

ANNUAL UPDATE

winter 2021



HISTORY, AS IT HAPPENS | Executive Director's Letter

In 2020, Aspen Historical Society looked to the past to make sense of the present and help navigate the future. Last year was one of the most historic in the modern era. History happened in front of our eyes almost daily with a global public health crisis; widespread reckonings on equity, unity, and identity; unmatched strength of spirit; and examples of compassion.

In the face of the year's challenges, AHS focused efforts on collecting history in real time and connecting with our community in new ways. This included the launch of a *History at Home* email series, a community-sourced oral history project called *Quarantine Stories: Recording History* in partnership with Aspen Public Radio, new quarantine-related items added to the archives, digital exhibition catalogues, expanded social media initiatives, and more.

AHS also opened a new exhibition that explores local history, decade by decade, from 1870 through 1970. Examination of past events can be a hopeful way of putting present challenges in perspective; *Decade by Decade: Aspen Revealed* offers lessons from historic community struggles that provide a source of strength during difficult times. The exhibition also serves as a clear reminder of the importance of storytelling.

It is Aspen Historical Society's privilege to continue collecting and sharing these stories in hopes to help build a better future for generations to come. The people of this Valley have faced adversity time and again with strength and resilience—we take comfort in knowing the past will inform the path forward. This work remains as important as ever and is possible thanks to your continued support and participation. No one knows what tomorrow holds, but we do know that we're in this together.

Sincerely,

Kelly Murphy
President & CEO



NEWSWORTHY COLLECTIONS

The Aspen Times & Aspen Illustrated News

AHS has been working on accessioning two notable collections in the AHS Archives—The Aspen Times Collection represents roughly 6,400 historical images and cartoons and the Aspen Illustrated News Collection features more than 2,500 images from the weekly publication's pages.

These photojournalistic collections provide a valuable visual record of area history. Both include images taken by newspaper staff and freelance photographers. The Aspen Times Collection dates from 1960 to 1987 and also includes cartoons from political cartoonists Chris Cassatt (creator of the notorious Sal A. Mander character) and Rob Pudim. (The Aspen Times is the community's longest-running business, celebrating its 140th anniversary in 2021.) The Aspen Illustrated News Collection features images predominantly from the 1960s taken by many notable local photographers, including David Hiser.

In addition to AHS staff archivists, volunteers and interns have worked on processing the images, each of which requires an estimated 30 minutes to complete, from inventory to data entry that includes identification of the people, events and scenes featured in individual images. Close to 3,000 images from both collections are available for the public to view on AHS's online archives at archiveaspen.org.

In honor of this work, the historical images in this publication were selected from the two collections (with the exception of the timeline collage photographs).

Photographs (in order of appearance): Spectators at the Wintersköl parade in 1966*; a woman reading *Aspen Illustrated News* in 1965*; Aspen Valley Ski Club's Aspenaut program at Buttermilk in 1978 (Cassatt)**; skiers touring in 1979**; the runway at Sardy Field in 1966*; Wintersköl Linked Arm Slalom in 1977**; Aspen Highlands Ski Patrol jumping over the Cloud Nine deck in 1979**; a racer near the finish of the Roch Cup course at Lift One in 1966*; kids at the base of Aspen Mountain in 1966*.

*Aspen Illustrated News Collection

**The Aspen Times Collection

In consideration of the challenges of the past year, this timeline explores the history of health care in the upper Roaring Fork Valley, marking many public health milestones for this fairly remote mountain community.

Pre-1879: Native peoples travel up the Roaring Fork Valley to hot springs believed to offer medicinal benefits

1881: The area's first doctor of western medicine, Dr. R. R. Teller of Toronto, Canada arrives and sets up practice

1891: Citizens' Hospital opens in September 1891

1892: First known formal ambulance service is active (a horse-drawn wagon and stretcher)

1918: The "Spanish Flu" pandemic grips the world, ultimately claiming 7% of the county's population

1937: Annual visits from a travelling nurse to examine all school children begin

1946: Citizens' Hospital is renamed Pitkin County Hospital

1959: Pitkin County Hospital begins a remodel and expansion and is dubbed Middle Hospital

1960: An official volunteer group called the "Blue" Ladies" forms to support nurses and assist with hospital-related tasks

1961: Mrs. John McTarnaghan becomes the first fulltime school nurse in Aspen

1961/1962: Following renovations, Middle Hospital reopens under the new name Aspen Valley Hospital (AVH)

1965: Mountain Rescue Aspen incorporates

1966: A helicopter pad opens at AVH (organized by Aspenite and former Women Airforce Service Pilot Betty Pfister)

1973: Aspen Valley Medical Foundation forms to fundraise and plan for new hospital

1977: AVH opens in its current location on Castle Creek Road

1990: Assisted living facility Whitcomb Terrace opens

1998: AVH expands with the opening of the Midvalley Medical Center in Basalt

2010: Aspen Hope Center opens

2012: AVH assumes operation of the Snowmass Clinic

2019: A new ambulance barn opens on the AVH campus

2020 - present: The COVID-19 pandemic spreads globally with the area's first confirmed cases in early March 2020





















Citizens' Hospital c. 1910; nurses with a patient c. 1913; patients, nurses and a doctor inside Citizens' Hospital c. 1913; Citizens' Hospital c. 1920; nurses c. 1913; polio vaccination, 1955; helipad at AVH, 1966; a "Blue Lady" with a patient, 1966; Aspen school nurse teaching a student to take blood pressure, 1979; Dr. Whitcomb with a patient, 1966; Aspen Community Ambulance, 1972; AVH ER entrance, 1966; AVH 1964; AVH, 1998; COVID-19 test tent at AVH, 2020.

