

THE DENVER POST  
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Heritage

The Magazine of History Colorado

November / December 2016

rejects Amendment 2  
1992 law 'born  
of animosity'  
gays  
Michael Booth

# Overturning Amendment 2



## Colorado's Landmark Gay Rights Case And Its 20-Year Legacy

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Pueblo's Salt Creek Memory Project
- 30 Years of the Centennial Farms Program
- Fall and Holiday Season Programs Around the State

### History Colorado Center

1200 Broadway  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
303/HISTORY

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#### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

##### **Individual \$65** (1 adult)

1 membership card, 1 guest ticket, 1 Georgetown Loop Railroad® ticket

##### **Senior Individual \$60** (1 adult, age 65+)

1 membership card, 1 guest ticket, 1 Georgetown Loop Railroad® ticket

##### **NEW! Dual \$75** (2 adults or 1 adult and 1 guest)

2 membership cards, 2 guest tickets, 2 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets

##### **NEW! Senior Dual \$70** (2 adults age 65+ or 1 senior and 1 guest)

2 membership cards, 2 guest tickets, 2 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets

##### **NEW! Grandparent \$80** (2 adults, up to 4 grandchildren under 18)

2 membership cards, 2 guest tickets, 2 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets

##### **Family \$85** (2 adults, children under 18)

2 membership cards, 2 guest tickets, 2 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets

##### **Explorer \$150** (2 adults, children or grandchildren under 18, 2 guests)

2 membership cards, 4 guest tickets, 4 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets

##### **Centennial \$300** (2 adults, children or grandchildren under 18, 4 guests)

2 membership cards, 6 guest tickets, 6 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets

*Members at these Giving Society levels receive the VIP experience!*

##### **Historian \$500** (2 adults, children or grandchildren under 18, 6 guests)

2 membership cards, 8 guest tickets, 8 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets,  
2 lecture tickets

##### **Bancroft \$1,000** (2 adults, children or grandchildren under 18, 6 guests)

2 membership cards, 10 guest tickets, 8 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets,  
4 lecture tickets, exclusive events, recognition in Annual Report and Donor  
Wall, private collections tours, concierge service, Smithsonian Affiliates benefits\*

##### **NEW! Pioneer \$3,000** (2 adults, children or grandchildren under 18, 6 guests)

2 membership cards, 12 guest tickets, 12 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets,  
6 lecture tickets, exclusive events, recognition in Annual Report and Donor  
Wall, private collections tours, concierge service, Smithsonian Affiliates  
benefits\*, access to museum leadership

##### **NEW! Visionary \$10,000** (2 adults, children or grandchildren under 18, 6 guests)

2 membership cards, 14 guest tickets, 14 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets,

10 lecture tickets, exclusive events, recognition in Annual Report and Donor Wall, private collections tours, concierge service, Smithsonian Affiliates benefits\*, access to museum leadership

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#### ALL MEMBERS ENJOY THESE PRIVILEGES FOR 12 FULL MONTHS

- Unlimited free admission to the History Colorado Center
- Unlimited free admission to History Colorado museums and historic sites statewide
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- 10% discount in History Colorado Center's Café Rendezvous
- Discounts on research and photo services in Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center
- Benefits and privileges at Time Travelers® museums and historical sites nationwide

## Member Appreciation Weekend December 9–11

History Colorado thanks its members for their generous support with a weekend of programs and discounts!

### History Colorado Center

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.  
303/866-3639

On Friday from 3 to 4:45 P.M., holiday artifacts will be on display showcasing traditions through the years. At 4:30 the festivities continue in a sing-along and storytelling with local performer Marta Burton and pianist Hank Troy. The show celebrates 102 years of holiday illumination in the Mile High City, telling the story of how Denver became the “Christmas Capitol of the World.” The tale begins in 1914 when Sturgeon Electric’s founding father, David Dwight Sturgeon, lit up an outdoor pine tree with red and green bulbs to cheer his ill son. “Pinky” Belford Wayne is the crusading reporter for *The Denver Post* who inspires the city to follow suit. **The performance is only \$4 for members.**

All weekend long, take advantage of a 20% discount at the Café Rendezvous and Gift Shop, enjoy programming and browse historical gingerbread houses created by Art Institute of Colorado culinary students for the first annual Gingerbread House Competition (see page 5). Bring a guest and they can purchase a new membership for 20% off. You can also save 30% on gift memberships for family and friends when purchased onsite this weekend only.

### Byers-Evans House Museum

Friday and Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.  
Sunday, 1 to 4 P.M.  
303/620-4933

Don’t let the holidays go by without a visit to one of Denver’s most elegant and historic mansions, just two blocks from the History Colorado Center. Do some holiday shopping in our gift shop, where History Colorado members get 20% off all weekend. Members who register for the December 10 holiday tea get a free gift!

History Colorado on the Web	
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# COLORADO Heritage

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

- I4 Preservation Now
- I6 The Salt Creek Memory Project  
*Dawn DiPrince*
- I8 Nine Justices and One Colorado  
Lawyer: The Landmark  
*Romer v. Evans* Gay Rights Case  
*Susan Berry Casey*
- 28 Colorado Centennial Farms

#### DEPARTMENTS

- 2 From the Director
- 3 New & On View
- 7 Family Fun
- 9 Adult Programs
- I3 Calendar

#### ON THE COVER

In 1995, Boulder attorney Jean Dubofsky (right) stood before nine U.S. Supreme Court justices to plead the case against Amendment 2, the 1992 amendment to the Constitution of the State of Colorado denying protections to gays and lesbians. On May 20, 1996, the Court ruled the amendment unconstitutional. Here, Dubofsky celebrates the justices’ verdict with then Boulder mayor Leslie Durgin, who’d attended the trial. Photo courtesy Boulder Daily Camera. See page 18.

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

**HISTORY COLORADO CENTER**

1200 Broadway, Denver

**Open:** Daily, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$12; seniors and students \$10; children 5 and under free. **303/HISTORY**, [www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org](http://www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org)**BYERS-EVANS HOUSE MUSEUM**

1310 Bannock Street, Denver

**Open:** Gallery and Gift Shop open Monday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.; Sunday, 1 to 4 P.M. House on view by guided tour only Monday through Saturday, 10:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.; Sunday, 1:30 to 3:30 P.M.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$6; seniors and students (with ID) \$5; children (6–12) \$4. Group tours available. **303/620-4933**, [www.ByersEvansHouseMuseum.org](http://www.ByersEvansHouseMuseum.org)**EL PUEBLO HISTORY MUSEUM**

301 North Union, Pueblo

**Open:** Monday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Sunday, noon to 4 P.M.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$5; seniors, children 6–12, and students with ID \$4; children 5 and under free; children 12 and under free on Saturdays. **719/583-0453**, [www.ElPuebloHistoryMuseum.org](http://www.ElPuebloHistoryMuseum.org)**FORT GARLAND MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER**

25 miles east of Alamosa off U.S. 160

**Open:** November–December, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Closed January and February. Summer hours begin March 1.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$5; seniors \$4.50; children (6–16), \$3.50. **719/379-3512**, [www.FortGarlandMuseum.org](http://www.FortGarlandMuseum.org)**FORT VASQUEZ MUSEUM**

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

**Open:** April–September, daily, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. October–March: Wednesday through Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. To schedule tours, call 303/866-4591.**Admission:** Members and children under 5 free; nonmember adults \$3; seniors \$2.50; students (6–16) \$2. **970/785-2832**, [www.FortVasquezMuseum.org](http://www.FortVasquezMuseum.org)**GEORGETOWN LOOP HISTORIC MINING & RAILROAD PARK®**

Georgetown/Silver Plume I-70 exits

Call **1-888/456-6777** for reservations or visit [www.georgetownlooprr.com](http://www.georgetownlooprr.com).**GRANT-HUMPHREYS MANSION**

770 Pennsylvania Street, Denver

**Open:** For rental events, including receptions, weddings, and business meetings. **303/894-2505**, [www.GrantHumphreysMansion.org](http://www.GrantHumphreysMansion.org)**HEALY HOUSE MUSEUM AND DEXTER CABIN**

912 Harrison Avenue, Leadville

**Open:** Daily, May through October, 10 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Group tours (20+) can be arranged in winter (depending on availability) with reservation.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$6; seniors \$5.50; children (6–16) \$4.50; children 5 and under free. **719/486-0487**, [www.HealyHouseMuseum.org](http://www.HealyHouseMuseum.org)**PIKE'S STOCKADE**

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

**Open:** Memorial Day to October 1, or by appointment.**TRINIDAD HISTORY MUSEUM**

312 East Main Street, Trinidad

**Open:** Tuesday–Saturday, 10 A.M.–4 P.M.; May 18–September 30, Tuesday–Friday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Closed on state holidays. Free self-guided tours of garden and grounds, Monday–Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Baca House, Bloom Mansion and Santa Fe Trail Museum available by appointment for groups of six or more.**Admission:** Members free. Nonmember ticket options for Historic Homes Guided Tours, Santa Fe Trail Museum self-guided tours, Friday Heritage Garden Tours, and combination tickets at adult, senior, and child rates. Children 5 and under free. **719/846-7217**, [www.TrinidadHistoryMuseum.org](http://www.TrinidadHistoryMuseum.org)**UTE INDIAN MUSEUM**

17253 Chipeta Road, Montrose

**Closed for expansion**Open in temporary office space, Montrose Visitor Center, 170 S. Cascade  
**970/249-3098**, [www.UteIndianMuseum.org](http://www.UteIndianMuseum.org)

## From the DIRECTOR

As I mentioned in our last issue, we've been looking into some fresh approaches to the publications that you, our members, receive in the mail. So we're making some improvements that you'll start seeing with the new year.

In 2017 we'll launch *Explore*, a brand-new bimonthly publication with all the latest on our exhibitions, programs, concerts, member events, and everything else that's happening at the History Colorado Center and Byers-Evans House Museum in Denver and our Community Museums throughout the state. *Explore* will be your one-stop portal to all the ways you can take advantage of new exhibitions and programs and all the ways you can get involved with History Colorado.

So what's next for the magazine you're holding in your hands? *Colorado Heritage* will still be *Colorado Heritage*, only now as a quarterly magazine of all feature-article content. *Heritage* will continue to be the richly illustrated magazine you already love, filled with stories from every aspect of Colorado's past. You'll see in-depth features by historians, other writers, and everyday people with unique perspectives on Colorado's past, plus interviews with Coloradans who can shed light on today's issues by sharing historical perspectives. We'll round out each issue with a regular series of shorter spotlights, including briefer reflections and recommended reading. And just as History Colorado's exhibits are bringing out more of our rich holdings of historic artifacts, photographs, works of art, and documents, *Heritage* will feature regular looks at fascinating artifacts and documents with compelling stories to tell.

We paid close attention to your *Colorado Heritage* survey responses, so we know you like insights into History Colorado's collections, stories about historic preservation successes around the state, and historically geared feature articles on any subject under the sun. So that's what you'll get.

And don't forget our monthly *History Colorado Now* newsletter, with timely updates on what's happening at all of our sites. If you haven't already, get connected by going to [HistoryColorado.org/membership](http://HistoryColorado.org/membership), where you can select exactly which updates you'd like to receive.

We want each of our publications to be something you look forward to reading and sharing as soon as it arrives, and it's up to you to let us know how we're doing. So watch for these changes in 2017, and please keep letting us know what you think. We listen!

  
Steve W. Turner, Executive Director

# New & On View

## Denver

History Colorado Center (unless otherwise noted)

### *Searching for Home: Homelessness in Colorado History*

Ends December 18!

Homelessness can happen to anyone. See a dress of Baby Doe Tabor's from her days of wealth in Denver—and a stack of IOUs and her flannel long johns from her destitute days in a Leadville mining shack. See *Viaduct*, the photos of Mark Kiryluk, who photographed Denver street scenes and the city's homeless in the 1970s and '80s. Read recent stories of those who've lived homeless, those who've found home and those who've helped.



"Home is a happy life—a beautiful place—the best place you've ever had. I had it for many years."

—Ronald H., 53-year-old Aurora resident

### *Awkward Family Photos*

On view through January 8, 2017

You've seen them on AwkwardFamilyPhotos.com, on Facebook and in your own family's albums—those pictures that just scream *awkward!* Now, the *Awkward Family Photos* exhibit has come to Denver. The exhibit includes more than 200 classic Awkward Family Photos and hilarious "behind the awkwardness" stories. Take your own awkward holiday photo in the DIY studio.

### Spread the Awkward!

Do you have awkward family moments of your own that you'd like to share? We're here to help! Dig through your scrapbooks and boxes to find that quintessential captured moment from your family history. We'll share the photos on our social media platforms and on digital screens in the *Awkward Family Photos* exhibit. To join the fun, send your photos to [dcm@historycolorado.org](mailto:dcm@historycolorado.org).



#### **Traveling Man, 1982, gelatin silver print. 1985.64.9**

"With all his earthly belongings in his backpack, this man spent a great deal of time walking, looking for a place to stay. It started with a hello and then a few words. He only told me that he never spent time in one place very long. He knew I wanted photograph him but never said a word in protest. He only turned for a brief moment and I took this photo. There were no goodbyes, just silence. He's the iconic figure of a true traveler."

