
Museum TIMES

May/June 2018



Horns & Frills

There is a classic image in the minds of many dinosaur-lovers... of the horned *Triceratops* defending itself from the attack of *Tyrannosaurus rex*. But were the horns just for defense from predators? Modern science has revealed that the fantastic horns and frills of *Triceratops* and its relatives were more than just for defense... they were for romance! Imagine these horrific beasts battling each other on the Cretaceous plains, fighting off rival bulls and courting mates. And *Triceratops* was just one of many. These giant animals once covered the open plains of North America and Asia in vast herds of spectacular variety, like the antelope on the plains of the Serengeti today.



On May 18 at *Dinosaur Journey*, our 2018 Special Summer Exhibition *Horns & Frills* opens to the public. This exhibition explores the amazing diversity and grandeur of ceratopsians. Eleven different species will be featured in this exhibit, combining our existing *Triceratops* displays with new skulls and a cast skeleton of *Utahceratops gettyi* from our partners at Fruita's own Gaston Design, Inc. Discover how these strange and elaborate frills and horns were used in courtship and combat, how they changed during growth and throughout the group's evolutionary history.

This special exhibition is included with regular admission to *Dinosaur Journey* and, of course, is free to members. *Horns & Frills* will run from May 18–September 16, 2018. Once the exhibition closes some of the displays will remain permanently at *Dinosaur Journey* (including the skull of Utah ceratopsian *Diabloceratops*), while others will be returned to Gaston Design, Inc. We hope you will join us this summer for *Horns & Frills*!

The *Horns and Frills* exhibit is sponsored in part by US Bank and Gaston Design. Major support also provided by Family Health West; FCI Constructors; and Chadwick, Steinkirchner, Davis & Co. Additional support provided Merge2Media; NewsChannel5; City of Fruita; the Bureau of Land Management; and Whitewater Hill Vineyards.



Planned Giving

Gift to the Museum from Bonnie and Leland Cofer

The Museums of Western Colorado recently received a nice donation from Bonnie J. and Leland E. Cofer's Trust. This is a nice gift and we very much wanted to share the news of the donation with the MWC members.

Leland moved to Grand Junction in 1923 with his family when he was two-years old. He grew up on an Orchard Mesa farm, went to Lincoln Elementary and graduated from Grand Junction High School before going into the Army during World War II (where he rose to the rank of Captain and was awarded a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and five Battle Stars). He returned to Grand Junction in 1954 with an engineering degree and a new wife, Bonnie Wolfe. He worked with Corn Construction for a time before opening his own business in 1961, Varulco Construction. Bonnie was the office manager for the business. They retired in 1989. Bonnie passed away in 2005 and Leland in 2017.

We very much appreciate the Cofers remembering the Museum in their will. As dictated by the MWC's Gift Policy, a portion went into the MWC's Investment Account. Meanwhile, a portion of the remainder will help with some timely (and unforeseen) repairs at Cross Orchards. The Cofer donation came at a very opportune moment. This kind of gift helps the Museum significantly in making improvements that we could not have done otherwise.

We would be very appreciative if you would consider the MWC when the developing your own estate plan. If you do name the MWC as a beneficiary, we would love to know so that we can thank you.

If you have any questions about Planned Giving, please don't hesitate to ask.

Peter Booth, Executive Director
pbooth@westcomuseum.org

HORNS & FRILLS Keynote Presentation

Uncovering Secrets Inside Fossil Bone: Histology the Study of Microstructure

by Paleontologist Carrie Levitt-Bussian
Paleontology Collections Manager, Natural History Museum of Utah



A FREE Lecture
Open to the Public in the
Museum Discovery Center



Through strong
stewardship
and relevant
programming, the
Museums of Western
Colorado strives to inspire
the community to preserve its
heritage and tell its story.



Dinosaur Journey collects, preserves, interprets and displays evidence of the history of life and environments of western Colorado and geologically related surrounding areas.

The Loyd Files Research Library provides learning and research opportunities for exploring and interpreting western Colorado's past, present and future.

The Museum of the West is dedicated to the collection, preservation, exhibition and interpretation of artifacts that represent the rich heritage and history of western Colorado and contiguous areas of the American West.

