

# SAN JUAN COURIER

A Periodical Publication of the San Juan County Historical Society

Summer 2001

Silverton, San Juan County, Colorado

## Mining Museum Progresses; Caledonia Building Moved

The San Juan County Historical Society made history of its own when it broke ground for a new mining museum this past summer. A large hole was excavated behind the archives and courthouse buildings beginning in late June. Hopes had been to start the project sooner, but early concrete bids were almost double the amount estimated, forcing the society to look elsewhere for bids. Klink and Lew Construction were able to find time in their busy schedules to take on the concrete foundation project. About three-fourths of the foundation has been poured and the support girders installed for the Caledonia boardinghouse building. The remaining foundations and support girders for the rest of the building will be finished during the summer of 2001.

The boardinghouse, a gift from Kenneth Knapp, will make up the front, or southwest facing of the new building. It was removed from a precarious existence in Minnie Gulch, northeast of Silverton, where rock fall was slowly destroying the back wall.

A large, two story frame structure of eight inch square timbers adjoining the Caledonia building will be built this summer on top of a full basement. By the end of the summer the building should be dried in with roof and walls.

The Historical Society presently has enough money to finish the outside of the building but is short of funds for the inside. The Society is actively pursuing grants and donations to help finish the building, and is sending out a plea to members for financial help so as to continue with electric, plumbing, and lighting on the inside of the museum. When asked why the Society didn't wait for complete funds to construct the entire building project, Director Zanon replied optimistically, "It's now or never. Us old 'geezer' aren't getting any younger! If we don't start this project now, we'll never do it!"

### Moving the Building

The Caledonia boardinghouse was dismantled and moved from its location in Minnie Gulch last summer, and will soon be a part of the Historical Society's mining museum complex. Work began in late June on the project under the direction of Zeke Zanon; within ten days the crew had dismantled the boardinghouse and stacked its timbers at the site with a crane brought up the steep, four-wheel-drive road leading to the mine. Along with extensive photographic documentation, the timbers were numbered and color-coded by wall for re-erection in Silverton.

Two months passed before the foun-



Above left: Concrete was poured last summer for the foundation of Silverton's new mining museum. Construction of a building to house the society's extensive mining artifact collection has long been awaited. At right, workers in Zeke Zanon's crew dismantle the Caledonia building at its site in Minnie Gulch.

dations at the museum site were ready and the timbers could be moved to Silverton. With help from San Juan County and Fullmer Construction, the timbers were brought off the mountain using trailers and dump trucks, no mean feat since some of the timbers were 35 feet long and the mine road contained over a dozen switchbacks. Two trips were necessary up and down Minnie Gulch to transport the large timbers.

Due to the lateness of the season and the potential for snow the re-erection of the boardinghouse was postponed until this summer. The building will go up much slower than it came down. Besides the initial foundational work, several of the old timbers are in poor shape, and will have to be replaced with over \$12,000 of new timber. This will require painstaking hand work to match the intricate joints crafted by earlier carpenters.

Zanon's crew consisted of Bill Alsup and Alsup Crane Service, Steve Dailey, Robert Hook, Jeremiah Greenfield, Shawn Duteil, and Mike Andreatta. The Caledonia Boardinghouse was donated by mine owner Kenneth Knapp, while the moving and eventual re-building of the boardinghouse has been made possible by a generous grant from an anonymous donor.

### Enjoy Step Back in Time Days

You are invited to join us in the celebration of our unique heritage. Take a step back in time to the turn of the century mining boom-time heyday. Silverton is the perfect setting, with its charming Victorian architecture, for this historical celebration of a time gone by. Sponsors include the Town of Silverton, The San Juan County Historical Society, the Silverton Area Chamber of Commerce, the D&SNGRR, and Silverton Bed and Breakfast Association.

An event started last year, Step Back in Time proved to be a success with an emphasis on living-history and dance. This year's celebration is June 8, 9 and 10, with events happening all three days. Starting with "Liars Night" on Thursday, June 7 at the Miner's Tavern, and ending with a croquet tournament on the Courthouse lawn on Sunday afternoon, each day is packed with events. Friday features cemetery tours by Mary Beaber and museum tours by Bev Rich. And, watch out, a real live train robbery will be staged by the Durango Gunfighters Club.