—Mark Kiryluk, from *Viaduct: Photographs by Mark Kiryluk*, on view in *Searching for Home*



## By Their Hats, Horses and Homes, We Shall Know Them

On view through January 8, 2017

Explore the connections and continuities with the people of our past as we take a time traveler's glimpse back at the ways in which the qualities and features of Colorado have changed—and also persisted. *By Their Hats, Horses and Homes, We Shall Know Them* features images from the vast collections of Colorado's historic photographs. These selected images help shed light on them and on ourselves.

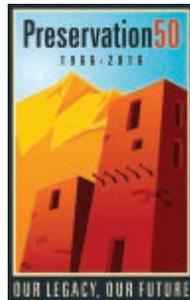


### Preservation50: What Is the Value of Place?

On view now

For the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, History Colorado has unveiled a display dedicated to historic preservation—the effort to preserve, restore,

maintain or rehabilitate buildings, sites and places of historic value. How did the preservation movement begin? What's lost when places are destroyed? What are the benefits of preserving them? What are the incentives and rewards? Artifacts, photos and personal accounts tell the story.



### History Colorado Garners \$2.2 Million NSF Grant

The National Science Foundation has awarded History Colorado \$2.2 million to integrate Native American knowledge with Western science, technology, engineering and math. The five-year project will engage 128,000 learners, educators and experts in activities highlighting Ute peoples' knowledge of plant use, engineering of wood shelters, mathematical patterns in beadwork, and sound amplification for music and dance. "History Colorado is leading the way in innovative methods to collaborate with the tribes," said Governor John Hickenlooper, "and this grant offers a terrific opportunity for teachers, students and the tribes to continue partnering."

*To celebrate the National Science Foundation grant, History Colorado staff shared new activities with visiting fourth graders from Fort Collins.*



### See Season 4 of "Colorado Experience"

The new season of "Colorado Experience," Colorado's Premier History Series, has begun airing. History Colorado is a partner in this series produced by Rocky Mountain PBS, dedicated to preserving and celebrating the people, events and places that have shaped Colorado.

- Dana Crawford (November 10)
- The Tabors (November 17)
- Centennial Farms (December 15)
- Trinidad (December 22)
- Colorado Courthouses (December 29)

For more episodes, see [rmpbs.org/coloradoexperience](http://rmpbs.org/coloradoexperience).



## Suitable for Framing: Historical Prints

Have a history lover on your gift list? Reproduction prints from the History Colorado collection are the perfect gift this holiday season!

History Colorado holds over a million photographic images, as well as thousands of visually appealing items such as maps and posters. Ranging from the very earliest photographs of Denver to illustrated roadmaps, we have something to meet the tastes of every Colorado history lover.

Visit our Online Collection ([h-co.org/collection](http://h-co.org/collection)) to see what's readily available. You can even search by format using the word "photograph," "map" or "poster." Didn't find what you're looking for? Our friendly Library & Research Center staff are happy to take a closer look to help you find that perfect gift. Members get a 10% discount on every order.

For research assistance or to place an order, email us at [photos@state.co.us](mailto:photos@state.co.us) or call 303/866-3759. Place your order by



40000572

December 10 and we'll have it ready for pickup at the History Colorado Center or on its way to your door within a week.

## American Historical Association Comes to Denver

The nation's largest gathering of historians comes to Denver, January 5-8. Join us at the free plenary session, "The First Hundred Days: Priorities for a New U.S. President," on Thursday,

January 5, at 8 P.M. at the Sheraton Denver Downtown. A panel of the country's leading historians will discuss the international and domestic issues that the new administration will face. This will be political analysis from global perspectives you won't find on cable news!

Find out more about the full conference at [historians.org/annual-meeting](http://historians.org/annual-meeting). History Colorado members receive \$55 off full-price registration with the promo code HISTORYCOLORADO.



## HOLIDAYS WITH HISTORY COLORADO

### Denver

History Colorado Center

### First Annual Gingerbread House Competition

Friday, November 25 through Sunday, December 11  
FREE

The History Colorado Center is proud to present its first annual Gingerbread House Competition with a focus on historic Denver homes. Enjoy the sights and smells of gingerbread houses built by Art Institute of Colorado culinary students. See their sugary creations and vote for your favorite!

### Edible Homestead Workshop

Saturday, December 3, 10:30 A.M. to noon  
\$12. Members \$10

RSVP required: 303/866-2394

Learn all about homesteading in Colorado while making your own edible homestead

in this fun hands-on workshop. We'll use delicious treats to create high-plains holiday-themed homesteads. Recommended for children 6-12 years old. Parents are welcome at no added cost.

### History Buffs and Brews: The Eggnog Edition

Tuesday, December 6, 4 to 7 P.M.  
Café Rendezvous at the History Colorado Center  
303/866-2394

FREE

Show off your ugliest sweater and get into the holiday spirit with the *Awkward Family Photos* exhibit. See the reveal of the winning photo from the Awkward Colorado Family Photo contest, and take your holiday card photos in the DIY studio. Enjoy happy hour holiday cocktails from the cash bar while making your own gingerbread creations.



## Christmas in Colorado

Friday, December 9, 4:30 to 5:30 P.M.

\$5. Members \$4

Join us for a holiday concert with vocalist Marta Burton and pianist Hank Troy. The show celebrates 102 years of holiday illumination in the Mile-High City, telling the story of how Denver became the “Christmas Capitol of the World.” Our story begins in 1914 when Sturgeon Electric’s founding father, David Dwight Sturgeon, lit up an outdoor pine tree with red and green bulbs to cheer his ill son. “Pinky” Belford Wayne is the crusading *Denver Post* reporter who inspires the city to follow suit.

## ’Tis the Season: Christmas Lights of Denver Tour

Friday, December 9, 4:30 to 9:30 P.M.

\$50. Members \$39

RSVP required: 303/866-2394

Enjoy the history and beauty of Denver’s holiday lights! This festive evening begins with an informal program exploring our state’s holiday traditions. Then it’s all aboard a comfortable, heated bus as we drive you through beautiful neighborhoods and entertain you with Denver holiday lore. We design a new route every year, so join us for some unexpected lighting surprises. Includes cookies, hot chocolate and bus transportation. Dinner not provided.



Byers-Evans House Museum

## Holiday Teas

Saturdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, December 3–15

12:30 to 2:30 P.M.

\$25. Members and children \$20

RSVP: 303/866-2394

Celebrate the holidays with a guided tour of the historic Byers-Evans House. Then enjoy a three-course tea of fresh fruit, scones, tea sandwiches and desserts.

## Children’s Tea

Saturday, December 17, 12:30 to 2:30 P.M.

\$25. Members and children \$20

RSVP: 303/866-2394

Bring your kids ages 8 to 12 for a guided tour of the Byers-Evans House with our children’s docents. Then enjoy a three-course tea with fresh fruit, muffins, tea sandwiches and other holiday treats.



## Platteville

Fort Vasquez Museum

## Holiday Craft Sale

Saturday, November 12 and Sunday, November 13, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.  
970/785-2832

Two-day sale! Shop for a variety of items made and sold by local vendors. The museum is free all day while you shop. Plenty of free parking.

## Georgetown

## Georgetown Loop Historic Mining & Railroad Park®—All Aboard, Members!

Enjoy the holiday season from a unique vantage point: the fun and historic Georgetown Loop! Explore Clear Creek Valley in winter, traversing horseshoe curves and crossing four bridges including the Devil’s Gate High Bridge. Members always get discounts, in addition to a number of free tickets based on your membership level when you renew.

RSVP required: 1-888/456-6777





## Night at the Museums

Saturday, November 5, 5 to 10 P.M.

FREE

History Colorado Center  
303/447-8679

Explore the History Colorado Center at night and check out the *Awkward Family Photos* exhibit. At 6:30, enjoy *En Mis Palabras/In My Own Words*, a Central City Opera production. Composer Roger Ames and librettist Jeffrey Gildea partnered to create a bilingual one-act opera with a universal story that anyone can relate to: the adolescent dilemma of finding your own voice and learning who you are.

Byers-Evans House Museum  
303/620-4933

As part of Denver Arts Week, the Byers-Evans House Museum is joining museums throughout the city for a Night at the Museums. Enjoy a free tour of one of Denver's most beautiful historic landmarks.

### *Santa's North Pole Adventure Train*

Join Santa and his helpers aboard heated and decorated coaches, mid-November through December 24. Cocoa, candy canes, cookies and gifts for everyone! After the 25th, Santa will be back, passing out goodies through January 1.

### *Santa's Lighted Forest Trains*

Take a break from holiday shopping and experience a beautiful ride through the forest—alive with lights—above Georgetown. Offered evenings in November and December.

## FAMILY FUN

### Denver

#### Art Tours

Byers-Evans House Museum  
Friday, November 4, noon to 1 P.M.  
Sunday, November 6, 2 to 3 P.M.

\$6, seniors and students \$5. **Members FREE**  
303/620-4933

Take a closer look at the fine art collected and created by the Evans family in this tour of their historic home. Highlights include reliefs by Colorado artist Elsie Ward, exquisite leather tooling by Josephine Evans and landscape and portrait paintings by founding members of the Denver Artists Club, predecessor to the Denver Art Museum.

## FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES at the History Colorado Center!

These are just highlights, and performances are subject to change, so check [HistoryColoradoCenter.org](http://HistoryColoradoCenter.org) for updates. Free with admission.

## SATURDAY MUSEUM THEATER AND PERFORMANCES

### *Meet William Bent*

November 12 and December 10, 11:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.  
Meet William Bent, one of the owners of Bent's Fort, and learn about Colorado trade routes in the 1840s.

### *Vaquero Performance*

November 19, 11:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.  
Learn about Spanish cowboys, or *vaqueros*, and see how they whip up attention.

### *Meet Mountain Man Doc Grizzly*

November 26 and December 24, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.  
Meet Mountain man Doc Grizzly and hear about his heroic tales of the Colorado wilderness.

### *Mayordomo Museum Theater*

December 17, 11:30 A.M. to 2 P.M.  
Stop by the irrigation gate in *Living West* and meet Luis Francisco Valdez as he leads a community meeting about sharing water in the San Luis Valley. Actor Angel Vigil portrays the *mayordomo* (ditch rider).

## TINY LIBRARY CONCERTS

History Colorado Center

See Colorado musicians in the intimate setting of the Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center. For ages 2 and up! Beer, wine and cocktails available.

\$12. Members \$9

303/866-2394

### *The Still Tide*

Tuesday, January 24, 7 to 9 P.M.

Having left New York City behind, indie rock trio The Still Tide has found a place to call home. Featuring the spacious songwriting and tender guitar work of front-woman Anna Morsett, the band's latest EP, *Half Empty Rooms*, refracts the grit and urgency of city life through the lens of Colorado's clean air and open space.

### First Wednesday Preschool Story Time

History Colorado Center

Wednesday, December 7, 9:30 to 10 A.M.

Bring the kids (ages 2–5) to story time. We'll read stories and then have playtime in the exhibit before the museum opens. Free with admission!

### Platteville

Fort Vasquez Museum

### “After Hours” Presents— A Woman with Eagle Powers: Sacajawea and the Memory of Her People

Saturday, November 5, 6 to 9 P.M.

\$15. Members \$14, children FREE

RSVP required: 970/785-2832

Many tales have been told about Sacagawea since the famed Lewis and Clark expedition. Yet the stories told by her people (the Hidatsa of North Dakota) differ substantially from those made popular by a century's worth of scholars, novelists, artists and filmmakers. University of Northern Colorado professor Michael Welsh shares research conducted among the Hidatsa, with thoughts about how Fort Vasquez figures into the legend.



Masontown performs on November 15.

### *Masontown*

Tuesday, November 15, 7 to 9 P.M.

An enchanting new sound has emerged from the hotbed of the Colorado roots music scene. At once fresh and familiar, Masontown features a lauded fiddle champion (Natalie Padilla), a veteran bluegrass mandolin player (Michael Canney), a jazz guitar great (Eric Wiggs) and an upright bassist (Bradley Morse) with roots in the classical and jazz traditions.

### *Natalie Tate and Pineross*

Tuesday, December 13, 7 to 9 P.M.

Natalie Tate was the 2016 winner of *Westword's* Best Singer-Songwriter award. A longtime fixture on Denver's indie rock scene, she blends ethereal pop with the sweet simplicity of her voice. Pineross is the side project of Kevin Larkin, multi-instrumentalist from Denver's lauded Chimney Choir. Larkin's progressive Americana is a combination of traditional music of the American West, Irish fiddle tunes and Spanish-influenced rhythms.

The Still Tide plays indie rock at the Tiny Library Concert on January 24.



## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Denver

#### COLORFUL COLORADO

History Colorado Center

\$5. Members \$4

Call 303/866-2394 to reserve your spot, or register online!

*All programs require a minimum number of participants and may be canceled if the minimum is not met 48 hours ahead of time. Early registration recommended!*

##### *“Election Time Machine,” Part 3*

##### *Let the Women Vote! Colorado Women’s Struggle for Suffrage*

Monday, November 14, 1 to 2 P.M.