Cross Orchards Historic Site utilizes living history to preserve, interpret and educate the public on agriculture, transportation and the social history of the region.

Museums of Western Colorado
P.O. Box 20000
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5020
(970) 242-0971

www.museumofwesternco.org
Subscribe to e-news and more at
museumsofwesternco@gmail.com
or on our website.

Museum Times is the bimonthly newsletter of the Museums of Western Colorado informing members and supporters of news, programs, and events.

Museum membership entitles you to free admission to all of our sites, as well as discounts for various programs. Check our website for updated membership fees.

 Find us on
Facebook

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@DinosaurJourney
@MuseumOfTheWestGJ
@CrossOrchards



Spring Day on the Farm

May 5 • 9 am-4 pm

*Cross Orchards Historic Site
3073 F Road, Grand Junction*



museumofwesternco.org

970.242.0971

\$5/Adults; \$4/Seniors
\$3.50/Kids (3-12)
\$15/Family groups
Free to members

Experience spring on an early 20th century working farm with woodworking, woodstove baking, blacksmithing. Enjoy the animals and blooming flowers while you stroll through the historic site. The Frontier Belles are returning and Wheels West Car Club will also be here!



Sponsored in part by:



Alpine Bank
Member FDIC



New Spring Exhibits and Free Day for National Museum Month

On May 12, we will officially open the historic Placerville Post Office. The post office 1930s façade has been carefully restored and has a special viewing window where you can peer into the past and see the postmistress hard at work in the 1930s period postal room.

The new Western Investigations Team exhibit, *Western Colorado Mysteries: Case Files from the Western Investigations Team (WIT)*, will include how the WIT team found Grand Junction town founder George Crawford's lost ranch and includes the artifacts recovered at the site. Other WIT exhibit mysteries include the lost Masonic relic, finding a mysterious hidden safe in downtown Grand Junction, and the Jensen Tablet archaeology hoax.

New additions the Thraikill Firearms Room will include Samuel Colt's magnificent 1855 Colt revolving rifle and Kid Curry's outlaw pistol display.

Museum exhibit and diorama builder Cecil Wilkinson's new stagecoach display will be on view in the Western gallery.

There will be a gold coin scavenger hunt for the kids and light refreshments in the lobby.

Free admission courtesy of:



Alpine Bank
Member FDIC

Placerville Post Office

One of the largest artifacts in the Museum of the West's history collections is the Placerville Post Office. The post office was acquired by the Museum from the town of Placerville, Colorado, in 1986. The first Placerville Post Office opened in 1878 in the home of Elizabeth Benson, the first postmaster. Postmasters in those days often opened up post offices in their own homes.

In 1933, Grace Estep became the postmaster of the post office that is preserved in the Museum of the West. As other post offices closed or remodeled, postmasters in different towns would make postal fixtures available to new post offices. The Placerville Post Office's Victorian woodwork came from Montrose, the metal post boxes from Nucla, and other items from Redvale, Naturita, and Ridgway. The original building was a combination of a Denver & Rio Grande Southern Railway Depot, church, and a home.

MWC Education Department Works with GJHS

We honored to announce that students at Grand Junction High School (GJHS) have been working with the MWC Education Department on several projects. This includes the creation of *Grand Junction High School: The History of Clubs and Sports* exhibition which was on display in the high school's library.

In addition, the students in Lisa Moot's history class, in collaboration with MWC's Educator Carly Jones worked on an oral history project, a Mountain Man outreach educational kit that will be used in the elementary schools, and a Meeker Incident document kit. We are looking for great things from the cooperation in the future.



Programs and Events

Oral History Program Every 3rd Thursday at Noon Whitman Educational Center 248 S. Fourth St.

May 17

A Briefly Complete History of Aspen

This is an original play written by Mike Monrone, History Coach at Aspen Historical Society. The play covers over 140 years of history, in 45 minutes with only three actors. It is very fast paced and humorous along with being factual and interpretive.

