

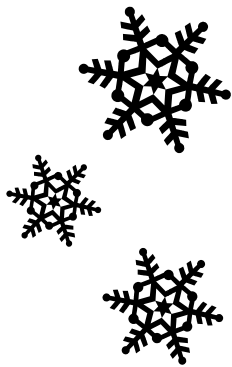


Heritage Notes

from the Teller Historic & Environmental Coalition

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Winter 2011

Teller County—where the past greets the future

By David Martinek

It is my opinion that knowing the history of a given area makes it a much more meaningful place. Over the past ten years, the Teller Historic and Environmental (THE) Coalition has done its part to educate ourselves, our members, and our public about the significance of all the historic, scenic, cultural and recreational assets that surround us. We are fortunate to live in an area that is home to such unique and interesting history, so many scenic vistas and landmarks, and such exciting community and recreational opportunities—all nestled around the foothills of Pikes Peak.

Looking forward into the future, the work of THE Coalition continues to be preserving our historic heritage and promoting both that heritage and the natural and community sites and events that make Teller County and the Ute Pass region one of the most popular tourist destinations in Colorado. I am delighted to be chairman of an organization that has endured for over a decade and has so many willing and dedicated members and volunteers who are committed to making our future in Teller County a meaningful, rich, and exciting time and place to live.

Member Spotlight

Gold Camp Victorian Society

by Barbara Barbaro

It was my pleasure to meet recently with Steve Smith, current president of the Gold Camp Victorian Society, and Linda Johnson, its treasurer. The Society is one of the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition's charter members, dating back to 2000, and boy, are they an active and dedicated group!

The Society started in 1998 with just a small group of 13 people headed by Kathi Pilcher, the Society's founder, putting on Victorian fashion shows in the Teller County area. It wasn't long before the group became directly involved with the city of Cripple Creek. As luck would have it, Linda worked in the same building as Kevin Tanski, (a co-founder of THE Coalition). Kevin encouraged Linda and Kathi to consider joining THE Coalition so that the Victorian Society could take advantage of

See Member Profile continued on page 3.

Heritage Notes

is a quarterly publication of THE Coalition. Please send articles and calendar events to the managing editor.

Managing Editor

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

Board of Directors

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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 three surviving depots of the system and the only one that will be open to the public when completely refurbished.

About the Midland Depot Project

The Midland Depot in Divide, including approximately one acre of land, is a designated Teller County Historic Landmark. An archeological assessment funded by a grant from the Colorado State Historical Fund revealed several previously unknown historical features of the site, including a powder magazine used to store explosives needed to clear snow from the tracks during the glory days of the Colorado Midland and Midland Terminal between 1887 and 1949.

When the Midland line was scrapped in 1949, the Depot building began its passage through various incarnations as a residence, an antiques store, and a popular saloon called The Whistle Stop.

THE Coalition—and its partners in this important preservation project—have worked tirelessly for the past ten years to ensure that this historic landmark was saved. Currently, the depot annex has been refurbished to house records for THE member organizations and to provide a meeting space for THE Coalition and the Divide Chamber of Commerce.

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.

Nonprofit 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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 6

9th Annual Victorian Ball
Gold Camp Victorian Society

February 19

Hockey Day in America
Woodland Park Hockey Assoc.

April 16

Midland Depot Days
THE Coalition & Divide Chamber

May 8

Victorian Tea & Social Gathering
Gold Camp Victorian Society

Member Profile continued from cover

obtaining 501(c)(3) non-profit status under the Coalition's umbrella. And that's exactly what they did. Since then, it's been a whirlwind of events, presentations, and community outreach for the Society. Here's a look at the Society's annual event schedule.

February Victorian Ball

The ball is usually held at the Double Eagle Casino and it's not unusual for 120 people or more to attend. People come from all over the US to attend this prestigious ball. It is an honored tradition of the Society to set aside 20 tickets each year expressly for local Air Force cadets.

May Mother's Day Victorian Tea

The tea, limited to 72 people, is held at the Carr Manor in Cripple Creek, where the surroundings are quiet and intimate. The program varies each year. Then, later in the month they visit the fourth graders at Cresson Elementary School as they perform re-enactments of local people from the past.

June Donkey Derby Days

This is a city-sponsored function that includes everything from skits and street dancing, to ice cream socials.

August Salute to Veterans

Typically, men within the Society dress in Civil War period costumes. However, the Society is currently making plans to have men dressed in uniforms from each of the wars in which the United States has fought.

September Cemetery Crawl

Members of the Society portray well known or perhaps not-so-well-known persons from history who are buried at the Mt. Pisgah Cemetery. Members do their own research, write their own scripts on the people they're portraying, and dress as that person would have dressed during the time period.

Memorial Day through Labor Day

Society members provide ambiance for the city on Saturdays by dressing in historical costumes and talking to visitors about the local history. Ever wonder where those beautiful Victorian dresses come from that the women wear? There are two women in Cripple Creek who create them, as well as another seamstress from the Colorado Springs area. Members also obtain some of their clothes from web sites that specialize in historically-accurate clothing.

December Christmas parade

Usually there are 35-40 people from the Victorian Society participating in the city's Christmas parade. Some ride on the float with a sleigh while the rest walk beside the float. They also participate in the Woodland Park Christmas parade.

The Society is active in the community in other ways, including participating in local shoot-out events and performing skits at the Pikes Peak Heritage Museum.