Join Dr. Marcia Goldstein as she outlines the major events, people, political issues and social conditions for women in Colorado at the time they won the vote in 1893. Colorado led the nation, but the vote didn’t herald full equality. And suffrage didn’t just “happen.” A coalition of women’s organizations, labor unions, political parties, religious groups, garden clubs, business leaders and other reform-minded people put aside their differences to win women the vote.

##### *Behind the Lens: Inside the Photography of the Aultman Studio, Eugenia Kennicott and Charles Lillybridge*

Monday, November 28, 1 to 2 P.M.

Join us for a view behind the lens of History Colorado’s exhibition *By Their Hats, Horses and Homes, We Shall Know Them* with curator Megan Friedel, historian Jason Hanson and archivist Adrienne Evans. From Oliver and Otis Aultmans’ portraits of Trinidad to Eugenia Kennicott’s sweet portrayal of ranch life near Westcliffe to Charles Lillybridge’s street photos of Denver, don’t miss this glimpse into some of the gems of History Colorado’s collections.



*Girls pose sidesaddle at the Kennicott Ranch in Westcliffe. Photo by Eugenia Kennicott. 20007979*

##### *“Election Time Machine,” Part 4*

##### *Colorado’s First Female Legislators*

Monday, December 12, 1 to 2 P.M.

Clara Cressingham, Carrie Holly and Frances Klock may not be household names, but they hold the distinction of being the first women elected to any state legislature. When they joined the Colorado House of Representatives in 1895, many wondered if the sun would rise the next day. In 1913, voters elected Helen Ring Robinson Colorado’s first female state senator. Join former state senator Pat Pascoe, author of *Helen Ring Robinson: Colorado Senator and Suffragist*, as she delves into the progressive-era politics that led to such “female firsts” in the Centennial State.

## COLLECTIONS & LIBRARY PROGRAMS

at the History Colorado Center

Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center

(unless otherwise noted)

\$5. Members \$4 (unless otherwise noted)

RSVP required. Call 303/866-2394, or register online!

*All programs require a minimum number of registered participants and may be canceled if the minimum is not met 48 hours ahead of time. Early registration recommended!*

##### *Worth a Thousand Words: Photo Research at History Colorado*

Saturday, November 12, 10:15 to 11:30 A.M.

RSVP required: 303/866-2394

Photographs play a big part in any historical or genealogical research by transporting us to the past. They can put a face to an ancestor’s name, reveal changes in natural or urban landscapes and show us how Coloradans of yesterday viewed our state. Join our photo librarian for an overview of what we have, how to find it and how to order reproductions.

##### *Historical Craft Society: Holiday Cards*

Saturday, November 12, 1:30 to 3:30 P.M.

Byers-Evans House Museum

\$10. Members \$8

RSVP recommended: 303/866-2394

Bring your creative thinking caps and a desire to use lots of rickrack and glue to make holiday cards. History Colorado holds a delightful collection of holiday images, and we’ll reproduce them to share with you. We provide all supplies. If you’d like to tour the Byers-Evans House, come at 12:30 or stay after the program. Tours are free for members, \$2 off for all others. All ages welcome.

*Girls pose sidesaddle at the Kennicott Ranch in Westcliffe. Photo by Eugenia Kennicott. 20007979*

## Tours & Treks

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

### Art Outdoors! The MOA Sculpture Hike

Saturday, November 12, 9 A.M. to noon

\$30. Members \$24

RSVP required

The Museum of Outdoor Arts was created to place art beneath the sky, where it could be appreciated in day, night, sunshine, rain and snow. You don't have to be a connoisseur to enjoy this guided tour of the museum's multiple offerings. Some of it may leave you inspired, some perplexed, but the rich palette will broaden your palate all the same. Bring your cameras for this outdoor extravaganza walking tour.

*Space is limited. Provide your own transportation to starting point and during the tour. Maps supplied.*

### 2017 Tours and Treks Summit

Wednesday, December 7, 6 to 8 P.M.

History Colorado Center

RSVP required

We believe in loading the year with as much history, education and getting-to-know-you fun as possible. Would you like a jump

on planning it all out for 2017? Join us for our annual summit, where we examine all the excitement for the year to come. The evening is FREE, with snacks to sustain you. With so much in one evening, who'd want to miss it?

### Caves, Trains and Consequences: Exploring Southern New Mexico

Wednesday, February 1 to Monday, February 6

\$1,300. Members \$1,225.

Single supplement \$425 (half deposit due)

*Register by Friday, December 9*

Head to southern New Mexico to explore the enormity and delicacy of Carlsbad Caverns National Park. An overnight in Truth or Consequences—with its relaxing hot springs and a name with a tale to tell—is also on the docket. Take the train from Belen to Santa Fe and see museums, art and maybe even an alien or two in our visits to Santa Rosa, Roswell, Carlsbad, El Paso and Las Cruces. Includes transportation, lodging, admissions, guides and five meals, including a welcome dinner.

*Register by December 9 to trek through the wonders of southern New Mexico with us.*



2016–17 Lecture Series

# By the People: The Making of Colorado, Past and Present

Colorado has stories to tell—some from the long-ago past and others more recent. What do these tales of yesteryear mean to us living in the 21st century? We'll tease out the knowledge and wonder that those who came before us felt as they peered out across the magnificent landscape we call home. These stories—some tragic, some heroic, some nearly unimaginable—all came to pass *by the people* like you and me.

History Colorado Center  
Mondays at 1 and 7 P.M.

\$10, **Members \$8.50**, students (with ID) \$6.50

Information: 303/866-2394

Sponsored by the Walter S. Rosenberry III Charitable Trust

## Making Sense of Colorado's Purple Politics

November 21

Survey after survey reveals that many Coloradans find the U.S. government too big, too wasteful and too intrusive. Yet Colorado is arguably one of the most federally subsidized states in the Union. Dr. Thomas Cronin of Colorado College, author of *Colorado Politics and Policy*, shows how the state puts power into the hands of an ever more polarized electorate. Learn about this distinctively purple state's unique political history.

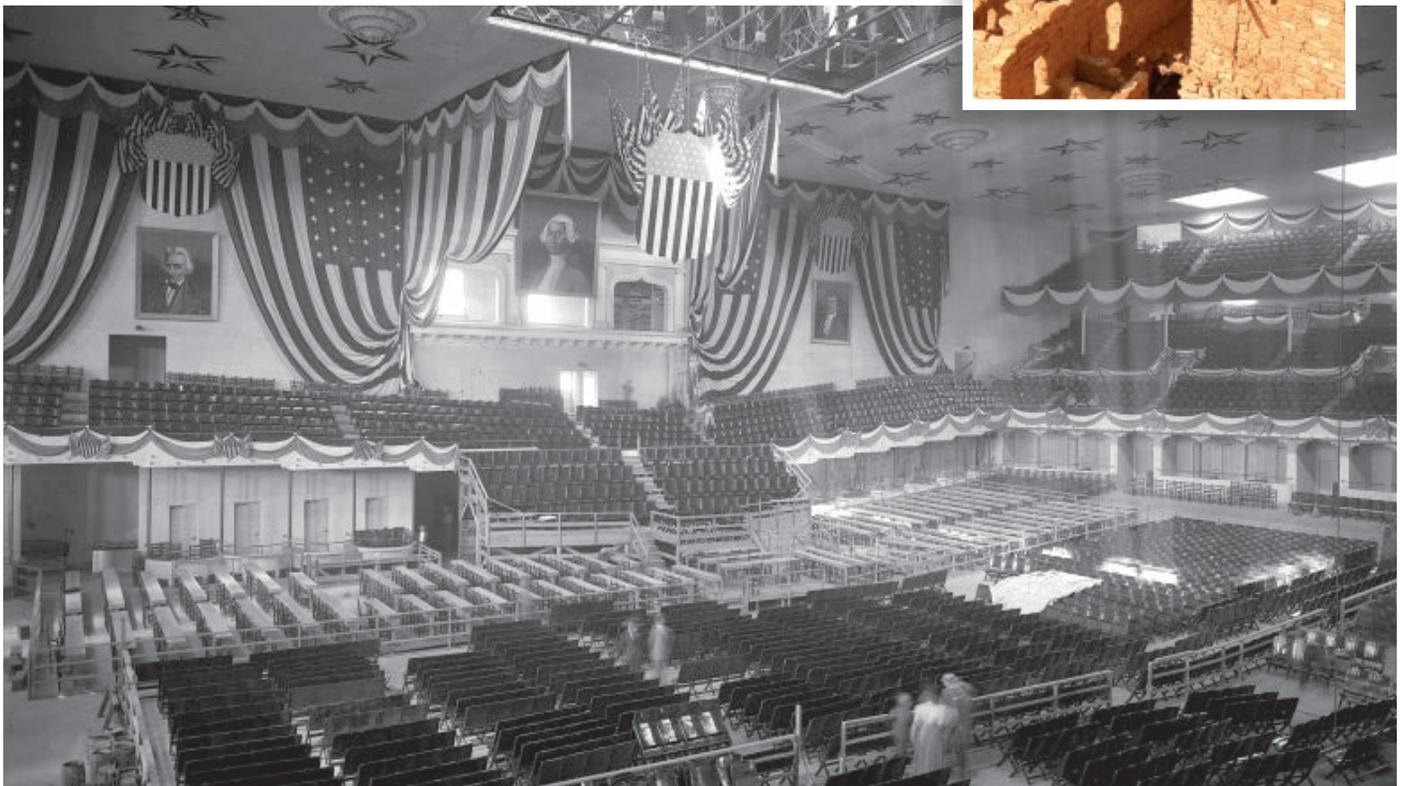
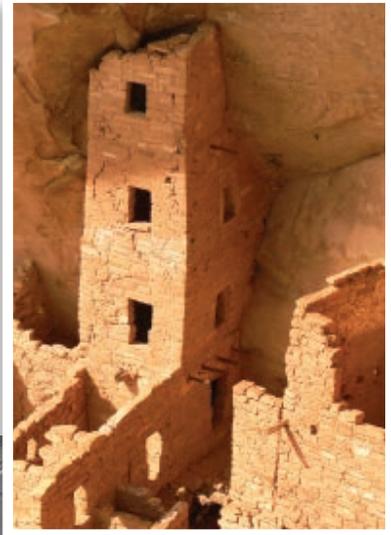
## 50 Great American Places: Essential Historic Sites Across the U.S.

Monday, January 16

*50 Great American Places* takes readers on a journey through American history, sharing the stories of sites as old as Mesa Verde and Cahokia and as recently transformed as Silicon Valley. Dr. Brent Glass, former director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, connects places, people and events to reveal a national narrative that is often surprising, sometimes tragic and always engaging.

*Mesa Verde is just one of the great American places to explore on January 16.*

*Here, Denver's Municipal Auditorium is ready for the 1908 Democratic National Convention. Step back through time to see just how our state's distinctively purple politics got so polarized. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection. RMN-054-2169*



## Support History Colorado on Colorado Gives Day!

Colorado's largest one-day online giving movement is coming. On Tuesday, December 6, thousands of donors will come together to support Colorado nonprofits like ours. And thanks to Community First Foundation and First Bank, Colorado Gives Day features a \$1 Million Incentive Fund, one of the largest gives-day incentives in the country. Every nonprofit receiving a donation on Colorado Gives Day gets a portion of the fund, which increases the value of every dollar donated. To donate to us on December 6, go to [ColoradoGives.org](http://ColoradoGives.org) and search for "History Colorado." Or, schedule your donation early!



## Give a Year-End Gift Today

Please consider making a year-end gift to History Colorado's Annual Fund. Your generous donation will allow us to continue engaging audiences of all ages and backgrounds in discovering and celebrating Colorado's past, present and future. To make a gift, visit [historycolorado.org/donate](http://historycolorado.org/donate).

## The Gift of Membership

What better way to treat a friend, neighbor, colleague or family member than with the opportunity to enjoy History Colorado year-round! As a special thank-you to our existing members, enjoy a 20% discount on NEW gift memberships purchased between now and December 31. Buy a gift of membership at [h-co.org/2016holiday](http://h-co.org/2016holiday). Click the "join now" button and choose "give this membership as a gift."

To ensure mail delivery to the recipient by December 24, buy your gift membership by December 15 by calling 303/866-3639. Or, come into the History Colorado Center and our friendly staff can assist you!

## Required Minimum Distributions— a Blessing or a Curse?

If you're familiar with the phrase "Required Minimum Distributions," then the question above might make sense. For some, these annual IRA disbursements represent a key part of a retirement income. For others, the *required* portion of RMDs can increase taxable income when it's not especially needed. A few people have found a creative way to handle RMDs: they give them away.

Clearly, these gifts might not make sense for everyone. But if you find yourself with an unwanted RMD, you have a couple of options:

1. Donate an amount equal to your RMD to History Colorado and get an offsetting charitable income tax deduction.
2. Make a *direct charitable transfer* of your RMD amount to History Colorado.