Actors: Travis Lane McDiffitt, Mike Monrone, and Nina Gabianelli

June 21

The Opening of the West: Tales from Johnny Appleseed, Fred Harvey, and Buffalo Bill

The presenter will give a Powerpoint show containing maps, images, and timelines while relating vignettes of three early seminal characters in the expansion of populations moving westward across the US. For more information, please see our website.

Susan Steinbach, a descendant of The Red Lands Company engineer, Charles Rump, is an amateur archivist, genealogist and lover of history.

Oral History Programs are jointly sponsored by the Museums of Western Colorado and the Mesa County Historical Society and are free to the public. Check our website or Facebook page for updates.

Cross Orchards Historic Site to Host Antique Truck Show May 26 • 9 am-4 pm

Cross Orchards Historic Site welcomes trucking enthusiasts as well as anyone interested in the history of trucks to attend an Antique Truck Show, co-hosted by the regional chapter of the American Truck Historical Society. Trucks on display will range from Cross Orchard's very own 1917 Model T and span the automotive evolution to modern day semi-trucks still in service.



“The Model T was built by the Ford Motor Company in 1908 and ceased production in 1926. At one point, it comprised nearly 40 percent of all cars sold in America at the time,” says Matt Darling, Site Manager for Cross Orchards Historic Site. “We are pleased to have a piece of American history, right here on the farm, that revolutionized the transportation industry!” says Darling. “We hope you will join us for this special event hosted by the American Truck Historical Society, and learn from their automotive experts the history of the trucking industry.”

Founded in 1971, the American Truck Historical Society strives to “preserve the history of trucks, the trucking industry, and its pioneers.” This annual Antique Truck Show began in 1980, and has grown exponentially, from 23 trucks to well over 1,000. Trucks range from special interest models, busses, and RVs to fire trucks and even military vehicles.

Admission

Adults/\$5; Seniors/\$4;
Kids (3-12) \$3.50;
Family (up to 6)/\$12,
Museum members/Free!



For more information:
Matt Darling at (970) 261-7839 or Sam Ragsdale at (970) 640-4915

Programs and Events

Dinosaur Day at Dinosaur Journey June 9 • 9 am-4 pm

Are you ready for some Prehistoric Fun? Dinosaur Day is back at Dinosaur Journey in Fruita, presented by Alpine Bank. Come out to Dinosaur Journey for all things dinosaur! We'll have fun, kid-friendly educational activities, face painting, bump & jumps, and more.



We are excited to welcome back so many of our wonderful community partners and we also want to announce some new partners that will be at Dinosaur Day this year: KOOL 107.9FM will be playing music all day long and Paleoartist Brooke Safken-Bartholomew will be displaying her amazing artwork at the event. Also, don't forget to stop by the Museum Store and Ron's Rocks for all of your prehistoric gear! Refreshments will be available for purchase by 5M Ice Cream and Pablo's Pizza.

We will see you at Dinosaur Journey in Fruita on June 9!

We will see you at Dinosaur Journey in Fruita on June 9!

Special Dinosaur Day Admission

Adults/\$6; Kids/\$4;
Family (up to 6)/\$20;
Museum members/Free!



In addition to Alpine Bank, other support provided by HomeLoan Insurance, Nationwide, and Family Health West.



Programs and Events



Cross Orchards
Summer Concert Series

**June 14, July 12,
August 9, and September 13**
7:00 pm | Doors open at 6:00 pm
Cross Orchards Historic Site

After much anticipation, the Museums of Western Colorado and Home Loan would like to announce the upcoming *Cross Orchards Summer Concert Series*. The concert venue, the historic barn at Cross Orchards Historic Site, will feature a wide variety of performers and provide the perfect ambience for a midsummer night's concert. Doors will open at 6:00 pm and performances will begin at 7:00 pm. Performances will include the following:

June 14 *Thomasina Russell* has loved music all her life, and has been a songwriting and guitar-playing singer for over 20 years. Her musical experiences include learning and performing with some of the best: Grammy Award-winning songwriter Joe Allen, Hazel Miller, Eddie Watkins Jr., and more. Musical adventures led Russell to Austin, TX where her music was dubbed "Country Blues."



