

SPECIAL HISTORY EDITION

HISTORIAN

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017

**PULLOUT
SECTION**

The Ouray County Historical Society (OCHS) thanks the Ouray County Plaindealer for their assistance in printing and distributing our newsletter.

MISSION STATEMENT:
The Ouray County Historical Society (OCHS) is dedicated to preserve, protect, procure, exhibit, and interpret whatever relates to the natural, social, and cultural history of Ouray County and the adjacent San Juan Mountain Region of Colorado.

An awakening in Ouray County

With spring comes renewal, and as I look around Ouray County, I can't help but to see signs of this re-birth almost everywhere. From the RAMP project in Ridgway, to the "new" and improved Hot Springs Pool in Ouray, one sees signs of improvements and up-grades to these items of the past.

This new awakening is not lost with the OCHS as we have launched this late spring, our own Capital Campaign to secure matching funds for the long awaited and overdue, renovation and stabilization of our beloved museum building, formally the Saint Joseph's Miner's Hospital. Many years ago the OCHS board recognized the need for the improvements and upgrades to our building. We first secured an assessment grant from the Colorado State Historical Fund. After two years of exhaustive evaluation we were presented with the document that

detailed the critical, serious and minor needs of our museum. This document was then used to secure a matching fund grant from the state in the amount of \$198,000. Thus begins phase one of our long awaited construction project. But we need your help in securing the matching funds for this grant and many additional grants to follow. Please keep the OCHS in mind and help give to our campaign to keep the history of our area alive and well in a museum that can last another 100 years.

Speaking of renewal, our summer sched-



**President's Message
By Kevin Chismire**

ule has been announced and I'm sure all our history loving members will be pleased. Again we are looking forward to a full slate of Evenings of History topics held on Tuesday nights at the Wright Opera House from June-August. Check out our website or the newspaper for the speakers and topics to be presented.

We also invite you to come in and see our new permanent Climber Exhibit along with our special seasonal exhibits entitled "The Ouray Hot Springs Pool" as well as the newly laid out Bridal

Exhibit. We have another historic home and building tour coming up this July 1st and the usual lemonade and brownies at the museum following the parade on July 4th.

Don't forget about all the guided tours we offer as well as the many other attractions at the museum. Please consult our webpage or the newspaper for times, topics and places.

Enjoy the summer and let's see what spring has ushered in that's new...this year.

Thank you,

*Kevin Chismire
President
OCHS*

OCHS Announces Capital Campaign

Three stages of construction needed

The Ouray County Historical Society has launched a capital campaign, the nonprofit organization's first in nearly twenty years.

The purpose of the campaign is to fund a restoration and preservation project for the 130-year-old Ouray County Historical Museum, which houses the society's unique collections. The \$1 million campaign will proceed in three phases.

Donations to the campaign will fund critically needed repair and rehabilitation work on the aging, Italianate-style building on Ouray's Sixth Avenue. The impressive Victorian-era structure, originally the St. Joseph Miners' Hospital, is in itself an historic landmark.

The OCHS learned the museum is at risk after David Singer, owner and Principle Investigator for Silverton Restoration Consulting, released the findings of a three-year long assessment of the building.

"The study's conclusions were daunting," said Kevin Chismire, president of the OCHS Board of Directors. "The repair and rehabilitation costs for three stages of construction totaled nearly one million dollars."

The OCHS board immediately began the process of finding funds to begin the ten-year long restoration work. In the fall of 2016, the board applied to the Colorado State Historical Fund, a division of History Colorado, for a \$200,000 restoration grant, the maximum allowed. This February, the society

learned it was one of 16 applicants out of 45 to receive the award.

The state grant stipulates that the OCHS raise matching funds for the project's first phase by June 30. Those initial donations will fund important foundation and structural repairs, restoration of windows and doors, and code-required upgrades to the building infrastructure. The first phase of the project will result in the adaptive re-use of the hazardous basement level of the building into a modern archival workroom, where the Museum's collections will be catalogued and preserved for public interpretive displays.

Thanks to an early commitment from the Dave and Mary Wood Fund, named for the longtime Ouray residents and philanthropists, the OCHS is on its way to achieving its goal.

"The Dave and Mary Wood Fund, managed by the Western Colorado Community Foundation, has generously agreed to match dollar for dollar every donation we receive up through June 30, 2017 as a way of jump-starting this worthy campaign," Chismire said.

