

SPECIAL HISTORY EDITION

HISTORIAN

NEWSLETTER

PULL OUT SECTION

The Ouray County Historical Society (OCHS) thanks the Ouray County Plaindealer for their assistance in printing and distributing our newsletter.

MISSION STATEMENT:
The Ouray County Historical Society (OCHS) is dedicated to preserve, protect, procure, exhibit, and interpret whatever relates to the natural, social, and cultural history of Ouray County and the adjacent San Juan Mountain Region of Colorado.

Summer 2019

Ouray County Historical Society and Museum

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

420 6th Avenue, Post Office Box 151 Ouray, CO 81427-0151
Phone: 970-325-4576

web: ouraycountyhistoricalsociety.org • email: ochs@ouraynet.com

JUNE

- 12 Ouray County Geology Tour led by Larry Meckel and Robert Stoufer, 8 am to 5 pm, Call the Museum 970-325-4576 for details.
- 16 Father's Day Free admission to all fathers.
- 19 Electrifying Ouray - Power Plant Tour, \$35 per person, 9 am and 10 am options. Phone OCHS at 970-325-4576 for details and registration.
- 28 Jeeping Red Mountain's History with Don Paulson, tour begins at 9 am. Call the Museum at 970-325-4576 for details and Registration.

JULY

- 4 Brownies and lemonade at the Museum after the parade.
- 6 Guided Walk of Historic Main Street led by Irene Mattivi, \$10.00 per person, 3 pm. Call 970-325-4576 to preregister.
- 13 Corkscrew Railroad Bed and Turntable Hike (guided by Don Paulson, \$10 cost) - Sponsored by the Ridgway Railroad Museum and OCHS. Call 970-325-4576 to preregister. Hikers will meet at the Ouray County Museum at 9:00 am. In case of inclement weather call Don Paulson at 325-0931 before 8 am to ascertain the hike status.
- 20 Guided Cemetery Walking Tour led by Glenda Moore, \$10, meet at Cedar Hill Cemetery at 9:00 am. Preregister at 970-325-4576.
- 26 Jeeping Red Mountain's History with Don Paulson, tour begins at 9 am. Call the Museum 970-325-4576 for details.

AUGUST

- 3 Guided Walking Tour of Historic Main Street led by Irene Mattivi, \$10.00 per person, 3 pm. Call 970-325-4576 to preregister.
- 10 Guided Cemetery Walking Tour led by Glenda Moore, \$10, meet at Cedar Hill Cemetery at 9 am. Preregister at 970-325-4576.
- 17 Corkscrew Railroad Bed and Turntable Hike (guided by Don Paulson, \$10 cost) - Sponsored by the Ridgway Railroad Museum and OCHS. Call 970-325-4576 to preregister. Hikers will meet at the Ouray County Museum at 9 am. In case of inclement weather call Don Paulson at 325-0931 before 8 am to ascertain the hike status.

For event dates and summaries of our popular Evenings of History series, see page 4 of this Historian.

Jeeping and Geology tours set

Jeeping Red Mountain's History: This summer the Ouray County Historical Society will feature two all-day jeep trips on Red Mountain, an area both rich in history and natural beauty. Don Paulson, Ouray County Museum Curator and author of Mines, Miners, and Much More: A Guide to Historic Mining in Colorado's San Juan Triangle, will lead these tours.

Transportation is provided by Jeep Pool. Cost is \$30. The tours, on June 28 and July 26, will leave the Ouray County Museum at 9 am and return around 4 pm. Participants will provide their own lunch.

The tours will stop at fourteen different locations for detailed discussions of the historical aspect of each site. Paulson will cover the history of the towns, the Silverton Railroad, and the mining on Red Mountain, as well as numerous other topics.

The designated stops will include Bear Creek Falls; Crystal Lake; Ironton, Guston and Robinson Mines; Guston Depot; the Guston Church; Yankee Girl Mine; Genesee Vanderbilt Mine; Red Mountain Town; and Idarado Mine. Register: 970 325-4576 or email ochs@ouraynet.com.

OCHS Geology Tour: The Ouray County Historical Society offers its seventh annual geologic tour of the northwestern San Juan Mountains on Wednesday, June 12. The all-day event, "Geology, Mines and Minerals of the Ouray Area," traverses from Ridgway to Red Mountain Pass. Local geologists Larry Meckel and Robert Stoufer will lead the journey through 1.7 billion years of natural forces that shaped Ouray County's dramatic terrain.

Geology tourists will ride in open-air jeeps along the entire route. At more than nine stops along the way, Meckel will interpret rock layers and formations in terms of past geologic events. At historic mining sites, Stoufer will identify minerals and explain how they were formed.

