



Heritage Notes

from the Teller Historic & Environmental Coalition

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Grant Application for Depot Submitted

By Dave Martinek

A few short months ago, on March 30, the Teller Historic and Environmental (THE) Coalition applied for its first construction grant to begin the initial phase of the preservation project for the Midland Depot at Divide. Marion Vance, Dick Unzelman, and I worked several weeks to prepare the grant request, secure letters of support, and summarize a construction plan. While the competition for Colorado State Historical Fund (SHF) monies will be tough in 2011—due to some funds being siphoned off for repair of the state capital dome—THE Coalition is optimistic that its grant application will be seriously considered. SHF usually announces the grants recipients between June and August, depending upon the size of the grant.

The application focused on the much needed stabilization of the Depot foundation, an important first step in preparing the 107-year old historic building for future preservation efforts. The grant request totaled slightly over \$213,000 with a guaranteed 50% match from the Depot owner. If the grant is awarded, work will begin almost immediately to secure bids from contractors and write a detailed construction plan. After that, the work will take almost two years to complete. Much of the early effort will involve removing and storing historic windows and other parts of the building that might be damaged during later

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Geocaching in Teller County

By Mary Menz

To “cache” is to store something out of sight to protect or hide it from others. Geocaching is just that. People create hiding places for very inexpensive trinkets and then encourage others to find them using a global positioning system (GPS) device. In essence, geocaching is a game of hide-and-seek played around the world.

Geocaching is also an active pastime for many Teller County residents. More than 50 cache sites exist in Teller County, some with intriguing titles such as “Don’t Cache on Fire,” “Lost Signal,” and “Cache and Release.”

Rules of geocaching are simple 1) let someone know where you are going, 2) take friends and family with you, 3) bring a map, compass, and GPS device, 4) be mindful of

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Heritage Notes

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THE Coalition’s board of directors meets on the fourth Wednesday of January, March, May, September, and November at the Midland Depot in Divide.

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About THE Coalition

THE Coalition is committed to preserving the historic, cultural, environmental, recreational and scenic resources in and around Teller County, and to broadening public understanding regarding the significance of those resources.

Working with member organizations, THE Coalition board has achieved much in the organization’s ten-year history: THE Coalition has—

- ▶ Helped member organizations identify funding sources to obtain grants, including funding for “The Locals,” a public art project of the Two Mile High Club that honors the role played by donkeys in the Cripple Creek gold mining days.
- ▶ Managed the five-year collaborative effort among the Rural Land Preservation Group (RLPG), Palmer Land Trust and Teller County Parks to preserve 1,300 acres of scenic landscape and wildlife habitat, completing the 5,000 acre Pikes Peak Conservation Corridor along Hwy 24 between Woodland Park and Divide.
- ▶ Serves as fiscal agent for the Victor Penguins, the Two Mile High Club, RLPG, Woodland Park Hockey Association, and others.
- ▶ Co-sponsors RLPG’s popular series of forums for ranchers, landowners, and other interested Teller County residents.
- ▶ Co-sponsors workshops and The Nonprofit Resource Center at the Woodland Park Public Library in collaboration with the Rampart Library District.
- ▶ Works to preserve the Midland Depot, part of the Colorado Midland system. It is only one of four surviving depots of the system and the only one that will be open to the public when completely refurbished.

Despite the progress, there is still much to do. Join us as we continue to preserve this—and other—priceless Teller County resources.

Current and future projects

Contact any board member for more information about THE Coalition and its mission and current projects, such as its Heritage Tourism plan.

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work. But the most important job will be to lift the Depot so that the current foundation (consisting of a number of 124-year old pine stumps) can be replaced with a modern, specially-designed underpinning to raise and level the building and provide a solid base to support future elements of the overall preservation master plan.

THE Coalition is grateful for the letters of support that were written from such persons, organizations, and governments as Teller County, City of Woodland Park, Ute Pass Historical Society, Divide Chamber of Commerce, Mel McFarland, Pete Kuyper, and Laura Libby (the Colorado Heritage Tourism Program Manager).

THE Coalition is enthusiastically waiting for a positive announcement from SHF in August 2011.

