



1 July, 2023

Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Report 1-2023

Many of our visitors come to Castle Rock to visit family especially during the summer. New residents come to learn about the history of the community or to decide if they want to move to Castle Rock. Our current temporary exhibit on the Castle Rock Civilian Conservation Corps Camp will close shortly. We will have a Western Art Show and sale by a local artist over the summer. A new exhibit on Douglas County Ranching will be coming at the end of summer. We prepared an exhibit in the third Adventist medical office building. The building is named after Dr. Walter A. Palmer who came to Castle Rock in 1903. He quickly became an integral part of the community and served for two years as mayor. The exhibit formally opened on 6 July with the Palmer family attending. 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, scouts and civic programs at hours beyond the usual operating hours. School participation has included both in school and home school children. 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.)

For May Historic Preservation Month the museum conducted its third Scavenge the Rock downtown Scavenger Hunt. The program was a collaboration with the Town of Castle Rock, the Castle Rock Historic Preservation Board and the Downtown Merchants Association. The aim of the hunt is to expose a little Castle Rock history and introduce residents to local downtown businesses. Participation has grown especially with new businesses. We plan to make this an annual event (This meets our objectives 3 and 4)

We continue the summer downtown historic walking tours and the annual Trolley Tour. This May the focus of the trolley tour was rhyolite, both buildings and quarries. 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.)

The Society and Museum held its principal fundraising event, Victoria's Tea in May. A new venue was chosen to accommodate the growth in participation. We would love to use Castril School when available.

The museum will continue to participate in other community events like Festival of Trees, Senior Center Craft Fair, Fangtastic and the county fair where the museum can make a contribution. The museum staff also participates in history activities in other communities when requested. (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 first half year were \$44,000. 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