

Heritage

C O L O R A D O

The Magazine of History Colorado

May/June 2015

TOYS

of the '50s, '60s and '70s

At the History
Colorado Center

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Toys in the History Colorado Collection
- Arlington Park and Early Denver Amusements
 - A Guide to Our Community Sites



Edward C. Nichols
PRESIDENT AND CEO

History Colorado Center
1200 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80203
303/HISTORY

ADMINISTRATION
303/866-3355

MEMBERSHIP
303/866-3639

MUSEUM RENTALS
303/866-4597

RESEARCH LIBRARIANS
303/866-2305

EDUCATION
303/866-4686

PUBLIC RELATIONS
303/866-3670

GROUP SALES RESERVATIONS
303/866-2394

ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
303/866-3392

STATE HISTORICAL FUND
303/866-2825

SUPPORT US
303/866-4737

History Colorado on the Web

HistoryColorado.org

Blogs

historycolorado.org/blogs

Social Media

Facebook

facebook.com/HistoryColorado

Twitter

twitter.com/HistoryColorado

Pinterest

pinterest.com/HistoryColorado

Instagram

instagram.com/HistoryColorado

Steve Grinstead *Managing Editor*

Liz Simmons *Editorial Assistance*

Darren Eurich, State of Colorado/IDS *Graphic Designer*

Jay DiLorenzo and Aaron Marcus *Photographic Services*

William J. Convery *State Historian*

Colorado Heritage (ISSN 0272-9377), published by History Colorado, contains articles of broad general and educational interest that link the present to the past. *Heritage* is distributed bimonthly to History Colorado members, to libraries, and to institutions of higher learning. Manuscripts must be documented when submitted, and originals are retained in the Publications office. An Author's Guide is available; contact the Publications office. History Colorado disclaims responsibility for statements of fact or of opinion made by contributors.

Postage paid at Denver, Colorado

All History Colorado members receive *Colorado Heritage* as a benefit of membership. Individual subscriptions are available through the Membership office for \$40 per year (six issues).

For details about membership write to Membership Office, History Colorado Center, or email us at membership@state.co.us.

To receive copies of this or other History Colorado or Colorado Historical Society publications, contact the Publications office at 303/866-4532 or publications@state.co.us.

© 2015 BY HISTORY COLORADO

Sign up for the monthly *History Colorado NOW* electronic newsletter by emailing membership@state.co.us; or visit www.HistoryColorado.org and click on "Membership."

BASIC MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS (the benefits all members receive)

- Unlimited free admission to all History Colorado museums and historic sites
- A limited number of free pass(es) and discount tickets to the Georgetown Loop Historic Mining & Railroad Park*
- Our bimonthly newsmagazine, *Colorado Heritage*
- Our monthly e-newsletter, *History Colorado NOW*
- Member-only discounts on tours, lectures, and History Colorado programs
- Invitations to exclusive member-only events
- 10% discount in museum stores and at the History Colorado Center's Rendezvous café
- Admission benefits at participating Time Traveler museums across the country
- Discounts on History Colorado publications

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual \$65—benefits for 1 member

All the above benefits, 1 membership card, 1 guest pass, 1 Georgetown Loop® pass

Family \$80—benefits for 2 adults, all children in the household under 18, all grandchildren under 18

2 membership cards, 2 guest passes, 2 Georgetown Loop® passes

Explorer \$150—benefits for 2 adults, all children in the household under 18, all grandchildren under 18, up to 2 guests per visit

4 guest passes, 4 Georgetown Loop® passes, Smithsonian Affiliate benefits*

Centennial \$300—benefits for 2 adults, all children in the household under 18, all grandchildren under 18, up to 4 guests per visit
6 guest passes, 6 Georgetown Loop® passes, Smithsonian Affiliate benefits*

Historian \$500—benefits for 2 adults, all children in the household under 18, all grandchildren under 18, up to 6 guests per visit
8 guest passes, 8 Georgetown Loop® passes, listing in Annual Report, 4 tickets to a lecture of your choice, invitations to exclusive events, Welcome Wagon Orientation, Smithsonian Affiliate benefits*

Preservationist \$750—All benefits of the Historian level, plus a behind-the-scenes tour

Bancroft \$1,000—All benefits of the Preservationist level, plus a hard-hat preview of an upcoming exhibit

*History Colorado is a Smithsonian Affiliations member. Join or renew at Explorer or above and receive:

- One year of *Smithsonian* magazine
- 10% discount at Smithsonian Museum stores, Smithsonian catalog, and SmithsonianStore.com
- Travel and study tour opportunities
- And more! See <https://affiliations.si.edu>



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

For a full listing of benefits and more about membership, visit www.HistoryColorado.org and click on "Membership."

COmingle

At the History Colorado Center on Thursdays, 6–9 P.M.

Join History Colorado for our afterhours history “happenings” with an offbeat mix of games, trivia, demos, exhibit adventures and performances. Snacks and cash bar.

\$10 at the door or at www.HistoryColorado.org



COLORADO IS WILD

May 14—Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rocky Mountain National Park. Help create wilderness-themed art, then test your outdoor skills.

- Visit one of Colorado’s favorite wild places in the new *We♥Rocky Mountain National Park* exhibit.
- Cast a line and catch a “fish” on the giant map of Colorado.
- See how good you are at pitching a tent, tying a knot and other outdoor skills.
- Find out the hidden history of Colorado fourteeners, and use your orienteering skills to explore the History Colorado Center exhibits.
- Wear your favorite Colorado-themed hat, shirt or tattoo and win prizes.

COLORADO IS PLAYFUL

July 9—Get in touch with your inner child for a night of fun and games. Check out your favorite vintage toys and action figures, play throwback video games on the giant screen, and compete to win prizes.

- Reconnect with Gumby, Barbie, Slinky, Spirograph, Hot Wheels and more in the *Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s* exhibit.
- Play video games with Denver’s own Oh Heck Yeah.
- Create a Colorado-themed action figure or paper doll and build a Denver landmark out of blocks and bricks.
- Search for historic toys in History Colorado Center exhibits, and spin the wheel to go around a giant Colorado game board.
- Wear your favorite Colorado-themed hat, shirt or tattoo and win prizes.

COLORADO Heritage

MAY/JUNE 2015

I 4 Preservation Now



A Guide to Our Community Sites

Special Pullout Section

Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s

Special Center Pullout Section

I 6 Classic Toys from the History Colorado Collection

*Melissa de Bie, Natalie Elder,
and Bridget O'Toole*

2 2 A Splendid Place: Denver's Arlington Park

David Forsyth

DEPARTMENTS

2 From the President

3 New & On View

6 Family Fun

8 Adult Programs

I 3 Calendar

ON THE COVER

The History Colorado Center continues its exploration of the recent past with Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s, a traveling exhibition of the toys that reflected and defined three American decades and the toymakers who dreamed them up. Photos courtesy Minnesota History Center.

All images are from the collections of History Colorado unless otherwise noted.

HISTORY COLORADO CENTER

1200 Broadway, Denver

Open: Daily, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Extended evening hours! Open till 9 P.M. every third Tuesday.

The 1968 Exhibit open till 9 P.M. Thursday, May 7, and till 10 P.M. Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9.

Admission: Members free; nonmember adults \$12; seniors and students \$10; children \$8; and under free. **303/HISTORY**, www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org

BYERS-EVANS HOUSE MUSEUM

1310 Bannock Street, Denver

Open: Daily, except Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Guided house tours from 10:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Admission: Members free; nonmember adults \$6; seniors and students (with ID) \$5; children (6–12) \$4. Group tours available. **303/620-4933**, www.ByersEvansHouseMuseum.org

EL PUEBLO HISTORY MUSEUM

301 North Union, Pueblo

Open: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Admission: Members free; nonmember adults \$5; seniors, children 6–12, and students with ID \$4; children 5 and under free; children 12 and under free on Saturdays. **719/583-0453**, www.ElPuebloHistoryMuseum.org

FORT GARLAND MUSEUM

25 miles east of Alamosa off U.S. 160

Open: April–September, daily, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. October–March, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.; closed Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.

Admission: Members free; nonmember adults \$5; seniors \$4.50; children ages 6–16, \$3.50. **719/379-3512**, www.FortGarlandMuseum.org

FORT VASQUEZ MUSEUM

13412 U.S. 85, Platteville; 35 miles north of downtown Denver

Open: March 1–31, Wednesday–Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. April 1–September 30, daily, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. To schedule tours, call 303/866-4591.

Admission: Members and children under 5 free; nonmembers \$2. **970/785-2832**, www.FortVasquezMuseum.org

GEORGETOWN LOOP HISTORIC MINING & RAILROAD PARK®

Georgetown/Silver Plume I-70 exits

Call **1-888/456-6777** for reservations or visit www.georgetownlooprr.com.

GRANT-HUMPHREYS MANSION

770 Pennsylvania Street, Denver

Open: For rental events, including receptions, weddings, and business meetings. **303/894-2505**, www.GrantHumphreysMansion.org

HEALY HOUSE MUSEUM AND DEXTER CABIN

912 Harrison Avenue, Leadville

Open: Daily, May through October, 10 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Group tours (20+) can be arranged in winter (depending on availability) with reservation.

Admission: Members free; nonmember adults \$6; seniors \$5.50; children (6–16) \$4.50; children 5 and under free. **719/486-0487**, www.HealyHouseMuseum.org

PIKE'S STOCKADE

Six miles east of La Jara, near Sanford, Colorado, just off Highway 136

Open: Memorial Day to October 1, or by appointment.

TRINIDAD HISTORY MUSEUM

312 East Main Street, Trinidad

Open: May 18–September 30, Tuesday–Friday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Closed on state holidays. Free self-guided tours of garden and grounds, Monday–Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Baca House and Santa Fe Trail Museum available by appointment for groups of six or more. Bloom Mansion closed for restoration.

Admission: Members free. Nonmember ticket options for Historic Homes Guided Tours, Santa Fe Trail Museum self-guided tours, Friday Heritage Garden Tours, and combination tickets at adult, senior, and child rates. Children 5 and under free. **719/846-7217**, www.TrinidadHistoryMuseum.org

UTE INDIAN MUSEUM

17253 Chipeta Road, Montrose

Open: January–June: Tuesday through Saturday, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

July–October: Monday through Saturday, 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.; Sunday, 11 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. **Closing August 1 for expansion!**

Admission: Members and children 6 and under free; nonmember adults \$4.50; seniors \$4; children ages 6–16, \$2. **970/249-3098**, www.UteIndianMuseum.org



From the
PRESIDENT

I'd like to keep you, our valued members, apprised of changes proposed last year by the Legislative Audit Committee and our progress in addressing them.

As you may know, History Colorado is a state agency, within Colorado's Department of Higher Education. The committee looked specifically at our organization's governance: the makeup of our Board of Directors and the manner in which those board members are selected.

As we go to press, the Senate State Affairs Committee has voted to pass SB 225, which addresses the Legislative Audit Committee's recommendations. The bill creates a nine-member board that would take effect on July 1. The governor would appoint five of those members with Senate confirmation; four additional members would be selected by our current board. Those names are submitted to the governor for approval and would also be approved by the Senate.

The new board members will be chosen for their requisite skills and state financial, legal, and regulatory experience. Geographic representation and cultural diversity will be criteria as well. The Senate bill also establishes the Directors' Council of History Colorado to advise the new board. That council will be elected by you, our members.

The next steps in the legislative process are the presentation of the bill to the full Senate for debate and a vote. After that, the bill will be heard by a House committee. Once passed in that committee, it goes to the full House for a debate and vote.

We believe this process will wrap up by early May and that the governor will sign the bill in mid-May. So we look forward to sharing more with you in your July/August *Colorado Heritage*.

This governance change benefits History Colorado through a closer alignment with other divisions and institutions within the Department of Higher Education, and the Executive and Legislative branches of our State government. And, please know that these changes do not reflect any additional funding from the State—so your memberships and contributions are as important as ever in enabling us to maintain the robust programming you've come to expect and enjoy.

As we head into May, be sure to make plans to visit our community sites throughout the state, and don't miss *The 1968 Exhibit* at the History Colorado Center. This multimedia trip through a pivotal American year is setting attendance records at our flagship museum, and it runs through May 10. Looking ahead, the much-anticipated traveling exhibit *Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s* opens on June 13. See you this summer!

Edward C. Nichols, President and CEO

The History Colorado Center will be closed to the public all day Wednesday, June 3, except for the 9:30 A.M. Story Time program.

Call for Nominations



Do you know local historians who deserve recognition? Have you or your organization worked on an exhibit or historical project? If so, nominate a project for the Caroline Bancroft or Josephine H. Miles History Awards! Every year, History Colorado gives two monetary awards to individuals, organizations or museums in Colorado that have made a major contribution in the past year (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) to the advancement of Colorado history.

The Caroline Bancroft History Award is given for history projects in communities with populations of less than 50,000. The Josephine H. Miles History Award may go to a project in any size community. The awards will be presented at History Colorado's annual meeting in the fall. Nomination forms must be postmarked or emailed by June 30. Self-nominations are encouraged! For forms and eligibility criteria, email megan.rose@state.co.us or call 303/866-2306.

Congratulations El Pueblo!

History Colorado is proud to announce that El Pueblo History Museum is the winner of a 2015 Pat on the Back Award. The award recognizes El Pueblo's role in the success of the Martin Luther King Junior Heritage Center and Museum. El Pueblo supported the organization by offering a place for it to hold its board meetings and MLK Holiday celebration.



New & On View

Denver

History Colorado Center (unless otherwise noted)

Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s



On view June 13–October 4
Gumby. Barbie. Slinky. Mr. Potato Head. Wham-O.

of the '50s, '60s and '70s

Spirograph. Hot Wheels. The names of these popular toys capture the craziness, the joy, the sheer fun of being a kid. And beneath those nutty names are rich veins of nostalgia, memory and history. The stories of the kids who played with these toys, the adults who bought them, the child-rearing experts who judged them and the people who invented them reflect the rhythms of American life. *Developed by the Minnesota History Center.*



Members-Only Preview:

Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s

Friday, June 12, 10 A.M. to 8 P.M.

RSVP by June 9!

Members enjoy this new large-scale exhibit for FREE and with FIRST access at this exclusive preview! See it before it opens to the public. The Gift Shop will be open with fun new toys for purchase, and Café Rendezvous will offer a special menu for \$19.70 for two.

Members free!

Nonmember guests \$12 (adult), \$10 (seniors, students 13–22), \$8 (children, 6–12)

RSVP: 303/866-6524 or h-CO.org/previewTOYS

Photos courtesy Minnesota History Center

Last Chance to See *The 1968 Exhibit*

Through May 10

The 1968 Exhibit explores the cultural and political events that shaped the 1960s and '70s—and that continue to reverberate today. Don't miss your last chance to see *1968!*



THE 1968 EXHIBIT

Special Extended Hours for *The 1968 Exhibit!*

Thursday, May 7, 10 A.M. to 9 P.M.

Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9, 10 A.M. to 10 P.M.

The History Colorado Center will stay open late these days to give you a few extra hours to catch *1968* before it's gone.

Honoring Colorado's Vets

History Colorado partnered with fifteen organizations to honor Colorado veterans in conjunction with *The 1968 Exhibit*. Nearly 400 vets and their families came for a night of entertainment and recognition. Highlights included a USO Show Troupe performance, special guests like former secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson and the opportunity to see this much-loved exhibit.



The 1968 Exhibit at the History Colorado Center

Clockwise from top left: Colorado's Adjutant General Michael Armstrong expressed the awe and thanks of a grateful state.

Governor John Hickenlooper thanks a Colorado vet for his service.

The world-renowned USO Show Troupe entertained Colorado veterans in high style with a combined patriotic and 1968-themed music medley.


VIP speakers at the tribute were, from left, Governor Hickenlooper, Adjutant General Armstrong, former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson and History Colorado CEO Ed Nichols.



EL MOVIMIENTO THE CHICANO MOVEMENT IN COLORADO

On view now

El Movimiento immerses you in the urgency and vitality of one of Colorado's most important social movements. Artifacts, images and the voices of the activists reveal the struggle for labor rights, the founding of the Crusade for Justice, student activism and the Vietnam War.

Presenting sponsor:  **AARP**
Real Possibilities

With support from: **The Abarca Family Foundation** 

We ♥ Rocky Mountain National Park

On view now

Rocky Mountain National Park turns 100 this year. History Colorado is celebrating the people and the places of one of our most cherished spots. Every day, Coloradans and visitors alike have incredible experiences in the park: Seeing a moose for the first time. Breathing in deep lungfuls of high mountain air. Climbing Longs Peak for the first—or 47th—time. *We ♥ Rocky Mountain National Park* introduces you to amazing people and the ways they've loved the park.



A snow-covered Fall River Road, Rocky Mountain National Park, in 1928. From History Colorado's Fred P. Clatworthy Collection. 10033540

Rock Posters from Denver's Family Dog

Byers-Evans House Gallery
Through May 10

See original rock posters and photos from Denver's '60s music scene.

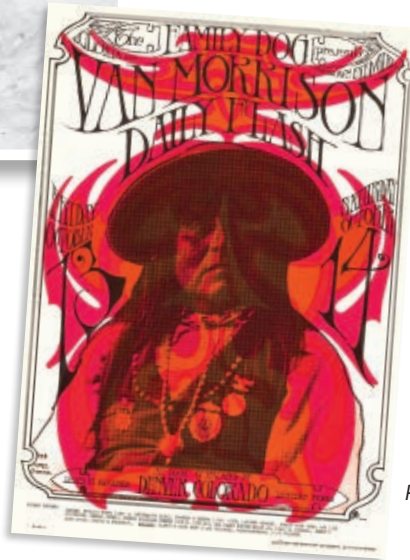


Photo © Rhino Records

Pueblo

El Pueblo History Museum

Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863, and the March on Washington, 1963

On view now

One hundred years separate the *Emancipation Proclamation* and the March on Washington, yet they are linked in the larger story of liberty and the American experience. Both grew out of decades of bold actions, resistance, organization and vision.

Changing Colorado: Civil Rights in the Centennial State

On view now

Changing Colorado explores Colorado civil rights issues, from Japanese internment to women's suffrage, worker rights to the Chicano movement. High school students from eight Pueblo schools collaborated to create the exhibit.

Montrose

Ute Indian Museum

Navajo Rug and Basket Show and Sale

June 15–August 1

In partnership with the Adopt A Native Elder Program, the Ute Indian Museum presents a Navajo rug exhibit and sale.

The Ute Indian Museum is closing after Colorado Day, August 1, for expansion. Make plans to visit now!

New from History Colorado

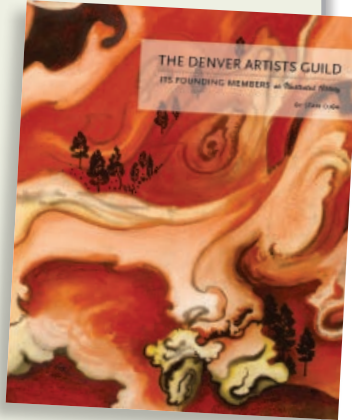
The Denver Artists Guild: Its Founding Members—An Illustrated History

By Stan Cuba

Watch for this 260-page fully illustrated retrospective of a pivotal cultural movement that began in Denver and reverberated throughout Colorado and beyond.

The book is available for the first time at the Byers-

Evans House Museum the night of June 26 and at other retailers—including the History Colorado Center Gift Shop—in July. (Remember: History Colorado members enjoy 10% off the \$39.95 cover price at the History Colorado Center and Byers-Evans House.) Showcasing a range of artistic styles and mediums, the book features more than 150 full-color works by Vance Kirkland, Laura Gilpin, Arnold and Louise Rönnebeck and forty-eight other luminaries of Denver's twentieth-century art scene.



Exhibit—The Denver Artists Guild: Its Founding Members

Byers-Evans House Gallery, June 26–September 26

Book Launch and Signing *The Denver Artists Guild: Its Founding Members*

Friday, June 26, 5–9 P.M.

To kick off the publication of *The Denver Artists Guild: Its Founding Members—An Illustrated History*, a special exhibit goes on view at the Byers-Evans House Gallery. The exhibit showcases works from some of the most influential Colorado artists of their day—the originators of the Denver Artists Guild, founded in 1928. **Members at the Historian level (\$500) and above** are invited to a book signing to meet author Stan Cuba. Enjoy wine and cheese on the patio, view original artwork from private and museum collections, and take a docent-led tour of the Byers-Evans House Museum. *Invitations will be mailed in late May.*

FAMILY FUN

Denver

Mother's Day Tea

Byers-Evans House Museum
Saturday, May 9, 1:30–3:30 P.M.

Treat mom to tea sandwiches, scones and desserts after a guided tour of the historic Byers-Evans House.

Members \$20, nonmembers \$25 (children \$18)

Reservations required: 303/620-4933

Weltklassik: A Monthly Classical Music Series

Grant-Humphreys Mansion
Tuesdays, May 19 and June 16

Founded in Germany fifteen years ago, Weltklassik brings classical music to an intimate setting. The May 19 concert features Natalia Ehwald in "Romantic Departure." Jamina Gerl performs "Big and Little People" on June 16. Enjoy concerts every third Tuesday in 2015.

Adults \$25, free for children 13 and under

Tickets: 303/894-2505

FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES at the History Colorado Center!

These are just highlights, and performances are subject to change, so check www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org for updates.

Free with admission.

MAY

May 9: Did going to the Moon in '68 save Earth? Find out at 11:30 A.M.

May 16: **Mountain man** Doc Grizzly, 10:30 A.M. and 2 P.M.

May 23: **Gold panner** William Green Russell, 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

May 30: **Sergeant** Jack Hackett, 11:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

JUNE

June 6: **Highline Silver Cornet Band**, 11:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.

June 13: **American Indian Beading** demonstration, 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.

June 20: **Balkanika Dancers**, 11:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.

June 22: Aurora Fox tells **American Indian stories**, 11:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.

June 26: Meet Keota resident Elizabeth Rohn from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.

First Wednesday Preschool Story Time

History Colorado Center
 Wednesdays, May 6 and June 3, 9:30 A.M.
 Bring the kids (age 2–5) to story time in our *Destination Colorado* exhibit and learn about farms, cowboys and animals. We'll read a story and then have playtime in the exhibit before the museum opens. Free with admission! (Note: *The museum is closed on June 3 following Story Time.*)

1968 Hippie Haven Lounge

History Colorado Center
 Saturday, May 9, 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.
 Soak in the ambiance of 1968 while relaxing in a lounge area designed for families visiting *The 1968 Exhibit*. Explore some fun activities, find out what happened in '68 on your birthday and check how your 2015 outfit compares with what would have been acceptable in 1968.



SUMMER DAY CAMP at the History Colorado Center!

#summerpanic! Junior Museum Camp

June 22–26, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.
 Info and registration: 303/866-2394
 This summer, kids (grades 2–5) are invited to become “employees” at the History Colorado Center! Campers will travel back in time to learn Colorado’s most fascinating stories, get exclusive access to the exhibit design and production studio and visit super-secure artifact storage areas. Kids will:

- Design and make an exhibit diorama
- Earn a junior museum ID badge
- Meet top museum professionals
- Assist designers working on new exhibits
- Handle artifacts not available to the public
- Investigate Colorado’s people and places in the research library

Members \$250 per child per week, nonmembers \$280
 Early pick-up/drop-off available for additional fee

Testimonials

“I cannot think of any suggestions that would improve the camp. I rate this camp as one of the best in Denver and plan on telling other parents about it. We are looking forward to more camps at the History Colorado Center. Thank you!”

“My son had an absolute blast. Thank you for providing such a great opportunity!”

Fort Garland

Fort Garland Museum

Memorial Day Living History Encampment

Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24
 The Fort Garland Memorial Regiment and the Artillery Company of New Mexico celebrate Memorial Day with a weekend of activities and displays depicting nineteenth-century garrison life at the fort.
 Information: 719/379-3512, \$5

Photo courtesy Jim Pickering



2014–15 Lecture Series

Our Shifting Times

History Colorado Center, 1 and 7 p.m.
 Single lectures: Members \$8.50, nonmembers \$10, students (with ID) \$6.50. Information: 303/866-2394
 Sponsored by the Walter S. Rosenberry III Charitable Trust.

Enos Mills and the Campaign for Rocky Mountain National Park

Tuesday, May 19
 On January 26, 1915, after a hard-fought seven-year campaign, President Woodrow Wilson signed the bill creating Rocky Mountain National Park. At the center of it all was conservationist Enos A. Mills, the “Father of Rocky Mountain National Park.” Historian Jim Pickering delves into the history of this Colorado icon and tourist magnet as we celebrate its centennial.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Denver

El Movimiento: Looking Back, Looking Forward

History Colorado Center

Join us for community dialogues exploring Colorado's Chicano Movement and where we are today. Sponsored by AARP.

History Colorado members \$4, nonmembers \$5

Student Activism, Then and Now

Tuesday, May 5, 6 P.M.—El Movimiento was fueled by the activism of young people. In March 1969, students marched out of West High School to demand a better education. Walkouts occurred throughout the city. Join us to watch clips from the film *West High School March 1969: Blow Out!*, followed by a panel discussion with people involved in the action, including Carlos Santistevan and Emanuel Martinez from the Crusade for Justice. Today's student leaders and activists will also join the discussion. Moderated by Deborah Espinosa.

Members-Only Mother's Day Brunch

History Colorado Center

Sunday, May 10, 10 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.

Reserve by May 5!

Treat Mom to a historic Mother's Day! Enjoy a delicious brunch buffet—with delectable gourmet dishes created by Chef Samir Mohammad—and great views of downtown Denver from our MDC/Richmond American Homes Foundation Terrace Room. Then watch performances and presentations about amazing mothers in history. Mimosas and bloody marys just \$4 each, or bottomless for \$8!

Members \$32, children (6–13) \$13

Nonmember guests \$38, children (6–13) \$17

Children 5 and under free

RSVP: 303/866-4477 or www.HistoryColorado.org/mothersday

Anne Evans Talks

Byers-Evans House Museum

Wednesday, May 20, noon and Saturday, May 30, 6 P.M.

Evelyn Waldron, co-author of *Anne Evans: A Pioneer of Colorado's Culture History—The Things That Last When Gold Is Gone*, discusses Anne Evans' legendary cultural leadership.

Anne's contributions are particularly evident in the Golden Triangle neighborhood where her family home—the Byers-Evans House—stands alongside the Denver Art Museum, Denver Public Library and Civic Center, all of which she helped shape. Free!

COLLECTIONS & LIBRARY PROGRAMS at the History Colorado Center

Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center

Members \$4, nonmembers \$5 (unless otherwise noted)

RSVP required. Call 303/866-2394, or register online! *All programs require a minimum number of registered participants and may be canceled if the minimum is not met 48 hours ahead of time. Early registration recommended!*

Historical Craft Society

Saturday, May 16, 10:15 A.M. to 12:15 P.M.—Spring is in the air, and our thoughts are turning to embroidering tea towels! Join us for the next in our series of collections-inspired craft projects. Coffee and pastries will be available to buy. Supplies kindly provided by our friends at Fancy Tiger Crafts.

Members \$8, nonmembers \$10 (*Limited to 30 people*)

How to Care for Your Family's Historic Uniforms

Monday, May 18, 10 A.M. to noon—Do you have military uniforms or accessories that you want to pass down to future generations? History Colorado's collections manager will teach you how to preserve your heirlooms. You'll also get a chance to ask questions about your particular uniform. (*Limited to 20 people*)

Newspaper Research at the Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center

Saturday, June 6, 10:15 to 11:15 A.M.—History Colorado boasts the largest collection of Colorado newspapers anywhere. Historic newspapers are great sources of information for historians, genealogists or anyone who enjoys coming face-to-face with the past. Join our reference librarian to learn more about our newspaper collection and how to use it in your own research. (*Limited to 12 people*)

COLORFUL COLORADO at the History Colorado Center

Members \$4, nonmembers \$5 (unless otherwise noted)

Meet Colorado authors, History Colorado curators and others. Call 303/866-2394 to reserve your spot, or register online! *All programs require a minimum number of participants and may be canceled if the minimum is not met 48 hours ahead of time. Early registration recommended!*

Denver's Amusement Parks: A Story of Fun

Monday, May 11, 1 to 2 P.M.—Nearly 5,000 amusement parks were built in the United States between 1895 and 1920, and most major cities had one. By 1908, Denver had four to choose from, while memories of a recently closed fifth still lingered.

After 1914, only two—Lakeside and Elitch’s—remained to entertain tens of thousands of customers yearly. Then two new ventures in the ’50s threatened their dominance. Join historian David Forsyth for a trip through this rollercoaster history.

MEMORIAL DAY

World War II from Coloradans Who Lived It—That All May Know What It Took

Monday, May 25, 1 to 2 P.M.—In *Sterling Heroes of World War II—As It Was Lived, In Their Own Words*, thirty-six veterans from northeast Colorado share their wartime experiences. With the seventieth anniversary of the war upon us, their stories remind us what it took to defeat global tyranny. Project collaborators Dr. John Elliff and Denny Dressman discuss the sometimes poignant, sometimes harrowing, sometimes humorous recollections of that pivotal time.

The Tunnels Under Our Feet— Colorado’s Forgotten Hollow Sidewalks

Monday, June 8, 1 to 2 P.M.—*The Tunnels Under Our Feet* describes Tracy Beach’s five-year journey to locate a mythic piece of the Old West. With a slide show and historic artifacts, Beach takes you through the construction and uses of these amazing tunnels—as well as their current conditions. Join her as she uncovers fourteen cities, including Denver, Cripple Creek, Colorado Springs, Salida, Leadville and Durango, and finally answers the question, “Was there really a tunnel to Union Station?”