See Member Profile continued on page 5.

Midland “Depot Days” Returns

THE Coalition is once again proud to be a co-sponsor, along with the Divide Chamber of Commerce, of the 2011 chapter of “Midland Days”—a symposium on the Midland railroads. The 2nd Annual Midland Days Symposium will be held at the John Wesley Ranch south of Divide on Saturday, April 16, 2011.

Advanced reservations this year are reduced to \$60 per person and include a hearty lunch. At-the-door tickets may be purchased for \$70.00.

The cost to attend this symposium is tax deductible, as contributions support the Midland Depot at Divide Preservation Project, sponsored by THE Coalition, the Divide Chamber of Commerce, and its partners.

Presentations will include a summary of the railroad cars employed by the Colorado Midland and the Midland Terminal, a fascinating discussion about the various eating places along the Midland line, as well as other information about both railroads. Mel McFarland is promising to have yet another exclusive prize drawing available for all paying attendees.

Flyers and announcements will be forthcoming in February.

Membership Has its Privileges!

Membership in THE Coalition is open to organizations and individuals that further its mission by preserving the historic, cultural, natural, recreational and scenic resources and heritage of and around Teller County.

We invite members to take advantage of the following services co-sponsored or provided by THE Coalition:

- The Nonprofit Resource Center at the Woodland Park Public Library; as well as consultation on grant seeking
- Nonprofit workshops and hands-on training sessions at the Woodland Park Public Library
- Letters of support for grant applications
- Newsletter featuring member profiles, calendar of events, and updates on area projects and events
- When appropriate, use of 501(c)3 nonprofit status
- Directory listing on the new & improved THE Coalition website at www.TheCoalitionCO.org

Yes! I want to become a member!

Choose one:

- New member
or
 Renewing member

Choose one:

- Supporting \$100
 Business \$50
 Nonprofit organization \$25
 Friend \$20

To support THE Coalition’s important work in Teller County, an additional tax-deductible donation is enclosed.

- \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 Other

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Organization _____

Website _____

Street address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Today’s date _____

- Yes, please list this information in THE Coalition directory on the website.
 No, do not list this information in THE Coalition directory on the website.
 Yes, I want to volunteer! Please call me about volunteer opportunities.

Complete this form and mail to THE Coalition to become a member today!

THE Coalition
P.O. Box 368
Woodland Park, Colorado 80866

**Member Profile continued
from page 3**

Last year, the Society initiated a \$500 scholarship program open to college-bound Teller County high school students.

Contestants for the scholarship must write an essay on local history.

THE Coalition is proud that the Gold Camp Victorian Society continues to carry on its mission of preserving Teller County's historic, cultural, environmental, recreational and scenic resources, and broadening public understanding on the significance of those resources.

Set aside time to attend any of the Society's events. You'll see first-hand how dedicated this group is in presenting local history in a fun, exciting, and professional way.

Members of the Gold Camp Victorian Society meet on the fourth Sunday of every month and their meetings are open to the public.

Website

www.goldcampvictoriansociety.org

Email

goldcampvictoriansociety@skybeam.com

THE Coalition Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition celebrated its 10th anniversary as an organization with a reception for its members, friends, and its board of directors on November 20, 2010. The venue was the Midland Depot at Divide annex.

A grand cake was enjoyed by those attending. Discussion featured the accomplishments of THE Coalition since its inception in 2000, including the ongoing project of restoring the Midland Depot at Divide. In addition, a new and ambitious project was launched to further explore the historic, environmental, cultural, and recreational goals of THE Coalition—"Heritage Tourism for Teller County."



The cake tasted as good as it looked!

Woodland Park Hockey Association Kicks Off season

The Woodland Park Hockey Association (WPHA), a member of THE Coalition, opened its 2011 hockey season with a "Skate with the Tigers" night on January 7. Members of the Colorado College hockey team made an appearance and mingled with local youngsters at the Meadowood Park Ice Rink in Woodland Park.

WPHA is a Teller County-based amateur hockey association. Its mission is to provide instruction and leagues for youth and adults who want to play (or learn to play) the "Coolest Game on Earth." There are beginner and advanced teams.

See WPHA Season continued on back cover.



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Check out upcoming events on our website!

www.TheCoalitionCO.org

WPHA Season continued from page 5

The beginner program takes students through the basic skills of hockey and introduces players to the concepts of team play. This league consists of on-ice instructional sessions and games over a 2 month season.

There is no checking in a safe and competitive environment with USA Hockey-certified referees at every game

All of the on-ice programs require participants to wear full equipment including; helmet and face shield, shoulder pads, elbow pads, gloves, breezers (pants for the hockey illiterate), shin guards and, of course, skates!

What is Heritage Tourism?

There's a buzz in Teller County about its outstanding and numerous historic sites and landmarks. According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, heritage tourism—or cultural tourism—is an increasingly popular experience for travelers worldwide.

Traveling to experience the places and activities that represent the stories and people of the past is now one of the top reasons US residents travel on home turf.

Colorado's Park County, our neighbor to the west, has long been touting its historic and cultural landmarks and promoting them to tourists visiting the area.

Teller County is home to more than a dozen places listed on the National Historic Register. Take time this year to visit one of the many interesting historic landmarks within an hour from your home!

Watch for the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition's spring issue of *Heritage Notes* for continuing discussion about Heritage Tourism.