Silverton Restoration Consulting will continue to serve as the primary consultant for the restoration project. The OCHS started working with the historic preservation consultants in 2014 to prepare an Historic Structures Assessment (HSA) of the hospital building.

David Singer prepared the HSA

in partnership with architect Tracy Reynolds and local mechanical engineer Mark Burggraaf and Associates. The assessment is a preservation planning document evaluating each component of the building and making recommendations for treatment that comply with treatments adopted from the National Park Service. The scope of the work for Phase one of the project will focus on the most critical issues identified in the HSA. The assessment and preservation planning was funded through a \$15,000 grant from History Colorado.

SRC will assemble a design team to develop the Construction Documents and oversee the work to insure it meets the specific standards of treatment required by projects funded through the State Historical Fund.

"Time is of the essence," said Chismire. "Like so many other structures in Ouray County currently on the historic record, our museum building is beginning to show her age. We need to make sure she can stand tall for a century to come. All donations, regardless of amount, are meaningful and welcome."

To learn more about the capital campaign or to contribute, please call the Ouray County Historical Museum at (970) 325-4576 or e-mail ochs@ouraynet.com. Written correspondence and checks may be mailed to Ouray County Historical Society, P.O. Box 151, Ouray, CO 81427.



► (Top to bottom)
Hospital before porch; Modern day museum; May 1987, building the porch; Hospital with carriage. St. Patrick's Church moved to Nucla in 1954. Porch added in 1906.; and, Hospital with original porch.

*OCHS Archive
Collection*

Volunteer Profile

Katheryn Marie Bixler, B.A. in English from Colorado Mesa University

What brings you to the Ouray County Historical Society?

I grew up in Ouray during a great time. In the mid-1980s my mother and I lived across the street from Barbara Spencer, who as a young woman taught at the one room schoolhouse at the Camp Bird Mine and spent more than two decades delivering the mail to the mining camps in the high country. Later on we moved to a historical home on Oak Street (the Reed House), two doors down from Marvin and Ruth Gregory who kept a remarkable collection of old photos. They were always patient with my questions and eager to entertain me in their home, sharing their stories of old Ouray. More recently, I've spent several years working off and on at Bucksin Booksellers with Robert Stoufer and Elwood Gregory, both experts in local history in their own right and two of the most interesting men I know. All of these people have influenced me in my love of local lore.

Why is the history of Ouray County important to you?

These days, not many people have the opportunity to "live in history" the way we do in Ouray County. Even in cities with an abundance of historical landmarks, the physical and human landscapes are frequently changing to make room for the new. History is more of a hobby. Here in Ouray we have managed to keep things relatively

unchanged from the Mesker fronts of the buildings on Main Street to the many Victorian homes that have been standing 120 years or more. There are few places that so closely resemble the way they were at the turn of the last century. Here, history is a lifestyle. I grew up exploring ghost towns and many of my classmates shared family names with the town founders.

History is very much a living thing here. We are lucky to have these close and visible connections to our past.

I'm also an avid hiker and I like knowing that many of the recreational trails around

here were once pack trails. It's almost impossible to venture into the high country without coming across mines, shacks, graves, and ghost towns in the most improbable places. I love to think about the character and fortitude it must have taken to be the kind of person who can survive and even thrive in such an environment. It's humbling to consider the men who broke these same trails a century or more before I set foot on them.

What aspects of Ouray history interest you most?

Working at the bookstore has given me the opportunity to read through much of our excellent collection of books on Western history. I enjoy learning about the experiences of the first women to come to the mining camps from school-teachers to mail-order brides to prostitutes. We often read about the men who settled the west but so often women played a crucial role in building community and stabilizing social order in the camps while living in incredibly dangerous conditions. The courage and strength (and, perhaps, a little bit of crazy) of the early residents of our area just blows my mind.

What is your favorite thing about the Ouray Museum?

I have been visiting the museum since I was a child and have great memories of field trips and learning experiences, from getting to dress up in period clothing for a photo shoot

to finding help with research projects. I love how hard the historical society works to bring the community together to celebrate our roots. I always take out-of-town guests to the museum and every time I go I am a little overcome by how much we care about our history in this town. The sheer quantity of photos, letters, tools, clothing, and other items that have been saved and passed on to the museum through the decades shows such a commitment to our culture and pride in the ongoing story of our town. Just visiting the museum always manages to renew my pride in being a longtime resident of our valley.

