indeed, the history of the use of vagrancy laws in Colorado reveals a list of communities deemed undesirable and targeted for removal from the public eye.



**See Searching for Home, on view now
at the History Colorado Center**

The VAGS MUST GO!

As with indigenous communities, immigrants in early Colorado found themselves in the crosshairs of political and economic structures that turned immigrants from Europe, China, and Latin America into mules in the industrializing machine of mining. During the silver boom in Leadville of the late 1870s, thousands of Irish and Irish American miners and their families flooded into the boomtown following the promise of steady work. By 1880, Leadville boasted nearly 3,000 Irish-born residents and a sizeable number of Irish Americans who had migrated from other North American mining areas such as the Pennsylvania anthracite region and the copper mines of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Leadville became the most Irish place in Colorado and one of the most Irish places in the United States, with nearly 20 percent of Lake County residents boasting of some Irish roots.**

This seemingly solid Irish enclave, where silver miners earned three dollars a day, changed forever in May 1880 when an estimated 5,000 miners walked out of the mines to protest low pay, unsafe conditions, and a new rule that banned miners from talking while they worked. The miners’ union, led by twenty-eight-year-old Dublin-born Michael Mooney, quickly shut down Leadville’s silver mines and immediately threw the Colorado economy into dizzying uncertainty. The media and political onslaught was immediate. Nearly all of Colorado’s newspapers declared that the strikers were members of the legendary “Molly Maguires,” a secret society of Irish tenant farmers that was said to have been responsible for the murders of several mining executives and other professionals in Pennsylvania’s anthracite coal region during the 1860s and ’70s. The *Denver Tribune* declared, “Mob in the mines: The Molly Maguires take actual possession of Leadville.” Hysteria spread across the state, fueled by the fact that the strikers were overwhelmingly Irish, just a few years after the Molly Maguire panic in Pennsylvania. The same *Denver Tribune* opined that Mooney himself was a “Molly Maguire of the worst description” and declared that “The Molly Maguires must find a reservation outside of Colorado. Leadville drove the Chinese out, but admits Molly Maguires. The discrimination was a bad one.”

Within two weeks after the strike was launched, Governor Pitkin declared martial law in Leadville, even though the striking miners had not committed a single act of violence. Striking miners were targeted for arrest by members of the

**The 1880 census reveals that roughly 16 percent of Lake County residents were either first- or second-generation Irish. Adding third- and fourth-generation Irish to that statistic would presumably push the figure closer to 20 percent.

Colorado National Guard. As a strategy to rid the town of striking miners, a vagrancy law was issued, calling for the arrest of any man without any “visible means of support.” The *Leadville Democrat* declared on June 17, 1880:

The vags are leaving the city in armies and the order concerning this element is being strictly enforced . . . The VAGS MUST GO, and accordingly yesterday morning after a last lingering look at affectionate bar room chairs, they packed their effects and departed . . . The order concerning this ubiquitous class of humanity was prosecuted most effectually yesterday, and those who insisted upon remaining in the city after they had been legally proscribed were taken in. The “cops” were vigorously at work throughout the day, and last evening the record footed up seventy-one of the unfortunate class. The penalty is one hundred dollars, and if this amount is not forthcoming they will contribute their share of muscle to the finishing touches of the street.

Three days later, the *Democrat* reported, “There has been 250 arrests under the vag order thus far. A large number of the vagrant gang are doing good work on West Tenth street.” A Leadville justice later claimed that the county jail had been turned into a military prison, the *Rocky Mountain News* reported, with prisoners “conducted between militia muskets to and from trial and sentence.” The *Leadville Chronicle* also attempted to describe the scene:

The jail yard at one time this morning presented a very lively appearance. About eighty-five prisoners, arrested by the guard, were standing or lying in groups upon the ground, basking in the sunlight, presenting an exceedingly heterogeneous aspect. The crowd is composed to a large degree of . . . the hard-working Celt who had imbibed somewhat too bounteously at the fountain of Bacchus . . . All were arrested under the riot act, which included disorderly conduct, drunkenness and vagrancy. Several of them became insulting and had to be summarily treated by the guards who keep watch over them.