Fort Garland

Fort Garland Museum
For more about these programs, call 719/379-3512

Rock Art in the San Luis Valley

Wednesday, June 10, 6:30 P.M.
(Friends of the Fort business meeting at 6 P.M.)
Archaeologist Ken Frye gives a presentation on rock art sites in the valley. Free!

Paranormal Investigation

Saturday, June 13, 8 P.M.
Witness a paranormal investigation of Fort Garland with members of Purple Sage Paranormal Investigations.
Reservations required: 719/379-3512, \$25

Rock Art Tour

Saturday, June 20, 8 A.M.
Archaeologist Ken Frye leads a tour of local rock art sites. \$20

Montrose

Ute Indian Museum

Beaded Medallion Class

Thursday, May 14
Make a beaded medallion with CJ Brafford, Oglala Lakota and museum director.
Reservations required: 970/249-3098
\$25 (includes materials)

Ute Beadwork Classes

Southern Ute Linda Baker teaches traditional Ute beadwork in two classes. Linda is a juried artist at the Santa Fe Indian Market and the Heard Museum in Phoenix.
\$65 per class (includes materials)
Reservations required: 970/249-3098

Ute Baby Moccasins Class—Saturday, June 6, 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Ute Beaded Pouch Class—Sunday, June 7, 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Platteville

Fort Vasquez

After Hours 2015

Fort Vasquez presents a series of after-hours history programs. All programs take place at Fort Vasquez on Saturdays and begin at 6:30 P.M. Refreshments will be served at the break.
Members \$9, nonmembers \$10
Reservations required: 970/785-2832 (*Limited to 24*)

May 23—Water and Native American Stories with
Bailey Phelps and Charlotte Roe

June 13—Railroad Towns Develop Colorado with Steve Lewis

July 18—Native American Weaponry with Barry Kimball

August 22—Four Forts Virtual Tour with Lee Godfrey
and Bill Crowley

September 26—*to be announced*

October 24—Mountain Man Stories with Dan Overholster

Tours & Treks

Take a Guided Trip Into the Past (To register call 303/866-2394)

Historical Treasures of Colorado Springs

Saturday, May 23, 1 to 4 P.M.

In honor of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month, learn how preservation benefits downtown Colorado Springs. When William Jackson Palmer founded the city, he had visions of a majestic place rising at the base of equally majestic mountains. This vision led to the creation of a city with beautiful architecture, museums, entertainment and grand boulevards. This walking tour of downtown and nearby neighborhoods focuses on some of these buildings and their stories.

Members \$21, nonmembers \$26

(Please provide your own transportation to starting location.)

Roxborough State Park Photography Hike

Wednesday, May 27, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Just southwest of Denver lies an archaeological and geological jewel. Join us on this hike through the Fountain, Lyons and Dakota geological formations of Roxborough State Park. Your archaeologist and photographer guide—History Colorado’s own Tom Carr—shares his insights into the landscape’s unique features, along with tips on how to capture these striking rock formations with your camera.

Members \$21, nonmembers \$26

(Please provide your own transportation to starting location.

Bring a picnic lunch for the hike.)

Staunton State Park Hike and History

Saturday, June 20, 9:30 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Lace up your hiking boots and come explore the newest state park. On their way to California, Rachel and Archibald Staunton stopped for a rest in Colorado. The area so beguiled them that they went no farther, making the mountains their home. Rachel, a doctor, served people throughout the area—including Native American families, some of whom gave her handicrafts to pay for her services. Their daughter, who long cared for the ranch, gifted the land to the state in 1986 with the understanding that it would one day be transformed into a park. With homesteading history, scenery and more, Staunton State Park will charm you!

Members \$21, nonmembers \$26

(Please provide your own transportation to starting location. Bring a picnic lunch for the hike.)

Summer Solstice Light Rail, Art and Bar Tour

Monday, June 22, 4:30 to 9 P.M.

Join Tom “Dr. Colorado” Noel and RTD’s Ryan Mulligan for this great summertime tradition. We’ll start downtown before making our way to Englewood and Littleton’s Main Street, stopping at interesting art installations along the way. Enjoy the history of Union Station, the changes in our city and everything in between. All aboard!

Members \$46, nonmembers \$56

(Price includes transportation, drink ticket, light dinner and all interpretation.)

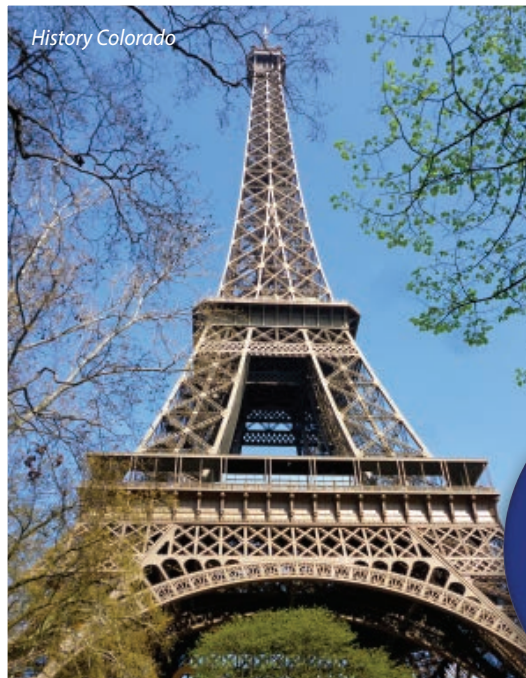
History Colorado Trek to France

Saturday, September 12 to Wednesday, September 23

History Colorado is heading to France! We’ll walk the streets of Paris—with art, architecture and food to tempt all of your senses. There’s even the option to see the largest cathedral in France, in nearby Amiens. Bidding adieu to Paris, we’ll visit Normandy’s famous World War II sites, including the American cemetery and the beaches where the liberation of Europe began. Then we’re off to the Brittany region, with delicious gastronomy, beautiful vistas and prehistoric standing stones marching into the sea. You may have to cross the Atlantic to get there, but you’ll surely find the voyage *magnifique!*

Members \$4,100 nonmembers \$4,400 (single supplement \$875)

Information and reservations: DH Tours, 720/234-7929
(Includes airfare, double-occupancy hotel rooms, transportation, all breakfasts, three dinners, three lunches, all guides and interpretation services.)



New Member Benefit: Behind-the-Scenes Tours!

History Colorado Center, Tuesdays, 1–1:30 P.M.

- May 19
- June 16
- July 21
- August 18

Ever wondered what happens behind the scenes at the History Colorado Center? Join us for free members-only collections tours every third Tuesday at 1 P.M., and learn how our collections are stored and cared for by our collections team. We'll visit rarely seen storage and processing spaces and get an up-close-and-personal view of artifacts. Preregister for this exclusive opportunity! Make a day of it and enjoy the daily lunch special in Café Rendezvous. *(Limited to 12 people)*
Free for members!
Register at: www.h-CO.org/BTS



Gift Memberships for Moms, Dads and Grads!

A History Colorado membership makes a great gift that moms, dads or grads can enjoy all year. As a special thank-you to our existing members, get a 10% discount on **new** gift memberships purchased between now and June 30. With a new history center in downtown Denver and eight other museums and historic sites just an adventure away, a History Colorado membership will get everyone out exploring the history of our great state.

Leave a Legacy

Inspire the next generation to learn about our state's past by remembering History Colorado in your estate plans. A few simple sentences in your will is all it takes to leave a legacy to History Colorado and future generations. Your gift will make a lasting impact.

Sample Language for Your Will:

I give and bequeath to History Colorado, Tax ID #84-0644739, the sum of \$_____ (or _____% of my estate, or _____% of the rest and remainder of my estate), to be used for the accomplishment of its general purposes (or a specific purpose as indicated).

Would you like to learn more about leaving a legacy for History Colorado? Contact Rebecca Olchawa Barker at 303/866-4845 or Rebecca.Olchawa-Barker@state.co.us.



HISTORY *Colorado*

Members enjoy:

- Unlimited free admission to the History Colorado Center
- Unlimited free admission to History Colorado **museums and historic sites statewide**
- A free subscription to *Colorado Heritage* magazine
- Free behind-the-scenes tours
- **First access to exhibits** at members-only previews
- **Discounts** on lectures, tours and gift shop and café purchases
- Much more!

To ensure mail delivery to the gift recipient in time for the occasion, purchase ten days in advance online at h-CO.org/Gift, or by calling 303/866-3639, or come to the History Colorado Center and our friendly staff can assist you!

Colorado's Water Stories

Water trickles through the personal histories of Colorado families. A new series looks at generations of Coloradans and the ways water has shaped their lives and their communities. All programs take place at the History Colorado Center and are free with admission; admission is always free for members. The History Colorado Center is open until 9 P.M. each evening of the series.

No reservations needed

Information: www.historycolorado.org

Presented in partnership with One World One Water Center, Metropolitan State University of Denver

Remembering the 1965 South Platte Flood

Tuesday, June 16, 7 P.M.

In June of 1965 heavy rains over four consecutive days in three areas of the South Platte basin caused flooding from Plum Creek south of Denver to the Nebraska state line. The flood devastated the South Platte valley and shaped the river's future in Denver. Join climatologist Nolan Doesken, meteorologist Robert Glancy, and others as they discuss the science and impact of the 1965 flood.

Water for a Growing City

Tuesday, July 21, 7 P.M.

Before the people of Denver bought their water distribution system in 1918, private water companies served the city. Starting in the late 1880s, the base of Platte Canyon (today's Waterton Canyon) became the site of water storage and a variety of filtration methods. Denver Water staff discuss the city's original water system, the ingenious methods that created safe drinking water, and the Denver Union Water Company's development of the company town of Kassler in the early 1900s.

Colorado Water Stories in the *Living West* Exhibit

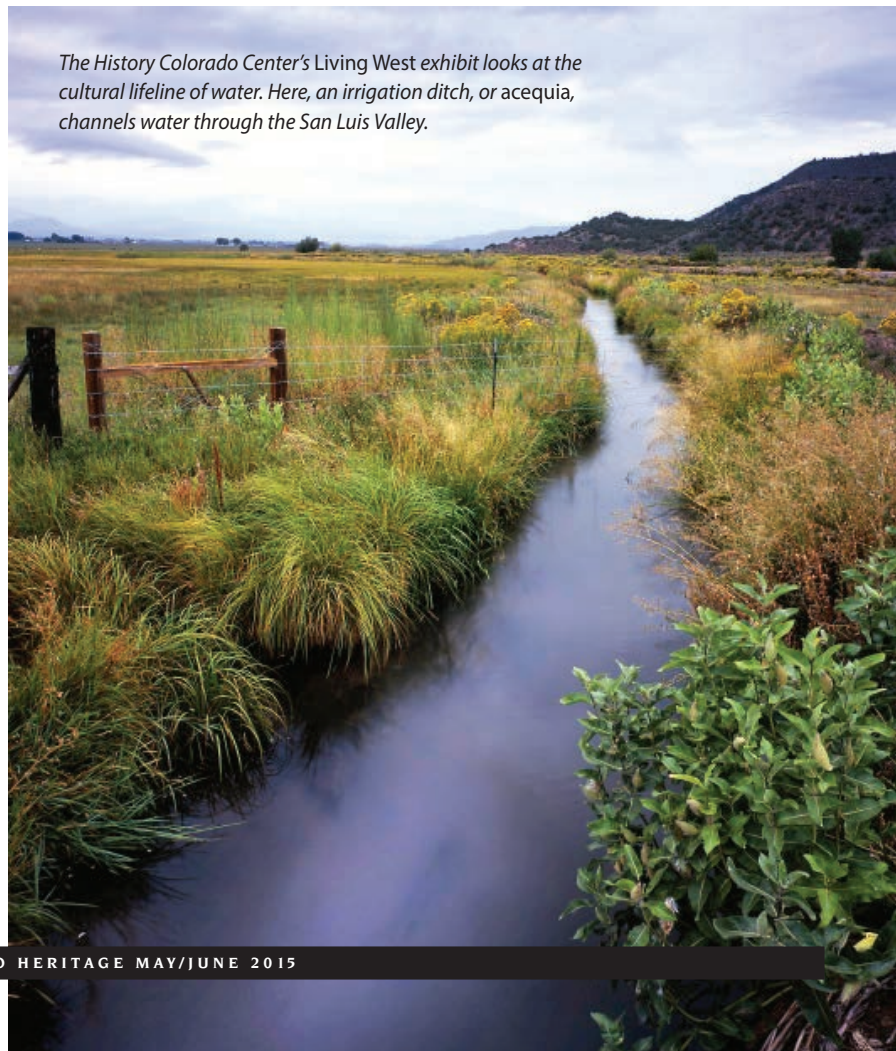
Tuesday, August 18, 7 P.M.

Join us for an informal evening in the History Colorado Center's award-winning *Living West* exhibit. Meet the people behind the water stories and get up-close with artifacts featured in the exhibit—and find out why water is so important to our state's history.

The History Colorado Center's *Living West* exhibit is presented in partnership with Denver Water. Denver Water proudly serves high-quality water and promotes its efficient use to 1.3 million people in the city of Denver and surrounding suburbs. Established in 1918, the utility is a public agency funded by water rates, new tap fees and the sale of hydropower. It is Colorado's oldest and largest water utility.



The History Colorado Center's Living West exhibit looks at the cultural lifeline of water. Here, an irrigation ditch, or acequia, channels water through the San Luis Valley.



Calendar

MAY

5 Tuesday

EL MOVIMIENTO: STUDENT ACTIVISM
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

9 Saturday

MOTHER'S DAY TEA
Byers-Evans House Museum
See page 6.

1968 HIPPIE HAVEN LOUNGE

History Colorado Center
See page 7.

10 Sunday

LAST DAY! THE 1968 EXHIBIT
History Colorado Center
See page 4.

LAST DAY! ROCK POSTERS EXHIBIT

Byers-Evans House Gallery
See page 5.

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

History Colorado Center
See page 8.

11 Monday

DENVER'S AMUSEMENT PARKS
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

14 Thursday

COMINGLE: COLORADO IS WILD
History Colorado Center
See page 1.

BEADED MEDALLION CLASS

Ute Indian Museum
See page 9.

16 Saturday

HISTORICAL CRAFT SOCIETY
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

18 Monday

HISTORIC UNIFORMS WORKSHOP
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

19 Tuesday

ENOS MILLS AND RMNP
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

23 Saturday

TREASURES OF COLORADO SPRINGS TOUR
See page 10.

AFTER HOURS: WATER AND NATIVE STORIES

Fort Vasquez
See page 9.

25 Monday

WWII FROM COLORADANS WHO LIVED IT
History Colorado Center
See page 9.