What do you do when you're not volunteering at the museum archives?

Like most people in Ouray, I work several jobs during the summer season. I am also a volunteer for CASA of the 7th Judicial District. When I'm not working or volunteering, you can pretty much always find me up in the hills. We spent most of last August climbing 14ers around the state and I try to tackle as many of the peaks in our immediate Ouray / Silverton area as I can every summer, weather and time permitting. This fall I will be attending law school at Oklahoma City University and plan to bring what I learn back to our community by starting my own practice focusing on immigration law as well as issues related to historical preservation, mining, water rights, land use, and resource management.



► Katheryn Marie Bixler at the Women's Memorial in Seneca Falls, NY on election day, 2016.

Popular, new exhibits featured

The Ouray County Museum will feature three exhibits this summer.

Ouray Hot Springs Pool

The "Ouray Hot Spring Pool Exhibit" curated by Gail Zanett Saunders is back by popular demand!

80 Years of Bridal Gowns

In addition - a new seasonal exhibit at the Ouray County Historical Museum spans 80 years of bridal gowns worn by former and current residents of the Ouray County area. Initiated and curated by OCHS member and volunteer Sue Hillhouse, "Something Old, Something New: Wedding Fashions 1885-1965" displays the evolution of bridal fashion from the late 19th to mid-20th Century. The exhibit on the top floor of the museum runs throughout the 2017 season.

Wedding apparel on display ranges from simple high-necked cotton and lace dresses to draped satin gowns with long, cascading trains. All were hand-made especially for the bride.

The exhibit includes a 1905 lace and silk crepe dress made by a tailor for his

bride. The bride and groom were grandparents of former Ouray resident Susie Opdahl. Also on display are gowns from weddings of longtime Ouray residents Angie and Roger Henn and Mary and Dave Wood. The most modern gown in the collection belongs to Ouray resident Sue Hillhouse. She made her own wedding gown for her 1965 marriage to Tom Hillhouse, former president and current vice president and treasurer of OCHS.

Hand-outs near the exhibit provide information about the owners of each gown.

The museum is open Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and noon to 4:30 p.m. Sundays.

History of Climbing

A new exhibit at the museum is appealing to both mountain climbers and those who admire peaks from a distance. "Climbing in the San Juan Mountains," an exhibit in the Ouray County Room, showcases historic gear used by both recreational and trade climbers. Local climbers Sam Rushing and Bill MacTiernan donated items for the display, curated by Don Paulson.

The exhibit notes that climb-



► Sam Rushing, left, and Bill MacTiernan

ing in the San Juans began with the native Ute Indians. In the 1870s, climbing throughout the west was a work-related necessity for surveyors sponsored by the U.S. Government. Modern recreational climbing officially began in 1912 with formation of the Colorado Mountain Club, which still exists today.

Sam Rushing hopes the display of crampons, ice screws, axes, helmets, ropes and other climbing gear will encourage museum visitors to experience the addictive sport. "Trade climbing, sport climbing and ice climbing

"Miners were the wildest climbers in Ouray because it was part of their survival."

~ Bill MacTiernan, local ice and rock climber

are just some techniques that are enjoyed by many in our county," he says. "There are hundreds of climbing routes from beginning to very difficult, and the excitement can be experienced by young and old alike....There are expert qualified guides living in Ouray County who can provide a proper introduction to beginners."



Please consider being a member of the OCHS!
Help preserve the history of Ouray County

Your membership is vital so that the Society can maintain not only our historic Museum building but our new Research Center and Archive. All membership levels include Free admission to the Museum, a 10% discount on items for sale in the gift shop and Museum bookstore, free admission to the OCHS Evenings of History series, and receive newsletters and special announcements.

Please fill in below: (Please Print)

Name(s): _____

Organization (If Business Member) _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Amount Paid _____ by (check one) Cash ___ Check ___

Credit Card _____

Date: _____

Please return to:
OCHS
P.O. Box 151
Ouray, CO 81427
Or Phone with Credit Card info to:
970-325-4576

Membership Levels

- Silver King \$30 (Individual)
- Guston \$40 (Family)
- Revenue \$50 - \$99
- Grizzly Bear \$100 - \$249
- National Belle \$250 - \$499
- Yankee Girl \$500 - \$999
- Camp Bird \$1,000 - Up
- Business Member \$50 - Up

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OCHS Geology Tour Set for June 21

The Ouray County Historical Society offers its fifth annual geologic tour of the northwestern San Juan Mountains on Wednesday, June 21.

