

# SAN JUAN COURIER

*A Periodical Publication of the San Juan County Historical Society*

Summer 2000

Silverton, San Juan County, Colorado

## Old Hundred Boardinghouse Gets a New Roof—and Life

by Scott Fetchenhier

This summer the Society undertook an incredible project—putting a new roof on the Old Hundred boardinghouse in Cunningham Gulch. With money non-existent and extremely difficult access and conditions for repairing the roof, it looked as though the project would probably not occur, and the building would eventually collapse. After receiving permission from the owner of the Old Hundred, Skip Kimball, the Historical Society and Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology co-applied to the Colorado State Historical Fund for a grant in 1998 to stabilize and repair the boardinghouse. A grant was awarded in the amount of \$45,000 with a matching grant coming from the Bureau of Land Management for \$15,000. Two contractors, Klinke and Lew of Silverton and Granda Construction were hired to begin the difficult task of renovating the boardinghouse.

In conjunction with projects being done in the area by the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology and Shenandoah Mining Company a helicopter was used to airlift construction supplies from Cunningham Gulch to the boardinghouse. Many delays were experienced because the chopper was unable to fly due to bad weather. Over 35-40 trips were flown by the chopper over a period of several days, with bad weather causing delays, and dangerous downdrafts threatening to force the chopper into the cliffs. A day after the last loads were taken to the boardinghouse a faulty engine caused the helicopter to crash near the Mogul mine near Ross Basin (the pilot walked away from the crash).

The contractors labored under harsh conditions at high altitudes, fighting the wettest summer in twenty years. The crews walked the steep trail from Sterling Gulch each day, sometimes spending the night in the boardinghouse. Bill Granda, contractor from Durango said, "On some nights it was hard to sleep because of the noise from the rain pounding on the tin roof!" Fritz Klinke mentioned that the packrats were bad at the house, running rampant over sleeping bags during the night. (H.W.C. Prommel's sampling crew living at the boardinghouse in 1937 experienced the same problems with the packrats).

Once the materials were in place the work progressed rapidly. Interior work to stabilize and tie together the walls by replacing the collapsed second floor, along with roof joists, roof, and dormers were finished within a month. Granda also found that "a bunch of rock had fallen in the space between the boardinghouse and the cliff and was actually pushing the house off its foundation. We had to shovel the rock into five



gallon buckets and then walk through the building and dump them out the windows." Crews had to rope off while working on the roof or risk a couple thousand foot roll into Cunningham Gulch. Contractor Loren Lew had to put the finishing touches on the lower roof while being belayed. Other work included the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology installing a gate at the portal of Seven level.

Thanks to much hard work and generous grants this past summer's construction will help to preserve the Old Hundred boardinghouse for many years to come. More work is needed including some foundation and exterior work. Klinke would like to see one of the double bunks from the second floor either repaired or replicated.

Our next grant application will pursue money for putting a roof over the Old Hundred tramhouse at Seven level. That roof is gone, along with several of the building's upper story walls. Most of the material for the renovation is already at the site. The boardinghouse renovation ran slightly over its budget (mainly due to extra helicopter costs) with the Society having to pick up the tab. If you like what the Society is doing feel free to make a donation for the additional renovation work—it will help to get a few more things done at the boardinghouse and maybe a new roof on the tramhouse.

The Old Hundred boardinghouse, left, shown here sporting its new roof, is nicely protected but additional work is needed to stabilize the structure for a long period of time. The tram house in the right foreground is also in need of a roof and other repairs.

## Silverton Heritage Days Set for June 9, 10, 11

Visitors to Silverton will have a new opportunity to Discover the Past and Step Back in Time on June 9, 10, and 11 when The San Juan County Historical Society will co-sponsor a historic celebration in Silverton.

Silverton's first Heritage Days celebration is the brainstorm of the bed and breakfast owners in downtown Silverton, working with the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

The three day event will feature historic walking and carriage tours of some of Silverton's most interesting buildings and neighborhoods. Tours of the museum, Hillside Cemetery, Mayflower Gold Mill and Old Hundred Mine will also be offered, as well as Jeep tours to some of San Juan County's historic ghost towns. Lectures featuring area historians will be offered all three days.

A Grand Victorian Ball will be held on Saturday, June 10 from 8 p.m. until mid-

night. Other events planned during the celebration include performances by Silverton's famous Brass Band, and performances by A Theatre Group.

