

C O L O R A D O

# Heritage

The Magazine of History Colorado

January/February 2015

## The 1968 Exhibit

Opening February 7

At the History Colorado Center



THE 1968 EXHIBIT



**ALSO  
IN THIS  
ISSUE**

- Colorado Remembers 1968
- Marijuana—A Colorado History
- Winter Programs Around the State

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PRESIDENT AND CEO

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Denver, Colorado 80203  
303/HISTORY

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### BASIC MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS (the benefits all members receive)

- Unlimited free admission to all History Colorado museums and historic sites
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- Our bimonthly newsmagazine, *Colorado Heritage*
- Our monthly e-newsletter, *History Colorado NOW*
- Member-only discounts on tours, lectures, and History Colorado programs
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For a full listing of benefits and more about membership, visit [www.HistoryColorado.org](http://www.HistoryColorado.org) and click on "Membership."

# COmingle

Join History Colorado for our afterhours history "happenings" with an offbeat mix of games, trivia, demos, exhibit adventures, performances and cash bar.

At the History Colorado Center on Thursdays, 6-9 P.M.



## COLORADO IS MUSIC TO MY EARS

**January 8**—Listen to live bands, make music in the exhibits, name that tune and check out historical instruments.

## COLORADO IS STUCK IN '68

**March 12**—Try on retro fashions, taste a mid-century snack, learn a '60s dance and explore *The 1968 Exhibit*.



## FWD: RACE

Join community leaders for a series of programs about race. What will Colorado look like in 2015?

At the History Colorado Center on Tuesdays, 6-8 P.M. Members and students \$4, nonmembers \$5 303/866-2394

### Chicano Identity and RACE

**February 24**—*Hispanic, Chicano/a, Latinola, Mexican American, La Raza*. What do these terms mean? What do they have to do with identity? What's the history of each?

### Social Movements of the 1960s and Early 1970s

**March 24**—The Civil Rights movement of the '60s spurred many other human rights movements. From Black Power to GLBT, how have people stood up and fought for civil rights?



### Colorado Today

**April 28**—How has the racial and ethnic composition of Colorado changed over time? What does our future look like, and how do we move forward? Have we achieved a post-racial Colorado?

# HERITAGE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015



## The 1968 Exhibit

Special Center Pullout Section



## 16 Colorado Remembers 1968

By the readers of Colorado Heritage

### 1968 Colorado Timeline

B. Erin Cole, with research assistance from Kalyani Fernando and Ryan Rebhan

## 24 "Rocky Mountain High": A History of Cannabis in Colorado

Nick Johnson

## DEPARTMENTS

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### ON THE COVER

On December 8, 1968, police raided Denver's Black Panther Society headquarters after founder Lauren Watson's wedding, seizing weapons and ammunition. Panther members filed a complaint with the city, arguing police caused thousands of dollars in damage. Here, Panther members (from left) Lauren Watson, Deputy Minister of Defense; Sorrell Shed, Minister of Justice; Ronnell Stewart, Minister of Communications; and Clark Watson appear at Denver's U.S. Justice Department office on December 12. See page 16 for a timeline of Colorado in 1968 and our readers' memories of that pivotal American year. Photo by Dick Davis, courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection. X-28770

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

**HISTORY COLORADO CENTER**

1200 Broadway, Denver

**Open:** Monday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.; Sunday, noon to 5 P.M.**Extended evening hours! Open till 9 P.M. every third Tuesday.****Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$12; seniors and students \$10; children \$8; children 5 and under free. **303/HISTORY**, [www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org](http://www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org)**BYERS-EVANS HOUSE MUSEUM**

1310 Bannock Street, Denver

**Open:** Daily, except Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Guided house tours from 10:30 A.M. 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:** Tuesday through Saturday, 10 A.M. 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**

25 miles east of Alamosa off U.S. 160

**Open:** April–September, daily, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. October–March, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.; closed Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$5; seniors \$4.50; children ages 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:** Wednesday–Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.**Admission:** Members and children under 5 free; nonmembers \$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

**Closed for the season.** 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

**Closed for the season.** **Open:** May 1–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 and Santa Fe Trail Museum available by appointment for groups of six or more. Bloom Mansion closed for restoration.**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

**Open:** January–June: Tuesday through Saturday, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

July–October: Monday through Saturday, 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.; Sunday, 11 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. November–December: Monday through Saturday, 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

**Admission:** Members and children 6 and under free; nonmember adults \$4.50; seniors \$4; children ages 6–16, \$2. **970/249-3098**, [www.UteIndianMuseum.org](http://www.UteIndianMuseum.org)

## From the PRESIDENT

Every ten years we look to American Alliance of Museums accreditation as the most sought-after stamp of recognition in the national museum field. But when we came due for reaccreditation in 2010, we faced a bit of a challenge: We couldn't show the AAM our flagship museum because we were in the process of replacing it—with today's History Colorado Center. Now, with that new headquarters established, we're proud to announce that AAM has awarded us accreditation once again.

The process involved a complete review of every site included in that accreditation: the History Colorado Center, Byers-Evans House Museum, Ute Indian Museum, El Pueblo History Museum, Fort Garland Museum, Fort Vasquez Museum, Healy House, and Dexter Cabin. Through reams of written documentation as well as site visits by accreditors, AAM looks at every single aspect of an institution, from the physical facilities to education programs, from financial operations and governance to collections practices. Elisa Phelps, Director of Collections and Library Services, stepped out of her customary role to compile volumes of information and lead this multi-year effort that ultimately involved every division within the organization.

What does it mean? Reaccreditation by the national organization attests to the high quality of our programs and to our commitment to the highest professional and ethical standards. To our audiences, our peers, our donors, and the media, this recognition confirms that History Colorado is one of the nation's foremost museums of its kind.

As we conclude the timely exhibit *RACE: Are We So Different?* we look ahead to the next major exhibit we're bringing to those audiences. *The 1968 Exhibit*, opening February 7 at the History Colorado Center, is a traveling exhibit from the Minnesota History Center, Atlanta History Center, Chicago History Museum and Oakland Museum of California. It's a perfect example of our mission to inspire not just audiences, but *generations*: this immersive exhibit will help Baby Boomers *remember* a key year, even as it helps a younger generation *learn*. What does it mean to see a helicopter in a living room? While younger visitors may think of Afghanistan and Iraq, others of us will recall Vietnam as the first war we saw on television. I can always talk to my own children about what Vietnam was; this exhibit will *show* them.

In so many ways, 1968 was a turning point, with much to remember—and at the same time, much to celebrate—nationally and in Colorado. Please join us in commemorating '68 by coming to see it, attending the outstanding programs we've planned, and taking a trip down memory lane.

Edward C. Nichols, President and CEO

# History Colorado Awards Announced

## *Congratulations to the winners of the 2014 History Colorado Awards!*

Historian Edie DeWeese won this year's Caroline Bancroft Award for her work on the archaeological survey of the Alonzo N. Allen cabin site. The study focused on Allenspark's early settlement and the remains of Allen's cabin. Winner of the Josephine H. Miles award is Costilla County Economic Development Council, Inc., for its commitment to the revitalization of Costilla County through heritage tourism, spiritual tourism and agritourism while protecting the area's culture, water and land. Honorable mentions include the Four Rivers Historical Alliance for its heritage tourism map; Peggy Winkworth's *Walking Durango: History, Sights and Stories*; and Clementine Washington Pigford's *Colorado African American Organizations: 1899 to 1926*.

Presented every two years for the best work of nonfiction on a western subject by a female author, the 2014 Barbara Sudler Award went to Patricia Nelson Limerick for her book *A Ditch in Time: The City, the West, and Water*. Limerick has the distinction of being the only author to



Award recipients (from left) Darrell Munsell, Clementine Pigford, Edie DeWeese and Robert Rael



Sudler Award-winning author Patricia Limerick with outgoing History Colorado board chair Jim McCotter

receive the award twice. The Volunteers of History Colorado coordinated this year's Sudler Award.

## *The Public Has Voted!*

History Colorado's *Cheyenne Dog Soldier Ledgerbook, 1860s*, is one of Colorado's top ten most significant artifacts of 2014. View all the top artifacts at: <https://collectioncare.auraria.edu/content/colorados-2014-most-significant-artifact>.

Thanks to everyone who voted!

## Exploring the Intersection of Religion and Race

Sunday, January 4, 3–4:30 P.M.  
History Colorado Center Auditorium  
Free with museum admission

Come explore the *RACE: Are We So Different?* exhibit and join a facilitated conversation about

people's experiences at the intersection of race and religion in America. Sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, Regis University Institute for Common Good, and the Greater Denver Interfaith Initiative.

January 4 is your last chance to see *RACE: Are We So Different?* Don't miss it!



A page from the Cheyenne Dog Soldier Ledgerbook.  
History Colorado. 10036169

# New & On View

## Denver

History Colorado Center  
(unless otherwise noted)

### *The 1968 Exhibit*

February 7–May 10

It was the year that rocked history. *The 1968 Exhibit*, an award-winning traveling exhibit making stops in some of the nation’s top museums, arrives at the History Colorado Center in February.

This pivotal American year comes to life through photographs, artifacts, vintage pop culture items and interactives. Presented month-by-month, *The 1968 Exhibit* explores the cultural and political events that shaped the 1960s and ‘70s—and that continue to reverberate today. The exhibit starts in January 1968, with a Huey helicopter that has “landed” in a ‘60s-era living room, evoking the way television brought the Vietnam War into American households. The exhibit ends on a hopeful note in December, with Apollo 8 orbiting the Moon.

Feel the turbulence of the year as you immerse yourself in the riots at the Democratic National Convention, Black Power demonstrations at the Summer Olympics in Mexico City and feminist protests at the 1968 Miss America pageant. Pull a lever and vote for presidential candidates



Courtesy Chicago History Museum



THE 1968 EXHIBIT

in an authentic ‘68 voting booth. Witness the reality of war with Vietnam-era artifacts and interview footage with those who lived through it. View an actual program from Dr. King’s funeral service, and see a camera used to photograph Robert Kennedy the night he was shot.

Three interactive lounge areas focus on music, design, movies and television, sure to rekindle memories for those who lived through this era—and spark interest in those too young to remember. See the iconic purple jacket worn by rock legend Jimi Hendrix, vintage album covers and musical equipment and TV memorabilia.

Nearly fifty years later, 1968 remains one of America’s most powerful and transformative years. *The 1968 Exhibit* reveals how the events of the year created lasting changes in nearly every aspect of American life.

*Developed by the Minnesota History Center, in partnership with the Atlanta History Center, the Chicago History Museum and the Oakland Museum of California.*

Courtesy Minnesota History Center



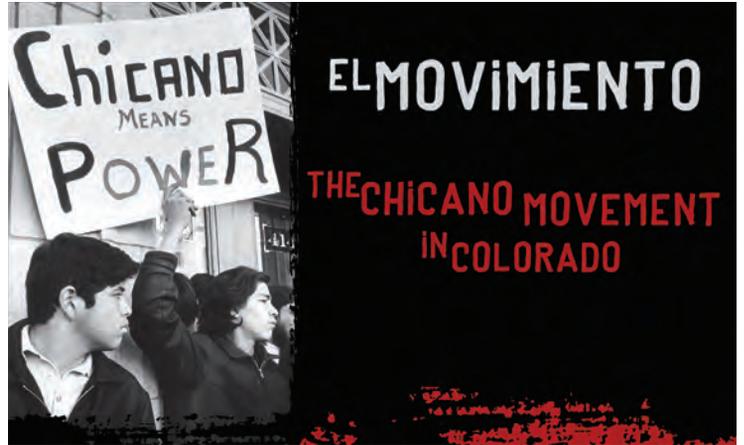
See page 12 for details about our **Special Member Preview** and our **1968 Exhibit Premiere Party**.

And see the four-page center section of this issue for **three months of 1968 Exhibit programs!**

## *El Movimiento: The Chicano Movement in Colorado*

Opening February 7

In the 1960s and '70s, Colorado was a center of the Chicano movement as activists fought to end discrimination, secure rights and gain political and social power through education, culture and the arts. *El Movimiento* immerses you in the urgency and vitality of one of Colorado's most important social movements. Artifacts, images and the voices of the activists themselves reveal the struggle for labor rights, the founding of the Crusade for Justice, student activism and the Vietnam War. History Colorado created *El Movimiento* with advisers from across the state. *El Movimiento* opens in conjunction with *The 1968 Exhibit* and will remain on view after that show's run. In partnership with History Colorado, the Museo de las Americas opens a companion exhibit—*CHICANO*—on February 12.



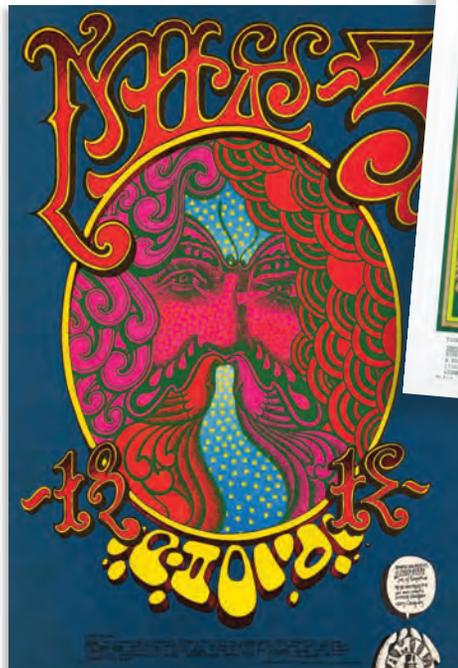
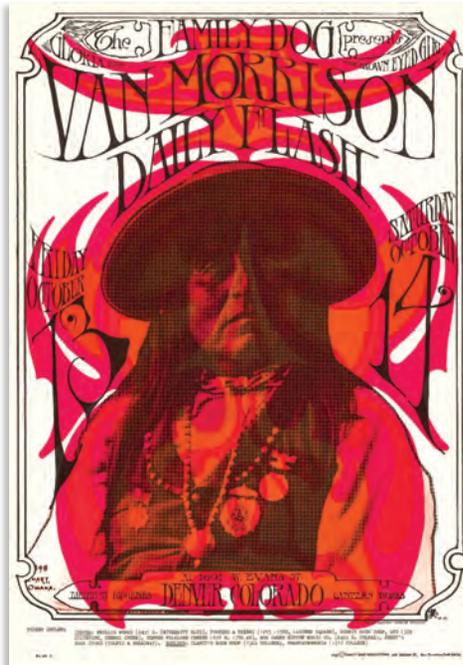
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## Rock Posters from Denver's Family Dog

Byers-Evans House Gallery  
February 6 through April 24

See original rock posters promoting concerts at the Family Dog, a 1960s Denver music venue modeled after the iconic Avalon music and dance hall in San Francisco. The Doors, Jefferson Airplane and Van Morrison all played at the Family Dog. See the original poster art and handbills that promoted these legends, from the private collection of longtime collector Mike Storeim.

Photographer Lisa Law's pictures of the bands will also be on display.