With the second option you wouldn't get a charitable income tax deduction, but you also wouldn't recognize this distribution as income. It's a tax-neutral option, which can be advantageous for people with higher income tax exposure. Instead of increasing your taxable income, you can direct your RMD to make a nice gift to History Colorado.

History Colorado depends on generous members of our community to help preserve our state's historical treasures. For more information (or a sample transfer letter), contact Rebecca Olchawa Barker at [rebecca.olchawa-barker@state.co.us](mailto:rebecca.olchawa-barker@state.co.us) or 303/866-4845. All inquiries will be held in strict confidence.



. S O C I E T Y .

1879

HONORING THOSE WHOSE ESTATE PLANS  
INCLUDE HISTORY COLORADO

# Calendar



Man Smoking, 1978, is one of Mark Kirylyuk's gelatin silver prints appearing in *Searching for Home*, on view through December 18. See page 3. 2015.64.2

## NOVEMBER

### 4 Friday

ART TOUR  
Byers-Evans House Museum  
See page 7.

### 5 Saturday

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUMS  
History Colorado Center  
Byers-Evans House Museum  
See page 7.

SACAJAWEA AND HER PEOPLE  
Fort Vasquez Museum  
See page 8.

### 6 Sunday

ART TOUR  
Byers-Evans House Museum  
See page 7.

### 12 Saturday

HOLIDAY CRAFT SALE  
Fort Vasquez Museum  
See page 6.

MEET WILLIAM BENT  
History Colorado Center  
See page 7.

PHOTO RESEARCH WORKSHOP  
History Colorado Center  
See page 9.

HISTORICAL CRAFT SOCIETY:  
HOLIDAY CARDS  
Byers-Evans House Museum  
See page 9.

ART OUTDOORS SCULPTURE HIKE  
See page 10.

### 13 Sunday

HOLIDAY CRAFT SALE  
Fort Vasquez Museum  
See page 6.

### 14 Monday

LET THE WOMEN VOTE!  
History Colorado Center  
See page 9.

### 15 Tuesday

TINY LIBRARY CONCERT:  
MASONTOWN  
History Colorado Center  
See page 8.

### 19 Saturday

VAQUERO PERFORMANCE  
History Colorado Center  
See page 7.

### 21 Monday

COLORADO'S PURPLE POLITICS  
History Colorado Center  
See page 11.

### 26 Saturday

MEET MOUNTAIN MAN  
DOC GRIZZLY  
History Colorado Center  
See page 7.

### 28 Monday

AULTMAN, KENNICOTT AND  
LILLYBRIDGE PHOTOGRAPHY  
History Colorado Center  
See page 9.

## DECEMBER

### 3 Saturday

EDIBLE HOMESTEAD  
WORKSHOP  
History Colorado Center  
See page 5.

### 6 Tuesday

COLORADO GIVES DAY  
See page 12.

HISTORY BUFFS AND BREWS:  
EGGNOG EDITION  
History Colorado Center  
See page 3.

### 7 Wednesday

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME  
History Colorado Center  
See page 8.

TOURS AND TREKS SUMMIT  
History Colorado Center  
See page 10.

### 9 Friday

CHRISTMAS IN  
COLORADO  
History Colorado  
Center  
See page 6.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS  
OF DENVER TOUR  
See page 6.

### 10 Saturday

MEET WILLIAM BENT  
History Colorado  
Center  
See page 7.

### 12 Monday

COLORADO'S FIRST FEMALE  
LEGISLATORS  
History Colorado Center  
See page 7.

### 13 Tuesday

TINY LIBRARY CONCERT:  
NATALIE TATE/PINEROSS  
History Colorado Center  
See page 8.

### 17 Saturday

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

MAYORDOMO MUSEUM THEATER  
History Colorado Center  
See page 7.

### 18 Sunday

LAST DAY TO SEE  
*SEARCHING FOR HOME*  
History Colorado Center  
See page 3.

### 24 Saturday

MOUNTAIN MAN DOC GRIZZLY  
History Colorado Center  
See page 7.

## Repeated Events

GEORGETOWN LOOP®  
SANTA'S NORTH POLE  
ADVENTURE TRAIN  
Mid-November through December 24  
See page 7.

GEORGETOWN LOOP®  
SANTA'S LIGHTED FOREST TRAIN  
Evenings in November and December  
See page 7.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION  
History Colorado Center  
Friday, November 25 through Sunday,  
December 11  
See page 5.

HOLIDAY TEAS  
Byers-Evans House Museum  
Saturdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
December 3-15  
See page 6.

## MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEKEND



History Colorado Center  
Byers-Evans House Museum  
Friday, December 9 through  
Sunday, December 11  
See page 1.

## Meet Chris Johnston, Assistant State Archaeologist

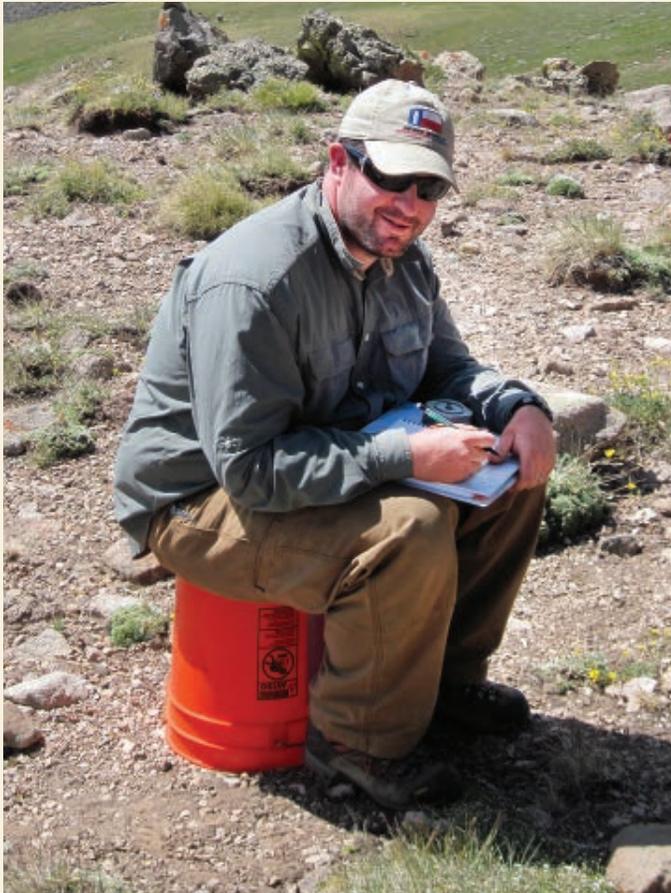
**H**istory Colorado intern and Koch Fellow Kirby Page-Schmit sat down with Chris Johnston, the new Assistant State Archaeologist, to ask him about his new job.

### ***Where are you from?***

I'm from Colorado; I grew up in Steamboat Springs and lived there most of my life. I moved down to the Front Range full time in 2006 or 2007.

### ***Is there a certain sub-discipline of archaeology you focus on?***

Yes, Great Plains archaeology—in particular prehistoric and Native American archaeology in the mountain region. That's really where I've done most of my research. Colorado is an amazing state for archaeology because we can come at it from so many different angles. We have the amazing and spectacular cultures down in the Southwest, with the pueblos and Mesa Verde. We have Plains folks moving into the mountains, living in the mountains; we have Fremont groups in the northwest of the state. And so it's this intersection of many different cultural groups and traditions, all living in what now is the state, and all who may have known each other and interacted—and we have some evidence of that.



Colorado also has some of the oldest and most important sites in North America in terms of understanding the peopling of the Americas; how groups lived here—we have mammoth kills; we have a really important Folsom site called Lindenmeier. Folsom is Paleoindian; it's roughly 10,000 years ago. Pretty old!

### ***How is the evolution of technology changing the field of archaeology?***

In remote sensing, it's the use of unmanned aerial vehicles to do quick and efficient and relatively inexpensive mapping of areas for site documentation, and to assess different levels of impacts. That's on the fieldwork side. There's also a digital curation side: collections are being digitized to some degree with photogrammetric methods. There's a lot of neat stuff around that, like creating 3D renderings of artifacts.

### ***Do you think new technology, especially with fieldwork, is taking away from traditional methods or serving as a supplement?***

I see it more as a supplementation, because you can get LiDAR images [a detection system that uses light from lasers]—but LiDAR isn't going to find flakes or artifacts, it's going to show you landscapes, so you can use those landscapes to do interpretation, especially right now in the Southwest and in South America. In our area you can map landscapes to direct your survey and be more efficient with the money being spent on archaeology, and we can try and make it the most cost-effective and efficient possible, to target more high-probability areas. I see it more as working hand in hand, and not taking away from fieldwork. But fieldwork is expensive, and technology is a way to mitigate that. I don't think you'll ever get away from traditional fieldwork.

*To read much more of this interview—including details about our popular amateur archaeological certification program—go to [HistoryColorado.org/blogs/preservation/](http://HistoryColorado.org/blogs/preservation/).*

## New Listings

### *In the National Register of Historic Places*

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

### Key Savings and Loan Association

#### Englewood

Key Savings is an excellent example of the transformation of the American banking industry into a consumer-oriented service in the period following the Depression and World War II. To signify that change, the industry rapidly adopted modern architecture as well. This 1967 building is the work of established Colorado modernist master architect and engineer Charles Deaton and is a rare Colorado example of postwar Sculptural Expressionist design. Deaton’s other best-known design is the Sculptured House (or “Sleeper” or “Clamshell” House) in Genesee, listed in the National Register in 2004.



Key Savings and Loan Association



eaves, and restrained ornamentation. The church is fairly unusual in its

application of the Mission style to a religious building lacking ecclesiastical features such as towers and appearing almost residential. The historically African American congregation has welcomed black Presbyterians in Denver since 1906 and was involved with the Dearfield settlement, a 1920s African American agricultural colony in northeastern Colorado.

### Peoples Presbyterian Church

#### Denver

This 1922 church, previously listed in the State Register, is a good example of Mission style architecture, easily recognized by its curvilinear parapet walls, prominent porch with overhanging

### Smith-Eslick Cottage Court

#### Grand Lake

This circa-1915 auto camp building is an excellent and rare example of one of Colorado’s earliest auto-tourist facilities built in the Rustic style. The building is a very early example of an auto camp with carports directly between lodging units all sharing one roof—a solution that equally accommodated tourists and their vehicles. It is also important for its role in the evolution of auto tourism. The motel closed in the mid-1960s. The Grand Lake Area Historical Society now owns it and is restoring it for an interpretive site.

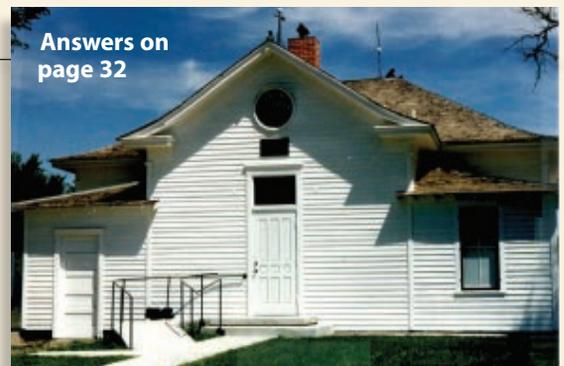
### Good to Know

National or State Register listed properties may be eligible for investment tax credits for approved rehabilitation projects. Listed properties may also be eligible to compete for Colorado State Historical Fund grants. These grants may be used for acquisition and development, education, and survey and planning projects. The next nomination submission deadline is January 31. For information, call 303/866-3392.

For more about these and all National and State Register properties in Colorado, visit [historycolorado.org/oahp/national-state-registers](http://historycolorado.org/oahp/national-state-registers).

## *Do you know this building?*

- |                 |                       |                               |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Where is it? | 2. When was it built? | 3. What was its original use? |
| a) Flagler      | a) 1889               | a) Bank president’s home      |
| b) Fleming      | b) 1901               | b) Church                     |
| c) Fowler       | c) 1915               | c) City hall                  |
| d) Franktown    | d) 1928               | d) School                     |



Answers on page 32

# THE SALT CREEK MEMORY PROJECT

*“I was born in Salt Creek in a chicken coop,” says Emily “Chata” Lopez as she launches into the story of her life. “My mom had me in a chicken coop . . . she had her midwife there.”*



A community-based public history effort, the Salt Creek Memory Project at History Colorado’s El Pueblo History Museum documents the stories of the Salt Creek community of Pueblo County.

Salt Creek, a traditionally Mexican American community, sits under the shadow of Pueblo’s towering steel mill and was named for the black water that flowed through the residents’ land. Many “Creekers”—as they sometimes call themselves—worked in the mill, or the nearby smelters, or on the farms just east of their neighborhood. The stories of Salt Creek are punctuated by family, culture, and the need to take care of each other. The steel mill employed many of the men, but it also used the community as a dump for its industrial waste—most notably the burning slag that poured down toward the community nearly every night. Despite the polluted black water and the lack of relatively modern indoor plumbing, many Salt Creek families used a communal natural spring, the *ojito*, for clean water. The

*ojito* was a life force as both a source of water and a place where people could connect.

