

# SPECIAL HISTORY EDITION

# HISTORIAN

## NEWSLETTER

**PULLOUT  
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 2016**

## Back by Popular Demand John Fielder Photographic Workshop

**A**ttention Photographers: The OCHS is offering a chance to polish your skills and learn from a master at the peak of fall color season.

John Fielder, Colorado's premier landscape photographer, will lead a two-day workshop October 1 and 2 in the spectacular San Juan Mountains. A fundraiser for the OCHS, the hands-on workshop is open to nature photographers of all skill levels.

Fielder's 2013 workshop for OCHS garnered rave reviews. He will again guide field shoots to breathtaking locations around Ouray County that showcase the mountains' brilliant fall foliage and snow-covered peaks. Participants will catch the play of light on peaks and valleys at sunrise and sunset from Red Mountain Pass to Dallas Divide and beyond.

The workshop offers a well-rounded and educational weekend geared to various levels of experience. Fielder will work one-on-one with each participant, providing advice on composition and technique, both in the field and during editing sessions. Limited enrollment will give everyone quality time



► The 2016 John Fielder workshop will offer opportunities for field shots like this autumn scene in Ouray County.

*Photo by John Fielder*

with Fielder and his assistant.

Besides field shoots on remote back roads and historic mining sites, the program will include a slide-based lecture and interactive critique session on participants' laptop com-

puters. Fielder also will demonstrate how to post-process images with computer programs such as Photoshop and Adobe Lightroom.

Tuition for the workshop is \$850 per per-

son. Transportation to field locations and some meals are included. More details on the workshop schedule and venues are forthcoming.

John Fielder has been exploring Ouray County and the surrounding region since he was a gold and silver prospector for CF & I Steel Corporation in his college summer of 1970. He has photographed every road and trail in the area and knows the best of the best places for autumn color.

He has worked tirelessly to promote the protection of Colorado's ranches, open space and wildlands during his 35-year career as a nature photographer and publisher. His photography has earned him recognitions including the Sierra Club's Ansel Adams Award in 1993 and the Aldo Leopold Foundation's Achievement Award in 2011. He has published more than 40 books of Colorado photography and operates a fine art gallery, John Fielder's Colorado, in Denver's Art District.

Enrollment for the workshop is limited to 16. To register, call the Ouray County Historical Museum, (970) 325-4576 or e-mail [ochs@ouraynet.com](mailto:ochs@ouraynet.com).

## OCHS offers Historic Home Tour July 2 in Ouray

**T**he public will have a rare opportunity to view the interior of historically significant homes in Ouray during a special event offered by the Ouray County Historical Society on Saturday, July 2.

**Vintage Venues:** *Historic Home and Church Tour* includes self-guided tours of



► The Ouray County Historical Society is housed in the original St. Joseph Hospital.

five homes and St. John's Episcopal Church. The architectural tour runs from noon to 5 p.m. Admission to the museum is included in the tour package.

Tickets are \$25 and will be available at the Ouray County Historical Museum at 420 Sixth Avenue on the day of the event. Maps that identify locations of the six venues and informational brochures are included in the tour package. Refreshments will be served at one of the stops on the tour.

Five of the locations are in the city of Ouray within walking distance of one

another. The sixth, the George Jackson "Poor Farm" house, is just off Highway 550 mid-way between Ridgway and Ouray. The homes are all private residences that have been preserved, restored or reproduced in keeping with the historic character of the city. Docents will be stationed at each site to provide additional information.

Venues include: the Story/Flor home on Seventh Avenue; the Reynolds/McCullough home, Fifth Avenue; the Jackson Poor Farm, Highway 550; a new Victorian reproduction house, Fifth Avenue; a mid-20th Century/Victorian restoration house, Fourth Street; and the original St. John's Episcopal Church on Fifth Avenue.



► The Reynolds/McCullough home, built in 1898, was once owned by Pulitzer-prize winning journalist Alvin McCoy.



► The Victorian replica was built to harmonize perfectly with other historic homes.

