

Continuum

Newsletter of the
Boulder History Museum

Spring 2006

University Hill School Celebrates the First 100 Years

By Laura Martin, Curator of Education

University Hill Elementary School, or “Uni Hill,” turned 100 with flare this past January. Celebrations at the school encouraged community leaders as well as school alumni, current students and staff to celebrate the vibrant story of their school. Its not often that you hear a 4th grader mention, “It’s cool being in an ancient school,” but the inclusive focus of this event succeeded in instilling a sense of pride in University Hill Elementary School affiliates, past, present and future.

From its lofty home at 16th and Broadway, University Hill Elementary School has stood watch over an evolving Boulder community for 100 years. The Building itself reflects the shifting needs of our City. Built as Boulder’s 8th elementary school, the school consisted of only the western portion of the current building, with a main entrance that faced 16th Street. The 1920s brought the addition of 10 new classrooms and a gymnasium, and an expanded student body. The school welcomed the students of South Side Junior High School to share their new building until the 1950s construction of Baseline Middle School. A thriving Boulder population allowed University Hill to grow as an elementary school again, taking over the vacated east-side classrooms for its students and spilling over into the a new building for lower elementary grades located on 17th Street. Today, reminders of the 1920’s building expansion can be observed in once exterior walls and doorways incorporated into the hallways and classrooms of the current school. Declining enrollment brought about the consolidation of the student body into one building, and the addition of Lincoln Elementary School students when that school closed. In



University Hill Elementary School, 1921

1998, when University Hill Elementary was targeted for closure by District officials, students and parents successfully rallied around their school to have the historic building named a local landmark. More recently, after more than 100 years, Washington Elementary School closed its doors and its students and staff became the newest addition to the University Hill Elementary School Eagles.

Not a sideline player, this school’s story reflects Boulder’s evolving social climate as well. Home to several of Boulder Valley’s most memorable leaders, a look at Uni Hill’s history reveals the educational trends and philosophies that have helped to shape Boulder Valley schools. Frank Boggess, or “Bughouse” as many students at the time affectionately referred to him, was principal of University Hill Elementary School from 1911 to 1937. He led the school as a “strict” but “kind” principal according to one former student of his, Ernie Lacer (1922-1933). The school’s motto under his leadership was “no privileges without responsibility.” The 1980s consolidation with



Eliza Cornell, Uni Hill 3rd Grader

decades of Uni Hill with food, music and dancing. One of the greatest outcomes of the Century Celebration was the rediscovery of many school rituals forgotten until now. As a result, the school staff is considering reviving some historic school traditions such as “Character Costume Day” where students have the chance to dress up as their favorite literary character, as well as commemorating Arbor Day by planting trees on the school’s property. The legacy of this event will hopefully be a lasting enthusiasm in students, staff and community members for their local heritage and the stories that make Boulder unique.

A Picture Says 100 Years

This winter, the Boulder History Museum was delighted to host an exhibit of student artwork created to commemorate the 2006 Century Celebration at University Hill Elementary School. Talented young artists from the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade worked with a special collection of historic children’s portraits to create their own renderings and impressions of a child’s life 100 years ago. Many of the art pieces will go on to be shown at the district art show at NCAR this Spring.

Sources: Daily Camera, Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, “Uni Hill’s History” Compiled by Mary Brown and her 3rd Grade Class



KICK UP YOUR HEELS AND JOIN US AT OUR SUMMER EXHIBIT

Doubleday’s Cowgirls: Women of the Rodeo

June 29th—August 20th

See our calendar and website for more information and special programs



From the CEO



Nancy Geyer, CEO

“**H**istory is the account of things said and done in the past. In this sense, each of us has a history – an account of where we come from and how we got to be who we are. Communities, likewise, each have a history. So, too, do nations, families, and human groups of every sort.

History serves us in many ways. It can inspire us with stories of exemplary lives or caution us with tales of human folly and wickedness. History can inform and educate us by providing the context and perspective that allow us to make thoughtful decisions about the future. And history has the power to delight and enrich us, enlarging and intensifying the experience of being alive.” These words, from a document by the American Association of State and Local History, speak to the convictions with which we work everyday at the Boulder History Museum.