The end of this strike, and the way that the striking miners were forced at gunpoint to build roads on chain gangs, points to another important theme in the history of vagrancy laws, both in Colorado and elsewhere: a supply of free labor. Similar tactics were used again during the 1896–7 Western Federation of Miners strike in Leadville, although it seems that by the turn of the century strike-breaking strategies shifted away from vagrancy laws and toward the use of hired thugs and “special” police forces to intimidate

strikers. Just as convict leasing was used throughout the South through the 1930s as a source of slave labor, vagrancy laws were used in Colorado and across the West as a means of breaking miners’ strikes, ensuring that low wages prevailed in the mines, and providing free labor for the state.

The communities considered most threatening to the Victorian senses of early Colorado in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were those of immigrants such as the Irish and the Chinese. The Chinese faced massacres, intimidation, and outright banishment from communities such as Leadville.²⁹ For the Irish, who enjoyed a semblance of white privilege and the benefits of being English speakers, vagrancy laws were the tool used to enforce a kind of industrial serfdom in the mining towns.



A grainy photo shows miners with their union ribbons on their lapels marching behind an American flag through Victor, Colorado, during the 1894 strike there. Courtesy Sandy Oliver.

Facing: Members of the Colorado National Guard ride into Leadville in September 1896, following a night of warfare between striking miners and scabs guarding the mines. Courtesy Lake County Library.

²⁹The Chinese were banned from living in Leadville during the late nineteenth century. Not a single Chinese person can be found in the 1880 federal census for Lake County, in a population of well over twenty thousand people.

“Aliens and Indigent Persons”

Vagrancy became a means with which to target and systematically eliminate or at least control any group that resisted Colorado’s economic and political social order. These laws became a vehicle for targeting any kind of political or workplace organizing that threatened the dominant WASP norms of individualism, Social Darwinism, and efficient, industrialized work practices. Although the use of vagrancy laws against striking laborers decreased in the twentieth century, the laws were revived as a tool against the threat of “outsiders.” In April 1936, in the midst of the Great Depression and fears that Mexican migrants and Dust Bowl refugees were flooding into the state to take advantage of federal relief programs, Governor

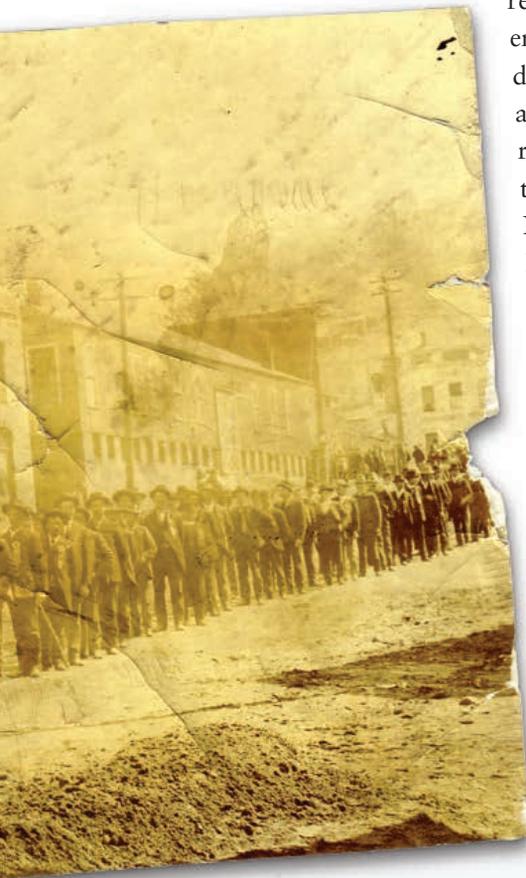
“Big Ed” Johnson declared martial law and ordered the Colorado National Guard to seal the Colorado/New Mexico border. He had earlier proposed placing undocumented immigrants in a camp near Golden before shifting to his strategy of sealing the border. Declaring that “aliens and indigent persons” were invading the state, Johnson ordered the Guard to keep out

people with little money and asked “all patriotic and law-abiding citizens of the state to desist and refrain from . . . aiding, abetting or encouraging . . . aliens, indigent persons or invaders in entering the state.” “Hobos” were ordered off trains at the border and forced to walk back to New Mexico. Dozens of people with little money on their persons were turned away before Governor Johnson caved to political pressure and reopened the border after eleven days. The action became laughingly known in the media as the “Bum Blockade.”

