

South Park City Sentinel

Our Mission Statement: To acquire, refurbish, and interpret artifacts and historic structures unique to a 19th century Colorado mining town; and to maintain exhibits that best represent to visitors the typical personal and professional lifestyles of that period.

Volume 5, No. 1

South Park City Historical Foundation Newsletter

June 2010

Summer Brewery Needs Work.

The original Summer Brewery in South Park City, later Fairplay, was a log structure built by Leonhard Summer who came from a family of beer brewers. When the log brewery burned down in the 1870s Leonhard built the sandstone structure that we have now from rock that was quarried nearby. South Park Lager Beer was a very popular item and Leonhard built the Summer Saloon as a retail outlet for his beer, which he also distributed in the area.

The whole country fell on hard times during those years and Leonhard went broke several times. The first few times he recovered and resumed business, but in the early 1900s he became despondent and took his own life.

After that the brewery was used to house the town's newspaper printing house and then sat empty for a number of years. In 1957 a number of history conscious people, led by Leonard Snyder, decided that the brewery would make a good focal point for a museum that tells what the 1880s mining era was like.

Over the years the building has deteriorated and a Historic Structure Assessment points out that the foundation needs repairs and the electrical wiring needs to be updated. Grants have been applied for, but most of them require a 25% or more match in funds. The Board of Directors has established a Brewery Fund for that purpose.

The museum would greatly appreciate any donation for the very worthy project of repairing the brewery building.

By Linda Bjorklund- Museum Director

The Story of South Park City.

The idea was conceived in 1957 by L. Snyder from Colorado Springs. He and other individuals organized the South Park Historical Foundation that year and purchased the area of Fairplay now called South Park City. "South Park City" was the name of the town from 1869 to 1874 prior to the name being changed to Fairplay by legislature.

Below: The historic Summer Brewery was built in 1873. This three-story structure of native sandstone now houses the "Bayou Salado" exhibit.

From 1957 on, mining and historic buildings from the county were moved to the site and added to the seven existing historical buildings. In addition to the structures, the families of Park County embraced the historic preservation idea and contributed roughly 40,000 items.

Currently there are 43 buildings and structures and over 60,000 artifacts that portray the economic and social aspects of an 1860s to 1890s mining town. Refurbishing of the historic structures is ongoing and a mining exhibit addition was just finished last year.



SOUTH PARK CITY
P.O. BOX 634
FAIRPLAY, CO 80440

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Discount Coupon for 2010 Museum Visit

Adults/ Seniors \$7.00
Child up to 12 years \$3.00
Under 12 years - free
Well behaved dogs - free
Bring this coupon with you and
present it to the ticket office

Important Message from the President:

By Harley Hamilton

This year South Park Historical Foundation is making a major attempt to raise money for the preservation and repair of the Summer Brewery, the "museum" building, here at South Park City. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 25, 1974, shown as the "South Park Lager Beer Brewery".

It is now 135 years old. In 2007, our Foundation received a \$7,900 grant from the State Historical Fund to do a Historical Structure Assessment to determine the needs and repairs for the Summer Brewery. The assessment prepared by our architect, Neil Katz, has estimated the cost to be about \$197,000 to do all of the outside and inside work. The project has been divided into two phases. Phase I will be the outside preservation- rehabilitation work and a new electrical system. These two items were determined to be the most critical areas for immediate attention. The building has two places where exterior moisture has deteriorated the mortar in the stone foundation wall. Numerous places in the red sandstone exterior walls have cracked and the mortar has deteriorated or eroded away. All the doors and windows need repair. There are several leaks in the roof/ceiling. The electrical system is outdated and hazardous for use. Phase I is estimated to cost \$120,445.

Phase II is the interior restoration and repair work needed, which is not scheduled to be started for two more years. This will be a separate funding program, after Phase I. Phase II cost is estimated at \$76,140.

A grant request was submitted to the State Historical Fund on April 1, 2010, for \$90,334, which is 75% of the Phase I cost. The other 25%, \$30,164, has to be provided as cash match to the State funding. Several private funding foundations have been sent either letters of interest or applications to help raise the cash match of \$30,164.

It is absolutely necessary to have the cash match by the end of this summer or we will not get the money from the State Historical Foundation. In addition to soliciting other funding Foundations for the cash match, South Park Historical Foundation, "South Park City" has to raise funds to help in the cash match portion.

We will be having several fund raising events this summer and as always need to ask our members and others to contribute tax deductible funds to the Summer Brewery project.

The Incredible Artistry and Life-like Dioramas of HANK GENTSCH

Eleven scenes depict a miner's hard life and labor, beginning with the prospector venturing into the unknown in search of gold in hopes of a better life to follow.

Not just weeks but months of tedious work were needed to complete each diorama with its fine detail

Denver resident Hank Gentsch has painstakingly depicted the many facets of the historic life of miners living in the high mountains of South Park.

The small wooden figures created by Hank Gentsch were sculpted with a hammer and chisel rather than carved with a knife.