The tour starts and ends in front of Ouray's City Hall. A box lunch, bottled water, geologic field guide and jeep transportation are included in the \$135 per person fee. Participants should arrive at City Hall by 7:30 a.m. and the tour begins at 8 a.m. Sunscreen, hats and sturdy walking shoes are recommended. The tour jeeps will return to Ouray at approximately 5 p.m.

Registration for the tour will remain open until all seats are filled. Tickets are nonrefundable. Register: 970 325-4576 or email ochs@ouraynet.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wonder how many of you who are reading this newsletter received that very special postcard in the mail.

You know the postcard I'm talking about - the one with the picture of the unknown "monstrosity" in the basement of the Ouray Museum Building, previously the Saint Joseph's Miners Hospital.

By guessing correctly that the "monstrosity" was, in fact, the old boiler in the basement, you could have won yourself a free Hershey's chocolate bar.

Now who doesn't like chocolate? And who doesn't like what has been happening in our old dusty waterlogged basement over the past year?

Phase one of our Capital Campaign to restore and rehabilitate our aging building commenced and has made some significant strides.

Now we have useable space in our basement that can be put to very good use for storage of artifacts, book inventories and rotating museum exhibits.

Moreover, with improved plumbing and steam piping, our museum staff and patrons will be able to enjoy reliable heat in the colder months and toilets that don't leak or back up. And soon our museum visitors with disabilities will be able to use a new ground level restroom that meets stringent ADA requirements.

Please note these milestones only constitute Phase I of our four phased project that could span some 10-12 years of work.

Moving forward, we will continue to rely upon the generosity of the good people of Ouray County and beyond to assist us in bringing our "special little museum" into the 21st century.

Kevin Chismire
President, OCHS

Learn How Ouray Pioneered the Use of Hydroelectricity and See it in Action

The OCHS offers the rare opportunity to tour the Ouray Power Plant, one of the oldest continuously operating hydroelectric generating stations in the United States.

The tour begins at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 19. Participants meet at the OCHS Research Center at 722 Main St. for coffee and breakfast treats and a short orientation presentation about the power plant equipment. They then board shuttle vehicles for the tour. Parking at the plant will be limited to those who have disabilities and need to use their own vehicle.

The tour will be led by Eric Jacobson, current owner of the plant, and Chris Dobbins, plant operator. Eric also will present an Evening of History (no reservations needed) entitled Electrifying Ouray Tuesday, June 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wright Opera House. In addition, Larry Kerecman will explore the colorful people, amazing inventions and regional history of the pioneering use of hydroelectric power in the mines and how it then came "down the mountain" to light and power the town of Ouray.

Eric Jacobson will discuss the history of the Ouray Power Plant and his work to keep it operating through many natural and human-caused challenges.

Both the lecture and tours will

illustrate how the last two decades of the 19th Century saw tremendous progress in the practical application of electricity for lighting and industrial purposes. In Ouray, this new source of power was especially important for running equipment in the mines.

The fee for the power plant tour is \$35 per person and space is limited. Call OCHS at 970-325-4576 or via

email ochs@ouraynet.com to make reservations and pre-pay for the tour. Admission to the Evening of History is \$5, paid at the door, and free for OCHS members.



Ouray Power House c. 1905

Miner's Memorial Wall Honors Area's Proud Mining Heritage

By Kate Kellogg

The Miner's Memorial Wall is a moving tribute to those miners whose hard and often dangerous work sustained both the historical and modern Ouray area. Located at the entrance of the Ouray Hot Springs Pool near the Ouray Visitors' Center, the memorial is a small park featuring Michael McCullough's larger-than-life bronze statue, known as the San Juan Miner. The statue is surrounded by a semi-circular wall of plaques honoring more than 350 individuals who worked in the mines of the San Juan Mountains. They were employed as miners, mill workers, assayers, geologists, and in various other mining capacities.

The idea for a miner's memorial grew out of the Ouray Highgraders, a nonprofit organization that presents the annual Highgraders Holidays in Ouray. Since 1996, the popular two-day festival has held friendly competitions in traditional mining skills at Mining Heritage Park near the pool. Some of the organization's core members—including Teri Blackford, Sandy Zanett, Fran Norlander, and Barb Muntyan—envisioned a permanent, year-round memorial to commemorate the area's mining heritage.