Although specific vagrancy laws were not cited in this instance, the language and vocabulary of vagrancy were clearly at play, in both a racial and class-based sense. Governor Johnson was determined to save law-abiding Coloradans from those outsiders who presumably had their eyes set on public relief or on undercutting their wages. Here, we can see the focus of vagrancy fears becoming racialized and turning toward Latino migrants and citizens, a trend that would continue.

“The Spanish American Problem”

Vagrancy eventually became defined as any threat to public orderliness and Anglo cultural hegemony. For Latinos in Denver and elsewhere in Colorado, their very presence on the streets became viewed as a form of potential criminal activity and a threat to Anglo hegemony. During the Second World War, street battles broke out across the West, most notably in Los Angeles, between GIs and young “zoot suit” Latinos who were presumably not doing their share for the war effort. Denver and other parts of Colorado saw their share of these battles. Newspapers printed sensationalized accounts of Latino gangs threatening “war” on GIs.



In post–World War II Denver, young Latinos claiming urban social space were viewed as a kind of insurrection. Vagrancy laws became a convenient tool to control these urban social spaces and to maintain cultural hegemony. De facto segregation already existed across the city in the 1950s, with public swimming pools and hotels being off limits to Latinos. Control over parks, alleys, and street corners was enforced with the language of vagrancy.

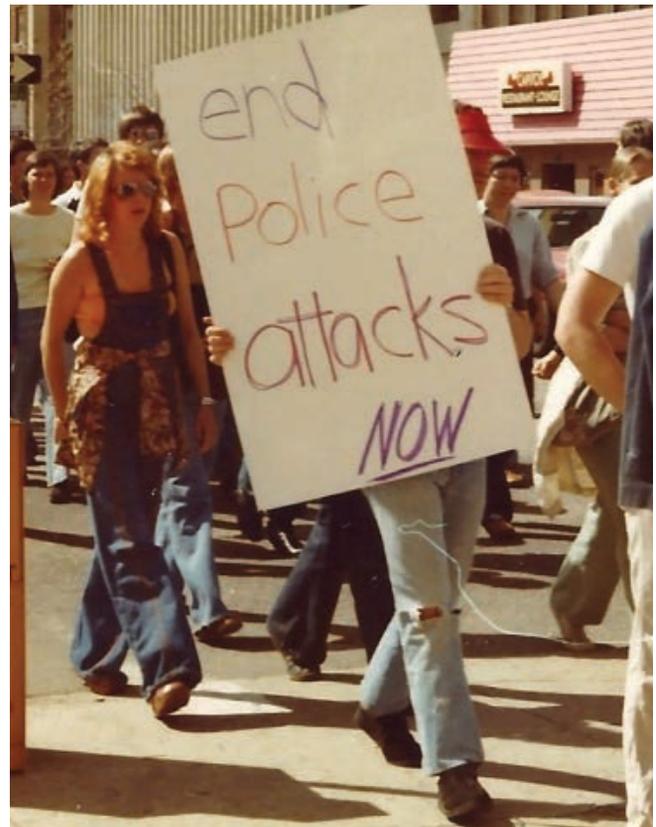
For Denver police officers, this meant that the city’s barrios were places to police instead of protect. A 1954 article in the *Rocky Mountain News* refers to the “Spanish American problem” as being rooted in a “tradition of mañana—I’ll do it tomorrow,” which, according to the author, was a “liability in a driving, fiercely competitive civilization.” Idleness and indolence would not be tolerated, as evidenced by this harangue by a Denver judge, referring to young Latinos in his courtroom: “If some of these offenders come up before me again and they’re still idle, they will go to jail. There is no reason for them to be idle to the point where they can stay out all night and sleep all day.” A 1950 study on Denver’s Latino community performed by the Denver Area Welfare Council concluded that the most common complaint among employers about Latino workers was poor job attendance and “pay-day drunks, drifting, only working when money is needed, laziness.”

