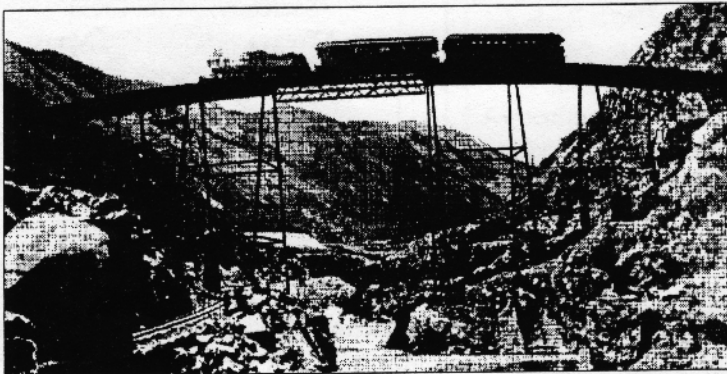


THE CHRONICLE

The Official Newsletter of the Highlands Ranch Historical Society

VOLUME 1, No. 1

SPRING, 1996



Georgetown Loop High Bridge

Georgetown Loop & Lebanon Mine To Open May 25th

The Georgetown Loop Railroad and the Lebanon Silver Mine will open for railroad buffs, mining buffs, sightseers, and historic minded folks on May 25th. The narrow gauge railroad, including its 90-foot high trestle bridge with its 300-foot span, famous loop, and all, has been reconstructed as a tourist attraction and historical site.

In 1882, financier and Colorado railroad magnate, Jay Gould, decided to take the Colorado Central Railroad due west over the mountains and began construction through a steep-walled canyon from Georgetown to Silver Plume. An engineer, Robert Blickensderfer, solved the problem of negotiating the 638-foot rise in elevation by abandoning the switchback system in favor of a system which looped back over itself. This cut the 6 percent grade to 3.5 percent while lengthening the roadbed to Silver Plume from 2.1 miles to 4.47 miles. The trestle bridge became known as the Devil's Gate Viaduct. The railroad, when completed in 1884, had 14 curves with a curvature of 18 degrees or more.

The track and bridges were dismantled and sold for scrap in 1939 because of dwindling silver mining, other railroad enterprises, and lack of tourism brought on by the increase in the use of the automobile. However, under the direction of the Colorado Historical Society, steam returned to the Georgetown Loop Railroad in 1975. New track was laid and the new Devil's Gate Viaduct was dedicated

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Steven Long Expedition Multimedia Presentation Scheduled for May 18

You are in for a rare treat on Saturday, May 18th, when the Douglas Public Library District (DPLD) presents "The 1820 Stephen Long Expedition," a multimedia program by Robert Heapes. The presentation begins at 7:00 p.m. at Kirk Hall, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, and admission is free but please bring a dessert to share.

According to Johanna Harden, archivist for the DPLD, Mr. Heapes "had the idea that teaching the trans-Mississippi exploration in the high schools had been a bit neglected. To correct that, and to inspire more study and better teaching, he took the journals from the 1820 expedition and moved along the path of the expedition, taking photographs on the same days that Long was at certain locations."

You will join the expedition starting on the west bank of the Missouri, near present-day Omaha, Nebraska. From there, travel the tall grass prairies with Major Long and company as they survey the resources of the land, encounter Native Americans, and have the first

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14,255' Long's Peak, named for Stephen H. Long

Little Big Horn Tour

Join Colorado Historical Society (CHS) historian David Halaas May 17 through May 21 on an expedition of the many sites of the Indian-white conflict that dominated the latter half of the nineteenth century. This five-day trek includes extensive interpretation at the Little Big Horn Battlefield and an entire day on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

Cost is \$625 per person, double occupancy (\$575 for CHS members), \$110 single supplement. Meet at the Colorado History Museum, 13th and Broadway at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, May 17th. Information: (303) 866-4648.

Georgetown Loop

(Continued from Pg. 1)

in 1984, 100 years after the original trestle bridge was built.

As an option to your railroad trip (Silver Plume departures only), Colorado Historical Society guides will lead you through the Lebanon Silver Mine, show you the mine manager's office, the change room, the blacksmith shop, and the tool shed. The mine is a constant chilly 44 degrees F. At the end of the 1 hour and 20 minute, quarter-mile mine tour, you re-board the train.

There are two boarding areas (Silver Plume and Devil's Gate) and several departure times, but reservations are strongly recommended. A fee is charged.

