

South Platte Valley Historical Society

Fort Report - John Everson

Tony Thom made all the rooms warmer by using buffalo hide as sealers and insulation for the doors. The west wall of the fort is making the interior of the courtyard look complete. Latias extend from the tower deck to the entrance over the 'corral' area; giving flexibility for options with trade booths, display areas, and food concessions, or just shade during hot summer events. The windows Trapper made have been installed by Earl Harris in the upper level of the tower. Work continues on *the Rendezvous Room* - the heating system and cement floor should be complete in the next few weeks; the walls are near 100% completed and some LED wands are in place. We still need to finish the passage way to the modern kitchen; finish two original adobe cubbies on the south wall and install a huge fireplace on the north wall. There have been over 300 people who have volunteered at the fort—more than 22,000 recorded hours. The expense for the entire project from permit to present, is a little over \$200,000. Without discounts or donations that would have been over \$300,000. The volunteers are deeply appreciative of the lunches that are provided during work days. They keep us fueled, and when that bell rings, lunch becomes a time of fellowship.

Presidents Corner - Earl Harris

"Get yourself a cup of coffee and sit a spell by the fire while enjoying the news letter," but the last few days have been like spring and although a cup of coffee always sounds good, I don't think we need the fire....

You may notice a few changes in this issue of the newsletter. Barb Kirkmeyer has taken on the responsibilities of Editor for which we owe her a big "Thank you!" We're moving into a new year with many exciting things that will be going on at SPVHS. The Fort is looking great as it is nearing completion! You'll read more about it in other segments of the news letter.

We had our annual meeting on the 7th of February. Barbara Kirkmeyer and Genevieve LeBlanc were voted in for another 3 year term as directors. Bill McCartney was voted in for his first term as a director, and we would like to "welcome him aboard." For the last couple of years, Bill has been very busy putting in the electrical work of the fort. (No, they didn't have electricity in 1836, but when it got dark all the workers went to bed.)

We are planning a gala event at Trappers Days to celebrate the completion of the Fort and the 150th year birthday of Weld County. We want everyone to come help us celebrate! More details to follow as time gets closer....

Well, the coffee is getting low in the cup and my two finger chicken scratchers are getting confused - enjoy your reading!

*Join us
September 9th
for the Dedication and Grand Opening of
Historic Fort Lupton
1836*

"The weather has been extremely cold for a long period of time. Working in this weather gives us a feel for what the trappers went through—they had to work even in wicked weather!" J. Everson



Celebrating **175** years

Historic Park Report- Jim Talbert, Park Manager

There has been a great deal of work done on the grounds in the last few months. Weld County Kids have assisted with clearing and cleaning the grounds. Some of the Weld crews were able to assist Bob Warner in getting logs. Bill and Willy Taylor have assisted in opening up more camp areas; leveling out the roads and pulling out dead trees.

Tom Fey donated 3 fresh Christmas Trees from his property, and enough boughs for wreaths and swags at the Christmas Festival in December. Bob Warner donated funds for the "living" Christmas tree; which will be planted north of the Fort.

Need assistance with a "potluck" on April 14th - Arbor Day at the Fort. Please call if you can help 303-718 4708 The groups have shown great respect and interest in the clean up along the river. Can't wait to see the benefit of the many projects accomplished in the spring and everyone's hard work !

Tallow River Trappers

Hello again my friends and fellow Buck Skinners, Yes I have been away, but have not forgotten about all of you!

Tallow River Trappers has recently had an election to replace all of the previous positions, except Donna Bear, Donna will be working alongside Jim Talbert in the capacity of Land Use coordinator. As the months to follow I will be spotlighting all of our new board members.

I am extremely happy to have as my Lieutenant , Tony Thom , as you all know he is a driving force on rebuilding the Fort. I also want to thank all the people who gave me a unanimous vote to once again serve as Captain. I think with Ton's help along with the rest of the board members we can have a blending and a new spirit of cooperation with SPVHS.

I am hearing that "Frozen Toes Rendezvous "was a great success, there were 32 registered camps- Huzzah! Thanks to Scott McCollough and his wife. Also a good time was had by all the "Skinners" that partook in activities at the Bastion. I look forward to work with members of the board of SPVHS -

Otto Ota (Captain Bear Claw) Waugh!



UPCOMING EVENTS

you don't want to miss!