27 Wednesday

ROXBOROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY HIKE
See page 10.

JUNE

6 Saturday

NEWSPAPER RESEARCH WORKSHOP
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

UTE BABY MOCCASINS CLASS

Ute Indian Museum
See page 9.

7 Sunday

UTE BEADED POUCH CLASS
Ute Indian Museum
See page 9.

8 Monday

FORGOTTEN HOLLOW SIDEWALKS
History Colorado Center
See page 9.

10 Wednesday

ROCK ART IN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY
Fort Garland Museum
See page 9.

12 Friday

TOYS OF THE '50S, '60S AND '70S MEMBERS-ONLY PREVIEW
History Colorado Center
See page 3.

13 Saturday

TOYS OF THE '50S, '60S AND '70S OPENS
History Colorado Center
See page 3.

PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION

Fort Garland Museum
See page 9.

AFTER HOURS: RAILROAD TOWNS

Fort Vasquez
See page 9.

15 Monday

NAVAJO RUG AND BASKET SHOW OPENS
Ute Indian Museum
See page 5.

16 Tuesday

1965 SOUTH PLATTE FLOOD
History Colorado Center
See page 12.

17 Wednesday

YAMPA RIVER RAFTING ADVENTURE
See back cover.

20 Saturday

STAUNTON STATE PARK HIKE
See page 10.

ROCK ART TOUR

Fort Garland
See page 9.

22 Monday

LIGHT RAIL, ART AND BAR TOUR
See page 10.

TOYS THAT TEACH

History Colorado Center
See Toys pullout section.

26 Friday

DENVER ARTISTS GUILD PREMIER AND BOOK LAUNCH
Byers-Evans House Museum
See page 6.

Repeated Events

TOYS TAKE OVER

History Colorado Center
June 16, 23 and 30
See Toys pullout section.

WELTKLASSIK CLASSICAL MUSIC SERIES

Grant-Humphreys Mansion
May 19 and June 16
See page 6.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

History Colorado Center
May 6 and June 3
See page 7.

JUNIOR MUSEUM CAMP

History Colorado Center
June 22–26
See page 7.

MEMORIAL DAY LIVING HISTORY ENCAMPMENT

Fort Garland Museum
May 23 and May 24
See page 7.

ANNE EVANS TALKS

Byers-Evans House Museum
May 20 and May 30
See page 8.

The Role of Toys in the Archaeology of Self

BY THOMAS CARR, SENIOR STAFF ARCHAEOLOGIST

In early 2008 I visited my childhood home in North Carolina with my wife, Laurie, and oldest son, Andrew. Laurie was pregnant with our younger son, James. Having children was already making me feel nostalgic about my own childhood, but something else emphasized it on that visit.

Recently a bad rainstorm had washed out a large area of topsoil in the backyard. As an archaeologist, I always seem to be looking at the ground for artifacts, and one evening after dinner, I noticed something. It was of grey, green, and black plastic and looked strangely familiar. Upon closer inspection, I realized it was the partially exposed forward portion of a model plane—a British jet bomber called the Avro Vulcan, to be exact. Almost instantly, memories from more than thirty years past came flooding back to me. I'd buried the plane myself in the mid-'70s, and something told me there was more to be found.

I quickly spotted a few more items, and, of course, the first thing I wanted to do was excavate. I facetiously told my parents I was going to conduct a formal excavation in their backyard, to which they promptly replied, "No way!" So I settled for quickly digging up what I could see. I ended up recovering the remains of more than a dozen plastic model toys. I'd found a scale-model graveyard of ships, planes, cars, and spacecraft.

Later I found another collection of models and old toys in my parents' attic. These were the ones I'd saved, and they'd been kept in my room until my parents redecorated. I photographed each item as I excavated the site (read: as I explored the attic), but I didn't photograph them in a technical fashion, as my archaeologist self would. These discoveries appealed more to my artistic side, so I photographed them in a documentary fashion. I titled the series of photographs "Fragments of the Past."

It was a fun and fascinating process, and it raised questions about my childhood. Why had I done this? Was there some long-term intent? And why hadn't I given it any thought over the past three decades? Interestingly, I found the answers by looking into a relatively new branch of anthropological study called the *archaeology of self*—and by examining a study of toy artifacts from archaeological sites and learning what they can tell us about childhood's role in society...

Intrigued? Tom's article continues on the History Colorado Preservation Blog. Find out what he discovered about himself and Colorado archaeology at h-CO.org/archofself



The author and his brother with their scale model collection around 1972

Partially buried scale model plane (Avro Vulcan)

Photos courtesy of the author

New Listings

In the National Register of Historic Places and Colorado State Register of Historic Properties

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation.

National Register of Historic Places

Robert B. Bradford Property, Bradford-Perley Site

Jefferson County (5JF.997)

The Bradford-Perley Site is important for its association with early transportation. Robert Boyle Bradford and others founded and built the Bradford Wagon Road to transport prospectors and settlers into the mountains and mines in the early years of Colorado's gold rush, in the 1860s. Bradford homesteaded and founded Bradford City in the foothills west of Denver; the small settlement is no longer extant. Although only the walls of Bradford's stone house still stand, the site yields the potential for us to learn more about the property and the people who lived there.

State Register of Historic Properties

Macedonia Baptist Church and Education Annex

3240 Adams St., Denver (5DV.11696)

The 1954 Modernist-style church is significant for its association with and role in Denver's civil rights struggle. Among the many civil rights luminaries who spoke at the church were Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (in 1964), Jesse Jackson, Dr. Ralph Abernathy, Arie Taylor, Pat Schroeder, and Shirley Chisholm. The church exhibits

Good to Know

National or State Register listed properties may be eligible for investment tax credits for approved rehabilitation projects. Listed properties may also be eligible to compete for grants from Colorado's State Historical Fund. These grants may be used for acquisition and development, education, and survey and planning projects (including grants for nominations). The next nomination submission deadline is June 5. For information, call 303/866-3392.

For more about these and all National and State Register properties in Colorado, go to www.HistoryColorado.org/oahp/national-and-state-registers.

Modernist elements in its abstract and figurative art glass, clerestory and steel-frame fenestration, a horizontality of the building mass that grounds it in the landscape, and interior laminated wood beams to create the soaring interior sanctuary.



Plaza Block Building

8–10 East First Street, La Junta (5OT.1286)

This 1895 commercial brick building is important for its role as a communications network serving as the Postal Telegraph and Cable Company, later Western Union, for nearly sixty years. It connected numerous Colorado

locations to cities as far east as Omaha and as far west as Los Angeles, some for the first time. Local architect William H. Robinson designed this late nineteenth century two-part commercial-style building. Character-defining features of the style include stone lintels, recessed entries, glass door and window transoms, and elaborate pressed-tin ceilings at each of its two first-floor entrances. Today it is the only extant nineteenth-century building on the Highway 50 corridor through La Junta.

Do you know this building?

1. Where is it?
 - a) Allenspark
 - b) Fairplay
 - c) Marble vicinity
 - d) Tiny Town vicinity
2. When was it built?
 - a) 1902
 - b) 1912
 - c) 1922
 - d) 1932
3. What style is it?
 - a) Craftsman
 - b) French Eclectic
 - c) Queen Anne
 - d) Rustic



Answers on page 32

CLASSIC TOYS

from the History Colorado Collection

BY MELISSA DE BIE,
NATALIE ELDER,
AND BRIDGET O'TOOLE

In honor of the Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s exhibit opening at the History Colorado Center on June 13, our Collections Management team took a look at History Colorado's own toy collections and chose a few to highlight here in the pages of Colorado Heritage. For those vintage toys in your own collection—and just in case you have these very same toys yourself—the authors have provided tips for protecting and preserving these valuable possessions.

Magic Lantern

Iron, glass, and brass
About 1910, made in Germany
H.6200.1729.B

An early type of image projector, magic lanterns projected the images from sheets of glass. Magic lanterns entertained both children and adults from the late 1800s through the early 1900s. Iterations of a lantern for display purposes were around for centuries before, but the technology became much more popular in the 1800s with advances in light sources and lenses, which gave “magical” qualities.



H.6200.1729.B.v1

At the History Colorado Center on July 11, Melissa de Bie shares more of her insights into caring for your childhood toys. See the special Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s program pullout section in the center of this issue.

This magic lantern, trade name Gloria Magic Lantern, was made by the Ernst Plank Company in Germany, noted as the “maker of the finest magic lanterns in the world,” according to the Sears 1908 catalog. The body is metal, with brass trim and a lens. Several pieces are missing, like the additional lens and smokestack. The lantern was meant to burn kerosene (coal oil) for the light source, which is also missing from our piece. Slides were then inserted behind the lens attachment.

Many slides depicted images of cartoons and kids. Ironically, magic lanterns came to be used by adults as well. The Sears catalog advertises “Pleasure and Profit,” suggesting that businesses use the lanterns for public exhibition. The kit, selling for \$4.98 to \$6.85 in 1908, came with twelve colored slides, one comic slide, one movable scenery slide, one chromotrope slide, fifty advertising posters, and fifty admission tickets.

(continued on page 17)

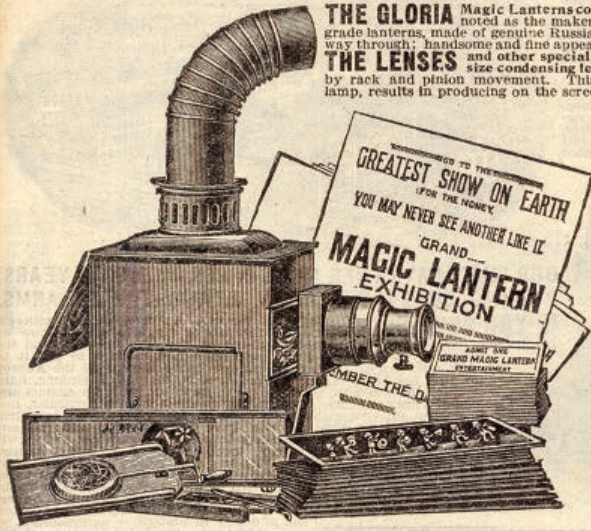
SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL. CATALOGUE No. 117.

697

THE GLORIA MAGIC LANTERN OUTFITS

GENUINE GLORIA MAGIC LANTERNS, Made by Ernst Plank, in Nuremberg, Germany.

\$4⁹⁸ TO \$6⁸⁵



THE GLORIA Magic Lanterns come from the famous factory of Ernst Plank, Nuremberg, Germany, noted as the maker of the finest magic lanterns in the world. They are strictly high-grade lanterns, made of genuine Russia sheet iron lacquered, with brass trimmings, finely finished all the way through; handsome and fine appearing, as well as thoroughly practical, strong and durable lanterns, and other special features. The Gloria Lanterns are provided with two large size condensing lenses, and a fine, specially ground projection lens which is focused by rack and pinion movement. This perfect optical construction, together with the powerful duplex lamp, results in producing on the screen, a sharp, clean cut picture of unusual brilliancy and clearness.

THE LENSES The lamp with which the Gloria Lantern is equipped is made with double or duplex burner, giving an exceptionally white and powerful light, and perfect ventilation is secured by the ample air spaces at the bottom of the lantern and the tall Russia Iron chimney. This lantern burns ordinary kerosene (coal oil) and is an exceptionally fine instrument for parlor exhibitions.

PACKED IN WOODEN CASE. The Gloria Lanterns, together with all the slides, the colored slide, the slip slide, the movable scenery slide, the chromotrope, and one extra glass chimney, comes packed in a well made hinged cover wooden case, and will certainly delight and please any boy or girl who is fortunate enough to get one.

No. 20K2831 Gloria Magic Lantern Outfit, size No. 1. Exactly as illustrated and described above, using slides 2 inches wide, producing pictures on the screen from 3 to 4 feet in diameter. Shipping weight, 9½ pounds. **\$4.98**

No. 20K2833 Gloria Magic Lantern Outfit, size No. 2. Exactly the same as outfit No. 20K2831, but larger size, using slides 2½ inches wide, and producing pictures 3 to 5 feet in diameter. Shipping weight, 11 pounds. **\$5.90**

No. 20K2835 Gloria Magic Lantern Outfit, size No. 3. Exactly the same as outfit No. 20K2831, but still larger, using slides 2¾ inches wide, and producing pictures from 5 to 6 feet in diameter. Shipping weight, 12¾ pounds. Price, for the complete outfit **\$6.85**

PLEASURE AND PROFIT. The Young People not only derive great pleasure from giving MAGIC LANTERN EXHIBITIONS, but the business training which they gain in all the various details connected with the management of an entertainment, putting up advertising posters, selling tickets, etc., gives them ideas of the rudiments of money making which starts them on the highway to business success. REMEMBER that each outfit is complete, containing a fine Magic Lantern, a splendid assortment of Colored Views, a large supply of Advertising Posters and plenty of Tickets. Interesting, ins. active and profitable. You will easily make the original cost of the outfit in your first exhibition; after that it's all profit.

EACH GLORIA MAGIC LANTERN OUTFIT CONTAINS OUR GLORIA MAGIC LANTERN,

TWELVE COLORED SLIDES with four pictures on each slide, making 48 different pictures.

ONE COMIC SLIP SLIDE producing most amusing effects.

ONE MOVABLE SCENERY SLIDE always an interesting feature to the youngsters.

ONE BRILLIANT CHROMOTROPE or artificial fire works slide.

FIFTY ADVERTISING POSTERS large size, sure to bring out a big audience.

FIFTY ADMISSION TICKETS regular full size tickets.

THE HOME MAGIC LANTERN OUTFITS.

THE BRILLIANT MAGIC LANTERN OUTFITS.

The 1908 Sears catalog touted the Ernst Plank Company in Germany, maker of the Gloria Magic Lantern (pictured on page 16), as "the maker of the finest magic lanterns in the world." 30002743

Care concerns:

- The many pieces that come with magic lanterns can easily be lost (as seen with our example). We suggest tagging pieces, keeping an overall image, and storing everything together in order to avoid losing items with multiple pieces and parts.
- The light source is kerosene. With flammable fuels, we suggest emptying and properly discarding liquids. If possible, clean or rinse out the lamp. This is also one instance where separate storage might be a good idea.
- The lamp and slides are glass, which should always be handled and stored with care.
- The lantern is made of sheet iron, which can rust (as seen with our lantern). Avoid storing in basements and attics, as those spaces have greater temperature and humidity fluctuations.

—Melissa de Bie

Taxidermy Duckling Belonging to the Tabor Daughters

About 1885
H.6201.19

40000232



This sweet little nursery decoration is a taxidermy duckling that belonged to Lily and Silver Dollar Tabor, the

daughters of Horace and Elizabeth "Baby Doe" Tabor. The Tabors were one of Colorado's richest silver-mining families, who quickly lost their wealth in the Panic of 1893. Lily, born in 1884, followed by Silver Dollar in 1890, came along at the height of the Tabors' wealth. It's easy to imagine that they were showered with gifts and toys as children. While we might expect to find a plush duckling in a modern nursery, Lily and Silver Dollar had the real thing. However, they likely didn't play with the baby duck, which is in pristine condition.