For information and reservations call or write Georgetown Loop Railroad, Inc., c/o Old Georgetown Station, P.O. Box 217, 1106 Rose Street, Georgetown, Colorado 80444. From Denver, call (303) 670-1686. In Georgetown, call (303) 569-2403. Fax is (303) 569-2894.

Local Authors Day Set for Highlands Ranch, June 22

Following on the heels of a successful outing in Parker that had 18 writers in attendance, another Local Authors Day is scheduled at the Highlands Ranch Library, 48 Springer Drive, June 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Douglas County fiction and non-fiction authors who are published or self-published will be there to answer your questions and to autograph and sell their works. Admission is free.

Local authors are a part of history so each author is asked to donate an autographed copy of each of his or her works, along with a biography, that will go into the Douglas County Local History Collection in Castle Rock. For information, contact Cindy Murphy at (303) 841-6942.

Upcoming Events

May 15, Wednesday
Opening of Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Drive, Montrose. (970) 249-3098.

May 17-21, Friday, 7:00 a.m.
Little Big Horn Tour, Colorado History Museum, 13th & Broadway, \$625.00. (303) 866-4648.

May 18, Saturday, 7:00 p.m.
Steven Long Expedition Multimedia Presentation, Kirk Hall, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock. Free but bring a dessert to share. (303) 688-4875.

May 25, Saturday
Opening of Georgetown Loop and Lebanon Silver Mine, Georgetown. Admission fee. (303) 670-1686.

May 25, Saturday
Opening of Healy House and Dexter Cabin, Leadville. Fee. (719) 486-0487.

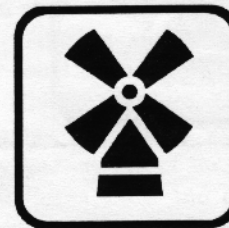
May 29, Wednesday
HRHS meeting, Highlands Ranch Library, Conference Room.

June 22, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.
Local Authors Day, Highlands Ranch Library, Meeting Room, 48 W. Springer Drive. Free. (303) 866-3682.

June 25, Tuesday, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Governor's Mansion Twilight Tour, 400 E. 8th Ave., Denver. Free. (303) 866-3682.

June 26, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
HRHS meeting, Highlands Ranch Library, Conference Room.

Highlands Ranch Historical Society



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The Highlands Ranch Historical Society incorporated in 1991 as a nonprofit, tax exempt organization to bring together those people interested in the history of Highlands Ranch. We are involved in many projects, including collecting artifacts, photographs, oral histories, and biographies; researching and documenting land grants of original homesteaders; compiling site surveys of historical home locations in our area; conducting tours of the historic Highlands Ranch mansion; and making presentations to schools and to the community.

Please join us at 7:00 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month at the Library Conference Room, 48 W. Springer Drive, Highlands Ranch. Call ahead to confirm.

For more information about the Highlands Ranch Historical Society, please call (303) 791-3438.

Membership in the Highlands Ranch Historical Society is available to interested individuals, families, and corporations.

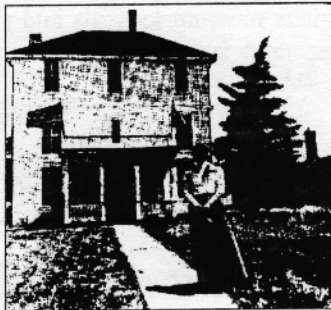
Individual: \$15.00
Senior: \$10.00
Family: \$20.00
Corporate: \$50.00

Mail your tax-deductible check today to:

Highlands Ranch Historical Society
520 Fox Hunt Circle
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

Healy House and Dexter Cabin To Open May 25th

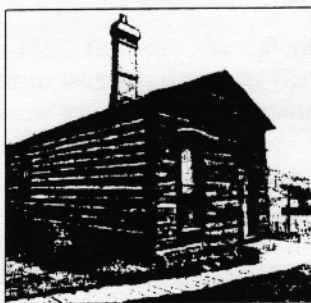
The Healy House, an elegant boarding house, and the Dexter Cabin, a richly appointed rough-hewn log cabin, open on May 25th in Leadville. Discover two of Leadville's earliest houses for a glimpse of different Victorian lifestyles in a booming silver-mining camp.



Healy House

August R. Meyer's 1878 Greek Revival clapboard house, now called Healy House, and James V. Dexter's plush 1879 log cabin both feature lavish Victorian furnishings collected in Leadville.

Families are welcome, and a special children's tour is available on request. The gift shop has for sale a selection of Victorian gifts and a selection of books on Colorado and the West.



