



2 February, 2022

Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Report, 2 for 2021

The Castle Rock Museum is very excited that visitorship is returning to pre pandemic levels. We had nearly 2000 visitors in 2021, twice the number as in 2020. In addition to locals and newcomers, our visitors came from 40 states and seven foreign countries. In 2020 the museum opened an exhibit on the other Castle Rock depot, the Santa Fe depot. It was extended until September of 2021. The exhibit told how the two railroad companies that served Castle Rock went to war and then shared their tracks. The current Santa Fe depot is the third as the first two wooden structures burned down. An exhibit on the history of the Telephone in Castle Rock opened in September in conjunction with the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Castle Rock Historical Society. The first telephone directory for Castle Rock in 1901 was one page with 10 listings. The numbers were only two digits. The Castle Rock Museum will celebrate its 25th year of operation in August of 2022. This year the museum will open an exhibit on the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp that was in Castle Rock during the depression. The exhibit shares the history of the area where a new trail is being built on the old Camp site. The museum normally operates four days per week, five hours per day as stated in the contract. However, the museum does serve additional groups such as school visits, scouts and civic programs at hours beyond the usual operating hours. Several schools were able to visit the museum in person in the fall. The chief obstacle to in person visits is bus transportation. Thus we also loaned museum artifacts to teachers to support their local history unit. We were able to provide a nature related event for the Castle Rock youth summer camp at Miller Park. We told the tale of rhyolite in Castle Rock and gave the kids a chance to try gold/gem panning. The museum staff is continually engaged in curating and preserving museum artifacts related to the history of Castle Rock. The artifacts are principally acquired through donations. (This meets our objectives 1 and 2.)

We made a film on rhyolite and offered other videos to compensate for the absence of in person programs. For May Historic Preservation Month the museum prepared a downtown Scavenger Hunt. The program was a collaboration with the Town of Castle Rock, the Castle Rock Historic Preservation and the Downtown Merchants Association. The hunt required visits to businesses and historic buildings. Many local people discovered that Castle Rock has a museum and found businesses that were new to them. We hope to do that program again in 2022. (This meets our objectives 3 and 4)

We resumed the summer downtown historic walking tours as outdoor activities are very popular. In October we did downtown Ghost Tours. They were so popular that we did two or three a week during the month. We also do a history tour of Cedar Hill cemetery. The museum and society are expanding their use of social media to supplement the in person activities. (These programs are designed to meet our objectives 5,6 and 7.)

We posted eight outside interpretive signs to illustrate features of our site and the surrounding areas. We wanted our site to be informative and educational even if the museum had to be closed. The museum will continue to participate in other community events like Festival of Trees, public art and the Car Show. We want people to learn of the famous race track that was once in Castle Rock called Continental Divide Raceways. Beyond Castle Rock, museum staff also participated in history activities in Parker and on Archeology Day near Roxborough. (This meets our objectives 6 and 8.)

We also enjoy the services of talented volunteers who work as docents, provide programs and exhibits, and do restoration repairs at the museum. Our IT department is principally volunteer. Society members sponsor many of our fundraising events.

Operating expenses for the museum for the year were \$83,000. Funds are principally used for salaries, utilities, maintenance and exhibits. Other funds which support the museum come from donations, fundraising events, gift shop sales, recycling and donated services.

Angie DeLeo, Director, Castle Rock Museum