For any toys made with organic components, such as feathers or bits of fur, the main preservation concern is insect

damage. Moths, beetles, and other pests like to eat the proteins found in animal matter. To keep insects at bay, store your items in a box with a well-fitting lid. The box should be kept out of the basement or attic, or any place where an infestation would go unnoticed over time. In general, objects made of animal skin should

not be kept in extremely dry environments, as this will cause the skin to dry out and crack.

—Natalie Elder

Steiff Bear

*Plush stuffed with straw
About 1904, made in Germany
70.27.19*

Steiff is one of the world’s most renowned toy makers, and has been operating since its founding in Germany in 1880. Steiff is known particularly for its stuffed toys, and this stuffed bear is an early example. These toys can often be identified and dated by the “button-in-ear” that held a paper label; the unmarked button in this bear’s ear suggests the bear was made in 1904 or ’05.

There are many condition issues associated with early stuffed animals because of their different components. The bear is stuffed with straw, which could attract rodents looking for nesting material. The wool felt pads of the feet show some moth damage. If this bear were exposed to bright light, its color would fade and its stitching would be vulnerable to breakage (light can break down cotton stitching). Antique stuffed toys like this should ideally be kept in an acid-free box, away from light, pests, and extreme temperature or humidity fluctuations. If the bear is on display, low light levels are recommended—definitely away from sunny windows. Washing with water can be damaging and is not recommended; the dirt shows that the toy was well loved!

—Natalie Elder

Game, Who Can Kill Teddy Bear?

*Ink on fabric
1906, made in Fall River, Massachusetts
80.111.1*

This printed, stylized image of a bear with targets on his body reads, “Teddy Bear a New and Jolly Game for All.” The game was made by the American Printing Company of Fall River, Massachusetts, in 1906. The Teddy Bear had only recently come into existence when Theodore Roosevelt’s attempts at bear hunting were indelibly inked by cartoonist Clifford Berryman, who drew a picture of the president shying away from killing a bear tied to a tree. Published in the *Washington Post* on November 16, 1902, the cartoon prompted candy-store owner Morris Michtom of Brooklyn, New York, to call his wife’s stuffed bears “Teddy Bears.” It’s hard to say if the executives at American Printing felt



40000327

ill will toward the president and his policies or whether they were playing up the cartoon and the president’s actions while hunting, but the connection to President Roosevelt is undeniable.

According to handwritten notes in our files, this fabric game was found under a wallboard in the Como Mercantile in the town of Como, Colorado. It may have been used as insulation, which in a way saved it from some of the ravages of time. Fabric is fragile and susceptible to light and pest damage. This artifact shows clear water damage, especially along the right side, but the ink is in no way faded and hardly a spot has been eaten. The visible holes

along the top and bottom are uniform and were most likely caused by the piece being hung for use. Textiles should be stored flat in archival or acid-free boxes free from light and pests for extended longevity. Clean hands or gloves should be worn when handling to avoid soiling.

—Bridget O’Toole

**Arcade Manufacturing Company
Tri-Motor Airplane**

*Cast iron with rubber wheels
About 1930, made in USA
80.230.34*

Arcade Manufacturing Company made a variety of cast-iron goods from the late nineteenth century into the middle of the twentieth. From coffee grinders to corkscrews to cast-iron toys, these sturdy objects have been collectible



40000325

for decades. The tri-motor airplane here is of painted iron with painted rubber wheels. It dates from the mid-1920s to the mid-1930s, mirroring the dates that actual three-engine aircraft were manufactured and flown. One such model, the Ford Trimotor, was popularly referred to as the “Tin Goose” and was the Ford Airplane Company’s most successful aircraft. Any child would love to have a toy model of one of the latest flying machines.

Iron objects are subject to rust and should be kept at a low, stable humidity level; storing this item in the garage, attic, or basement is not advisable. Objects made of natural or synthetic rubber will degrade under even ideal conditions (the wheels on many of the Arcade airplanes are in much worse condition than the ones here) and should be kept away from heat and warm light sources; additionally they should be stored on a surface that will not be damaged if the rubber becomes tacky or sticky. Lower humidity levels are also better for rubber materials.

—Natalie Elder

Buck Rogers Rocket Pistol (model XZ-31)

Formed metal

About 1934, made in Michigan

2006.46.8

Well known from the 1970s TV series, Buck Rogers actually got his start in the '20s. The character was first seen in a magazine in 1928. By 1929, Buck Rogers was a comic strip that then expanded to radio shows, TV series, dif-

ferent film adaptations, and numerous merchandising efforts to ultimately become a household name. In most iterations, he has a work accident and goes into a state of suspension, waking up in the future. One of the foundations of science fiction, Buck Rogers popularized space exploration and discovery.

This is the XZ-31 Rocket Pistol made by the Daisy Manufacturing Company in Michigan. Daisy had an exclusive contract to fabricate Buck Rogers toys from the 1930s to the 1950s. Dating to the '30s, this toy is made of metal and has a functioning trigger mechanism. This “raygun” type of toy is a popgun model, intended to make noise.

Care concerns:

- The trigger mechanism is likely to be fragile after this many years. If it’s triggered, it’s likely to break, so it’s best not to operate the gun.
- The gun is metal and susceptible to rust from changes in temperature and humidity. Avoid storing in basements and attics as those spaces have greater temperature and humidity fluctuations.

—Melissa de Bie

“I Like Ike” Toy Elephant, Metal Plank, and Box

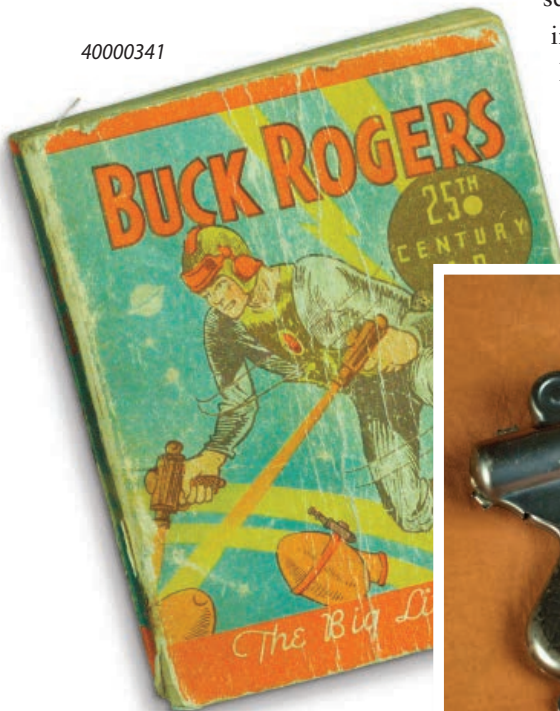
About 1952, made in USA

H.6451.176

Dwight D. Eisenhower ran for president in 1952 with one of the most successful campaign slogans of all time: “I Like Ike.” Even if you weren’t around in the 1950s, you’ve most likely heard this campaign slogan or seen it represented on a button, poster, or in history books. This elephant toy, a symbol of the Republican Party, has the slogan emblazoned on both sides as it carries an American flag down a tin road made to look like wood. The box, when new, was most likely a very bright red, white, and blue, but because of the acidity in the cardboard, the white is now a light tan color. This small toy was possibly given to Eisenhower’s supporters during his campaign and was never meant for mass production. The elephant toy and several hundred other artifacts were donated in 1961 by Mrs. Mamie Doud Eisenhower and Mrs. Frances Doud Moore in honor of their parents, who lived in Denver at 750 Lafayette Street.

Luckily this artifact is in almost new condition, having most likely never

40000341



40000336

been played with. The colors are still vibrant, since it was kept out of the light, and the elephant still happily marches down the road. Metal objects tend to have a very long life unless they get wet, but the plastic elephant may eventually become more brittle and the box darker due to their materials and age.

—Bridget O’Toole

Poppin’ Fresh

Molded vinyl with plastic stand
 1971, made in Minneapolis, Minnesota
 81.159.168

Poppie Fresh

Molded vinyl with plastic stand
 1972, made in Minneapolis, Minnesota
 81.159.169

Granmommer and Granpopper

Molded vinyl with paper box
 1974, made in Minneapolis, Minnesota
 81.159.170

General Mills introduced Poppin’ Fresh (aka the Pillsbury Doughboy) through a TV commercial in 1965. When the character became increasingly popular as a mascot, a doll was produced in 1971. A year later, Poppie Fresh was introduced as Poppin’s companion. The couple was joined the following year by Granpopper and Granmommer along with dolls Uncle Rollie and their pets Flapjack the dog

and Biscuit the cat. Unfortunately, we don’t have the whole family in our collection.

This family of four dolls came to History Colorado in 1981 as part of a larger collection of more than 275 dolls, doll accessories, and toys. The year 2015 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the Pillsbury Doughboy, who has stood the test of time and continues to be a relevant cultural icon.

We are lucky to provide this family of vinyl dolls an ideal home away from poking fingers. Many materials are not meant to last forever, and plastic is one of them. Oils and dirt from our hands can permanently soil these artifacts. Using gloves can help us keep them clean, but they’ll become brittle and discolored with age and light exposure. They may also lose their shape and crack if not stored properly. It’s best to store dolls on a support to avoid flattening the backs of their heads or bodies over time.

—Bridget O’Toole



4000329



4000330



40000347

Sesame Street Little People

Molded plastic

1975, made in USA

98.25.6.A-H

These five Sesame Street figures were made in 1975 by Fisher-Price. The figures depict Gordon (the science teacher), Mr. Hooper (the grocery store owner), Bert (Ernie's best friend, who collects paperclips and likes pigeons), Ernie (Bert's best friend, known for joking around), Big Bird (with a young outlook on life, and the first Muppet to appear on Sesame Street), Oscar the Grouch (who gives kids permission to "feel grouchy"), Cookie Monster (who's passionate about things, especially cookies), and Susan (a nurse and Gordon's wife). They came as part of a set called "Play Family" that included small toy props and a building kit.

Sesame Street began as a toddler education experiment via the Children's Television Workshop that spawned a show debuting on November 10, 1969. The show began with its combined cast of Muppets and human actors who interacted to teach preschoolers skills that would help them in school: letters, numbers, social skills, diversity, and language skills. The show's innovations included real curriculum lessons and episodes based on solid research for measurable learning outcomes.

Care concerns:

- The Little People are plastic, so there are no great care concerns other than general wear and tear.

- Depending on the plastic, the material can degrade over time and can change consistency and appearance.
- The plastic is painted, so the paint can be easily scratched or worn off and should be protected.

—Melissa de Bie

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT & REGISTRATION

is a department of three that provides for the physical and intellectual control of the History Colorado Collection—its care and display, identification, documentation, tracking, and accessibility. For more about the collection, visit us online at h-CO.org/collections.

BRIDGET O'TOOLE, as registrar, is responsible for the incoming and outgoing registration and documentation of collections. She has over ten years of registration experience from multiple Colorado museums. As collections manager, **NATALIE ELDER** ensures that the collections are physically safe and accessible. Since graduating with her master's in museum studies, she's spent more than seven years caring for collections. **MELISSA DE BIE**, director of Collections Management & Registration, is responsible for the overall stewardship of the millions of items in the collection. She has worked in museums for over fifteen years, starting with work-study at Beloit College and continuing through and after graduate school at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

In general, all types of collectible toys—no matter the materials—should be stored in a constant climate to avoid extremes of temperature and humidity. It may not be ideal to store your precious items in the boxes they came in; instead, opt to use archival materials when you can. The majority of packing materials are made from acidic components and can degrade your toys over time. Keep all artifacts away from light, water, and pests, and handle only when necessary.

A Splendid Place

Denver's Arlington Park

BY DAVID FORSYTH

Denver in the 1890s was a city desperate for park space. It had grown so fast since the 1860s that parks and beautification had often been neglected, forcing residents to adopt even cemeteries as parks. To help fill that need, John and Mary Elich opened their garden at Thirty-eighth Avenue and Tennyson Street to the public in 1890. The next year, the Manhattan Beach amusement resort opened on the shores of Sloan's Lake. Often forgotten in the history of Denver's early pleasure parks is Arlington Park, which entertained thousands of Denver's residents in its short existence.

In 1864, lawyer Moses Hallett bought 120 acres of land along Cherry Creek, three miles southeast of Denver. The area, which stretched east from what is now Downing Street to Pennsylvania Street, and north from Speer Boulevard to Seventh Avenue, included Arlington Grove, a stand of cottonwood trees. Twenty-five years later, Hallett sold his land to the Arlington Park Land and Improvement Company, headed by Denver's police commissioner and future mayor Robert Speer, Denver postmaster John Corcoran, and businessman Henry W. Michael. In January 1890, the company offered ninety acres of the land for residential construction, stipulating that any house built in the Arlington Park



A program from Arlington Park's 1892 production *The Last Days of Pompeii*. Author's collection

addition had to cost at least \$2,000 and bars and liquor sales were banned for five years. The remaining thirty acres of land, which included Arlington Grove, stayed undeveloped. In an interview with the *Rocky Mountain News* a year and a half later, Speer revealed that the withheld land would be converted into a resort called "Arlington Park." He told the newspaper it would "take a good deal of money" to build the resort, as the "plans for its adornment are beautiful" and included creating a lake fed by Cherry Creek.