The grand finale will be a vintage baseball game on Sunday afternoon, carrying on an old Silverton tradition. The final schedule of events will be available from the Silverton Chamber of Commerce and on the D&SNRR's web site.

### Inside This Issue

Chairman's Report	Page 2
Casey Jones Runs Again	Page 2
Kalina Scholarship	Page 2
Grave Marking	Page 3
Red Mountain Task Force	Page 3
New Mining Museum	Page 3
Fetch's New Book	Page 4
New Signs	Page 4
Museum Highlights	Page 4

# Grave Marking Process Continues

by Mary Beaber

More granite stone memorial markers for area pioneers buried outside formal cemeteries were placed this summer thanks to the generosity of the Ghost Town Club of Colorado and their donation of \$300. This makes a total of \$500 which they have contributed toward the markers. The marking program was partially funded by the Forest Service at the outset and has been sustained through the generosity of the Ghost Town Club. The purpose of the Ghost Town Club of Colorado is "to study, visit, perpetuate and otherwise concern ourselves with ghost towns, mining camps and allied subjects and their history"

These are biographical accounts of the pioneers marked during the past year from Freda Peterson's revised edition, *Volume I & II, The Story of Hillside Cemetery*.

Solomon "Sol" Kellett, died in a snowslide in 1883 at the age of 30 years. The incident took place near the Eclipse Smelter. Sol had worked as as cook at the Enterprise Tunnel and had gone to Animas Forks for provisions during a severe blizzard. He was returning to the Tunnel when he was caught in the snowslide.

James Brown was killed in a snowslide December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1881. On the morning after Christmas he and his boss went down to Mineral Point from the Red Cloud mine to pick up the mail. A heavy storm was raging when they returned, and near the Del Norte lode they were struck by a snowslide. James was buried alive and suffocated under five feet of snow. His boss escaped death.

Charles Redward dropped dead about a mile above the San Juan Chief Mill near Mineral Point on May 26, 1896. He and three friends were walking over from Lake City. Charley died of natural causes while crossing the creek with his companions.

Peter Spight disappeared in 1928 and his body was found in 1932. Peter died at the age of 56 years and was buried at Fuller Lake. He was working on a group of mining claims belonging to Agnes Schmelzer in 1928 in the Ice Lake area. He had planned to return to Silverton that year for Thanksgiving. When he didn't arrive, a search party set out to locate him. They found no trace of Spight, but his bedding was carefully tied up and suspended from the ceiling of the cabin where he had been staying, which perhaps indicated he might have left the country without returning to Silverton.

In August of 1932, four years after Spight had disappeared, another miner who was tracing the course of a vein of ore near Fuller Lake found human bones, a satchel and a belt buckle with the initials "P. I. S.", which identified the skeleton as

Peter I. Spight. From the location of the skeleton, it was apparent that Spight had tried to reach Silverton during a storm and lost his sense of direction. A wooden plank and the remains of fuse string evidenced his attempt to make crude snow shoes that fateful night.

A number of Silverton residents have been involved with the project, marking a total of 16 burials. Silverton resident Fred Shaver, with the assistance of Howard Drake, carried Peter Spight's 50 pound tombstone in his backpack six miles on the Ice Lake trail to the burial site near Fuller Lake. Other stones have been placed by Beverly Rich, Freda Peterson, Allen Nossaman, Lisa Richardson, Scot Jackson, and Mary and Paul Beaber. Rich Perino and "Zeke" Zanon have also assisted with burial locations. Information on the burials came from research compiled by Freda Peterson in her above mentioned books, which are available for sale from the Historical Society. Global Positional System (GPS) reading of all the markings along with photographic description have been documented.

With the continuing assistance of the Ghost Town Club of Colorado, funding for six more stones was provided. Three of the stones were placed at Ten Mile near the mouth of Ten Mile Creek in the Animas Canyon and the fourth at Elk Park. The work was done with cooperation of the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, which provided transportation for the workers, the stones and materials in Motorcar 9006 and its equipment trailer. Trainmaster Dave Schranck facilitated the transportation and accompanied the group. The burials commemorated at Ten Mile, where there was once a hotel, stage stop and livery barn, were those of the infant daughter of proprietors Franz and Minnie Schneider, who fell into a rain barrel and drowned August 12, 1881, William P. Kennedy, a Needle Mountain prospector who died September 18, 1881, and Harry C. Dalton, a bookkeeper for the railroad construction contractors who committed suicide when he lost his job March 6, 1882. The Elk Park stone was placed to acknowledge Patrick Slattery, who froze to death January 24, 1880, while trying to walk from Silverton to Animas City.