**Free opening reception  
Friday, February 6,  
5 to 9 P.M.**

Photos © Rhino Records

## Pueblo

El Pueblo History Museum

**SAVE THE DATE!****Changing America:  
The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863,  
and the March on Washington, 1963**

Opening March 6

This exhibit is presented by the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of American History in collaboration with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The exhibition is made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and is part of NEH's Bridging Cultures initiative, "Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle," which brings four outstanding films on the civil rights movement to communities across the United States (see <http://createdequal.neh.gov>). "Created Equal" encourages communities across the country to revisit and reflect on the long history of civil rights in America.



Episodes of Colorado's premier history series air on selected Thursdays at 7 P.M. *Colorado Experience* is produced by Rocky Mountain PBS and History Colorado.

**"Jewish Pioneers"**—From the philanthropists behind National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives to the father of Denver theater, discover the achievements of Colorado's Jewish population. (January 8)

**"Hydro Power"**—Look back at Colorado's historic connection with this power so easily taken for granted today. (January 15)



## FAMILY FUN

## Denver

Courtesy Minnesota History Center

**Valentine's Day Tour and Tea**Saturday, February 14, 1:30 P.M.  
Byers-Evans House Museum

Tour the historic home, followed by an afternoon tea with tea sandwiches, scones, fruit and desserts.

Members \$20, nonmembers \$25, children 12 and under \$18

Reservations required: 303/620-4933

**Weltklassik: A Monthly  
Classical Music Series**Tuesdays, January 13, 7 P.M. and February 17, 7 P.M.  
Grant-Humphreys Mansion

Founded in Germany fifteen years ago, Weltklassik comes to Denver in 2015. The renowned monthly concerts offer classical music in an intimate setting. The season-opening concert on January 13 features pianist Anna Zassimova performing "Lyrical Pieces!" Leon Gurvitch performs "Bolero!" on February 17. Enjoy concerts every third Tuesday in 2015.

Adults \$25, free for children 13 and under

Tickets: 303/894-2505

**School's Out Camp Days**

History Colorado Center

Looking for something fun for kids age 6–12 to do in downtown Denver on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day or Presidents' Day?

Members \$45, nonmembers \$50

*Book both days and save! Members \$85, nonmembers \$90*  
Need an additional hour of care before or after the program? Extended care is available both days, 8–9 A.M. and 4–5 P.M. (\$10 an hour)

**Secrets of the Museum**

Monday, January 19, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.—What happens behind the scenes at the History Colorado Center? Go on an adventure to find objects from the collection, meet an archaeologist, peer into the past with our photograph collection, try your hand in the café kitchen and use historic tools and a 3D printer to create a memento of your day.



*Be There or Be Square: A Date with '68*

Monday, February 16, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.—Jump back in time to 1968. Explore *The 1968 Exhibit* and learn how it was built. Discover crafts of '68, learn to macramé and have a swingin' '60s fashion show. Blasting off to outer space, we'll learn about the Apollo 8 mission and astronauts. Groovy, baby!

**First Wednesday Preschool Story Time**

Wednesdays, January 7 and February 4, 9:30 A.M.  
History Colorado Center

Bring the kids (age 2–5) to story time in our *Destination Colorado* exhibit and learn about farms, cowboys and animals. We'll read a story and then have playtime in the exhibit before the museum opens.

Free with admission

**FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES**  
at the History Colorado Center!

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

Free with admission.

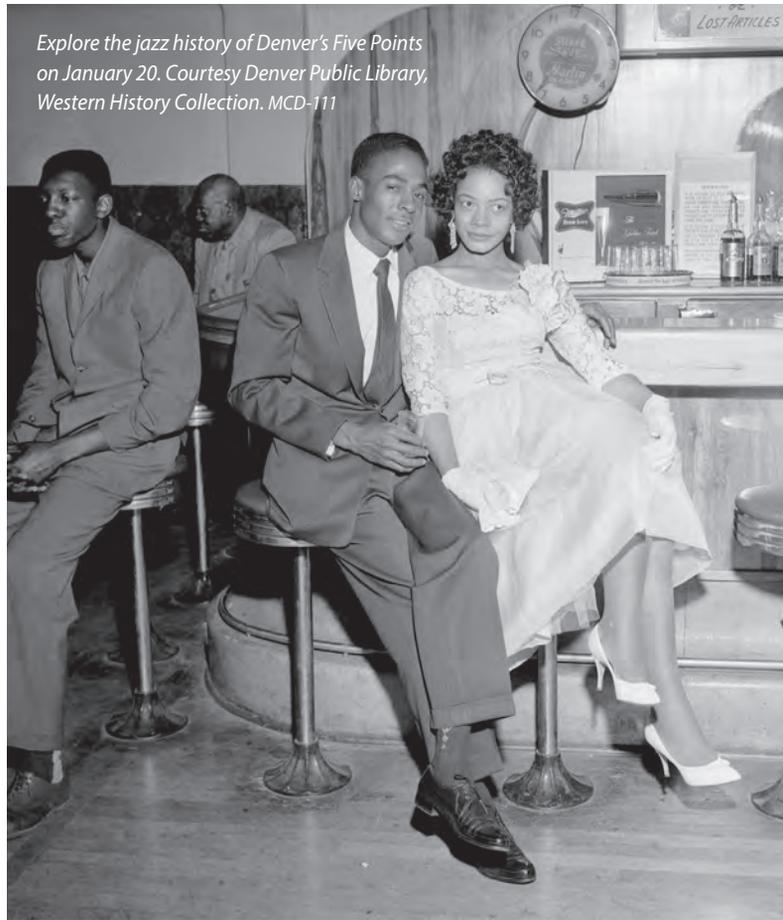
**JANUARY**

- January 10: **American Indian beading**, 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.
- January 17: **Mountain man Doc Grizzly**, 10:30 A.M. to 2 P.M.
- January 19: **Buffalo Soldier sergeant Jack Hackett**, 11:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.
- January 24: **Gold panner William Green Russell**, 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

**FEBRUARY**

- February 7: **Flintknapper Tim Boucher**, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.
- February 14: **Balkanika Dancers**, 11:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.
- February 16: **Did going to the Moon in '68 save Earth?**  
Find out at 11:30 A.M.
- February 21: **Angel Vigil stories and lasso tricks**, 11:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.
- February 28: **Buffalo Soldier sergeant Jack Hackett**,  
11:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Explore the jazz history of Denver's Five Points on January 20. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection. MCD-111



*2014–15 Lecture Series*

***Our Shifting Times***

1 and 7 p.m.

Single lectures: Members \$8.50, nonmembers \$10, students (with ID) \$6.50. Information: 303/866-2394

Sponsored by the Walter S. Rosenberry III Charitable Trust.

**Five Points: The Cradle of Jazz in the Rockies**

Tuesday, January 20

***Extended Times: 1–2:30 P.M. and 7–8:30 P.M.***

Denver has many historic neighborhoods with stories to tell—but Five Points is especially known for its connections to Denver's early black history and culture. This “Harlem of the West” attracted such jazz legends as Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong. While the neighborhood continues to evolve, its association with this vibrant past cannot be silenced. Join jazz musician and historian Purnell Steen and his group Le Jazz Machine as they bring to life the history and sounds of Five Points through story and song.

# Tours & Treks

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

## Capital Tea and Old South Denver Walking Tour

Wednesday, January 21, 1 to 4 P.M.

Denver was once surrounded by cities that styled themselves as more moral places to live, and one of them was South Denver. Eventually South Denver, a “dry” town, joined up with its licentious neighbor to the north. Join us for a walking tour of this area’s history, including its old City Hall. Then warm up with a libation at Capital Tea, a locally operated business offering more than 75 varieties.

Members \$32, nonmembers \$42

*(Includes an assortment of finger sandwiches, miniature scones and pastries. Provide your own transportation to starting point.)*

## Valentine Tea at Cherokee Ranch Castle

Wednesday, February 11, 1 to 3 P.M.

The chill of February may be bitter, but the warmth of tea and turrets will surely compensate. Join us at the Cherokee Ranch Castle for an exclusive tour of the historic mansion with its antique furnishings and art. Afterwards, be treated like royalty with a formal, English-style tea—that most civilized of affairs.

Members \$53, nonmembers \$63

*(Please provide your own transportation to starting location. Includes tea, scones with clotted cream and jam, finger sandwiches, pastries and sweets.)*

## Judaic Heritage Tour of Denver

Friday, February 20, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

The primary Jewish migrations into the High Plains in the 1800s left an indelible presence that’s carried through to the modern day. We’ll show you sites from the past and the present and leave you with a greater appreciation of this often overlooked aspect of Denver’s tapestry.

Members \$36, nonmembers \$46

*(Includes bus transportation and a break for lunch on your own dime.)*

## Denver’s Immigrant Heritage Tour

Tuesday, February 24, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

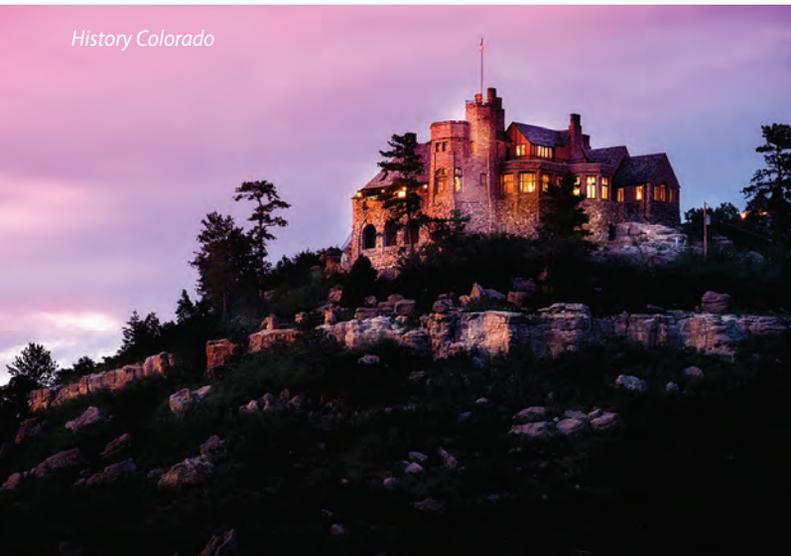
Those who founded Denver in 1858 weren’t the last group of immigrants to come to the Queen City of the Plains. Successive waves from all over the world have made their marks on the city. Tales of triumph, conflict, racism and redemption highlight the remarkable contributions of our ancestors, some of them so taken for granted today as to be virtually invisible.

Members \$36, nonmembers \$46

*(Includes bus transportation and a break for lunch on your own dime.)*



See a complete listing of History Colorado Tours and Treks in the booklet you received with this Colorado Heritage.



History Colorado

Valentine Tea at Cherokee Ranch Castle



History Colorado

Denver's Immigrant Heritage Tour

### An Irish Tour of Denver

Sunday, March 8, noon to 5 P.M.

Join the grand marshal of Denver’s 2015 St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Tom “Dr. Colorado” Noel, and City Auditor Dennis Gallagher for a celebration of Irish Denver. Enjoy luscious libations and Irish food, a slide show and tall tales. We’ll board a deluxe motor coach to visit landmarks like St. Patrick’s Church with its heavenly cookies and Sacred Heart, the city’s oldest church in its original building and on its original site. Enjoy drive-by inspections of the Molly Brown House Museum and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. You can have your copy of the book *Irish Denver* signed by our hosts.

Members \$46, nonmembers \$56; *Irish Denver* \$22  
(Includes one drink ticket, a light lunch, and bus transportation.)

### Monte Vista Crane Festival

Friday, March 13 to Sunday, March 15

Register by February 13

We’ve seen the lark bunting in summer and the prairie chicken in winter, so join us to see the sandhill crane in spring. The cranes will make their annual northward trek, spending time at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge in the San Luis Valley in March. The 20,000-strong flock arrives to refuel on grain and begin their courtship rituals. Along with birding, enjoy local food, history, workshops and lectures.

Members \$320, nonmembers \$390 (single supplement \$100)  
(Includes two nights’ lodging in Alamosa, bus transportation, all events and four meals.)

### History Colorado Trek to Mexico

Tuesday, May 19 to Sunday, May 31

Register by February 11

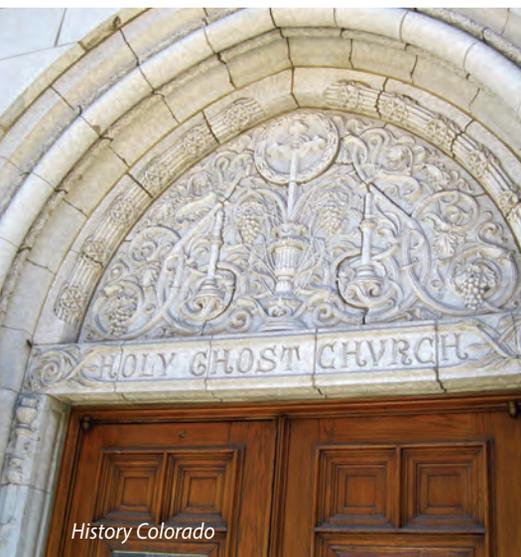
Join us as we trek to beautiful Mexico! Walk the heart of Mexico City before a ride to some of Mexico’s finest attractions. The double pyramids of Teotihuacan, the Templo Mayor, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Silver City of Taxco and pre-Columbian ruins in Xochicalco are all on the list. In Cuernavaca—the City of Eternal Spring—explore the Brady Museum and more, with markets and musicians in abundance. In Puebla you’ll marvel at the city’s Baroque architecture and renowned artisan tiles. The tour includes options for free time and staying with local families.

¡Vámonos! **Information and reservations: 720/234-7929.**

Members \$3,525, nonmembers \$3,825

(single supplement \$600)

(Includes airfare, double-occupancy rooms, guides, admissions, transportation, all breakfasts, three dinners and three lunches. Price subject to change; deposit required.)



History Colorado

An Irish Tour of Denver



© Joe Zinn Photography

Monte Vista Crane Festival

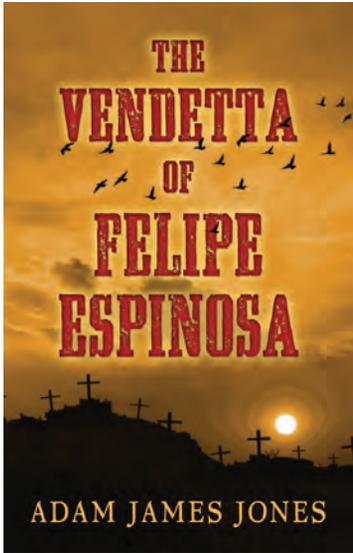


History Colorado  
Trek to Mexico



ADULT PROGRAMS

Denver



**Lecture**  
**Felipe Espinosa:**  
**Terrorist of John**  
**Evans' Colorado**

Byers-Evans House Museum  
 Saturday, January 17, 6 P.M.

Author and historian  
 Adam James Jones presents  
 his historical novel *The*  
*Vendetta of Felipe Espinosa.*  
 One of the nation's first  
 documented serial killers,  
 Espinosa stalked  
 American



settlers in Colorado Territory in the  
 summer of 1863. He claimed an estimated  
 thirty-two lives before a fierce high-  
 country manhunt caught him.