Past and present Salt Creek residents collaborated with El Pueblo History Museum—a community museum of History Colorado—to co-author the rich history of their community as part of the Salt Creek Memory Project. The project included several layers of collection, preservation, and interpretation. The museum hosted a workshop in partnership with Colorado State University–Pueblo, where residents learned to write about their memories of the neighborhood. In the next phase, the museum worked with both professional and community historians to collect more than thirty oral histories. The museum trained community members to collect oral histories and to use its audio equipment. These newly trained community historians had a big impact on the project, enabling the museum to more than double the number of oral histories collected and to collect Spanish-language oral histories.

BY DAWN DIPRINCE

These community stories became the starting point for an arts-based interpretation of Salt Creek's history. Sophie Fernandez Healey collaborated with residents to capture the elements of the community in a mural at the museum. The mural was painted onto portable sheets of metal and will eventually be placed in the neighborhood—stretching the relevance and reach of the museum directly into the community. Fine arts photographer Kellie Cason O'Connor beautifully documented the resident storytellers in the corners of Salt Creek that were most meaningful to them. An exhibit of this arts-history interpretation opened to a crowd of nearly 300 in September.

The oral histories, collected over the summer, are already available to the public on SoundCloud ([soundcloud.com/luebloistoryuseum/sets/salt-creek-memory-project](https://soundcloud.com/luebloistoryuseum/sets/salt-creek-memory-project)). The recordings and related photos and documents will become part of the History Colorado collection, adding important voices to the diverse history of this state.

The Salt Creek Memory Project is part of Museum of Memory, a public history initiative of El Pueblo History Museum that celebrates the histories and lives of Pueblo's people and neighborhoods. Museum of Memory is based on the ideal that when people see themselves as the creators and makers of their own history, they also come to see themselves as the writers of their own destinies. El Pueblo History Museum is using Museum of Memory as a way to include the community in deciding how it wants to remember its collective past.



Vera Esquibel. Photo by Kellie Cason-O'Connor

### Thank you to the following donors who provided support for the Salt Creek Memory Project

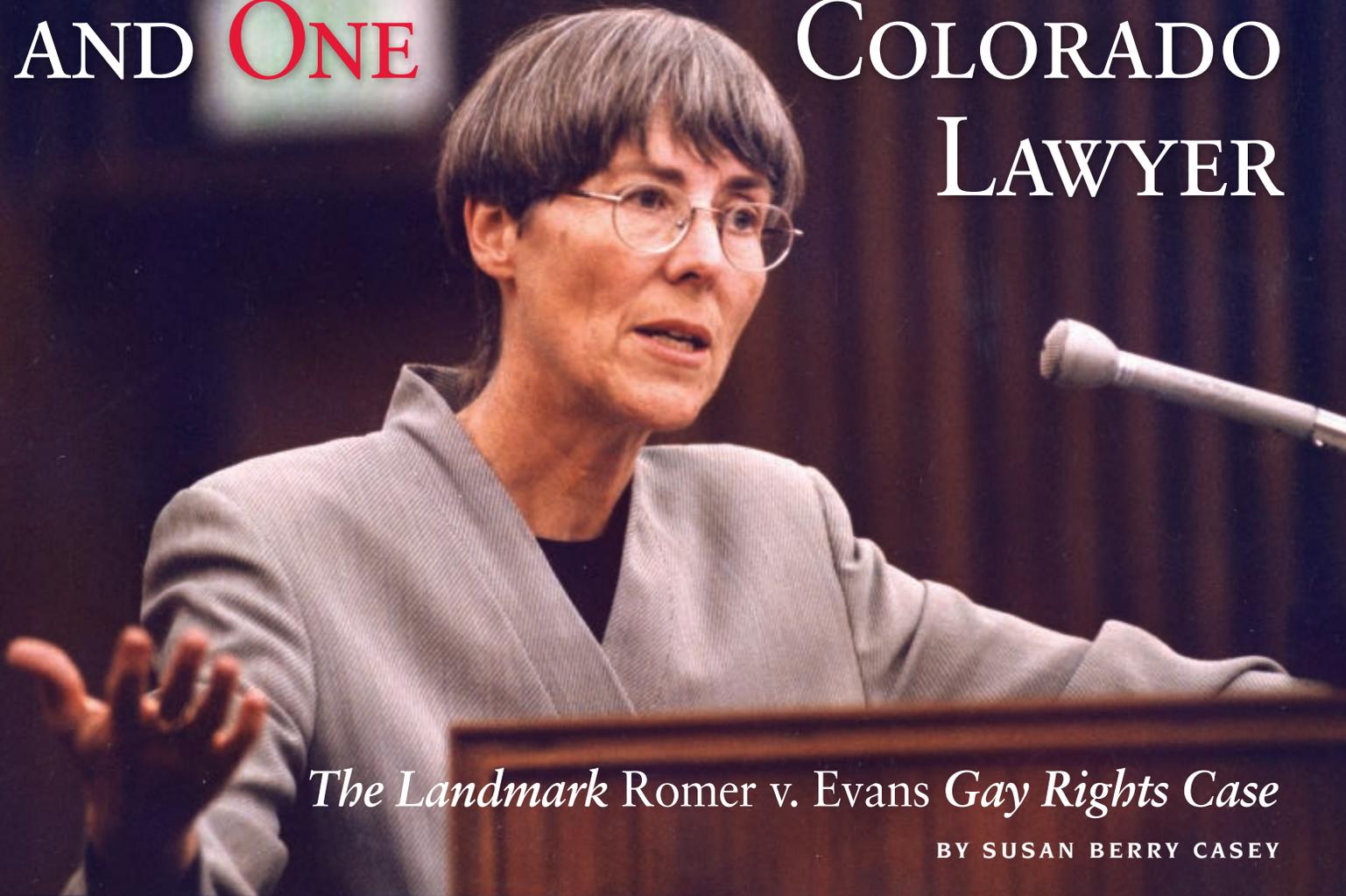
*Colorado Creative Industries*  
*CSAC: Community Service Advisory Commission—*  
*a Pueblo County and City of Pueblo Partnership*  
*Packard Foundation Fund for Pueblo*  
*Dominick and Christine Fratterelli Estate*  
*John W. Emery Family Endowment*

DAWN DiPRINCE is the founder and leader of the Museum of Memory project. The director of El Pueblo History Museum, she also serves as director of Community Museums for History Colorado, overseeing eight museums across the state. The National Humanities Alliance has recognized her work in public engagement at El Pueblo as a national model for engaged humanities. DiPrince was chosen in 2014 as a Creative Community Fellow for National Arts Strategies for her program that uses memory writing to create defensible neighborhoods.

Charlie Gomez. Photo by Kellie Cason-O'Connor



# NINE JUSTICES AND ONE COLORADO LAWYER



## *The Landmark Romer v. Evans Gay Rights Case*

BY SUSAN BERRY CASEY

*I*t's hard to say where the story that became known as Romer v. Evans began. Maybe it was in the 1980s, when homosexuals started to emerge from the closet, determined not only to fight for their equal place in the world, but to battle for their lives as AIDS began taking the lives of so many gay men. Or maybe it was when local governments in Colorado passed human rights ordinances to protect gays and lesbians from the discrimination that was so prevalent, or when scores of anti-gay religious and cultural organizations moved to Colorado determined to push back against those efforts.

Surely it had begun by November of 1992, when Colorado voters passed the anti-gay rights Amendment 2. A national boycott of the state ensued, then one legal battle after another for the next three years. Following two courtroom trials and two appeals to the Colorado Supreme Court, Romer v. Evans arrived before the nine justices of the United States Supreme Court on October 10, 1995.

This essay is an edited excerpt from the author's new book *Appealing for Justice: One Colorado Lawyer, Four Decades, and the Landmark Gay Rights Case: Romer v. Evans*.



More than three years after Colorado's Amendment 2 passed, the U.S. Supreme Court struck it down in a 6–3 decision, with Justices Scalia, Rehnquist, and Thomas dissenting. The Denver Post, May 21, 1996.

In the lead-up to the 1995 Supreme Court term, the national legal press turned the spotlight on *Romer v. Evans*—so-named for Colorado governor Roy Romer (who personally opposed the amendment) and plaintiff Richard G. Evans, a gay man who worked for Denver mayor Wellington Webb. “[It] has become the most watched case of the term,” wrote the *Washington Post*; it is a “historic battle” and the decision will be “hailed as one of the decade’s most important civil rights rulings,” wrote the *Rocky Mountain News*, calling it a “watershed case” and not just for the state of Colorado. The ruling portended “enormous consequences” for the gay rights movement nationally and for all the legal battles down the road, added the long-running LGBT newspaper the *Washington Blade*.

Jean Dubofsky, a relatively unknown appellate attorney from Boulder, Colorado, soon would be standing before nine Supreme Court justices to argue the plaintiffs’ case.

She felt ready. The immense weight, the responsibility, they were there too. But mostly, she felt ready. After three years of preparation, she had done all she could do. It was going to go however it was meant to go, she thought to herself.

When Jean’s cab pulled up in front of the U.S. Supreme Court on that clear, crisp Indian summer day in October of 1995, she saw bedlam in every direction. On the sidewalk, in the court plaza, and on the streets. Two long, ragged lines snaked around the block, one for those with tickets and reserved seats and another for those without tickets, waiting, hoping they would be allowed inside the Supreme Court chambers to witness the proceedings for themselves.

The front of one line was more a disorganized campsite than a line. Chairs, sleeping bags, and backpacks, along with remnants of a large supply of half-eaten meals, lay along the sidewalk. The most determined of the crowd had spent the night, to improve their chances of getting one of the few open spots inside the courtroom.

Pat Steadman was one of those near the very front. The young attorney from Colorado had traveled to Washington for what would prove to be one of the most emotional days of his life. Fifteen years later he would rise to become a well-known and distinguished member of the Colorado State Senate. But it was his three years campaigning for gay rights and organizing lawyers in his home state to prepare for this legal fight that landed him on the doorstep of the high court this October morning.

In spite of the day's significance, Steadman appeared ruffled and disoriented, blurry-eyed and unshaven. He'd camped out on the sidewalk all night to be one of the first in line and get one of the few remaining seats inside the court Chamber. Each side had been provided a limited number of reserved tickets, but there hadn't been enough for everyone involved in the case. Steadman had given his reserved ticket to another who'd worked so hard.

In addition to lines, groups were milling about—some small, some large, some with signs and banners, others marching in circles, shouting messages, all of them there to state their case or show support or simply to be present for that important day. It was a bit of a circus, but a relatively dignified one, as if the location and issue before the court demanded that.

No one seemed to notice as Jean made the long climb up the steps, all fifty-two of them, leading to the entrance of the Supreme Court, past the towering columns at the top, and through the seventeen-foot-high cathedral-sized bronze doors. She wondered to herself if every individual who entered there was made to feel so Lilliputian. This time she moved down the Great Hall that led to the oak doors of the Chamber, the all-white marbled hallway lined with busts of former chief justices—John Marshall, Roger B. Taney, William Howard Taft, Charles Evans Hughes, and Earl Warren. Jean was



In 1993, a state district judge ruled Amendment 2 unconstitutional, setting the stage for the State Supreme Court and U.S. Supreme Court rulings that followed. Rocky Mountain News, December 15, 1993.

flooded with images of the sacredness of the place and of the history that had been made there.

Maybe Jean Dubofsky should have been awed by this beautiful marble temple of justice, but she wasn't. She'd lived among the architectural symbols of democracy during her years working on Capitol Hill, when she'd walked along this sidewalk fronting the Supreme Court almost daily, and she'd always felt comfortable there. And she still felt comfortable this day, even with the special treatment she was accorded, the ability to simply ascend the steps and walk through the doors as if she truly belonged.

At exactly ten minutes before the hour, Jean Dubofsky and two lawyers who'd been by her side for years, Rick Hills and Jeanne Winer, entered the Chamber together, and made their way to the front and through the rail to their designated place. The room was packed.

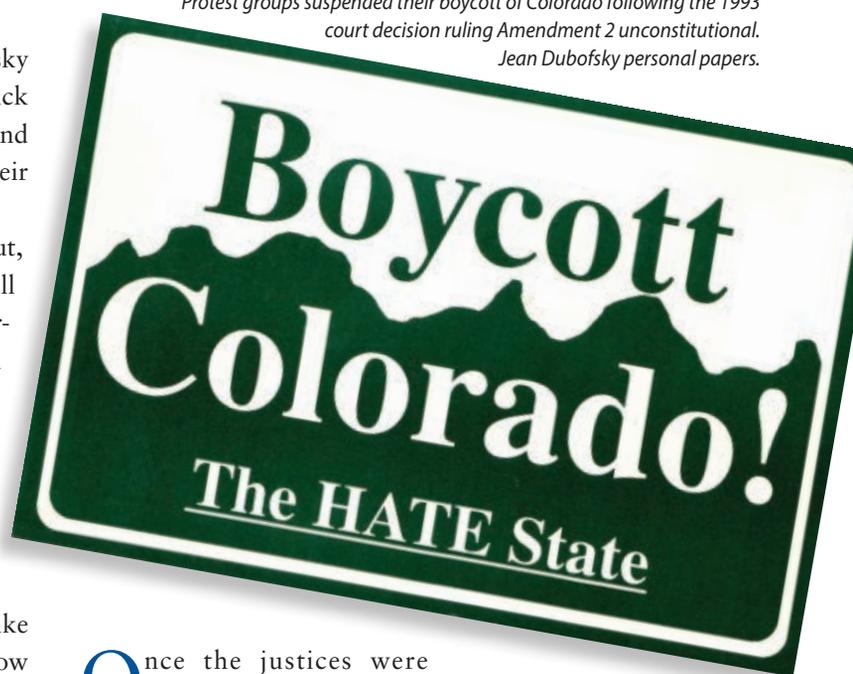
The Supreme Court Chamber had a stately feel, but, except for a thirty-foot ceiling, it was a surprisingly small and intimate space. Jean took her place at the long attorney's table that sat three feet below the slightly arched majestic mahogany bench where the justices would reside. The floor-length ruby-red drapes, fronted by four more soaring white marble columns, hung like a theatre curtain behind the bench. At exactly ten o'clock the justices slipped through three slits hidden in the curtains and, without ceremony, took their seats.