This project would not be possible without the cooperation and support of Duane Fiorini of Family Craft Memorials in Durango. The stones for the early pioneers are made by Fiorini and his staff and are purchased by the Society at his cost. "I think this is a very worthwhile project. It is very satisfying to assist in preserving our local history," said Duane. If you would like to contribute to or help with this project, please contact Freda Peterson or Mary Beaber, Cemetery Committee members.



The year 2000 should be an incredible one for the San Juan County Historical society as it breaks ground for the building of a substantial mining museum. For years, the Society has needed a home for its large collection of mining artifacts, probably one of the largest in Colorado. A great deal of work has already gone into the planning of the building, as architectural diagrams, contractors specifications and floor layouts are being designed.

The Caledonia Boardinghouse, above, has been donated by Kenneth Knapp and will make up the front section of the museum. A large grant from longtime members has been pledged for moving the boardinghouse from its endangered location beneath a talus slope at Minnie Gulch, where it is slowly being destroyed by the crush of rocks and the ravages of San Juan winters. Dan Kalina, who was one of the Society's biggest promoters, died last year, and left \$60,000 for the new museum. Other grants are in the works.

Though a lot has been donated, the Society is making an appeal for more assistance to construct the museum. Original estimates of \$457,000 for construction costs can be trimmed by not building a second floor mezzanine or installing an elevator, but it still leaves us with a shortfall of over \$75,000. We need your help. Donations can be made to the San Juan County Historical Society Mining Museum at PO Box 154, Silverton, Colorado 81433.

## Red Mountain Task Force Works Toward Saving Historic Mining Area

by Bev Rich

One of the jewels of Colorado is the scenic and historic Red Mountain Mining District. The 24 mile stretch of road, known as the Million Dollar Highway, has been identified in the corridor management plan of the San Juan Skyway National Scenic Byway as one of the most beautiful stretches of road in the United States, and that its protection is of concern to all of southwestern Colorado. The Red Mountain Project grew out of concern in Ouray and San Juan Counties that the few remaining structures that date from the glorious silver mining days of the 1880s—90s were in imminent danger of collapse, succumbing to time and weather. A group of citizens were appointed by the County Commissioners to find ways to protect the scenic and historic resources on Red Mountain Pass. They became the Red Mountain Task Force.

The Task Force initially identified 36 sites as endangered. One of those sites was the Silverton Railroad bed. At least 2 miles of the bed had recently been destroyed by loggers using the bed to dredge logs off the hillside. Of those sites, 6 were identified as most at risk. These were the Silver Ledge Tram House, The Koehler Boardinghouse, the Yankee Girl Headframe, the Colorado Boy Headframe, and 2 houses at the ghost town of Ironton. \$46,858 in grant funds were received from the State Historical Fund to stabilize these structures. The Ouray and San Juan County Historical Societies raised the match of \$15,000. All of these structures are privately owned and were stabilized with owner permission.

Most of the hundreds of thousands of visitors who annually pass through the District do not realize that most of it is private land. Most of the folks who come and 4-wheel through the District over Corkscrew Gulch do not know that most of it is private land. And large tracts of that land are

for sale. Having identified the Million Dollar Highway a major draw for tourists in Southwestern Colorado, a region that depends on tourism for its living, the Task Force concluded that potential resort and residential development and logging are threats to this resource and that the private land for sale should be acquired and put into public hands.

To accomplish this, the Task Force became partners with the Trust for Public Lands, a well known and respected land conservation organization. Under its guidance, the Task Force is asking congress to appropriate \$7.5 million dollars to buy some of the private property in the District. The funds will be appropriated from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The fund was established by Congress in 1964 for the express purpose of using revenues from offshore gas and oil leases to acquire natural resource lands as a legacy for future generations. There is great competition for this money. The purchased property would then be added to the surrounding Uncompahgre National Forest. If you support saving this spectacular area, please write to your congressmen and ask them to support this appropriation.