**COLLECTIONS &**  
**LIBRARY PROGRAMS**  
**at the History Colorado Center**

Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center

Members \$4, nonmembers \$5  
 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!*

*The Historical Craft Society*

Saturday, February 7, 10:15 A.M. to 12:15 P.M.—Kewpies,  
 kissing sweethearts and flappers! See History Colorado's  
 Valentine's Day card collection and make decorated tin  
 hearts from reproductions. Coffee and pastries available  
 for purchase; all supplies and materials included.

*(Limited to 30 people)*

Members \$8, nonmembers \$10

*February is*  
**African American**  
**History Month!**

*Herman Hall, African American Photographer of Denver*

Thursday, February 26, 1 to 2 P.M.—From 1900 to 1915, the  
 black amateur photographer Herman Hall photographed  
 the people, businesses and events of Denver's predominantly  
 African American Curtis Park neighborhood. In celebration  
 of African American History Month, photography curator  
 Megan Friedel offers a rare look at Hall's photos and life,  
 and a glimpse into Denver's African American history.

**Collections Close-Ups:**  
**Love Letters**



Friday, February 13, noon to 2 P.M.

Love is in the air! Stop in and explore romantic items  
 from our archives, including Valentines, marriage  
 proposals and love letters.



**Behind-the-Scenes**  
**Collection Tours**

Fridays, January 16 and February 20, 1 P.M.

Ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at the History  
 Colorado Center? Join us for free collections tours every  
 third Friday. We'll visit rarely seen storage and processing



## PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

### Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board Meetings

The Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board meets three times a year to review state and national register nominations of places in Colorado worthy of preservation. Open to the public, the meetings usually take place at the History Colorado Center. This year’s meetings are on January 16, May 15 and September 18. Information and locations: 303/866-3392 or [www.historycolorado.org/oahp/nomination-deadlines](http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/nomination-deadlines).

spaces and get an up-close-and-personal view of artifacts. Free for members or with museum admission. *(Limited to 12 people. Sign up at the front desk when you arrive!)*

### Pueblo

El Pueblo History Museum

### Prohibition & Legalization Lecture Series

Scholars present the historical and social implications of prohibition and legalization of alcohol and drugs in the United States and Colorado. Free, no reservations needed  
Information: 719/583-0453



### *Narcos, Drug Policy and Border Policing: The Transformation of Drug Trafficking along the Mexico-United States Border*

February 17, 7 P.M.—Professor Santiago Guerra outlines how draconian drug policy and escalating border policing transformed international drug trafficking and gave rise to the contemporary “drug problem” at the Mexico-U.S. border.

### History Colorado State Historical Fund Roundtables

At State Historical Fund roundtables, SHF staff outline the grant application process, explain any updates since the October grant round, and work with you to create a strong project. While the staff are always available by phone or email, the roundtables offer you an opportunity to interact with them directly and learn from fellow applicants and their projects. RSVP 48 hours in advance. All roundtables run from 10 A.M. to noon.  
Reservations: 303/866-3493

#### January

- 14 Wednesday—Durango: Durango Public Library
- 15 Thursday—Grand Junction: Museum of the West
- 22 Thursday—Loveland: Loveland Elks Lodge
- 28 Wednesday—Burlington: Burlington Community & Education Center
- 29 Thursday—La Junta: Municipal Clerk’s Office

#### February

- 12 Thursday—Alamosa: Alamosa Masonic Lodge
- 19 Thursday—Glenwood Springs, Garfield County Courthouse
- 20 Friday—Golden: Alpine Mountaineering Center

# 1968 Premiere Party—History Colorado Center

Join us as we celebrate the opening of *The 1968 Exhibit!* We'll transport you to the year that rocked America, with live music, fun food and cocktails, dancing and a chance to see the exhibit before it opens to the public. This is one happenin' you won't want to miss!

Tickets on sale now at [h-co.org/1968party](http://h-co.org/1968party)

- 6 P.M.—Retro VIP Party
- 6:30 P.M.—Main Event
- 7 P.M.—Dinner
- 8 P.M.—Dancing

Members \$90, nonmembers \$100

“Born after 1968” Young Professional \$75

Patron VIP \$150\*

1968 VIP Experience \$1,200 (table of 8)\*

All tickets include admission to main event, food, drinks and entertainment.

*\*Includes private Retro Party and free valet parking.*

Can't make it to the Premiere Party? As a member, you can see *The 1968 Exhibit* early and **FREE!**

## Members-Only Preview Day

**FREE for members**

**Friday, February 6, 10 A.M. to 8 P.M.**

**Café Rendezvous and Gift Shop open for dining and shopping!**

RSVP to 303/866-4477 or [membership@state.co.us](mailto:membership@state.co.us) with your name and membership number, and number in party.

**Be there  
or be  
square.**



**THE 1968 EXHIBIT**

Groovy cocktails  
provided by



## 5 Reasons Why You Should Update Your Estate Plan

The beginning of a new year is an opportunity to review your estate plan to see if the measures you have in place still follow your wishes. Here are five reasons why creating or reviewing your plans is always a good idea:

**Relationships change.** Have you left money to people or given them responsibilities that no longer mean something to you? Make sure you have the right people named in your documents, who'll take care of you and your legacy.

You know a lot more about your health. As we grow older it's inevitable that our physical wellbeing will change. Have you put provisions in place for a time when you may not be able to make decisions for yourself?

**Kids grow up and make their own lives.** When your children are minors, you take protective measures to keep them safe.

As they become adults they're less dependent on you. Have you revisited these measures and determined if they're still relevant?

**You might be able to reduce your estate tax.** If your estate is subject to estate tax, a donation from a bequest may reduce or eliminate federal estate tax.

**You're thinking about your legacy.** By leaving a legacy, you can inspire others to find wonder and meaning in Colorado's history. Have you thought about including History Colorado as a named beneficiary of your estate? A bequest is a simple way to give back after your lifetime.

For more about leaving a legacy to History Colorado, contact Rebecca Olchawa Barker, Associate Director of Major and Planned Gifts, 303/866-4845 or [Rebecca.Olchawa-Barker@state.co.us](mailto:Rebecca.Olchawa-Barker@state.co.us).

If you've already included History Colorado in your estate plans, please let us know! We'd like to thank you and invite you to join our legacy society, a group of loyal supporters whose commitment to History Colorado helps ensure our plans for the future.

# Calendar

## JANUARY

### 4 Sunday

RELIGION AND RACE  
History Colorado Center  
See page 3.

LAST DAY TO SEE

*RACE: ARE WE SO DIFFERENT?*  
History Colorado Center

### 8 Thursday

COMINGLE: COLORADO IS  
MUSIC TO MY EARS  
History Colorado Center  
See page 1.

### 17 Saturday

FELIPE ESPINOSA  
Byers-Evans House Museum  
See page 10.

### 19 Monday

SECRETS OF THE MUSEUM  
History Colorado Center  
See page 6.

### 20 Tuesday

FIVE POINTS JAZZ  
History Colorado Center  
See page 7.

### 21 Wednesday

OLD SOUTH DENVER TOUR  
See page 8.

## FEBRUARY

### 5 Thursday

*THE 1968 EXHIBIT*  
PREMIERE PARTY  
History Colorado Center  
See page 12.

### 6 Friday

ROCK POSTER EXHIBIT  
RECEPTION  
Byers-Evans House Gallery  
See page 5.

*THE 1968 EXHIBIT*

MEMBER OPENING  
History Colorado Center  
See page 12.

### 7 Saturday

*THE 1968 EXHIBIT* OPENS  
History Colorado Center  
See page 4.

*EL MOVIMIENTO* OPENS  
History Colorado Center  
See page 5.

HISTORICAL CRAFT SOCIETY  
History Colorado Center  
See page 10.

### 9 Monday

COLORADO'S "HIPPIE PROBLEM"  
History Colorado Center  
See 1968 pullout section.

### 13 Friday

COLLECTIONS CLOSE-UP:  
LOVE LETTERS  
History Colorado Center  
See page 10.

### 14 Saturday

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

VALENTINE TEA AT  
CHEROKEE RANCH CASTLE  
See page 8.

### 16 Monday

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE  
FOR KIDS  
History Colorado Center  
See page 7.

### 17 Tuesday

PROHIBITION &  
LEGALIZATION  
El Pueblo History Museum  
See page 11.

POPULAR MUSIC,  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND 1968  
History Colorado Center  
See 1968 pullout section.

### 20 Friday

JUDAIC HERITAGE TOUR  
See page 8.

### 23 Monday

COLORADO LODGING IN 1968  
History Colorado Center  
See 1968 pullout section.

### 24 Tuesday

DENVER'S IMMIGRANT  
HERITAGE TOUR  
See page 8.

FWD: CHICANO IDENTITY  
AND RACE  
History Colorado Center  
See page 1.

### 26 Thursday

HERMAN HALL  
History Colorado Center  
See page 10.

### 27 Friday

EDUCATOR OPEN HOUSE  
History Colorado Center  
See 1968 pullout section.

## Repeated Events

WELTKLASSIK MUSIC SERIES  
Grant-Humphreys Mansion  
January 13 and February 17  
See page 6.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME  
History Colorado Center  
January 7 and February 4  
See page 7.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES  
COLLECTION TOURS  
History Colorado Center  
January 16 and February 20  
See page 10.

1968 HIPPIE HAVEN LOUNGE  
History Colorado Center  
February 7, 16, 17; March 21, 27, 28;  
April 3, 4; May 9  
See 1968 pullout section.

MACRAMÉ ME  
History Colorado Center  
March 27 and April 3  
See 1968 pullout section.



Listen to live bands,  
make music in the exhibits,  
name that tune and check out  
historical instruments at the next  
"COMingle" after-hours history  
happening on January 8 at the  
History Colorado Center.

# History Colorado's NAGPRA Program

BY SHEILA GOFF,  
NAGPRA LIAISON AND CURATOR OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Enacted almost a quarter of a century ago, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or NAGPRA, was a landmark piece of legislation. NAGPRA provides a process through which tribes can regain control over ancestors' remains and other cultural items held by museums. By requiring museums and tribes to engage in meaningful dialogue—many for the first time—NAGPRA ushered in a new chapter in museum/tribal relationships. It wasn't always easy to figure out how to implement the law, but the gains have far outweighed the occasional missteps.

History Colorado created a strong program dedicated to using best practices to implement NAGPRA and including curators from the Department of Culture and Community and staff from the State Archaeologist's office. We immediately began compiling our inventories and summaries of NAGPRA items held by museums, and those newly discovered on federal and tribal lands—a daunting task. With the help of National Park Service grants, we shared those with more than sixty tribes in dozens of consultation meetings and collection reviews. In the early years of the process, we were able to repatriate many individuals in our custody. This work formed the foundation of the partnerships we've built with tribes, particularly the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and other State agencies such as the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (CCIA).

In the late 1990s, we found ourselves unable to expediently repatriate our “culturally unidentifiable” individuals because federal regulations governing them weren't yet written. These individuals were clearly Native American but we lacked sufficient evidence to determine their tribe or tribes. In a tribally led effort with our Ute partners, CCIA, and forty-five other tribes with ancestral ties to Colorado, we created a process that worked within State and federal law to take care of culturally unidentifiable individuals, including working with other State agencies to set aside land for tribes to use for reburial. All together, we've now repatriated 823 sets of human remains and 2,099 associated funerary objects.

In 2012, we faced another barrier when we couldn't find land acceptable to tribes for the reburial of repatriated ancestors that did not fall under the process for culturally unidentifiable individuals. Reburial is not addressed in NAGPRA, so, a year later, the Colorado Ute Tribes, History Colorado, and other State and federal agencies signed a groundbreaking Memorandum of Understanding.

The relationships we've forged with tribes through NAGPRA have allowed us to learn so much more about our collections—and to create richer exhibits and educational programming. And on a personal level, our experiences with the tribes have enriched our lives.



*History Colorado and other State agencies collaborate with tribes for a 2014 reburial.*

## 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.

### Upper Brush Creek School

Eagle vicinity (5EA.1235)

This rural one-room schoolhouse provided education to Upper Brush Creek-area children from 1915 until 1941. Architecturally, it is a good example of the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century American Movement, with its gable roof, overhanging eaves, and large covered porch. The property meets the registration requirements of the "schoolhouse" property type as defined in the multiple property documentation form *Rural School Buildings in Colorado*.



### Denver & Rio Grande Western (D&RGW) Rail Cars

These rail cars are listed in recognition of their association with the D&RGW's San Juan Extension and the functions they supported on the narrow gauge rail line. As valuable rail line components, they underwent strengthening and rebuilding from their original construction to keep them in service.

#### Flanger OT Car

Silverton (5SA.1526)

D&RGW developed Flanger cars to clear tracks of dangerous ice and snow. This 1890 Flanger was rebuilt in 1943 with steel structural members.

#### Flat Car 6215

Silverton (5SA.1527)

This 1918 wood flat car was rebuilt in 1937 with a composite wood and steel frame, marking the transition to entirely steel construction for D&RGW narrow gauge flat cars in 1940.

#### Outfit Bunk Car 04432

Silverton (5SA.1525)

Originally an 1899 boxcar, this bunk car was converted in 1914

### 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 grants from the History Colorado State Historical Fund. These grants may be used for acquisition and development, education, and survey and planning projects. The next nomination submission deadline is January 30. For information, call 303/866-3392.

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

to serve as crew (or "outfit") living quarters. Crews serviced the rail line's water facilities, vital to steam-powered engine operation.

#### Outfit Tool Car 04351

Silverton (5SA.1528)

Converted in 1927, this 1897 boxcar hauled the crews' tools and equipment for a rail line wrecker service.

#### Stock Car 5564

Arboles (5AA.4139)

Rebuilt in 1926, this 1904 stock car has two levels and transported smaller livestock, such as sheep, to markets in Denver and beyond.

#### Stock Car 5627

Bayfield (5LP.10644)

This 1904 stock car, rebuilt in 1926, has one level and transported larger livestock such as cattle and horses.

### Barlow and Sanderson Stagecoach (amendment)

CO Highway 159, Fort Garland Museum (5CT.46.1)

### Dougherty Building/Kit Carson Hotel (delisting)

123 Colorado Avenue, La Junta (5OT.468)

Listed in the State Register in 1995, this building was delisted due to its demolition in 2012.

