

SUMMER PROGRAMMING HITS THE MARK IN JULY AND AUGUST



Brian Haen of Coates greets Party Goers

electric vehicle on display similar to the one we plan to use for expanded tours next summer. Throw in perfect weather and great company and a good time was had by all!

WHEELER/STALLARD MUSEUM HOSTS NOTABLES FROM PAST AND PRESENT

Our Summer Speaker Series, "Colorado in Char-

acter", was a successful collaboration between the Society, Colorado Endowment for the Humanities and the Little Red Ski Haus. Featuring professional "living history" presenters from both Denver and Aspen, guests were taken back in history to listen to captivating performances and participate in healthy discussions about the lives of four great Coloradans. Mary Jane Bradbury, a noted actor and living history specialist, opened the series performing as Martha Maxwell, an early environmentalist, and the following week also portrayed Augusta Tabor, first wife of controversial Coloradan Horace Tabor.

Opalanga Pugh, a master storyteller, provided a poignant portrayal of Aunt Clara Brown, a freed slave who was the first African American woman to make Colorado mining camps her home. The Series was capped off with a lively performance by local favorite Dick Osur playing silver baron Jerome B. Wheeler. Jerome was paid a surprise visit by his arch nem- (continued)

On Going & Up Coming Events

UP COMING...

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER
13TH:
"Staining"
workday at
the Holden/
Marolt Barn
will begin



at 9 a.m. A group of volunteers will gather to stain the shelters built by Robin Ferguson for our sawmill exhibit and to celebrate the volunteerism that makes Holden/Marolt so unique.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH: "Aspen History 101" at the Wheeler Opera House, noon and 5:30 p.m.; All students and faculty of the Aspen lifestyle, especially the "freshman" class, are invited to this FREE event.

AND ON GOING ...

WHEELER/STALLARD MUSEUM: The Second Floor Gallery is currently showing "Thomas W. Benton: Politics, Prose and Poetry", an exhibit on the life and art of one of Aspen's most accomplished and acclaimed artists, the late Tom Benton. This exhibit features over 45 of the artist's works as well as artifacts from Benton's life including his Sheriff Deputy's badge, an actual silkscreen from his iconic "Hunter Thompson for Sheriff" poster, and a video clip of the artist at work. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The Aspen Historical Society was in full swing through the summer with "living history" programs, event collaborations and our traditional lip-smacking ice cream social. Attendance was consistently high bringing added vibrancy to our stunning museum grounds.

JULY PICNIC IN HONOR OF KAY AND ROY REID

On July 1st the Society hosted a community picnic at Ruth Whyte Park. The picnic was completely underwritten by Coates, Reid and Waldron/ResortQuest to honor Kay and Roy Reid, modern Aspen pioneers. The party was attended by over 650 guests who were well fed by Epicure Catering and well entertained by the music of the Bo Hale Band with a surprise guest singer, Bobby Mason.

The party carried forward a "green" theme by eliminating disposable articles and ensuring compostable materials were used to serve the food and drinks. Souvenirs boasted our new logo and we had an

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Letter from the Director

As we approach the end of our first year with a formal Historic District a look back demonstrates some valuable lessons for all of us. Perhaps the primary lesson is to remember that we cannot accomplish all of our dreams in one year's time. For those of us who have spent the majority of our time in the private sector, the wheels of approval grind very slowly in the non-profit world. I suspect that is a good thing in the long run – the process requires much more thoughtfulness and buy-in which produces a more solid and more universally supported result.

Learning to manage this process has been frustrating for me since I want to "do it all" immediately – implement the vision overnight. While I know full well that the journey is a critical piece of the process, I seem to forget this concept in my day to day actions. I know that my impatience is equally frustrating for our devoted staff – for no matter how much we DO accomplish, there is always something more to be done and that is where I tend to put my energy.

Consequently, I am using "my space" to acknowledge the truly incredible loyalty and effort that has been demonstrated by the AHS staff and volunteers (including our devoted board of trustees) over this exciting time of accomplishment. We have come a very long way and our achievements can be celebrated. A strategic plan implemented, a new brand launched, accountability systems all in place, a solid financial picture – quite a list, isn't it?

With all of these new tools at our disposal, we look forward to using this next year to implement more new programming, to embellish our interpretive tours and to ensure that we move toward higher levels of earned income in the future.

Our gratitude to the community for your support in our endeavors is unbounded. Now how about you? Are you a member?

THANK YOU,



Executive Director

("Summer Programming" continued from page 1)

esis David Hyman, (Society historian Larry Fredrick) helping to make the entire series a success. Our attendance climbed from six to 65 over the course of the series so we know you are enjoying them!

