Discover Summer 2020

Digesting Golden’s Food Scene

Missing Scrapbooks Returned

Golden History Museum & Park
If there is any silver lining to be found during this pandemic I think one thing would be how it has forced the museum to creatively adapt to continue to serve its audiences and fulfill its mission. When the museum was forced to close its doors on March 13th, staff immediately pivoted to working from home and producing content for our audiences online. Virtual tours, lectures, crafts, and programs were created and produced by every single member of the museum staff (maybe you even caught my new “History in the Baking” show on Facebook Live with my kids assisting). As a result, the museum’s online engagement increased nearly 800%!

Now we are entering a new phase of the crisis: adaptation. As I write this, staff members are working to retool and save Hands-on History summer camp, prepare the park and museum to reopen safely for guests, and reconfigure our programming to have both in-person and online experiences. We appreciate your patience and support as we work quickly to shift and adapt the museum’s offerings to continue to serve the community.

In this issue you will also read about our ongoing Legacy Collection Inventory Project—an effort to review, catalogue, and make accessible artifacts that were acquired prior to the museum becoming a City division. Most of those records were destroyed during an ownership dispute between the City and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in 2008. Each day, staff are rediscovering objects, piecing together lost and forgotten stories, and making thousands of records accessible online for use.

Thank you for your tremendous support of Golden History Museum & Park. I look forward to seeing you on our social media channels.

Nathan Richie, Director
Missing Irene Goetze scrapbooks returned after 30 years

By Mark Dodge

Irene da Evans donated a collection of scrapbooks to the museum in 1975, which once belonged to her sister Irene (Gay) Goetze. Several of the best books have been missing from the collection for over 30 years. Thought to have been taken by a onetime museum board member, two of the books were known to contain irreplaceable Golden history and original photographs. Sporadically, photos from the books have turned up in other donations since 2012, providing a glimmer of hope that perhaps they still existed. Irene Gay was born in 1894 east of Golden in the Fairmount community. She, her three sisters, and one brother went to local schools. Her dad, William, worked at the Golden Fire Brick Company. Irene married local boy Oscar Goetze in 1915, and together they would spend most of their lives in Golden. Both worked at the Colorado Transcript for many years and gave back to the community in many ways.

For years Irene ran the Boston House at 822 12th Street in Golden (aka Astor House), renting out rooms to students attending the Colorado School of Mines. Additionally, she dedicated over 30 years of her life to the Jefferson County Chapter of the American Red Cross, which honored her with the Dark Blue Veil award for her service to others. Irene and Oscar retired and sold the Boston House in about 1946 so they could travel.

A self-styled historian, Irene documented a number of Golden buildings before demolition and cataloged them in scrapbooks. By her own admission, she filled her books with notes taken from old newspaper files that she verified with visits to local museums. Her scrapbooks date from 1965 and 1967, respectively.

In 2019 a longtime Golden resident Madeleine (Vacher) Lenz brought two scrapbooks to the museum which she recently purchased from a local auction house. The minute I saw them I knew what they were. When asked, Madeleine said, “I work at Corbett’s Auction House and discovered two scrapbooks about Golden history. I purchased them at the auction because I’m a Golden native. They came in a large box with several other scrapbooks from families that had nothing to do with Golden so I didn’t want them.”

I am overjoyed Madeleine chose to bring the scrapbooks in and agreed to donate them (again) to the museum. It’s disheartening that they were ever taken in the first place. For now, they are safe again—back where they belong. Unfortunately, they are in rough condition with missing pages and photographs. Once they are re-catalogued, we’ll share some of the best items through our online collection.
COVID-19 has turned GHM&P’s program schedule upside down so most of the following are virtual, but our outdoor programs will be in-person with appropriate distancing measures. Advance registration is still required for all Museum programs. (Homestead Open House in the Park is the registration exception.)

Please see GoldenHistory.org/events for complete descriptions and details, as well as updated information about scheduling and how to register.

Programs are free for members and $10 for non-members (plus eventbrite fee), except those marked 🚨 for everyone.

July 9, 2020, 11 am
Golden Civic Foundation Celebrates 50 Years
Join Curator Mark Dodge as he discusses the Golden Civic Foundation, which was founded in 1970. He’ll speak with the Foundation’s Executive Director and several long-time board members to relive memorable accomplishments from the past.