Member organizations associated with THE Coalition

Catamount Institute
City of Cripple Creek
Coalition of Pikes Peak Historic Museums
Coalition for the Upper South Platte
Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company
Divide Chamber of Commerce
Gold Belt Scenic Byway
Gold Camp Victorian Society
Gordon Jackson Foundation
Palmer Land Trust
Rampart Library District
Rural Land Preservation Group
Teller-Park Conservation District
Trails & Open Space Coalition
Two Mile High Club
Ute Pass Historical Society
Ute Pass Trails Committee
Victor Heritage Society
Victor Penguins Hockey Club
Woodland Park Hockey Association

Learning from Experience; Forging a Path

By Marion Vance

The Heritage Tourism initiative is picking up momentum. Last year, at THE Coalition's 10th Anniversary, we roughed out a map of our county's natural, historic, and cultural assets. We've since heard from three voices of experience about the potential that Heritage Tourism offers, and assistance available from the state and what it takes to make a program work in practice. Speakers included Judy Walden, with 20 years' experience in community-based tourism, Laura Libby, Heritage Tourism Program Manager for the Colorado Tourism Office, and Linda Balough, Executive Director of Park County's National Heritage Area.

The next step is to strike out on our own course. The mechanism for that is the recently-formed Steering Committee, which will function as an autonomous arm of THE Coalition. Its members represent the major geographic areas of Teller County, as well as tourism providers. At its initial meeting on May 17, with guidance from facilitator Charlotte Bumgarner, the committee agreed on a common purpose and sketched out what it aims to accomplish over the next two years.

Teller County is rich in natural assets and in vibrant nonprofit organizations dedicated to preserving its stunning landscapes, restoring its historic buildings, and keeping its culture alive. A great deal of groundwork has been laid; the role of the committee is not to duplicate any on-going effort, but to weave existing attractions into routes and programs that entice travelers to linger in Teller County rather than just pass through.

According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, "cultural heritage tourism means traveling to experience the places and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and the present." A national study found that heritage-minded tourists spend substantially more than the average visitor, stimulate diversification of local economies, and encourage preservation of a community's unique character. The National Trust also points out, however, that "the challenge is ensuring that such tourism does not destroy the very heritage that attracts visitors in the first place."

Geocaching continued from cover

the environment and practice Cache In, Trash Out and 5) have fun! Once you find the cache, log your name and take a trinket from the cache. Always leave a trinket in exchange for the one you take. In some cases, the cache will contain a "travel bug." The fun is continued when you log on to the geocaching site at www.geocaching.com. There, you can leave comments about your treasure-hunting experience and check out the travel path of trinket travel bugs.

THE Coalition has a cache site as well. Log on to the web site [after July 15](#) and search by keyword "Choo Choo Cache" in postal code 80814. Have a good time finding it!



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Check out upcoming events on our website!

www.TheCoalitionCO.org

Calendar of Upcoming Events

The Ute Pass Historical Society offers free tours on the second Saturday of each month (from May to September) from 1-4 PM at its History Park and Museum Center located next to the Woodland Park Library. Staffed by volunteers, the History Park consists of six historic buildings:

- Carroll Den, a favorite of railway buffs
- Calaboose, Woodland Park's original jailhouse
- Brockhurst Cabin, a family home
- Steffa Cabin, featuring tools used locally for farming, agriculture, ranching, logging, and ice-cutting as well as a Native American artifact collection
- Immer Cabin, featuring displays of local life in Ute Pass communities

July 9

Join a free tour for the Ute Pass History Park and Museum Center, featuring six historic buildings at 231 E. Henrietta Avenue, Woodland Park. For more information, call (719) 686-7512 or send an email to uphs@peakinter.net.

July 13

Bi-annual Colorado Midland Convention at the John Wesley Ranch located in Divide. For more information contact Mel McFarland at mcmidland@comcast.net

July 15 - 17 – Victor's Gold Rush Days

Featuring vendors and family fun. Traditional mining games on July 16, the Gold Rush 9 mile mountain run on July 17.
www.victorcolorado.com/goldrushdays.htm

August 3 – 7 Teller County Fair

County Fairgrounds in Cripple Creek
Family Fun Night, Rough Stock Rodeo, Carnival, Animals, ATV rodeo, and more!
www.tellercountyfair.com/website/index.html

September 10 – 11 Cruise Above the Clouds Car Show.

Woodland Park and Cripple Creek
www.cruiseabovetheclouds.com/

September 17, 18 24, & 25. Bus tours of the changing aspen trees.

Sponsored by Two Mile High Club and Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Co.
www.visitcripplecreek.com/AspenTours.aspx