

Summit Historical Society VOICES

Message from the President

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Inside this issue:

An Afternoon with Sandra Dallas—A Women’s History Month Celebration	2
Springtime Indoor Swimming Pool in Myers Cabin	2
Summer 2016 Events Calendar	3
News from our Sister Organizations:	6
• Frisco	
• Breckenridge	
Christmas Bazaar and Craft Fair	7
Help Wanted	7
Books, Books, Books	8
Special Thank You	9
Corporate Sponsors	9
SHS Website	9
Other Ways to Support the Society	10
A Vanished Landscaper	10

Watch us go! Watch us grow! By the time you receive this newsletter, there should be a new roof on the Schoolhouse Museum and Annex. The new roof completes the list of major maintenance projects facing the Society. Thanks to donors, the list of projects decreased as funds became available to proceed with each repair. Now your Society can focus on other projects such as the Rutledge Historic Collections Room, the living classroom, and the Rice barn.



This newsletter contains our summer events calendar. You will see that it is quite ambitious, as usual. Success will depend on getting Society members to volunteer their time and talent to help with the events. Read the HELP WANTED section and please call the Society Office to volunteer. We need helpers, bakers, carpenters, strong arms, ticket sellers, docents, and guides. A big need remains a volunteer coordinator. We have the grant money for the position but need a person willing to assume this very important role.

Volunteering is a chance to make new friends who think, like you, that the history of the county is important—and enjoy sharing it with others. Volunteers feel a sense of satisfaction in a job well-done. Please call the Office and volunteer.

I enjoyed seeing so many of you at the Women’s History Month Celebration—An Afternoon with Sandra Dallas. Thanks to our volunteers and our sponsors, the day was quite a success. Unfortunately, we need to start thinking about a speaker for next year’s event. If you have any ideas, call the Society Office.

Be sure to mark Thursday, August 11, on your calendar. Help the Society celebrate its 50th anniversary with a picnic at the Schoolhouse Museum. The festivities will start at 5:30 with a very short business meeting and the

unveiling of *Windows to the Past*, written in honor of the Society's 50 years. Details appear in the Events Calendar.

Sandie Mather—President, Summit Historical Society

An Afternoon with Sandra Dallas—A Women's History Month Celebration



Photos courtesy of Simone Belz

Almost 100 people attended the celebration sponsored by the Society in the Commons of the Dillon Community Church on March 12. Sandra Dallas captivated the audience. A big thank you goes to Alpine Bank, who sponsored the speaker. Everyone loved the Whole Foods sweets and the tea from the Spice and Tea Merchants in Breckenridge. The huge advertising program sponsored by the Town of Frisco assured the success of the event. *Summit Daily News* rounded out the sponsors. Heather Jarvis's interesting and informative article in the *Summit Daily News* the Friday before the event helped, too. The lovely quilts brought by the Summit County quilters added so much to the atmosphere in the room. Karen Berg of The Next Page Book Store & Tea Bar in Frisco brought books for Sandra Dallas to sign.



Thanks to Society members Stephen Horlak, Pati Hammer, Pam Polak, Polly Koch, Kristy Dudley, Christy Nelson, Lori McClure, Tish Fields, and Becky Rovic for all of their help. You made the day quite a success.

Springtime Indoor Swimming Pool in the Myers Cabin

Once again, the annual springtime indoor swimming pool formed in the Myers Cabin. Ice formed in the sump in which the pump sits and prevented the pump from functioning. The pump froze in

the “off” position. Some of the things stored in the basement cannot be salvaged and must be removed. New shelving for storage is needed. Can you help with a donation?

Two things are needed. A water alarm that indicates if water is collecting in the basement and a heater to prevent ice build-up around the pump will solve the problem. The two pieces cost a total of about \$100. New shelving is needed to replace that ruined by the flood. It will cost about \$100. Would someone be willing to help with these expenses?

Vice-President Jim Cox will be asking for volunteers to clean out the basement and assemble the shelving. If you can help, please call the Historical Society Office at 907-468-2207.

Summer 2016 Events Calendar

Join your Society this summer for a wide variety of experiences that will interest people of all ages. Bring your friends.

Schoolhouse Museum, Lake Dillon Boat Tours, and the Dillon, Denver, and the Dam Walking Tour

Tuesday, July 5, until Friday, September 2: **Schoolhouse Museum Tours.** Trained docents lead guided tours of the Schoolhouse Museum, Myers Cabin, and Honeymoon Cabin. Learn about school days in the 1883 Schoolhouse. Tour the 1885 home of Lula Myers, a one-time schoolmarm, and her husband, Dimp, a mining engineer. Spend a few moments learning about the challenges of domestic life in a one-room log cabin. Docents lead tours Tuesday through Friday from 11:00 until 3:00. The Museum is located at 403 LaBonte Street in Dillon. A \$5 donation is requested from adult guests. Individual and group tours are available upon request.

