

GRAND LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

July 14, 2021



President: Jim Cervenka
Vice President: Kathy Means
Secretary: Elin Capps
Treasurer: Patti Stahl

BOARD MEMBERS

Terms Expire 2021:

Steve Batty
Jim Cervenka
Ken Fucik

Terms Expire 2022:

Sandia Bruton
Lucy Fitch
Kathy Means

Terms Expire 2023:

Elin Capps
Frank Reardon
Patti Stahl

GRAND LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report July 14, 2021

Nominations to the Board

The three-year terms of Steve Batty, Jim Cervenka and Ken Fucik have been completed at this time. Steve, Jim and Ken have agreed to continue as board members, leaving one vacancy for the term expiring this year. Additionally, Keith Kratz has had to retire from the board, leaving a second vacancy. Board member Frank Reardon will present nominees for open Board positions at the GLAHS Members' Annual Meeting following the public presentation. The GLAHS Board is truly a working group of volunteers, and we are very grateful to those who have given of their time but must leave the board, as well as those stepping up to fill open seats. The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 pm on each second Wednesday of the month. Meetings are generally held at the modular office facility, 610 Center Drive, just south of the post office. The offices, President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, are filled by sitting board members.

Property Maintenance

Old buildings, especially those that attract visitors from around the world, need consistent care to keep them sturdy and welcoming. Keith Kratz has served as Property Maintenance Chair, with considerable support from Ken Fucik, Jim Cervenka, Dave Sauer and others during this turbulent last year. There have been projects large and small to keep the Historical Society buildings in good condition. At the Kauffman House, it was determined that baseboard heaters already installed did not need replacement, minor repairs were needed for the House's water heater when electricity was turned back on following fire evacuation, a survey and inventory of lights and supplies for them was conducted, and the House's furnace was monitored, as were the security systems. Keith plowed snow at the modular office and Kauffman House parking areas. Thanks to Karen Rempel who keeps the interior of the House clean and looking good.



Perhaps you've noticed the lovely new bench on the Kauffman House veranda; this is a donation in memory of, and from the family of, Barb and Gene Kehoe. Also noted is that the chalkboard along the veranda has paint; thank you Lois and Dave.

The Cottage Court Museum, and the Camp site, are steadily evolving with enhance. A hard-working crew rallied to Museum before it opened this summer, and linseed oil to the exterior in the Fall; thank Capps, Jim Cervenka, Lucy Fitch, Susan Alan Walker. What a team! Bravo as well to Harrington who set up and monitor the site's Jim Capps, Steve Batty, Dave, and who maintain the landscaping at the site. the Grand Lake Fire Department and their and temporarily cover the roof of the Eslick Store and Office (ESO) building, slated to eventually be a welcome center. Keith also alerted the board to a tree leaning toward the ESO, and Hoppe Southway volunteered to remove the tree, for which we are grateful.



entire Smith Eslick Cottage projects that maintain and thoroughly clean the to test how to best apply you to Steve Batty, Elin Larson, Patti Stahl and Paul Carlson and Paul sprinkler systems, to Ken, especially Jim Cervenka Keith enlisted the help of equipment to successfully

Collections and Accessions

Kathy Means serves as Collections Manager. Items added to the collection in the past year include a couch and chair from the Week's cabin on the lake, donated by Scott Munn and displayed in the



Kauffman House parlor; the kitchen features a 1911 vacuum donated by Kathy Weydert.

In the general collections are now six photograph scrapbooks donated by Fran Needham that once belonged to her mother, Caroline Pratt Holzwarth, a valuable addition to the history of the early 1900s life in Rocky Mountain National Park. Other additions to the collections include ski gear used by the 10th Mountain Division in World War II donated by Larry Bacon, many more Sanborn postcards donated by members following last year's Sanborn Postcards annual meeting presentation, posters and a large panoramic photograph of Grand Lake and the tourist boat Mickey brought to us by Michael Elliott, and numerous photos and newspaper



articles donated by Chris Rourke in recognition of the Spitzmiller family and Grand Lake Plumbing's 100 years of operation. Special thanks to Guy Allmeyer and his sister Susan for sharing movie theater items for this year's annual meeting, which will become a permanent display in the Community House.