The Red Mountain Project may be contacted at PO Box 151, Ouray, Colorado 81427. Their web site is [www.redmountainproject.com](http://www.redmountainproject.com).

## San Juan County Historical Society

Application for Membership — 2000

San Juan County Historical Society • Post Office Box 154 • Silverton, Colorado 81433

I wish to enroll as a member of the San Juan County Historical Society in the class designated below for the calendar year 2000. I understand that this membership entitles me (and my spouse, if applicable) to a vote at the annual meeting in October, 2000.

- ☐ **Member:** Voting privilege [\$10.00]
- ☐ **Family Member:** Voting privilege, man and wife [\$16.00]
- ☐ **Supporting Member:** Voting privilege, couple, and museum admission for season for immediate family [\$25.00]
- ☐ **Society Patron:** Voting privilege, couple, and season museum admission for immediate family and listing in the San Juan Courier [\$50.00]
- ☐ **Life Membership:** All privileges for life [\$350.00]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# Chairman's Report

Dear Members:

After one of the wettest summers ever, we are having one of the driest winters I can remember. And it hasn't been that cold (although it was 26 below zero yesterday morning). People who think we hibernate in the winter—think again. We are busy with the plans for an additional museum building, the Powerhouse Project, and the electric generating plant. We are manning the Archive, paying bills, and planning Cemetery Workday. We are applying for and administering grants. Literally hundreds of hours are being donated to take care of the Society's business—the business of preservation. Elsewhere in these pages you will read about several of our ongoing projects, and I will bring you up to date on some of the others.

The Mayflower Mill Tour finished in the black this season. We instituted a self-guided tour, allowing us to cut down on overhead and increase volume. We are proud that this week the Secretary of the Interior will proclaim the Mill a National Historic Landmark. There are only 2669 historic sites in the United States of this caliber. We thank Dawn Bunyak of the National Park Service for all of her hard work. She wrote the National Register nomination for the Mill, and did such a good job that the folks in Washington D. C. suggested that she go a step further and make it a Landmark nomination. Our Mill is special, not just to us, but on a national level, too. Next summer there will be a new exhibit at the Mill—a little stamp mill that was found in pieces in the basement of a building downtown. It was used in a sampling and assaying plant. Also, a display of vintage trucks from the 1940's will be an added surprise. Among them are a wrecker from the Circle Route Garage and a couple of ore trucks that used to haul ore to the Mill for custom milling!

The Archive continues to generate a lot of use. In fact, archivist Allen Nossaman gripes that he has too little time to catalog because of it! Thanks to the efforts of member Ellanore McKenna, the Archive Endowment topped \$10,000 at the end of the year!

The Economic Development Administration funded study of the Powerhouse business incubator project shows that there is a need for industrial space in our little county. A committee has been formed to manage the project and pursue grant money to develop the site and repair the Powerhouse and the mule barn. Because the Board has deemed construction of the new museum building the number one priority, funding for this project will have to come from outside sources. However, the EDA will fund 80 percent of the total cost.

The Animas Forks stabilization project is finished! This highly visited ghost town, located at 11,500 feet on the Alpine Loop, will be safe from deterioration for years to come. We thank our partners, the Colorado Historical Society, Americorps, the Bureau of Land Management, Outward Bound and Youth in Natural Resources for their help. What a satisfying project it was. And although you can't really see what we did—the whole town looks straighter, and more solid somehow. We did a really good job.

The electric generation plant committee—Zeke Zanoni, Steve Fearn, Jerry Hoffer and Dennis Kurtz—has been meeting to draw up plans and specs and cost estimates for building a little power plant using our water rights from Arrastra Creek. These rights came with the donation of the Mill. Early reports from the committee indicate that we already have much of the machinery for the plant, and the pipeline is in place, so that a minimal amount of up-front cost will be incurred. The electricity will be used to serve the Mill and what is left over will be sold to San Miguel Power Association. Kurtz and Hoffer have extensive backgrounds in the field, and we are the lucky recipients of their knowledge.

We are 35 years old this year! Although we have grown through the years, we still remain the volunteer group with the mission to preserve the history of San Juan County. Ironically, that mission takes on new meaning in these days of not being a mining town for the first time in our history. Now, our history helps to keep us alive and viable, and it becomes even more important to preserve what we can. Without your support, dear members, we couldn't do it. Thank you.