July 23, 2020, 6 pm
The Bad Old Days of Colorado: Untold Stories of the Wild West
Whether on the right or the wrong side of the law, in the nineteenth century, Colorado was not for the faint of heart. People came west seeking fortune or opportunity, and it is no secret that some of the most famous Wild West characters rolled through the Colorado territory at one point or another. Led by popular returning presenter and historian Randi Samuelson-Brown, this talk will center on the establishment of Denver, the discovery of gold, the Confederate Gold Field Plot, and other dubious happenings and characters.

August 6, 2020, 11 am
Museum Collection Storage Tour
Join Curatorial staff for a rare behind-the-scenes tour of offsite collection storage. Hear about the Legacy Collection Inventory Project, and leave with a better understanding of what we are doing to create the best City of Golden collection.

August 20, 2020, 6 pm
Confection Perfection: Jolly Rancher Company
One of the world’s most iconic candies—the Jolly Rancher kiss—was invented in Golden. Join Director Nathan Richie to learn about the history of the company from its founding as a mom-and-pop ice cream shop on Washington Avenue to a booming international sensation.

Photo © Golden History Museum & Park, City of Golden Collection
Dr. Tina Gianquitto of the Colorado School of Mines uncovers the stories of women plant collectors in the mountain west as told by the letters they wrote to friends and fellow botanists. These women played important roles in identifying and mapping the native plants of the western U.S., but their letters also give us a glimpse into the unique challenges they faced as women in frontier spaces.

**September 23, 2020, 6 pm**
A Virgin Soil Epidemic - the 1918-1920 Flu

The 1918 Flu killed 675,000 Americans - no vaccine, no real treatment. Join Dr. Geoff Hunt to see how America reacted.

**October 3, 2020, 10 am OR 12 pm**
Golden Cemetery Tour 2020

Visit the graves of legendary Golden characters and hear stories about their lives from famous storyteller Dennis Potter, Museum volunteer since 2008 and retired Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department Captain.

Tours begin and end at the Golden Cemetery. This program sells out every year, so get your tickets early. This is a rain-or-shine event; weather will not force a cancellation.

**October 12, 2020, 6 pm**
The Other June Six – A Story about the 1894 Cripple Creek Miners’ Strike

Join Stan Moore in this presentation about the Cripple Creek miners’ strike, based on his historical novel Mister Hamlin’s List.
The Golden dining scene is changing rapidly as reflected in a fair amount of Denver press coverage. The Denver Post went so far to say that that “Golden’s food scene is blowing up,” with not one trendy food hall, but two, among other things. And one local restaurant, Abejas, actually made it on the Westword list of 100 favorite restaurants in 2019. Feeding the masses is hard work, and only the best survive. Here are a few food joints that made a mark on Golden over the years. May they rest in peace and bring back fond food memories.

Golden’s first restaurant
Italian brothers Louis and Charles Garbarino arrived in Golden and built the Capitol Restaurant in 1866 when Golden City was the Territorial Capitol of Colorado. In 1870, Charles moved a block away and opened his own place and named it the City Restaurant, later renamed the Garbarino House. Garbarino’s was an oyster saloon that satisfied a taste for seafood from the many easterners living in the territory. Oysters were extremely popular in landlocked Colorado throughout the late 1800s. Plentiful and cheap back east, they were shipped west by the barrelful.

Larson’s Cafe
Leonard Larson bought Paul’s Place on Washington Avenue in 1934 when Paul Ficht retired after nearly 40 years in the business. The Larsons immediately started a remodel “…to make way for the most up-to-date sandwich and refreshment parlor this side of the Mississippi River.” Larson’s famously sold “chicken in the basket” using chickens and eggs from their large ranch in north Golden (true farm to table). They also advertised chili and tamales.

Restaurant family dynasty
Dud Young went into the restaurant business with his brother, Edward “Duke” Young, in 1938, opening Duke’s Place on 44th and McIntyre. Duke’s served ribs and burgers and, of course, Coors, but was also a place for live music and dancing. “Duke” even played the sax from time to time.

In 1945, Dud ventured out on his own to purchase Larson’s Café. Dud continued operating as Larson’s until at least 1950 when a new sign and ultra-modern front were causing comment. In 1959, he was advertising his establishment as “Golden’s Finest Restaurant serving chicken in baskets and steaks.” 

