

CASTLE ROCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY CASTLE ROCK MUSEUM

Phone (303) 814-3164

Established 1991

P.O. Box 1572
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Tuesday, August 1, 2017

Dear Mr. Corliss,

In an already very busy year crammed with programs and activities there will be dancing on Elbert Street, square dancing in fact by skilled performers as well as the invited public, when the Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum (CRHSM) celebrates its 20th Anniversary next month on Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 4:00pm-7:00pm.

The Society and the Museum will have completed two decades of telling the story of Castle Rock and curating many artifacts for residents and newcomers by a small staff of paid administrators combined with many, many volunteers. We pause to reflect and take a breath, celebrate our successes and continued custodianship, then wake up the next morning to the next 20 years! You are most cordially invited to join us for food, fun, music, short congratulatory speeches, free train whistles and train engineer caps for kids, and a special dedication of a bench plaque to our recently deceased founder, Lionel Oberlin, who with his wife Starr Oberlin, founded the Society and Museum.

They would be amazed, I think, to know of where we have evolved. Every month we attract upwards of fifty persons to the Philip Miller Library for monthly programs featuring some of the best area speakers available. Just last month we had a retired Army surgeon bring his set of period medical kits and devices to discuss field medicine and surgery during the American Civil War. This month we feature an author discussing rich people behaving badly during Colorado's early turbulent years.

The museum mounted a splendid exhibition on America's entry into World War I and featured many displays illustrating Castle Rock people who wound up on the Western Front.

Already this year we sponsored a motor coach tour of downtown Denver from its Gold Rush founding to World War I. The month before last we organized a trip for three large vans taking 45 people to the tops of both the Santa Fe Quarry and Rhyolite Quarry to explore not only the stunning views but the important role of the lava stone industry in Castle Rock's early days. In October, we will sponsor the always popular dusk cemetery walks at Cedar Hill and Bear Canon Cemeteries.

People are hungry for knowledge of where they live and the CRHSM struggles to find new ways to keep our history alive and newly interpreted as Castle Rock grows past a population of 60,000. Castle Rock is enriched by the energies of the people who manage the Society and the Museum. It is a special place for those of us that call it home. Come visit us and learn more about where you live!

Sincerely,



Jerry Persall
President
Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Board

Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Report, 01- 2017

The Castle Rock Museum has had another busy and rewarding year. The museum 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 at hours beyond the usual operating hours. 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 objective 1 and 2.)

As a prime objective the featured rotating exhibit for this year was the 100th anniversary of the United States entry into World War I. The exhibit focuses on people of Castle Rock and the surrounding area who served in the armed forces. Most of the objects in the exhibit were obtained from local families whose loved ones served in the war. The exhibit opened to great interest with 10 reenactors portraying both sides of the conflict from General Pershing to the Red Baron. There is a street in Castle Rock named, Enderud, after one of the featured soldiers in the exhibit. (This meets our objective 4)

At the request of Adventist Hospital the museum named and prepared an exhibit on Mary Briscoe (Enderud) for the second medical office building at the Hospital. Mary Briscoe was a Castle Rock resident who was the first certified county nurse. The hospital held a huge dedication ceremony on May 4th which also honored their nursing staff. The museum also prepared an exhibit honoring Dr. George Alexander for the first medical office building. It has been the intention of the hospital to have a community connection through these exhibits. Both exhibits were funded by the hospital. (This meets our objective 3.)

Through fundraising efforts last year, including local businesses, the museum was able to raise the funds necessary to restore the large railroad baggage cart that was donated to the museum a few years ago. We hope to have that completed this fall. This June we hosted another Eagle Scout project that provided a floor to the shed where the baggage cart can be safely stored. The shed which was once a wooden boxcar was also a donation to the museum. These efforts support our effort to use volunteers. (This also supports our objective 1.)

This year marked the eighth annual Trolley Tour with the town trolley. This year's theme was, the Craig and Gould Neighborhood. The tour concentrated on the homes of the many important citizens that built the Town of Castle Rock. The Society and Museum Staff provided five full tours. An audio/video system would make a great addition to the Town Trolley. The museum provides walking tours of downtown Castle Rock during the summer months to educate, entertain and bring folks to downtown. It also provides Castle Rock history programs for local church and civic groups. All these efforts are aimed at providing historic education and visitation of the downtown area. (These programs are designed to meet our objectives 5,6 and 7.)

Large groups of children from public, charter and homeschool groups continue to visit the museum during the spring and fall. A walking tour of downtown Castle Rock is now a part of the visit. The museum participates in other community events like the Car Show to build community awareness of the museum. Many of our local visitors are new residents who want to learn more about their new home

town. New technology has enabled visitors to find our out of the way location. (This meets our objective 6.)

The society and museum are preparing to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the museum this September. The museum has been in continuous operation since its opening in 1997.

Most of our artifacts come from local donations. We also enjoy the services of talented volunteers who work as docents, provide exhibits and do repairs at the museum.

Operating expenses for the museum for the first half of the year were \$39,200 .00. The 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angie DeLeo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angie DeLeo, Director, Castle Rock Museum