Every nook and cranny, every one of the churchlike pews in the Chamber was filled, jammed with people, elbow to elbow. It had been the hottest ticket in town for weeks. Jean couldn't see or didn't have time to see who else was there or where they were sitting. She was facing forward, her focus totally on the nine justices sitting in front of her. She didn't know that Betsy Levin, the University of Colorado Law School dean who had extended her hand to Jean years before, had waited in line, too, and had gotten the last of the eighty seats reserved for members of the D.C. bar. Nor did she know that Boulder mayor Leslie Durgin, who was battling breast cancer, had skipped a scheduled treatment in order to attend. Jean knew that Richard G. Evans, the named plaintiff, was somewhere a few rows behind her, but not that he had already begun to cry.

Jean was gratified to see Ruth Bader Ginsburg sitting as one of the nine. Josie Heath always liked to say that if Jean had stayed on the Colorado Supreme Court, she, too, might have someday found a seat among those justices. Jean was sure that would never have been the case, yet she and Ginsburg could look in the mirror and see a resemblance to the other

in the roads they had traveled. They shared Harvard Law and Ladies' Day and a lifetime of work seeking justice for others. They both had married attorneys who championed their careers in the law and were partners in raising their kids. Both had been excluded and demeaned and had found barriers along the way but simply walked around them to find their own path. Each figured out how never to reach too far, too fast, to instead just do the piece of work in front of them and do it well.

*Protest groups suspended their boycott of Colorado following the 1993 court decision ruling Amendment 2 unconstitutional.  
Jean Dubofsky personal papers.*



Once the justices were comfortably seated, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist began simply. Without ceremony or greeting, he gave barely a nod towards the state's counsel. "We'll hear argument now in Number 94 1039, *Roy Romer v. Richard G. Evans*," he said.

Tim Tymkovich, the solicitor general for the state of Colorado, was already standing at the podium, as he had been instructed, ready to begin as soon as the Chief Justice recognized him. The attorneys for both sides had received guidance about what to do, where to sit and stand, what to say, and how to refer correctly to the justices—Rehnquist would be "Mr. Chief Justice"; the others simply "Justice."

"Mr. Chief Justice, and may it please the court," he began, sounding calm and confident. This case, he said, was about the authority of the state over how to allocate lawmaking powers among state and local jurisdictions when it came to special protections for homosexuals, and the sole question was whether or not the state can reserve those lawmaking powers for itself. He cited *James v. Valtierra*, an earlier case

decided by the court, referring to it as the definitive case that “authoritatively” resolved this question. That was as far as Tymkovich got before Justice Anthony Kennedy interrupted him at the one-minute mark. It was pretty much all downhill for the state from there.

Kennedy said he was not interested in the issue of allocation of power to make certain laws, essentially pushing aside the focus of Tymkovich’s argument, and dismissing for the moment the relevancy of *James v. Valtierra*. The justice said he wanted to focus on something else first: the fundamental

the classification seems to be adopted for its own sake,” Kennedy began. He then raised his voice and in a tone of incredulousness added: “I’ve never seen a case like this. Is there any precedent that you can cite to the court where we’ve upheld a law such as this?”

For a tick of the clock, life stopped in that courtroom.

Pat Steadman thought there might have been an audible gasp from the audience. But he wasn’t sure because, like Richard Evans, by then he was crying too.

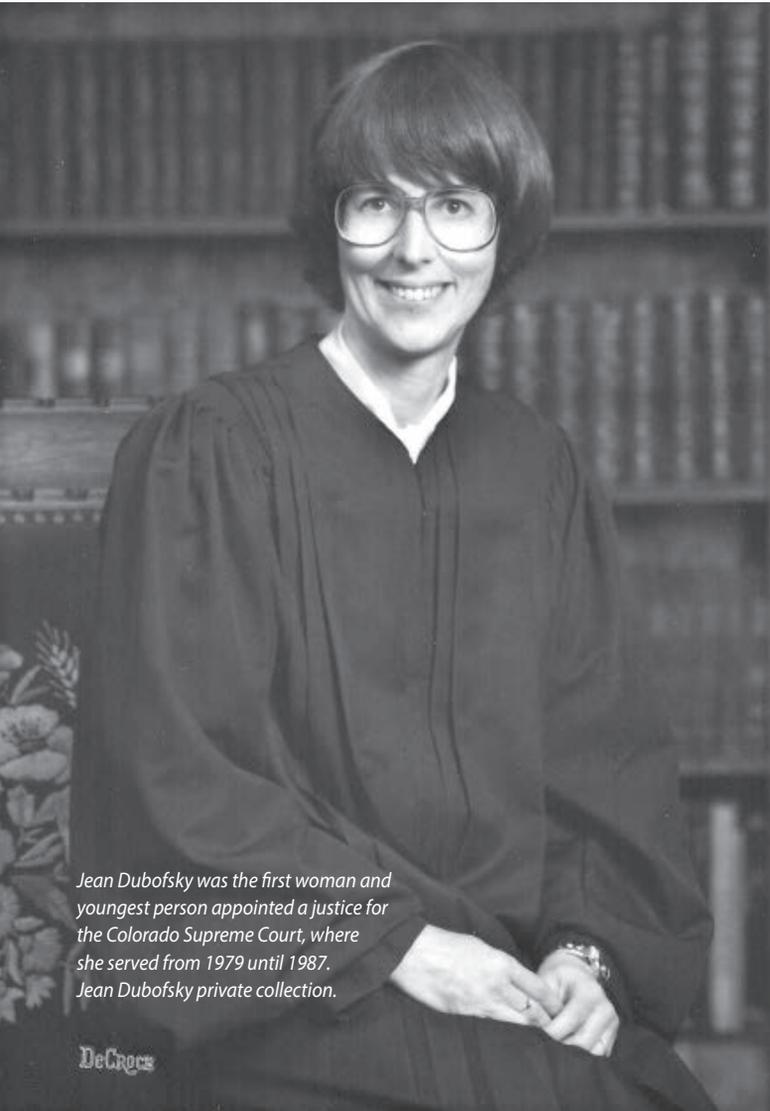
Steadman’s night camped out on the sidewalk in order to be sitting in the audience had taken its toll.

“It was October so it wasn’t exactly warm out,” Steadman remembered. “And you don’t really sleep. There are people everywhere, protesters chanting, full blown chaos all the way around. It was the most surreal experience and by the time the sun came out, people were fighting, cutting in line, crying, screaming, praying for you. Two minutes into the oral argument I realized I was sobbing. It was partially because I was an exhausted emotional mess and partially because of what Anthony Kennedy said.” Steadman was relatively new to politics, but by then he had learned how to count votes. “I knew then that Kennedy would be our fifth vote.”

Tymkovich tried to explain that the case of *James* was relevant but Kennedy would have none of it. No, the justice said. That was a very different case. “The whole point of *James* was that we knew that it was low income housing and we could measure the need, the importance, the objectives of the legislature to control low cost housing against the classification that was adopted,” Kennedy said. “Here the classification is adopted for its own sake . . . adopted to fence out, in the Colorado Supreme Court’s words, the class for all purposes and I’ve never seen a statute like that.”

Soon Justice Sandra Day O’Connor spoke up, the tone of her questioning suggesting even less patience with Tymkovich. “How do we know what it means?” she asked a number of different times. “The literal language would seem to indicate, for example, a public library could refuse to allow books to be borrowed by homosexuals and there would be no relief from that, apparently.” He tried to explain that might not be the case, but O’Connor challenged his answer, interrupting and repeating her concern that the meaning just wasn’t very clear.

Soon it was Justice Ginsburg’s turn to reinforce concerns over the potential breadth of the amendment. With this amendment, it appears that it means “everything,” Ginsburg said. “Thou shalt not have access to the ordinary legislative process for anything that would improve the condition of



Jean Dubofsky was the first woman and youngest person appointed a justice for the Colorado Supreme Court, where she served from 1979 until 1987. Jean Dubofsky private collection.

question of equal protection, what Kennedy referred to as the unique and troubling way Amendment 2 appeared to threaten those protections.

“Usually when we have an equal protection question, we measure the objective of the legislature against the class that is adopted, against the statutory classification. Here,

this particular group . . . and I would like to know whether in all of U.S. history there has been any legislation like this.”

Jean felt her whole body begin to relax when Kennedy first interrupted Tymkovich. “He was our fifth vote and if he was asking as his first question ‘Has there ever been a law like this?’ I thought, well, we might just have won our case.” By the time Justices O’Connor and Ginsburg were through with their initial questions, it began to look like a rout. But only for a moment.

Justice Antonin Scalia then stepped in and tried to take the questioning in an entirely different direction, suggesting confusion over whether or not the subject of the amendment was sexual orientation or sexual conduct. If it was all about conduct, then it would be perfectly constitutional, he said, since many state laws criminalize a range of such behaviors. Tymkovich and Scalia bantered back and forth and together managed to either confuse or obfuscate whether the amendment spoke to more than conduct. This discussion clearly annoyed other justices who were trying to break into the conversation. And it annoyed Jean. “The amendment was clear. It had both words, orientation and conduct, in the language.”

Justice Ginsburg and Justice David Souter managed to elbow their way back into this debate. An aggravated Souter suggested that Tymkovich was possibly misleading the court or, at the very least, inaccurately characterizing the amendment. He went on at some length as did Justice Ginsburg, eating up the state’s precious allotted time.

And so it went. Tymkovich’s oral argument had been hijacked by the justices, one quickly taking the floor after the other, sometimes talking over the other, asking long questions that were as much making arguments as asking questions, often with one justice answering the question of another. “There was a point at which it seemed like Tim had literally taken a step back from the podium,” Jean said. “The justices were just arguing among themselves and not really looking to him for anything.”

Jean took no pleasure in seeing the justices batter the solicitor general. As she had experienced occasionally to her benefit in the past, rough treatment sometimes was meant to give judges cover so that later they would appear more even-handed when they voted for the side they had previously criticized so harshly. If not that, it surely meant that they were in a feisty mood, and her turn for battering would come soon enough.

When Tymkovich was finally able to wedge a request to save the remainder of his time for rebuttal into the

back-and-forth between justices, all of ninety seconds remained. Chief Justice Rehnquist thanked him, then directly turned to Jean. “Ms. Dubofsky, we’ll hear from you.”

Jean opened with the standard salutation, “Mr. Chief Justice, and may it please the court.” Unlike Tymkovich, however, her voice was quite small and quiet, without gusto or strength, not a voice exuding confidence or command. Part of it may have been nerves, but it was also just her way. She had learned very early on that a quieter voice often invites more attention. As people have to strain to hear, they have to concentrate more.

She began as a teacher might, laying out the day’s lesson, in the same manner that had served her well in other courtrooms. “Let me begin with how Amendment 2 should be construed and then discuss how our legal theories relate to its unique combination of breadth and selectivity.”

“Amendment 2 is vertically broad,” she continued, “in that it prohibits all levels of government in the State of Colorado from ever providing any opportunity for one to seek protection from discrimination on the basis of gay orientation.”

If some expected a shift in the justices’ behavior from the leaning forward, jockeying attempts to elbow themselves into the debate, cutting their colleagues off as they waited for their chance to jump in, it was not to be. Barely twenty seconds had elapsed when Chief Justice Rehnquist interrupted, stopping Jean before she had the chance to explain the second half of her description, the “selectivity” part.

Rehnquist’s question was followed immediately by one from Justice Anthony Kennedy. Then another justice and another. The justices were not in the mood to sit back and allow Jean to make her arguments, and they gave her no more time to answer than they had given Tim Tymkovich. They bombarded her with question after question.

When she was allowed to answer, she consistently provided a brief “yes” or “no” statement, often quickly following up with a “but.” But it doesn’t matter because even without that, it is unconstitutional. But whether that were found to be true or not is immaterial to the constitutional questions. But that particular interpretation of the amendment is not necessary for this Court to find that Amendment 2 is unconstitutional.