Thanks to grants from the Zanett and Skelding Foundations, the group commissioned McCullough's work on the statue. He invited miners to his studio and asked them to pose as though they were working. The face of the statue is a conglomeration of the miners he met. Speedy Scott and Clark Williams installed the wall. The memorial was dedicated in 2003. Families and friends purchased plaques to honor those individuals, both living and deceased, at \$50 per plaque. Together with the grant money, the plaque sales comprised a fund to pay off the statue and maintain the

memorial.

Since the dedication, the memorial wall has undergone several iterations of upgrade, due to moisture problems and issues with the materials. After the Ouray County Historical Society took over ownership in 2009, Teri Blackford and Sandy Zanett continued to monitor and maintain the memorial. They discovered scratches (vandalism) as well as weather damage.

The OCHS Board decided a complete overhaul was necessary. Ridgway metal artist Lisa Issenberg installed metal framework and new powder-coated, weather-resistant metal plaques. The statue reserve fund paid for the improvements.

The refurbished Miner's Memorial is truly a community

project, as it was from the beginning. The mural on the back of the wall, a panorama of the San Juans, is the work of local artist Denise Lindsey. Ouray County residents collected mineral specimens from area mines and donated their findings to the memorial. The ore samples are affixed to the top of the wall.

Last Call to Purchase a Miner's Memorial Plaque

The OCHS is announcing that as of July 1, 2019 Miner's Plaques will no longer be offered for sale. If you have a family member or friend or know of a mine worker (living, deceased, or from Ouray's historical past) that you'd like to honor, please fill out the following form and mail your \$50 to:

FINAL CALL: MEMORIAL PLAQUE APPLICATION

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1). One individual to a plaque
- 2). Person to be honored can be living or deceased
- 3). Person had to be involved in mining in the San Juans as a miner, mill man, assayer, geologist, etc.

In Memory of
John Q. Miner
From his Children

In Honor of
John Q. Miner
30 Years a Miner

In Memory of
John Q. Miner
Shift Boss, Idaho Mine, 1947

Line One: _____
Name: _____
Line Three: _____

Please mail application with \$50.00 fee to:
Teri Blackford Please make checks payable
549 Mary's Rd. to: OCHS
Ridgway, CO 81432 For more information, call
Teri at 970-325-4521

Mounting the San Juan Miner's Statue in Place – 2003



◀ From right to left: Dick Zanett, Bumper Williams, Mike McCullough, and Phil Blackford

▶ From right to left: Barb Muntyan, Teri Blackford, Sandy Zanett, Art Fox, Mike McCullough, Clark Williams (ball cap), and Speedy Scott.



◀ Mike McCullough

Here's to the last hundred years
And the men who used steel and air.
When most of these holes were open
And the wages they paid drew us there.
But it wasn't just for the money;
It was accomplishment and pride.
In a job well done and the devil beat,
As out of the portal you ride.
With sweat and blood, we broke the rock,
As we plied our savage trade.
We left our track in the heart of the earth;
It was where our destiny lay.

George Munzing
San Juan Miner

Memorial Dedication

2003 Speech Given by Ron Williams:

Today we are here to dedicate this statue in remembrance of the San Juan Miners.

I see so many hands that I've worked with. And we all remember so many that have passed. They

All had their stories—we all felt the same. Working the San Juans was the name of the game.

Curse it on Mondays,
Love it come Friday.

All of the miners who have gathered today want to remind you,

When you're jeeping or hiking and enjoying the view—
It's because a miner was there ahead of you.

And so we ask when you leave here today, think of your cars, watches and rings, and what it took to make these things,

Thank God for these men. They are a special breed. They believe in only one creed. Remember this and remember it well:

If it can't be grown
It has to be mined.

A Peek Into Ouray's Legendary Walsh Family

It all began when Irish immigrant, Thomas Walsh, came to Ouray in 1895 searching in the Imogene Basin for flux for his Silverton ore smelter and ended with his family becoming one of the most wealthy and socially prominent families in the US between 1915 and 1947. Thomas's daughter Evalyn was the last private owner of the famous Hope Diamond, among other well-known jewels.

The Walsh family of Ouray was truly legendary, and opening this spring at the OCHS Museum is a special exhibit telling the story of the Walsh and McLean families. OCHS has been very fortunate over the years to be the recipient of significant items from that family, namely the portrait of Evalyn Walsh McLean and her two sons painted by the renowned Hungarian portrait painter, Philip de

László. This portrait was nominated in 2016 to History Colorado's "Most Significant Artifacts."

Just recently, the satin wedding dress worn by the McLean's daughter-in-law and later granddaughter, (Ann Carroll Meem in 1938 and Emily Beale McLean in 1960) was donated to OCHS by the great granddaughter of the McLeans. These two weddings were the May social events for Washington DC society, and even today the beautiful dress and



Normandy lace veil are in excellent condition. You are encouraged to make a special visit to the museum and the Walsh Zanett room to learn more about this legendary family, the Camp Bird Mine, the wealth and tribulations of the famous McLean family, and of course the Hope Diamond.