Many years before he started his artistry in wood sculpting, Hank Gentsch was in an auto



accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down. Since his arms were weak he needed a hammer and chisel to perform his love for carving 3 dimensional miniature art, depicting the Colorado mining history in his elaborate life-like dioramas. His work was shown in the Colorado School of Mines, in Empire and eleven of his dioramas have made their way to South Park City.- Enjoy the exhibit!



The Diorama building is located beside the Blacksmith shop and Old Garo School house.



The photographs show the detailed sculptures inside the dioramas, depicting the hard lives of Colorado miners in the mid and late 1800s.

The Game is on!

Ten or so years ago, our spring cleaning staff inadvertently left a bottle of Plexiglas cleaner locked inside an exhibit. Soon, keen-eyed visitors reported the oversight. These reports sparked some interesting conversations about South Park City, its history and operational procedures. You can't let those kinds of informative opportunities go by, so the bottle remained in place during the entire season and everyone who asked about it was rewarded with a free candy stick.

The following year, the Plexiglas cleaner was retrieved and a Pokemon card peeked out from a display of school textbooks. Another year, a lot of people, mostly kids, spotted the inclusion of a Fisher-Price Noah's Ark, complete with menagerie, in a display of antique toys. In 2009, one of the bins in Simpkin's General Store held a supply of Nature Valley granola bars.

You get the idea. Whatever the new season's offering, it'll probably be historically inaccurate, it'll be obvious to the discerning eye and it'll be fun. The payoff remains the same. This year, we are going for the macabre, and that's the only clue you are going to get! Happy hunting...we'll reserve your candy stick.

South Park City Website - A New Look!

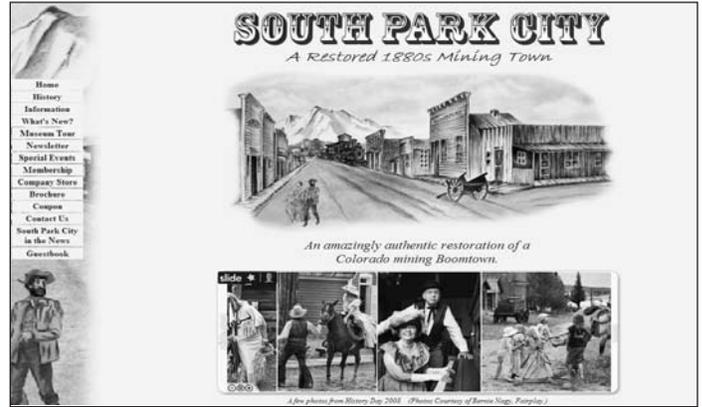
BY JAMES SAPP- WEB MASTER FOR SOUTH PARK CITY

The South Park City website has been completely redesigned. Jim Sapp, one of our newest board members, has agreed to manage and maintain the South Park City website at no cost to the Foundation. While "free" is always a good word, the real benefit comes with being able to make improvements and changes to the website quickly and easily. Jim's position on the Board of Trustees allows him to address any proposed enhancements to the website quickly and to anticipate the needs of the museum in terms of functionality and, most importantly, the value to our visitors to South Park City. There have been several enhancements to the website that improve the "web-experience" of our visitors and members. A few significant enhancements include:

Museum Tour - For those unfamiliar with South Park City, the website is the place to begin your visit. Each stop on the tour includes photographs and a brief description of the exhibit. Of course, the purpose is to provide enough information to entice potential visitors to want to see more.

Newsletters - All the issues of the South Park Sentinel are currently online. This provides convenient references for our members and useful information for potential members and visitors.

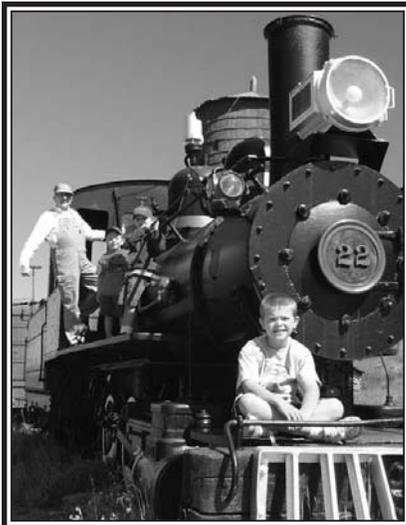
Membership - A new benefit this year is the ability to become a member online and to pay for the membership fees through PayPal. This is certainly a convenience for those who wish to renew their membership or want to join for the first time.



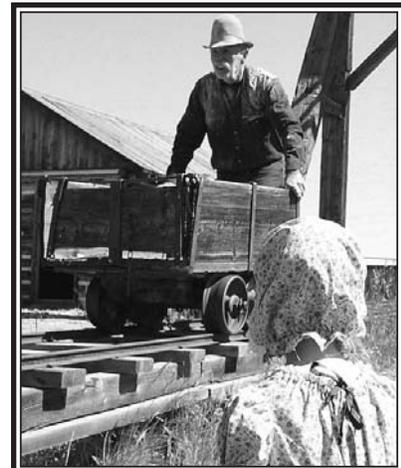
Company Store - You will find two items available in our Company Store. You can also make your selection and your payment online using PayPal. We expect the selections in the e-Store to grow significantly as this year's inventory arrives. Check this site frequently.