Denver newspapers of this era frequently published “scientific” maps of the city’s “bad belt,” displaying charts and graphs of the places where crimes were committed. These shaded areas closely mirrored the Latino communities of Curtis Park, the West Side, and the Platte River “Bottoms,” demonstrating to the public that crime and delinquency in Denver was a Latino problem instead of a systemic problem. Denver newspapers often referred to this as the “Spanish American problem.”

In an oral history project that this author conducted in the 1990s, several interviews were performed with members of Denver’s Latino community who came of age in Denver during the 1940s and ’50s. Many of the interview subjects reflected on the use of vagrancy ordinances in their communities. Jake Trujillo recalled that “the police would just go around looking for Latinos to pick up. If you had no visible means of support they’d pick you up and take you to the county jail . . . this was in the ’40s. That’s the law of vagrancy, if you weren’t working, you were just bumming the streets supposedly.” Shirley Castro remembered a time when “they vaggd us. They took us to jail and said we were vagrancy. I was in jail for seven days just for being in the

park.” Any Latino not laboring during daylight hours or resting at home after sundown was thought of as a potential menace to the civility of Denver. The *Rocky Mountain News* referred to the intersection of vagrancy laws and perceptions that groups of idle Latinos must be involved in gangs: “Chief Forsyth said he would meet with City Council this afternoon to urge re-enactment of the loitering section of the vagrancy ordinance . . . police power to break up or arrest youths loitering around pool halls, cafes and other points where gangs congregate.”

Denver Police Department arrest records speak to these racial disparities. Between 1945 and 1954, 31 percent of those arrested for vagrancy in Denver were Latino even though the Latino community in Denver was estimated to be only 10 percent of the overall population. Police records also demonstrate that officers came into contact with Latinos at a much higher rate than Anglos. A survey of arrest records between 1941 and 1949 reflects that Latinos represented 24 percent of those arrested. Between 1945 and 1954, the rate of Latinos arrested was 25 percent, and 31 percent of those arrested for vagrancy were Latino.



Protesters march through Denver’s Capitol Hill area in 1978 after Irene Desoto, a drag queen, was killed by a Denver police officer. Their protest was one of the first gay- or trans-rights marches in the history of Denver. Courtesy Pat Gourley.

The abuse of vagrancy laws was not lost on city leaders. Mayor Quigg Newton's Committee on Human Relations argued in its "Report on Minorities in Denver" that "the definition of the term 'vagrancy' should be revised to eliminate abuse." The Denver Area Welfare Council mentioned in a 1950 report that "there appeared to be a cycle of some bitterness and misunderstanding between the police and Spanish-American youth. Unfortunate experiences on the part of Spanish-American youth had developed a feeling toward the police that does not see them in the role of guardian of the public and friend but rather as opponent."

The Johnny Cash Special

These kinds of repressive tactics to "clean up" the streets of Denver through local ordinances extended to the city's gay community. Although Denver was one of the first major U.S. cities to repeal its anti-sodomy laws, police repression and brutality against gay citizens continued into the 1970s and beyond. Using an obscure "Lewd Acts Ordinance," Denver

vice squads regularly rounded up suspected gay men, who faced beatings and imprisonment at the hands of the police.

