



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL UPDATE

winter 2020

970.925.3721 | aspenhistory.org

   @historyaspen



AN HISTORIC GUARANTEE, Executive Director's Letter

In 2019, Aspen Historical Society (AHS) doubled down on its mission to enrich the community through preserving and communicating our remarkable history with a special guarantee: “Learn something NEW, or we’ll give your money back to you!” This first-ever money back guarantee for all guided tours underscores what might seem obvious about the past: the stories are endless, especially when it comes to this community’s unique and often amusing history.

It is AHS’s privilege to highlight and honor these stories – old and new – that define the upper Roaring Fork Valley’s collective identity. The final year of the decade brought a multitude of exciting opportunities to explore the past with AHS, from guided tours with historians and trained interpretive guides to four historic sites to one of the largest public archives in the region. Serving visitors and locals of all ages as a public resource, AHS guarantees we’ll continue to provide access to local history that fosters a sense of community and encourages a vested interest in the future of this special place.

With a new decade upon us, this work remains as important as ever. Thanks to your continued support and participation, we look forward to continuing to celebrate the past, for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kelly".

Kelly Murphy
President & CEO





MARGARET "MIGGS" DURRANCE

Honoring Female Photographers in 2020

In honor of this year's centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment that granted women the right to vote, the historical images in this piece feature women of the era taken by Margaret "Miggs" Durrance.* Miggs was a professional photographer who worked with her husband Dick while he pursued film projects; her work appeared in national magazines such as LIFE, Look, Sports Illustrated and National Geographic.

Miggs and Dick's sons, Dick Jr. and Dave, donated their parents' photo and video collection to AHS in 2018. A curated display titled "The Durrance Collection" is on display in the Archive Building's Community Gallery through March 2020.

Throughout 2020, AHS will highlight images featuring women in the community as well as images from the AHS Collection taken by female photographers. Look for new photos on social media each #FemalePhotoFriday!

** with the exception of the individual timeline photographs and the "Supporters Spotlight"*

Photographs (in order of appearance): Susie Wirth and Mumbo walking to school circa 1956; Miggs, Dick Jr., and Dave Durrance at the FIS World Championships in 1950; skier on Aspen Mountain in 1960; Independence Ghost Town circa 1965; aerial panorama of the four ski areas circa 1980; Charlie Paterson teaching a lesson on Little Nell circa 1950; Lift Three near the top of Aspen Mountain in 1958; skiers outside the Sundeck Restaurant circa 1950; Saarinen Music Tent circa 1960; Fourth of July Parade circa 1960.



1880 Melissa Gillespie forms literary society, temperance society, glee club and a Sabbath school while living in a tent during Aspen's first winter.



1893 Colorado passes a popular referendum giving women the right to vote (27 years before the 19th Amendment). Renowned suffragist Carrie Lane Chapman gives a speech at the Wheeler Opera House promoting women's suffrage.



1913 The Women's Civic Improvement Club is active with a focus on community projects.



1935 Christine Hart becomes Aspen's first female Superintendent of Schools.



1939 Aspen's modern matriarch Elizabeth Paepcke travels to the area for the first time.



1948 Ruthie Brown personally pays to have the terrain cleared to create Ruthie's Run on Aspen Mountain.

1883 Jennie Adair takes over sawmill up Hunter Creek after her husband's death.



c. 1895 Kate Lindvig begins ranching on her homestead in upper Snowmass Valley.



1920 36 states ratify the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote nationwide (passed by vote in 1919).



1938 Helen Collins, Louise Berg, Dorothy Shaw & Christine Hart establish Pitkin County Library.



1946 Libby Fitzgerald & Jean Litchfield become Aspen's first female ski instructors.



1949 Local women start the Thrift Shop of Aspen to help fund the Citizens Hospital, Red Brick School & many other causes.





1970

Eve Homeyer elected as first female mayor of Aspen after a tight mayoral race.



1971

Ramona Markalunas elected first City Councilwoman. The local League of Women's Voters organizes.



1978

Alex Halperin becomes first female ski patroller (Aspen Mountain).



1987

Aspenite Nancy Dick finishes her second term as Colorado's first female Lieutenant Governor (elected in 1979 & 1983).