The homes and church represent various styles of Victorian-era architecture. The Story/Flor home, a three-story Queen Anne structure, was built in 1895 for William Story, a prominent Ouray lawyer and judge. It has since served as a hotel and funeral home and is

now owned by long-time Ouray residents and geologists Robert and Pam Larson.

The Reynolds/McCullough home, built in 1898, also is an elegant Queen Anne with the characteristic detailing and ornamentation. It was owned for over 40 years by the McCullough family. Minnie McCullough and her daughter, Barbara (Spencer) were both Ouray postmasters for many years. A later owner, Alvin McCoy, was a Pulitzer-prize winning journalist.

The Victorian

replica has been restored by owners Mark and April Orgren to harmonize perfectly with other historic homes in the neighborhood. They have created a state-of-the-art, "green," low-energy structure that in every exterior detail resembles an 1888 Victorian home. They also have almost completed restoration of the smaller house on the tour that originated as a 120-year-old late Victorian and was modified in the 1950s.

The Jackson home, which for 23 years served as the county's "poor farm," is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was built in 1887 by George Jackson, one



► The Jackson home once served as the county's "poor farm."

of the investors in a scheme to build a town site north of Ouray where they hoped the railroad would terminate. After the railroad deal fell through, a subsequent owner sold the house and property to Ouray County in

► See HOME pg 4

## Museum Celebrates July 4 with Parade Float and Lawn Party

July 4th in Ouray wouldn't be complete without a celebration at the Museum. As in past years, the OCHS will host an old fashion lawn party on the museum grounds following the annual Main Street parade that starts at 10 a.m.

But first don't miss the museum's parade float. This year's theme is the Ouray Hot Springs and Pool. OCHS board members and Judy Winnick, longtime friend of the OCHS, will stage a pool party on the

float, complete with music and old-time swimming attire. For more on the history of the city's hot springs, check out the museum's special exhibit "Hot Springs Mecca," celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Hot Springs Pool.

As always, volunteers will serve lemonade and brownies on the museum grounds. This year, make sure to bring your camera or cell phone so you can take a "selfie" with a miner and his beauty!



► Top to bottom: Helen Risch, July 4, 1923; July 4 water fights, circa 1930; Judy Winnick celebrates the Fourth; Snow on the Fourth of July.



## OCHS Summer and Fall Special Events Calendar 2016

### July

- 2 Ouray Home and Church Tour 12:00-5pm tickets \$25.00 - contact the OCHS 325-4576
- 4 Lemonade and Brownies at Museum following Parade. 1950's Theme. Take a selfie with a "Miner" and his bathing beauty. Come and join us!
- 8 Guided Tour of Ouray Museum led by Curator, Don Paulson 9am \$10.00 per person \$5.00 OCHS members). Call 970-325-4576 to pre-register.
- 9 Guided Walking Tour of Historic Main Street in Ouray led by Irene Mattivi. 3pm \$10.00 per person \$5.00 OCHS members). Call 970-325-4576 to pre-register.
- 16 Corkscrew Bed and Turntable Hike led by Don Paulson. \$10.00 per person Call 970-325-4576 to pre-register.
- 23 Guided Walking Tour of Cedar Hill Cemetery led by Glenda Moore. 9am - \$10.00 per person. Call 970-325-4576 to pre-register.

### August

- 5 Guided Tour of Ouray Museum led by Curator, Don Paulson 9am \$10.0 per person (\$5.00 OCHS members). Call 970-325-4576 to pre-register.
- 6 Guided Walking Tour of Historic Main Street in Ouray led by Irene Mattivi. 3pm -\$10.00 per person. (\$5.00 OCHS members) Call 970-325-4576 to pre-register.
- 10 Special Event -Guided Geology Tour of the San Juans led by Robert Stoufer and Larry Meckel -7:30am-5pm - Call 970-325-4576 for details.
- 13 Corkscrew Bed and Turntable Hike led by Don Paulson. \$10.00 per person Call 970-325-4576 to pre-register.
- 17 Annual Quilt Show opens at Ouray Museum. Runs through October 1.
- 20 Guided Walking Tour of Cedar Hill Cemetery led by Glenda Moore. 9am - \$10.00 per person. Call 970-325-4576 to pre-register.