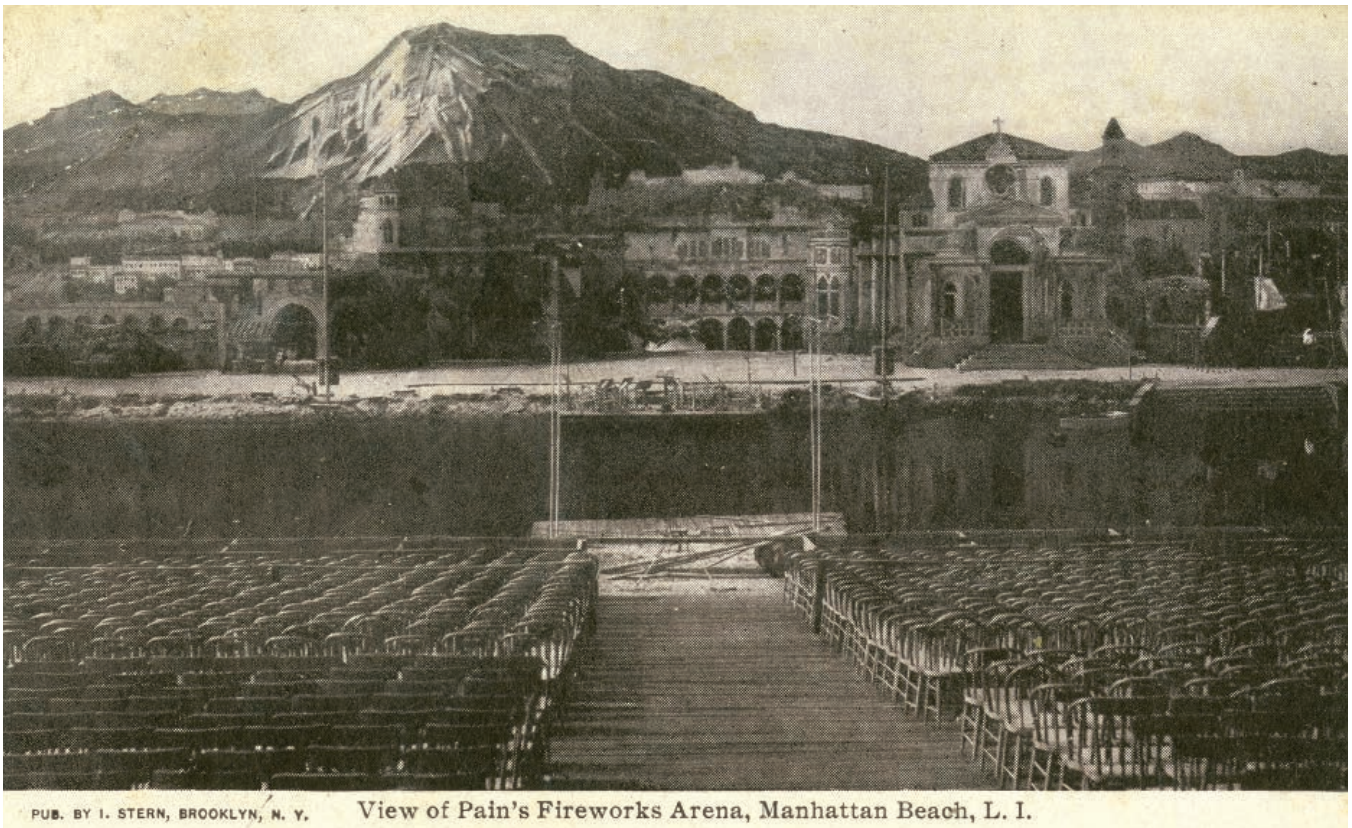
On February 28, 1892, the *Colorado Sun* reported construction was finally underway at Arlington Park. A forty-ton dredge boat deepened and widened Cherry Creek

along the park's northern edge. The dirt removed from the creek was then used to level the very uneven grounds of the new park. The new lake—half a mile long with an island in the middle—was at the northern edge of the park. Other amenities included a baseball field, tennis court, and summer theater with an opera company. The *Sun* declared Arlington Park would be “one of the finest amusement resorts in the city when it is finished,” with Speer and his associates spending \$25,000 in improvements.

The owners hoped Arlington Park would open June 1, 1892. But the *Sun* reported on June 16 that the opening date had been pushed back to July 1 due to delays in readying the inaugural production, *The Last Days of Pompeii*. The pyrotechnic spectacle, produced by fireworks manufacturer James Pain, employed 300 actors who, the *News* reported, Manager Craven was “fast drilling into expertness” in nightly rehearsals at Denver’s Coliseum Hall, where the cast learned “the manners of eighteen hundred years ago.” At the park, the “mimic city” of Pompeii included a fifty-two-foot-high canvas depicting Mt. Vesuvius on the north side of the lake, with various buildings, including a temple and palace, on a stage in front of it. A series of openings in the stage allowed smoke and flames to shoot up through the set, each set of

explosions controlled electronically. A red light behind the canvas created the illusion of lava flowing down the sides of Vesuvius. To control the flow of lava, one man moved the light around behind the canvas. The *Denver Republican* found the effect impressive, but Mr. Wiley, Arlington’s general manager, said it was “the easiest thing in the world . . . when you know how.”

Denver’s streetcar lines—perhaps influenced by Speer—rushed to increase their capacity ahead of Arlington Park’s grand opening. The Thirteenth Street electric line, which replaced the Blue Horse Car line, included a branch to the park. The Eighth Avenue line was double-tracked and a new loop leading to the park’s main entrance on Corona Street was quickly added. The return loop was on what is now Downing Street. The Denver Tramway Company promised to handle 10,000 riders per hour, and the park’s owners built a new footbridge across Cherry Creek at Washington Avenue for those who would walk to the park. Bracing for a large crowd on opening day, management planned to have seven ticket sellers at the main gate with more in reserve. The *News* reported, “every facility will be provided for handling the crowds rapidly, systematically, and with comfort.”

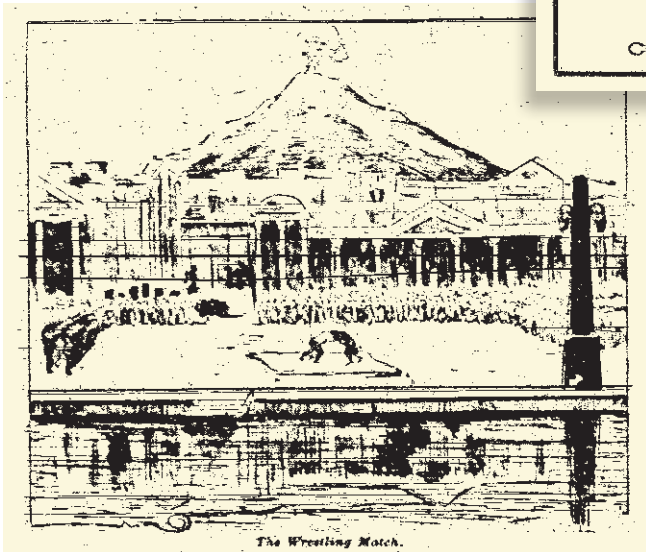


PUB. BY I. STERN, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

View of Pain's Fireworks Arena, Manhattan Beach, L. I.

A postcard shows the set for the same *Last Days of Pompeii* pyrotechnic production, this time at Manhattan Beach on Long Island. Author's collection

Arlington Park finally opened to the public on July 4, 1892, with more than 13,000 in attendance. The streetcar companies found the crowds so overwhelming that nearly every car was ordered to ignore the rest of their routes and to serve Arlington only. The grandstand in front of the lake—capable of seating 11,000—was filled to capacity for the first performance of *The Last Days of Pompeii*. The *Denver Republican* found the private boxes, in the center of the stands, filled with “the wealth and elite of the city.” The performance began with a ballet and drill of the guards, at which the *Republican* commented there were some “plainly apparent” defects due to the amateur cast. A demonstration of Olympic sports and a bicycle and unicycle act by Professor Park followed. Next, Billy Woods and Reddy Gallagher fought in a boxing match, and Gallagher also held a wrestling match with one of his students. Other performances included Leo and DuBois in the “Roman Brother set,” Celeste’s slack-wire act, and the ballet’s flower dance.



The Wrestling Match.

A drawing from the July 5, 1892, *Denver Republican* showed the wrestling match on the *Last Days of Pompeii* set, with the lake in the foreground.

The grand finale came when “Glaucus the Christian” and “Arbacca the Egyptian” engaged in a dispute before the altar, causing Vesuvius to erupt. The destruction of Pompeii began with fire blasting from the crater, followed by streams of lava pouring down the sides of the mountain, which in turn

THE ONLY FIREWORKS WORTHY THE NAME IN DENVER ON THE **FOURTH OF JULY**

WILL BE PRESENTED AS A FEATURE AND A MOST IMPORTANT ONE OF THE PRODUCTIONS OF THAT MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE ABOUT WHICH EVERYBODY IN DENVER HAS BEEN TALKING FOR THREE WEEKS—TAIN'S COLOSSAL

LAST DAYS OF **POMPEII** LAST DAYS OF

YOU HAVE READ COLUMNS AND COLUMNS ABOUT THE GIANTIC EXHIBITION, WITH ITS

350 Performers! Lake of Real Water! Ballet!
Amphitheater Seating 10,400 People! Stage 300x100 Feet!
12,000 Yards of Scenery! Big Military Band! Athletic Sports!
Feats of Strength and Skill! \$1,500 Fire Works Display!

HOW TO GET THERE Take Eighth Avenue Electric, which starts from Sixteenth and Arapahoe Streets, or take Broadway-cable to Eighth Avenue, and transfer there.

CARRIAGES Will be admitted at the Clarkson street entrance, but the performance can be viewed only from grand stand or pavilion.

AMPLE AND EXTRA CAR SERVICE GUARANTEED AT ALL TIMES.

The Tramway Company promise to carry 10,000 people an hour when necessary. The freedom of the whole beautiful new resort, known as

ARLINGTON PARK

Is given all visitors to the Pompeii exhibitions, which will be given TWICE EACH WEEK UNTIL AUGUST 13.

50c ADMISSION - 50c

Grand Stand (including Admission).....\$1.00 Children under 12.....Half Price
 Private Boxes seating 4, 6 or 8 Persons, \$1.50 per Seat.

Secure private boxes and grand stand seats with Mr. Green & Co's office, 638 1/2th St., near Curtis Grand stand seats also for sale at Arlington Park's Music Boxes, 15th and California Streets.

Gates open at 7 p.m. Band Concert in the Grove, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

COME EARLY AND AVOID THE CROWD!

An ad for Arlington Park from the July 4, 1892, *Denver Republican*.

triggered the fireworks. By the end of the show the city on the lake was in ruins. The *Republican* reported the evening a great success, and more than a mile of streetcars waited to take visitors home. *The Last Days of Pompeii* played twice a week for the rest of the summer, and more than 45,000 people had seen it by the beginning of August, according to Leadville’s *Herald Democrat*. Less elaborate attractions, from concerts to plays, were available other nights of the week and on Sundays.

In an effort to top its first season, Arlington Park began 1893 with a new show called *The Carnival of Madrid*, which the *Rocky Mountain News* assured its readers would “eclipse any spectacular and pyrotechnic display ever seen” in Denver. The romantic story ended when a castle exploded and included fireworks launched from an illuminated balloon. Other than a Seventh Day Adventist camp meeting in September, however, the remainder of the 1893 season was quiet due to the economic downturn that followed the silver crash that summer.

Arlington Park roared back to life in 1894 with the new James Pain pyrotechnic production *Paris, From Empire to Commune*, which included a cast of 350 and used \$1,000 in fireworks at each of its four performances. The first act depicted one of Napoleon III's fete days and ended with what the *Boulder Daily Camera* called "almost incredibly beautiful water fireworks." The second act showed a German attack on Paris in 1870 and ended with the partial destruction of the city. The show took place on a new 400-foot by 100-foot stage in front of an eighty-foot-wide river. The *Daily Camera* suggested the final performance on July 4 would be the "most elaborate fireworks exhibition ever known outside of New York." The following year's pyrotechnic show, *Americus*, used nearly 400 actors. The night before its debut, an illuminated parade—called "gorgeous" by the *Aspen Weekly Times*—traveled the city streets on Denver Tramway cars.

Political fireworks marked the 1896 season. That summer Colorado's Welsh community built an 8,000-seat auditorium at Arlington Park for a singing and dancing festival. Senator Henry Teller spoke at the dedication ceremony on July 4, telling the Welsh that only the coinage of gold *and* silver would solve the country's economic woes. Teller's speech was followed by a heavily praised performance by Denver violinist Genevra Waters, called "a source of pride to all true Coloradoans" by the *Aspen Daily Times*. Two weeks later, supporters of Democratic presidential nominee William Jennings Bryan held a rally at the park, which its Democrat owners allowed them to use for free. Among the state's political leaders speaking at the event were Senator Teller, Congressman John Shafroth, Senator Charles S. Thomas (also Colorado's future governor), and Judges Thompson of the Court of Appeals and Goddard of the State Supreme Court. It was the most illustrious group ever to appear at Arlington Park. The 1896 season closed with games and a masked ball held as part of the Mountain and Plains Festival, with nearly 20,000 people watching the games and 10,000 attending the ball.

The only major event of Arlington Park's 1897 season was a production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, produced by and starring some of Denver's wealthiest residents. All proceeds from the play went to developing a kitchen garden plan in which "poor children are trained to be model servants," according to the *Aspen Daily Times*. By then, pleasure parks like Arlington were quickly falling out of favor as the amusement park craze of the late 1890s swept the country. The modern amusement park traces its origins to

the Midway at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago, designed to keep popular amusements like the Ferris wheel away from the dignified Court of Honor. Paul Boyton's Sea Lion Park—the first true amusement park—opened on Coney Island in 1895. Amusement parks differed from other places of public entertainment because of the fences that enclosed them and the admission fees that customers paid to get through the gates.

In December 1897, Speer and his associates announced they had leased Arlington Park to Henry Harris and John Baumann, who planned to turn it into an amusement park. Most thrilling to the *Rocky Mountain News* was a large saltwater bathing tank the new managers planned to build—but it and the Mineral Palace, which would have showcased Colorado's mineral wealth, never materialized. Soon under construction were standard amusement park attractions like a merry-go-round, a miniature railroad, a shooting gallery, a maze, a haunted swing, a "palace of illusions," goat carts and saddle horses, and a ride called Trip the Trolley, for which no description survives. A new dance pavilion doubled as a picnic area and was staffed by musicians who also roamed the park.

Within a week of leasing the property, the new operators—not missing a chance to cash in on the bicycle craze of the late 1890s—began building a one-third mile, D-shaped board track around the lake for bicycle races. In addition to renovating the old football and baseball fields, the new managers added tennis courts and bowling alleys and planted thousands of flowers. A new lunch counter and a branch of Chatten's Denver restaurant provided food for hungry visitors. Among other concessions, the park also had a barbershop and a photography studio. The *News* said the remodeled Arlington Park would have "all the latest Eastern hits in the amusement line."

Mentioned almost as an afterthought by the *News* was the new Shoot the Chutes ride under construction. The first Shoot the Chutes ride (*Saut du Niagara*) was built in 1817 at Ruggieri Gardens in France. A boat full of passengers was towed to the top of a steep ramp, turned around, and then slid down a chute into a pool of water, or in the case of Arlington Park, the lake. The ride gave Arlington Park its new name: Chutes Park. Construction of the chutes—under the supervision of Superintendent Robert G. Reilly of Chute Park in San Francisco—drew the most attention as work progressed at the park. Reilly's Denver version of the ride was twenty-eight feet longer than any built before, and given

Denver's harsh winters he built the ride with the possibility of turning it into a toboggan slide—another plan that never came to pass. The chutes opened at the end of May.

Chutes Park never had a grand opening in 1898. Instead it opened in stages as attractions reached completion. The first big event was a balloon ascension by Frank Frazier, an African American performer later known as the Human Blackbird. Balloon ascensions were standard amusement park fare in the late 1890s and early 1900s, and Chutes rivals Elitch Gardens and Manhattan Beach regularly featured ascensions by famed Denver daredevil Ivy Baldwin. As thousands of people watched, Frazier's first attempted ascension at Chutes on June 12, 1898, ended in failure when his foot got caught in the ropes of his parachute, which he used to jump from the balloon. *The Denver Post* reported Frazier exhibited "wonderful nerve and self-control" during the mishap and expected his second attempt, on June 19, to draw an even bigger crowd. Frazier continued to perform in Colorado as late as 1914, becoming a highly respected balloon and parachute performer.