- *April 14th - Arbor Day
planting 200 trees at the Historic Park
- *May 7th - Heritage Fair
10:00am to 5:00pm
- *May 21st - Tea at Donelson House
- *June, July and August
Membership Meetings
potluck in the Rendezvous Room
- * September 9th - 11th
Trapper Days 2011
"settler's Heritage" theme

Treasurers Report - Marlene Stieber February 2010 thru Jan 2011

Another great and very busy year when it comes to all that has been accomplished. Last year the chili supper and auction netted \$560, the pancake breakfast netted \$4,326 with \$1,175 of that as cash donations. Programs during the year: Chamber lunch, Sons of American Revolution, wedding AMFRM meeting, Heritage Fair, Trapper Day's lunch, etc netted us \$2,727. The "non-event" event raised \$1,814. The membership is down a little. The amount from membership this last year not including TRT was \$5,480. If you know someone who would like to join us please invite them to be a member. In this year when the economy is still very much in evidence the society still needs your help.

Deceased Members

Martha Ball
Charter & Lifetime Member

Joann Stephenson
Fort Lupton, CO

2011 Annual Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2011

Invocation was given by Earl Harris, President. Marlene Stieber introduced John Brooks, the guest speaker for the evening. Mr. Brooks, a wonderful storyteller, told a great story about the Mountain Man John Coulter, followed by several more very entertaining stories. Earl Harris thanked the 4H Kids for the great chili dinner. The Presentation of the Colors was done by the Buffalo Soldiers.

President Earl Harris called each up the current Board Members who then introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report: Motion by Gina Patterson, seconded by Bob Warner to accept the prior year's Annual Meeting minutes as published in the newsletter. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Marlene Stieber reported on the various fund raising events held during the year. She also stated that the membership is down a bit and suggested everyone invite anyone they know who might be interested, to become a member.

Membership Report: Neena Hagans reported the membership records have been transferred to the new computer system.

Nominations: Barb Kirkmeyer introduced the slate of officers who were nominated by the Nominating Committee. The floor was open for additional nominations. Garry Dawdy made a motion to close the nominations and accept the nominations as proposed. The new board members are; Genevieve Leblanc, Barb Kirkmeyer and Bill McCartney.

Trapper Days: Barb Kirkmeyer gave a report on the upcoming Grand Opening of the Fort to be held during Trapper Days weekend in 2011.

Donelson House: Genevieve LeBlanc reported that they held nine Teas this past year.

Independence School: Marilyn Carpenter gave a report on the summer school sessions held this past year. She stated that she was one of the teachers this past year and that she had attended a one-room school house as a child.

Fort Report: Tony Thom reported on the progress made on the building of the fort over the past year. He reported volunteers have donated numerous hours of labor exceeding more than \$5,000 in value.

Membership meetings "first Monday" every Month

Our program for the March 7 Membership Meeting was presented by the Colorado Mounted Rangers, the oldest statewide law enforcement organization of Colorado, organized back in 1861.

Their mission is to "Provide assistance to the people of Colorado by working in cooperation with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, assisting with security, traffic, crowd control, search and rescue, and other similar functions.

Today's Rangers are an all volunteer force that serve in mountain, rural, and urban areas throughout Colorado. You will find Rangers patrolling on horseback, riding ATV's, as well as in vehicles and on foot.

Rangers are sworn to support the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of Colorado. - Bob Warner

Appreciation Quilt

to acknowledge Volunteers who have built the Fort.
Interested in assisting on the quilt and know how to embroider? Please contact Diane Nesmith at 303-650-

minutes con't- We achieved significant savings on the cost of materials through donations and discounts. He also thanked all the volunteers that provided lunches for the workers. Tony reported on the garden and the Eagle Scout Bat House Project. He thanked Bob Warner for his many donations including the use of "Big Bob" the fork lift that has been a tremendous help in moving the large logs. And he thanked several others including: the County Work Force Kids, Barb Kirkmeyer for the road base, Jim Talbert for all his many hours of work on the property, Bill McCartney for his electrical work on the fort, and Bill Taylor, Earl Harris and Bill Carpenter for their many hours of work on the fort. Tony reminded everyone that the "Kick Off to Summer" and Heritage Fair is coming up this spring.

Fort Lupton Muzzle Loaders: John Caller reported on their "Fun Shoots" and "Paper Shoots" that are held every month.

