

HOLY HOLDEN! MINING AND RANCHING MUSEUM A SUMMER HOTSPOT

There's no doubt that 2009 will be known as the "Summer of Holden/Marolt". The Mining and Ranching Museum this summer opened three new exhibits: an excavation down to the foundations, a fully-operational steam engine from Aspen's mining days, and a series of informative videos on eight monitors located throughout the museum. The Society's popular **Time Travel Tuesday** series moved out to Holden/Marolt on June 16th to kick off the summer season with a bang by celebrating Freddie Fisher's birthday with the "Schnickelfritz" party.

The excavation, fondly known as "The Pit" and officially dubbed the "Conveyor Belt Shaft", was cleaned out over the winter by Carl Bergman and Kevin Walczak. After a century's worth of trash and debris was removed, some of the "underpinnings" of the old lixiviation plant were revealed. Aspen Historical Society historian Larry Fredrick has written an interpretation of what has been "unearthed" by the dig, which is part of the new exhibit as well as a revamped Holden/Marolt tour.

The red steam engine next to the Salt Shed was to the Industrial Revolution what the PC is to modern technology and we are very excited to finally be able operate this piece of Nineteenth Century



Mike Monroney presents Carl Bergman with the "Mr. Fixit" award at June's "Schnickelfritz" party at Holden/Marolt Mining and Ranching Museum.

innovation for our visitors. Saved from a certain trip to the dump and painstakingly moved from across Castle Creek, the steam engine was meticulously restored by Carl and his volunteers. This steam engine represents Aspen's early drive toward success. The engine powered a saw mill along Castle Creek. Another steam engine located inside the sampling building unfortunately sustained damage during its inaugural test in May and is under repair.

The video series entitled "Silver on Glass: Images from Aspen's Past" is made possible by a grant from The Maggie and Nick DeWolf Foundation. The collection will be expanded to sixteen videos by fall. Each video tells a story from Aspen's rich history and interprets it using archival glass plate negative photos that have been digitized. The photo digitization project

(continued p. 3)

Upcoming and Ongoing

Find entertaining ways to explore Aspen's history. The Society operates two museums and two ghost towns and we offer ongoing programs for all ages as well as a number of tour opportunities designed to bring that history alive. The Society has introduced new "edutainment" programs – the popular **Time Travel Tuesdays** series. Launched last winter, "TTT" met with popular success, and is continuing this summer with a different subject every Tuesday evening at 5:30 pm from June to September. The programs present living history performances, engaging lectures, first-person recollections, historical games, and more. Here's the schedule:

July 7 – "Carl Bergman Gets Steaming Rad!" at the Holden/Marolt Barn

July 14 – "Gonzo Tuesday: Jay Cowan on Hunter Thompson" Holden/Marolt

July 21 – "The Great Train Race: Rail Comes to the Roaring Fork Valley" Holden/Marolt

July 28 – "Mining Water" Holden/Marolt

August 4 – "Goethe and the Birth of the Aspen Idea" at the Wheeler/Stallard Museum

August 11 – "Wheeler and Hyman: Apex vs. Sideline Debate" Wheeler/Stallard

August 18 – "Ashcroft and Independence: Ghosts of Aspen's Past" Wheeler/Stallard

August 25 – TBD

September 1 – "Aspen Character Portrayals" Wheeler/Stallard

(continued p. 3)

AHS MISSION

The Aspen Historical Society enriches the community through preserving and communicating our remarkable history.

ASPEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ROOTS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 09 | ISSUE 1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jenna Weatherred, President
Jackie Kasabach, Vice President
Tom Sharkey, Secretary
Rich Burkley, Treasurer
Mary Anne Meyer, Past President
Carl Bergman
Maria Carbonetti
Heather Henry
Ruth Kruger
Nancy Mayer
Lee Mulcahy
Joyce Murray
Tony Vagneur

STAR VOLUNTEER

Larry Fredrick – Official Historian

LIFE TIME TRUSTEE

Mary Eshbaugh Hayes

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Christine Aubale Gerschel
Ann Hodges
Jane Jenkins
Rick Newton
Martie Sterling
Ruth Whyte

ENDOWMENTS

The Hodges Gift
The Ruth Whyte Fund

STAFF

Georgia Hanson, Executive Director
Kip Hubbard, Deputy Director
Lisa Hancock, Curator
Anna Lookabill Scott, Archivist
Megan Cerise, Research
Tom Egan, Communications
Brad Moore, Development Officer
Nina Gabianelli, Sites and Tours Manager
Mike Monroney, History Coach,
Interpretive Trainer
Liza DeBartolo Burnham, Director of
Programs and Rentals

Letter from the Director

A message to our extended family:

During these insecure times the Society can't help but be continually grateful for our solid basis of support, a base that ensures the sustainability and integrity of our priceless collection. We are very lucky to have your confidence and we do not take our responsibility to you lightly.

I am pleased to report that our sites have never been in better shape (well, now that I think about it, I guess perhaps in 1882 the ghost towns likely had more roofs). We are making a significant dent in the backlog of cataloguing our archival collection – moving closer and closer to the day when you will be able to access our vast resources online. Our fabulous staff has turned our programs and tours into “don't miss” events. We are rockin'!

We are not oblivious to our good fortune. We had an established strategic plan that was written with the future in mind during the hiatus between our Special District approval and actual receipt of dollars. The windfall that increased our income a year ago was carefully scrutinized in concert with our strategic plan. We determined that the increased dollars would allow us to reach our Service Plan goals sooner and budgeted appropriately. We invested in a quicker expansion and our efforts can be measured. We expect to return future increases in our levy to the tax-payer – details to follow.