Tuesday and Thursday mornings, June 14 through September 1, 9:00 until 10:30: **Historic Boat Rides on Lake Dillon.** Trained guides lead leisurely boat rides on Lake Dillon. Learn about building Dillon Dam and the Roberts Tunnel and relocating the Town of Dillon. Guides tell about the mining history of Summit County, its two narrow-gauge railroads, wildlife found around the lake, and the glaciers that covered the county thousands of years ago. For reservations call Dillon Marina (970-468-5100). Call early as spaces fill quickly.

Thursday mornings, July 14 through August 25: **Dillon, Denver, and the Dam.** Join Sandie Mather, author of *Dillon, Denver, and the Dam*, at 9:00 at the Schoolhouse Museum, 403 LaBonte Street, Dillon. You will proceed to the waterfront to learn about constructing the dam, outlet works, and Roberts Tunnel. After hearing the story of building the new town, you will walk through Dillon looking at some of the structures moved from the old town and hear stories about some of the interesting people who lived there. The cost is \$10 per adult.

Pastry and the Past Series

The highly successful and interesting Monday evening presentations return with four exciting speakers. The talks are held in the Commons of the Dillon Community Church on LaBonte Street in Dillon—next to the Historical Society's Schoolhouse Museum. Home-made desserts, prepared by Society members, will be served at 7:30. Note the new starting time. The cost is \$5 for members; \$10 for non-members.

July 11: The Narrow-Gauge Railroads of Summit County. Join Bob Schoppe, President of the Denver, South Park & Pacific Historical Society, for a night of stories about the narrow-gauge railroads that brought a myriad of changes to the county from the early 1880s to 1937. Learn about the new publication, *Summit County's Narrow-Gauge Railroads*, which will be published in the fall.

July 18: Memories of the 10th Mountain Division. Hugh Evans, a native of California, trained at Camp Hale and Cooper ski area before leaving for northern Italy in January, 1945. A month later, he fought on Mount Gorgolesco, earning the coveted Silver Star for valor and gallantry in action. After the war, he graduated from the Colorado School of Mines, becoming a geologist and mining engineer. Mr. Evans, now 92 years old and living in Boulder with his wife, Ann, will share his experiences of both Cape Hale and Italy in his talk.

July 25: Ski History of Keystone. Join Karina Wetherbee, the granddaughter of Max and Edna Dercum, in a multi-media presentation about her grandparents and the development of the Keystone Ski Resort. Learn about the early years of the ski area and Ski Tip Ranch through interesting stories and family photographs.

August 1: Stories of the Nuche, Tales from the Ute People. Skyler Lomahaftewa, a Northern Ute tribal member and snowboard instructor, and Nina Gabianelli, from the Aspen Historical Society, tell about the life of the Ute people today and their efforts to preserve their ancient culture amid pressure from the "modern" world. They focus on story-telling to entertain as well as educate.

History on the Move—A Family Bike Ride

Saturday, July 9: Join our historians for a bike ride going from the Schoolhouse Museum, 403 LaBonte Street in Dillon, to the Glory Hole Overlook at the west abutment of Dillon Dam. In a talk intended for young listeners, the guides will tell about building the dam, Glory Hole, and Roberts Tunnel. They will tell stories about moving the old town to its new site. After returning to the Schoolhouse Museum for a short tour, everyone will enjoy an ice cream treat. The ride starts at 10:00 and will last about three hours. Reservations are required. To make your reservation, call the Historical Society Office at 970-468-2207. The cost is \$20 for an adult; \$10 for a

child up to the age of 12. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Annual Ice Cream Social

Saturday, July 16: Tour the Schoolhouse Museum; enjoy ice cream costing five cents; find sweets in the “country store;” ring the schoolhouse bell; climb on the antique fire engine; and have a good time with friends. The Social goes from 12:00 until 4:00 at the Schoolhouse Museum on LaBonte Street in Dillon.

Tour and Hike

Wednesday, July 20: Swandyke, a Four-wheeling Adventure. Join Bill Fountain for a trip to the ghost town of Swandyke, the subject of his new book, *Swandyke, Boom to Bust to Dust*. Swandyke, located at the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Swan River, had a life span of about ten years, typical of the many boom and bust towns of Summit County. Registration is \$30 for members; \$35 for non-members. Those attending will receive a copy of the new book as part of their registration. Bring your lunch, water, and all-weather gear. The group will meet at 8:45 at the dredge #4 parking lot on Tiger Road. Reservations are required. To reserve your spot, call the Summit Historical Office at 970-468-2207. Please note that car-pooling might be necessary as high-clearance 4 X 4 vehicles are needed to negotiate the road to Swandyke.