CURATOR'S REPORT

By Don Paulson

For this Newsletter I will focus on the museum improvements being made under our \$198,000 State Historic Fund Grant. The funds available also include an additional \$65,000 raised by donation from OCHS members. The grant focuses on three areas:

- Remodeling of the 1905 sub basement/furnace room which has not been available for any use because of low ceilings, flooded areas, serious structural problems and electrical and plumbing problems connected with the old coal furnace.
- Drainage issues on the entire east side of the building
- Remodeling the first floor bathroom to be ADA compliant and the construction of a new ADA compliant bathroom on the basement display level

The first tasks involved the sub-basement itself. These tasks included removal of the asbestos clad 1905 coal furnace, lowering the sub-basement floor level by 8-12 inches, replacing all of the plumbing and electrical in the sub-basement. The old post and beam supports were completely rotted away and several of the ceiling joists were cracked. We put in new steel beams running the entire east-west direction of the sub-basement with four new steel posts. The cracked joists were also repaired. We also completely filled in with stone the two window wells leading to the sub-basement. This was both a water issue and security issue. The old concrete floor was removed and

the old under-floor drainage system was found to be severely deteriorated. It was removed and a new French Drain system was installed under the new concrete floor in the sub-basement. A sump pump was installed. A new connection to the city sewer system was also installed. Other work in the sub-basement included a new stairwell, new ceiling, shelving around the outside walls for storage. Additional electrical and plumbing work is ongoing.

The second tasks involved mitigating the drainage problems on the east side of the building. This problem had led to the sub-basement being filled with about two inches of water year round. This water issue has existed since at least 1998 when I first got involved in the museum. The earth was removed down to about four feet on the east side and mitigating steps included plastic barriers, crushed stone and sealing with stone the window in the mining area to prevent flooding of that area. A new concrete wall and walkway with railings were installed leading from the east door out to the north side of the 1905 addition. The pointing for the stonework in the jail, mining exhibit and black smith shop was also repaired.

Our third task is the ADA compliant bathrooms. This work is already well underway. I have included two photos of the sub-basement taken just after the furnace was removed in February 2018 and two photos of the sub-basement taken in early March 2019.

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

Penny Hanshaw often is asked why she decided to become a geologist more than 50 years ago when women were not very welcome in that field. Her answer is part quip and part simple fact. "I flunked math in my freshman year of college," she said.

Her college was Wellesley, the prestigious women's liberal arts college in the Massachusetts town of the same name. The college's dean (also a woman) helpfully pointed out that geology was a good choice for the bright young student who needed to avoid a major that required math.

Aha! Geology! Something that doesn't require any math, takes place outdoors and involves rocks," said Penny, who always loved being outdoors. "I had no clue to what geology was and, looking back, it has been my whole life."

Penny had chosen Wellesley with encouragement from her mother, who maintained that her own four years at the school were the happiest of her life. Penny's sister also enrolled there and eventually became the head of the Geology Department.

Penny's choice of that field proved to be a good one for an active young woman who loved camping, horse-back riding, sleeping in tents, and skiing in the northeast. She didn't mind being cold and wet, or often being the lone female on outings. But she was not prepared for the prejudice she would encounter as a woman geologist in the 1950s.

Fortunately Penny's father, an avid horseman and outdoorsman, passed on some of his fortitude and courage to his daughter.

To OCHS volunteers Suzy Noldan and Cindy Carothers, the Ross Moore Mining Library is not just a library but a treasure trove.

Suzy and Cindy, both retired geologists, are continuing a long and ongoing project: cataloging the library's nearly 10,000 publications—some dating back to 1875—on mining, mineralogy, and geology. The two women are continuing the work begun by another geologist, the late George Moore and OCHS board member, who created a digital cataloging system for the enormous collection.

Donated by William Ross Moore, the growing mining library includes books, survey records and maps on a variety of geologic subjects, particularly the geology, history and geography of western Colorado and surrounding areas. Cindy and Suzy maintain that library's searchable catalog, which is available online at the OCHS website. The physical collection resides in the OCHS Research Center (aka the Annex) on Ouray's Main Street.

"We believe we are carrying on George's legacy," said Suzy who began volunteering as an archivist of the collection in 2015. "We say we have only about five percent to go in completing the number of items catalogued. But the collection continues to grow as people donate old and new books, manuscripts and maps."