The Cottage Court Museum has added many items donated by Steve Batty, including fishing gear and clothing from both the 1915-1930 era of the Court, as well as items to be displayed in the 1935-1960 period rooms at the site.

A special exhibit, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the opening of Grand Lake Lodge, was featured at the Lodge in 2020. Items for the display were loaned by Grand Lake Lodge, Bob Scott, Suzanne Silverthorn, Kate and Doug Means, and Martha Boehner. Grand Lake Lodge history, including a film, as well as 100th Anniversary celebrations of the completion of Fall River Road in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Circle Tours through the Park are on special exhibit in the Gallery of the Kauffman House Museum. Books for each of these Centennial exhibits are available in the House Gallery and on the GLAHS website, www.grandlakehistory.org. It's all pretty amazing, and well-worth visiting. Volunteers assisting with displays and exhibits, including the holiday decorations, include Deb Bondi, Sandia and Bill Bruton, Elin and Jim Capps, Julie and Joe Cunningham, Bob Means, Kate Means and Patti Stahl.

Research projects in the past year include efforts to update our vast "Ranches" materials following the East Troublesome Fire damage or destruction. Several projects are in progress to research, and preserve or rehabilitate local historic signs: the AA Barn, the iconic Humphreys sign, and information about the sign originally located at the Miyauchi's Snack Bar.

The Grand Lake Area Historical Society has worked with the Grand Lake Yacht Club to develop systems for digital archival of Yacht Club memories, particularly video and audio interviews. This material will strengthen Historical Society historical information, and will offer additional layers of security for Yacht Club precious memorabilia. Thanks to Mary Beth Lagerborg, Elin Capps, Jim Cervenka, Kathy Means and the Grand Lake Yacht Club for their hard work and persistence.



Cottage Court and Smith Eslick Cottage Camp

Projects galore at the evolving Cottage Court Museum and its surrounding site! A second interpretive panel, this one describing the CBT Project and the origins of Grand Lake, is now along the remnants of the Cairns #3 Ditch along Vine Street; built by Traub Design Inc, it was installed by Jim Cervenka.

A 1929 Model A Ford is now displayed in a museum carport, thanks in good part to Dave Sauer who located the car and, with Joel Rogers, transported it to the site. Paul Harrington and his crew assisted our volunteers to settle the car into its new surroundings. Since then, Jim Cervenka has been working carefully and steadily to



refurbish this display: new upholstery, window cranks, and the like.

Soon to come will be “Object Theaters”, featuring motion sensor audio and directed lighting with a Clyde Eslick figure seeming to speak in each of two guest rooms in the Cottage Court. These are made possible by very generous donors, and grants from the Grand Foundation and Grand County.

We thank Good-to-Go Portables for donating a restroom at the site, and Jim Capps for building corn hole and building sets for kids of all ages to play with. George Davis, with R&R Electric, put in an electric outlet which made possible connecting both the Object Theater devices as well as a security system. We still are working to find an efficient way to accept credit cards; admission is presently by donation, and few people carry cash anymore.

Two new “Cottage Court Museum” signs seem to be helping visitors find this new museum; it’s a mostly outdoors or very well-ventilated site, so people are comfortable there even with residual COVID concerns.