With that series of “yes or no, but” responses, Jean managed to accomplish something the solicitor general was unable to do: provide clear and succinct descriptions of what the amendment meant and didn’t mean. With each answer

she took particular care to go to the heart of the unhappiness that Justice Stephen Breyer and others exhibited over the lack of clarity about what policies or laws the amendment did or did not allow. At one point, when Jean stated that the amendment's prohibitions clearly did include a certain type of policy, Breyer stopped her. "Well, what do we do when the counsel from the other side [is] saying it doesn't?"

Jean could have taken the bait and allowed it to become "he said," "she said"; or she could have directly accused Tymkovich of either dissembling or simply being wrong. But she did neither. Her description of what the amendment prohibited, she said, was not her *interpretation*, but the exact language of the Colorado Supreme Court in their written opinion.

"And where, exactly, did the Colorado Supreme Court say that?" Scalia, the "doubting Thomas" of the group, asked, clearly not persuaded that Jean's answer was factually correct.

Jean didn't miss a beat. With barely a downward glance, she answered: "It says that on page B dash 3, D 24, and D 25." It was her practice to handwrite page numbers from the briefs and appendices in the margin next to each key argument listed on her one-page typed outline. She almost never was asked, but it was always one of the last things she did the night before an oral argument. Just in case.

On these pages, Jean told the justices, the Colorado Supreme Court provides examples of protections that states and cities and government agencies would be precluded from enacting under the amendment.

Like dutiful students in a classroom, all of the justices simultaneously began to flip through their notebooks, trying to find the right page, whispering to one another or asking Jean to repeat those page numbers.

"Where?" "No, not that page." "E 25. Or is it D 25?" "In the white appendix?"

"D as in 'Does'?" asked Chief Justice Rehnquist. "D as in 'David,' or yes, D as in 'Does,'" Jean answered. For a moment, the queries were all regarding which page and which paragraph. The sights and sounds of nine justices searching through their notebooks were a bit comical. Eventually they would all find the right pages.

Justice Scalia flipped through his pages like everybody else. "B 3? Where does it say that on B 3?" Scalia read a few sentences and, almost gleefully, announced that he didn't find what Jean said he'd find.

Jean pointed out politely that he needed to go to the first sentence above what he'd just read. Scalia bypassed acknowledging her correction and continued grilling Jean on

other points of contention, as well as offering his own opinion, at great length, about special rights and special protections. Jean occasionally attempted to respond but realized she could not satisfy any of his concerns, finally only offering the observation that perhaps "we are having trouble with semantics."

Justice Souter interrupted Scalia's inquisition with a question of his own, which then led to more questions from other justices. But a subtle shift was unmistakable. The turning to the pages in the appendix became a figurative turning of the page in the tone and the rhythm and the content of the questions being asked. It was as if the spell of skepticism tinged with belligerence had been broken. The justices not only began to give Jean time to answer their questions, they gradually began to listen to her responses and ask related follow-up questions.

Jean's answers seemed to reassure the justices, help simplify their decision, and reduce confusion and anxiety over the possible wider repercussions of their decision. Her intent was to persuade them that, while the impact of the amendment to cause harm was wide and broad, resolving *how* wide and *how* broad had no bearing on the constitutionality of the amendment. Even a minimum, narrow finding was sufficient to constitute a violation of equal protection, she argued.

She repeatedly used the phrase "at a minimum" to encapsulate how they could frame their analysis. At a minimum the amendment means this . . . or at a minimum the Colorado Supreme Court found that . . . Jean's message to the court was clear. Even if the court understands the impact of the amendment to be a small, narrow, de minimis discriminatory impact, she emphasized, that is sufficient to find it unconstitutional.

At one point, Chief Justice Rehnquist attempted to restate Jean's argument in the form of a question. Are you saying that we "can sustain the Colorado Supreme Court's decision overthrowing the statute by taking just what the Colorado Supreme Court said was the minimum meaning?" "Yes, that's correct," she responded. Soon, other justices were also using the phrase "at a minimum."

As her time was about to come to a close, Jean was asked the final, critical question that had yet to be addressed.



# Daily Camera

May 21, 1996  
Boulder, Colorado  
25 Cents

# struck down

## Supreme Court rejects anti-gay rights law

### MINORITY OPINION

"A modest attempt by seemingly tolerant Coloradans to preserve traditional sexual mores against the efforts of a politically powerful minority to revise those laws through use of the laws."

### MAJORITY OPINION

"We must conclude that Amendment 2 classifies homosexuals not to further a proper legislative end but to make them unequal to everyone else. This Colorado can't do."



JUSTICE KENNEDY



6-3 ruling  
ends 4-year  
controversy

What about *Bowers v. Hardwick*, the 1986 Supreme Court ruling that sustained the Georgia law making sodomy a crime? The court did not want to touch that case; did not want their decision in *Romer* to be tied to that case in any way; did not want to open the Pandora's box that attempting to reverse *Bowers* would entail. And Jean let them off the hook.

You don't have to undo *Bowers*, she told the justices, to find Amendment 2 unconstitutional. Once again, Jean reassured the court that they need not break any previous barrier or plow new ground to rule for the plaintiffs.

With that, Chief Justice Rehnquist thanked her, the signal that her time was up. And, after thanking Colorado solicitor general Tim Tymkovich, he announced that "the case is submitted." And that was that.

That October day was not the end of the story, however. In a way, it was another beginning. On May 20, 1996, when the United States Supreme Court ruled Amendment 2 unconstitutional, it started a chain of events that over the

*Boulder's Daily Camera on May 21, 1996, announced the U.S. Supreme Court's verdict overturning Amendment 2. The city's mayor, Leslie Durgin, had attended the Court proceedings in person. Courtesy Boulder Daily Camera.*

decades has stretched the possibilities of justice and equality for the LGBT community.

Twenty years later, the ripples from *Romer v. Evans* continue to impact millions. Before the court ruled in that case, gays and lesbians were often fired from jobs when their sexual orientation was discovered. Zoning laws prevented homosexuals from owning homes in certain neighborhoods, and refusing to rent or sell to someone even suspected of being a homosexual was legal. Harassment and violence was common, with the police and the justice system often turning the other way. And sex between same-sex couples, in the privacy of their own homes, was a crime.

After *Romer v. Evans*, through thousands of local and state ordinances and legal decisions upheld by one high court after another, gays and lesbians have become free to live and work where they want, and free to enjoy the same protections and benefits as all citizens.



The Daily Camera of May 21, 1996, showed jubilation at the U.S. Supreme Court verdict. Courtesy Boulder Daily Camera.

In 2003, in *Lawrence v. Texas*, the Supreme Court ruled that the Texas law making it a crime for two people of the same sex to engage in sexual conduct was unconstitutional. In 2013, in *United States v. Windsor*, the Court ruled that the federal government could no longer treat married same-sex couples differently when it came to benefits available to other married couples. And on June 26, 2015, in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the right to marry was a fundamental right under the Constitution, even for same-sex couples.

Without *Romer v. Evans*, there likely would not have been *Lawrence*; without *Lawrence*, there might not have been *Windsor*. But with those three rulings it was all but inevitable that same-sex marriage would become the law of the land. And it all started in Colorado.



Attorney Jean Dubofsky gives a press conference following the Court's decision. Jean Dubofsky personal papers.

### For Further Reading

The author's *Appealing for Justice: One Colorado Lawyer, Four Decades, and the Landmark Gay Rights Case: Romer v. Evans* has just been published by Gilpin Park Press of Denver. Find *Romer v. Evans* trial transcripts at the Denver Public Library, Western History & Genealogy, *Romer v. Evans* Collection, boxes 1–4. All quotations of oral arguments are from the official Supreme Court transcript, retrieved at [oyez.org/cases/1995/94-1039](http://oyez.org/cases/1995/94-1039). A video interview with former governor Roy Romer is available at “Voices of the Law,” Duke University Law School, [web.law.duke.edu/voices/](http://web.law.duke.edu/voices/).

For press coverage of the trial, see *Rocky Mountain News*, October 1, 1995; *Washington Blade*, October 6, 1995; *Washington Post*, October 10, 1995; and *Rocky Mountain News*, October 11, 1995. See also Lisa Keen and Suzanne B. Goldberg, *Strangers to the Law: Gay People on Trial* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1998).

SUSAN BERRY CASEY, PhD, has written for *The Denver Post*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *Boulder Daily Camera*, *Boston Globe*, *Concord (NH) Monitor*, and *Huffington Post*. She is the author of *Hart and Soul*, an account of the 1984 presidential primary campaign. In her thirty-year career in politics and government, she has served as a top advisor to presidential candidates Sen. Gary Hart, Sen. Bob Kerrey, Sen. John Kerry, and Gov. Martin O'Malley. She has served on the Denver City Council and was a Denver mayoral candidate in 2003.

*Jean Dubofsky, Boulder attorney and former Colorado Supreme Court justice, in 2016. Photo by Kira Horvath. Courtesy Boulder Daily Camera.*



# COLORADO CENTENNIAL FARMS

*Honoring Our State's 100-Year-Old  
Family Farms and Ranches*



*Joe Gallegos of Gallegos Ranch enjoys a San Luis Valley sunset around 1994. Photo by Michael S. Lewis.*

**B**orn in 1832 to a Scotch-Irish family in Pennsylvania, Enos T. Hotchkiss was 27 when he came west to seek his fortune. He arrived in Colorado in 1874, where he struck a vein and discovered the Golden Fleece mine near today's Lake City. He went on to build toll roads with friend Otto Mears, known as the "pathfinder of the San Juans," but after a few years Enos set out on a different quest—this time for land. Traveling north along today's Blue Mesa Road, Enos found what he was looking for: a spot in the North Fork Valley where a town today bears his name.

In 1881, Enos built an adobe house on the land, and a year later he brought in the valley's first herd of cattle at 1,500 head. Then in 1889, he added a flock of sheep. A hundred years later, Hotchkiss Ranch—the 116th farm inducted into the Colorado Centennial Farms program—was running more than 4,000 ewes, a big herd by Colorado standards.

While most of the immigrants to the Colorado Territory came from the east, many settlers came from south of Colorado. One such group included seven men who journeyed north of Taos in the summer of 1851 and founded San Luis—Colorado's oldest town. They laid out the town as a typical Mexican village, with a plaza surrounded by adobe homes and a common area set aside to the east, where residents grazed livestock. Dario Gallegos, one of San Luis' original settlers, ran sheep and grew cauliflower, beets, and cabbage. Today, his land remains in the family and is still a working ranch—thanks to a diversified program of livestock, orchards, and vegetables. At 8,000 feet in elevation and with only nine inches of rain a year, the Gallegos Ranch

(Centennial Farm #135) is made green by irrigation. The family still holds the oldest water rights in the state with decrees dated 1855 and 1856.

Skiing may seem an unlikely legacy on a ranch—but not in Colorado. A few days after Christmas in 1883, Emil Linke strapped on skis and headed across snowy meadows to fetch the midwife to help deliver the first of ten Linke children. Emil's journey to America begun in 1866, when he left Germany at age 20. He worked as a carpenter in West Virginia, but the promise of gold lured him west. Instead of gold, he struck silver at the Iowa mine in Silverton. Without the resources to develop the claim, he sold it for \$6,000 and



*Jones Ranch, with a 1919 Ford delivery truck getting milk cans and bottles ready to take to Alamosa*

took his money to Denver, where he met and married Sophie Weil, a young German waitress. The couple then headed to the mountains over Rollins Pass and settled on Eight Mile Creek, a tributary of the Fraser River on a stagecoach route. Emil cut trees to build a log cabin, a barn, and corrals. He cleared pastures and trenched irrigation ditches. He also built a one-room schoolhouse where the Linke children eventually learned to speak English in lieu of their household German.

Later, it was Emil's son Edwin who was able to save the family homestead despite many hardships: economic pressures from the Great Depression, a severe drought in 1934, a house fire in 1942. Today, the family operation known as Cottonwood Ranch is Centennial Farm #85.

**T**he Colorado Centennial Farms program acknowledges farms and ranches that have been owned and operated by the same family for 100 years or more. The program was established to honor the significant role that these families have played in settling and shaping the state of Colorado. Today, each Colorado Centennial Farm represents the strength, courage, and perseverance of the families who have worked their land for generations despite the economic challenges of modern agriculture.

In 1986 a collaborative effort among then-Governor Richard D. Lamm, the Colorado Historical Society (today's History Colorado), and the Colorado Department of Agriculture created the Colorado Centennial Farms program to

recognize the importance of agriculture in our state's history and economic development. The Colorado Tourism Office has been a partner since 2015.

Today, the program is administered by the State Historical Fund, a program of History Colorado. Colorado Centennial Farms is also the first program of its kind in the nation to give Historic Structure Awards to families who have successfully preserved historic buildings on their farms and ranches. The National Trust for Historic Preservation provides this additional recognition.

*"The Colorado Centennial Farms program is not only about the history of farming. It's about a way of life."*

*—Joe Gallegos, rancher*

**T**his past August, the ranks of Colorado's Centennial Farmers grew with the addition of twenty-three farming and ranching families at a ceremony at the Colorado State Fair.