In an era when most amusement parks were segregated, appearances by black performers like Frazier were not uncommon—but black customers were usually not welcome. Chutes Park, however, welcomed them, even if only on special nights. Throughout September 1898, several cakewalks for the "colored championship of the state" took place at the park. A dance created by slaves in the American South, the cakewalk had become a popular form of entertainment in minstrel shows and musicals by the 1890s. According to the *Denver Times*, the first cakewalk of its kind in Denver took place on September 4 and was the "principle topic of conversation in colored society." More than 3,000 people were at Chutes that day to witness it. Dancers George Montgomery and Mary Benjamin won first prize of \$20 and a cake. The event proved so popular that management invited Montgomery and Benjamin to perform several exhibition cakewalks and gave them a chance to defend their title at a second cakewalk on September 12. Rain delayed the event until September 25, by which time the prize money had grown to \$200. The *Times* reported intense interest in all the cakewalks that month.

Denver's first "scenic railway"—a variation on early roller coasters—opened at Chutes Park on July 2, 1898. LaMarcus A. Thompson created the first scenic railway in 1887 in Atlantic City. According to amusement park historian William F. Mangels, it was essentially a roller coaster with dark tunnels "in which he arranged pretty scenery, startling grottos, and historical tableaux." Lights triggered by the cars as they entered the tunnels provided illumination. Chutes' Klondike-themed scenic railway, according to the *Times*, was "the sensation of the season," with only one trip on it making someone an "enthusiast." After that, people immediately bought as many tickets as they could afford in order to ride the scenic railway again

and again. Ten days later, the *Times* reported the only downside was that "a patron cannot secure a contract for cars for an afternoon or evening." Within two weeks of its opening, more than 10,000 people had taken a ride on Chutes Park's scenic railway.

In a hilarious article headlined "Why M'Farland Is Glad He Is Alive," the *Times* described railroad ticket agent William McFarland's reaction to his first ride on the scenic railway. According to the newspaper, McFarland and his friends Billy Peck and Ikey Well were "more or less sober" when they bought their tickets and boarded the car. Going up the first ramp was even pleasant, but when they started down the first hill McFarland was not sure whether he



A cartoon from the August 7, 1898, *Denver Times* depicted William McFarland's ride on the scenic railway at Chutes Park.

was "going to Heaven or the other place." His friends later told him the car had passed through a tunnel, but he had completely missed it. After declaring that he would never take any more "mid-air jaunts," not even for "the prettiest \$500 bill in the world," McFarland said that Elmer Hoffman of the Missouri Pacific Railroad was right to call Chutes' Scenic Railway "the road of the Lost Soul." The *Times* concluded the story of McFarland's adventure saying that he had sufficiently recovered and was "now able to be about."

Harris and Baumann carried over the dazzling pyrotechnic shows that had marked many of Arlington Park's seasons. Captain Bob Cook produced several shows based on the ongoing Spanish-American War in summer 1898. The *Times* described the first show, *The Battle of Manila*, as a "miniature but complete" reenactment of Admiral Dewey's

battle, which relied heavily on fireworks to depict the Spanish navy being “blown to atoms.” During the show the crowd chanted the battle cry “Remember the Maine!” Cook’s second show, *The Battle of Santiago*, proved so popular that it was held over an extra week. The elaborate *Bombardment of Puerto Rico*, which ended Cook’s appearance at Chutes Park, used an “unusual amount of powder, high explosives and fireworks,” leaving no one disappointed, reported the *Times*. Denver’s wealthy also starred in two performances of Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer’s Night Dream*, to benefit the Denver Orphan’s Home. The more beautiful of the two performances, reported the *Times*, was at night when “hundreds of incandescent lights, like twinkling stars, lit the stage.”

Ensuring no dull moment, numerous smaller acts performed as well. June’s shows included master juggler Kalacratius and the acrobatic Blush Brothers. July brought Madame Gertrude Planka and her lions for a two-week stay. In the most daring part of her show, the lions took food directly from Planka’s mouth. August featured Jolly, a harmonica-playing elephant, as well as performances by high-wire-walking sisters Aimee and Marie Austin. For their finale Aimee walked down a vertical fifty-foot pole. The final act of the 1898 season featured the DeKreko Brothers’ *Congress of the Orient*, with gymnasts, dancers, sword fighters, fire worshipping, a “Mohammedan” prayer, and a Turkish wedding procession. The *Times* called the production a fitting end to the first season at Chutes Park.

Nearly forgotten in the coverage of that first season was the ride that gave the park its name. In mid-June, *The Denver Post* reported hundreds of families had taken advantage of the warm weather to go down the chutes and “take a cooling dip into the lake.” Also nearly forgotten was the bicycle track around the lake, where the local press mentioned only three races that summer. The first, on July 16, included professional and amateur racers and concluded with a five-mile pursuit race for a \$300 prize. Two days later, forty bicyclists competed in six events, including a fifteen-mile pursuit race. Races continued as late as October, but received little coverage in the newspapers.



Chutes Park Today at 2:15
Tonight at 8:15

Park Open Today from 10 a. m. till 11 p. m.

THE MOST COMPLETE AMUSEMENT PLANT IN THE WEST.
AN OLLAPODRIDA OF EXUBERANT FUN FURNISHED IN

Fashion-
able... **Vaudeville**

... AS INTERPRETED BY ...

JOHNSON & HARRIS | **WILLIAMS & ALBION**
Two Comedy Koons from Kola. | Comedy Duo Par Excellence.

The Great Jenny Cooler Song and Dance
Composed and Arranged by Williams & Green and Presented by
THE MISSES GREEN, STAFFORD AND KNOX AND THE MESSRS. JOHNSON,
HARRIS AND WILLIAMS.

LEANDO BROTHERS, | **THOS. F. MORRISSEY,**
Acrobats. | The Irish Alderman.

The Elks! The Elks! THE DIVING ELKS
LAST WEEK OF THIS WONDERFUL EXHIBITION.

...SADIE! SADIE! SHE IS A FEARLESS YOUNG LADY...

Boynton's Breathless Bicycle Bound!
DOWN THE CHUTES.

On the Midway | **CANNON.** | **Capt. Beresford's**
The Monster Man from Switzerland; exact weight 617 POUNDS. | DIVING CORPS, introducing Miss Pauline Nana, one of the few lady submarine divers in the world.

Miniature Railway Now in Operation — See the Mystic Maze and Derive Much Merry Mirth — Trip the Trolley — Shoot the Chutes and Ride to Health Over the Scenic Railway.

10C—ADMISSION ONLY—10C

An ad for Chutes Park in the Denver Times of June 4, 1899, promotes W. H. Barnes and his diving elk, cyclist Sarah Boynton, and Henri Maurice Cannon, the Fat Man.

On June 18, 1899, the Denver Times depicted Belle Williams, one of the many vaudeville acts featured at Chutes Park that season.

Chutes Park experienced good attendance its first summer, but on November 3, 1898, the *Aspen Daily Times* reported Chutes was “groaning beneath” a \$24,900 mortgage. Hoping to improve the situation, management raced into the 1899 season, opening the park for weekends starting April 23, with vaudeville acts that included musical acrobats Stanley and Scanlon, child performers Lat Petit Rena (a Denver native) and Babe Woods (who cakewalked), and singer Ben Hogan. The following weekend management added male and female black minstrels and Mann’s trick dogs, in addition to sending 90,000 gallons of water an hour down the chutes

AMUSEMENTS.

Chutes Park.. Every Afternoon ...Evening.

Park Open To-Day From 10 a. m. Till 11 p. m.

An Unprecedented Amusement Bill!

FEATURES TO PLEASE THE MOST PICKLE FANCIES.

<p>SEE THESE BIG NOVELTIES— W. H. BARNES AND HIS WONDERFUL</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">DIVING ELKS</h3> <p>These graceful animals ascend an almost perpendicular Scaffold, and, at the Word of Command—</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Plunge Headlong INTO A TANK 60 FEET BELOW.</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">SADIE BOYNTON'S Thrilling Ride Down the Chutes on her Flying Wheel.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OUR</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Vaudeville Features</h3> <p>Belle—WILLIAMS & ALBION—Jock. Miss Williams will introduce her celebrated song, "He is My Soldier Man," and Mr. Albion will present his wonderful acrobatic specialty.</p> <p>The Leando Brothers, In Amusing Comedy Acrobatic Antics.</p> <p>La Belle—WILLIAMS & GREEN—Dick. Celebrated Coon Sketch Team.</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">La Velleta,</h3> <p>The Dancing Fairy, Presenting the most perfect exhibition of rhythmic motion yet attained by any TOE DANCER.</p> <p>Thos. F. MORRISSEY An Amusing Irish Comedian, Vocalist and Author.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOHNSON & HARRIS Two Troublesome Coons from Dixie Land.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Our Midway Wonders</h3> <p>Don't fail to visit this Classy Thoroughfare and see</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">CABARET DE LA MORT</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">TRIP THE TROLLEY</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">CANNON, THE BIG GUN</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">(Ho's Alive and Weighs 617 Pounds.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SHOOTING GALLERY. SUBMARINE DIVERS. (Wonderful Exhibition.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MYSTIC MAZE, MINATURE RAILWAY, MERRY-GO- ROUND, BILLIARD PARLOR.</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Shoot the Chutes</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">and Ride to Health over the..... SCENIC RAILWAY.</p>
---	---	--

ADMISSION ONLY 10 CENTS

Mountain News reported that twice a day Denver native Sadie Boynton rode her bicycle down the chutes into the lake, making the “fearless ride and thrilling dive over the handle bars of her bicycle in the lake.” The water pantomime show produced by Captain Ben Woodger followed an Englishman’s many mishaps on vacation. The *News* also described a new “mysterious” Paris sensation, the Cabaret de la Muerte.

In August 1899, Gertrude Planka and her lions returned with a new stunt, as Mary George and Felix Hettwer of Denver were married in the lions’ den at the conclusion of the August 13 performance. Brutus, the only male lion in Planka’s

to make the ride “seem more realistic,” according to the *Denver Times*. Two weeks later, Zula, Callie, and Gene Hawes—children who performed a military act—joined the lineup at the park. Balloon ascensions by Professor Wayne Abbott also became standard fare at the park that year. A never-ending lineup of vaudeville acts performed throughout the summer after the park officially opened for the season on May 27.

Harris and Baumann also crammed Chutes Park with new attractions for the 1899 season. Captain Bresford and his teams of divers from England set up a glass tank in one of the park’s buildings and spent the summer demonstrating their skills for enthusiastic customers. New divers regularly joined the team, including one who was advertised as a clairvoyant. Another building on park grounds housed Henri Maurice Cannon, a 617-pound “fat man” from Switzerland who spent several months in 1898 and 1899 touring amusement parks and public expositions across the United States. Park visitors were welcome to drop in on “the Monster man from Switzerland,” who advertisements proclaimed was gaining two pounds a day, but was also delightful to talk to in any of the seven languages that he knew. Two new shows also debuted on the lake that summer. The *Rocky*

show, was barred from the ceremony because he had nearly attacked a groom in a similar stunt the previous winter, but the three female lions, reported the *Denver Times*, “acted in a very ladylike manner.” At the end of the ceremony the participants left the lions’ den with “more precipitateness than dignity,” and the newlyweds enjoyed free trips on the chutes and scenic railway.

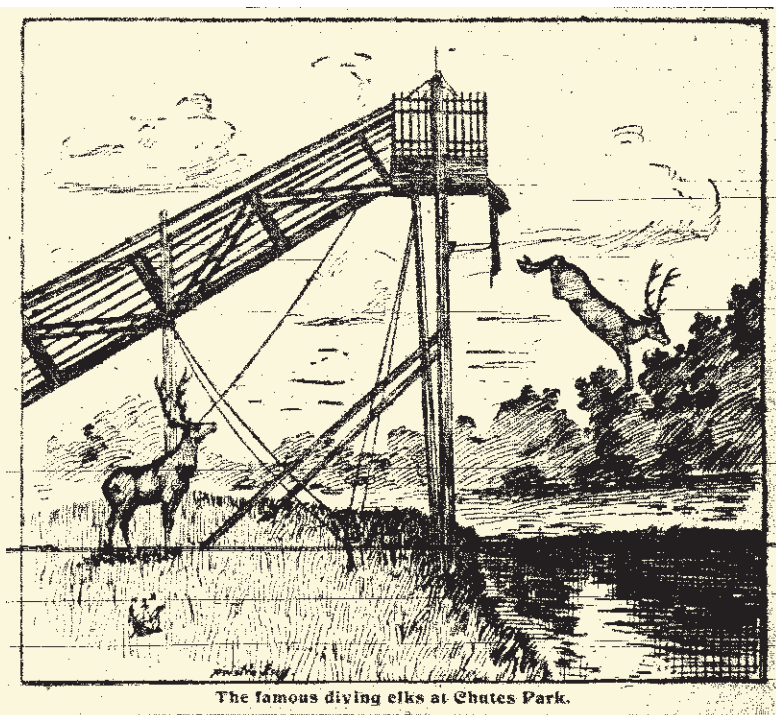
The Chutes Opera Company debuted in July with the *H.M.S. Pinafore*, performed on a 100-foot-long ship built on the lake. In August the company performed *The Chimes of Normandy*, *The Mikado*, and *Mascotti*, which included a nightly fireworks display. The September production of *The Pirates of Penzance* shared the lake with an electric fountain displayed at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition in Omaha the previous year. At the center of the fountain, the *Times* reported, was “Electra, the serpentine dancer, in her fire dance.”

The highlight of the 1899 season was Professor W. H. Barnes and his diving elk. The *Times* informed its readers that the two elk roaming the grounds of the park made “a picturesque sight to the casual visitor.” Barnes had trained the animals to do a number of tricks, including pulling a carriage, but their most impressive stunt was diving.



On command from Barnes, the elk walked up a ramp to the top of a fifty-foot tower—built by Barnes and his crew—and dove into a tank of water below. The *Times* reported “an enthusiastic throng” viewed the performances throughout the two weeks that Barnes was at the park. Ads promoting his last day at the park appeared in newspapers nearly every day in the week leading up to his final show.