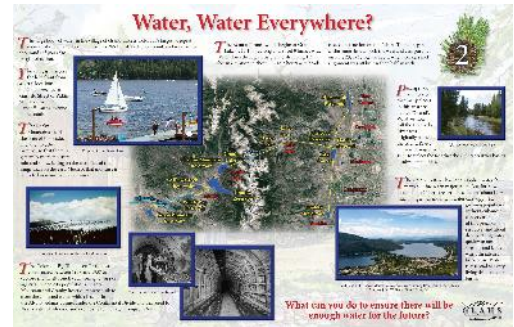
Meanwhile in the past year, at the Eslick Store and Office (ESO), the small building with a bay window adjacent to the Cottage Court, there has been a lot of progress as well. With a grant from History Colorado-State Historical Fund, we have completed a Historic Structure Assessment which indicates that, despite its decrepit façade, the building can be rehabilitated. We had hoped to obtain funding to construct a permanent foundation under the ESO last year, but that didn’t happen. We did, however, earn a second grant from SHF which, with additional support from the Town of Grand Lake, will result in our having complete engineering and architectural construction plans ready to go as we search for funding to rehabilitate the building as a welcome center/gift shop/restroom.



Future plans still include development of a community events site on the lot just west of and adjacent to the Cottage Court: building a shelter with fire pit and equipment for historical presentations and fun stuff, as well as installation of more historical exhibits.

Finance

The Finance Committee presently includes Treasurer Patti Stahl and Board Member Frank Reardon, with occasional support from Jan Knisley of Edward Jones. The committee monitors the GLAHS finances overall, advises the Board, and continues to revise and update policies and records systems as needed.



Gardens

Lois and Dave Sauer have been working intensely and almost daily to reinvigorate the gardens and landscaping at the Kauffman House and the nearby Pioneer Garden. Using the original landscape plans for the area, they have weeded, taken out invasive and out-of-control bushes, trees and other plants, and have added necessary and lovely replacements. They have received support from the Town maintenance team who often come by to pick up the bags and piles, and have donated mulch. If you'd like to help, contact the Sauers at dbsauer57@gmail.com.



Visitation

Remarkably, during the past year of COVID restrictions, visitation at the Kauffman House Museum nearly approached the annual average, with visitors from a handful of foreign countries, many states and, as usual, most from Colorado. Visitation at the Cottage Court Museum is steadily increasing as more people hear about the site. Geocaches draw visitors at both museums, and are updated and monitored by Joe and Julie Cunningham.

Website



Carol Goscha is the web master, continually adding information to our website, www.grandlakehistory.org. Materials that were once only accessible in person at one of our museums can now often be enjoyed online; notebooks displayed at the Kauffman House Gallery “Hunters and Trappers”, “Ranchers” located in the Events section of the website, and information about people such as the brothers Wiswall who were photographers and tavern owners. Also on line is a virtual tour of the museum and individual pictures of items in our collections. Check it out!

Publicity

If you are not receiving our monthly “E-Blasts” with news of what’s going on at GLAHS, please send an email to alert us, and we’ll add you to our list: historygrandlake@gmail.com. In the past year, we distributed brochures advertising the Kauffman House and Cottage Court Museums, included an article about Grand Lake’s history for the recently published *Grand Lake Guidebook*, mailed an annual printed newsletter to over a thousand mailboxes, and updated news of events for local newspapers and online media. More simply, but effectively, we continue to advertise events in window posters and on the chalkboard at the Kauffman House.

Office

With support of a generous donor, we were able to replace a computer that suffered complete power failure in the past year. Thank you so much! We also networked our PastPerfect museum software program so that more than one volunteer staff member can work at a time. Heather Bishop and Ken Fucik were particularly helpful with this upgrade. The GLAHS office at 610 Center Drive is a very busy place, and these equipment changes were very necessary indeed!

Sales

Malene Mortenson serves as Merchandise Committee Chair, inventorying and ordering books for sale at the Kauffman House and more. Come by to check out what we offer!

Community

The Grand Lake Area Historical Society supports the work of the Grand County Creative Coalition with their many projects, including Space to Create, construction of a new marquee in Town Park, and rehabilitation of the Grand Lake Community House. Your Society also supports continued discussion about development of a historic district overlay for Grand Lake, and rustic way-finding and streetscape planning. We look forward to participating in the annual Granby Children's Fair when it is again safe to do so, and to again help with other community projects such as Rotary Bingo whenever possible.