### September

15-18 Ouray County Railroad Days. See <http://www.ridgewayrailroadmuseum.org> for details.

### October

1 & 2 John Fielder 2 day Autumn Photographic Workshop Ouray County. Details - OCHS 325-4576

## Ouray County Historical Society Evenings of History\* 2016

**June 21** - Kelvin Kent, *The Hiking Trails of Ouray County*

**June 28** - Mark and Kym Todd, *Wild West Ghosts*

**July 5** - Jim Kornberg, *Frontier Medicine: The Trials and Tribulations of Doc Rowan*

**July 12** - Larry Moore, *The Pioneer Cornforth Family of Oak Street*

**July 19** - Craig Jackman, *The Early History of Colona*

**July 26** - Peter McCarville, *The Geologic Story of Ouray*

**Aug 2** - Don Paulson - *Albert Reynolds, Hubbard Reed and the Revenue Mine*

**Aug 9** - Kevin Chismire-*The History of Ouray's Hot Springs Pool*

\*All of the talks take place at the Wright Opera House at 462 Main Street in Ouray. The doors open at 7 pm and the talks start at 7:30 pm.

# Call for Quilts!

This summer the OCHS will sponsor its 16th annual quilt show. As in recent years, entries in the show will be vintage quilts – those made before 1960. The exhibit will showcase the artistry and handiwork of our foremothers, who crafted these quilts for either practical necessity or artistic beauty.

This year's show, "Patterns of the Past," will open at the museum August 17th and run through October 1. OCHS asks for the loan of such vintage quilts for that two-month period in order to



▶ Vintage quilts festooned the museum's General Store in the 2011 quilt show.

display them for the show. Even if you don't know the name of the pattern or maker of the quilt, the quilt show curator will do her best to add documentation, making the quilt a piece of history.

If you have such a quilt in your closet or cedar chest, please consider sharing the quilt with OCHS to make this year's quilt show the popular display it has been for the past years.

Please contact OCHS at ochs@ouraynet.com or (970) 325-4576, or Sue Hillhouse, shill@ouraynet.com.

# Museum Special Exhibit Showcases History of Local Women's Attire

"The Dressing Room Mirror," a special exhibit for the museum's 2016 season, traces the history of fashions worn by Ouray area women from the Victorian age through the 1940s. All of the clothing in the display has been donated by local families.

The gowns range from muted and heavily draped mourning attire from the Victorian age to a blue rayon faille evening gown, circa 1940s. A Turn-of-the-Century "Gibson Girl" outfit, complete with bustle, represents the "S"-curve silhouette that was fashionable during that period.

Sue Hillhouse, who curated the exhibit, says, "We have tried to display [the gowns] for your understanding, enjoyment and appreciation of the beauty of

these garments, considering most of them were made and cared for without any of the



▶ Vintage quilts festooned the museum's General Store in the 2011 quilt show.

modern conveniences that we have today." The exhibit runs through November at the museum.

# Ouray's Hot Springs Exhibit

Ouray's many hot springs bubbling up near the river and from underground fissures have been a natural draw for the bone weary. The Ute Indians considered the mineral springs sacred and healing. In a series of over 25 panels, this exhibit follows the development of the county's hot

springs in text and photo. It was compiled by Gail Zanett Saunders, OCHS photo archivist.

Ouray's first indoor swimming pool and bath house was located on the east side of town near today's Wiesbaden Hot Springs and Lodging. W. J. Buchanan, called Buck by the town's folks because he always wore buckskin pants, purchased the lots in 1877. His wife offered a miner a hot bath to wash away a week of hard work. Doc Bates, owner of the hospital, opened a sanitarium in this location in the mid-1920s.

The Cogar Sanitarium located at the present day site of the Box Canyon Lodge, was the first commercial use of hot springs for health in Ouray County. Later called the Sweet Skin Sanitarium, it provided vapor

baths in two large caves, one for men and one for women.