Bev

## Acknowledgement

A bequest of \$60,000 was received by the Society from the Estate of Dan Kalina, former member and passionate Millrat. Thank you, Dan. With your help, we'll get this new mining museum built yet.

## SAN JUAN COURIER

George Chapman, Editor

Contributors:

Beverly Rich, Scott Fetchenhier, Mary Beaber, and Duane Murphy

Published periodically by the San Juan County Historical Society, a non-profit Colorado corporation, for its members and all persons interested in the preservation of the history of San Juan County, Colorado.

Subscription included with all membership classes in the Society.

Mailing address: Post Office Box 154, Silverton, Colorado 81433

**San Juan County Historical Society  
Officers and Directors, 2000**

Beverly Rich, Chairman  
Allen Nossaman, Secretary

Scott Fetchenhier, Vice Chairman  
William R. Jones, Treasurer

George Darnall Zanoni, Steven Fearn, Alfred Klinke Directors



## Famous Rail Artifact Runs Again!

Casey Jones runs on tracks again! In a new spirit of cooperation, the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad and the Society entered into an agreement to allow the Society's railbus to be displayed at the railroad's rolling stock museum at the Silverton depot. In return, the railroad's expert car shop staff restored Casey into running condition.

Casey was built in 1919-20 at the Sunnyside Mill at Eureka to be used as an ambulance and bus when the trains between there and Silverton were not running. It has a Model T body with a 1918 Cadillac V-8 engine. This photo shows Casey poking up the tracks on May 8, 1999, opening day of the new museum. On board Casey are several Society Board members and Allen Harper, president of American Heritage Railroads. Casey wintered again at the shop in Durango where more restoration was planned.


## Kalina Scholarship Established; Leithauser First Recipient

The Kalina Memorial Scholarship was established in April, 1999, in memory of the late Dan Kalina by his daughter, Kathlynn Kalina, of Barrington, Illinois. The scholarship was designed by its donor to commemorate one of the San Juan County Historical Society's most energetic and ambitious volunteers by recognizing academic achievement and collegiate aspirations of graduates of Silverton High School.

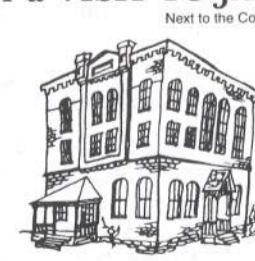
The scholarship is based on the donation of an endowment of \$10,000, the interest from which will be devoted to a scholarship to be awarded to an individual who has been graduated from Silverton High School. The recipient of the award will be determined by the Board of Directors of the Society and will be based on the following qualifications: elements of scholastic accomplishment, intern achievements in the Society, civic involvement, and planned collegiate courses of study. The scholarship is designed to be awarded to students who have expressed an interest in the fields of history, geology or mineralogy specifically, or in the fields of social studies, earth sciences or resource management. However, any deserving student may be awarded a scholarship.

The first recipient of the Kalina Memorial Scholarship was Jennifer Leithauser, who graduated in May, 1999. Leithauser had been an intern at the archive, helping to catego-

rize and catalog the Way collection. She also cataloged photos in the Society's mammoth Town Hall Restoration documentary collection. Leithauser is now attending Gettysburg University where she is pursuing studies in history with an emphasis on archives.



**Reserve Some Time  
for a VISIT TO JAIL...**  
Next to the Court House



**San Juan County's  
MUSEUM**  
the former San Juan County Jail  
OPEN 9-5 daily  
thru mid-September  
10-3 thru mid-October

\* Fantastic local mineral collection  
\* Collection of notorious Derringer handguns  
\* Actual County Jail cells as they were used