The all-day event, "Geology, Mines and Minerals of the Ouray Area," traverses from Ridgway to Red Mountain Pass. Local geologists Larry Meckel and Robert Stoufer will lead the journey through 1.7 billion years of natural forces that shaped Ouray County's dramatic terrain.

Geology tourists will ride in open-air jeeps along the entire route. At stops along the way, Meckel will interpret rock lay-



ers and formations in terms of past geologic events. At historic mining sites, Stoufer will identify minerals and explain how they were formed.

The tour starts and ends in front of Ouray's City Hall. A box lunch, geologic field guide and jeep transportation are included in the \$125 per person fee. Participants should arrive by 7:30 a.m. and the tour begins at 8:00 a.m.

Registration for the tour will remain open until all seats are filled. No refunds will be offered after June 7. To register, call the Ouray County Historical Museum at (970) 325-4576.

OCHS Offers Second Architectural Tour

The Ouray County Historical Society received an overwhelmingly positive reception for its 2016 home and church tour. A second historical buildings tour, coming up July 1, will include even more historic landmarks. The event showcases some of Ouray's best-preserved examples of 19th Century architectural styles.

The "Homes, Churches and Historic Buildings" tour runs from noon to 5:00 p.m. The tour includes eight locations: four houses, two churches and two historic buildings. Tickets are \$25 per person and may be purchased the day of the event at the historical museum, 420 Sixth Avenue. All locations on the tour are within walking or a short driving distance of the museum.

The tour pass includes refreshments at one of the locations and admission to the museum. All proceeds benefit the Ouray County Historical Society.

Tour stops include:

Wheeler-Franz-Meckel House, 602 Oak Street – Larry and Barbara Meckel, owners and hosts. Originally a two-room cabin built in 1880, it was sold to Abbie Wheeler in 1882. She added three bedrooms, a dining room, kitchen-pantry, tool wood room and two bay windows. Abbie and



her husband, Charles Wheeler, were the parents of Una, who married Richard Winnerah. Thus the

Wheeler home has a family connection to another residence on the tour. (See the Winnerah-Idarado-Grether home below.) The Meckels have kept the original house historically intact so that it remains a visible reminders of Ouray's earliest days. The home is now permanently preserved in the Meckel Historical Trust.

Winnerah-Idarado-Grether House, 305 Main Street – Arno Grether, owner and host. The two-story, red sandstone house has stood on Main Street since 1902. Richard Winnerah, Ouray city engineer and surveyor, had the house built for his bride, Una. She was an accomplished photographer who took many photos of the house's interior and exterior. The Idarado Mining Company purchased the house in 1968 and rented it to various people. The mining company thoroughly renovated it in 1995, and it remains in excellent condition.

Slytown-Risch Cabin, 212 Ninth Avenue – Bob and Karen Risch, owners and hosts. Bob and Karen believe the cabin was built in the 1870s judging from its log construction and square nails. It may have originally been a winter shelter. The cabin was among the properties purchased by Johnny Raab beginning in 1890. It may have later been one of Raab's early 20th Century tourist cabins. Bob and Karen found a ledger that lists rates as \$2-3 per night. In 1941, Raab transferred his properties to his nephew, Louis Sly. As those properties passed to Sly family successors, the area became known as Slytown. When Bob and Karen purchased the cabin and adjacent property in the mid 1990s, they lived in the cabin while building their house. They have preserved as many of the cabin's historic features as possible.

Classic Ouray Folk-Nelson Victorian, 621 Fourth Street – Kent Nelson, owner and host. Kent, a widely published author, has owned this home for 40 years. It includes his rustic writing studio, which will be open to tour participants. His fiction has received several prestigious awards, including the Colorado Book Award. An avid birder, he has seen

91 species of birds in his yard. Kent has spent the past four decades repairing and improving the house and creating his gardens. Over time, he has restored every room in the house. During early renovations, he found newspapers dating to the 1890s that had served as insulation in the walls. He suspects, because of several sinks in the upstairs bedrooms, that the house may have been a rooming house at one time.