2005

Katie Ertl appointed first female Managing Director for the Ski & Snowboard schools (until 2017 when Katie became first female Senior Vice President of Mountain Operations).

1968

Pilot Betty Pfister organizes Pitkin Co. Air Rescue & campaigns for airport control tower. Mary Johnston becomes first female Pitkin County Judge.



1973

Marcia Rey hired as first female lift operator (Snowmass).



1980

Helen Klanderud elected as first woman on the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners.



1989

Susan Saghatoleslami completes season as first female snowboard instructor (Snowmass).



2011

Susan Cross becomes first female mountain manager (Buttermilk).



*This timeline highlights suffrage milestones and a few female "firsts." There are countless contributions by women in the community that we wish we had room to include!

CABIN RESTORATION

at Independence Ghost Town

Extensive restoration work is necessary to preserve historic sites like Independence Ghost Town for future generations. In 2019, thanks to the generous support from the family of Susan and Morty Gurrentz, AHS completed restoration projects for two cabins at Independence. Work included new sill logs, vertical stabilizing posts to keep the buildings from shifting and slanting, repair of missing or deteriorated logs, and new window and door frames. Sealant was applied to the logs to protect against water and weather damage. Thank you to the Gurrentz family for supporting this critical work!



FREE ADMISSION FOR CAR-FREE VISITORS

Holden/Marolt Mining & Ranching Museum, a unique trail-side attraction, explores the industrial and agricultural history of the Aspen and Snowmass area from mining to railroads to ranching.

Adjacent to a public bike path, the museum sits on the Marolt Open Space at the west entrance to Aspen. In 2019, AHS launched a free admission program for visitors who either bike or walk to the museum. In addition to trail access, multiple RFTA stops and a nearby WE-Cycle station make the museum a uniquely accessible destination for car-free visitors. AHS is proud to offer this incentive in an effort to support alternative transportation in the community.

AHS BY THE NUMBERS (2019):



4 sites & **4** exhibits/displays



68,217 items in the collection



67 archival donations



125,520 online resource visits



A SPIRITED YEAR, Bauhaus 100: Aspen

The 100th anniversary of the Bauhaus school in 2019 marked an important event in the world of art and design. Commemorated internationally, the anniversary reverberated throughout Aspen in a remarkable community-wide, year-long celebration. Historical societies are in the business of honoring significant milestones, but the Bauhaus 100: Aspen festivities were different. The unparalleled interest in the past and the widespread spirit of collaboration were perhaps best felt on June 6, 2019, when Aspen Historical Society joined Bauhaus 100: Aspen organizers and partners for the Bauhaus Ball, a “spirited soiree” that welcomed the public to the Wheeler Opera House for an evening of whimsy, wonder, and weird that had guests exclaiming “only in Aspen.”

While countless stories elicit the “only in Aspen” moniker, the prolific influence of the Bauhaus and Bauhaus master Herbert Bayer’s work on this community remains one of the most compelling examples of Aspen’s legacy and role in the international landscape. Throughout the centennial year, visitors from around the world flocked to Aspen to experience the anniversary: “bayer & bauhaus: how design shaped aspen” at the Wheeler/Stallard Museum proved to be one of the Society’s most popular exhibits ever, and a new tour exploring local Bauhaus-inspired architecture garnered record participation. In addition, AHS offered special public programs such as museum theatre presentations of Herbert Bayer “in his own words,” and provided extensive support to the Bauhaus 100: Aspen community organizers. AHS took great pride in helping honor the global art movement through the lens of local history.



36,622
individual contacts



14
unique tours



46
school field programs



54
museum theatre performances



9
interns



“Face to Seis” to Silver Queen - Mike Monroney

“This is a bit of a cheat (it includes a ride up Chair Six/FIS) but it’s some of my favorite terrain on Aspen Mountain in one top-to-bottom run!”

Silver Rush - Jane Click

“This steep chute that dumps into Silver Queen on Aspen Mountain might not be my favorite run, but it’s my most memorable challenge on skis!”

