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Footsteps

Volume I1, Issue I

Spring/Summer 2010

Annual Meeting and Exhibit Opening
You’re Invited!

On Wednesday, June 23rd, from 5:30-7:30pm, we invite you, our loyal members, to our Annual Meeting. You won’t want to miss this night as it is also the official opening reception for our newest exhibit, “Enduring Voices: Celebrating the Ute People of the Yampa Valley.” The evening will feature delicious food, an ice cream social, and more!

2009-2010 Historical Highlights

Since your last newsletter, we have been focused on increasing the museum services and educational programs we provide to this community. In addition to creating and researching exhibits, collecting oral histories, and preserving and documenting the collection, we are also out in the community, providing free, historical programs and events.

A special thanks to all of our sponsors and decorators who made November’s Festival of Trees a success. The beautiful trees, sponsored by local businesses, lit up the museum in a magical winter wonderland. In December, we hosted our popular Yule Log Hunt tradition. Aiming for their prize, people of all ages, from near and far, followed our recollective, rhyming riddles in search of the log. The clever Petrillo family found the hidden log at the Justice Center.

In January, at a public presentation, local Astronaut Steve Swanson shared his space mission experience. He also donated to the museum several artifacts that he took with him to space. Later that month, we hosted the very popular “Vintage Ski Fashion Show” and children’s program, “Victorian Paper Dolls.” To celebrate the Vancouver Olympics in February, we held two Olympic Heritage Walking Tours and the “Olympic Experience,” an open forum, panel presentation with former Steamboat Springs Olympians. For Women’s History Month in March, we explored the lives and passions of “The Women of Perry-Mansfield.” No matter your interest or age, the Tread of Pioneers Museum is your source for fun and learning any time of year. Check inside this newsletter for our upcoming free summer programs and events.

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Curator’s Corner  By Katie Adams, Curator

On June 23 we will open “Enduring Voices: Celebrating the Ute People of the Yampa Valley.” The Ute Indians were known for their nomadic lifestyle and their ability to live in diverse landscapes. They once inhabited a vast region of the western United States including the Yampa Valley. The exhibit celebrates the Utes’ ability to adapt while maintaining their own tribal identity and voice throughout history. The exhibit features the Utes of the Yampa Valley, explores their relationship with local settlers, and honors the oral traditions that continue today.

One exciting object in the exhibit will be a replica brush shelter or “wickiup.” The Utes built and lived in these dwellings prior to the use of traditional teepees. Some of the remaining wickiups are 200 years old! Due to their construction of brush, wood and sticks, these wickiups deteriorate in the harsh outdoor environment. As a result, there are only a few remaining in the state of Colorado. The exhibit’s replica wickiup may be your only chance to see one of these rare structures!

The exhibit will not be your only chance to learn about the Ute people. A Ute rock art expert, Ute Tribal representatives, and a guided tour to the archaeological site, Windy Ridge, will all be included in our annual Brown Bag Lecture Series that runs every Friday at noon in July and August. I recommend coming in to view the exhibit before the lecture series begins to gain a greater understanding of the Ute people and formulate your questions for speakers. For the Brown Bag schedule, you can check our website, “Happenings” in the newspaper, or the insert in this newsletter.

If you’ve lived in Steamboat Springs for some time, chances are you know a member of the Appel family. What you probably don’t know is that the Appels have been in our valley for over one hundred years! Their family history is fascinating and full of family pride and community dedication. If you haven’t stopped in to learn about the Appel family in our “Foundations of Steamboat” exhibit series, you are running out of time - the exhibit closes in September.

Book Review: The Flying Norseman

With the recent, history-making, Olympic accomplishments of our local Nordic Combined heroes Johnny Spillane, Billy Demong, Todd Lodwick, and Brett Camerota, it is fitting to honor the man who started it all - Carl Howelsen. It is no coincidence that the town where the famed skiing Norwegian called home and founded the Winter Sports Club in 1914, would become home to more Olympic athletes than any other town in the nation. It is also no coincidence that some of these athletes, particularly some of the stars of the 2010 U.S. Nordic Combined team, would hail from the same hometown as a world-record holding, ski jumping pioneer.

Though many know the name Carl Howelsen through the ski area that bears his name, many may not know the depth and reach of Howelsen’s skiing achievements. The Flying Norseman, lovingly written by Howelsen’s son, Leif Hovelsen, describes the man behind the legend, and serves as a tribute to the “Father of Skiing in Colorado.”