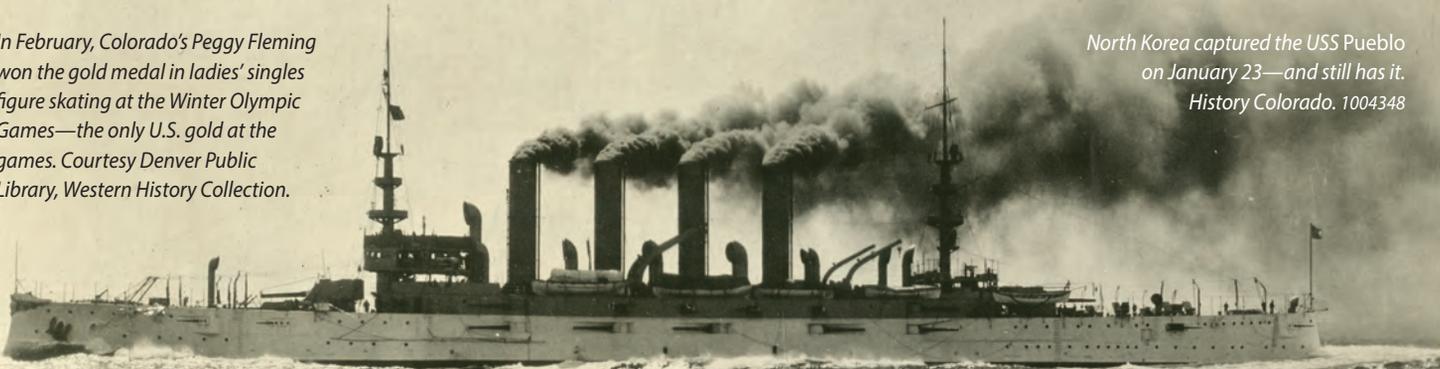
## Do you know this building?

- |                 |                       |                               |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Where is it? | 2. When was it built? | 3. What was its original use? |
| a) Hayden       | a) 1901               | a) Private home               |
| b) Hillrose     | b) 1911               | b) Library                    |
| c) Holly        | c) 1921               | c) Hospital                   |
| d) Holyoke      | d) 1931               | d) Dormitory                  |



In February, Colorado's Peggy Fleming won the gold medal in ladies' singles figure skating at the Winter Olympic Games—the only U.S. gold at the games. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection.

North Korea captured the USS Pueblo on January 23—and still has it. History Colorado. 1004348



# COLORADO REMEMBERS 1968

BY THE READERS OF COLORADO HERITAGE

We asked you, our readers, to send us your memories of the year 1968 to commemorate the opening of The 1968 Exhibit at the History Colorado Center. Here we present a selected few of those reminiscences. Read more at [www.HistoryColorado.org/blogs](http://www.HistoryColorado.org/blogs), starting in February.

(continued on page 17)



## COLORADO TIMELINE BY B. ERIN COLE,

With Research Assistance from  
Kalyani Fernando and Ryan Rebhan

The year 1968 was a turbulent time for the United States—and for Colorado. People across the state faced tremendous political, cultural, and social change. Here are some of the events that shaped Colorado that year.

# 1968

### January 3

(Denver)—An explosion at Rocky Mountain Arsenal kills one man and injures ten other workers. Officials at the chemical weapons plant refuse to comment on the cause of the blast that kills 23-year-old James Fisher of Aurora.

### January 5

(Denver)—State Senator Allegra Saunders asks Governor John Love for help with Colorado's hippie population. The Denver representative worries that the hippie "lifestyle" hurts children living in communal households and spurs teens to run away from home.

### January 14

(Colorado Springs)—The nation's first ski school for special-needs children opens. Kids from the Colorado Springs area learn ski tips and techniques from professional instructors at the Broadmoor Ski Resort.

### January 23

(North Korea)—North Korean troops capture the USS Pueblo—named for the city of Pueblo—and imprison eighty-two crewmembers on charges of spying. North Korean officials argue that the ship, which was conducting intelligence, had entered its territorial waters. North Korea frees the crewmembers in December 1968, but still holds the ship today.

## JANUARY

**Recommended  
by 9 out  
of 10  
hippies.**



## THE 1968 EXHIBIT

**February 7 through May 10  
at the History Colorado Center**

See vintage album covers and Jimi Hendrix's purple jacket. Witness the reality of Vietnam with a full-size Huey helicopter and other gear. View a program from Dr. Martin Luther King's funeral and a camera that photographed Bobby Kennedy the night he was shot. *The 1968 Exhibit* brings this pivotal American year to life. In conjunction with the exhibit, History Colorado presents *El Movimiento*—a first-hand look at Colorado's Chicano movement.

*The 1968 Exhibit* was developed by the Minnesota History Center, in partnership with the Atlanta History Center, the Chicago History Museum and the Oakland Museum of California.



All 1968 Exhibit programs happen at the History Colorado Center. Tickets for the exhibit are available online at [www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org](http://www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org).

Photos below: (MLK) Courtesy Library of Congress;  
(RFK) courtesy LBJ Library.  
Photo by Yoichi R. Okamoto.

## Family Fun

### 1968 Hippie Haven Lounge

Soak in the ambiance of 1968 while relaxing in a lounge area designed for families. Explore some fun activities, find out what happened in '68 on your birthday and check how your 2015 outfit compares with what would have been acceptable in 1968.

The lounge is open 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. on:

- Saturday, February 7
- Monday and Tuesday, February 16 and 17
- Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28
- Friday and Saturday, April 3 and 4
- Saturday, May 9

### Be There or Be Square: A Date with '68

**Monday, February 16, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.**

Jump back in time to 1968! Learn how *The 1968 Exhibit* was built. Discover crafts of '68, learn to macramé and have a swingin' '60s fashion show. Blasting off to outer space, we'll learn about the Apollo 8 mission and astronauts. Groovy, baby!

### Macramé Me

**Fridays, March 27 and April 3,  
11 A.M. to 2 P.M.**

Join us to learn a popular craft from 1968—macramé. Learn the technique and create your own small plant hanger. Drop in for this activity before or after visiting the Hippie Haven Lounge.



**EXTENDED  
EVENING HOURS!**

**Open till 9 p.m.  
every third Tuesday:  
February 17, March 17  
and April 21.**

## Adult Programs

### Night at the Museum for Educators

Friday, February 27, 4 to 7 P.M.

Educators are invited to a free open house to preview *The 1968 Exhibit*. Enjoy refreshments, classroom resources, entertainment and more! Great for K-12 educators who want to know more about the History Colorado Center. Feel free to bring a guest! Reservations required: 303/866-2394

### The Mind Body Connection: Brain Health Advancements Since 1968

Saturday, March 7, 11 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Free with museum admission

Explore the advancements in chronic disease prevention since 1968. That year, the Health Services and Mental Health Administration was created, and researchers developed the first validated measurement scale for assessing cognitive and functional decline in older adults. Learn more about Alzheimer's, brain health and the resources available in our community.

Presented in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter

### Fashion in the 1960s

Wednesday, April 8, 7 to 8 P.M.

The '60s were a period of cultural, social and political change—and fashion reflected those changes! Join us for an evening of fashion history and personal stories. Denver designer Mona Lucero explores iconic styles and designers, street style and more. Participants can share examples of their favorite '60s clothing, footwear and accessories. Bring your fashion hits (or misses!) to win prizes—and be prepared to share your stories!

Members \$8, nonmembers \$10

Courtesy Minnesota History Center



### COmingle: Colorado Is Stuck in '68

Thursday, March 13, 6 to 9 P.M.

Take a groovy trip back in time. Try on retro fashions, taste a mid-century snack, learn a '60s dance and explore *The 1968 Exhibit*. COmingle is History Colorado's series of afterhours history "happenings" with an offbeat mix of games, trivia, demos, exhibit adventures, performances and cash bar. Be there or be square!

Courtesy Minnesota History Center



### Colorful Colorado

Members \$4, nonmembers \$5

Call 303/866-2394, or register online. All programs require a minimum number of participants and may be canceled if the minimum isn't met 48 hours before the program. Early registration recommended!

### Colorado's "Hippie Problem" in the 1960s

Monday, February 9, 1 to 2 P.M.

Colorado became an epicenter of the counterculture. Some celebrated the growing number of hippies in our state, but plenty of people worried about their impact on Colorado's culture, lifestyle and young people. Assistant State Historian B. Erin Cole shares the history of Colorado's counterculture and looks at organized anti-hippie "panics" across the state in the late '60s and early '70s.

### Motel or Motor Inn? Colorado Lodging in 1968

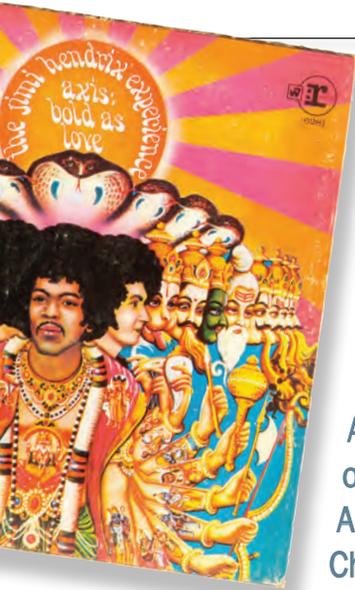
Monday, February 23, 1 to 2 P.M.

By the 1960s, tourist travel had evolved from dusty two-lanes to four-lane interstates. Lodging had changed too. No longer content with a little room and simple amenities, travelers wanted well-decorated, spacious accommodations. From a welcoming entryway

Courtesy Minnesota History Center



All 1968 Exhibit programs happen at the History Colorado Center. Tickets for the exhibit are available online at [www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org](http://www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org).



to swimming pools, patios and quality restaurants, motor inns took concepts developed by earlier businesses and expanded them for the modern traveler. Join historian Lyle Miller for a look at the rise of the motor inn.

### The Yearbook: A Picture-Storyed Record of Student Hope and Achievement in a Changing World

Monday, March 9, 1 to 2 P.M.

More than just a record of facts, the school yearbook is a form of expression. In times of conflict, the yearbook becomes a tool for students to show the world that they're tuned in to what's happening. As one CU-Boulder yearbook editor puts it, "We want you to be able to distinguish this year—1969—from all the rest and look back on the facts as well as the spirit." History Colorado's Kerry Baldwin explores how major historic events changed yearbooks over time.

### Jimi, Janis, the Family Dog and More: 1968 in Music

Saturday, March 14, 1 to 2 P.M.

From Jimi Hendrix's performance at Regis University to Led Zeppelin's first U.S. appearance to a young Tommy Bolin playing shows at the Family Dog on West Evans to one of Janis Joplin's last shows with Big Brother and the Holding Company, 1968 was a big year on the Colorado music scene. This illustrated talk by Elisa Phelps looks back at the musicians, performances, venues and personalities.

### The American War in Viet Nam: Then and Now

Monday, March 23, 1 to 2 P.M.

Denver photographer Ted Engelmann describes his 1968 military experiences in Viet Nam through his photographs. Two decades after he left Viet Nam he returned—and began a twenty-five-year journey to revisit many of the same places he'd photographed in the war. In 2006, Ted found resolution to his emotional war when he released his photographs from that time and replaced them with images made in peace.

### Nixon Now: Colorado and the 1968 Election

Monday, April 13, 1 to 2 P.M.

Colorado voters awarded Lyndon Johnson a thumping victory over his Republican opponent, Barry Goldwater, in 1964. Four years later, the roles were reversed, as voters turned out to support Richard Nixon over Hubert H. Humphrey. Join Colorado State Historian Bill Convery as he explores the legacy of 1968 in Colorado politics.

### Journalistic Activism: A Photographic Journey Through El Movimiento

Monday, April 27, 1 to 2 P.M.

Juan Espinosa's four-decade career as a journalist began with the Chicano Movement. After serving a tour of duty in Vietnam, Espinosa returned to Colorado and joined the anti-war and Chicano movements. As a founder of *El Diario* and cofounder of *La Cucaracha* newspapers, Espinosa reported and photographed major events in the early '70s: El Partido la Raza Unida's national convention, the United Farm Workers' Grape Strike of 1973, the police attack on the Crusade for Justice and the early history of the United Mexican American Students at the University of Colorado.

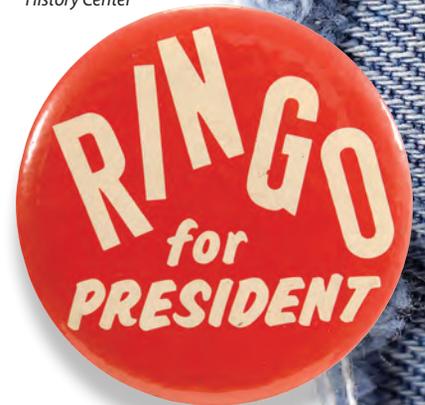
Courtesy Chicago History Museum



Courtesy Minnesota History Center



Courtesy Minnesota History Center



 All 1968 Exhibit programs happen at the History Colorado Center. Tickets for the exhibit are available online at [www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org](http://www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org).

## 2014-15 Lecture Series Our Shifting Times

1 and 7 P.M.

Single lectures: Members \$8.50, nonmembers \$10, students (with ID) \$6.50

303/866-2394

Sponsored by the Walter S. Rosenberry III Charitable Trust

## Utopian Rhythms, Interracial Blues: Popular Music, Civil Rights and 1968

Tuesday, February 17

Music illuminated visions of a better world—and the challenges of creating true change—during the Civil Rights movement and the political upheaval of the '60s. From Motown to L.A.'s Brown Eyed Soul scene and beyond, music revealed the limits and possibilities of seemingly disparate places and struggles. Luis Alvarez of the University of California at San Diego weaves stories of pop music, race and 1968 with a soundtrack that maps the era's politics as simultaneously global and rooted in the everyday lives of ordinary folk.

## Segregation in Denver Public Schools: The 1960s and Today

Tuesday, March 17

In 1973 the Supreme Court ruled that the Denver Public Schools had deliberately segregated schools. The court ordered forced busing in an attempt to remedy the situation. While more than twenty years of busing brought some success in achieving racial balance, massive "white flight" led to a dearth of white students to be bused by the early '90s. Today, the district is arguably more segregated than ever. Former DPS board member Laura Lefkowitz discusses the legacy of this controversial policy and compares segregation patterns of the '60s with today.

## Apollo 8: First Voyage to the Moon

Tuesday, April 21

At the end of 1968, humans ventured into deep space on the Apollo 8 voyage. Three astronauts spent twenty hours orbiting the Moon, witnessing something no one had ever seen: Earth rising over the lunar surface. That image became one of the most widely known pictures of the last forty years. Join the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's Dr. Michael Neufeld as he describes the historic mission.

## Tours & Treks

Take a Guided Trip Into the Past

(To register call 303/866-2394)

## 1968: Denver, a Tour by Bus

Saturday, April 11, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

For the nation at large, 1968 made headlines for assassinations, upheaval and the quickening pace of change in a decade that had already seen a great deal. Though the headlines did not generally include Denver, much was changing in the Mile High City. Join us for a journey to understand how the city's built environment went through an upheaval of its own, and learn what was saved and what was lost in this dynamic year.

Members \$36, nonmembers \$46

(Includes bus transportation and a break for lunch on your own dime.)

Courtesy Minnesota History Center

Moon photo : Courtesy NASA



Be there  
or be  
square.



THE 1968 EXHIBIT

 All 1968 Exhibit programs happen at the History Colorado Center. Tickets for the exhibit are available online at [www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org](http://www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org).