Ohio native Enzelow Chick married Delia McDaniels on New Year's Day, 1870. By 1915, the family had nine children, and after several moves around the Midwest they settled in Campo, Colorado. In 1916 the Chicks bought 622 acres, where they built a two-story house. Dow, the youngest of the Chick children, married neighbor Elsie Ferne and the two families' farms combined under Dow's ownership. Dow acquired more land from neighboring farms as they left during the hardships of the Dust Bowl.

The family had an airplane, a motorcycle, and even their own baseball team. They held dances in the old house, where Dow played the fiddle. (Dow also operated a still

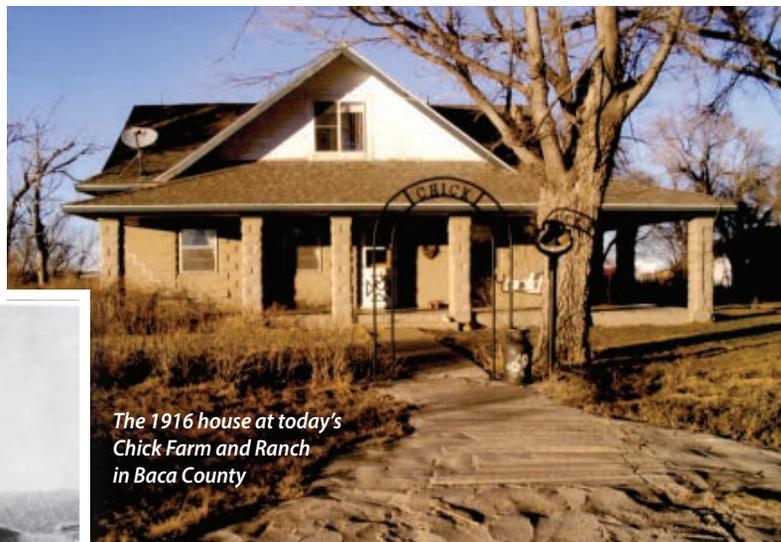


Eddie Linke cuts hay on the Cottonwood Ranch near Granby around 1994. Photo by Michael S. Lewis.



As day breaks on the Hotchkiss Ranch, Brian Farmer carries a day-old lamb through the lambing shed, around 1994. Photo by Michael S. Lewis.

during Prohibition and was very popular in the area.) The Chicks ran cattle, milked cows, sold cream and milk, and raised chickens, corn, broomcorn, and wheat. Today, Trull Chick, a fourth-generation Colorado farmer, lives at Chick Farm and Ranch in the original 1916 house with his wife, Vicki, and they lease the land to young farmers who run a cow-and-calf operation.



The 1916 house at today's Chick Farm and Ranch in Baca County



Collum Ranch, circa 1890

160 acres west of town and ran another café. By 1900 Rudolph had expanded his land to over 700 acres. A few generations later, the original Knoblauch farm is still in the family and has evolved into a dairy operation with milk cows and goats. The family produces cheese and gives tours of the dairy farm.

Ray Leonard Smith applied for a patent on a half-section of land in Yuma County in 1909. He arrived by train with his team and his well-drilling rig. Ray returned to Nebraska and married Alta Thompson in 1910, and the couple came back to the Colorado homestead in a covered wagon, bringing Ray's twelve-year-old brother Elgin and leading a cow.

In 1915 their five years of occupation ended and they officially received their patent to the land. Their son, Clare, was born in the sod house on the homestead. In 1916 Ray and Alta traded their homestead for the nearby Gerds Ranch, which came with three barns, a large house, and a garage (the buildings are all still in use, the barns having achieved historical designation). In 1942, Ray bought back the original homestead land. Now dubbed RLS Ranch LLC—for founder Ray Leonard Smith—the ranch continued to expand under the direction of Clare and his wife, Leta. Today their son and his wife raise cattle there.

In 1869 Rudolph Knoblauch immigrated to San Francisco after twenty years as a chef on a ship. He left San Francisco for Denver in 1881 and bought 160 acres where today's Civic Center stands. He established a café, and it was there that he met Katherine Rausch. The two married and moved south to Del Norte, Colorado, where they eventually bought

**A**cross the nation, family farms and ranches, historic barns, and other agricultural sites are disappearing at an alarming rate. In Colorado, the family farm and working cattle ranch serve as a reminder of how the West was settled.

The Centennial Farms program recognizes the contributions of Colorado's long-standing farming and ranching families who have withstood the pressures of growth, changes in farming methods, drought, and economic conditions for generations in order to preserve these important pieces of our state's commercial and cultural history.

But the Colorado Centennial Farms program doesn't just recognize the significance of agricultural sites to the development of Colorado. It also shows how vital these properties are to the well-being of our state.

**For Further Reading**

Hotchkiss Ranch, Linke Ranch, and Gallegos Ranch text is adapted from *Colorado's Centennial Farms & Ranches: A Century of Seasons*, photography and text by Michael S. Lewis with Joanne Ditmer (Westcliffe Publishers, 1994). Lewis's photos are used with permission.



The RLS Ranch in Yuma County, around 1910



The calving barn at the Knoblauch Ranch near Del Norte

To watch this year's Centennial Farms award ceremony, go to [livestream.com/BarnMedia/2016CentennialFarms](http://livestream.com/BarnMedia/2016CentennialFarms).

### How do farms and ranches qualify?

Nominees must meet the following requirements:

- Farms or ranches must have remained in the same family continuously for 100 years or more.
- The property must be a working farm or ranch.
- The property must have a minimum of 160 acres—however, properties with fewer than 160 acres can qualify if they gross at least \$1,000 in annual sales.
- Properties that have four or more well-maintained structures that are at least fifty years old are also eligible for a Historic Structures Award.

### How do I apply?

To apply for Colorado Centennial Farms designation, owners must submit an application providing information about the history of the property and its buildings and indicating that the farm or ranch meets the program's requirements. For the Historic Structures Award, photographs of the buildings are required.

Application forms must be mailed to the State Historical Fund by April 30 each year. For more information about the Colorado Centennial Farms program or to receive an application, contact the State Historical Fund at 303/866-2825 or visit [ColoradoCentennialFarms.org](http://ColoradoCentennialFarms.org). There, you'll also find listings of all of the Colorado Centennial Farms honorees.



Hunker Ranch in 1894

## Do you know this building?

Continued from page 15

BY HEATHER PETERSON,  
NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTER HISTORIAN

Answers: a) Flagler, c) 1915, d) School



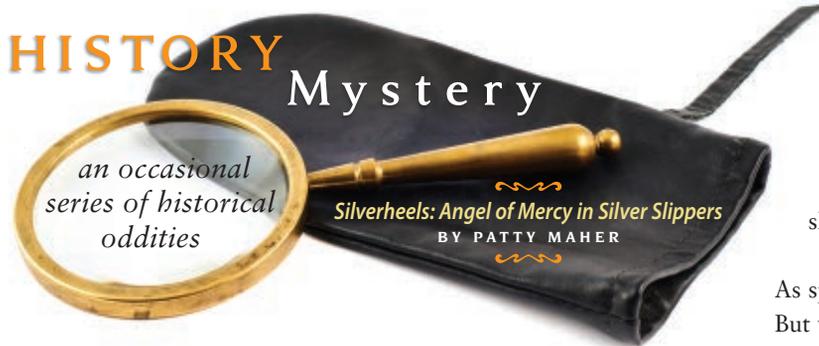
The Second Central School was the result of early twentieth-century school consolidation efforts. School District 19, near Flagler, consisted of four one-room schoolhouses in Ackerman, Albright, Sunny Slope, and Loco. Three schools were of sod construction, called “soddies,” and leaky roofs badly damaged two of them around 1914.

Residents preferred that two new schools be built, but given budget constraints the school board compromised by building one centrally located, two-room school for all area children. The Second Central School opened in 1915 about thirteen miles southeast of Flagler.

Rural districts had limited funding, so typically a simple yet functional building prevailed. Conversely, Second Central featured more decorative elements, like its bellcast roof and finials. Other ornamentation includes the gable return, architrave trim, and capital-type cornerboards, all uncommon on rural schools. The school’s success was immediate. Enrollment increased, and the district built a basement for high schoolers in 1917; total enrollment rose to 55 students in grades 1–10.

The State of Colorado awarded the school a designation of excellence based on curriculum, teacher qualifications, lighting, ventilation, and other factors and presented the school a plaque, which read: “State of Colorado, Standard School, Superior Class.” Enrollment continued to climb, necessitating two small front room additions in 1922, making the building nearly square. One room served as teacher sleeping quarters and the other covered the outside basement entrance. The school became the county’s first to have buses, a radio, and the superior rating.

With the 1950 statewide school consolidation, Second Central closed and merged with the Flagler school in town. The school, now a museum, sits in Flagler’s Madole Park. The State Register of Historic Properties added the school to its list in 1996.



Smack in the middle of Colorado, two miles above sea level, stood a short-lived mining town named Buckskin Joe. The population sprang from a few prospectors in 1859 to nearly 30,000 a decade later. Brimming with hotels, gambling halls, saloons, and stores, Buckskin Joe was an exciting place to be.

Riding in on the Denver stage in 1861, a young woman took a job at Billy Buck’s Saloon. Working as a dancehall girl was the best-paying job an unmarried woman could have. She was a beauty, and the patrons nicknamed her Silverheels for the fancy shoes she wore.

Not long after, in the fall of 1861, two shearers came to town to sell their flock to the saloons, general stores, and ranchers. But they brought more than just sheep; they brought smallpox. One of the herders was very ill and died shortly after; his partner joined him, but not before they’d spread the disease

that left pockmarks on the victim’s face and extremities after they recovered . . . *if they recovered.*

Most of the women and children were evacuated to nearby Fairplay. But the dancer Silverheels insisted on staying. She nursed her friends and other stricken men, and she grieved for those who didn’t survive.

About five months later the epidemic had run its course. As spring returned in 1862 so did the women and children. But where was Silverheels? To thank her for her kindness and bravery, the miners had taken up a collection of gold dust, nuggets, and cash. They went to her cabin but she was gone. Had she come down with the dreaded “pox” herself, maybe even died?

The miners hoped Silverheels would return one day, and they named the 13,829-foot peak above town “Mount Silverheels” in her honor. It was fitting, since the mountain watched over the town just as she had.

But Silverheels never returned. It’s rumored that some saw a heavily veiled woman in a long black dress wandering among the graves in the Buckskin Joe cemetery. Never speaking, she disappeared when approached. Some believe it was Silverheels, veiled to hide the pockmarks. Did she survive, or was what they saw a ghost?

*Is there a Colorado history mystery you want to know more about? Contact [patty\\_maher@yahoo.com](mailto:patty_maher@yahoo.com) and it may be featured in this column.*

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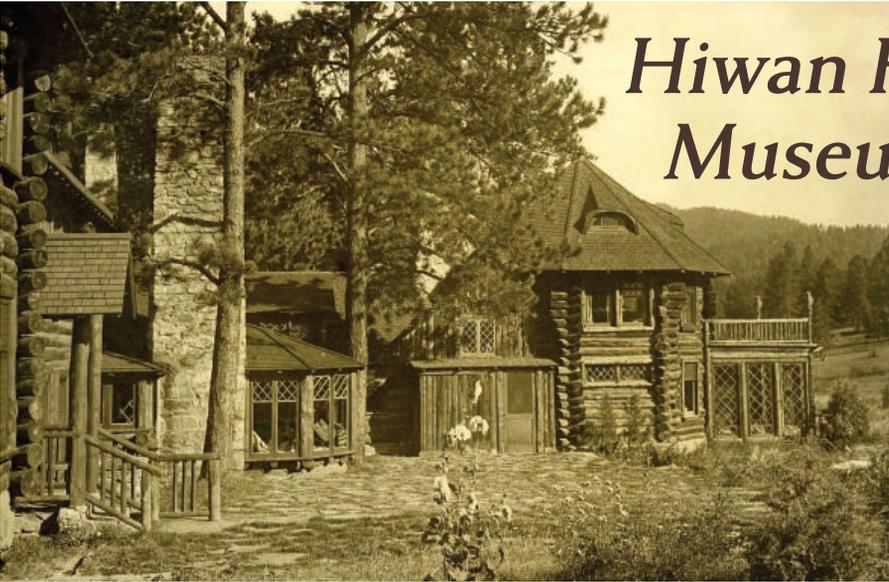
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## *Hiwan Homestead Museum Tea and Tour*

Monday, January 23,  
11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Warm up with a tea and luncheon at Evergreen's historic Hiwan Homestead—an early version of mountain summer-home living. Hear the story of Evergreen during this tea, then see the home's original furniture, unique stone fireplaces and impressive art collection. Enjoy the comfort and serenity of this mountain retreat.



## *Valentine Tea in Loveland*

Friday, February 3, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Visit the Valentine Re-Mailing program to see thousands of love letters get a special cachet stamp from the Sweetheart City before heading off to their recipients. Then, have a lovely tea at the historic Swan House, complete with finger sandwiches and scones. Love is in the air!

**\$60/Members \$49**

*Includes bus transportation, tea and a rich assortment of sandwiches, scones and desserts. 303/866-2394*

**\$50/Members \$39**

Includes quiche, salad, muffins, dessert and tea. Must provide own transportation to starting point. 303/866-2394