

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Castle Rock Town Council
100 Wilcox Street
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Dear Madam Mayor, Members of the Town Council and Town Manager,

2017 was another banner year for the Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum (CRHSM). A report on the activities of the museum by the Director is attached. The Society and Museum marked an important milestone in 2017. It was the 20th anniversary of the museum and was celebrated with much joy in September. We have been in our 21st year since then and we have sadly become orphans with the loss of our last founder, Lionel Oberlin. What we have held onto, however, is a solid 9-member Board of Directors to carry on the founder's vision. Six veterans have remained, and three new persons emerged at the October 2017 annual elections. We are well staffed and well managed with caring custodians.

The Society hosted its second Historic Victoria's Tea as a fundraising event last year. We are proud that it sold out and that it will now be an annual part of the society's fundraising activities. The third tea in May 2018 is already in planning. The Tea features reenactors of important Castle Rock citizens to enliven the proceedings.

The Society continues to provide interesting and entertaining monthly historic programs at the Philip S. Miller Library. The ghost stories of Douglas county were particularly popular around Halloween. Readership in our monthly newsletter and website continues to expand and serves as another vehicle to provide information on the history of the town. We maintain a growing email list of nearly 800 persons.

As it has for some eight years now, the Society again sponsored a historic cemetery tour of Cedar Hill Cemetery as well as Bear Canyon Cemetery. Attendance at these popular dusk guided tours has continuously increased with over 100 people for each of the tours last October. Different notable citizens are featured each year.

We plan to expand our activities with more tours and programs such as bus tours and local sites of interest. The Society board has added an event planner to facilitate these events. The Town staff has been most helpful in supporting our tours such as to the rhyolite quarries and the annual historic trolley tour.

The society has qualified and participates in the annual Colorado Gives day with increasing donations every year.

Thank you again for your support! To see it up close and personal you can attend any of these monthly activities. And you are always welcome to visit the museum.



Jerry Persall, President
Castle Rock Historical Society & Museum
Honorary Doctorate in Historical Programming

Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Report, 02- 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. The major exhibit for 2018 will be about the many explorers that came through this area before there was a Castle Rock. (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. We look forward to preparing other exhibits such as that for notable sites in Castle Rock. (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. The restored cart was delivered to the museum in September and is a great attraction. This June we hosted another Eagle Scout project that provided a floor to the shed where the baggage cart can be safely stored. The donor indicated that the shed was once located with the depot and that it was made from wooden boxcar. 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 year. A walking tour of downtown Castle Rock is now a part of the visit. We hosted a number of number Scout groups this fall that were working on their community badges. The museum participates in other community events like the Festival of Trees and 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 or visitors trying to decide if they would like to live here. Most comment on the wonderful small town atmosphere that they find here. New technology has enabled visitors to find our out of the way location. (This meets our objective 6.)

The society and museum celebrated the 20th anniversary of the opening of the museum this September. The museum has been in continuous operation since its opening in 1997. The Museum is grateful to the Town's support through the Miller fund which makes that possible.

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 year were \$ 77,590.00 . 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.

Angie DeLeo, Director, Castle Rock Museum