Wednesday, August 17: The Mountain Pride Mine. Join Rick Hague as you learn about the Mountain Pride Mine located on the lower slopes of Mt. Baldy. The mine had an active lifespan of about six years at most—from about 1897 until just after the turn of the century. Despite having all the right things needed to succeed, it failed. Reservations are required. Registration is \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. Those attending will receive a copy of *Windows to the Past*, which contains the full story of the Mountain Pride, as part of their registration. Bring your own lunch, water, and all-weather gear. Meet at the Mt. Baldy Trailhead. Reservations are required. For reservations, call the Historical Society Office at 970-468-2207.

Directions to the Trailhead. Take Main Street in Breckenridge south to Boreas Pass Road—the Conoco gas station is on the right. Turn left (east). Proceed 2-2.5 miles to a fork in the road. Take the left fork, which is Baldy Road. Proceed 1-1.5 miles to what looks like a cul-de-sac. Park in the parking area. You will see the trailhead sign to the right. The trail starts on a dirt road leading from the cul-de-sac.

Fundraising Breakfast at the Elks Lodge

Sunday, July 31: Join your friends for a yummy breakfast at the Elks Lodge from 9:00 until 12:00. Tickets cost \$10 prior to the event; \$12 at the door. The Elks Lodge, #2561, is located at 1321 Blue River Parkway in Silverthorne. Your support helps the Society maintain its buildings and present a full schedule of events each summer. Society Board members will have tickets to sell

or purchase your tickets at the SHS booth at the Dillon Farmer's Market.

SHS Annual Meeting and 50th Anniversary Celebration

Your Society is 50 years old this summer and the Board is planning a very special celebration. On **Thursday, August 11, at 5:30**, join your friends for an evening of fun. The Society will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, condiments, and drinks for a picnic on the schoolhouse lawn. Members are asked to bring salads and desserts. After a very short business meeting (required by the Bylaws), the new book, *Windows to the Past*, written in celebration of the Society's 50 years of service to Summit County and its residents, will be unveiled. It is a compilation of articles Rick Hague and Sandie Mather wrote for various publications. Over 200 photographs highlight the articles.

News from our Sister Organizations

Don't forget that SHS members and some friends of the Society present programs for our sister organizations.

Frisco Historic Park and Museum

June 29: Railroads of Summit County, Bob Schoppe, President of the Denver, South Park & Pacific Historical Society

July 13: Swandyke from Boom to Bust to Dust, Bill Fountain

August 3: Ancient Ghost Towns of the American Southwest, Bill and Beth Sagstetter

August 24: Mining, Skiing, and Summit County Water, Rick Hague

August 31: Dillon, Denver, and the Dam, Sandie Mather



Other events sponsored by the Frisco Historic Park & Museum include:

Fridays, June 24 and July 22: A Historic Tour of the Town of Frisco, 10:00

Saturday, June 25: Bill's Ranch Walking Tour

Sunday, July 3: Frisco Founder's Day

Friday, August 12: Night at the Museum - Meet the Author – Tap into History

Check the Frisco Historic Park & Museum website for details and other Wednesday lunchtime speakers and topics.

Breckenridge Heritage Alliance

Some SHS members will be presenting programs and leading hikes this summer for the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance. Call the Alliance for details and making reservations.



Saturdays as part of the Walking Tour, July 9, July 23, August 6: Afternoon

Tea at the Briggie House with Sandie Mather: take a tour of the Briggie House; learn about the evolution of the British Afternoon Tea and tea etiquette; and enjoy homemade scones, clotted cream, tea sandwiches, and sweets. Reservations required.

Saturday, August 20, 1:00 – 4:00: Historic Homes Tour. Stroll through town and view several of Breckenridge's most historically significant homes; get a sneak peek at the interior of these private residents; learn how the homes have been preserved and modernized; led by Sandie Mather

Hikin' Historians:

Mountain Pride Mine: led by Rich Hague, Friday, August 5. See the description above.

Geology of Rocky Point: led by Sandie Mather, Tuesday, July 26. Learn about the geologic processes that shaped Summit County beginning about 600 million years ago and ending with the most recent glacial period while hiking the Boreas Pass Road near Rocky Point. On the return, you will hear stories about the Denver, South Park & Pacific Railroad that influenced the economy of the county from 1882 until 1937.