Former First Presbyterian Church (now Ouray Christian Fellowship), 336 Fourth Avenue – Host, Ginny Meunier. Built in 1890, the church was actually Ouray's second First Presbyterian Church. Reverend George Darley founded the first in 1877. Then in 1883, the congregation lost their church building due to lack of funds and membership. In 1887, the Ouray Presbyterians reorganized and planned the current structure, completing the sanctuary in 1890. Rev. Darley returned to lead the revitalized congregation. Additions completed in 1948 and 1997 retain the 19th Century Queen Anne architecture. Many original furnishings adorn the interior. The present bell tower dates from the 1950s.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 329 Fifth Avenue – Hosts, Sue and Tom Hillhouse. The third church built in Ouray, St. John's, was built in 1880 by Welsh miners. The stone parish hall was completed almost 100 years later. Parishioners originally met in the basement, constructed of native stone, which eventually became the sanctuary. Adorned with carved woodwork and magnificent stained glass windows, the present sanctuary has the look and feel of a Victorian/Gothic English country church. In 1978 a connecting stone parish hall was added.

Ouray County Courthouse, 541 Fourth Street – Host, Connie Hunt, Ouray County Administrator, and staff. The courthouse was constructed and completed in 1888 for \$22,336, plus a later expenditure of \$13,000 for heating and furnishings. The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The warm tones of the wood interior; vertical proportions and richly decorative detailing reflect the building's Italianate architecture. Impacted through the years by historical flooding and fire, the courthouse has withstood the test of time. It remains a working "house of the people" for the provision of law and order, county government services, and state, county and municipal proceedings. Considerable repairs have been completed over the years. The county is now embarking on an estimated \$9.2 million restoration and repair project to be completed through grants and other funding sources.

BPO Ouray Elks Lodge #492, 421 Main Street – Hosts Jim and Kathy Pettengill. The Ouray Lodge #492 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in 1899. It was the first local lodge on the Western Slope. The Ouray lodge quickly outgrew its rented facilities. The new building, designed by local grocer and lodge member E.H. Powell, was completed in 1905. A combination of Queen Anne and



Romanesque styles, it features a large lodge room that also serves as a ballroom, complete with chandeliers and, of course, elk heads. The bowling alley on the main floor is still used for league competitions. The building also includes a kitchen, dining room, pool room and club room. The Ouray Elks Lodge #492 celebrated its centennial in 1999 and remains one of the most active organizations in the commu-

Keep Ouray's Historic Character From Slipping Away

Recent consideration by Ouray City Council of its Planning Commission's recommendations dealing with intermodal shipping containers as building material seemed to suggest the appropriateness of their use in Ouray's National Historic District. This raised concerns about their apparent lack of knowledge and appreciation of Ouray's National Historic District designation.

The issue of Historic Preservation in the United States goes back to a least 1931, and perhaps longer, when the City of Charleston, South Carolina adopted a historic preservation ordinance to help preserve the unique architectural heritage of that iconic East Coast city. It was followed by New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1937 and Philadelphia in 1955. It wasn't until 1966, however, when Congress enacted The National Historic Preservation Act that there was a formalized, federally recognized effort to preserve historical and archaeological sites in the United States.

One of the features of this act was the establishment of National Historic Districts which are essentially defined as "geographically definable areas ... possessing a significant concentration ... of sites, buildings, structures ... united by past events or esthetically by plan or physical development."

Believing that the City of Ouray indeed qualified for such a designation in 1983, a group of dedicated citizens led by Roger Henn, then President of the Ouray County Historical Society, amassed an immense volume of material necessary for consideration of both the State and National Commissions that determine eligibility for National Historic District status. Such a designation essentially requires proof that more than 65% of all buildings within the district are more than 50 years old and have not been altered significantly on the exterior.

The resulting National Historic District designation for Ouray encompasses almost the entire town which in 1983 retained to an amazing degree its historic character which spans a 30 year period (1886-1915). A total of 331 structures in the district were regarded as "contributing" or architecturally important.

Despite the awarding of National Historic District status to Ouray in 1983, local efforts to enact a historic preservation ordinance never came to pass. Thus the only "protection" afforded to Ouray's architectural heritage was from Federal Government action.

