

Grand Valley Historical Society Newsletter
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February 2006

Restoration Project Update

Since you last heard from us in the June newsletter, a great deal of progress has been made on the Battlement Mesa Schoolhouse restoration project. Through his hard work and expertise, Rex Smith has moved the project steadily along, and though there is still work to be done, Rex is anticipating a completion date toward the end of April, weather permitting. At this time we would like to share with you where the project stands, as well as what still remains to be accomplished before the project is completed. After the old schoolhouse was cleaned and purged of its resident bat population, the first step in restoring it was to make the building structurally sound. This has been accomplished with the aid of Bob Sterling who provided architectural advice. The roof rafters, ceiling joists and floor beams were all reinforced, the bell tower was straightened and the roof and exterior walls were patched. Once done, the plumbing and wiring were put in as was the ductwork for the heating and cooling systems. While these projects were in progress, a well was drilled and the septic system dug. Once the structural integrity of the building was assured, work on the interior began. Last fall several volunteers from the Historical Society sanded windowsills and frames. Shortly thereafter insulation was installed and dry walling and rough plastering began. Recently, final plastering on the ceiling and interior walls was begun. Finishing carpentry work (wainscoting and window trim) was also started and is nearing completion. At the same time, with the help of community service workers, under the direction of Mary Rivelli of the Garfield County Community Corrections, the basement was dug out and cleared of debris in preparation for the furnace installation. With all that has been accomplished there are still many projects that need to be finished in the next two months. These include: completing the finish plastering; pouring a concrete floor in the basement; installing the furnace and cooling systems (donations from Grace~Builders); installing plumbing and electrical fixtures; replacing current doors; sanding, staining and sealing floors; and painting the walls. Some of the outdoor site work necessary for public access to the building will also be done this spring, however, much of that will remain to be completed over the summer months. While completion of the schoolhouse project is definitely in sight, there are still funds to be raised to see the restoration to its final completion. The GVHS hopes to raise approximately \$100,000 more, which will be used for the driveway and parking lot, sidewalks, fencing, exterior lighting and interior furnishings. While corporate donations will hopefully provide the bulk of these needed funds, the Historical Society welcomes individual donations as well. Any help in that respect would be greatly appreciated. If you can help out, please send your donation to Judy Hayward at 180 S. 2nd Ct in Parachute. Additionally, the GVHS will be in need of volunteers to serve on the committee to plan and prepare for the schoolhouse grand opening. Interested members should contact Judy at 285-9696. If all goes as planned the Battlement Mesa Schoolhouse should be ready for viewing by the public this summer. As members, we would like you to be part of the opening festivities. We will be notifying you as plans progress. Thank you for your support of the Historical Society and this project.

Spring Meeting

The spring meeting of the Grand Valley Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00 in the computer room of the School District #16 administrative complex on Parachute Avenue. The program will feature Judi Crook, who will show members how to access editions of Colorado newspapers via internet. We hope you will be able to take advantage of this informative program.

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