Dud’s became a regular hangout for Coors and Rocky Flats employees, and Dud even offered a check cashing service on Fridays. Apparently, during Golden Days (precursor to Buffalo Bill Days) a few horses even frequented the place. Unofficially, the Golden Fire Department called Dud’s the Long Branch Division Station #3, since so many firefighters were regulars, not to mention it was so close to old Station One on 12th Street. Football players loved the place too. Old timers may remember that the NFL’s Denver Broncos and Baltimore Colts held several
training camps in Golden, beginning in 1960. Apparently, Dud’s was a favorite hangout during the Colts’ three-week camp. Star quarterback Johnny Unitas preferred Duke’s because it was a little out of the way and not as many fans pestered him.

Dud finally sold the business in 1971 due to health reasons, although new owners continued operating under the same name. Dud went on to open DJ’s in his building around the corner. This short-lived diner fed hungry families from 1974-79. After Dud died in 1980 his sons, Frank and Tom, remodeled the old Dud’s into DeVere’s. The Young family restaurant dynasty ended in 1985 when the brothers sold to Ken Mueller to pursue careers in fire service.

**Old Heidelberg Inn**

This German-American restaurant was once located on Hwy. 40 (Colfax Ave.) at exit 259 off I-70 next to the old Heritage Square. Ed Sellers opened the restaurant on October 16, 1967. Twenty years later, in June 1987, fire caused by arson destroyed the building. German classics like sauerbraten and wienerschnitzel à-la-Holstein were regular fare, and one menu from the 1960s proclaimed, “Ein mahl ohne wein ist wie das leben ohne lachen (dinner without wine is like life without laughter).”

An ad in the *Colorado Transcript* on February 26, 1980, ran this short history:

> Old Heidelberg Inn has been serving excellent German/American cuisine for 13 years!

| Quality food, quality service and quality of both is what makes a successful restaurant according to Ed Sellers, owner of the Old Heidelberg Inn. The restaurant is in its thirteenth year of operation in Golden. The Sellers opened the Old Heidelberg Oct. 16, 1967. Although they don’t own the building, it was built to their specifications. The 13,000 square foot restaurant boasts four dining rooms and a lounge. Ed Sellers attributes his success partially to the atmosphere, the handcrafted woodwork, the fireplace, the specially commissioned picture above the bar and the quaint alpine surroundings. Sellers spends 12 to 13 hours at the restaurant each day. His wife, Karin, spends a good deal of time there too and the family adjusts its schedules around it.
| To make sure his food is consistently good, Sellers tastes about 50 percent of the items he serves on a daily basis. He sits at different tables in the restaurant and no one knows what he’ll order until he actually orders. The cooks of Old use Sellers’ recipes only.
| Golden has been good for the Sellers. The four dining rooms can serve 450 to 750 in a banquet. “We like people to think of this as their restaurant, to accept it as part of Golden,” Sellers said. He added that he doesn’t think you can find a better town or city to operate in than Golden.

The Heidelberg hosted many Golden High School alumni gatherings and fire department holiday parties.

**Every Old Heidelberg Inn** coffee liqueur included the take home souvenir mug, c. 1970. The museum owns a set of five.

*Photo © Justin LeVett Photography*

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**Destination fine dining**

Reid Pasko opened The Briarwood Restaurant in 1979 in what was once the Steve Frederick Steakhouse on 8th Street. The Briarwood Inn was a fine-dining destination with a disco. An article in the *Colorado Transcript* from February 26, 1980, had this to say about The Briarwood Inn: “…with its heavily romantic flavor is reminiscent of a French Country Inn. Crystal shimmers on the tables and candles fill in the atmosphere.”

Pasko was inducted into the Colorado Restaurant Hall of Fame after he died in 2008. Lisa Paterson, his daughter, purchased the restaurant and continued her father’s tradition until 2018 when she decided to close.

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**Inside Larson’s Café** (renamed Dud’s in 1950), once located at 1119 Washington Avenue. Employees Tom Ellis and Kathryn Stucky are standing behind the bar, c. 1946.

*Photo © Golden History Museum & Park, City of Golden Collection*
**Staff Profile**

**Vanya Scott**

I've always had a passion for history and the ways that people create and interpret the environments around them. The objects of history—the material items that humans have created to facilitate their lives—are at the heart of what I do for a living.

My professional journey began in the 1980s in Alaska, where I studied the archaeology of the arctic. A highlight of my stay in the north were the three summers spent on an archaeological site in the Alaskan interior at a 13,000-year-old Paleolithic site called Broken Mammoth. It was particularly exciting to discover traces of the lives of the hunters who subsisted along the river valley, including the burnt remains of ancient meals, stone tools, and even a beautifully intact bone needle.