Regardless of the lack of significant protection, most of the improvements made in Ouray's National Historic District since 1983 have fortunately been sympathetic to its heritage. That is certainly true of the business district, less so of the residential areas. In fact the restoration of the Beaumont Hotel and the Humphries Building by Dan and Mary King in the early 2000's stands as a monument to what private citizens can accomplish even in the absence of significant local protections. No one wants to see a repeat of what happened to the Beaumont prior to the Kings' restoration, when it was abandoned for 30 years, near collapse and painted pink. For their efforts the Kings were awarded the first Governor's

► See *Slipping* pg4

The Ouray County Historical Society

is doing research on the historic

Miners Hospital (Museum) in Ouray.



We are interested in names and birthdates of anyone born in the hospital. If you (or someone you might know) were born in the hospital at any point until its closure in 1957, please notify Irene Mattivi at 970-318-2093 Cell or email: irenemattivi@rmi.net

Museum offers Brownies, Lemonade and WWII Torpedo for Ouray's July Fourth Celebration

The OCHS invites the entire community to join museum staff and volunteers for our annual July 4 activities. As always, brownies and lemonade will be served on the lawn near the cabins following the mid-morning parade.

As a special attraction, our friends from Thunder Mountain Base Submarine Veterans will bring an authentic World War II submarine torpedo to the parade. Afterward, the 20-foot-long torpedo will park in front of the museum. The Thunder Mountain members assure the public that the two-ton weapon will not be loaded with explosives.

The Thunder Mountain veterans are a western Colorado chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. The organization regularly brings their WWII mementoes to public events for educational purposes. Several submariners will be available at the museum to explain the Mark 16 torpedo's history.

The museum last hosted the Thunder Mountain Veterans and their torpedo during the 2013 July 4 events. Their torpedo was a major hit with young and old.

SLIPPING away

► From page 3

Award for Historic Preservation, the National Preservation Award and the prestigious Preserve America Presidential Award – virtually every historic preservation award possible.

The restoration of the Beaumont Hotel sparked new life into Ouray and was followed by several other significant restorations, among them Paul and Jan Sunderland's renewal of the Story Building which now houses the OCHS Library and Archives, as well as other retail stores and residences.

So too, the community has stepped up, purchased the Wright Opera House and begun a multi year effort to bring it up to standard as a modern theater, all the while preserving its significant historic Mesker Brothers iron front. It is one of sixteen such fronts along Ouray's Main Street, which contains one of the largest concentrations of preserved Mesker building fronts on the country.

Notwithstanding the significant recognition achieved by the Beaumont restoration, it was understood that change occurs, not only for the better, and there was concern that Ouray might be losing its substantial pool of "contributing" structures. In 2007 the City of Ouray and the Ouray County Historical Society had a resurvey of the Ouray National Historic District conducted with support from History Colorado. The results of that resurvey indicated that perhaps the number of conforming structures had declined to about 30% — a 50% decline over the last 25 years.

As a result of that 2007 survey and recognizing the danger in losing Ouray's unique character, an effort was launched to establish some type of review on development/changes in the National Historic District. A nonbinding referendum to implement a review of changes in the National Historic District failed by 24 votes. As a result not much has been done in the last decade to address the issues. Thus Ouray is exactly where it was in 1983, except that the intervening 35 years have seen the number of "contributing structures" in the National Historic District decline by nearly 50% as well as the appearance of a significant number of "intrusions."

Change is inevitable, but it does not need to come at the expense of what makes Ouray so unique, inviting and interesting. However, without some type of architectural review, should changes continue at the same rate as they have over the last 25 years, Ouray will no longer be able to claim that it is a National Historic District.

So why should we be concerned about Ouray's National Historic District status? One reason is that historic places create connections to our heritage and help us understand our past, appreciate our triumphs and learn from our mistakes. Historic places help define and distinguish our communities by building a strong sense of identity. Another reason is that heritage tourism is a significant source of revenue for the City of Ouray. Some 45% of Ouray visitors have claimed they come to Ouray due to the city's architectural heritage and historic ambience.

Perhaps it is time to once again revisit the issue of architectural review for new development / change in Ouray's National Historic District.