The Society will sponsor a slide show to start off its "Summer Program Series" on Friday night. Saturday begins

with a horseback breakfast ride and ends with the Society Ball at the beautifully restored Silverton Town Hall. During the day there will be mining exhibitions sponsored by the Hardrockers Holiday Committee. The new community center will be the venue for a Victorian fashion show in the afternoon, and the Society will judge the Victorian Hat Contest. Sunday brings the High Noon parade, and everyone is invited to the Villa Dallevale for ice cream and cake.

Interspersed throughout the weekend are dance classes featuring the waltz, the polka, one step, mazurka, quadrille, and tango presented by Durango International Folkdancers and dancemasters Bill and Debbie Widolph and Richard Powers. Be sure to purchase your Heritage Pass to get an 18% discount to visiting Silverton's Heritage Attractions, the Old Jail Museum, the Old 100 Mine tour, and the Mayflower Gold Mill Tour. These are just a few of the events planned for the jam-packed weekend, so make your plans now to join the fun. For a complete schedule, call Kelly Mitchell of the Town of Silverton at 387-5522.

# Chairman's Report

Dear Members:

We awoke today to bright blue skies and wispy clouds floating below the peaks. We got 24 inches of snow yesterday, extending mud season yet another week. The train starts Saturday, so the summer season is upon us, snow or not. The museum and Mayflower Mill Tour open Memorial Day weekend, giving us a lot to do in the next couple of weeks. Also getting underway is the construction of our new mining museum building. Last summer we got most of the concrete basement poured—this will be the major display area. We have been waiting until the temperature is warm enough to get the final wall poured. Then the timber-frame super-structure will go up. At the same time, Zeke Zanoni and his crew will re-erect the Caledonia boardinghouse. Because of his careful analysis and planning, the dismantling and moving of the boardinghouse went very well and took a quarter of the time he had expected. He says he is not so sure that it will go up as quickly. I bet it does. We are spending money like crazy to get our world-class mining collection on display, dear members, so reach deep into your pockets for us this year.

The successful moving of the boardinghouse was a highlight this past year, but we had more. The Mayflower Mill was named a National Historic Landmark, one of only 2296 in the nation. What a celebration we had, complete with dignitaries from the National Park Service and State Historical Society at the plaque presentation. Patty Dailey supplied a beautiful cake and, of course, the famous Silverton Brass Band played for the occasion. Now there are three National Historic Landmarks right here—Silverton, the D&SNGRR, and the Mill. Because of that, I was asked to be a board member of the National Historic Landmarks Stewards Association, a nationwide group that promotes awareness of NHLs. We had our initial meeting in Philadelphia in November and began our strategic plan. We also had a private tour of Liberty Hall, but that is a story for another time.

Another highlight was the naming of Silverton to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Dozen Distinctive Destinations" list. This recognition comes as a result of our close relationship with the Trust. For some reason, they think we are great. Since we are a tourist town now, everything like this helps. Plus, our little town truly is beautiful.

It was a slam-dunk for Silverton in the grant department this year. Elsewhere in these pages you will read about the Society's Powerhouse Project. Work on the 1880 Congregational Church got funded, as did the 1883 Masonic Hall. Work continues on the 1907 Courthouse—the south entrance stone is being worked on right now. We are proud to say that we helped in one degree or another on all of these projects. Historic preservation is an industry in Silverton, and we have gained a state-wide reputation for it. We do it right!

A "lowlight"—we placed five more interpretive signs out in the county last summer. They were paid for by grant money—but we had to put up the match. It took hundreds of volunteer hours to design them and they turned out very well. Two weeks ago someone went out and blasted two of them with a shotgun. Your Board of Directors has personally pledged \$1000 in reward money to catch the perpetrator. If caught, we plan to prosecute to the fullest. We are volunteers with a mission; we don't do this for fun. We do it because we think preserving the history of San Juan County is a noble cause, one that affects every aspect of our lives. Also because of vandalism, we moved D&RG caboose #7, the oldest caboose in the state, down to the railroad yards in Durango where we hope to restore it with the help of the D&SNGRR. Railbuffs from all over the world will be happy about this project.