Walsh’s - Lee Sullivan

“When I worked at the Shadow Mountain Townhomes, I always liked doing an end-of-the-day run that started on Walsh’s and ended over on the Lift One side, quiet and still after the lifts stopped!”

Corkscrew - Laura Calk

“I love this lower-mountain trail, the remnants of the first run on Aspen Mountain that looked like a corkscrew when it was cut in the summer of 1937.”

Norway - Lisa Hancock

“I’ve always loved Norway with its big rocks and fun moguls leading right into downtown Aspen, though I’m happy to sacrifice the last few turns in order to reinvigorate the historic base area at Lift One!”

Mt. Hayden - Meredith Castor

“The run that never was! I’m not a skier, but it’s incredible to imagine a resort in the pristine Castle Creek Valley—perhaps even more spectacular though is the wildness of Mt. Hayden!”



Boomerang - Eliza Burlingame

“This short Highlands run through an old-growth Aspen grove always takes my breath away. It’s quiet, beautiful, steep, and deep with gorgeous views of Ajax across the valley.”

Buckskin - Travis Lane McDiffet

“Buckskin on Buttermilk is a great snowboard-friendly run; a rolling blue that I love getting some speed on!”

West Buttermilk - Anna Scott

“I love to skin up Teaser, which was named by Friedl Pfeifer because of the steep pitches on the trail with flats in between to “tease the skier,” and then ski back down Camp Bird!”

Owl Creek Trail - Kelly Murphy

“This quintessential Nordic trail connects Aspen and Snowmass and crosses downhill ski runs on both Buttermilk and Snowmass.”

Sandy Park - Nina Gabianelli

“Named after Sandy Sabbatini and Dick Parker who had a hunting camp in the area, the rolling hills make it a fun and fast ride on Snowmass, but I love it ‘cause my Dad loves it!”

Hang On Halvin’s - Megan Cerise

“Also known as “Hang On’s” with a trail sign that reads only “HOH,” this Snowmass run is short, but extremely steep, fun, and technical.”

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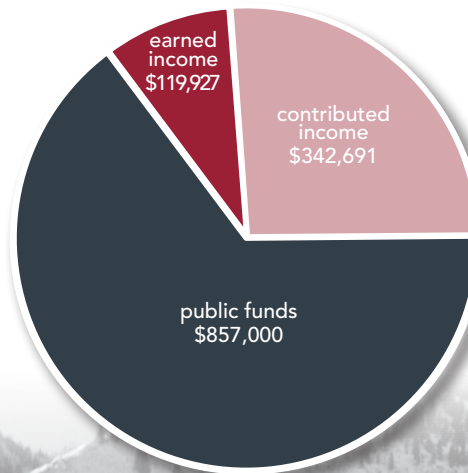
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ALLOCATION OF INCOME & EXPENSES

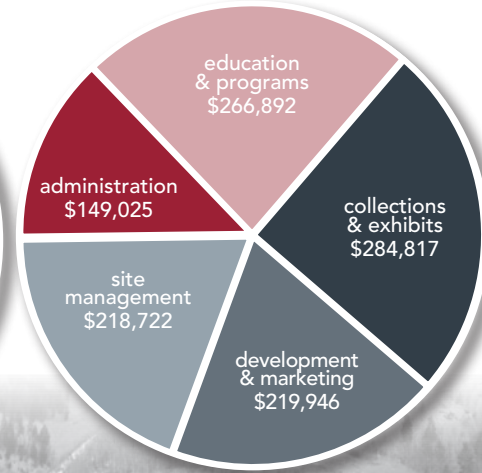
(Fiscal Year End October 31, 2019)

For complete financials, visit aspenhistory.org

ANNUAL INCOME



ANNUAL EXPENSES



SUMMARY FINANCIALS

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS WHO HELP MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

This list represents donations received in 2019

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To make a donation to AHS, use the enclosed remittance envelope,
 give online at aspenhistory.org, or call 970.925.3721

MUSEUM AT LIFT ONE CAMPAIGN

Aspen Historical Society is honored to create a museum worthy of the area's rich snowsports history as part of a reinvigorated and accessible base area. At the site where lift-served skiing began more than 80 years ago, the museum will honor the area's ski and snowboard history and Aspen's unique role in the origins of the sport.