The next years found me in Clarksville, Tennessee, where I became an assistant curator, and later in Wichita, Kansas, where I managed the collections for Old Cowtown Museum, a living history museum focused on 19th century American history. The immersive nature of a living history museum taught me to see beyond the physicality of an artifact and appreciate the lives those objects affected. The people of the past became real to me in a way that textbooks and survey reports had never conveyed.

In the early 2000s I left the 19th century and entered the mid-20th when I took a job as curator at the Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada, where I met amazing scientists with thrilling stories from the Cold War era. My journey continued to the National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington, D.C., and there I was privileged to manage artifacts belonging to the famous and infamous of 20th century history: Al Capone, Eliot Ness, and J. Edgar Hoover, to name a few.

I began my work in Golden in 2017, and am once again an assistant curator. I've enjoyed my many years in museums and I have found a wonderful late-career home here at the foot of the Rockies, in this jewel of a community.

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**Volunteer Profile**

**Madison Sussmann**

When I was a child my family took annual road trips. The destinations were generally national parks, exciting new cities, and, of course, museums. I developed a love for museums during these vacations. It inspired me to pursue my interests in learning about people and the things they leave behind. In 2015, I graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Anthropology. Since 2011, I have worked in museums, and I cannot imagine working anywhere else.

My GHM volunteer work is on the Legacy Collection Inventory Project. I assist in examining, photographing, and updating the records for objects in the Museum’s collection. I believe that local collections are extremely important for cultivating a sense of community. The objects of a town tell a history made up of the actions of normal people, just like us, through generations. I think that local history museums can help people feel more connected to their community and its past.

Before moving to Denver three years ago for graduate school, I worked in a variety of museums around the country. The short list includes the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, the Sam Noble Oklahoma Natural History Museum, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, and the Smithsonian Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage. At the University of Denver, I studied Museum & Heritage Studies and also worked in their Museum of Anthropology. Now, I am looking to become more involved in local history and local institutions. I am trained in collections management, curation, and exhibit development. In addition to volunteering at Golden History Museum, I work as the Exhibit Assistant in the University of Denver Libraries. DU Special Collections & Archives offers abundant and varied exhibits aimed at engaging students, faculty, and staff in exploring local and global perspectives, historic events, and artistic displays. Currently on display through the spring are THE SOIL: Book Art and Process Materials by Sammy Seung-min Lee and The Romance Novel: The Rise & Reputation of a Bestselling Genre.

I am equally as passionate about the great outdoors as I am about museums, and I enjoy taking advantage of all Colorado has to offer. I hike as often as I can and love to visit the many parks and recreational areas in Denver and the surrounding counties.
History Never Tasted so Sweet at the Museum

History has its sour moments, but at the Golden Pioneer Museum, one exhibit is just as sweet as can be. Think of it as a tribute to Colorado’s biggest sugar daddy, the Jolly Rancher himself. The Wheat Ridge based candy manufacturer soon will pull up stakes and ride off into the sunset – actually, owner Hershey Foods is shutting the plant and moving operations elsewhere – but not before Golden’s history museum salutes the sweetest chapter in the state’s business annals.

Not bad for a multimillion-dollar outfit that got its start in 1949 as a mom-and-pop ice cream and chocolate shop.

“It’s really an amazing piece of history,” says Michelle Zupan, the curator who assembled the exhibit. “People come in here and get all nostalgic about the candies and their memories of the aroma wafting down the street from the factory.”

Fans of the little Jolly Rancher hard candies wax rapturously about their favorite flavors: watermelon, lemon, cherry and green apple among them. Of course, there’s also the company’s signature Fire Stix, the zippy slab of cinnamon taffy that tasted like a mouthful of branding iron.

The exhibit, some 200 items, takes up a wing of the museum that sits at 923 10th St. in Golden. While not exactly the treasures of King Tut, the show ranks as a nifty slice of Americana. Along with the copper kettles used to cook sugar are wooden stirring paddles, steel candy slicers, tin chocolate molds, period photographs and vintage advertising posters.

There are thank-you notes from dignitaries, including former first lady Mamie Eisenhower. During the early 1950s, then Gov. Dan Thornton, was fond of presenting the candies as goodwill gifts.