We are proud to be the sponsor of Colorado Preservation, Inc.'s Fall conference September 14-16. We are teaming up with the La Plata and Ouray County Historical Societies, the D&SNGRR, and the Center for Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College to put on the best conference ever. There will be train rides, mine tours, mill tours and Town Hall tours. In fact, it was hard to pick and choose between all of the neat projects in which we have participated. For more information about the conference, please call CPI at 303-893-4260. We are co-sponsoring the Colorado Mine Tour Operators safety workshop later this month with the Division of Minerals and Geology, and in July a Teacher Conservation Workshop. We are busy, dear members.

I will close by giving you the best news: Archivist Allen Nossaman survived quadruple bypass heart surgery with flying colors and is back home now and has started summer hours at the archive. He has devoted 35 years of his life to us, dear members. How lucky we are. And there will be a Volume IV!

*Bev*

## REWARD

You may receive a substantial reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who vandalized historic interpretive signs. Call Crime Stoppers at 247-1112. You do not have to give your name.

## SAN JUAN COURIER

George Chapman, Editor

Contributors:

Beverly Rich, Scott Fetchenhier, Mary Beaber, Zeke Zanoni, Freda Peterson

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.

### San Juan County Historical Society Officers and Directors, 2001

Beverly Rich, Chairman  
Allen Nossaman, Secretary  
George Darnall Zanoni, Steven Fearn, Alfred Klinke, Directors  
Scott Fetchenhier, Vice Chairman  
William R. Jones, Treasurer

## Silverton to be Featured in Railfest

Silverton takes the spotlight at this summer's Railfest, August 22 through the 27. This year the Society's restored railbus, Casey Jones, will make excursions, along with three Rio Grande Southern Galloping Geese (Ridgway Railroad Museum motor #1, Colorado Railroad Museum's motor #2 and the Dolores Galloping Goose Historical Society's motor #5) Also making excursions will be the beautifully restored woodburning Eureka and Palisades locomotive #4.

One of this year's highlights will be a special VIP train, the "Presidential Special", featuring the 1880 Alamosa Parlor Car, 1878 Nomad, and the newly restored 1886 General Palmer, all spiffed up with bunting. It will be a photo opportunity unequalled. Registrations start on Wednesday with test runs of the Geese and the Eureka from Durango.

Excursion rides from Durango on the Eureka and the Geese are Thursday's events, with a reception at the Durango & Silverton

Narrow Gauge Railroad Roundhouse Museum at 6:00 p.m.

Friday is Silverton Day—the VIP train leads the way up the Animas Canyon, followed by the Eureka and the Geese where they join Casey Jones for a first-of-its-kind photo shoot. The San Juan County Historical Society and the Old 100 Mine Tour will host a coffee and dessert reception at the Town Hall, where there will be a model train exhibit by the San Juan Large Scales. Later Friday evening, Bill Jones will show rare, never before presented home movies taken by his grandfather Morris W. Abbott while he chased trains in the 1940s and 50s. Excursions continue on Saturday and Sunday with special trains scheduled for photo shoots.

For more information and reservations call the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad at 970-247-2733 or log onto [www.durangotrain.com](http://www.durangotrain.com).

## Raab Awarded Scholarship

The Society is proud to award Nicholas Raab the second Kalina Memorial Scholarship. Raab is the son of Rose and Larry Raab of Silverton. Raab, who graduated on May 24, is the valedictorian of his class.

He will attend Colorado State Univer-

sity in the Fall and will study history and philosophy.

The Kalina Memorial Scholarship was endowed in 1999 by Kathilynn Kalina in memory of her father and long-time Society member, Dan Kalina.