Fort Lupton Museum: DebraRay Thompson thanked Nancy Penfold for her many years of service. She received a standing ovation from everyone in the room. Ms. Thompson invited everyone to visit the museum and also stated they could use more volunteers if anyone is interested.

Earl Harris again invited everyone to come out to visit the fort and learn about all the work that is being done. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

*Old Fashioned gala tea parties and other special events
are held in the Donelson House during daylight hours.*

Tea Schedule: March 19th, May 21, October 22 and December 17th

For reservations, direction and private parties call 33-857-2756 or 3030-857-2337

*Our prices have changed: \$15.00 per person. Minimum of 20 and a maximum of 24 per tea.

CELEBRATE

Fifth Annual Heritage Fair At Historic Fort Lupton Park

This show is for Families, History buffs,
and Living History Re-enactors.

See historic demonstrations from Weavers, spinners, blacksmiths, ,
tanners, leatherworkers, and other historic crafts.

See and talk to Roman Legionnaires, Vikings, Revolutionary War,
Mountain Men, Early Western Explorers, Civil War, Buffalo
Soldiers, Charros, World War II soldiers,
& other living history Re-enactors.

Visit a 1830's Fur Trading Fort site, an 1860's Farm House and a
1870's one room School.

Shoot a Black Powder Rifle, Throw a Tomahawk, historic kids
games, and participate in other craft and skills demonstrations. Learn
about history in a fun and exciting way.

Enjoy refreshments and foods of the past, available on site.

May 7, 2011 10:00 – 5:00

**We are requesting a non perishable food item or a \$1.00 donation for
parking to go to the Ft. Lupton Food Bank**

Some activities may have a fee

Contact Tony at tnthom50@comcast.net or 720-940-7646 for more information



**"KICK OFF THE SUMMER WEEK"
MAY 23 - 27, 2011**

This is the last summer to finish our Fort before the
scheduled Grand Opening in September!

GET INVOLVED

We need all of the help we can get!

The Wisconsin Boys are coming back and they are
very excited to work with us again.

We would love to see a lot of Volunteers!

We need assistance with lunches during the week.

Please contact Diane Nesmith - 303-650-2470
if you can help.

FUN! FUN! FUN!

This is always a great week to work and have Fun!
Evenings are full of reflection, laughter, jokes and
maybe some sightseeing!

If you want to join in and help out,
just show up anytime during the week

**CONTACT
TONY THOM 720-940-7646**



**FORT LUPTON
MUSEUM**

NEW DAYS
MONDAY - SATURDAY
NEW HOURS
10:00AM TO 2:00PM

NEW DISPLAYS
MARCH & APRIL
CLUBS OF FORT LUPTON

MAY & JUNE
MILK AND BEANS

NANCY PENFOLD DAY
MARCH 5TH

COME VISIT US!
15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MUSEUM IS MARCH 13TH

453 1ST STREET
FORT LUPTON

DONATIONS

Chili Supper/Silent Auction:

Doris and Inez Sawday, Lgmt, CO
 8 Hand sewn bonnets
 Michael Trapasso, Bowling Grn,TN
 Rosie Weir, Riverside, CA
 3 Hand Traders-Leather Journals
 Woodwright Shop - plane
 Gerry Sloan - 2 afghans
 Bob Warner - Beef Jerky
 Nancy Penfold - Artwork
 James Adams -two \$25 gift
 certificates & set of books
 Ed Bevers III - 3 hand forged
 knives
 Trudy Wise - 2embroidered
 towels
 Ron Brown - Peanut Brittle

We thank everyone for the items for the Annual Chili Supper. With your donations we had a successful auction. Mary Ellen LeBance and her Taittwisters 4-H club and members of SPVHS prepared and served over 100 guests.

Thank you

Monetary Donations:

\$5.00 - \$50.00
 Marlene Stieber
 Nancy Penfold
 Michael Trapasso, Bowling Grn,TN
 Rosie Weir, Riverside, CA
 Rodney Henderson, Johnstown, CO
 Diana & Gilbert Evans, FTL,
 CO Peggy Ford, Greeley, CO
 Ghost Town Club of CO -Lgmt
 James Martin, Eldridge, MO
 Ron & Sharon Schuyler, FTL,CO
 Bob Warner, FTL, CO

Donelson House:

Bill Crowley, Evans, CO
 - 2 coal buckets

Experience History coming to Life

South Platte Valley Historical Society
P. O. Box 633
 Fort Lupton, CO 80621