A mannequin sports the official Jolly Rancher uniform worn by the Jolly Rancher rodeo team back in the 1970s. And who can forget the Jolly Rancher dragster, an old fire truck souped up to perform wheelies? The big shtick was that it carried a tank of Fire Stix cinnamon oil; ignited, it filled the air with the odor of cinnamon.

“The idea was that the crowd would smell the aroma and go rushing out to buy Jolly Rancher candies,” says Zupan, an archaeologist who joined the museum two years ago.

One of the exhibit’s delights is the original packaging and advertising artwork rendered by Bob Cormack, a Denver native who enjoyed success as a Disney artist.

It’s a distinctive cartoon style whose pure ’50s and ’60s vibe is charmingly Howdy Doody-esque.

This olfactory amble takes all of 10 minutes, though the trip can stretch much longer if you stop and linger.

And what other museum lets you pick from a basket of hard candies at tour’s end?

“It’s been a real treat,” Zupan says. “This started out as a temporary exhibit, but the response has been enough that we decided to keep it open until the factory closes. Hershey says it will close the plant this year, but hasn’t announced a precise date. Founders Bill and Dorothy Harmsen didn’t learn about the closing until it was announced in the press, a sore point with the family and townsfolk alike. (The Harmsens sold Jolly Rancher to Beatrice Foods in 1966, and Bob Harmsen, their son left the company in 1990. Hershey bought the operations in 1997.)

The younger Harmsen can be thanked for the exhibit. He’d hoarded all the material through the years.

“Bob came in one day with a friend and said he had all this stuff in his basement,” Zupan says. The idea light bulb switched on in Zupan’s head, and she pitched the notion of an exhibit. A pleased Harmsen gave her carte blanche to assemble the show.

“It’s a story that tells itself, really,” she says. “It’s just a delightful piece of Colorado history.”
## Membership

Be a part of Golden history. Become a member today!

### Levels & Benefits

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<th>Special pricing on premium programs and events</th>
<th>Insider’s Discovery events, other special programs</th>
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Thank you for supporting Golden History Museum & Park
Artifact inventory yields treasures

By Mark Dodge

Over a year ago, the curatorial department quietly started a part-time pilot project to completely inventory the Legacy Collection at the museum. We define the Legacy Collection as everything existing in the collection when the City commenced museum management in July 2010. Long overdue, we deferred this inventory to address other priorities like an exhibits program and multiple building improvements. Finally, the time has come to get the entire collection in order, and so far, this detailed work is paying off.

For over 15 years, much of the Legacy Collection has been stored on the fourth floor of a privately owned office building at Denver West in Lakewood. Currently, we’re benefiting from close to 3,000 square feet of donated space. We’ve literally placed our hands on thousands of artifacts, a process that’s turning up a number of forgotten gems not documented in the database. It’s no surprise, but we’re also finding thousands of artifacts that fall well outside of our mission that’ll be removed through a formal deaccession procedure. Once inventoried, artifact records are added to the online collection at: GoldenHistory.pastperfectonline.com.

A few noteworthy artifacts rediscovered to date include:

- Two partial reports from the Second (1862) and Seventh (1867) Sessions of the Legislative Assembly of Colorado Territory. The Seventh Session met briefly in Golden in December, 1867, the last year Golden was Capital.

- A collection of early 20th century eyeglasses, eyeglass cases, and a display cabinet that belonged to Golden optometrist E. A. Bader, who practiced from about 1949-1970.

- Stone tools and other archeological remains excavated from the small Hall Woodland Cave site west of Golden. Discovered in 1964 this Paleoindian rock shelter was intermittently occupied from 500-900 C.E.

- A sword that belonged to Golden Civil War veteran, Lt. John T. Larkin of the 57th Illinois Volunteers.
Platforms include Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram, as well as GoldenHistory.org. Choose your favorite, or use all of them! Becoming a subscriber of our channel on each one will ensure that you see our latest offerings. Just ask us if you need help.

Visit GoldenHistory.org/virtual for all the links you’ll need.

The Salon is Golden History Museum’s multipurpose gallery and exhibit space. And now it has another purpose: showcasing talented artists from the Golden area who draw their inspiration from the local surroundings.

COVID-19 has scrambled planned show times for upcoming exhibits. Please check GoldenHistory.org for specific dates.

- Watercolors by Janet Nunn On view through July
- Foothills Art Center Open Studios Plein Air Artists Show TBD
- Nikki Nienhuis: Expressions in Nature Sept 30 - Jan 4, 2021

Image: Guy Hill Schoolhouse by Janet Nunn