~ Tom Hillhouse, Vice President,
Ouray County Historical Society

Postcards from Ouray 1908-1909

By Don Paulson
OCHS Curator

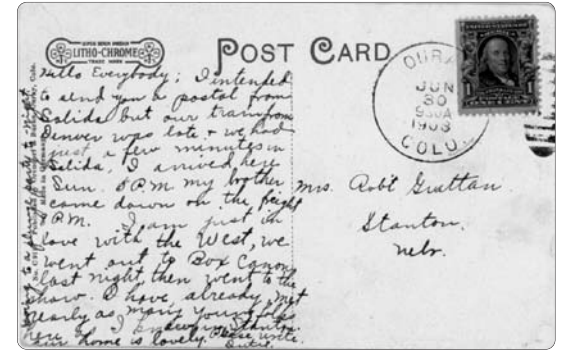
I recently purchased from Ebay a set of seven post cards written in 1908-9 to a Mrs. Robert Grattan of Stanton, Nebraska by Dutie Sanberg. Dutie moved from Stanton to Ouray in the early summer of 1908. The story of these postcards was pieced together from the postcards themselves, newspaper articles and census data.

In 1910 (census data) Robert and Clara Grattan lived in Stanton, Nebraska with children Lucile aged 7 and Frank aged 6. Both children are mentioned in Dutie's postcards. In 1900 (census data) Ebba and Dutie Sanberg were living with their father, John Sandberg and four other siblings. Robert does not appear in the 1910 census so he might have died and the family was split up. So possibly Dutie and Ebba worked for the Grattan's before moving to Ouray. In one post card Dutie mentions that her brother was also in Ouray.

Dutie and her sister Ebba were employees in the Ouray home of Dr. Leonard and Katherine Crosby (Ouray newspaper articles). Dr. Crosby was the Ouray County Physician from as early as 1907 to at least 1911. He served as one of the doctors allowed to admit patients to the Ouray Hospital. Dutie appears to have been a high school student while in Ouray in 1908. She had family back in Stanton but Mrs. Grattan is not her mother.

In the 1910 (census data) both Dutie (18) and Ebba (21) Sandberg are still living with the Crosby's on 4th Street in Ouray. On November 30, 1910 Ebba married Jacob A. Case in Ouray. On June 18, 1913 Dutie married William H. Fluallen in Ouray. By the time of the 1920 census Dr. Crosby and his wife had moved to Denver and both Ebba and Dutie and their husbands had moved to Delta where they resided for many years.

Below are the original postcard notes along with a photo of the first postcard.



June 30, 1908:

"Hello Everybody. I intended to send you a postal from Salida but our train from Denver was late and we had just a few minutes in Salida. I arrived here Sun. 5 pm, My brother came down on the freight 8 pm. I am just in love with the west, we went out to Box Canyon last night, then went to the show. I have already met nearly as many young folks here as I knew in Stanton. Our home is lovely. Going to a plunge party to-night. Please write. Dutie"

August 31, 1908

"The cross is just above our house, which is something the shape of Fechner's, but larger. All the rooms are large. School commences a week from tomorrow. The folks are out at their cabin on Cow Creek, will be back this evening; they and the Phinney's went out Saturday a.m. Ebba and I have been alone, gave us a rest, no cooking. Dutie."

September 7, 1908

"Dear Folks; How is everybody, suppose Lucile is in school; and what does Frank do for 'pass time?' We had a lovely time at a social this afternoon. Our "mamma" doned gonad and leave us Wed a.m. 'boo hoo.' School days, again. I think I shall like my teachers very much, I hope so. Love to all, Dutie"

September 23, 1908

Mon. PM. Will you please send me my recipe for mahogany cake. I don't remember it. School is just dandy. We were out at Lake Lenore, three miles from Ouray, all day yesterday. Ebba and I put up two crates of peaches, half a crate of plums, 32 glasses of apple jelly, besides doing a large washing, ironing and other work. But we are all dismissed 3:15 pm. Tell Dolly is she hasn't forgotten me altogether to write sometime. Why don't you write? Love to all, Dutie.

November 11, 1908

Intended to write you a letter to-night but it is so late so I will try to write Friday morning. Play practice tomorrow evening. We expect Mrs. Crosby the last of this week and Dr. two weeks from Sunday. Hattie may stop here on her way home. I do hope she does. School is fine. A kiss each for Frank and Lucile and love to all. Dutie"

September 19, 1909

Dear Mrs. Grattan; thanks very much for the card and the remembrance. My fingers are so cold I can scarcely write. Just think we had ten inches of snow here last Sunday. Snow from now until June. Gee I hate it except for coasting. D. S.