Guestbook - What better way to gather information about the experiences of our visitors than to provide a way to share their experiences with those who manage and maintain South Park City. Share your experiences with us and perhaps give us also your feedback on our new website. There is much more to come so visit often and make this your first stop in planning your visit to South Park City. www.SouthParkCity.org. P.S. Did someone say, "Discount Coupon?" Yep, this is the place to get it- besides the one the front page of our newsletter!

Join us for our Annual Living History Day, Saturday, August 14



A fun and educational event for the whole family. Bring your friends, too!



South Park
 Historical Foundation Inc.
 South Park City Museum
 100- 4th Street
 P.O. Box 634
 Fairplay, CO 80440

Phone: 719.836.2387
 E-mail:
 southparkhistorical@
 wildblue.net

We're on the Web!
www.southparkcity.org

South Park City is administered by a 501 (C) 3 non-profit corporation. Admissions and donations are used for the restoration and maintenance of exhibits and buildings. The Museum is open daily from May 15th to October 15th. Closed during Winter and Spring.

2010 Admission Fees:

- Adults \$8.00
- Children 6-12 \$4.00
- Seniors over 62 \$7.00
- Children under 6 years- Free

Museum Director

Linda Bjorklund

Curator

Carol Davis

Board of Trustees

President:

Harley Hamilton

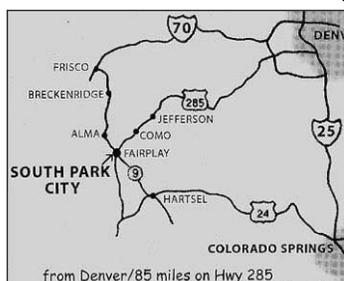
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 & Photography
 by Bernie Nagy at
www.highcountryartworks.com



SOMETHING SPECIAL

Renovation of the Summer Saloon, completed in 2000, divided the interior space into several multi-functional areas, one of which is used for temporary exhibits.

At other times, local artists are invited to showcase their works. In 2009, Liz McKay and Jane Wunder exhibited their paintings. Three textile artists, Rose Legge, Kate Cox and Nancy Grove presented a wide variety of quilts, wall hangings and fabric collages and garments.

The works of artist Russell De Baun will be featured during the month of July, 2010.

In June, kids of all ages will be treated to an array of teddy bears in all shapes and sizes. Bears will be selected from a recent acquisition consisting of approximately 800 collectibles.

The donor, Dorothy O'Connell, is a local resident and former Museum employee and Trustee. She has been actively interested in the preservation of wildlife throughout her life. Collecting stuffed animals was a natural offshoot of that interest. A visit to her mountain home would have found it bursting at the seams with her special little pals. In 2009, she donated the entire collection, and they are slowly finding their way to South Park City so that others may enjoy the fruits of her passion. From the Curator, Carol Davis



Photo by Linda Bjorklund

Over 100 children attended the Annual Easter Egg hunt at South Park City in the early afternoon on Easter Sunday.



MARK YOUR CALENDER AND VISIT US IN 2010 FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS

June through September

Art & Photography Exhibits of local history and the South Park area.

Saturday, June 19th

Volunteer Day- come and volunteer for a fun day helping to spruce up- clean up the Museum's grounds.

Saturday, August 14th, Living History Day

Members and volunteers, dressed in historical outfits host this event, plus special attractions are planned during the day. Visitors and guests are welcome to join in and are invited to come dressed in periodic costumes.

9 AM- 12 PM Digital Photo workshop for all ages, beginners and want-to-be "pros", to be held on the Museum's grounds by master photographer, Bernie Nagy. \$15.00 fee includes Museum entrance.

Theme: How to photograph historic buildings, displays and people dressed in periodic costumes. Bring you own camera, no need for expensive equipment. You may register by calling the Museum at 719-836-2387 or by email: nagybernd@yahoo.com.

1 PM- 3 PM South Park Photo/ Coffee table book signing by author and award-winning local photographer Bernie Nagy at the Museum Gift and Book store.

Saturday, September 11th Relics, Art, Artifacts and Flea Market Sale at the Museum Parking lot - Annual Sale is to raise funds for special projects in South Park City.

Saturday, October 31st

Annual Halloween Trick or Treat Party - Free treats, tricks? 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Come and join the fun in your favorite or scary Halloween costume.

Join the South Park Historical Foundation or Renew your Annual Membership now!

Mail with check to: SOUTH PARK CITY, P.O. Box 634, Fairplay, CO 80440

Annual Membership:

- \$15.00 Individual
- \$30.00 Couple
- \$45.00 Family- includes all Children through age 17

Lifetime:

- \$125.00 Individual
- \$250.00 Family Membership

- Free with Membership:
- Our Newsletter.
- Free Museum entrance.
- Discounts in Museum store.

Name(s) Husband & Wife

Last Name First

Mailing Address

City State Zip

Name and ages of children in Family