Gerald Gerash, a founding member of the Gay Coalition, Denver's first gay rights alliance, recalls the Denver police making use of a bus called the "Johnny Cash Special," which was driven around Capitol Hill during the early 1970s. Undercover officers enticed suspected gay men on board the bus with promises of free Johnny Cash concert tickets. Once on board, the men were entrapped in conversations about gay sex and arrested. This was part of an effort to clear the streets of openly gay people, to keep the gay community in the closet. The Lewd Acts Ordinance was used in the same way as the vagrancy laws that preceded it, as a means of clearing out *undesirables* who occupied public space in contradiction to the industrious, prosperous, white, and *straight* image that Denver leaders wanted to project.

The Gay Coalition of Denver was formed in response to this systematized discrimination and brutality. In 1973, through successful organizing efforts, hundreds of activists

During the 1978 march, two protestors hold up a banner reflecting the solidarity that members of Denver's socialist community showed toward gay- and trans-rights efforts. Courtesy Pat Gourley.



packed the Denver City Council chambers, demanding that the Lewd Acts Ordinance be repealed. Dozens of activists gave impassioned speeches after waiting nearly four hours for the council to take up the issue. The effort was successful and led to the first gay pride event in Denver's history.

In his seminal study about the struggle that social movements face in carving out urban social space that is free and truly open, Don Mitchell writes about real public spaces as hidden islands of freedom where the marginalized can

pursue justice and challenge their exclusion from a sense of full citizenship. Mitchell uses several twentieth-century examples of U.S. laws used to annihilate public space and ban undesirables in order to turn public spaces into what he calls a "commodified spectacle" where middle-class residents feel a sense of order and safety.

In each of the above Colorado cases, groups of people were rounded up because their appearance, identity, culture, or politics contradicted the image of a straight, white, prosperous, and individualistic populace. This is our local history of vagrancy laws, and the story of how social control is enacted and maintained through vagrancy and related ordinances. As we continue today to participate in the debate over urban camping and the right to rest, let us not forget that we have a long history of laws in Colorado that were designed to target the most vulnerable among us in order to enforce the dominant social order.



Jerry Gerash, a founder of the Gay Coalition of Denver, shares his remarks with the Denver City Council on the important night of October 23, 1973. Courtesy Jerry Gerash.

Marge Johnson and Jerry Gerash prepare to confront the Denver City Council about the police brutality and harassment they face. Courtesy Jerry Gerash.



For Further Reading

In addition to contemporary news accounts of the events described, sources for this essay include: Francisco E. Balderama and Raymond Rodríguez, *Decade of Betrayal: Mexican Repatriation in the 1930s* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006); A. L. Beier and Paul Ocobock, editors, *Cast Out: Vagrancy and Homelessness in Global and Historical Perspective* (Athens: Center for International Studies, Ohio University Press, 2008); Peter Decker, *“The Utes Must Go!”: American Expansion and the Removal of a People* (Golden: Fulcrum Publishing, 2004); Audrey Eccles, *Vagrancy in Law and Practice under the Old Poor Law* (Farnham: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2012); Stephen J. Leonard, *Trials and Triumphs: A Colorado Portrait of the Great Depression, with FSA Photographs* (Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1993); Don Mitchell, *The Right to the City: Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space* (New York: The Guilford Press, 2003); and David Oshinsky, *“Worse Than Slavery”: Parchman Farm and the Ordeal of Jim Crow Justice* (New York: Free Press, 1997).