July 12 *The Doubious Brothers*, a Western Slope band with influences of Americana, blues, rock, country, and jazz, will have you tapping your toes and jumping out of your seat. This concert is sponsored in part by Enstrom Toffee & Confectionery.



August 9 *King 'n Trio* is a band known for its folk, Irish, and Americana tunes. Enjoy the traditional folk sounds of string bass, banjo, and harmonica with this band which has become a Grand Valley sensation!

September 13 *Bobby Jimenez* is a Native American Flutist of Huichole Indian and Mexican descent who hails from Montrose. He plays regularly at the Ute Indian Museum and Gateway Canyon Resort. For Bobby, the beautiful and melodic sounds of the flute can be a great healer. (*We apologize for not having a photo of Bobby at this time.*)



The *Cross Orchards Summer Concert Series* is sponsored in part by Home Loan Insurance and Nationwide. Tickets for each of the performances are \$10, and seating is limited to 100. Tickets may be purchased online or by contacting Denise Yanez at dyanez@westcomuseum.org. For further information about the Summer Concert Series and other events, please contact the Museums of Western Colorado at (970) 242-0971. You can also visit our website at museumofwesternco.org to find out more.



2018 Trips and Tours

Jet Boat Colorado

June 8 • Register by May 11

Led by Carla Hatch, MWC Trips and Digs Coordinator

This is a boat tour like nothing you've been on before! You will be thrilled and amazed on this wet and amazing ride. You will get wet with power slides, fishtails, speed runs, and the famous "Cowboy Spin." You will also enjoy the scenic points of interest, a few stories, and spot wildlife along the Colorado River near DeBeque.

\$130/Museum member; \$140/Non-member

Includes transportation, boat ride, and tips



Yankee Boy Basin Jeep Tour

June 12 • Register by May 22

Led by David Bailey, MWC Curator of History

Join us as we travel to the gorgeous Yankee Boy Basin with the San Juan Scenic Jeep Tour Company. We will arrive in historic Ouray and have lunch at one of the many fine eateries in town. Then we will head to Yankee Boy Basin from Ouray in open air tour jeeps up the switchbacks to the high alpine meadows and spectacular views of Mt. Sneffels and Mt. Potosi! We will also travel past the Camp Bird, Revenue, Atlas, and Ruby Trust mines and learn some of the history, mystery, and lore of the San Juan Mountains.

\$95/Museum member; \$100/Non-member

Includes transportation and jeep tour. Lunch on your own.



Southern Colorado in Style: Discovering Colorado Antiguos

June 22-25 • Register by May 11

Led by Peter Booth, Ph.D., MWC Executive Director

Southern Colorado and San Luis Valley offer some beautiful scenery highlighted by the Great Sand Dunes nestled at the base of the towering Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The valley is also called the cultural cradle of Colorado with heritage that includes Colorado's oldest non-Native community. This tour enjoys all this and more as we will travel in style—riding first-class on the Cumbres & Toltec Railroad, enjoying an evening at the Creede Repertory Theatre, and staying at the elegant Windsor Hotel.

\$925/Museum member; \$950/Non-member

Includes transportation, lodging, train tickets, theatre tickets, and admission. Meals on your own.



Dinosaurs of the Western Slope

June 26-29 • Register by June 12

Led by Julia McHugh, Ph.D., MWC Curator of Paleontology

This four-day expedition was designed for dinosaur-lovers. Get a full taste of paleontology on the Western Slope as we visit historic dinosaur quarries and learn about the regional geology and history of paleontology in our area. Then dig for dinosaurs in the real "Jurassic Park" at the Mygatt-Moore Quarry and learn how to prepare and restore dinosaur bones in our paleo prep lab at the Dinosaur Journey Museum. Bring your hiking shoes, a water bottle, wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen, and bug spray. Lunch is included each day. Requires prolonged sitting with repetitive work on small objects.

Minimum age: 8 (Guests ages 16 or under must be accompanied by a paying adult participant.)

\$400/Participant

Includes transportation, tools and instruction, and lunch.