Wire Patch Mine and French Creek Tunnel: led by Bill Fountain, Tuesday, August 23. The Wire Patch, located on Farncomb Hill, has produced some of the most beautiful and valuable specimen gold in the world. After exploring the Wire Patch, the group will hike to the Reiling dredge to learn about dredging in Summit County. The last stop will be the French Creek tunnel intended to cross cut veins in Mt. Baldy.

Christmas Bazaar and Craft Fair

Mark your calendars. The annual Christmas Craft Fair and Bazaar will be held November 18 and 19 in the Commons of the Dillon Community Church next to the Schoolhouse on LaBonte Street. Pam Polak, our organizer, has lined up lots of interesting crafters for you. Activities in the schoolhouse are planned. Watch for details.

Help Wanted

With all of these activities planned for July and August, your Society needs helpers—willing workers—busy bees.

We are still looking for a **volunteer coordinator** to coordinate schedules for schoolhouse docents and boat guides; find people to help with Pastry and the Past; and identify volunteers for special events such as the 50th anniversary celebration. For helping a few hours a week from the end of June until the end of August, the person will receive **\$450**.

Helpers are needed for all of the events on the schedule: **docents** for the schoolhouse and **boat guides** (training sessions available), **helpers** for the Ice Cream Social, **bakers** for Pastry and the Past, **strong-arms** to help set up and take down the tent and tables at the Farmer's Market on Fridays, **ticket sellers** for the Elks breakfast, and **cooks and bakers** for the 50th anniversary picnic. Please call the SHS Office at 970-468-2207. Some of you are just waiting to be asked but we don't know who you are. Helping is a good way to meet new friends and spend an enjoyable time with others who care about our history.

We need people with **wood-working skills** to refurbish the desks in the schoolroom so that they are safe for children coming to the living classroom. Some need gluing; others need a bit of repair. Vice-President Jim Cox is planning some work days. It is not strenuous work. Call the SHS Office at 970-468-2207 to volunteer.

Jim is also arranging a work day, probably in May, to **reinstall the UV film** on the schoolhouse windows. The film didn't adhere to the glass because of cold temperatures. It is an easy process. After the film is replaced, the UV shades need to be hung. Again it is not strenuous work. Call the SHS Office to volunteer. Many hands make light work.

Now that the maps, photographs, documents, ledgers, and other historic papers have been moved to the Mather Archive in the Community Center in Breckenridge, major work needs to be done in the newly renamed **Rutledge Historic Collections Room**. Helpers are needed to **clean-out and inventory** the artifacts left in the room. This is a project that will begin after July 4th and extend through the summer until the room is organized. The goal is to organize the Rutledge Room in anticipation of redesigning the "Country Store" behind the Schoolroom.

The untouched **tack room in the Rice barn** needs the attention of any members with ranching expertise. The room is filled with valuable artifacts that need to be inventoried and preserved.

Books, Books, Books

Swandyke, Boom to Bust to Dust, the newest addition to the *Chasing the Dream* series by Bill Fountain and Sandie Mather, arrived a few weeks ago. You can get your copy at the Schoolhouse in Dillon as well as other places. It will be available at the Farmer's Market this summer.

Bob Schoppe, Simone Belz, and Sandie Mather finished *Summit County's Narrow-Gauge Railroads*, which will be published by Arcadia Press during the summer or early fall. It is the third Arcadia, Images of America book that your Society has had a hand in publishing. A large number of photographs from the Society's photograph and map collections appear in the three Arcadia books: *Summit County, Frisco and the Ten Mile Canyon*, and this new publication.

Windows to the Past, written by Rick Hague and Sandie Mather, in celebration of the Society's 50th anniversary, will be ready for the August 11 celebration. Many of the 250 photographs included in the book came from the Society's photograph collection. Funding for the designing and publication of the book came from member donations. Thank you.

Special Thank You

The Society sends a big thank you to those who have supported our events in a very special way. Brian and Linda Hall and Dick Ramsey renewed their membership at the Miner's level. Tom and Beverly Wheeler renewed their membership at the You Bought the Ranch and Mine level. New member Ramona Gwynn, from Pennsylvania, joined at the same level. Thank you for your support of our mission.

The Society welcomes a new corporate member: The Breckenridge Heritage Alliance. The Alliance has been a true friend over the years. Our organizations have collaborated on many projects.



Corporate Sponsors

Your Society is looking for other corporate sponsors to support our programs and events. We offer many benefits to corporate sponsors. They will be listed on our stationery and their logo displayed in our newsletter; names and logos will appear on our Facebook and Twitter pages as well as on our website. Corporate members receive the newsletter, advance e-mail notices of all events, weekly e-mail updates of summer events and news, discounts on photographic reproductions ordered from the Mather Archive, reduced registration fees on selected events, a coupon for free admission to one of our summer events, and an invitation to a special Donors Happy Hour each summer.