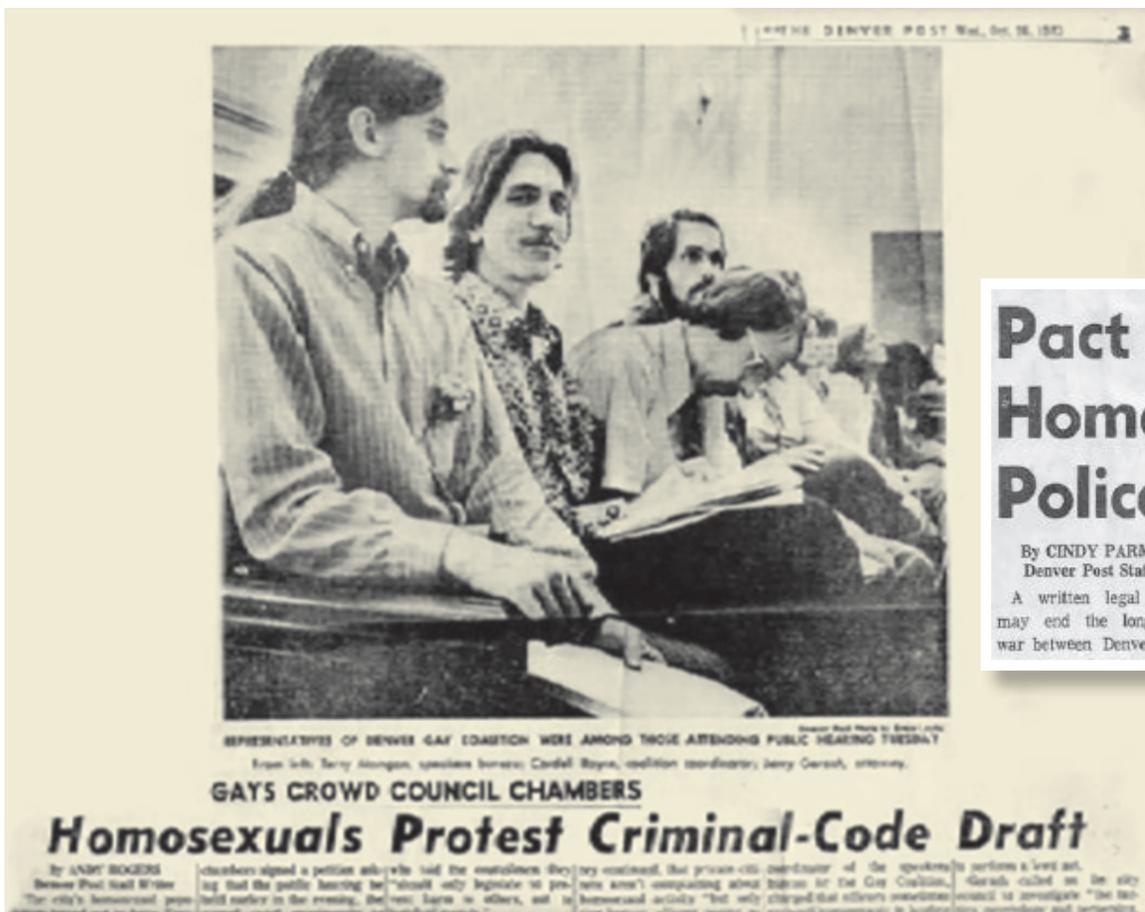
The author has written *Michael Mooney and the Leadville*

Irish: Respectability and Resistance at 10,200 Feet, 1875–1900 (PhD dissertation, University of Colorado Boulder, 2010) and *Young and Latino in a Cold War Barrio: Survival, the Search for Identity, and the Formation of Street Gangs in Denver, 1945–1955* (Master’s thesis, History Department, University of Colorado Denver, 1995).

See also Gerald Gerash’s film *Denver Gay Revolt* (denvergayrevolt.com/home.php). The film documents the Gay Coalition and the 1973 protest of the Lewd Acts Ordinance, with recordings of many of the speeches given by activists in the city council chambers that night.

JAMES WALSH, PhD, is an assistant professor in the Political Science Department at the University of Colorado Denver, where he has taught for the past eighteen years. He specializes in the history and politics of labor, immigration, social movements, and community organizing. Walsh is the founder of the Romero Theater Troupe, an all-volunteer community organic theater company that brings little-known stories of struggle and resistance in Colorado to the stage.

A Denver Post photo shows activists preparing to offer their remarks to City Council. Courtesy Jerry Gerash.



The Denver Post on October 4, 1974, explored the positive changes that came out of the “gay revolt.” Courtesy Jerry Gerash.

Do you know this building?