There are many people, myself included, who in our early years were not inspired by history. My history classes did not captivate me and seemed irrelevant. History was not a topic I pursued. However, as I look back, I realize that in a different context, I loved history. I was fascinated with stories of the past. Sitting on my grandfather’s lap and hearing about his life as a child or his experiences in the War, I was mesmerized. I did like history, but it was a history I could relate to and that was spoken by someone I knew and loved.

The Boulder History Museum strives to tell the stories of our community so that people can make connections and find relevance in the context of their own lives. We preserve and interpret our past in order to connect the people and events of yesterday with the active memories and abiding concerns of people in our community today.

I hope that you will visit the Museum and see what connections you can make through our exhibits. In our *Ready, set ...Boulder!* exhibit on Boulder sports you might recognize a familiar face or find a piece of skiing or climbing equipment that you once used. Or perhaps you’ll have fun examining the photos of cowgirls and the rodeo equipment in our *Doubleday’s Cowgirls* exhibit that will be on display this summer.

2006 has been declared the *Year of the Museum*, and institutions across the country are celebrating 100 years of museums in American life. The *Year of the Museum* is dedicated to celebrating the rich variety of museums in America, their contributions to civic and cultural life and the unique, personal experiences museums offer visitors. Appropriately, this year the Museum has put together a task force to create a vision for the future of the Boulder History Museum. Your ideas and wisdom are always welcome in helping us do a better job at interpreting the history of our community and enriching our lives. Please share your comments and thoughts through e-mails, phone, or stop by the Museum.

Best Regards,



Nancy Geyer
Chief Executive Officer
ngeyer@boulderhistory.org

NEW BOARD MEMBERS INTRODUCED AT ANNUAL MEETING

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our 2006 Board of Trustees:

Andy Anderson
Wade Arnold
George Garcia

Michael Koertje
Rich Koopman
Della Temple

In addition, the Museum would like to recognize Jim Swaebly. He is stepping down from the Board after 6 years and hundreds of hours of volunteer service to the Museum. **THANK YOU Jim!**

We LOVE the new Collections Storage Facility housed in the recently named Christensen Building!



Breathing Room: The second phase of the move took place on February 2nd. Nearly 14,000 objects were liberated from cramped quarters at the old warehouse. Most were small, but a few larger pieces, like this carriage (the second largest object in the collection!) also made their way to the spacious new Collections Storage Facility.



Rehousing and Rediscovering

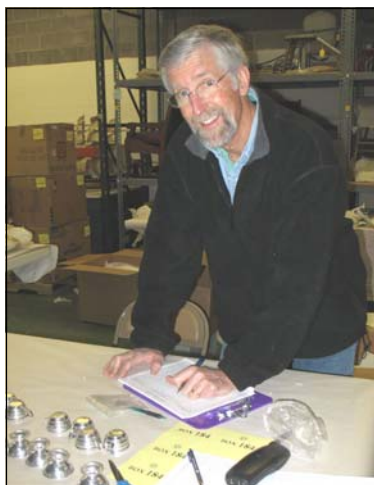
During the first move we discovered we had more than one bank teller's cage in our collection. They are shown before the move (left) in a jumbled state stored on the floor and, after the move, (bottom left corner) separated and rehousing on 4" blocks of ethafoam, a material that's not harmful to the object and keeps it off the floor.



Old Warehouse
(above) and new
Collections
Storage Facility
(left).

Volunteers on the Move

The Museum cannot thank enough our core group of illustrious volunteers who have committed their time and effort to assisting the staff in the many stages of moving the collection from our old warehouse to the new Collections Storage Facility (CSF)! This move would not be possible without their hours of dedication.



Dennis Berry inventorying objects to be boxed and moved to the CSF.

A heartfelt and deeply appreciative THANK YOU goes out to the following:

Barbara Anuta
Dennis Berry
Susan Katz
Nancy Seivers
Michael & Carlyn Smith
Nancy Stowall



Jill Roeder, Collections Intern, cleans objects after they've been transferred by volunteers to CSF.