Dexter Cabin

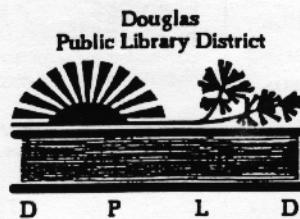
The Healy House and Dexter Cabin are located at 912 Harrison Avenue, Leadville. Hours are 10:00 am to 4:30 p.m. daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day. There is an admission fee.

For additional information, call (719) 486-0487.

1937 Douglas County Aerial Photos Now at Castle Rock Library

A set of 180 aerial photographs taken of most of Douglas County in July and August, 1937, has been acquired by the Douglas County Library District's Philip S. Miller Library in Castle Rock from the Assessor's Office. The photographs are in the Local History Collection administered by Johanna Harden, Archivist, and are available for viewing by appointment.

Photography was undertaken by the Agricultural Adjustment Board, predecessor to the Soil Conservation Office, to document changes in land use as a result of the drought in the 1930s.



The photographs show many features that are of interest to area historians, such as the scars of old trails, old and new railroad grades, large and small irrigation ditches, and land usage of that period.

These 18 x 24-inch black-and-white photographs cover the county's agricultural lands to the edge of the foothills. The negatives are stored in the National Archives, are in the public domain, and photographs are available for a fee. Photocopies cannot be made from the library's set because of their size and fragility.

For further information or to make an appointment to see items in the collection, ask for Johanna Harden at the Philip S. Miller Library.

The library is located at 961 South Plum Creek Blvd., Castle Rock, CO 80104. Telephone is (303) 688-4875; fax is (303) 688-1942.

Governor's Mansion Twilight Tours Set for June 25 and July 30

Two twilight tours on June 25th and July 30th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. are slated for the Colorado Governor's Mansion in 1996. The half hour tours are each led by two volunteers who take groups of 10 to 15 visitors. Tours start at five-minute intervals. Admission is free.

The mansion was donated to the state by the Boettcher Foundation which was established by Charles Boettcher and his son Claude. Governor Steve McNichols accepted the donation for the state on April 21, 1960. The property was valued \$500,000 dollars. The foundation also donated \$45,000 in a cash grant for maintenance.

Three Colorado pioneering families resided in the mansion over the years: the Cheesman family, the Evans family, and the Boettcher family. Claude Boettcher purchased the residence in 1926 and Mrs. Boettcher lived there until the age of 97 in 1952.

The Governor's Mansion is located at 400 E. 8th Avenue (at Logan) in Denver. For further information, call (303) 866-3682.

Preserving Our Heritage

An agreement was reached between the Parker Area Historical Society and R. James Nicholson of Renaissance Homes of Englewood to preserve the Twenty Mile House site in place as a park. The Parker City Council, after allowing public testimony to go forward, voted at 11:30 p.m. on April 1st, to make the approximately 9/10-acre site available to the public, and to include interpretive signs.

The barn on the property, believed to date back to the time of the Butterfield Stage route, may or may not remain at the site, depending on future plans. The house at the site is approximately 50 years old and is not a part of the original Butterfield Stage stop.

Long Expedition

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view of the mountains. There are many botanical photographs showing plant material that was discovered on the expedition, such as the blue columbine, Colorado's state flower.

Long did not go as far as Longs Peak, although he saw it. He followed the Platte River to Waterton Canyon, then came down through Douglas County along West Plum Creek, spending time in the area of Roxborough State Park.

The research, video, and teaching guide for all high schools in Colorado were made possible by a grant from the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities.

Three projectors are used in the presentation! For further information, call Johanna Harden at (303) 688-4875.

Ute Indian Museum Opens May 15, Montrose



The Ute Indian Museum offers one of the most complete collections and exhibits featuring the Ute peoples of Colorado. Among the most noted figures in Ute history were Chief Ouray and his wife Chipeta, Ignacio, Colorow, and Buckskin Charlie. Dioramas, changing exhibits, and programs bring the history and culture of these American Indians together for all to learn from and enjoy at the museum.

The grounds of the museum include the Ouray Memorial Park, Chipeta's grave, a native plants garden, and an outdoor display honoring the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition of 1776.

During your visit, inquire about the various museum festivals and programs during the year, and stop by the museum store, which features Indian arts and crafts and a selection of books on Colorado and the West.

The Ute Indian Museum is located three miles south of Montrose, Colorado, on Highway 550 and is open from May 15 through September 30. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. There is an admission fee. For information call (970) 249-3098.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK IS MAY 12 TO 19, 1996



Highlands Ranch Historical Society

520 Fox Hunt Circle

Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