## Mill Attendance and Exhibits Increase

by Zeke Zanoni, Mill Manager

After the fourth full year of operation and the second of self-guided tours, the mill is showing significant progress in attendance. In 1999 paying visitors were 1,877 versus 2,395 in 2000, giving a 21.6% increase. Keep your fingers crossed!

For those not already informed, the Mayflower Mill is now officially designated a National Historic Landmark. It is the only mill in the United States fully equipped and open to the public.

Although the self-guided tour has certainly proven itself a profit-maker (because of only one full-time employee), it has also taken much of the human touch away from the mill. We tend to forget this in the heat of battle, but all one has to do to see the difference is to take a group through, which we do if we have reservations for eight or more. Perhaps a way to help fill this void is to install a sound system as seen in the larger museums, and, of course, to again offer daily guided tours when the attendance climbs to sufficient levels.

We have tried to add something new to the mill each year, either as a part of the tour itself or a display to the mini-museum we are slowly creating on the ball mill floor. I am happy to say that last year we did both.

First, a side branch was added to the tour by opening up the catwalk above the Ball Mill leading to the belt feeders directly under the Fine Ore Bin. The nice thing about this addition is that it shows and clarifies the route of the ore to the rod mill which was previously unseen by visitors.

The second addition was the small stamp mill from a sampling plant of the 1800s set up on display on the ball mill floor. The hardware was donated to the Society by Don Stott a few years back, but the timber-frame which supported it was missing and long gone. With a little research, a new framework was made and the hardware added. Each stamp for this mill (five) is only about 95 pounds compared with the production mills with stamps from 800 to 1300 pounds. But, it makes a nice display and gives the visitor a good idea of this early milling technique as compared to the Mayflower Flotation Mill they are visiting.

If this has not been mentioned before, we now have a 30 minute video about the Mayflower Mill. It is played for our visitors during the day and can be purchased for \$14.95 in our new and expanded gift shop. If interested, we will send you one with \$3.00 S/H added to the price.

The Mill is a never-ending project and subject, so I will close by saying thank you for your help and support over the years.



## HERITAGE PASS

Visit Silverton's Heritage Attractions!  
Save 18% off the ticket price  
when you purchase a Heritage Pass for  
the Old 100 Mine Tour,  
the Mayflower Gold Mill Tour,  
and the Old Jail Museum.

Passes may be purchased at the above locations.



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



The south and east sides of the historic powerhouse. The need for extensive rehabilitation and restoration is obvious.



The east facing facade of the building. The truck scale shed to the right will be removed as a part of the planned \$794,000 project.

## Powerhouse Project to Provide Economic Support

In 1996 the Society received as a donation, the Mayflower Mill from Sunnyside Gold Corporation. Included in that donation was the Jeannette Roux Placer, a 20 acre parcel of land on which sit the 1906 Animas Power and Light powerhouse and the 1910 frame mulebarn. The historic buildings are in need of serious rehabilitation and repair.

Silverton has experienced a severe economic downturn since the Sunnyside Mine shut down in 1991. There are firms who desire to move here or operate businesses here, but there are no suitable land or buildings in which to locate. The available "store-front" property in Silverton is

too high-priced and not suitable for industrial uses. The Society, with its large parcel of flat, accessible land, with usable buildings, is uniquely situated to provide that opportunity as well as to preserve the historic structures through adaptive reuse.

In October of 1997, the Society received a \$21,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration to determine if a business incubator and industrial park is feasible, to develop a general design plan which includes architectural and engineering requirements, and to develop cost projections. The plan was completed and published in March 1999. The plan showed the

industrial park and business incubators should attract new industry, encourage local business expansion, and provide year around jobs, as well as provide the Society, with its limited resources, a way to preserve two National Register buildings.

The EDA invited the Society to submit a grant application for the construction project in 2000. It was decided to scale the project back to one that will install the infrastructure, build some pad sites, and rehabilitate the powerhouse. The EDA promised 80% of the funding, so \$85,000 was applied for from the State Historical Fund and \$92,000 from the Colorado Economic Commission in

matching funds. The San Juan County commissioners agreed to help with \$10,000 of in-kind labor.