We not only serve the community, we truly ARE the community. Our combined efforts preserve and perpetuate the unique tale that is Aspen. We are all making history. Please continue to “Take Stock in Aspen” and keep our traditions going.

Sincerely,



Executive Director

HISTORY-MAKING SPECIAL EVENTS



Looking for a unique place to hold your reunion, anniversary, reception, shower, corporate meeting, wedding or dinner party? The Aspen Historical Society offers both the Wheeler/Stallard Museum and the Holden/Marolt Mining and Ranching Museum grounds for rent throughout the year. For more information, rates and availability please contact Liza at 970-925-3721, ext. 107 or liza@aspenhistory.org.

620 W BLEEKER ASPEN CO 81611

WWW.ASPENHISTORY.ORG

970-925-3721

TAKE STOCK IN ASPEN

We're inviting you to buy stock in our collective history.

The Aspen Historical Society salutes our summer programming by launching the TAKE STOCK IN ASPEN membership drive. Just as the prospectors came over the passes in the late 1800s and invested in our valley, so too can you invest in the rich heritage and remarkable history of Aspen. Our irreverent roots are what set us apart from all other resort communities.

Each one of us makes history daily and this is your opportunity to help preserve the history we make. Your membership keeps our dynamic programming, the treasures in our collections and archives, and our four very diverse and extraordinary sites alive.

Membership starts at just \$18.79. Join us at any level – MINER (\$18.79+), PROSPECTOR (\$125+), GRUBSTAKE (\$300+), or SILVER BARON (\$1,500+). If you don't understand the \$18.79, or the



levels, we've just given you several reasons to stop by to meet our knowledgeable staff and take a tour! As a member, you own stock in our community and we'll send you a certificate to prove it.

Contact Brad Moore, Development Officer, at 970/925-3721 x109 or brad@aspenhistory.org.

HOLY HOLDEN! MINING AND RANCHING MUSEUM A SUMMER HOTSPOT (CONT.)

was near and dear to Nick and he was very involved in it when he passed away in 2006. The Society is deeply indebted to Maggie for her support and help in



A small crowd gathers for the rebirth of a steam engine at Holden/Marolt

completing the project. These videos allow one to learn about "Horsethief Kelly" through his daughter's eyes, thrill to the drama of the "Great Train Race", or be "shocked" at Aspen's pioneering role in the development of hydroelectric power.

Time Travel Tuesdays, which began June 16th, will continue through the summer. Offerings include "Carl Bergman Gets Steaming Rad!", "Gonzo Tuesday: Jay Cowan on Hunter Thompson", and "Mining Water" among others.

Whether you come for a museum tour or an event, the Holden/Marolt Museum will be the place to be for the summer of 2009!

Upcoming and Ongoing

(continued from p. 1)

Playing with the Past provides a FUN educational experience that brings history to life for children ages 3 to 6. Beginning July 11 and held on Saturdays at 10am on the grounds of the Wheeler-Stallard Museum, these programs present a different activity each week ranging from candle-making to butter churning to ice cream making and more. \$3 per child, reservations recommended, call Liza at (970) 925-3721, ext. 107. Here's the schedule:

July 11 – Candle making

July 18 – Butter churning

July 25 – Ice cream making

August 1 – Old-fashioned games and lawn activities in connection with the Society's Ice Cream Social (this event is from noon to 2:00 pm).

August 8 – TBD

August 15 – Storytelling with our star storyteller, Nina Gabianelli.

August 22 – Puppet show with stories and songs by performer and author Jane Jenkins

August 29 - TBD

In addition to the above programs the Society also hosts our annual traditional **Ice Cream Social** on Saturday, **August 1st** from noon 'till 2:00 at the Wheeler-Stallard Museum.

For a broad look at our colorful past, sign up for our electric **HISTORY COACH** tour of downtown Aspen, the Wheeler-Stallard Museum and the Holden-Marolt Mining and Ranching Museum. Or take our **West End Walking Tour** and discover the story of Aspen through our characters, architecture and industry from the mining era to today. Contact www.aspenhistorytickets.com for reservations or arrange private tours by contacting Nina at 970-925-3721 ext 104.

GOT HISTORY?

The Society's electric HISTORY COACH opens the door to Aspen's intriguing past with downtown and museum tours. Go to www.aspenhistorytickets.com for reservations or call Nina at (970) 925-3721, ext. 104 for private tour information.





HISTORICAL SOCIETY

620 W. BLEEKER
ASPEN, CO 81611

Presorted
NONPROFIT
US Postage
PAID
Permit #90
Glenwood Springs, CO



Society interns Tiffany, Jocelyn and Adam in costume to help out with the Ride the Rockies bike tour



Society staffer Liza DeBartolo Burnham engages some of our younger supporters at the Aspen Farmer's Market



Aspen pioneer Charles Armstrong (aka Society staffer Tom Egan) speaks to school kids at May's Pioneer Day in Ashcroft



Nina Gabianelli describes the Aspen of 1893 to visiting 3rd graders at the Wheeler/Stallard Museum



The AHS staff helps with Ashcroft's cleaning day

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

The Aspen Historical Society has recently been certified a "ZGreen" business and in an effort to keep the community and our supporters informed about Aspen Historical Society news, programs, sites, tours and activities we send out a FREE monthly electronic newsletter to all who request it. To receive this FREE e-newsletter and help us stay GREEN please e-mail us with your request to liza@aspenhistory.org.