Michael & Carlyn Smith assisting Nancy Geyer with new decking for CSF shelving units.



Nancy Seivers assisting Laura Martin with cataloging of objects.

Hundreds of boxes packed by volunteers to be moved to new Collections Storage Facility.

The Museum is always in need of more volunteers during this time-consuming move.

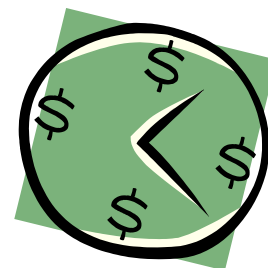
If you are interested in helping out, please contact Laura Lee, Curator of Collections, at 303.449.3464.

Volunteers Donate Big Time!

Each year the staff tracks the many, many hours our dedicated volunteers contribute to the Museum. All our volunteers bring special talents to their work whether they are assisting with school tours, Girl Scout programs, collections, special events, a weekend greeter, or serving on the Board of Trustees. Plus, every one of them shares the love of history and enthusiasm for the Museum's overall mission with visitors and the staff alike.

**For the 2005 calendar year, our volunteers gave 3,511 hours to the Museum!
Using national valuation of volunteer time from the Independent Sector that was worth \$61,610!!**

We couldn't do it without them and appreciate their big 'time' more than we can say.



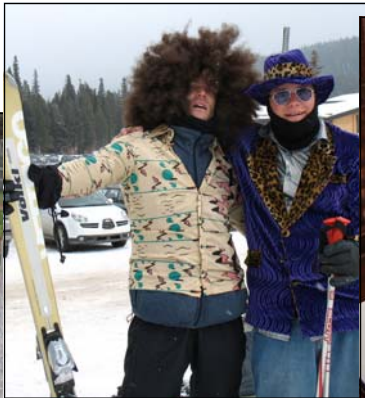
Programs

We've held a lot of GREAT programs this year!



This spring we've provided numerous Girl Scouts badge programs. One portion of a program includes a visit to Columbia Cemetery.

And, we are planning more for this summer...



RETRO SKI DAY at Eldora Mountain Resort in March was far-out fun and a terrific success in promoting the Museum!



Janet Robertson, author of *Magnificent Mountain Women*, signing books after her slideshow presentation in January.



2005 Holiday Open House Quilt Winner, Phyllis Martin, with Nancy Geyer, Museum CEO.



Summer Sundaes

Sunday, July 16th
 Sunday, August 13th
 Each day 1-4pm

Beat the heat with a Summer Sundae at the Boulder History Museum! Families, please join us for ice cream and free children's crafts and games.



Celebrate Boulder!

Summer Fest 2006

Saturday, June 10th, noon-4pm

Join us in a celebration of Boulder's athletic legacy! Climb a rock wall, take the mountain bike course challenge, or marvel at a cyclist riding 8 feet high! Welcome summer at the Boulder History Museum at Summer Fest 2006 (previously named Boulder History Day).

Posh Picnics

Thursday, June 29th
 Thursday, July 13th
 Thursday, July 27th
 Thursday, August 3rd
 Each evening 5:30-7pm

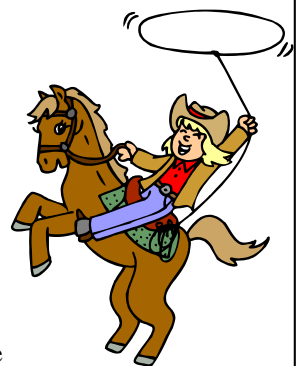


Attending the Colorado Music Festival concerts this summer? Make your evening truly special by enjoying a delicious gourmet *Posh Picnic* on the Boulder History Museum front lawn and surrounding Beach Park prior to the concert. Following dinner, transportation will be provided to and from the concert.

Additional details to be announced, please visit our website for more information.