Sarah Randall Jarvis Orvis was one of the first white women to settle in Ouray County. She ranched on a site north of town that contained a hot springs pond. As early as 1883, Sarah and her husband Lewis opened a public pool. Their son Lewis Jr. constructed a rustic style club house and dance hall nearby. The family operated the site until the 1930s. 72 years after the original Orvis family left the hot springs, the Orvis family reacquired the property in 2005. Ken Orvis, the grandson of Lewis Jr., bought the ranch land back and continued the operation of the Orvis Hot Springs. Orvis supplied the OCHS with several photographs of the hot

springs for use in the exhibit. In the early 1920's several of Ouray's fathers banded together with the intention of erecting a large, outdoor pool. The location was a site just north of town called Radium Springs Park that contained fish ponds and picnic areas. With much community input and labor, construction on the pool finally began 90 years ago in 1926, and the million gallon pool's grand opening was held July 4, 1927. Several photographs in the exhibit depict the story of the pool's history including the devastating flood of 1929 that filled the pool with muck and debris. The Ouray Chamber Resort Association provided current photos of the pool, and Jenny Hart's fourth grade class special assignment on the pool is featured as well.

Saunders noted that the society has few pictures of the Hot Springs Pool taken in the last 60 years or so. She has invited members of the community to consider sharing or donating their photographs. Individual photos can be scanned at the Museum.

*This special exhibit is on display until November.*



▶ Top left, clockwise: Bathing Beauties at the pool; Hot Springs Pool circa 1955; Pool tents; Pool celebration; Dorothy Davis, mother of Dick and Bob Zanett, takes a swim at the pool.

# Jeromes visit Museum

Doris Loree McIntyre Jerome and daughter Susan Jerome visit the Museum on June 13, 2016. C.H. McIntyre was Doris' great grandfather and Edward McIntyre was her great uncle. They are standing in front of the historic McIntyre cabin on the Museum grounds. The McIntyre cabin was built in 1878 and moved to grounds of the Museum in 1979. The cabins will also be on display during our Home and Church Tour on July 2.



▶ Doris Loree McIntyre Jerome (right) and daughter Susan Jerome visit the Museum on June 13, 2016.



▶ McIntyre descendants visit Museum. Doris Loree McIntyre Jerome and daughter Susan Jerome Also in photo Irene Mattivi, Gail Saunders June 13, 2016.

# HOME tour

► From page 1



► The Reynolds/McCullough home in the 1940s.

1914 for use as the county's poor farm. Residents worked on the farm and raised livestock there until the farm closed in 1937. Now beautifully restored, the home combines Queen Anne and Italianate styles.

St. John's Episcopal Church was built in 1880 by Welsh miners, the third church to be built in Ouray. The stone Parish hall was completed almost 100 years later. Parishioners originally met in the basement, constructed of native stone, which eventually became the sanctuary. Adorned with carved woodwork and magnificent stained glass windows, the present sanctuary hardly resembles a basement. The building's architectural style is considered Victorian/Gothic with a touch of English country.

*Proceeds from the tour benefit the Ouray County Historical Society. For more information, call (970) 325-4576.*



► St. John's Episcopal Church was built by Welsh miners in 1880.



► The Story/Flor home was a hotel, owned and operated by Mrs. Harriet Hart Stubs, from 1929 to 1932. It served as a funeral home from 1934 to 1976.

*Photo courtesy Center for Southwest Studies*

# Joan Fedel

## Wife, mother, teacher and swimming instructor extraordinaire

Joan Fedel does not like to be walled in – by box canyons or anything else in life. She loves her log home's high perch on a mountainside overlooking Ouray. Flowers, both wild and cultivated, thrive on the sunny slopes of her property.

"I was a flatlander born on a ranch near Eads, Colorado," she said. "When Al and I settled here, we had a house and service station at the bottom of Eighth Avenue. I couldn't wait to move up the hill where I could see views besides cliffs to the east and west."

She has lived on the high end of Eighth Avenue near Cascade Falls for 60 years. At 94, she moves quickly through her home in a warm-up suit after leading an aquatic exercise class at the Ouray Hot Springs and Pool. She doesn't let her oxygen apparatus or much else hamper her activities.