She and Cindy work throughout the Ouray County Historical Museum's season. While some might find their task monotonous, the archivists uncover interesting and little-known facts about the Ouray area's history every day. Their backgrounds as petroleum geologists help them appreciate those discoveries.

For example, Cindy, who joined the project in 2017, enjoys reading the written comments on old maps. "Surveyors sometimes corrected what they saw as mistakes in very precise handwriting," she said.

Another interesting finding connects the past with the present.

During World War I, Donald Grant Miller took horses pulling cannons into battle. He survived the war but "never could talk about it," she said.

Fresh out of college with a geology degree, Penny had no idea what she wanted to do and had no money or resources. But one of her professors helped her find work with the U.S. Geological Survey in Grand Junction. So Penny and another girl, a college friend who owned a car, drove from Massachusetts to Grand Junction in 1953, camping outside every night on the way. On her first excursion from New England, Penny said she "wasn't smart enough to be terrified."

The two young women shared an apartment in Grand Junction. Penny was able to start work right away "mapping" geology for the US Geological Survey. "It was a wonderful beginning to a 40-year geological career," she said.

She began by searching for rocks in a quadrangle, discerning rock type, deciding formations, and publishing the information on maps that were used by mining geologists for multiple uses. During this post-World War II period when the Cold War with the Soviet Union was escalating, uranium was highly sought after.

She described digging as "scary." Alone in the wilderness with wild animals and unknown humans, Penny had to fend for herself. Two male guides—who doubted-



Penny Hanshaw

ly were testing her resilience—would drop her off in a remote area. "It was a little stressful," she said. "I doubt they work like that today! But I made it! Nothing ate me."

While in Colorado, Penny was also head of a ski patrol at Arapaho Basin, a position she loved. She was the only woman with 35 men on her patrol. "I was a renegade in many ways," she said with a hint of pride.

Then she fell in love.

Penny married Bruce Hanshaw, another geologist, who supported her career aspirations. But his own career plans temporarily took the couple back east. While she was preparing for a patrol, her husband informed her that they were heading to Harvard where he would pursue his PhD in Geology.

Penny was heartbroken. Faced with a difficult decision, she managed to have her job transferred from Grand Junction to Boston. She continued to work as a geologist but Penny and her husband never worked together in the field.

The USGS transferred her to a small office in the basement of the Bryant & Stratton prestigious business school in Boston. Penny shared the office with other male geologists who wanted nothing to do with her.

Always one to remember the humor in any situation, Penny gives a hilarious account of an experience at the "prestigious school." One day at Bryant & Stratton, she

was dressed for the field with ratty jeans and knee-high boots. She decided to stop in the woman's restroom. Her knee-high boots were showing through the bottom of the bathroom door. A woman came in and saw her boots and screamed "There's a man in the lady's room!!!"

As police and security arrived, Penny was able to sneak away. To this day, she said, no one knew "that the man in the lady's room was a woman geologist!"

For five years Penny supported her husband as he studied for his PhD in geology. She noted that he made significant discoveries through his PhD work.

In retrospect, Penny feels she should have investigated pursuing her own PhD. "Woman were not accepted in doctorate programs at most universities," she said. "So being a woman, I thought I did not have a chance to pursue a PhD." Nevertheless, both Penny and Bruce continued their successful geologic careers after they moved back to Colorado.

Penny now lives with her son and daughter-in-law near Ouray. Since her retirement, Penny has shared her geologic expertise with the Ouray County community in many ways, including membership on the OCHS Board of Directors and years of volunteer work for the museum.

To aspiring women geologists Penny says: "I'm glad to be a part of that renaissance and I certainly would encourage women who like the outdoors to rock sample! It is a wonderful career. I've enjoyed my pension all of these years. And I enjoy the friendships that I've made. I can go places and do things. Just don't wear those boots in the Ladies Room!!"



Cindy Carothers & Suzy Noldan

When the iconic Box Canyon sign was first displayed in 1909, Ouray folks were curious about the glow of the sign's incandescent lights, according to an old newspaper article and photos the two volunteers found. At that time, locals were accused of stealing some of the bulbs. This past year, history repeated itself when two-thirds of the bulbs in the current Box Canyon sign were discovered missing!

Also during their research process, Cindy and Suzy have come across documents that reveal fascinating tidbits about historical figures. One such legend was Thomas Walsh, who discovered and owned the original Camp Bird Gold Mine. The women found his commencement address to an early 1900s graduating class of the Colorado School of Mines. In describing his discovery of gold at Camp Bird, Walsh noted how others had only assayed shiny minerals in that area—and passed up less spectacular materials that contained the gold.