Corporate members might want to help sponsor our events. We publicize sponsorships before, during, and after the event. Photographs taken at the event could become part of advertising for a corporate member's business. Sponsors receive five tickets to the sponsored event to give to their customers. Some organizations that have sponsored our events include the Town of Frisco, Whole Foods, the Spice and Tea Merchants of Breckenridge, and *Summit Daily News*.

The Society has a letter and brochure available for prospective corporate members. Contact the Summit Historical Office at 970-468-2207 to receive a letter and brochure. Talk to businesses you patronize and see if they would like to help the Society. They will be telling the community that they care about the unique and very special history of Summit County.

SHS Website

Have you checked out the new SHS website? We are getting lots of compliments. Our schedule of summer events is listed on the website.

Other Ways to Support the Society

Don't forget to select the Society as your non-profit of choice when you use your City Market card or order from AmazonSmile.com. If you have a car sitting in the driveway or garage that you would like to donate, the Society participates in the Vehicles for Charity program. Call the SHS Office for the phone number to call.

A Vanished Landscape

While working on *Windows to the Past*, your editor found these interesting articles in the *Summit County Journal* for August 7, 1936, and September 11, 1936. Both articles paint interesting word pictures of the lower Blue River valley—a landscape gone today.

“The lower Blue Valley extending from a few miles north of Breckenridge to the county line, a distance of about forty-five miles, is dotted with well improved ranches. Water is taken from the Blue River for irrigation and crops suitable to this altitude and climate are produced in abundance. Hundreds of acres of this fertile land are producing excellent crops of potatoes, head lettuce, peas, hay and such small grains as are adapted to this section. Warm sunny days and cool nights produce a quick growth of vegetation.



Dairying is also an industry in this valley and much milk, cream and butter is produced. Poultry, especially chickens are also raised and the ranchers supply the surrounding mining communities with milk, cream, butter, eggs and fryers.



Cattle and sheep raising is the chief industry and they are kept in great numbers. The ranges of the surrounding National Forest furnished summer pasture for 5,000 head of cattle and 45,000 head of sheep. In the winter they are kept in the corrals near the ranch house and fed on the hay and forage raised.

There are also ranches on the Snake and Ten Mile Rivers, tributaries of the Blue, and in the many small mountain valleys that lead out of the Blue Valley. There are a number of fine herds of pure bred Herefords as well as other breeds of pure bred stock.



The ranching in this section was started by those hardy pioneers who drove a small head of cattle and sheep over the Continental Divide and into this valley to pasture during the summers. They sold milk, cream and butter to the miners and fattened the cattle on the lush grass and when fall came and winter snows impended they started their herds back across the mountains and into the lower valleys for winter. Later permanent residents came, making use of the abundant water supply for irrigating hay and other forage crops and were thus able to winter their cattle and sheep near their ranch homes in this valley. Today all available ranch land is producing fine crops and supporting great herds of cattle and sheep and adding materially to the state and national wealth.”

“This scene is typical of this season of the year when the hay crop is being harvested in the Blue River Valley. This valley, which extends for nearly forty miles to the north line of Summit County, is dotted with cattle and sheep ranches. Haying is a real industry in this area as the ranchers graze their stock on the public domain during the summer and bring them down to the home pastures during the fall. As the winters are quite severe, enough hay must be put up to feed the stock thru the winter.

Most of the hay in this valley is timothy and clo-

ver with some native grass. The surplus crop is shipped to market and is of such a quality that there is a great demand for it in Kentucky for feeding the pure bred race horses. The annual hay harvest provides employment for a great many men each fall. The rains which fell thru-out the summer have provided an abundance of moisture and the crop this season is heavier than for several years.”

Agricultural products played an important part in Summit County’s economy. In 1918, the county’s production totaled \$325,400 in 1918 dollars.

Hay \$100,000
 Potatoes \$6,000
 Oats \$4,500
 Barley \$800
 Dairy Products \$12,000
 Cattle Marketed \$115,000
 Lumber \$70,000
 Mining Timbers \$16,000

Production generally increased in 1919:

Hay \$130,000
 Potatoes \$9,000
 Barley \$1,000
 Oats \$6,000
 Dairy Products, eggs, etc. \$14,500
 Cattle Marketed \$112,000
 Lumber \$75,000
 Railroad Ties \$6,000
 Mining Timbers \$4,000
 Total Agriculture Production in 1919 dollars:
 \$358,400

Summit Historical Society

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