"I'm thankful for every new day that comes along," she said.

For many decades she has taught water aerobics for the Polar Bear Club, a group of seniors and hardy souls who swim year-round. She now uses



► At 94, Joan Fedel hasn't slowed down at all.

swim in a reservoir on her childhood ranch, swimming has been a huge part of Joan's life. She coached the Ouray swim team throughout the 1950s and took the team to several state championships. She also chaired the Red Cross Water Safety program for more than 30 years.

Always a strong swimmer, she nevertheless found the water safety certification course a challenge. The course

Center:

"It was really only 69 years when I received it," she said. "But I knew it would eventually be 70."

During her early years in Ouray, Joan taught at Ouray High School until her son was a freshman. Reluctant to teach classes that included her own children, she took a teaching job at Ridgway High School. She taught business and physical education classes there for 27 years.

Joan had met her late husband, Albert Fedel, while they were students at Western State University in Gunnison. They were soon separated by an ocean when World War II broke out. Al enlisted in the U.S. Air Corps and served in the European Theater for four years. He returned home decorated with medals and honors but wounded.

Meanwhile, Joan had graduated and was teaching in California. The war posed no obstacles for her. In fact, Joan seized the opportunities it afforded women at that time.

"I could have worked anywhere in that war economy," she said.

After Al recovered from his injuries, the couple married, remained briefly in California and moved to Ouray in 1945. Al insisted they settle in his family's hometown in the San Juan Mountains.

"You would think Ouray was the only place he could ever live" said Joan, adding that she also appreciates Ouray's small town atmosphere and natural beauty.

Al served the community in many capacities, including mayor of Ouray. He owned and operated Al's Service Shop and Conoco Station on Main and Eighth Avenue from 1946 to 1986. The station was among those businesses that had to dig themselves out of the mud after the flood of 1951. (See photo.)

"Al was a tremendous mechanic," said Joan. "He did mechanical work on foreign cars that no one else could handle."

All three of the Fedels' children became championship swimmers and Dee James still coaches the Ouray swim team. Gary now lives in Lakewood, CO and Pam Larson is a geologist as well as past and current mayor of Ouray.

Joan is more likely to acknowledge her family's accomplishments than her own. For example, she neglected to tell the interviewer for this story that she received the 2011 Woman of the Year Award from the Women's Club of Ouray County.

With six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, Joan is the matriarch of an athletic and musical family. The Fedel family float is always a highlight of the city's Fourth of July parade. The float consists of a mobile band with nearly the whole family, including grandchildren, playing instruments. Joan plays sousaphone.

"At the end of the parade, we park, play out our energy and then go home," she said.



► Joan Fedel and Jack Felin, seated on the hood of a truck, in front of Al Fedel's Conoco Garage on Main Street in Ouray during the flood of 1951.

the pool's P.A. system for recorded exercise instruction in order to reach all swimmers, whether they are in the cold or warm sections of the pool.

From the time she first learned to

was taught at the old indoor pool, long known as "McLeod's," on Sixth Avenue.

"I was strong but didn't know many strokes," she said. "So I studied

the book and buffaloed my way through it. I ended up teaching classes each summer to several hundred kids from Norwood, Nucla, Silverton, Ridgway, Ouray and Telluride."

About two years ago, the community honored Joan with a medallion and plaque recognizing her 70 years of service to Ouray swimmers. The plaque is mounted in the Ouray Hot Springs Welcome

**Please consider being a member of the OCHS!**  
**Help preserve the history of Ouray County**

Please fill in below: (Please Print)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (If Business Member) \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your membership is vital so that the Society can maintain not only our historic Museum building but our new Research Center and Archive. All membership levels include Free admission to the Museum, a 10% discount on items for sale in the gift shop and Museum bookstore, free admission to the OCHS Evenings of History series, and receive newsletters and special announcements.

Please return to:  
**OCHS**  
P.O. Box 151  
Ouray, CO  
81427  
Or Phone with  
Credit Card  
info to:  
970-325-4576

**Membership Levels**

- Silver King \$30 (Individual)
- Guston \$40 (Family)
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