Associations

The GLAHS holds memberships in the Grand Lake Chamber of Commerce, the American Alliance of Museums, and the American Association for State and Local History. We are also founding members of the Grand County Heritage Coalition, and GLAHS board members represent us on the Colorado River Headwaters and Scenic By-Ways Committee, as well as various community organizations including the Grand Lake Creative District.

Tour Guides/Docents



Volunteer tour guides at the Kauffman House and Cottage Court are incredibly valuable people, the very reason our remarkable museums are open to the public. They welcome and enhance the history experience for each and every visitor. With their team leader Frank Reardon, this summer's Kauffman House volunteer tour guides/docents include: Jane Adams, Melody Anders, Steve Batty, Kay Bergquist, Sandia and Bill Bruton, Gary Calder, Elin Capps, Susan and Paul Carlson, Jim Cervenka, Merrie Coolen, Kirk McCoy, Melinda McKinney, Kathy and Bob Means, Malene Mortenson, Linda Ray, Frank Reardon, Patti Stahl, Kathy Weydert, and Jan Wharton. Nancy McGuffy has already

substituted, and other folks are also ready to pitch in: Ann Bagg, Sally Bertoli, Lucy Fitch, Dottie Kuster, Sue Rogers, Ann Romshek, Karen Rugen, Layla Schnacke and George Sedlacek. Frank would like to have a few more volunteers, so give him a call if you are able to help 3 hours a week: 301/980-9081.

The tour guides at the Cottage Court are a small but mighty group as we slowly build the visitation at and reputation of this new museum: Jim and Elin Capps, Liza Cervenka, Joe and Julie Cunningham, Lucy Fitch, Susan Larson, Dave and Lois Sauer, and Alan Walker. With so few volunteers, we must limit our open times to 2:00 - 5:00, Wednesday through Sunday. People love this new and most unusual site, and often tell us that they are disappointed we aren't open more hours. We would love to be able to do just that, but we need volunteers to man the site. If you like to share our community with people, love our history's wonderful facts and stories, and can spare 3 hours a week, please, please contact us: historygrandlake@gmail.com, 970/627-8324, or 970/509-9556 (Elin's cell). We'll walk you through the process, and be most grateful for your participation.

Tour guides from both museums have some fun get-togethers during the summer - breakfasts, appreciation dinners (we seem to eat a lot!), and the like. Join us and meet new friends!

We celebrate the many volunteers, those already mentioned and many others who pitch in when needed and work a total of thousands of hours each and every year! Thank you as well to all the GLAHS members, donors and friends whose support and energy make the work of the all-volunteer Grand Lake Area Historical Society possible and successful.

Special Events

We remember get-togethers before COVID concerns made many impossible. We look forward to seeing you at events planned safely and joyously for the coming year. Fingers crossed!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 18th beginning at 5:00 pm Stars at the Barn
Casual, Great Food, Entertainment, Auction at Grand



Lake's charming AA Barn A FUNdraiser for the Cottage Camp Project Contact to purchase tickets, \$50 per person: 970/627-8324, historygrandlake@gmail.com. Leave a message and we'll get back ASAP.



July 24th, 9:00 am – 2:00 Meet at the Cottage Court for a History Bike Hike. Bring sunscreen, water, lunch \$15

August 1st Colorado Day at the Kauffman House Admission \$1 per person, any age

August 14th and 15th 11:00 & 1:00 History Walking Tours

Tickets at GLAHS booth in Arts & Crafts Fair

August 21st History Walking Tours – stay tuned for details

August Date to Appreciation

August 22nd 6th Cottage Court,
Amazing Array of
Wonderful Old-Family!

More details to come – stay tuned!



be determined GLAHS Volunteers Dinner

Annual Community Picnic at the 5:30 pm Brats & Dogs and an Sides
Timey Music and Fun for All the

September 11th Kauffman House Museum begins “open weekends only” thru September.

“Happenings” story sharing events will be scheduled as possible in Fall. Details forthcoming!