## Gail King, Buffalo Creek

As a native Coloradoan, who was 24 years old in 1968 and lived in Lakewood with my young daughter and my husband, 1968 was a time of hope: hope that the Vietnam War was over and that humankind could find a way to peacefully settle our disputes without war; hope that the soldier whose name was on my P.O.W. bracelet would come home safely; hope that poverty would be eradicated and that all people would have enough to eat; hope that my family and I would someday own a home of our own—I thought that people who were 30 years of age and owned their own home were really at the top of life; hope that my child would have a good future as long as we supported workers' rights and civil rights for all races of people; hope that drugs would not bring our society down; hope that a woman would make the same money as a man for doing the same work; hope that we could further our educations, in order to accomplish the furthering of our careers; hope that our country would continue to prosper and grow, supplying jobs for the citizens of the United States of America; hoping that space exploration would continue and that we could bring the astronauts back to Earth safely. Looking back, these are some of the things that I had hoped for in 1968.

## Dr. Ramon Del Castillo, Denver

In 1968, I was working at Cudahy Packing Company in Wichita, Kansas. Following my high school graduation from a Jesuit high school in 1967, I enrolled into Sacred Heart College, a small Catholic college in Wichita. I completed the semester and was hired at the local slaughterhouse, Cudahy. My goal that summer was to make enough money to enroll back into Sacred Heart. However, the wages were decent so I decided to continue working with a goal of transferring to Wichita State

University. My plan went well until the summer ended and I enrolled at this gargantuan university and went into culture shock. I dropped out and was drafted in 1969.

Wichita, Kansas, was a hotbed of racial strife in 1968. The race riots were in full swing, mostly between whites and blacks. Racism was at its apex as race relations began to infiltrate the community's consciousness. It caused conflict between persons of color and the dominant community. I remember the violence at the high school on Friday nights, especially after football games.

As Chicanos, we suffered from the indignities of racism, both within the dominant community and the institutional type where we had purposely been left out of high school curricula. I grew up in mixed ethnic communities, with the typical manmade barriers that separated us: major streets, canals, and railroad tracks. I remember the "Chili Bowl," the name given to our annual Thanksgiving football game where we challenged each other on the field.

Raised in a *barrio* (Chicano neighborhood) full of vigor and passion, without opportunity, was a blessing in disguise, as young barrio cats were forced to create our own worlds. As one *camarada* (close friend) once told me, "We used to rule the North End." This was *la placa* (the badge) given to our barrio. We became a tight-knit community. When you seldom see leaders of your ilk in decision-making spaces, you develop a keen sense of "right and wrong" and learn the value of social justice by seeing social injustice. The purposeful absence of a voice in community affairs is a sin of omission. When you lack a collective voice and are unfamiliar with the shibboleths of the political systems, you develop your own law, the law of the barrio. Street justice becomes the norm. It is engrained into the collective consciousness of barrio kids. Later on in life it would become a value that guided me into becoming a social justice activist. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything in the world; it made me who I am today.

### January 31

(Fort Collins)—Eighty students at Colorado State University stage a silent vigil on campus, calling for an end to the Vietnam War. Hecklers throw water balloons and eggs at the protestors, but the protest goes on. A much larger demonstration takes place in downtown Fort Collins in March 1968.

### February 4

(San Miguel de Allende, Mexico)—Neal Cassady, the inspiration for the main character of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, dies. The 41-year-old Denver icon perishes of unknown causes after collapsing along some railroad tracks after a wedding.

### February 10

(Grenoble, France)—Peggy Fleming from Colorado Springs wins the gold medal in ladies' singles figure skating at the 1968 Winter Olympic Games. Fleming's medal is the only gold won by the U.S. Olympic Team in Grenoble.

### February 14

(Denver)—The Jimi Hendrix Experience jams at a concert at the Regis College Field House. Hendrix and his band play "Foxy Lady," "Purple Haze," and other tunes. Tickets—which include opening act Soft Machine—cost three dollars.

### February 28

(Denver)—Seven students at Denver's South High are expelled for selling *The Activist*, an unauthorized underground newspaper. The students are eventually allowed to return to class.

# FEBRUARY

## Robert G. Beabout, Lt. Col., retired, Denver

January 26th, 1968, over 900 Colorado Air National Guard members were called to active duty in the U.S. Air Force. This was in reaction to the capture of the USS *Pueblo* by North Korea. The Tet Offensive commenced about the same time in Vietnam.

One hundred forty of the guardsmen were deployed to Korea, 376 were deployed to Phan Rang, Vietnam, and the remainder were deployed to various Air Force facilities worldwide. The 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron, with twenty F-100 jet fighters, was moved from Buckley to Phan Rang, Vietnam. I was a fighter pilot with the 120th.

During the eleven-month tour in Vietnam the 120th showed outstanding performance. Our airmen were highly experienced and set new standards. The aircraft operational ready rates and ordinance reliability rates were above Air Force standards by over 10 percent. The 120th flew over 5,000 combat sorties. Two Silver Stars, twenty-six Distinguished Flying Crosses, and five Purple Hearts, plus numerous Air Medals, were awarded. I flew 239 of the combat missions.

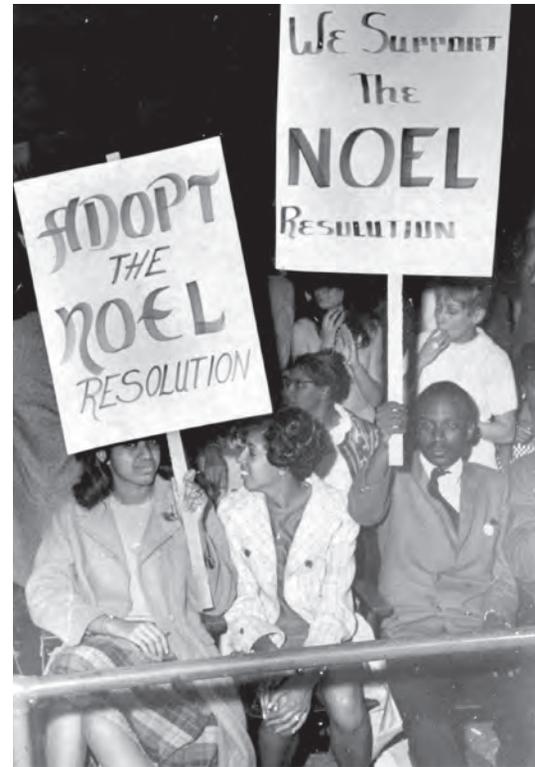
Of course a combat zone is never rosy. The base came under attack seventeen times during our stay. One airplane was destroyed during a ground attack and two were shot down. Two crewmen were lost. During one six-month period we recorded twenty-six hits on our aircraft. The only hit I took was friendly fire. Things can get mixed up under fire!!!

*Facing page: On April 30, DU students staged a sit-in in the school registrar's office, demanding more say in campus affairs. Courtesy University of Denver Special Collections and Archives.*

*In April, school board member Rachel Noel initiated a plan to integrate Denver's public schools. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection. X-28759*



*In March, Democratic state senator George Brown and other civil rights leaders endorsed a study blaming decades of racism for the riots in America's cities. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection.*



The Colorado Air National Guard was deactivated on April 30, 1969, and returned to Governor Love's command authority.

The 120th was established in 1923. It was the first flying unit in our nation's National Guards. Over the next 91 years it continues to produce outstanding performance and act as the cornerstone for the other units composing the Colorado Air National Guard.

### March 2

(Denver)—City civil rights leaders endorse a national study blaming systemic racism and years of discrimination for the riots plaguing many American cities in the '60s. State senator George Brown, a Democrat representing Denver, says, "It's not new for black America. But it's good news that parts of white America are willing to admit the same thing."

### March 15

(Silverthorne)—Construction begins on the westbound bore of the Eisenhower Tunnel—known then as the Straight Creek Tunnel. A ceremonial dynamite blast set off by engineer Charles Schumate signals the start of the project, intended to make travel between eastern and western Colorado easier. The tunnel opens in 1973, with the eastbound bore completed in 1979.

### March 16

(Duluth, Minnesota)—The University of Denver men's hockey team wins the NCAA Division I national championship after beating the University of North Dakota, 4-0. Hundreds of cheering fans meet the team at Stapleton Airport on their return to Denver.

### March 31

(Denver)—Colorado's Civil Rights Commission works to update and revise state anti-discrimination laws. Existing laws, according to director James Reynolds, cover only "obvious discrimination" and give the commission little power to act. Updated laws will cover "more subtle" forms of racial discrimination.

### April 5

(Colorado)—Denver Mayor Thomas Currigan and acting Governor Mark Hogan urge "reason and restraint" following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. In a joint radio broadcast, the two report only scattered incidents of violence in Denver and elsewhere in the state. Hogan declares April 7 an official day of mourning in Colorado.

### April 6

(Colorado Springs)—Soldiers from Fort Carson are deployed to Chicago to quell violence in that city after MLK's assassination. More than 5,000 federal troops are sent to Chicago, Washington, D.C., and other cities to curb rioting and vandalism.

MARCH

APRIL



## Roger L. Dudley, Denver

1968 was like living through a tornado—impossible to describe to someone who wasn't there.

My induction into the U.S. Army was set for January 3, 1968, after local board #5 and the Colorado Selective Service board refused an occupational deferment for me working as a VISTA volunteer. When I drove into Denver on Christmas Eve my postponement of induction was waiting—meaning I could continue to work in the Baltimore Community Action Agency. On March 15, I was finally given a 2-A occupational deferment.

Two weeks later I, along with other VISTAs, was evacuated from our Baltimore neighborhoods after Martin Luther King's assassination. We collected food and supplies for those without access to stores. I then helped construct Resurrection City for King's Poor People's Campaign on the National Mall in Washington.

On June 8th I walked past Robert F. Kennedy's casket in St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC; drove back to Baltimore; watched his funeral on TV; drove to Arlington National Cemetery to witness the graveside services, arriving about 2 P.M. to wait. We overheard radio accounts of the slow progress of the train, its arrival at Union Station, and the stop in front of the Lincoln Memorial where a choir sang. It was dark, with only the faint light from television floodlights 300 yards away, when the procession of cars finally arrived. As if on signal, all the transistor radios were turned off as the cars approached us. Hundreds of flashbulbs lit up the hearse and limousines. Once all the cars passed they lowered the ropes and there was a rush toward the gravesite. Another rope line was in place 100 yards from the open grave. When the ceremony ended Jackie, John Jr., and Caroline Kennedy walked to President Kennedy's grave and were clearly visible. It was quite an experience to be among so many people with so little sound from them. It really didn't pay to go there as far as seeing what was going on; still, I'm not sorry I went.

Two weeks later I attended Solidarity Day on the mall as the culmination of the Poor People's Campaign.

Returning to Denver in August when my year of service ended I visited a schoolmate from Grand Junction who was beginning his VISTA training in Chicago. A week later I watched on television as thousands of kids just like me were beaten and arrested during the Democratic Convention in Chicago in what the Walker Commission called a "police riot."

In September I began my junior year as a new student at Colorado State College in Greeley. I worked on the student newspaper, the *Mirror*, as a columnist under the title "Moustache" commenting on politics, student issues, and the war. On Christmas Eve I attended a peace march that ended at the Crusade for Justice and was documented by a photo in *The Denver Post*.

### April 12

(Denver)—Donna Cox files a lawsuit charging Miller's Supermarket, her employer, with gender discrimination. The store fired her as a meat wrapper and refused to promote her to meat cutter because she was a woman, she argues.

### April 25

(Denver)—Rachel Noel, a civil rights activist and Denver School Board member, asks the superintendent of the Denver Public Schools to create a plan to integrate city schools. Noel's resolution does not pass until 1970.

### April 26

(Colorado Springs)—A poll by student newspaper *The Tiger* reveals that 67 percent of Colorado College students surveyed support legalizing marijuana. Forty percent have tried weed, but only 15 percent have tried LSD.

### April 30

(Denver)—University of Denver Chancellor Maurice Mitchell expels thirty-nine students after they stage a sit-in on campus, demanding more representation in campus affairs. After students refuse to leave the registrar's office, Mitchell calls in police to remove the students from campus.

### May 1

(Denver)—Colorado strengthens its laws banning the recreational use of LSD and other hallucinogens, creating tougher penalties for people caught using them without a prescription.

### May 19

(Denver)—Chicano, Native American, and other activists traveling to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Poor People's Campaign for economic justice stop in Denver to attend a rally at the State Capitol. Ernesto Vigil of the Crusade for Justice calls the rally a "swirl of activity and excitement."

MAY

## Dennis D. Becker, Denver

1968 was a momentous year in my life and in the history of this country. I was in graduate school at UC Santa Barbara, and engaged to be married in June. From our vantage point in 2014, it is difficult to remember the flood of events that



John Love, Colorado's governor in 1968. History Colorado. 10049438

occurred in that year. In January the North Koreans captured the American spy boat *Pueblo*, which would play a major role in my later military career, and on the last day of January the North Vietnamese launched the Tet Offensive, which would seriously undermine public support for the Vietnam War. In the month of March, Gene McCarthy almost beat President Johnson in the New Hampshire Democratic primary, Robert Kennedy entered the presidential race, and LBJ announced he would not seek another presidential term. On April 4, Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis, and cities throughout America exploded in violence. On the evening of June 5, while I was studying for my comprehensive exams to obtain a master's degree in history, an announcement was made on TV that Robert Kennedy had been shot and killed in Los Angeles.

A few days later I flew home to Colorado and our wedding took place on June 15 in a small farming town on the eastern plains. For a brief period of time it seemed that the war, assassinations, and race riots tearing the country apart did not exist, and all that mattered was my wife and I starting on life's journey together. Later that summer we watched the Democratic National Convention in Chicago become a battleground, as Mayor Daley's police attacked protesters in the streets of that city. And finally in November, Richard Nixon was elected president, ensuring that the war would continue, as would America's domestic strife. I received my draft notice late in the year; while I held the process at bay with appeals, I knew I would eventually have to serve, so I enlisted in the U.S. Army and spent two years, eight months, and five days in uniform, beginning November 3, 1969.

### May 22

(Portugal)—Three Colorado sailors die when the nuclear submarine USS Scorpion sinks in the Atlantic. Navy investigations never find an official reason for the accident, but a likely cause is the explosion of one of the submarine's torpedoes.

### May 30

(Boulder)—Boulder County officials warn residents of "hippie squatters" living illegally in mountain cabins for the summer. According to investigator Ken Strawn, "all kinds of hippies are coming in here and living in mountain cabins, lean-tos and tents."

### May 31

(Gunnison)—In a speech to 350 graduating seniors at Western State College, Governor John Love criticizes student activists as "destructive and negative."

### June

(Huerfano County)—Artists establish the Libre commune in the mountains of southern Colorado.

### June 6

(Denver)—The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith charges the Denver Athletic Club of excluding Jews and African Americans, based on a survey of racial and religious discrimination in thirty-eight private athletic clubs across the country.

### June 22

(Denver)—In a confrontation between Denver police and 200 youth at a Park Hill shopping center, African American teenager Nathan Jones and police officer Robert Moravek shoot and wound each other. Fifteen other people are injured.

### July 10

(Denver)—Denver's City Council approves a law prohibiting the carrying of firearms in the city. Denver Police Chief George Seaton requests the law due to a "growing number of armed vigilante groups."