"His message was, 'Don't go for the obvious, but explore everything,'" said Cindy.

Although Cindy and Suzy were proficient on computers when they started their work for OCHS, they had to learn to use tools specific to the archivist's trade. Both gained expertise in Bookpedia, an online cataloging system, as well as the older Dewey Decimal system for books. Suzy learned the ropes from OCHS Curator Don Paulson and another archives volunteer, Enid

Shaw-Richards. When Cindy began volunteering, "she took to the work like a fish to water," said Suzy.

Besides computer cataloging and indexing, the volunteers scan materials to make them available online. Some of those pertain specifically to Ouray such as the Ouray Folios, 1907, of the Geologic Atlas, and the famous Hayden Survey.

Both women have devoted their careers to geologic exploration so it's no wonder they find the subject matter of their work so engaging. Cindy has a bachelor's degree in geology and master's degree in geochemistry. She and her husband worked in petroleum exploration in Louisiana, Texas and Colorado basins.

Having visited Ouray since she was a child, "It was a slam dunk to end up here after retirement," she said. "I love the combination of rocks, water and mountains. I'm so lucky to live in a place where groups like the San Juan Geological Society bring professionals to lead field trips and where we can tap the knowledge of local experts."

Both Cindy and Suzy are active members of the Ouray Trail Group, which maintains Ouray County's many hiking trails.

Suzy has a bachelor's degree in geology and master's degree in geophysics. She worked in oil exploration, both on- and off-shore, in Alaska, Wyoming, and Texas and she is a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. She and her husband are fulltime RVers and spend their winters in Sedona, AZ.

Her favorite geologic haunts are Paradox Basin and any good local mining dump. "The first time I went on a geology field trip here in 1981, I saw the great angular unconformity at Box Canyon and was hooked," she said. When she is not working in the OCHS archives, Suzy is probably collecting mineral specimens, canyoneering with the Ouray Canyoneering Coalition, rappelling down waterfalls, or hiking.

I like stories. Like historical objects, every rock has a story to tell, and that's what got me into geology.

I went to Bryn Mawr College which being a true liberal arts college encouraged students to major in whatever really interested us, even if it was philosophy and seemingly totally impractical. And anyway, I thought geology would be practical. Which proved to be pretty much not so true for me.



Barbara Meckel

I was the first female student in the graduate department at Johns Hopkins University since about 1910. Equipped with a Master's degree, I married Larry, a fellow student, and went with him to Texas. Even though there were plenty of jobs for geologists in the booming oil

business, not so for women. I gave up after a guy at a respected company told me I was by far the most capable applicant for the job but that "I found me a guy down in Naval Engineering I think I can maybe teach to do it!"

So I became a stay at home mother for a number of years, raising our four boys. And that brought us to Ouray. Being a Montana girl, I just couldn't stand the Houston summers. So we chose Ouray for a retreat, at least partly because it was real town, unlike the other mountain communities we looked at which were hippie enclaves or ghost towns. And because there were plenty of rocks and historical buildings with stories to tell. Air flights to Montrose were cheap in those days, so Larry often joined the boys and me at our first house on 8th Avenue across from Rosanna and Elwood Gregory.

Eventually, with the boys all in school, I joined Larry in working at his consulting company. I mostly did technical work - the only oil I ever discovered was unfortunately on an old map I was using and had already been found by somebody else before me on a current map. It was an ideal job for a busy mother especially since the higher-up certainly understood the importance of family leave. So I was able to do some "real" work. But I also had Ouray in the summer, with its rocks and history.

One facet of the business was teaching field courses for the industry; I was fortunate to be able to travel and look at many rocks and the sediments that make them: the Mississippi Delta, Cayman Island, Belize, Baja California, most of southern California, Canyonlands, and Morocco.

I've enjoyed volunteering at the Museum. There's lots of interplay between the geology and engineering of the historic mines and the people who were living here then. Just right for a good story!

Ouray County Historical Society Evenings of History 2019*



Presented in Partnership with the Wright Opera House

*All talks take place at 7:30 pm at the Wright Opera House in Ouray

\$5 fee, free for OCHS members

June 18: Larry Kerecman and Eric Jacobson

Electrifying Ouray



Larry Kerecman



Eric Jacobson

Larry will present the stories of the pioneering inventors and entrepreneurs who developed the technology and equipment to bring electricity to the local mines and eventually to the town of Ouray. The Ouray hydroelectric plant on Oak Avenue is one of the oldest continuously operating hydro plants in the country.