Ouray County Historical Society Evenings of History*

2017

Presented in Partnership with
the Wright Opera House

- June 13, The Lewis Mill and Mine above Telluride, Ken Sloan
- June 20, Saving the Last Dollar and Centennial Ranches, Vince Kontry
- June 27, The Miners Hospital/Ouray Museum – 130 Years of History, Gail Saunders
- July 11, Juan Rivera's Colorado, 1765, Steve Baker
- July 18, Surveying the San Juan, Triangulating Your Way to the Top, Bob Larson and Tim Pasek
- July 25, Structure Preservation in the San Juans, Chris George
- August 1, Roads that Changed the San Juan Mountains: Picks, Shovels, and Pioneers, Don Paulson
- August 8, The Life of 19th Century Prostitutes in the San Juans, Kierstin Bridger

*All talks take place at 7:30 pm at the Wright Opera House in Ouray

EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE

- 13 Evenings of History, "The Lewis Mine and Mill above Telluride," Ken Sloan, 7:30-9:00 pm @ the Wright Opera House, \$5 charge, free for Museum Members.
- 20 Evenings of History, "Saving the Last Dollar and Centennial Ranches," Vince Kontry, 7:30-9:00 pm @ the Wright Opera House, \$5 charge, free for Museum Members.
- 21 Ouray County Geology Tour led by Larry Meckel and Robert Stoufer, 8 am to 5 pm, Call the Museum 970-325-4576 for details.
- 27 Evenings of History, "The Miners Hospital/Ouray Museum – 130 Years of History," Gail Saunders, 7:30-9:00 pm @ the Wright Opera House, \$5 charge, free for Museum Members.

JULY

- 1 Architectural Tour of Ouray Buildings, 1 to 5 pm, \$25 per person, Stop at the museum to buy your tickets. Docents present at each site. Actual sites TBA.
- 7 Guided tour of Ouray Museum led by Curator Don Paulson, 9:00 am, \$10 per person (\$5 for OCHS members). To preregister call 325-4576.
- 8 Guided Walk of Historic Main Street led by Irene Mattivi, \$10.00 per person, 3:00 pm. Call 970-325-4576 to preregister.
- 11 Evenings of History, "Juan Rivera's Colorado, 1765," Steve Baker, 7:30-9:00 pm @ the Wright Opera House, \$5 charge, free for Museum Members.
- 15 Corkscrew Railroad Bed and Turntable Hike (guided by Don Paulson, \$10 cost) - Sponsored by the Ridgway Railroad Museum and OCHS. Call 970-325-4576 to preregister. Hikers will meet at the Ouray County Museum at 9:00 am. In case of inclement weather call Don Paulson at 325-0931 before 8 am to ascertain the hike status.
- 18 Evenings of History, "Surveying the San Juan, Triangulating Your Way to the Top," Bob Larson and Tim Pasek, 7:30-9:00 pm @ the Wright Opera House, \$5 charge, free for Museum Members.
- 22 Guided Cemetery Walking Tour led by Glenda Moore, \$10, meet at Cedar Hill Cemetery at 9:00 am. Preregister at 970-325-4576.
- 25 Evenings of History, "Structure Preservation in the San Juans," Chris George, 7:30-9:00 pm @ the Wright Opera House, \$5 charge, free for Museum Members.

AUGUST

- 1 Evenings of History, "Roads that Changed the San Juan Mountains: Picks, Shovels, and Pioneers," Don Paulson, 7:30-9:00 pm @ the Wright Opera House, \$5 charge, free for museum members.
- 5 Guided Walking Tour of Historic Main Street led by Irene Mattivi, \$10.00 per person, 3:00 pm. Call 970-325-4576 to preregister.
- 8 Evenings of History, "The Life of 19th Century Prostitutes in the San Juans," Kierstin Bridger, 7:30-9:00 pm @ the Wright Opera House, \$5 charge, free for Museum members.
- 12 Guided Cemetery Walking Tour led by Glenda Moore, \$10, meet at Cedar Hill Cemetery at 9:00 am. Preregister at 970-325-4576.
- 19 Corkscrew Railroad Bed and Turntable Hike (guided by Don Paulson, \$10 cost) - Sponsored by the Ridgway Railroad Museum and OCHS. Call 970-325-4576 to preregister. Hikers will meet at the Ouray County Museum at 9:00 am. In case of inclement weather call Don Paulson at 325-0931 before 8 am to ascertain the hike status.

SEPTEMBER

- 21-24 Ridgway Railroad Museum Railroad Days. See www.ridgwayrailroadmuseum.org for details.