Yet to Be Planned: The Kauffman House and Cottage Court may open for special days in Fall and Winter, as health concerns allow. We will bring information about these events to you as plans are made firm.

GRAND LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING

GRAND LAKE COMMUNITY HOUSE

July 8, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Steve Batty, Sandia Bruton, Jim and Elin Capps, Paul and Susan Carlson, Jim Cervenka, Ken Fucik, Mary Beth Lagerborg, Bob and Kathy Means, Frank Reardon, Dave and Lois Sauer, Suzanne Silverthorn, Patti Stahl, Rosemary Stoffel

An additional 19 non-members were present for the presentation only.

President Jim Cervenka welcomed the attendees. He thanked those who set up the venue. He discussed facets of the all-volunteer Grand Lake Area Historical Society: the geographic boundaries in which we work to protect, preserve and promote the history of the Grand Lake area, our collaboration with other county historical groups in the Heritage Coalition, the Kauffman House Museum's 46 years welcoming and educating visitors, and the importance of volunteers in enriching the visitor experience at the Kauffman House Museum..

Jim then introduced the evening's presenter, John Meissner who spoke about and with a PowerPoint presentation, "The Sanborn Collection of Grand Lake Photo Postcards". John began by explaining that Harold Sanborn made photo postcards of many locations in Colorado and elsewhere, and that these photo postcards are quite often the only visual evidence of aspects of a locale's history. He emphasized that Sanborn made real photo postcards on photo paper, not lithographed and colored facsimiles, which sold originally two for 5¢. Sanborn was known to print a few at first, put them in a retail location, and then send the photo to a publisher to make many more if they appeared to be popular sales items. John explained that the history of the life of Harold Sanborn is difficult to research as there is no immediate family left, and Sanborn and his family kept absolutely no records of his work. It's thought that Sanborn died in about 1963. John explained that a collector of these postcards needs to look for the view shown, generally a horizontal presentation without date markers or people in the scene so the card would never seem outdated and could keep selling. The collector also needs to look for one of the several genuine Sanborn signatures at the bottom of the card, for the title which would generally be in all capital letters, and an alphanumeric code of Sanborn's invention. Grand Lake cards are part of a series coded with "G"; cards with numbers 1 through 152 are the very rarest Grand Lake cards. It's noted that after 1933, codes became simply numbers greater than 750, and without an alphabet letter. Some postcards are extremely rare as very few were printed; 70 cards in the "G" series were produced in a batch of 100 or less. Sanborn built the largest independent postcard business in Denver at the time, beginning first as Sanborn Magazine Service before 1922, then Sanborn Souvenir Company after 1925.

After a brief intermission with cake served, GLAHS members conducted the business portion of the Annual Meeting at 8:20 pm. Patti Stahl moved, Ken Fucik seconded, all agreed to accept the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting. President Jim Cervenka discussed the urgent need for more volunteer participation in the GLAHS, particularly as tour guides at the Kaufman House Museum (contact Frank Reardon) and the Smith-Eslick Cottage Court Museum (contact Elin Capps).

Jim explained that the three-year terms of board members Elin Capps, Frank Reardon, Patti Stahl, and Mark Mix are completed this year; Elin, Frank and Patti have agreed to continue on the Board. Additionally, board member Deb Bondi has resigned as she has moved out-of-state. There are now two vacancies on the Board. Nomination Chair Ken Fucik said that it was difficult to find folks able to serve, but was very pleased to recommend two nominees: Lucy Fitch who has long been supportive of our area history and particularly the Cottage Camp, and Keith Kratz who has been involved in several community activities and who is willing to become the Property Maintenance Chair. (Applause) As there were no nominations from the floor, Kathy Means moved we elect Keith Krantz, Lucy Fitch, Elin Capps, Frank Reardon and Patti Stahl to the Board; Sandia Bruton seconded, all agreed. Jim thanked Ken Fucik for his service.