Celebrate the COWGIRL

Calamity Jane
 Sunday, July 16th
Cowgirl Songs & Poetry Night
 Sunday, July 30th
Annie Oakley
 Sunday, August 13th
 Each evening 6:30-8



This program series will be held on the Boulder History Museum's front lawn in conjunction with the Museum's exhibit *Doubleday's Cowgirls: Women of the Rodeo*, a black and white photographic exhibit which will be open to the public June 29th through August 20th. Presentations will include first-person interpretation in addition to a *song and poetry night*.

Additional details to be announced, please visit our website for more information.

Programs & Events Calendar

Complete programs and event calendar available at
www.boulderhistorymuseum.org



MAY

- May 9th Adventure Racing—Then & Now, 7pm, Chautauqua Community House
- May 11th Behind the Scenes of Painting Conservation & Restoration, 7pm
Carnegie Branch Library for Local History
- May 23rd Frank Shorter: The Average Runner, 7pm, Chautauqua Auditorium

JUNE

- June 10th Celebrate Boulder! Summer Fest, 12 to 4pm, BHM & Beach Park
- June 11th LAST DAY ready, set...Boulder! Colorado's Sports Mecca exhibit, 12 to 4pm, BHM
- June 28th Opening reception Doubleday's Cowgirls: Women in the Rodeo exhibit, 5 to 7pm, BHM
- June 29th Posh Picnic, 5:30 to 7pm, BHM

JULY

- July 13th Posh Picnic, 5:30 to 7pm, BHM
- July 16th Summer Sundaes, 1 to 4pm, BHM
Celebrate the COWGIRL: *Calamity Jane*, 6:30 to 8pm, BHM
- July 27th Posh Picnic, 5:30 to 7pm, BHM
- July 30th Celebrate the COWGIRL: *Cowgirl Songs & Poetry Night*, 6:30 to 8pm, BHM

AUGUST

- August 3rd Posh Picnic, 5:30 to 7pm, BHM
- August 13th Summer Sundaes, 1 to 4pm, BHM
Celebrate the COWGIRL: *Annie Oakley*, 6:30 to 8pm, BHM
- August 20th Last day of *Doubleday's Cowgirls: Women in the Rodeo* exhibit, 12 to 4, BHM

Bookstore Highlights **Boulder-area Authors**

Riddle in the Mountain by Daryl Burkhard

3 children travel back in time to 1879 Boulder

Martha Maxwell by James McVey

Children's biography of Martha Maxwell

6 Racy Women of Colorado by Caroline Bancroft

Biographies of six scandalous early Colorado women

The Meaning of Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse by George Peknik

The story of the teahouse with incredible photographs



WISH LIST

Spring Cleaning? Remember the Museum always needs:

- Used Truck
- Sheets
- Items from the 1950s to the Present
- Collection & Tour Guide
- Volunteers
- Weekend Museum Greeters
- Summer Fest Volunteers

Call 303/449.3464 to volunteer or donate

2006 Board of Trustees

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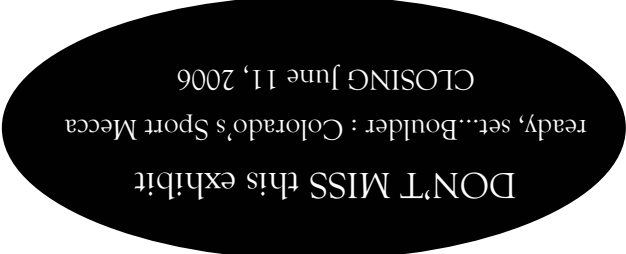
Membership Grows at the Museum

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Museum



- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Peggy Archibald | Dawson Joyner |
| Carolyn & David Brodie | Laura Larson |
| Diane Brookfield & | Virginia Patterson |
| Bob Burdick | Judy Richtel |
| Peter Enichen | Ty Silbert |
| Carlota Geyer | Angela Stanford |
| Kei Izawa | |

The Boulder History Museum fosters understanding and appreciation for the unique history of the Boulder region and the resourceful and innovative people who have chosen to live here—a living history that grows with each new generation.



Newsletter of the Boulder History Museum

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