DECADE BY DECADE: ASPEN REVEALED

New exhibition at the Wheeler/Stallard Museum

In July of 2020, AHS opened Decade by Decade: Aspen Revealed, offering a comprehensive view of local history from the 1870s through the 1970s with a focus on Aspen's place in the historical landscape of America. Featuring poignant narratives, historical photographs, and artifacts, the exhibition illustrates stories that shaped the community's distinct identity and represent the area's connection to national events and trends sometimes congruent, sometimes divergent, but always exciting. The exhibition showcases the depth of the AHS collection to bring to life the evolution of the area and the stories of its people. The exhibition has already garnered enormous interest and will give guests of all ages—locals and visitors—new knowledge about why Aspen is such a special place to live and visit.







TOURS, OUTDOORS

As an uncertain summer dawned in June of 2020, AHS staff worked hard to provide safe opportunities for guests to explore and experience the area's past through outdoor tours and on-site visits, all following appropriate protocols according to the community's public health requirements.

Offerings featured expanded outdoor guided tour options, including new tours and increased frequency. The Wheeler/Stallard Museum and the Holden/Marolt Mining & Ranching Museum opened with staggered hours to accommodate vulnerable guests and strict mask, social distancing, and capacity protocols. At Holden/Marolt, AHS once again offered free admission for visitors who bike, bus or walk, thanks to generous sponsors Alpine Bank and Miners' Building Hardware. Both Ashcroft and Independence Ghost Towns offered openair experiences for history fans of all ages.

AHS is pleased to continue to provide something for every history fan with fun, engaging, and safe activities for locals and visitors alike!

A REMOTE YEAR

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic early in 2020, AHS focused efforts on connecting with our community remotely, in place of in-person experiences. Staff worked on new and creative ways to meet history enthusiasts of all ages where they were—at home—enabling the public to explore the area's past from anywhere. With new partnership programs, curated digital content, and expanded resources in the online archives, our reach grew along with history happening in real time. A few of these initiatives are outlined below. Stay tuned for more virtual offerings to come as AHS continues efforts to engage as many people as possible around the globe!





AHS maintains online archives for the public to view records, newspapers, yearbooks, oral histories, and more than 27,000 historical images searchable by keyword. In 2020, AHS archivists added significant resources, including newly processed photo collections, cookbooks, maps, and more. The website saw more traffic than ever before, offering a remote research tool and a fun rabbit hole for history fans anywhere.





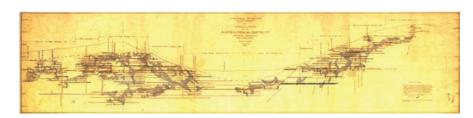
"Quarantine Stories: Recording History"

In April, Aspen Public Radio and AHS partnered to collect and memorialize the Valley's collective pandemic history by harnessing the power of storytelling with a community-sourced oral history project. "Quarantine Stories" features self-recorded audio clips from Roaring Fork Valley citizens sharing their experiences of the historic circumstances. The clips are catalogued on Aspen Public Radio's website and will be preserved in perpetuity in the AHS Archives.



"History at Home" email series

Launched in March and featuring seven editions, this new email digest included a variety of evergreen suggestions and opportunities to engage with the past, virtually: from at-home activities for your family, videos of past AHS programs and site tours, and historical and relevant content created by AHS and our partners, to suggestions and tips for exploring the AHS online archives at archiveaspen.org. The editions can be viewed online at the link below.



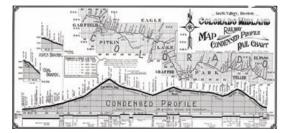
US Geological Survey,

Club guest pick

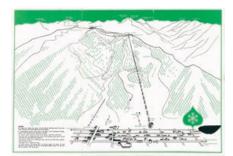
Aspen Special Map, 1898

Chris Davenport, Aspen Map

Aspen Mining District Cross Section, 1943 Nina Gabianelli



Colorado Midland Railway Map, 1913 Lisa Hancock



Aspen Mountain Trail Map, 1948 Eliza Burlingame



Willits Map of Aspen, 1896 Dan Bosko



Cross-Country Skier's Map Aspen to Carbondale, 1985 Kelly Murphy



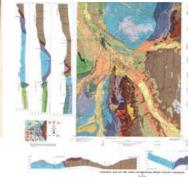
Aspen Mining Belt Overview, 1892 Travis Lane McDiffett