\* Collection of authentic Otto Mears Silver  
Railroad Passes, from the 1800's

\* 3 FLOORS OF PERIOD AND HISTORIC DISPLAYS

# San Juan County Historical Society

## Life Members and Patrons for 2000

### Life Members

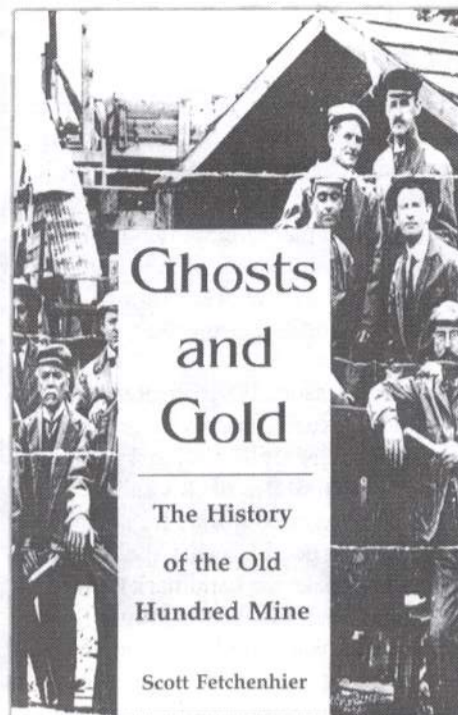
Jim and Sharon Allabashi  
Avalanche Coffee House,  
Jodi and Chris Nute  
Nathan and Gloryann Baily  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ballou  
Bill and Marilyn Becker  
Marge Bell  
Jack and Sarah Benham  
Ryan Bennett  
Les and Louise Bergman  
Ann Bertch  
Tom and Rae Bertch  
Mr. And Mrs. John Biggers  
Frances Bodemuller  
Fay Brewer  
Bill and Loiese Bryan  
Sandra Voilleque Campuzano  
Wiley and Wyatt Carmack  
Tom Casper  
George and Karen Chapman  
Fred and Nancy Clark  
John Cook  
Lynn and Sharleen Daugherty  
William Davis  
Jon and Sharon Denious  
Jim and Maureen DeVeny  
Tony and Denise Dyson  
Steve Fearn  
Scott Fetchenhier  
Ford and Myrt Fullingim  
Tom and Stanna Galbraith  
Chris and Donna George  
Freda and Brison Gooch  
Geoffrey Halaburt  
Francis and Shirley Hill  
Milton and Janis Hill  
Rick and Julie Hinton  
Bill and Leslie Jones

Richard and Melinda Jones  
Dave and Mary Beth Kalina  
Kathi Kalina  
Don and Shirley Kramer  
Laura Ledbetter  
Loren and Rena Lew  
Larry Manes and Nelda Cuppy  
Richard Mathews  
Mr. And Mrs. Dell McCoy  
Ellanore McKenna  
Irma McNamara  
Tom and Jean Merson  
Alvie Moore  
Stan Moore  
Duane Murphy  
Bruce and Suzanne Norquist  
Allen Nossaman  
Esther Orr  
Gary and Terry Peterson  
Kris Peterson  
Janet and Harry Pritchett  
Vic and Mary Catherine Reichman  
Bill and Beverly Rich  
Tom and Mary Jo Sandell  
John Schmelzer  
Esther Mathews Schmidt  
Robert and Carol Schmook  
Cheryl Shaw  
Morgan and Esther Sinclair  
Robert and Sally Sloan  
David Smith  
Robert Smith  
Don Spencer  
Don and Jolene Stott  
Gerald and Nancy Swanson  
Charles Thorn and Andrea Kron  
Paul Voilleque  
Tom and Paula Wiseman

### Patrons

1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of Ouray  
William and Laura Alsup  
Charles and Pamela Armstrong  
John and Katherine Bauer  
Michael and Tracy Bertch  
Philip and Tresea Blackford  
Melissa Bradley  
Chester and Jane Brcko  
Carl and Marvel Burtis

Charles Chase  
Phillip Christman  
William and Phyllis Graves  
Jim Jackson  
William and Roberta Landau  
Susan Langley  
Dick and Kelly Lippoth  
Steven Lorenz  
James and Mary Moyer



By Scott Fetchenhier

After many winter seasons of research and writing, the book *Ghosts and Gold—the History of the Old Hundred Mine* is finished. I had never dreamed that it would take this long. Doing the research was the fun part—actually writing the text and then relying on others to turn it into a book was the difficult part. The writing was actually finished in 1995. It took almost four years, two graphic layout artists, and one printer to bring it to fruition.