### July 11

(Aspen)—The FBI arrests draft resister Andrew Burns of Grand Junction for failing to report for induction. Burns is the third member of his family to actively protest the war. His brother also resisted the draft, and his sister Mary was discharged from the Women's Marine Corps for refusing to follow orders.

### July 26

(Golden)—After parents protest, Jefferson County students no longer have access to the book *Pot: A Handbook of Marijuana*. Teachers can still browse through it.

JUNE

JULY



Colorado's burgeoning ski industry drew growing numbers of so-called "ski bums," whose actual incomes were a source of contention after an August study by the state's Division of Commerce and Development. Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

People who were in middle age and older remember 1968 as a time of chaos, and of course it often seemed that way. At the same time, those chaotic events seemed to stimulate an incredible flowering in the arts, especially in music, movies, and literature. The airwaves were exploding with music from the Beatles, Fleetwood Mac, Jimi Hendrix, Simon and Garfunkel, and on and on. In movies, the period 1967–68 saw the release of groundbreaking pictures such as *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Cool Hand Luke*, *The Graduate*, and *Bonnie and Clyde*. In literature, authors such as Tom Wolfe, Norman Mailer, and John Updike were creating work that would last for decades to define the 1960s.

High School. My dad drove us to the concert, dropped us off, and picked us up afterward because we were far too young to drive.

Jimi Hendrix was extraordinary. There were only about 1,000 people in the packed Regis College Field House. A few months after this concert, the career of Jimi Hendrix began to skyrocket. It was a rare and thrilling opportunity to see him perform in such a small venue. Today, 47 years later, *Rolling Stone* magazine and most other critics still consider Jimi Hendrix to be the best guitar player in history.

About six weeks after the Jimi Hendrix concert, my dad took me to a professional basketball game. We watched the

We have all heard the ancient curse, "May you live in interesting times." I surely did that, and 1968 was the year when it could not possibly have gotten any more interesting, in my life and the life of the country.

## David Miller, Denver

On Valentine's Day, February 14, 1968, I saw an obscure guitarist perform at the Regis College Field House in Denver. His name was Jimi Hendrix. I was 13 years old and a budding guitarist myself. Tickets cost \$3. My date was Annette Flores, an eighth-grade classmate of mine at Thomas Jefferson Junior-Senior

### August 4

(Denver)—Aretha Franklin refuses to play a concert at Red Rocks Amphitheatre at the last minute due to a contract dispute. Audience members storm the stage and destroy a piano in frustration. The city imposes a one-year ban on rock concerts at the venue.

### August 12

(Denver)—The Colorado Division of Commerce and Development issues a report proving that "ski bums" in the state are wealthier than they'd claimed. The average reported income of a young skier was 50 percent higher than the average Coloradan's. Researchers theorize that many interviewees actually reported their parents' income.

### August 23

(Denver)—Governor John Love urges Coloradans who are not official delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago to stay home and not participate in any demonstrations planned around the event.

### August 28

(Chicago)—Colorado delegates to the Democratic National Convention endorse a resolution calling for an immediate end to bombing in North Vietnam. Old-guard Democrats—like former governors Edwin C. Johnson and Stephen McNichols—oppose the resolution.

### August 30

(Colorado Springs)—Fort Carson officials rule that cars on base can be decorated with no more than three psychedelic flower decals.

### September 3

(Colorado Springs)—About 150 anti-war protestors picket local Selective Service headquarters. Protest leader Scott Suneson tells local media that military service is "ultimately dehumanizing."

### September 12

(Denver)—An eight-hour clash between 100 teens and police in the Five Points neighborhood causes extensive property damage.

### September 16

(Montrose)—Actor John Wayne praises Montrose's "beautiful scenery." The screen legend was in the western Colorado town filming *True Grit*.

# AUGUST

# SEPTEMBER



Members of SDS—Students for a Democratic Society—in November called for the University of Colorado to reinstate their group's charter. Boulder Daily Camera file photo, Courtesy CU Heritage Center.

Denver Rockets (later to be called the Denver Nuggets) play a regular season game in the American Basketball Association. In those days, there were no jumbotrons, just small scoreboards. I will never forget the moment during the game when the announcer interrupted to tell the audience that President Johnson had just indicated he would not run for reelection. There was an audible gasp among the basketball fans in attendance. The date was March 31, 1968.

After the assassination of President Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson had been elected by a landslide in November 1964. Because he had served only a partial term after President Kennedy's assassination, President Johnson was eligible to run for reelection in 1968. Despite his many domestic accomplishments, particularly in the area of civil rights, Johnson was increasingly unpopular due to the Vietnam War. Although he was an incumbent president, he was facing significant opposition from several more liberal candidates in the Democratic Party. When Johnson announced that night that he would not be running, it sent political shockwaves throughout the world.

Only four days later, Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis. Only two months later, Robert Kennedy was assassinated in Los Angeles.

Courtesy B. Erin Cole



**September 16**

(Central City)—The Colorado Supreme Court rules that the town's "ancient" territorial charter forbids gambling, even though more recent Central City laws allow it. The court rejects the appeal of Davis Vick and Robert Okey, both convicted of "wagering upon games," even though they were gambling in a casino licensed by the city.

**September 19**

(Somerset)—Four coal miners die in a mine accident in the Delta County town. Archie Morrison, Velay Piccioni, Joe Burum, and Eugene Bailey are killed when a tunnel collapsed in a U.S. Steel mine.

**October 12**

(Boulder)—Activist group Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) holds its national meeting at the University of Colorado. In November, university regents vote to end official recognition of the CU chapter of SDS, limiting its ability to use campus facilities. The vote is rescinded in December.

**November 5**

(Colorado)—Republican candidate Richard Nixon beats Democrat Hubert Humphrey in the race for President. In Colorado, Nixon gets 50.5 percent of the vote to Humphrey's 41 percent; third-party candidate George Wallace garners the support of 7.5 percent of the state's voters. Coloradans reelect Senator Peter Dominick and Representatives Byron Rogers, Donald Brotzman, Frank Evans, and Wayne Aspinall.

**November 14**

(Fort Collins)—Fifteen activists barricade a building at Colorado State University to keep the Dow Chemical Company from recruiting on campus. Dow manufactured napalm, used in the Vietnam War.

**OCTOBER**

**NOVEMBER**



Denver police raided the city's Black Panther headquarters in December. Shown here are Denver Black Panther members Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sullivan, with their baby. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection. X-28766

## Linda Rolf, Littleton

In 1968 I was in college completing my junior year and beginning my senior year at an Arizona university. My main line of information for all the events happening that year was the television. We had one color TV in the lobby of the dormitory I lived in, so there was often a crowd gathered around it for the evening news and other events. I don't remember any big demonstrations or riots on my campus but there was a lot of talk among students and in classes

about the Vietnam War issues.

I worked that summer at Grand Canyon National Park and had a black-and-white television with an outdoor antenna hooked to the front porch that you had to change direction depending on what station you wanted to watch. There were three national stations and a couple local stations. Names of news anchors like Walter Cronkite, Peter Jennings, and David Brinkley were as familiar to us as names of friends—indeed they almost seemed like friends. The race riots, Vietnam War demonstrations, and peace marches seemed rather remote to me as I watched them on TV—something happening

in another world. I was dismayed at the draft dodgers and antiwar demonstrations but shocked and saddened at the deaths of Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King.

I loved watching “Laugh-In”—it was so funny, fast-paced and different than the variety shows we were used to. From that show a whole new vocabulary was heard on campus—“Sock it to me” and “Veddy interesting, but dumb,” to name a few. I felt united with the whole nation on Christmas Eve as we saw photos of the Moon and Earth taken from Apollo 8 and listened to astronauts Anders, Lovell, and Borman read

from the first chapter of Genesis. We all learned NASA-talk from the media coverage of the Apollo missions and felt right at home in Mission Control in Houston. Television brought us first-hand Vietnam battlefield scenes, video of assassinations and riots, comedy, and a trip to the Moon. Television was my lifeline to the events of 1968.

### December

(Denver)—Denver Bronco running back Floyd Little is named an American Football League All-Star.

### December 7

(Ouray)—Citing environmental concerns, Ouray County residents protest Bureau of Reclamation plans to bolster Colorado River water levels through cloud seeding. “We don't like being classified as guinea pigs,” one woman argues.

### December 8

(Denver)—Police raid Denver's Black Panther headquarters after founder Lauren Watson's wedding reception, taking several weapons and ammunition. Panther members file a complaint with the city, arguing police caused thousands of dollars in damage.

### December 26

(Denver)—Led Zeppelin plays its first-ever American show at the Auditorium Theater in downtown Denver. The little-known band opens for Spirit and Vanilla Fudge. A Rocky Mountain News reviewer deems the performance “real groovy.”

### December 31

(Vietnam)—The total number of Coloradans who die fighting in Vietnam in 1968 reaches 223.

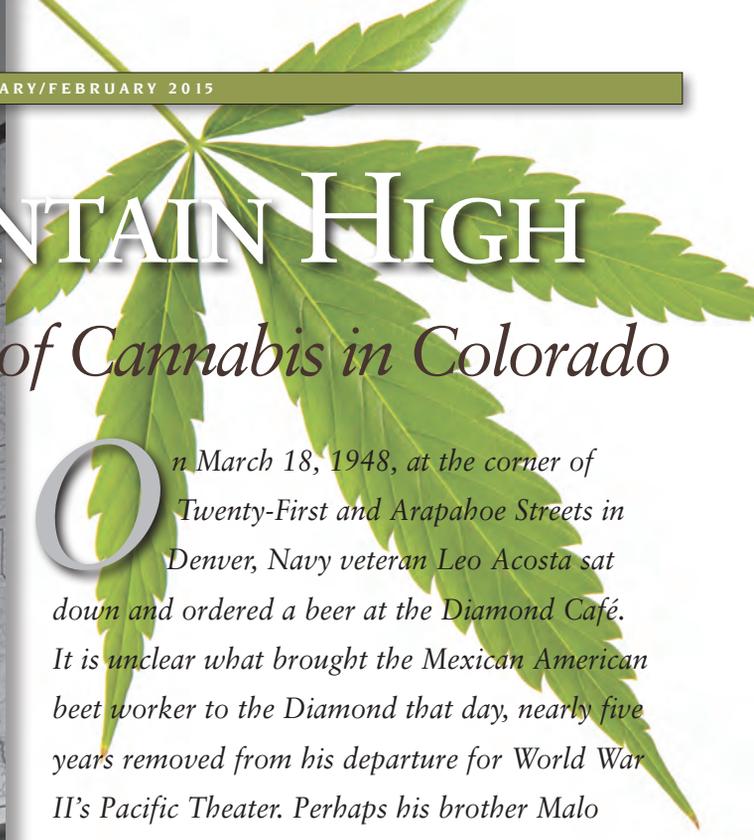
# DECEMBER

# 1969

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

## *A History of Cannabis in Colorado*

*A. M. Bangs, Federal Bureau of Narcotics district supervisor, poses with more than fifty pounds of dried marijuana confiscated from beet farmer Manuel Hernandez. Rocky Mountain News, June 13, 1946. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection.*



**O**n March 18, 1948, at the corner of Twenty-First and Arapahoe Streets in Denver, Navy veteran Leo Acosta sat down and ordered a beer at the Diamond Café. It is unclear what brought the Mexican American beet worker to the Diamond that day, nearly five years removed from his departure for World War II's Pacific Theater. Perhaps his brother Malo would soon join him. Maybe he came to enjoy some time to himself while his wife, Cecilia, looked after their six-month-old, Dolores.

Raising a bottle to his lips, the twenty-three-year-old may have thought about his twenty-two months in the Pacific, where he likely endured boredom and drilling aboard a destroyer or carrier, and perhaps even some combat. With that first cold swig, maybe he tried to wash away the hideous drone of warplanes, the horrific crack of Japanese guns—the last sounds many of his shipmates heard before they were shot, drowned, or immolated. However mundane or traumatic his experiences, the ribbons and star Acosta earned in the Navy demonstrated better than any grisly war tale that he had laid his life on the line for his country. As he sat drinking his beer, Acosta could not have known that agents of that same country were about to rob him of the freedom he had fought to protect.

BY NICK JOHNSON

Don't miss the next installment of El Pueblo History Museum's Prohibition and Legalization Lecture Series on Tuesday, February 17. See page 11.

When LeRoy Lockett approached him at the bar, Acosta recognized him as a friend he had known since 1946. Unbeknownst to Acosta, his “friend” was actually an undercover federal agent looking to bait him into an illegal marijuana deal. Lockett pointed to a man wearing dark glasses seated at a table, and told Acosta he wanted to buy marijuana from the man but needed his help. Brushing off Acosta’s initial hesitance and skepticism, Lockett eventually convinced him to meet the “dealer” later, at Julian Sito’s pool hall, and to buy a can of marijuana from him. The sting succeeded.

Despite his insistence that Lockett set him up, and despite the fact that a mere three years ago he had helped his country win the Good War, Leo Acosta received no sympathy from a federal jury. On May 14, 1948, the U.S. District Court of Colorado sentenced the father and husband to two years at the Southwestern Reformatory in El Reno, Oklahoma.

Leo Acosta died in 2008, eight years after Colorado legalized medical marijuana. Had he lived another four years, he would have seen his home state legalize the acts that landed him in federal prison some sixty-four years earlier. In a historic election on November 6, 2012, Coloradans flouted federal law and made their state one of the first to legalize cannabis for recreational use by adults. Washington State passed a similar measure that year. On January 1, 2014, the first person in line to legally buy cannabis at Evergreen Apothecary in Denver was Sean Azzariti, an Iraq War veteran who told *The Denver Post* that he smoked pot to relieve symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). By the end of August, medical and recreational pot purchases brought the state more than \$45.2 million in tax revenue. In 2014, voters approved recreational marijuana measures in Alaska and Oregon, making Colorado one of four states where it’s now legal to light up. As the dominoes of cannabis prohibition continue to fall, so too do remnants of its checkered past. The Diamond Café—the place where, for handling some unauthorized plant material, Leo Acosta won a two-year, all-expenses-paid trip to Oklahoma—is gone. In its place, a marijuana dispensary now stands.

“Marijuana” is the common name for the dried flowers and leaves of *Cannabis indica*, a plant cultivated by humans for millennia for its psychoactive qualities. Since it arrived in Colorado in the first two decades of the twentieth century, marijuana has touched the lives of thousands of Coloradans. After the turn of the twentieth century, Mexican immigrants grew, sold, and used cannabis to augment meager incomes and to dull the aches and pains accrued over a lifetime of

physical labor. By the 1930s, however, enough young white people smoked the herb—and there was enough racially charged folklore surrounding it—to stoke genuine public concern about this new “narcotic weed.” After the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937 prohibited cannabis nationally, authorities were determined to end the trade by any means necessary.