Larry Kerecman is a retired electrical engineer who worked on the application of computers for control and monitoring systems in a variety of fields ranging from the Cornell University high energy accelerator laboratory to oil and gas exploration, theatrical lighting, show fountains and even a Christmas light show for Macy's in Philadelphia. His connection to Ouray began in 2004 when he started his annual spring work trips to the Double RL ranch, eventually connecting with OCHS, where he now does volunteer work.

Eric Jacobson is a legend in Telluride and

this presentation will explore his passion and history with electricity. He first saw the iconic hydro-electric plant perched atop Bridal Veil Falls when he was a child. He returned to the station years later, after the plant had been shut down for nearly three decades with a plan to restore it. After many years of work to acquire the property and obtain an operating permit, get the generator running, and rebuild the neglected building, he finally began producing power 1991. Eric and his family lived in that building until concerns for winter safety compelled a move into town.

Eric purchased the Ouray hydroelectric power plant, one of the oldest in the country, in 1992 when the Ute Power company went bankrupt. With a large investment of time and money, he restored it to be a revenue producing facility. Eric has also supported the Ouray Ice Park by keeping free access to sections of the land he owns along the pipeline route from the dam on the Uncompahgre River to the power plant.

In addition to this presentation, a tour of the plant, by prior reservation, will be held on Wednesday, June 19. Both Larry and Eric will host the tour. (Fee \$35 per person). Contact OCHS at 970 325-4576 for further information.

June 25: Pete Davis

History of Climbing in the San Juans



Colorado's largest, most rugged and most remote mountain range has long beckoned to mountain climbers who seek to challenge themselves and to

know its beauty and secrets more intimately. The history of climbing in the San Juan's spans over 150 years and includes the likes of explorers, miners, cowboys and more recently, some of the greatest climbers the modern world has ever known. This talk will take an in depth look at fascinating and legendary characters, their accomplishments and their made-for-Hollywood stories of adventure and mis-adventure among the peaks, frozen waterfalls and cliffs of the San

Juan Mountain's backyard.

Pete Davis has lived in Ridgway for eight years and the San Juan region for 20 years. He has been a dedicated rock and alpine climber since the age of twelve when he was first introduced to the Uncompahgre Wilderness Area. Pete attended Fort Lewis College in Durango. In addition to working at Ouray Mountain Sports, Pete works as an archeologist currently helping to excavate the Disappointment Valley site located in Montrose County's West End.

Pete, along with Bill MacTiernan and Sam Rushing, created a brand-new special exhibit for the Ouray County Museum. Be sure to visit the Museum to view this presentation which combines Pete's two passions: history and climbing.

July 2: Gail Zanett Saunders

Remarkable Women of the Old West



Visions of the Old West include grizzly miners and mountain men or cowboys on horseback, but women made their mark on western history too. Gail Zanett

Saunders has researched the lives of women in Colorado history, but for this presentation, she left Colorado's borders to follow the stories of 15 trailblazing women. Explore the lives of a former slave who drove a stagecoach in Montana; a journalist who trekked her way to the Klondike to report on the gold rush; and a Buffalo Bill Wild West trick rider who married during a performance at Madison Square Gardens. Lucy Hobbs

Taylor became the first woman in the world to earn a Doctorate of Dental Science, and Sarah Winnemucca lectured to eastern audiences about the plights of her tribe. You may not agree with some of these woman's convictions, but you'll have to admit, they're remarkable.

Gail is a descendant of Italian immigrants who came to Ouray in 1918. A former Colorado History teacher, she pursues her love of southwest history by volunteering for the OCHS. She is an OCHS Board member and serves as the photo archivist. When not studying historic photos, Gail researches, speaks, and writes local history. She is the co-author of *Images of America: Ouray* and contributes to *Filò: A Journal for Tyrolean Americans*.

July 9: Samantha Tisdell Wright

Celebrating The Mine Next Door

25 Years of Reclamation and Partnership at the Idarado Mine



Come learn about the rich and fascinating history and reclamation of the Idarado Mine and its ongoing role in the communities of Ouray and Telluride

at this special Evenings of History event! The evening includes a reception in the newly renovated lobby of the Wright Opera House, catered by Secret Garden

Catering; the Ouray debut of a documentary 30-minute film about the Idarado Mine by filmmaker Brett Schreckengost; a reading by Samantha Tisdell Wright, author of the 10-part "Mine Next Door" newspaper series that was published in the Ouray County Plaindealer and Telluride Watch last summer; and a panel discussion featuring a variety of current and former Idarado employees. Sponsored by Newmont Mining Corporation.