Beverly Rich asked if I could think of a few frustrations and a few highlights of this project. I probably hit a low spot two years ago when my entire manuscript and photos were shipped back to me after a year's work by the first graphic layout artist in Denver who had too many projects and a full time job. Fortunately, I found another layout artist in Fort Collins, but it took us almost two years of hard work before it was printed. Seems like we would get on a

Mary Ann Nuttall  
Neal Reich  
Ken and Karla Safranski  
John and Bobbie Schanzenbach  
Ted and Fran Schilt  
Nathan and Cynthia Topek  
Ray Turner and Barbara Lawson  
Charles and Kathie Van Winkle

roll and the tourist season would arrive and I'd have to tend to my business for another several months while putting the book project on the back burner.

There were many highlights—hikes to the Hawkeye Mine, Five level, and the boardinghouse at Seven level, following the outcrops of the Seven vein and many trips underground to film and photograph. I can still remember how thrilled I was when I found such things as Reinhard Niegold's last will and testament filed at the Courthouse and origins of the name The Old Hundred. I also enjoyed the interviews of the miners who had worked at the Old Hundred, especially in the Dixilyn days; some of their stories were very amusing. Probably one of the most satisfying events to happen was this summer's renovation of the old boardinghouse at Seven level, truly an incredible treasure of the San Juan's magnificent mining past.

I was asked if I was going to write any more books. Most certainly! I'm already working on a small book on the Caledonia Mine in Minnie Gulch and spending hours in the Courthouse pouring over old records. At least now I've learned a few tricks that might shorten this next project down to a couple of years. Who knows?

## New Interpretive Signs to be Placed in 2000

Four new interpretive signs will be set next summer. These signs were purchased with a grant from ISTE, a program administered by the Colorado Department of Transportation for interpretive projects along Scenic and Historic Byways. The signs were designed by Board members Beverly Rich, Allen Nossaman and "Zeke" Zanon.

One interprets Howardsville, the first county seat on the Western Slope of Colorado, and completes our trio of ghost town signs. The next two will be set at "Sunnyside Park", the pullout created by Sunnyside Gold Corporation across from the tailings ponds. One will feature the Mayflower Mill, and the other will describe early mining in the San Juans, focusing on the Aspen and Silver Lake Mines. It also has a beautiful photo of "Waldheim", the Stoiber mansion, which was situated right across the Animas River from "Sunnyside Park".

The most intricate and ambitious of the signs will be placed off of the road directly across from Arrastra Gulch. This historic area is where the earliest mining claims were staked and was a warren of activity for fifty years. The sign interprets the many tram lines in Arrastra Gulch and the mines that they served.

## Museum Highlights in 1999

by Duane Murphy

There are, to be sure, special memories from each summer. Here are some from last year...

An Italian couple wanted stickers on the minerals so they can remember what they are when they get home...A French visitor comes in to find a book on how trains work, and by chance, we had just started stocking that book that very day...There is the Japanese lady, an aunt with eight children, who speak no English, but are full of questions...A proud, well-dressed lady from Dayton was here with her adult children. After they had paid, she said that she was a senior citizen and didn't think that she should have to pay the full admission fee. She stated that in Dayton she never had to pay full fare for ANYTHING ever! I asked her what she thought she should pay for our admission ticket and she said, "oh, about 90 cents", so that is exactly what her ticket cost...This tops the list: a German tourist who spoke very little English was browsing through the books, found *Bordellos of Blair Street* and thought it was a modern guide—he asked me which place I would recommend for the evening!

## Support The San Juan County Historical Society through the purchase of books.

Remember members, we have your favorite books at a 10% discount.

### The Story of Hillside Cemetery, Volume II

by Freda Peterson

An updated version of the popular 1989 edition, this second volume covers M through Z. Much new material is included in a new easier to read format.

Volume I, first available last year, is still available.

Order either volume by mail for \$64.00 including shipping and handling. Colorado residents please add \$4.20 sales tax. Sorry, no member discount on this item.

### Many More Mountains, Volume 3, Rails into Silverton

The third volume of Allen Nossaman's detailed history of Silverton and San Juan County was recently released. Covering the arrival of the Denver & Rio Grande Western, it is of special interest to rail fans.

Available from the Society for \$39.00 including shipping and handling. Colorado residents please add \$2.73 sales tax.

### Ghosts and Gold, The History of the Old Hundred Mine

by Scott Fetchenhier

This brand new publication is now available for \$9.95 and contains 143 pages and many illustrations. Colorado residents please add 70¢ sales tax.

We will mail order. Call or write for a list. P.O. Box 154 Silverton, Colorado 81433, 970-387-5838