

Midland Depot at Divide “Stumps”

“Stump,” to those in the canine world, can only refer to a Sussex Spaniel, the latest Best in Show winner at the annual Westminster Kennel Club dog show. To T.H.E. Coalition volunteers, “stump” brings to mind a very expensive structural challenge of the Midland Depot at Divide. However, the two “stumps” do have something in common – age! At 10, or 70 human years, Stump is the oldest dog to ever win at Westminster . The Depot stumps date to the 1880s, over 17 dog years!

After T.H.E. Coalition acquires the Midland Depot at Divide and surrounding acreage, the first and most important task will be to stabilize the foundation. In fact, the foundation work must precede any other Depot preservation work. The old pine stumps, floor beams and joists have been deteriorating for the last 100 to 121 years – victims of age, petrification or water rot.

Back in 1887 when the first Colorado Midland Depot was built, the 20’ x 60’ building was supported by large stumps and huge beams. After this first Depot burned in 1896, the present building was constructed in roughly the same spot on the remaining useable stumps. Measuring 16’ x 56’, the current Depot is exactly four feet smaller in length and width than the 1887 structure. This indicates that some of the original stumps were burnt beyond use.

Perhaps the fire and scorching helped to harden the stumps enough for them last into the twenty-first century. Even so, it’s not hard to see that they have lasted this long because of the limited occupation of the

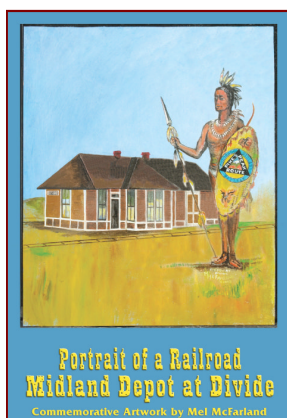
Depot after the railroad ceased operation in 1949 (it was an antique shop in the 60s, and the Whistle Stop in the mid-80s and early 90s), and not at all for the last ten years. Inside, the floors are sagging and there is significant water damage behind the Whistle Stop’s old bar.

The stabilization plan involves jacking up the Depot, pouring a modern cement foundation (or using concrete blocks), replacing rotted floor beams and joists and then placing the Depot back down on a more solid footing. There is much challenging work to be done by T.H.E. Coalition and others before the Midland Depot at Divide opens once again as a viable, preserved reminder of our railroad past. But we, with help from the community, are up to it!



The Midland Depot at Divide foundation – scorched stumps and beam from the 1880s that still support the Depot

Thanks to Dave Martinek for this article. Dave, T.H.E. Coalition Board Member and leader of our marketing, publicity and outreach efforts, is available to share his extensive knowledge of the railroad history in Teller County. His presentation includes little know facts of the colorful railroad era along with a vast collection of photos from the time. For more information, contact Dave at Coldwell Banker 1st Choice Realty, 719.687.1516 or davidmartinek@1stchoicerealtycb.com.



Show your support for T.H.E. Coalition and the Depot project!

This limited edition poster with original artwork by noted local author, historian and Midland Railway expert Mel McFarland is available for a requested donation of \$10 unsigned, \$25 signed and numbered by Mr. McFarland. Proceeds directly benefit acquisition and preservation of the Colorado Midland Depot at Divide. Or, join T.H.E. Coalition and receive a poster as our gift to you!

Call 719.651.5339 or email Coordinator@TheCoalitionCO.org for more information.

This 2008 Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month poster was supported by a grant from the Colorado Historical Society, the U.S. Department of Interior, and the Colorado Archaeological Society.

Membership in T.H.E. Coalition

It's time to join or renew your membership in T.H.E. Coalition for the 2009 calendar year! Membership in T.H.E. Coalition is open to organizations or individuals that further the mission of Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition, Inc. by providing support for the acquisition, preservation and protection of historic, cultural, and natural, recreational and scenic resources in and around Teller County. Members include nonprofit organizations, government agencies, businesses and concerned individuals.

Member benefits include:

- Membership certificate
- 2008 commemorative Midland Depot at Divide poster (original artwork by Mel McFarland)
- Use of meeting space at T.H.E. Coalition's office in the Midland Depot at Divide (when complete)
- Information about and access to the Nonprofit Resource Center and training sessions held in the Woodland Park Public Library (open to the public)
- Assistance in grant research and writing; letters of support for grant applications
- Newsletter featuring information on members, T.H.E. Coalition activities and other relevant information
- Roundtable discussions to share experiences on issues facing nonprofit organizations
- When appropriate, use of 501(c)(3) nonprofit status
- Supporting members also receive the Pike's Peak Route: A Colorado Adventure DVD

Calendar Year 2009 Membership Categories & Annual Dues

New member

Renewing member

Supporting \$100.00

Nonprofit Organization \$25.00

Business \$50.00

Friends \$20.00

To support T.H.E. Coalition's important work in Teller County, a donation is also enclosed:

\$10 _____ \$20 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ Other \$ _____

Amount of my check \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone(s) / Email: _____

Date: _____

I want to volunteer! Please call me with information about volunteer opportunities.

Mail your check and this completed form to:
T.H.E. Coalition P.O. Box 368 Woodland Park, CO 80866

Thanks to those who have already renewed or joined for 2009!