Continued from page 15

BY HEATHER PETERSON,
NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTER HISTORIAN

Answers: c) Leadville, b) ca. 1888, d) Mining superintendent's cabin

Although this circa-1888 building began as the Matchless mine superintendent's cabin in Leadville, it served longer as Elizabeth Bondel (Baby Doe) Tabor's residence. Horace A. W. Tabor bought controlling interest in the silver mine in 1879 and soon became sole owner. He expanded the operations as production increased, giving him an income of about \$1.5 million between 1879 and 1882. In 1883 he divorced his wife, Augusta, and married Elizabeth, a divorcée, sparing no expense on the wedding. The couple had two daughters: Elizabeth Bonduel Lillie and Rose Echo Silver Dollar. By the mid-1880s the mine produced about \$80,000 a month, affording the family a luxurious lifestyle in their prestigious home in Denver's Capitol Hill. Extravagant parties, travel, jewelry, and other indulgences were routine.

Despite the Tabors' wealth, Denver's social elite never embraced the couple—not just because of their quick rise to financial bliss, but because society questioned Elizabeth's morals given the divorce scandal and Horace's remarriage. But Elizabeth held her own, valuing her own pride and family over society's acceptance.

Lawsuits, risky investments, falling profits, and exorbitant spending took a toll on the family's opulent lifestyle. The 1893 repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act crushed the Tabor empire. Silver prices plummeted and silver mine production decreased by 90 percent nationally. Horace died in 1899 nearly penniless. Elizabeth and the children moved to the mine, their only remaining property. Although her children eventually left, she lived in the cabin and continued to attract small investors while maintaining hope that someday she would reopen the mine. In 1935 Elizabeth died at the cabin with only her pride and individuality. The National Register added the Matchless to its list in 2010.



HISTORY Mystery

an occasional series of historical oddities

Denver's Spider Man of Moncrieff Place
BY PATTY MAHER

Imagine, after living in your home more than forty years, you start to hear new sounds. Nothing you can put your finger on, but somehow those creaks and groans are a little . . . different. And other things seem to be amiss, like food disappearing from the refrigerator—or maybe not. Maybe you just forgot you'd already finished off the chocolate cake, and maybe there wasn't as much fried chicken left over as you thought.

That's what Philip Peters and his wife were starting to think when Mrs. Peters fell and broke her hip, sending her to the hospital. Seventy-three-year-old Philip was left in the home alone, when he wasn't at her bedside.

What they didn't know was that a few weeks earlier an old friend, Theodore Coneys, had stopped by to borrow some money. Since no one was home, Coneys let himself in and had time to look around, finding a small access door to the attic. It was September 1941, and with winter coming he decided to hole up in the attic.

Coneys was an odd fellow the couple had befriended as a boy. Now a drifter, he'd stop in to see them when he passed through Denver. Finding the attic was a stroke of luck. It measured only 27 inches high and 57 inches wide, but it was fine for the uninvited recluse. He even rigged an outlet so he could use a hotplate and radio he found in the cellar.

Weeks later, he was standing in the kitchen when Philip walked in. Not recognizing the shaggy stranger, Peters started swinging his cane to scare off the intruder. But Coneys didn't scare. He hit Peters over the head, thirty-seven times, with an iron poker. The place was a mess and blood was everywhere. And Coneys lived in the attic for another nine months.

After the murder the police kept an eye on the home. On July 30, 1942, an officer heard a lock click on the second floor. Racing up the stairs, a detective opened a closet door and saw a pair of skinny legs ascending through an opening to the attic. The officers grabbed the legs and pulled down the intruder—he was six feet tall and weighed only seventy-five pounds, with clothes that seemed to be rotting off of him. His stringy hair was matted and his unwashed skin a dark gray. He'd been living in the Peters' attic for nearly a year.

Dubbed "Denver's Spider Man," Coneys was sentenced to life in prison, where he happily found a place of his own.

Is there a Colorado history mystery you want to know more about? Contact patty_maher@yahoo.com and it may be featured in this column.

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Santa Fe Trail, Bent's Fort and Trinidad



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