Newly accepted artifacts to the Tread of Pioneers Museum Collection

The Tread of Pioneers Museum Collection Committee reviews donated items to the museum’s collection. The committee includes local historians and Tread of Pioneers Museum Board members. These are the notable items accepted between late 2018 and early 2020. The following are highlights of notable items.
Steamboat Springs Town Company Papers

This is arguably one of the most notable collections gifted to our museum and archives. It is a collection of original letters and documents such as annual reports and legal contracts associated with town founding planners such as A.J. Mackey, J.H. Crawford, F.E. Milner, and P.A. Burgess. This collection is from CU Archives and Libraries in Boulder.
Office sign for Preston King, civil engineer. It is a hand inked, paper on linen sign that includes a frame (frame temporarily removed for conservation work).

King arrived to Egeria Park in 1883 and served Northwest Colorado as a civil engineer, surveyor, and stand-in doctor. King made a lasting impact on our area preparing surveys for early homesteads, schools, post offices and our early roads.
Hazie Werner’s Doll

China-head doll with cloth body, originally owned by Hazie Ralston Werner (1909-1993). Hazie is best known as the mother of the famous skiing Werner children, Buddy, Skeeter, & Loris. Hazie grew up on Yellow Jacket Pass, her father was a stage driver. Hazie was the oldest of ten children and helped deliver her infant sister. We believe the doll was one of Hazie’s only toys.
Several items have been donated which are attributed to the Claude Luekens family. The Luekens are related by marriage to the Remington family (of Strawberry Park) and the Todd family. Items include postcards (of early strawberry picking), musical instruments, World War II ration books and stamps, and more.
Included in the Luekens family items, this panorama (42.5” x 17.5”w) hand painted scene depicts Trappers Lake. The painting is signed: “J.M. Moore” “1917”. Research shows that Moore was a “traveling cowboy artist.”
Oxen Yoke

The back story of this object is still unclear and under investigation because it was purchased by the donor from an estate sale in North Routt. The committee decided that the piece was impressive and impactful enough to be accepted into the permanent collection because of its representation of early transportation in the West and its handmade craftsmanship.
Mt. Werner Slalom Course Flags

Marked with early Mt. Werner ski area (and Frontier Airline) logos, these cloth flags were used to mark race courses in the late 1960s and early 1970s on what is now Steamboat Ski & Resort.
Badges

Officer and Deputy Sheriff badges from Oren Gray of Yampa (1882-1926). This donation also included three photograph albums and other paper documents (see next slide).
This collection has been processed. This is an example of a section of completed collection record

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF COLLECTION: The collection is comprised of two autograph albums and three photograph albums, paper keepsakes from Golda and Audrey Gray during their school years and early adulthood. Folder 2 includes Golda Gray’s canceled Yampa Bank checks for money she earned in 1923 picking lettuce in Yampa at age 13. Folder 3 includes a collection of newspaper clippings on local ski jumper John Steele. Golda Gray followed Steele’s ski jumping career, she and Steele may have had a romance (see Valentine telegraph).

Biographical details: Oren M. and Edna L. Gray arrived in Yampa, CO in 1905 from Missouri. They had three daughters, Golda Gray (b.1910 & the mother of collection donor, Judith Riggin) and Audrey Gray (b.1912), another daughter Mary died at age 1 1/2. The girls were born in a cabin style ranch house near Yampa. By 1920, the family lived in a house on Lincoln Ave. in Yampa. In 1924-1926 the Grays ran the Grand Hotel in Yampa.

According to the donor, Oren Gray most likely came to the Yampa Valley because his uncle, Alexander Gray moved to the region with his family in 1883 from Gray’s Point, Missouri. Alexander Gray homesteaded near Phippsburg. The donor believes the Grays were related by marriage to other Egeria Park families including Wilson, Bird, and Choate. Mark Choate married Olive Gray.

Both Oren and Edna Gray died in February 1926, and they were buried at the Yampa cemetery. Daughters, Golda and Audrey moved to Missouri to live with family. In 1928 newspaper accounts record the girls were traveling back to Yampa for the summer from MO with Mark Choate. In the 1930s both girls moved to Steamboat Springs and Craig to visit and work. In 1930 Golda was employed at the Midwest Café in Craig. In 1931 Golda wrote a “Society” column for the Craig Empire Courier. In Jan. 1932 Golda married Glen Kitchens, by Nov. of 1932 the Courier documents that Golda spent several months in Denver she will move to Miller, MO indefinitely.
World War II Naval Uniform

Issued to Lloyd Monger (1916-2004). Monger served on the USS Nevada during the war and was stationed in the water during Pearl Harbor. Donor Krista Monger also provided images and research on her grandfather. Currently the uniform is on display in the World War II exhibit.
Cabin Hotel Bond

This 1912 bond was issued by the Milner Bank in Steamboat Springs to help fund the 1909 construction of Northwest Colorado’s largest hotel, once located on the corner of 13th Street & Lincoln Avenue, now the location of the Bud Werner Memorial Library.
John Domenico grew up in Mount Harris, a coal mining town, located between Steamboat Springs and Hayden.

The collection includes: a mess kit, crucifix/prayer case, Honorable Discharge papers (1919), and US Navy knife.

The items were featured in the World War I and American Legion Honor Roll exhibit in 2018.
The collection contains detailed records, photographs, research and original documents for a number of family members. Family relations and binders include: Dorr, Kemry, Laramore, Bird, Coyner.

With a long tradition of military service in the family, these binders have been reference frequently by staff for the creation of the World War I & II exhibits.
Heintze Family Items

A collection of items associated with Heintze family and their homestead above Mad Creek. Items include ice saw and tongs, sleigh quilt, bear trap, cow bell, lanterns, and paper documents (detailing work done on Mad Creek Road, 1935).

Contact with this donor sparked staff research and led staff to visit and detail the history of the area. The museum created a Mad Creek historical hiking tour, newspaper articles and more.
Friendship Quilt Top

Found at the local fabric store about four years ago, this piece proves there is valuable history items everywhere. The quilt includes 27 names of local women quilters such as Theresa Werner, Critchfield, and Matthews. Research on color and names dates the quilt to around 1938-39.
Handmade wood sign (7’ long x 35” wide), the downtown Werner store opened in 1963. The Steamboat Pilot newspaper recently ran a story on this acquired item.
These 22 copper and silver newspaper printing blocks depict various advertisements for car dealerships and other businesses and topics.
Historic Photograph Donations

We are currently working to update our online photograph website to include magnification capabilities and new acquisitions. We receive hundreds of photographs each year.

Here are a couple of highlights:

a) Branding at the Focus Ranch, c. 1956
b) Digging water mains in Steamboat, c. 1910
c) Aerial of Mt. Werner, c. 1976
d) Class of 1919 reunion (l to r) Mercellus Merrill, John R. Burroughs, George Wither, 1959
e) View from top of Emerald Mountain chair lift, c. 1950s
f) Installing lift towers at Mt. Werner, c. 1970s
• Steamboat high school letter sweater, c. 1939
• Coal miners hat, c. 1950s
• Cream can, Ben Hibbert, c. 1940s
• Arnold barn relics
• Ski medal, belonging to Bob Wither, 1925
• Uniforms: Masonic Temple, World War I, Korean War
• Ski racing suit, Loris Werner US Ski Team, 1968
• Ladies Recreation Club scrapbooks

• Royal Neighbors Club membership books
• Business memorabilia
• Books: dated school resource and reference books, newly published books, manuals, memoirs
• Ski area posters
• Aerial photograph/art
• And more
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