In the 1960s and ‘70s, younger Coloradans began to seriously doubt the older generation’s wisdom on many things, including warfare, the consumption-driven, conformist society it forced on its children, and of course, drugs. Many college-aged Coloradans turned to grass—most of it smuggled in from Mexico—as a way to diagnose the world’s problems or tune them out. In 1975, the Colorado Legislature joined several other state governments in significantly reducing penalties for pot possession. But that same year, in an effort to destroy the primary source of marijuana in the United States, the Ford administration began assisting Mexican authorities in the aerial spraying



Two officers hold a *Cannabis indica* specimen, around 1950. The primary source of marijuana are the flower clusters called calyxes, or “buds.” Female plants coat their flowers with a psychoactive resin that protects them from UV radiation and helps collect windborne pollen from male plants. Rocky Mountain News. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection.

of cannabis crops with the dangerous herbicide paraquat. The poison caused devastating health effects in Mexican villages and produced public outcry at home. It also failed to stop the production of marijuana in Mexico.

In the 1980s, when the Reagan administration ramped up efforts to eradicate domestic crops of cannabis, an economic downturn spurred some Colorado farmers to plant marijuana between rows of corn. By this time the medical marijuana movement—born in the mid-'70s—was gaining strength in California's Bay Area, as pot was found to alleviate the suffering of people with AIDS and other debilitating diseases. Despite the anti-drug absolutism that prevailed in national politics, the medical movement persisted, and by the 1990s many Coloradans began to see cannabis as a legitimate alternative medicine. In 2000, Colorado voted to legalize medical marijuana.

By 2012, Coloradans had lived with marijuana in their state for more than a century. Despite law enforcement's seemingly obsessive campaigns to wipe out cannabis and imprison its users, and despite the storm of trouble it often brought to anyone who grew, sold, or carried it, the plant proliferated throughout the state's cultural and physical landscapes. In Colorado, cannabis is not simply a misunderstood plant that grew in between the cracks (or corn) of mainstream society—it is a plant that helped shape the state's social, political, and economic history.

for the United States in ever-increasing numbers. Impoverished by land reforms under ex-dictator Porfirio Díaz and displaced by the revolution that overthrew him, more than 590,000 Mexicans made the journey north between 1915 and 1930. About a third of them settled in the Rocky Mountain region. Among these immigrants were the first people to bring *Cannabis indica* to Colorado on a large scale. Evidence from later newspaper reports suggests that some Mexicans brought the herb along as a traditional remedy for minor maladies such as rheumatism or gastrointestinal discomfort, while others may have used it to cope with the rigors of physical labor.

The addition of thousands of Mexican immigrants in the early twentieth century could not have been more fortuitous for Colorado's large-scale farmers. Between 1890 and 1920, irrigation projects helped the state's agricultural industry put some 2 million additional acres into production. But at that time the state was also rocked by a series of violent labor disputes, and national immigration restrictions on certain European groups during World War I caused a labor shortage on Colorado farms. White bosses were happy to have Mexican migrants work for low pay in their mines, rail yards, and fields, and many other white Coloradans benefited from their labor. Yet most of them bristled at some Mexicans' affinity for marijuana.

While drug cannabis may have been used in Colorado before this time—nationally syndicated reports of *Cannabis indica*'s intoxicating properties appear in state newspapers as early as 1884—its use appears to have been rare. Pharmacies across the nation sold *Cannabis indica* in asthma or cough remedies, and several newspaper columns proclaimed *Cannabis indica* an essential part of a cure for corns. Americans had also grown hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) since the colonial period, but concerns about the psychoactive nature of *Cannabis indica* did not arise until after 1900. The Harrison Act did not regulate marijuana, but in 1917 Colorado became the sixth state to pass prohibitory marijuana laws when it outlawed the growth and use of cannabis. In a political climate already hostile to foreign drugs and their minority users, the state's first anti-marijuana law was designed to hold Mexicans accountable for the "new narcotic" they were supposedly unleashing on the people of Colorado.



Coloradans voted to legalize medical marijuana in 2000.  
History Colorado photo.

In the 1940s, Leo Acosta was one of many Latinos targeted for marijuana violations. But the main impetus for marijuana prohibition in Colorado was likely a combination of racist fears and nationwide anti-narcotic sentiment. In the early twentieth century, political unrest pushed Mexicans and marijuana north of the Rio Grande. At the same time, officials had in their crosshairs two other drugs—opium and cocaine—that they associated with two other racial minorities, Chinese immigrants and African Americans. In the face of sensationalized and racially charged reports of drug-related violence, and in an attempt to solve the country's opiate addiction problem—which actually had more to do with morphine use during the Civil War than Chinese immigrants—Congress criminalized the nonmedical use of cocaine and opiates by passing the Harrison Act in 1914.

Meanwhile, poor Mexican families left their homeland

Just as other western states did with opium decades before, Coloradans racialized marijuana, turning Mexicans into the newest class of “dope fiends.” A story from the *Mexican Herald* reprinted in the *Telluride Daily Journal* in 1904 warned of a “Dangerous Mexican Weed to Smoke,” and told of two unruly Mexican men who had to be put in straightjackets after smoking. Similar syndicated reports in the *Akron Weekly Pioneer Press* in 1914 and the *Aspen Democrat-Times* in 1916 linked marijuana, a drug “peculiar to Mexico,” with insanity. These were merely the first of many racially charged reports on marijuana in the Centennial State.

 In 1921 Harry V. Williamson, chief of the federal Narcotic Division’s Denver operations, offered his opinion that “When Mexicans fight each other, they are apt to be full of marijuana.” Without evidence, he told *The Denver Post* that weed had instigated a recent shooting between two Mexican men. The *Post* quite ominously concluded its article: “A general cleanup of Mexican quarters will be made by the police in an effort to find and seize all the marihuana in sight.” In 1927, Pueblo Representative Ray Talbot claimed on the House floor that “20 to 40 percent of students in Pueblo high schools” were addicted to a “deadly” drug “grown in large quantities by Mexicans in their backyards.”

In a curious 1929 case, authorities charged Victor Montour, a Mexican, with the murder of his white stepdaughter. *The Denver Post* printed Montour’s confession in an article subtitled “Mexican Confesses Torture of American Baby.” In the *Post*’s account, Montour revealed that he smoked marijuana, and “then said he had been without the weed for two days before the murder of his stepdaughter.” Some context is needed here: before 1903, a kind of “temporary insanity” defense in Mexican law excused individuals who committed crimes while in a voluntary, temporary state of intoxication. Thus, even after the laws changed, it was common for Mexican criminals to blame intoxicating substances—be it alcohol, marijuana, or something else—for their behavior.

In this case, it seems that Montour—who later tried to strengthen his insanity defense by adding that he had fallen off a truck and hit his head the day of the killing—attempted to attribute the murder of his stepdaughter to a state of marijuana withdrawal. While sudden abstinence by chronic pot smokers has been shown to produce restlessness, irritability,

and other minor side effects, there is no evidence that cannabis withdrawal—or, for that matter, cannabis use—can induce a mental state that would drive someone to kill. But Montour was on trial in the United States, where admission of any illicit drug use by a criminal was considered proof of the drug’s debilitating effects. Two days after the *Post*’s story, the Colorado Assembly approved a measure that made repeat marijuana offenses into felonies punishable by one to five years in prison. These and other events indicate that by the 1920s federal agents and state politicians were targeting Mexicans as the specific purveyors of a “Menace as Great as Opium.”

Already flourishing across the state by the 1930s, marijuana met its stiffest opposition in that decade. When the federal government reorganized the Narcotics Division into the Federal Bureau of Narcotics in 1930, it selected fiery anti-vice crusader Harry J. Anslinger as commissioner. Convinced that the drug inspired violence and depravity, Anslinger launched a nationwide, anti-marijuana propaganda campaign that culminated in the passage of the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937. The act worked as a prohibitory tax; the government required all possessors of marijuana to apply and pay for a license, which it rarely granted.

In 1937 the Colorado Assembly reconciled state and federal law by making first-time marijuana offenses felonies. Coloradans had already lived with marijuana in their state for more than thirty years, so it is hardly surprising that the first people indicted under the new federal law were two men from Denver: Samuel Caldwell and Moses Baca. Famously harsh U.S. District Judge John Foster Symes gave Caldwell (the “peddler”) four years at Leavenworth penitentiary and a \$1,000 fine. He gave Baca, the “confessed user,” eighteen months at Leavenworth.

After handing out the sentences Symes declared, “I consider marijuana the worst of all narcotics. . . . Marijuana destroys life itself. I have no sympathy with those who sell this weed. In [the] future I will impose the heaviest penalties.” Caldwell, Baca, Leo Acosta, and the scores of others Symes locked away on the pettiest of marijuana charges discovered he kept his word. Aided by the reliably anti-drug press, Federal Bureau of Narcotics Commissioner Anslinger and Judge Symes made a pair of powerful anti-pot personalities who actively enforced harsh federal and state laws and officially made cannabis Colorado’s “most wanted” weed of the 1930s.

*Mexicans brought the herb as a traditional remedy for maladies such as rheumatism.*



Denver reporter Jack Gaskie bought marijuana in an investigation on its availability. Suspicious of Gaskie, his contact wouldn't let him leave until he smoked an entire joint. Rocky Mountain News, August 19, 1951. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection.



By 1937 state and federal authorities had put up a robust legal wall, but cannabis just grew all over and around it. Commissioner Anslinger did more than any other marijuana opponent to stamp out its use. Yet, during his reign as commissioner from 1930 to 1962, Coloradans continued to grow cannabis. They grew it on private property in their yards, in corn and alfalfa fields, and in crude greenhouses; they planted it along roads or remote riverbanks, and in natural trenches and irrigation ditches. The illegal drug plant was profitable. By 1946 a grower could expect to sell a pound for at least \$100, while by 1951 marijuana cigarettes typically sold on the street for a dollar.

But Coloradans did not buy cannabis only to get high. In 1936, E. V. Brown purchased 100 pounds of hemp seed from a store in Greeley and planted two acres of *Cannabis sativa* on his farm east of the city. Brown later said the hemp was advertised as a weed killer and he planted it to choke out patches of bindweed. When Weld County Sheriff Gus Anderson learned of Brown's crop, he initially called for its destruction, as per state law, and the arrest of Brown's Mexican tenant. Anderson canceled those orders when Brown told him about his weed-killing experiment and sent one of the plants to Colorado State College in Fort Collins. There, Professor L. W. Durrell identified the hemp as "marijuana." Anderson re-ordered the crop destroyed and Brown cut it down three days later. Anderson told the *Tribune* that

despite the cannabis growing around it, Brown's bindweed seemed to "be doing quite well." Had local authorities not been obligated to immediately destroy it, Brown's crop may have eventually served its purpose. A 1998 study at Oregon State University confirms hemp's "exceptional" ability to suppress bindweed and other weeds by out-competing them for resources.

For other Coloradans, cannabis killed pain instead of weeds. In 1958, Mexican American Joe Castro was arrested in Colorado Springs after sheriff's deputies found twenty-nine tins of marijuana in his basement. A district court jury freed him, however, after Castro and his wife testified that they mixed the marijuana with olive oil to treat Castro's rheumatism. Richard Grove, associate curator of the local fine arts museum, told the court this was a traditional Mexican remedy. Similarly, beet worker Mereciano Vigil told police after his 1937 arrest in Las Animas that smoking marijuana "kept him from getting tired" in the fields. The stories of Brown, Castro, and Vigil highlight Coloradans' multiple uses for cannabis, as well as law enforcement's continued targeting of Latinos as marijuana growers.

Indeed, a sampling of more than eighty cases in Colorado's U.S. district court dockets from 1938 to 1952 reveals that nearly all defendants in marijuana cases had Latino names. One of them was World War II veteran Leo Acosta. Another was Manuel Hernandez, a Mexican beet farmer from whom authorities took \$60,000 worth of marijuana in 1946. In 1939, Huerfano County Sheriff Claud Swift spoke of a "marked decrease in cultivation of the dope weed in southern Colorado." Yet, two hundred miles to the north Hernandez ran one of the largest marijuana grows in the state.

Hernandez arrived from Mexico in 1932 unable to read and barely able to speak English. He no doubt had few employment opportunities beyond the beet fields or railroads. Neither of those jobs alone could support his large family, so Hernandez likely began growing and selling marijuana so he could feed his kids. By the time of his arrest in 1946, Hernandez had not only enough food for all ten of his children, but also two cars, a six-unit apartment building in Denver, and his own beet farm near Mead, where he kept what the *Rocky Mountain News* called "the largest cache of marijuana ever discovered in Colorado" hidden in a cornfield. Though Hernandez was clearly an astute entrepreneur by that time, he was still illiterate and could barely speak English.

Faced with the same scant options to make a legal living,

many Mexican Americans undoubtedly made the same choice to grow and sell marijuana. Most were not as successful as Hernandez, but like him, many ended up in front of Judge Symes. Hernandez's story shows that marijuana's legal status did not curb demand for one of Colorado's most profitable cash crops. His story is also one of an immigrant who found a way to not only survive, as most others struggled to do, but prosper. In 1946, Coloradans like Hernandez lived completely illegal versions of the American dream.

By the time Hernandez was arrested, his dream of making a fortune on marijuana was also being pursued by groups other than Mexican immigrants. By the 1940s, distinctly non-Latino names such as Weaver, Prather, Heitzler, Briels, and Speaks appeared in newspaper reports of marijuana busts across the state. Like the drug-trafficking groups who grow marijuana in California's national forests today, Coloradan mobsters like Joe "Blackie" Bacino capitalized on a healthy marijuana market in the 1940s. In 1948, Terry Talent, chief of the Denver office of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, arrested Bacino in front of his brother's tavern in Pueblo. A convicted bootlegger during Prohibition, Bacino had been operating a statewide ring of marijuana and morphine with his brother, Tony, and at least three others.

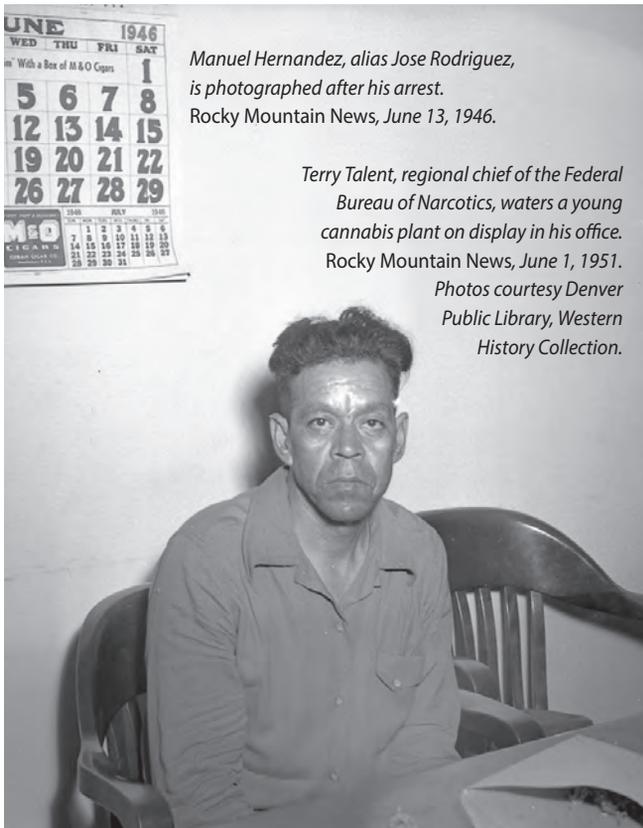
As the Bacinos' story shows, by the mid-twentieth century

Latinos no longer cornered the state's illegal marijuana market. With a more diverse population of marijuana growers fueling a lucrative underground industry, federal and state authorities had a weed control problem unlike any other.