2018 Trips and Tours

Dinosaurs of Eastern Utah

July 6 • Register by June 15

Led by Julia McHugh, Ph.D., MWC Curator of Paleontology

Discover one of the largest dinosaur bone beds of the Jurassic Period, the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry. Here, as many as 46 individual *Allosaurus* were buried. Did a huge pack all die at once? Were they washed in from far away? We will learn what new scientific research says about this mysterious graveyard. We will also visit the USU Eastern Prehistoric Museum in Price to learn what other giants of the past once roamed eastern Utah. Bring your sense of wonder and curiosity as we travel west to an ancient world.

\$85/Museum member; \$95/Non-member

Includes transportation, guide, admissions, snacks, and lunch



Ft. Uncompahgre and Historic Montrose

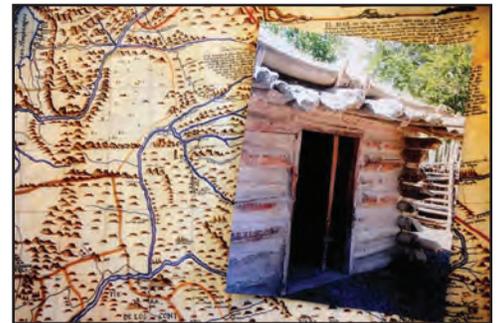
July 13 • Register by June 22

Led by David Bailey, MWC Curator of History; Carly Jones, MWC Education Curator

Fort Uncompahgre in Delta is a re-creation of the original fur trading post established by Antoine Robidoux in 1826. The costumed interpreters will give an interactive tour of life during the Mountain Man era. Our next stop will be the Museum of the Mountain West in Montrose for a guided tour of settlement era town buildings that tell the story of early western Colorado from 1840 to 1940. After lunch in Montrose, we will visit the Ute Museum and view one of the best collections of Ute artifacts in the United States.

\$85/Museum member; \$95/Non-member

Includes transportation and museum admissions. Lunch on your own.



Black Canyon Morrow Point Boat Tour

July 27 • Register by May 31

Led by Carla Hatch, MWC Trips and Digs Coordinator

Take a leisurely 1 ½ hour boat ride on the on the Morrow Point Reservoir in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. As we travel, we will learn about geology, wildlife, early inhabitants, the narrow-gauge railroad, dams, and reservoirs. We start at the Pine Creek Trailhead, and walk down 232 stairs, then take a ¾ mile scenic hike along the old narrow-gauge rail bed before reaching the boat dock. Be sure to bring your camera!

Note: The tour involves 232 stairs to climb in and out of the canyon as well as 1 ½ mile hike.

\$95/Museum member; \$100/Non-member

Includes transportation, boat ride, and lunch



Great American Cities: Chicago

August 6-11 • Register by July 6

Led by Julia McHugh, Ph.D., MWC Curator of Paleontology

Journey to the Windy City and explore its rich art and architecture, museums, and tour Wrigley Field. Discover the world of infamous mobsters and gangsters like Al Capone and, of course, visit our own Grand Valley legend, Brachiosaurus, at the Field Museum of Natural History, excavated from Riggs Hill in 1900. Come with us and experience Chicago like never before!

\$2,750/Museum member; \$3,000/Non-member

Includes airfare, lodgings, ground transportation, admissions, most meals, and traveler's insurance



Trips Update in Photos



Left: Toast of the Rockies: Ouray

Below: San Rafael Swell Rock Art



Below: Historic Registry in the Grand Valley



Below: A True Jurassic Park: Paleontology of McInnis Canyons NCA



Historic Photo Contest

Hidden Photographic Treasures From our Past: Museum to Host Historic Photo Contest

To coincide with National Historic Preservation Month, the Museum of the West and the Loyd Files Research Library are asking the community to dust off your scrapbooks and show us your best local photographs from the past for our historic photo contest, May 4 through August 3. Participants' photos will be used as part of an exhibit at the Museum of the West between October – December, and winners will be chosen in August with first, second, and third place prizes being awarded.

“National Historic Preservation Month is a time to celebrate history and historic places,” says Dr. Peter Booth, Museums of Western Colorado Executive Director. “We are encouraging community members to take a few moments to think about how history in our community has touched lives. We hope this historic image contest will inspire folks to dig through their family history and show us the best from the past.”