Museum planning and a fundraising campaign will kick off this year, the next steps in a collaborative effort to create the public amenity. With convenient chairlift access, amenities including a new park and public parking, and restored historical assets, an exciting future lies ahead for Aspen Mountain's historic portal. Thanks for bringing the boat tow home, Aspen!

To support the campaign, contact Kelly Murphy, at 970.925.3721 or kelly@aspenhistory.org



Tom & Carolyn Moore, 1976
AHS, Cassatt Collection

CAROLYN & TOM MOORE

The Moores are ardent supporters of local history and longtime AHS members. Carolyn served on the Board of Trustees in the late '70s/early '80s and Tom has helped with several AHS programs over the years, as recently as a panel discussion in 2019.

Our family is so appreciative of Aspen Historical Society for their long-standing commitment to preserving the history of Aspen for future generations, and actively educating our youth, our community, and those visiting our beautiful town.

- Carolyn & Tom Moore

PARADISE BAKERY

For more than a decade, Paradise Bakery has sponsored the AHS Ice Cream Social, providing their beloved gelato for hundreds during the popular annual event at the Wheeler/Stallard Museum.



Paradise Bakery corner, 1996

When I was young, I learned of Aspen's history from my parents' friends around the dinner table. Our parents both volunteered archiving at AHS in the '80s & '90s and acknowledged the important work to be done. You can no longer talk to a miner and only a few legends from the early ski days remain. It is now history! Bringing the stories to the community is vital. Paradise has enjoyed participating by supporting the Ice Cream Social each year. Hopefully we will continue to do the same for years to come. Here's to "the future of preserving the past!"

- Mark Patterson on behalf of the Patterson family & Paradise Bakery

SUPPORTERS SPOTLIGHT

WINTER TOURS & MORE

Historic Pub Crawl

Thursdays, 3:30pm (reservations required)

Hotel Jerome Tour

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:30pm

Wheeler Opera House Tour

Wednesdays, 1:30pm

Archive Tour

Tuesdays, February 18 & March 17, 11am

Tours available by appointment:

History Coach & Walking Tours

Snow Screw Demonstrations at Buttermilk

Thursdays, February 20 & March 19, 4pm

Aspen History Fireside Chats at *The Little Nell*

Fridays, 10:30am

WHEELER/STALLARD MUSEUM

Open Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 5pm

ARCHIVE & COMMUNITY GALLERY

Monday - Friday, 9am - 4:30pm

SUMMER SEASON SITES

(open mid-June, hours vary)

Holden/Marolt Mining & Ranching Museum

Ashcroft Ghost Town

Independence Ghost Town



WINTER PROGRAMS & EVENTS CALENDAR

History on Tap: Magic in Snowmass

December 16

Holiday Cookie Exchange & Caroling

December 17

History on Stage for Sundays LIVE in Snowmass

January 19, February 16 & March 15

History Lessons with Larry

January 16, February 20 & March 19

Retro Film Series

February 13, March 12 & April 9

Time Travel Tuesdays:

Aspen in Focus: A Look at the AHS Photo Collection, *February 4*

History on Stage: Fred Iselin & Gretl Uhl, *February 11*

History on Stage: Davis Hanson Waite & Eve Homeyer, *February 18*

"Songs of Suffrage: The Music of the Movement" Historical Opera, *March 3*

History on Tap: Skiing in Colorado with *Dr. Duane Vandebusch*

March 19



NEW EXHIBIT OPENING JUNE 2020

Decade by Decade: Aspen Revealed will offer a comprehensive view of Aspen's fascinating past, exploring the stories that shaped the community's distinct identity. Featuring photographs and artifacts that represent Aspen's connection to national events and trends, the exhibit reflects on the community's place within the larger historical landscape of the American nation – sometimes congruent, sometimes divergent – but always exciting. From mining boom to fading ranching town to today's international recreational and cultural destination, Aspen forged a unique path. Showcasing the depth of the AHS Collection, *Decade by Decade: Aspen Revealed* will appeal to visitors and locals of all ages.

The public is invited to an opening celebration on June 23, 2020.



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