“The book will delight anyone who shares this love of Steamboat Springs and the Colorado Rockies, and will fascinate anyone who loves adventure and the sport of skiing,” said Billy Kidd.

In the book, learn about Howelsen’s early skiing days in Norway, his time ski jumping in the Barnum and Bailey circus in the U.S., how Howelsen discovered Steamboat Springs, and why he left to return to his native country of Norway.

Though the book is now out of print, you can pick up your rare copy of The Flying Norseman at the Museum Store today!
Museum Happenings

Summer is the time when we are out in the community sharing our unique history! Take a look at the Summer Events insert for weekly offerings.

We will again partner with Historic Routt County and Yampatika to present three historical walking tours all summer long. The Olympic Heritage Walking Tour runs every Tuesday from 9:00-10:30am from June 29-Aug. 31. This tour starts at Olympian Hall at Howelsen Hill and explores the multiple talents of Carl Howelsen and the history of the SSWSC, Winter Carnival, Howelsen Hill, Steamboat’s Olympic tradition, ski jumping and more! Tour participants will witness the daring ski jump practice at Howelsen Hill, and receive a $1 off coupon to the Museum and a free ticket for the Howelsen Hill chairlift.

Through a partnership with Yampatika, we will again present the Mineral Springs Walking Tour every Wednesday from 9:00-10:30am from June 30-Sept. 1. Meet at the Depot on 13th St., and learn about the fascinating springs history that makes our town so unique.

The Downtown Historical Walking Tour of Steamboat Springs runs every Thursday from 9:00-10:30am from July 1-Sept. 2. This tour focuses on the historic buildings and architecture of downtown and the businesses and activities that have made the area the heart of the community.

We will present a host of historical topics, including several Ute Indian history lectures, in this season’s Brown Bag Lecture Series. This popular summer series runs every Friday at noon from July 2-Sept. 3. (Check our website for speakers and topics - www.treadofpioneers.org.)

Step back in time and join us for Open House at the Historic Mesa School on Wednesday, June 16 and June 30, from 2:00-4:00pm. We will also offer additional open houses in July and August.

Don’t forget everyone’s favorite Pioneer Day Block Party community celebration. After the 4th of July parade on Lincoln Ave., come to the Museum and enjoy a free community concert, kids’ activities, our famous Routt Beer Floats, and free museum admission!

From the Archive: Stories from Gloria Gossard - by Jayne Hill

For nearly 40 years, personnel from the Tread of Pioneers Museum have interviewed “locals” to save their stories for public review and posterity. If your image of the “archives” is a dark and musty place where “old things” are stored, our Oral History collection will change your perception! The 615 interviews we have conducted tell our community story by those who made it. This may be the most colorful and lively section of our archives!

Just a few days before her death, Gloria Gossard granted the money to fund this year’s round of oral history interviews. Gloria had always been one of the museum’s most generous supporters, and we will continue to collect stories through her help. In her own words, Gloria added her family story to our collection about a decade ago.

Visiting in her sunny breakfast area, I recorded her recollections of being a young visitor and eventually a full-time resident of Steamboat Springs. The Gossard Company manufactured ladies under garments, and their most noted was the front-laced girdle. This Gossard innovation freed ladies to whittle their own waists without the assistance required for the traditional back lace-up style. While Mr. Gossard was busy with his business in the Midwest, he sent his wife and children to summer in Steamboat Springs.

Gloria was nostalgic about her childhood days spent as a guest at the famous Cabin Hotel. Late in the afternoon, visitors took their jugs to the Soda Spring filling them with the cold effervescent water. When they returned to the back porch of the hotel, they mixed freshly squeezed lemon juice with the bubbly liquid to make “Steamboat Springs lemonade.” They contently sipped the concoction while the Yampa River transported their cares westward.

When the family settled permanently in Steamboat Springs, Mr. Gossard had a dream to make this bubbling paradise the “Saratoga Springs of the West.” He leased all of the town owned springs, improved each of them, and touted the rare Lithia Spring as the “Miraquelle” cure-all elixir. Had the Great Depression not been plaguing the same era as the Mr. Gossard’s plan, the destiny of this community might have been much different.

It is stories like Gloria’s that make our archives live through interviews. Thank you Gloria for your support!
Summer Events Calendar and Special Members’ Invitation Inside!

Looking Back at Museum Events

- The family of Chuck Fulton received the Stanley L. Larson award on Fulton’s behalf - October 2009
- Museum staff and volunteers give a preview of the Vintage Ski Fashion Show - January 2010
- Museum Staff - Festival of Trees 2009
- Halloween Program - October 2009