This will be a \$794,000 project. Partners in the Powerhouse Incubator Project are San Juan 2000, San Juan County, Region 9, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, Colorado Small Business Development Center, Colorado Historical Society, and the Economic Development Administration. Because of contractual and seasonal constraints, engineering and surveying work will commence this summer, with ground breaking in 2002.

## Red Mountain Task Force Gains Important Grant Dollars

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, on the San Juan Skyway National Scenic Byway, has been identified 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. It became the Red Mountain Task Force. Having identified the Million Dollar Highway as a major draw for

tourists in Southwestern Colorado, a region that depends on tourism for its living, the Task Force concluded that potential development was a threat to the resource and that any private land for sale should be acquired and added to the surrounding Uncompahgre and San Juan National Forests.

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 asked Congress to appropriate \$5 million dollars to buy some of the private property in the District. The Task Force worked closely with the staffs of Senators Allard and Campbell and Congressman McInnis, and a last minute appropriation was made from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The L&WCF 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. Great support was also given by Colorado Governor Owen's office.

These funds will be used to buy a portion of the Idarado Mining Company's property. In a statement to the press, the company said it was very proud to know that its property will be preserved and enjoyed by generations to come. The Task Force has also received grants from the Idarado Resource Damage Restoration Project and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) to purchase several other parcels, including part of the old townsite of Ironton and key wetlands in Ironton Park containing iron fens. There are only seven of these rare iron fens in the United States. The Task Force has gone back to Congress with a second request for L&WCF funds for further purchases.

The original purpose of the Task Force was to identify and stabilize many of the old mining and railroad sites in the District. The State Historical Fund, administered by the Colorado Historical Society, was instrumental in funding the stabilization of five structures in 1999 and 2000. Word was received in April that the applications for the Silver Ledge and the American Girl have also been funded. Also funded was a Historic Site Inventory researched and prepared by Durango Archaeological Consultants. This fantastic documentation will be available at the archive. The State Historical Fund requires a 25% match, which has been raised by the Ouray and San Juan County Historical Societies and the State Scenic Byways Program. The stabilization grants are being administered by the Ouray County Historical Society, and the Site Survey by the office of Community Services at Fort Lewis College. Plans and specifications were drawn by A. J. Viets and the stabilization work is being done by Red Mountain Construction and Timber Ridge Construction.

## Old Hundred Work Continues

During the summer of 1999, the Society undertook an incredible project—putting a new roof on the Old Hundred boardinghouse in Cunningham Gulch. 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 another grant coming from the Bureau of Land Management for \$15,000. Two contractors, Klinke and Lew of Silverton and Granada 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.

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. 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 gating off the portal of No. Seven level.

\$10,000 has been promised by the BLM and the balance by the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology for putting a roof over the Old Hundred tramhouse at No. Seven level. The roof is gone, along with several of the upper story walls. Most of the material for the renovation is already at the site. When the job gets done is undetermined until the DMG sets its schedule for mine portal closures for the summer. The project will "piggyback" with their planned gating of the Veta Madre Shaft.

## San Juan County Historical Society

Application for Membership — 2001

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 2001. I understand that this membership entitles me (and my spouse, if applicable) to a vote at the annual meeting in October, 2001.

- ☐ **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: \_\_\_\_\_

# San Juan County Historical Society

## Life Members and Patrons for 2000

### Life Members

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Ray Turner and Barbara Lawson  
Charles and Kathie Van Winkle

*Add your name to this list—send your membership application today!*

## Hillside Cemetery Subject of Tours, Workday

by Mary Beaber and Freda Peterson

Have you ever thought about visiting a cemetery to find out about the past? Come and join us for a walking tour of the historic Hillside Cemetery in Silverton. This is not your typical manicured cemetery, but one that is located on a rustic mountain hillside covered by wildflowers and aspens. This tour will give you a perspective of how the people lived and what life was like in a pioneer mining community of the Colorado Rockies.