Further complicating the situation were the wild hemp plants that occasionally sprang up around the state, likely originating from scattered birdseed. In August 1951, for example, Denver authorities mistakenly believed that a field of uncultivated hemp in a vacant lot was marijuana; they dispatched soldiers from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal to burn the weed with flamethrowers. The GIs gave up after an hour, though, as the dense medley of cannabis and other weeds proved too moist to burn.

Though drug cannabis was not as pervasive as bindweed or Russian thistle, the fact that some Coloradans wanted it around—for business, pleasure, or both—made it just as hard to contain and eradicate. Even as federal and state politicians enacted stricter laws and authorities aggressively enforced them, Colorado's marijuana crops multiplied.

Cannabis spent most of its first five decades in Colorado growing over and around legal barriers, but from the mid-1960s through the '70s, the counterculture transformed the "devil weed" into a mainstream cultural symbol.



*Manuel Hernandez, alias Jose Rodriguez, is photographed after his arrest. Rocky Mountain News, June 13, 1946.*

*Terry Talent, regional chief of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, waters a young cannabis plant on display in his office. Rocky Mountain News, June 1, 1951.*

*Photos courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection.*



Commissioner Anslinger left the Bureau of Narcotics in 1962, and as the feds' aggressive enforcement efforts waned, the mainstream press in Colorado and across the nation changed its tone on marijuana. In 1967, one year before the *New Republic* called for the Supreme Court to declare the Marihuana Tax Act unconstitutional, the magazine connected the youthful counterculture's marijuana use to the movement's political angst.

It isn't just Vietnam, though. The war is only one of the indecent society's ugly faces. There's all the hypocrisy and corruption at home, in Congress, the House and the Senate, state legislatures, giant firms and giant federal agencies. In disgusted response, defiance stalks the campuses, but—all the more an affront to a pushy older generation's mores—its banner [is] love; its bearing, humble. . . . Pot may be sweeping the campuses, but there is a moral infection abroad in the country, and it isn't coming from the young people.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon signed the Controlled Substances Act, which sorted all illegal substances into "schedules," or categories according to their perceived danger. Despite a federal study in 1944 that declared cannabis less harmful than alcohol, the herb was classified along with heroin and LSD as a schedule I drug, or one that is highly addictive, dangerous, and with no medical use.

But this did not match the experiences of cannabis-using young people all over the country, and only strengthened their distrust of the federal government. Marijuana became the middle finger countercultural youths flashed to what they saw as undignified and illegitimate authority. Colorado newspapers sensed it, too. In an article that it probably never would have published a decade earlier, *The Denver Post* reported in 1968 that 67 percent of students at Colorado College in Colorado Springs favored marijuana legalization. By the final years of the decade, the counterculture was in full swing, and its positions on marijuana policy adjustment were recognized as a legitimate political issue in local and national magazines and papers. The stage was set for the first attempt to legalize cannabis in Colorado.

While Colorado's mainstream newspapers were warming up to weed, pot filled the pages of the *Straight Creek Journal*, a free, weekly counterculture paper founded in Denver in 1972. In between stories on Vietnam and civil rights ran headlines such as "Too Late to Stop Pot," "Dope Supply Looks Good," "Organize for Grass," "Marijuana Gains New Respectability," and "Pot: Miracle Drug." After State Representative Michael Strang introduced a bill in April 1973

to legalize and tax marijuana, the *Journal* staff trumpeted, "Now is the time for all good men to rally to the cause."

The *Journal* could have undoubtedly counted Aspen folksinger John Denver as one of those "good men." In 1972, allegedly while under the influence of marijuana and LSD, Denver wrote "Rocky Mountain High." Though it was Denver's love of mountain scenery, not pot, that inspired the song, a line in the last verse, "Friends around the campfire and everybody's high," is an unmistakable double entendre. Denver's song about getting high in Colorado's mountains cracked the top ten on the U.S. *Billboard* Chart in March 1973, two months before the state's House Business Affairs Committee considered Strang's marijuana bill.

The committee squashed Strang's bill 10–4 in May, but the Colorado counterculture pushed pot into state politics again in 1975. This time, they gained a victory: the Colorado State Assembly downgraded marijuana's classification from a "narcotic" to a "dangerous drug," and drastically reduced penalties for possession and transfer of up to one ounce of the drug.

The political debate over medical marijuana also has roots in the '70s. In 1979 Governor Richard Lamm signed a bill allowing Coloradans with cancer or glaucoma to use marijuana as prescribed by doctors. When the bill's supporters predicted it would "be more than a year" before the federal government gave Colorado license to distribute marijuana, they underestimated Washington's disdain for the law—license never came.

As the counterculture ebbed in the 1980s, state and federal authorities launched a renewed offensive against marijuana. In 1983 the Aurora Police Department offered cash rewards for citizen informants and ran ads in local papers to promote its Marijuana Eradication Program. Under President Ronald Reagan's vigorously anti-drug administration, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency gave Colorado an average of \$40,000 per year in the mid-1980s for similar programs across the state. Colorado police received special training, flew surveillance airplanes and helicopters, and worked overtime. They pulled up thousands of plants, but failed to make a dent in the state's crop, largely because they had severely underestimated its size.

Moreover, increased pressure from law enforcement simply pushed growers indoors, or into national forests, and drove up the price of marijuana. Indeed, 1986 estimates by the pro-pot National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) placed the total value of Colorado's marijuana crop at \$325 million, second only to wheat.

Like Commissioner Anslinger in the 1930s, federal and state authorities in the '80s poured money and manpower into a war on weed. And like Anslinger, they killed many plants and locked up many people, but ultimately could not keep Coloradans from growing, buying, or using marijuana.

When California became the first state to legalize medical cannabis by ballot initiative in 1996, marijuana advocates in Colorado took note. They turned away from the state legislature that had failed them in the '70s, and instead put medical marijuana to a public vote, making Colorado the first state to amend its constitution to allow for a medical marijuana industry. Growing cannabis could now legally make people rich, and this ushered in the era that marijuana documentarian Trish Regan and others have called the “Green Rush.” Just as they did for gold in the mid-nineteenth century, people from all over the country flocked to states like California and Colorado, making cities like Denver, which now has more medical marijuana dispensaries than Starbucks locations, into marijuana meccas.

As the medicinal industry boomed and public support for cannabis prohibition waned in the twenty-first century, Coloradans looking to legalize marijuana outright saw an opportunity. Political scientist Kathleen Ferraiolo argues the medical marijuana campaigns succeeded because they “crafted an alternative frame of marijuana that emphasized not crime, deviance, and violence, but health, patient rights, and compassion.” Similarly, advocates working to legalize marijuana in 2012 called their efforts the “Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol.”

Since it arrived with Mexican immigrants in the first couple decades of the twentieth century, *Cannabis indica* has made its mark on the people and landscapes of the Centennial State. Sixty-six years ago, the state of Colorado had a hand in framing and locking away a decorated veteran for possessing marijuana. Now, were he alive, not only would Leo Acosta not have to worry about being duped into a dope deal, he could legally buy the drug on the same corner where he ordered a beer in 1948. For those still pondering this drastic swing in state policy, the long history of cannabis in Colorado may provide some answers. Almost as soon as it arrived, marijuana forced many residents to acknowledge and interact with it. For more than a century, Coloradans planted it, smoked it, bought and sold it, burned it, pulled it, and bred it, until a large number of them decided they cared about it. When their elected officials did not share their concerns, Coloradans put marijuana to a vote themselves.

Through successful breeding experiments and decades

of indoor cultivation, the plant also underwent a change. No longer a hardy plant that can grow in any field or ditch, *Cannabis indica* is now regarded by many growers as a sensitive plant that requires tender, daily care in order to produce a quality drug product. This co-evolution of attitude and plant fostered an electoral environment in Colorado in 2012 that Leo Acosta and others could never have imagined in 1948. Today, as their state rakes in revenue and deals with the challenge of regulating one of the world's first completely legal cannabis industries, Coloradans disagree about many aspects of marijuana. But whether they like it or not, citizens of the Centennial State can no longer avoid the fact that cannabis is a significant part of their heritage.

#### For Further Reading

Sources for this article include *The Denver Post*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *Straight Creek Journal*, and other newspapers, as well as laws, magazines, court documents, medical and academic journals, government reports, and history books. Readers interested in learning more about the history of marijuana will appreciate Martin A. Lee's *Smoke Signals: A Social History of Marijuana—Medical, Recreational, Scientific* (New York: Scribner, 2012). *Home Grown: Marijuana and the Origins of Mexico's War on Drugs* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012) by Isaac Campos details the history of cannabis in Mexico. For information about the plant's botany see Robert C. Clarke and Mark Merlin's *Cannabis: Evolution and Ethnobotany* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012) and *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World* (New York: Random House, 2001) by Michael Pollan. *Marijuana Legalization: What Everyone Needs to Know* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012) by Jonathan P. Caulkins, et al., is a useful introduction to the issues around marijuana legalization. For more analysis of the history and current events related to cannabis, see the author's blog at [www.hempiricalevidence.blogspot.com](http://www.hempiricalevidence.blogspot.com).

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*Do you know this building?*

Continued from page 15

**Answers:** d) Holyoke, c) 1921 a) private home

William “Will” E. Heginbotham moved in 1888 with his family to Holyoke, Colorado, where his father helped organize the Farmer’s and Merchant’s Bank. Trained as a pharmacist, Will worked instead at his father’s bank, later becoming its owner and president. The bank became the First National Bank with Will and his brother George as vice presidents.

With his success, Will commissioned Denver builder Michael McEachern to construct this 1921 Craftsman-style home with a porte cochère and carriage house. The home’s rooms opened onto verandas overlooking picturesque gardens that Will personally tended. Small Craftsman-style brick walls and gateways separated the garden’s arbors, pergolas, pools, walkways, and outdoor rooms.

In his spare time, Will actively participated in community affairs. He organized the local enlistment board and food rationing programs in World War I; headed the war bonds program in World Wars I and II; served as town clerk and manager; and administered the Commodity Donation Program in the Great Depression. Always caring for others, Will donated sizable gifts to local churches, the American Legion, and the VFW. He also donated \$500,000 and the land needed for Holyoke’s new hospital in 1966. Despite his prolific community involvement, he was characterized as a shy and silent type.

In the ‘30s, rather than foreclosing on defaulted farm loans, Will’s bank purchased quitclaim deeds for the land, providing farmers cash to start elsewhere or the option to lease it back. His bank—which he continued to manage into his eighties—was the only town bank left after the 1929 crash.

Upon Will’s 1968 death he left his sizable estate in trust for the improvement of Holyoke and Phillips County. The house has since been home to the town’s Heginbotham Library, listed in the National Register in 1988.

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Interested in reading online reviews of new publications about Colorado and the West? The Colorado Book Review is co-sponsored by History Colorado and maintained by the Center for Colorado & the West at the Auraria Library. The Colorado Book Review lists new nonfiction works about Colorado and provides reviews of selected publications. Visit now at <http://coloradowest.auraria.edu/>.

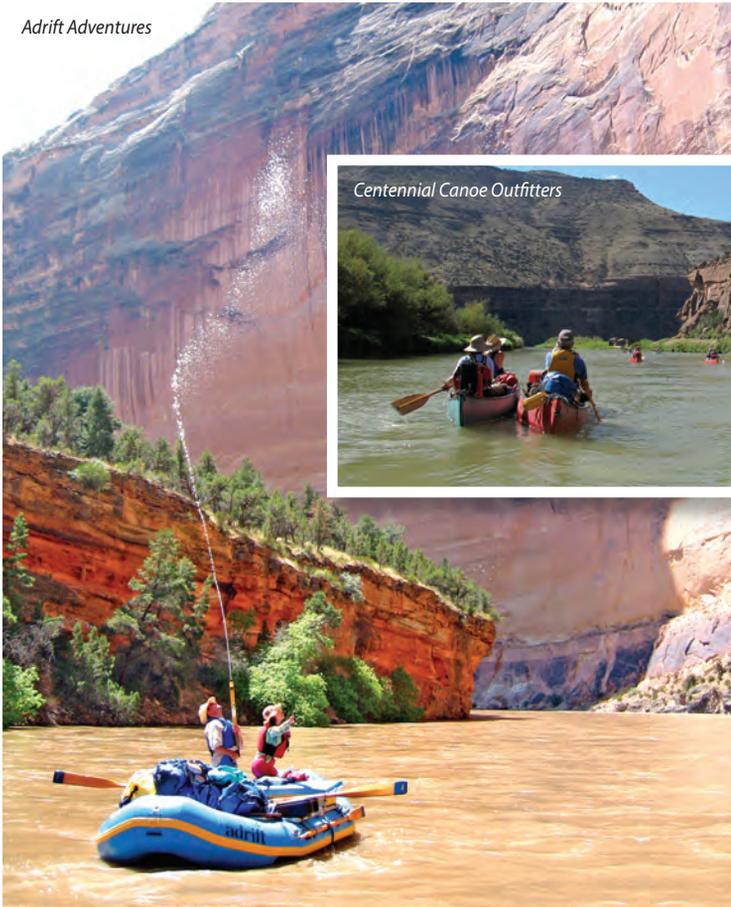
Recent additions include reviews of *Colorado's Historic Mountain Passes* by Larry Rynearson and Rick Jones, *The Yampa Valley Sin Circuit* by Laurel Watson and *Southern Colorado: O. T. Davis Collection* by Mike Butler and the Monte Vista Historical Society.

Send any new books or booklets about Colorado, for listing and possible review, to:

Publications Department  
History Colorado  
History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway  
Denver, Colorado 80203

# Get Wet!

*Adrift Adventures*



## *Yampa River Rafting Adventure*

**Wednesday, June 17, to Sunday, June 21**

*Register by May 15!*

History Colorado and Adrift Adventures team up again for a five-day whitewater adventure in Dinosaur National Monument. Enjoy action, excitement, geology and the history of the Yampa and Green Rivers with guest historian Andrew Gulliford, who'll bring the area's cowboys, outlaws, and explorers to life. Bring the kids and let's get wet!

Members \$755, nonmembers \$815, kids 7–12 \$275  
Information and reservations:  
Adrift Adventures, 1-800-824-0150. (*Space limited*)

## *Gunnison River Canoe Trek*

**Tuesday, July 7, to Friday, July 10**

*Register by June 5!*

Join History Colorado and Centennial Canoe Outfitters to explore a wild and remote area with fascinating history! On this four-day canoe and camping journey along the Gunnison River, Andrew Gulliford shares stories of the colorful characters and events that shaped this stunning landscape.

Members \$519, nonmembers \$579, kids 6–12 \$499  
Information and reservations:  
Centennial Canoe Outfitters, 1-877-353-1850.  
(*Space limited*)