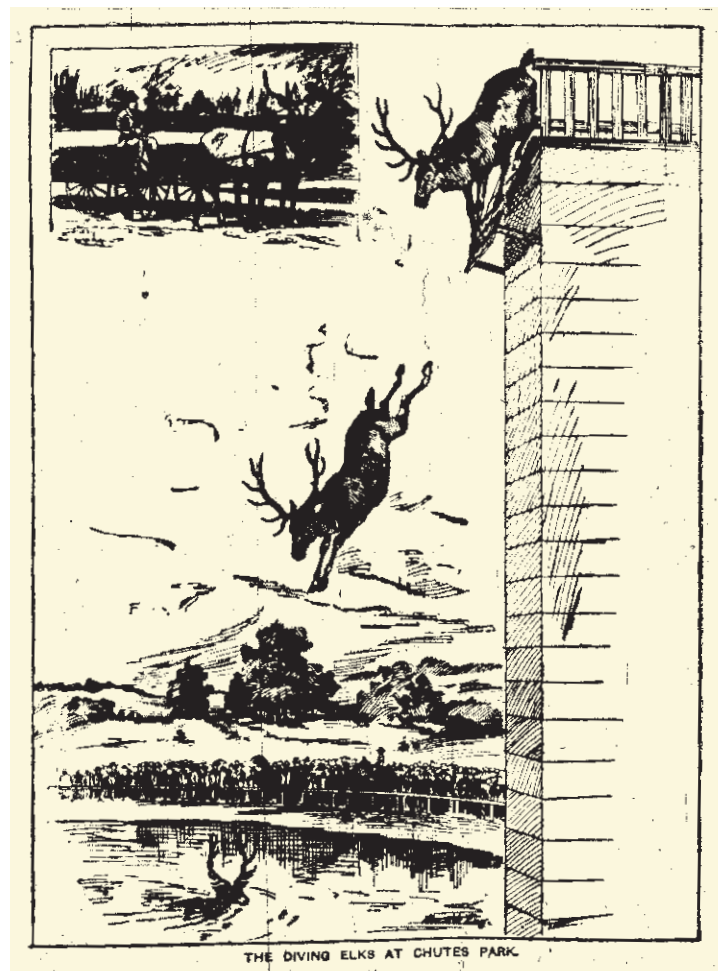
Poor weather in the first weeks of the 1899 season hurt attendance at Chutes Park, prompting management to make deals with the Colorado and Southern Railway to offer special excursion rates from Silver Plume, Georgetown, Empire, Idaho Springs, and Black Hawk and Central City, which helped bring some customers to Chutes. The park also hosted several very popular amateur nights, allowing anyone who dreamed of becoming a star the chance to display their talents. The park was also the site of a number of benefit nights for groups ranging from the Mt. Carmel Italian Church to the then-striking Smeltermen’s Union Number 93, increasing attendance and earning the park goodwill.



Two versions of the diving elk show at Chutes Park: above is from the May 28, 1899, Denver Republican, the right from the Rocky Mountain News of the same day.

Top: Madame Getrude Planka and her lion, Brutus, appeared in the Denver Times on July 16, 1898.

Facing: The Rocky Mountain News, May 28, 1899



Chutes Park closed for the season on October 1, 1899, with more vaudeville acts and a final balloon ascension by Wayne Abbott. Despite the dizzying array of offerings, the 1899 season was financially disappointing to Harris and Baumann, who did not renew their lease. On June 16, 1900, Speer and his associates leased the park to J. M. Babbitt of Chicago. The *Denver Times* wished him well, as Chutes was “such a splendid place for picnics, parties, and for any one [*sic*] who enjoys an afternoon or evening where they can be entertained in so many different ways.” However, on July 6 the park failed to open for the evening and a notice on the gate stated it was in the hands of a receiver. According to the *Times*, Babbitt had run into “considerable trouble” since opening the park less than two weeks earlier, including poor attendance. The owners stepped in, scheduling six performances of Henry Pain’s *The Battle of San Juan* in August, but Chutes Park’s future looked bleak.

Through careful planning, the Arlington Park neighborhood had become a respectable place that attracted Denver’s leading citizens. They had tolerated the original Arlington Park, but were not as kind to the more boisterous Chutes Park. On the night of January 21, 1901, tramps living in the engine room of the scenic railway accidentally started a fire. Within an hour, the fire had destroyed the engine room, the chutes—the heavily greased slide burned rapidly—and several other structures. The park’s neighbors “rejoiced,” reported the *Times*, as they watched the fire, glad the nuisance park and the “objectionable characters” it drew were seemingly gone. The *Times*, which six months earlier had called the park a splendid place, headlined its article on the fire “Destruction of Chutes Restores It to Its Innocence as Arlington.” In his history of Denver published that year, Jerome Smiley derisively referred to Chutes Park as designed for “those who enjoy spectacular things, and have a fondness for ‘roller coasters;’ a playground for grown-up boys and girls.”

The following June, the New York Amusement Company leased the park, with plans to reopen with concerts, Biograph motion pictures, the Chutes Park maze, and other amusements. Although the skeleton of the scenic railway still stood, the new managers made no effort to reopen it or to rebuild the chutes. On June 19, 1901, the new company announced the park would be known as Riverside Park—but one day later they reverted to the Arlington Park name. The park opened with a performance of *The Passion Play* accompanied by the Hungarian Gypsy Girls Band, regulars

at the park that summer. The Biograph pictures proved especially popular and included yacht races and a filmed run of the Union Pacific Overland Limited.

Also popular was a series of concerts by the famous Bellstedt Band, founded in Denver by coronet player Herman Bellstedt. The new Arlington Park also hosted one of the biggest Fourth of July celebrations in Denver in 1901. Heavily promoted by the *Denver Times*, the day included aquatic sports on the lake, races, dancing, new motion pictures, a greased pole climb, a concert by the Gypsy Girls, and a nighttime fireworks display by Henry Pain. Arlington’s new management also promoted civic projects in Denver, including holding fundraisers to support construction of a municipal auditorium, which would become a reality in 1908 when Speer was mayor of Denver.

On June 4, 1902, another fire broke out at Arlington Park, this time started by tramps who had burrowed under the grandstand to escape bad weather. A light breeze quickly spread the fire to the remains of the scenic railway and other wooden buildings, damaging them and destroying the grandstand. Changes around it seemed to doom the park more than the fire, however. The day before the fire, Speer and his associates had purchased the 391-acre J. J. Riethman farm east of Arlington Park. Three weeks later, Speer sold 120 of those acres to the Denver Country Club for its new home—the remaining 171 acres were set aside for residential construction. Floodplain improvements along Cherry Creek also threatened the park’s grounds. Arlington Park, having apparently outlived its usefulness, never reopened after the second fire. In September 1902, the Colorado Holiness Association held its annual meeting at Arlington Park, “camped amid the ruins of the scenic railway.” It was the last meeting ever held there. Seven months later, on April 1, 1903, Speer and his associates sold the board fence around the park grounds and the remains of the scenic railway to the Sayer Newton Lumber Company, which was also a part owner of the park. As soon as they hauled the lumber away, Third Avenue was pushed through the grounds and the land was divided into residential lots.

After the park closed for the last time, nearly all traces of it disappeared quickly. No known photographs of the park even exist. In 1911, the city of Denver purchased 4.64 acres of the grounds from Speer, developing it into Alamo Placita Park (meaning Little Place of the Cottonwoods) in 1927. Designed by noted Denver landscape architect

Saco DeBoer, Alamo Placita Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The large circular flowerbed on the northern edge of the park occupies the location of the former amusement park's lake. A small plaque notes that the location was once the site of Arlington Park—the only reminder of one of Denver's earliest playgrounds.

For Further Reading

For more on Denver's quest for park space in the late 1800s and brief histories of the city's early amusement parks, see Jerome Smiley's *History of Denver* (Denver: Denver Times, 1901) and *Denver: Mining Camp to Metropolis* (Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1990) by Thomas J. Noel and Stephen J. Leonard. Betty Hull's *Denver's Elitch Gardens: Spinning a Century of Dreams* (Boulder: Johnson Books, 2003) provides a detailed history of that park. For a broader discussion of the early pleasure gardens, the rise of the amusement park, and a history of park rides, see *The Outdoor Amusement Industry: From Earliest Times to the Present* (New York: Vantage Press, 1952) by William F.

Mangels, inventor of the galloping motion for merry-go-round horses. For a history of Lakeside Amusement Park, see the author's forthcoming *Denver's Lakeside Amusement Park: From the White City Beautiful to a Century of Fun* (University Press of Colorado).

DAVID FORSYTH received his PhD in history from the University of Colorado at Boulder. His dissertation on Lakeside Amusement Park led to his great interest in amusement parks and their history—although he prefers to stay off the big roller coasters. Forsyth is the author of *Images of America: Black Hawk and Central City* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2013). His previous articles for *Heritage* include: "The Legs on the Barroom Ceiling: Emmy Wilson and the Glory Hole Tavern" (Winter 2005), "Spares and Splashes: Walt Disney's Celebrity Sports Center" (Autumn 2007), and "A 'Grewsome Find': The Law, Morality, and Three Murders in Black Hawk" (January/February 2009).

Author David Forsyth chronicles the roller-coaster history of this and other Denver amusement parks on May 11 at the History Colorado Center. See page 8.



Today, Denver's Alamo Placita Park is at the site of the former Arlington Park. This view shows the location of what was once the Arlington Park lake.
Photo by the author

Do you know this building?

Continued from page 15

Answers: b) Fairplay c) 1922 d) Rustic

After a 1921 fire destroyed Fairplay's forty-eight-year-old Windsor Hotel, Alice H. Slater bought the site for \$5,500. She, along with others, formed an investment company that commissioned Denver architect William N. Bowman to design the Fairplay Hotel at the same site.

Built on the original foundation of the Windsor Hotel, Bowman designed the hotel in the Rustic style. The style had become popular for hunting and tourist lodges, hotels, and cabins—particularly in mountain communities after the turn of the twentieth century. Bowman's Fairplay Hotel design included various character-defining Rustic style features, including its river rock foundation, large chimneys, and porch details along with the clipped gable roof with false thatch and wood-shingle walls. He also incorporated Arts and Crafts-influenced features into the building, such as the gabled dormer, bracket-supported overhangs, battered-stone piers with concrete caps on the porch, and multi-pane windows.

On opening day the hotel hosted a dinner and dance, which the *Fairplay Flume* predicted would be "first-class and no expense spared." The *Flume* added that the house had been "completely furnished in a tasteful manner reflecting credit on the management." The interior continues to reflect its Rustic style with its original maple floor, square columns, boxed beams across the ceiling, and large stone fireplaces in the lobby, dining room, and sunroom. After the repeal of Prohibition, the owners converted the sunroom to a lounge—complete with an ornate mahogany Brunswick bar, built in the 1880s for an Alma saloon.

During the building's early years, a dentist leased space in the hotel for his practice and a hair salon opened for guests and locals. The hotel became a popular place for the community, organizations, and families for dances, celebrations, meetings, and other events. In the early 1970s, a summer dinner theater performed there.

Listed in the National Register in 2008, the hotel today provides lodging and meeting accommodations—along with a restaurant—for travelers, tourists, sports enthusiasts, and the community.

History Colorado Corporate and Foundation Partners



AARP
Bank of America
Black Hills Energy
Breckenridge Distillery
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
Christian P. Anschutz Foundation
Coca-Cola Refreshments
Colorado Creative Industries
Colorado Garden Foundation
El Pomar Foundation
Holland & Hart, LLP
JVA
KM Concessions, Inc.
Land Title Guarantee Company
MDC/Richmond American Homes
Foundation
St. Charles Town Company
Sturm Foundation
the Art Hotel
The Colorado Thirty Group
The Denver Foundation
Trinchera Blanca Foundation
U.S. Bank
Volunteers of History Colorado
Walter S. Rosenberry, III Charitable Trust
Xcel Energy

HISTORY COLORADO BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Executive Committee

Ann Alexander Pritzlaff, *Chair*
Joseph W. Halpern, *Vice Chair*
Tamra J. Ward, *Vice Chair*
Vicky Kipp, *Secretary*
Agnes Ryan, *Treasurer*
Katherine Lilly Koch
Charles H. Woolley II

Directors

Marco Antonio Abarca
Mary Lyn Ballantine
Stan Dempsey, Jr.
Edward E. Ellis
Katherine G. Fritz
Newell M. Grant
The Hon. Millie Hamner
Kevin Hobbs
The Hon. Gary M. Jackson
Philip H. Karsh
Karl Kumli III
Dan Love
Fawn-Amber Montoya
Douglas N. Morton
Robert Musgrave
The Hon. Ellen Roberts
William B. Tutt
James J. Volker
William Wei, PhD
Rae Wiseman

Ex-Officio

The Hon. Joe Garcia
John E. Moye

Emeritus

Christian Anschutz
W. Bart Berger
Curtis E. Burton
Dana H. Crawford
Stanley Dempsey
Janis Falkenberg
Ellen K. Fisher, PhD
Frank A. Kugeler
Jim McCotter
Grant Wilkins

*President and CEO, State Historic
Preservation Officer*

Edward C. Nichols

*Chief Operating Officer, Museum
Operations*

Kathryn Hill

*Vice President for Finance and
Facilities*

Joseph Bell

*Vice President for Development and
Membership*

Janet McFarland Burlile

*Vice President for Preservation
Programs*

Steve Turner, AIA

THE COLORADO BOOK REVIEW

Interested in reading online reviews of new publications about Colorado and the West? The Colorado Book Review is co-sponsored by History Colorado and maintained by the Center for Colorado & the West at the Auraria Library. The Colorado Book Review lists new nonfiction works about Colorado and provides reviews of selected publications. Visit now at <http://coloradowest.auraria.edu/>.

Recent additions include *Indelible: Denver's Lasting Impressions of the Library*, by the Denver Public Library; *Winter Park Resort: 75 Years of Imagining More*, by Tim Nicklas; and *An Anthropologist's Arrival: A Memoir*, by Ruth M. Underhill, edited by Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh and Stephen E. Nash.

Send any new books or booklets about Colorado, for listing and possible review, to:

Publications Department
History Colorado
History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80203

Get Wet!



Yampa River Rafting Adventure

Wednesday, June 17, to Sunday, June 21

Register by May 15!

History Colorado and Adrift Adventures team up again for a five-day whitewater adventure in Dinosaur National Monument. Enjoy action, excitement, geology and the history of the Yampa and Green Rivers with guest historian Andrew Gulliford, who'll bring the area's cowboys, outlaws, and explorers to life. Bring the kids and let's get wet!

Members \$755, nonmembers \$815, kids 7-12 \$275

Information and reservations:

Adrift Adventures, 1-800-824-0150. (*Space limited*)

Gunnison River Canoe Trek

Tuesday, July 7, to Friday, July 10

Register by June 19!

Join History Colorado and Centennial Canoe Outfitters to explore a wild and remote area with fascinating history! On this four-day canoe and camping journey along the Gunnison River, Andrew Gulliford shares stories of the colorful characters and events that shaped this stunning landscape.

Members \$519, nonmembers \$579, kids 6-12 \$499

Information and reservations:

Centennial Canoe Outfitters, 1-877-353-1850.

(*Space limited*)