Our Traditional Ice Cream Social provided an opportunity for local residents to turn



Opalanga Pugh as Aunt Clara Brown

out and honor Helen Palmer, long time local Pitkin County librarian and supporter of everything historic in Aspen. Ben & Jerry's provided the ice cream and a sunny, pleasant day made for a memorable occasion on the East Patio.



Helen Palmer and Georgia Hanson

NOT JUST FOR GUYS

The Holden/Marolt Mining and Ranching Museum took center stage twice in the month of August with interesting presentations that brought an influx of visitors and presented intriguing aspects of local history not normally touched upon.

On Wednesday, August 8th, the Society hosted a Buddy Program event at this living history site entitled "Hit-and-Miss Engines." While the Holden/Marolt Mining and Ranching Museum – which features steam engines, farming equipment, scale models and rock crushers amongst its 25

AHS GRANT FOR INDEPENDENCE



The Farwell Mill at Independence Townsite

Great news for the ghost town of Independence! We have received a \$30,000 grant from the State Historical Fund to produce a preservation master plan for the historic Independence town and the Farwell Mill site. This grant was received in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the Independence Pass Foundation. It is imperative that we begin a long-term plan for the care, preservation and interpretation of the ghost town site for visitors and locals alike.

More good news! Independence Pass is now officially designated as part of the "Top of the Rockies" Scenic Byway (can you believe it wasn't already?) through the diligent labors of a partnership led by the Independence Pass Foundation. We will all be collaborating to ensure the integrity of our magnificent ride to the "top of the world".

carefully-crafted, very informative exhibits – might be considered by some a place where only guys hang out the contrary is often the case. What was unusual about the Buddy Program evening was that all the buddies who showed up were girls. The adult mentors and their young buddies appeared thoroughly enthralled by Carl Bergman's detailed explanation about the history of "hit-and-miss" engines during the early 20th Century. Larry Fredrick and Jim Weaver, both interpretive guides at the Museum, also provided invaluable perspective on the little engine's very big contribution to the mechanization of America.

MINING WATER

The Historical Society teamed up with the Roaring Fork Conservancy and the Aspen Parks Department on August 15th for a special presentation that focused on the ongoing importance of water to our Valley throughout our history. "Mining Water: The History of Mining and Water in the Roaring Fork Valley" was a joint venture organized by Tim O'Keefe of the RFC. Carl Bergman provided a historical perspective on the importance of water in the

successful, though short-lived, operation of the Holden Lixiviation Works (now the site of the Holden/Marolt Museum). Brian Long, interpretive specialist at the Aspen Parks Department, and Tim O'Keefe, then toured a group of 20 participants through the Lixiviation Ruins, below and to the



Larry Fredrick shows a hit and miss engine

north of the pedestrian bridge that leads to the Museum from 7th Street, discussing water issues from the founding of Aspen in 1879 to the present. The Parks Department provided a tasty dinner to all participants.

The 20th Old Timer's Weekend was a huge success and this year honored Art Pfister who started the party in 1988 and who passed away earlier this year. He is in the second row from the top on the left hand side. How many of the other Old Timers in this 1958 photo can you identify? (answers below)



Top row l to r: Bob George, Had Deane, George Christiansen; 2nd row: Art Pfister, Bob Burlingame, Tom Zordel; 3rd row: Leroy Waterman, Red Rowland, Mike Magnifico; Bottom row: Sheriff Loren Herwick, Walt Mathews, Jack Ray, Dr. Jay Baxter

CLASSIFIEDS

DOCENTS WANTED: The Aspen Historical Society is seeking several part-time docents for the Wheeler/Stallard Museum and other sites. This is a unique opportunity to become immersed in Aspen's rich history, share that knowledge with the community, educate children as well as adults and give back to our community. We have shifts available Tuesday through Saturday from 1:00 to 5:00 pm as well as walking tour "on call" opportunities. Hourly rate commensurate with experience. Please contact Barbara Bossart at the Historical Society at 925-3721, extension 104.

CLOSET HISTORIANS: The Aspen Historical Society is looking for a handful of folks who are passionate about history and willing to share that passion and some time with us. The AHS Nominating Committee is seeking appropriate candidates to serve on our Board of Trustees and we will also soon be forming an ad hoc "Interpretation Committee" to plan the theme and exhibits for our potential Lift One museum. If you find either of these opportunities intriguing please email director@aspen-history.org. We will be in touch.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OCTOBER 25TH

The Aspen Historical Society's Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 25th at 5:00 p.m. at the Wheeler/ Stallard Museum. The Board of Trustees will review and approve the budget for 2007-2008. Public input is welcomed. To help us prepare and to ensure seating, your RSVP would be appreciated to 925-3721, extension 102. See you there!



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