The cemetery is the burial grounds of many of Silverton's early settler families, and includes the resting places of victims of mining accidents, major snowslides, as well as fatalities of the 1918 Spanish Influenza epidemic. This epidemic claimed almost ten percent of Silverton's population. Stories of the "Russian Princess", and insight about the cremated remains of five lost souls recently found in the old mortuary will also be shared during the tour. The tour will include the Knights of Pythias burial plot, which was recently marked. This organization was one of the early social clubs of pioneer mining communities.

Research on the burials in Hillside Cemetery has been done by Silvertonian, Freda Carley Peterson. Her revised two volume publication, *The Story of Hillside Cemetery*, contains detailed data on more than 3,000 documented burials. Each entry in the book represents the story of that person's life. Tour dates have been scheduled for Friday, June 8th. and Sunday, June 10th. at 10:00 a.m., meeting at the cemetery entrance. Dates for the July and August tours will be announced at a later time. Comfortable walking shoes for the tour are recommended. Donations will be accepted during the tour for the Hillside Cemetery Fund which helps maintain, restore, and preserve the cemetery's historic character. For additional information, contact the San Juan Historical Society at 387-5838.

Saturday June 16, 2001 will mark the eighth annual workday for Silverton's unique Hillside Cemetery. Everyone is welcome to come help tidy up the historic cemetery, as the rugged winters always leave plenty of work to be done on the rocky mountainside. In addition to picking up and disposing of broken branches and other

debris, several tombstones will be set on previously unmarked graves.

General on-going maintenance is a joint undertaking of the Town of Silverton and the Hillside Cemetery Fund. The high-country climate forces continual repair and straightening of man-made structures... fences, walls and tombstones. A special service provided by the Town of Silverton is the regular plowing of the cemetery road.

Since 1985 the permanent marking of older graves has been a worthy project of the Hillside Cemetery Fund and has been made possible by the cooperation of Family Craft Memorials in Durango. The tombstones are paid for by individuals, many of whom wish to mark the graves of their forebears. Donations to the Cemetery Fund can be earmarked to purchase markers for the old unmarked graves. So far, 127 individuals have been identified by these markers. In addition, 19 other graves in remote county locations are now also identified with markers.

A visit to Hillside Cemetery is like reading a book of short stories...the tombstones give glimpses into each life, such as age, place of birth, names of organizations to which they belonged, names of parents, wives, husbands...even causes of death (many from snowslides and mine explosions). A photo of the deceased may gaze back at you from some markers. A large number of those buried at Hillside are immigrants who fled from hopeless conditions in their homeland and came to America in search of opportunities for a better life. Most were buried near others of the same nationality: Italians, Slavs, Irish, Welsh, Cornish, Scots, Germans, Scandinavians, and others.

On any given summer day, Hillside Cemetery has visitors from all over the country...some are looking for the grave of an ancestor or loved one, and others have no one at all buried here. They are drawn here because of the interesting, intriguing and informative nature of cemeteries...those buried in this (or any) cemetery tell the history of the area and time in which those people lived.

## Archive Report

The San Juan County Historical Society Archives continues to show substantial increases in usage and inquiries. Leading areas of inquiry are from house owners, family genealogical researchers, journalists, historical authors, and governmental agencies doing research on mined land reclamation, water quality, and historic preservation.

One of the largest jobs facing the archives is the continued cataloging of its collections, most of the task being taken on by Director Allen Nossaman. The Society's substantial collection of maps is currently being catalogued and studied by Director Scott Fetchenhier. The archives acquired map cabinets for storage of the maps in the vault with its first use of money generated by the Archives Endowment Fund promoted by Ellanore McKenna.

The Society continues to receive donations of family photos and possessions, papers, letters, and records, including records from the Congregational Church of Silverton. Ann McNaughton Thompson has done a preliminary organization of the church records and extensive research for a historical preservation grant for the church.

Another example of recent donations is the collection of photographs from Kent Brandeberry taken by his mother, Emma Lane Brandeberry, of people and places around Eureka during the World War I era.

The archives were closed for a portion of the winter season when Nossaman underwent open heart surgery on February 22. It is anticipated the usual Monday and Wednesday afternoon hours will be resumed by Memorial Day.

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