Samantha Tisdell Wright is a nationally recognized independent journalist and freelance writer based in Silverton, Colorado. She is the recipient of the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Breaking News from the Society of Professional

Journalists. She has also won numerous awards from the Colorado Press Association and The Society of Professional Journalists' Colorado Chapter.

July 16: Andrew Gulliford

The Woolly West

Colorado's Hidden History of Sheepscapes



From his book, Andrew Gulliford will speak about historical archaeology and the wide variety of sites related to sheep movements, sheep camps, cairns, aspen tree carvings, and sheepherder life-ways in Colorado's high country for summer grazing and in Utah's canyon country for winter grazing. He will present his findings, show photographs, and discuss cultural traditions and stories for Basque, Hispano, and Greek herders and sheepmen who have grazed and still graze the state's public lands. He will present vivid tales from the late 19th and early 20th century cattle and sheep wars.

Dr. Gulliford will bring his research up to date describing ongoing conflicts between guardian dogs and hikers and between domestic sheep and bighorns on national forests.

Gulliford is a recipient of the National Individual Volunteer Award from the U.S. Forest Service. Twice he has won the Colorado Book Award and the New Mexico-Arizona Book Award. In addition his book *The Woolly West* is the 2019 winner of the Colorado Book Award for history. His articles and photographs have appeared in national publications including *High Country News*, *Preservation*, *American Heritage* and *Colorado Heritage*. He is a professor of history and Environmental Studies at Fort Lewis College in Durango.

July 23: Jim Pettengill

Lights! Cameral Scenery!

Moviemaking in Ouray County



Soaring mountains, rushing rivers, sheer cliffs - with the dramatic scenery in the San Juan Mountains it's no wonder that the area has been a frequent

location for Hollywood moviemakers for 70 years, particularly for Westerns. This presentation summarizes filmmaking in the San Juans with lots of behind-the-scenes information, focusing primarily on three major films made in Ouray County: *Tribute To A Bad Man* (1956), *How*

the West Was Won (1962), and especially the original John Wayne version of *True Grit* on the 50th anniversary of its release in 1969.

After pursuing a career in geology with the U. S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Land Management, Pettengill retired to Ouray County in 1999. He has been a freelance writer and photographer for more than thirty years, with more than 180 feature articles and 700 photographs sold to national magazines. He is a regular contributor to *Wild West Magazine*. Pettengill is vice-president of the Ridgway Railroad Museum.

July 30: Don Paulson

Abandoned Mining Sites: Stories from the Past



My presentation will focus on what can be learned by a careful look at the items typically found at abandoned mining sites. The talk will teach the audience how to identify these items and to determine how they were used. This will include large pieces of machinery, abandoned structures and small items found in a site's often large trash dumps.

Don Paulson lives in Ouray and is curator of the Ouray County Historical

Society as well as a board member of both the Ridgway Railroad Museum and the Trust for Land Restoration. During the last two decades, Don has written numerous articles and given talks on southwestern Colorado history. He has authored or co-authored three southwestern Colorado history books: *Narrow Gauge Railroad in the San Juan Triangle* (2009), *Mines, Miners, and Much More* (2015), and *Peaks of the Uncompahgre* (2016). Previously Don was Professor of Chemistry at California State University, Los Angeles for 36 years. Don enjoys nature photography, model railroading, hiking, and jeeping in the San Juan Triangle.

August 6: Karen Risch

No Individual Heroes

Ouray Mountain Rescue Team



As journalist Roger Anderson wrote: "The San Juans, for all their seeming benign majesty, can be as unforgiving as they are beautiful." This

summer, Ouray Mountain Rescue Team celebrates 45 years of helping adventurers and travelers in trouble. Many areas in Colorado and the United States have rescue teams, but Ouray's is unique. The Million Dollar Highway - infamous for sharp curves, narrow roadway, steep cliffs and winter avalanches - cuts through the southern part of the county. Mt. Sneffels, Ouray's Ice Park, two wilderness areas, 84 hiking trails, and numerous jeep and ATV roads draw

legions of adventurers to summer and winter backcountry challenges. Imaginative, sensitive, compassionate people are drawn to serve on OMRT. With enviable teamwork, they assist terrified people in deadly situations while crafting memorable solutions to logistical and technical problems.

Karen Risch's latest book *No Individual Heroes: Ouray Mountain Rescue Team* was published August of 2018. A 14-year veteran of the team, she lives and works in Ouray. She updated *Hiking Trails of Ouray County* and the *Uncompahgre Wilderness Map and Guide and Hiking Ouray With Kids - And Everyone Else*, and she writes a monthly column on weather and gardening for the *Ouray County Plaindealer*.