As most members of the board were in attendance during and despite COVID 19 concerns, Jim asked for a motion to approve the officers, Jim Cervenka as president, Kathy Means as Vice- President, Elin Capps as Secretary, and Patti Stahl as Treasurer, all of whom agree to continue in their positions. Ken moved we approve this slate of officers, Patti seconded, all board members agreed.

Jim again asked those present to consider volunteering as tour guides at one of the museums, or in any of the GLAHS projects. He said that the next board meeting, always open to the public, will be August 12th, either in-person at the GLAHS Modular Office, or via Zoom. He added that anyone wishing to participate via Zoom needs to contact the GLAHS office ahead of time: historygrandlake@gmail.com, 970/627-8324.

Jim thanked everyone for coming; Steve Batty moved for adjournment, Ken seconded, all approved; meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elin Capps, Secretary



President's Letter

I have been privileged to serve as the Society's president for about 14 years. We have seen plenty of progress in that period, including expanding the focus of the Society beyond our signature museum of 47 years, the Kauffman House. Our new museum, the Smith Eslick Cottage Court, is open to visitors, with new displays being added periodically. Happenings, a program of long-time Grand Lake residents presenting stories of their contributions to our heritage, is another reason to be proud of what the Society contributes to our community.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the dedication, hard work, and many hours of contributed work from our all-volunteer board members, museum guides and friends. Thank you. Especially deserving of thanks are our officers: Elin Capps, Kathy Means and Patti Stahl.

Our Nominating Committee will present candidates for a three-year term on our Board. I believe that fresh faces and ideas are healthy for any organization, and I encourage anyone who has their heart in the right place to step up and join our efforts to help preserve, protect and promote the history of the Grand Lake area. By donating three hours per day, week, month or year you will help the Society keep what has made Grand Lake the special place it is. Chat with one of our Board members as to how you can contribute, or ask for a call or coffee break with one of us.

Likewise, your membership and additional donations are greatly valued and valuable. Our operating expenses (insurance, utilities, building maintenance, etc.) only seem to increase, and our long-term goals of expanded interpretation exhibits at the Cottage Court and preservation and inclusion of the Eslick Store and Office to the Cottage Camp site are not small costs.

Thank you for your support,

Jim Cervenka

**TOWN OF GRAND LAKE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RESOLUTION NO. 22-2021**

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY HOUSE ON ITS ONE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, In 1921, the Citizens of Grand Lake raised funds and provided volunteer work to construct a Community House for the Town; and,

WHEREAS, upon its completion, the Community House served as the focal point for community gatherings in the Town; and,

WHEREAS, the Community House has held countless Town meetings where we have come together to solve our problems; and,

WHEREAS, the Community House has held countless dances, movies and plays where we have come together to enjoy each other's company; and,

WHEREAS, the Community House has held countless special events where we have come together to celebrate the talents and skills of our neighbors; and,

WHEREAS, the Community House has held countless weddings, funerals, birthdays, and other life events where we have come together to show our support and care for each other; and,

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2021, at 7:00 pm, the Grand Lake Area Historical Society will host an event at the Community House to celebrate and recognize the vital role that it has played over its one hundred years of existence.

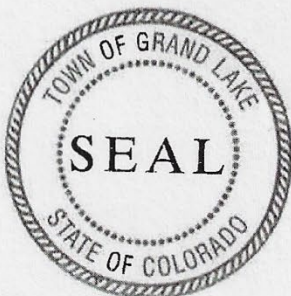
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF GRAND LAKE, COLORADO:

THAT, the Board of Trustees for the Town of Grand Lake honors and celebrates the Community House on its One Hundredth Anniversary for the role that it has played in the lives of the residents and visitors of the Town of Grand Lake.

DULY MOVED, SECONDED, AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF GRAND LAKE THIS 12th DAY OF JULY 2021.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Votes Approving:
Votes Opposing:
Votes Abstaining:
Absent:

7
0
0
0

Jennifer Thompson
Jennifer Thompson, Town Clerk

Stephan Kudron
Stephan Kudron, Town Mayor