Highland Bavarian Corporation Map, 1937 Laura Calk



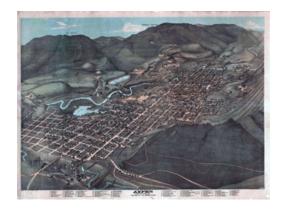
Colorado Map, 1894, Suzie Brady



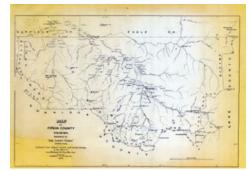
Geologic Map of the Aspen Quadrangle, 1971 Jane Click



Sanborn Insurance Map, Aspen District, 1898 Larry Fredrick



Bird's Eye View Map of Aspen, 1893 Megan Cerise



Pitkin County Map, 1884 Anna Scott

The AHS Archives features historical maps of many varieties. View more in "Maps through the Decades," a display in the Community Gallery.

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(Fiscal Year End October 31, 2020)
For complete financials, visit aspenhistory.org

ANNUAL EXPENSES ANNUAL INCOME & programs contributed collections & exhibits dministration \$288,170 \$125,998 public funds development & marketing management \$327,109 \$889,000 \$204.204

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AHS HONORED WITH NATIONAL AWARD

In December 2020, the *bayer & bauhaus: how design* shaped aspen exhibition catalogue was awarded second-place honors by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Interpretive Media Awards in the Book category. The annual awards "promote excellence in the delivery of natural, cultural, and historical nonpersonal interpretive services." NAI is an international professional organization that serves thousands of members to advance the profession of heritage interpretation.

The exhibition, on display at the Wheeler/Stallard Museum from December 2018 through March 2020, explored the profound influence of Herbert Bayer's work on Aspen as part of the community-wide *Bauhaus 100:* Aspen celebrations in honor of the 2019 centenary of the German art school "Bauhaus."

View the catalogue online at aspenhistory.org; hard copies can be purchased at the Wheeler/Stallard Museum during open hours.

RUTH TURNQUIST CARVER

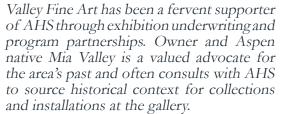


Ruth is a longtime member of AHS and an avid participant in tours, adult education programs, events, and fundraising efforts.

"For many years I have enjoyed participating in almost everything Aspen Historical Society has to offer, including exhibits, museum theatre,

retro films, history hikes, Lessons with Larry, tours, holiday caroling in the museum, and even an event on the history of avalanche dogs. I grew up in Arvada, CO and started skiing Aspen in 1971. I bought a home here in 1997 and have a true love of this community and its history. We are so fortunate to have such a friendly, fun, inspirational, and knowledgeable organization that offers diverse opportunities to experience our beautiful home and the history of Aspen." - *Ruth*

VALLEY FINE ART





"I am deeply appreciative of AHS for working to illuminate locals and visitors on our cultural heritage. I remember when my family moved to Aspen in 1970, there were no malls, a T-bar on Little Nell, and a Sinclair gas station where Paradise Bakery is today. All of the history before, and changes since then, have been recorded by AHS, preserving a wealth of information. I look forward to AHS's future museum at the base of Lift 1, a thrilling opportunity to provide a deeper understanding of our extraordinary valley for generations to come." - Mia on behalf of Valley Fine Art

AHS is pleased to offer several opportunities to safely explore and experience area history, including tours, exhibits, and in-person and virtual programs. Offerings are subject to change dependent on the latest public health requirements, and mask, social distancing, and capacity protocols are strictly observed.

WINTER TOURS (summer tours begin mid-June)

Hotel Jerome Tour Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:30pm

Historical Downtown Walking Tour Wednesdays & Fridays, 1:30pm

AHS Archives Tour Tuesdays, February 16 & March 16, 11am

Tours by appointment: History Coach Electric Vehicle Tour Victorian West End Walking Tour bauhaus architectural walking tour

WINTER PROGRAMS

Time Travel Tuesdays: Retro Films Series (virtual screenings) In Partnership with Aspen Film with support from U.S. Bank Tuesdays, January 19 - March 9

Time Travel Tuesdays: Skiing in CO with Dr. Duane Vandenbusche (virtual live stream)
Tuesday, March 16



WHEELER/STALLARD MUSEUM

Open Tuesday - Saturday (through April 17th; open for the summer mid-June) 11am - 12pm vulnerable guests; 12pm - 5pm general public

ARCHIVES & COMMUNITY GALLERY

By appointment, Monday - Friday, 9am - 4:30pm

SUMMER SEASON SITES (open mid-June, hours vary)

Holden/Marolt Mining & Ranching Museum Ashcroft Ghost Town Independence Ghost Town

SUPPORTERS SPOTLIGHT

SITES, PROGRAMS & EVENTS more info at aspenhistory.org









Aspen Historical Society is honored to create a museum worthy of the area's rich snow-sports 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 Aspen/Snowmass's unique role in the origins of the sport.

Museum planning and a fundraising campaign will kick off soon, the next steps in a collaborative effort to create the public amenity. With convenient chairlift access, 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 Dan Bosko at 970.925.3721 or development@aspenhistory.org



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