The Museum intends for the contest to complement the Loyd Files Research Library by filling in the gaps in the museum's collection. Participants' photos will be scanned into the collection, and the originals will be returned to the owners.

“The photo collection at the Loyd Files Research Library is one of our greatest assets as a community museum,” says Carly Jones, Education Curator for the

Museums of Western Colorado. “They show us our legacy and allow us a glimpse into the past; they provide us with context and understanding of how life adapted and changed over time; and they preserve what, in some cases, has been entirely lost. While our collection is vast, it is by no means complete. We would like to request the community's help to enhance our collection and continue our area's story,” says Jones.

The Museum will be accepting photos from all periods, including, but not limited to: The 1940s-1990s; Main Street prior to Operation Foresight; WWII Home Front; Maritime History of the Valley – ferry crossing; Rapid Creek; Rulison Explosion; Cross Orchards Historic Site; Teller Institute; and Operation Plow Share.

To enter the contest, please bring your photo to the Loyd Files Research Library. Photos will be accepted on Friday afternoons after 2 pm between May 4 and August 3, or by appointment. Please contact Erin Schmitz at 242-3960 or eschmitz@westcomuseum.org. Photos will be scanned, and information will be taken on the historical significance. All photos will be returned. Photos will also be accepted through our Museum of the West and Loyd Files Research Library Facebook page if scanned in a high resolution with accompanying information. The

museum will accept entries only with background information. Photos left at the front desk without curatorial permission will become property of the Museums of Western Colorado to be used at the curators' will.

For further information, contact Erin Schmitz, Curator of Collections and Archives, (970) 242-3960, or Carly Jones, Education Curator, (970) 242-3960, ext 213, or visit museumofwesternco.org.

Las Colonias: The Shaping and Reflection of Grand Junction's Past Exhibition at CMU

The Education Department and Archives Library at the Museums of Western Colorado are proud to have cooperated with Colorado Mesa University Public History Class on the Las Colonias exhibition. It was installed in CMU's Tomlinson Library on April 16 and will be on display through June 15. Don't miss this wonderful collection of historic photos, artifacts, and oral history. It is free and open to the public.



Museums of Western Colorado
 P.O. Box 20,000
 Grand Junction, CO 81502-5020
 www.museumofwesternco.org
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Cross Orchards Historic Site

3073 F Road • 970.434.9814

May-October

Thursday-Saturday

Closed for special events and rentals

Dinosaur Journey Museum

550 Jurassic Court, Fruita • 970.858.7282

May 1-September 30

7 days a week • 9 am-5 pm

Museum of the West

462 Ute (5th & Ute) • 970.242.0971

May 1-September 30

Mon-Sat • 9 am-5 pm; Sun • Noon-4 pm

Loyd Files Research Library

Second floor of Museum of the West

Tues-Thurs • 10 am-4 pm

Mon and Fri by appointment only

Calendar of Events

May 3-7		Historic Trading Posts and Native Arts Trip	
May 5	9 am-4 pm	Spring Day on the Farm	Cross Orchards
May 12	9 am-5 pm	New Spring Exhibits and Free Day Open House	Museum of the West
May 17	Noon	Oral History Program	Whitman Educational Center
May 18	9 am-5 pm	Horns & Frills Opens to the Public	Dinosaur Journey
May 19	1 pm	Horns & Frills Keynote Presentation	Dinosaur Journey
May 26	9 am-4 pm	Antique Truck Show	Cross Orchards
June 8		Jet Boat Colorado Day Trip	
June 9	9 am-4 pm	Dinosaur Day	Dinosaur Journey
June 12		Yankee Boy Basin Jeep Tour	
June 14	7 pm	Cross Orchards' Summer Concert Series - <i>Thomasina Russell</i>	Cross Orchards
June 21	Noon	Oral History Program	Whitman Educational Center
June 22-25		Southern Colorado in Style: Discovering Colorado Antiguos Trip	

Please note: Dates and times of events, meetings, and programs are subject to change; please call to confirm.