



The Hiwan Intern

By Will Bottoms

The first time I visited the Hiwan Museum, I stood in the middle of the living room with my mouth half-agape, surveying the plethora of artifacts around me. I was only in elementary school then, so everything struck me with that child-like sense of wonderment, but what caught my eye were the Native American pots adorning the mantle of the chimney. The pots were all so unique, like each artist had painstakingly molded their shapes and applied each of their dyes to represent some aspect of their people, perhaps for themselves or for a broader audience. It was truly amazing.

Alright, alright. In full honesty, I was staring at the chair made of buffalo horns thinking it was "Cool." In my defense, I was eight.

Regardless of my earlier days, if I'd have known that in a little over a decade I'd return to the Hiwan Museum as an intern, I wouldn't have believed it. Yet over the summer I had the pleasure of interning at the museum, working with its many kind and welcoming staff and volunteers as I catalogued the Native American artifacts within its collection. To the volunteers, I was the ghost walking around in the workroom above the foyer, who occasionally disrupted their tours wearing nitrile gloves while carrying around an artifact on exhibit. To the staff, I was the cubicle junkie hard at work on one of the computers in the main office, either happy to talk or so deep into his research he could only grunt or shrug in response to questions. To myself, I was the guy examining the design on a Hopi pot made

in the Sikyatki style, thinking "Is this supposed to be a shrimp, a feather, or some kind of abstract thingamajig simply meant to confuse me?" In retrospect, I'm 90% sure the design was a shrimp, but the question still bugs me sometimes.

Anyway, over the summer I was tasked to modernize a document originally created in 1979 by a woman named Alice White. In her document, she detailed the many Native American artifacts housed within the museum, identifying their tribes of origin and their cultural significance. The museum's tour guides and collections staff primarily used the document, but it became increasingly difficult to use because of its age. White wrote the document with typewriter and she took photos of the artifacts in black and white, yet despite the technological limitations, she created a phenomenally informative document. My job was to bring her work into 2017 and make it more accessible to the museum's staff and volunteers. To do so, I retook the photos with a modern camera and placed the images into a Microsoft Publisher document. From there, I transcribed the information written by White, updating it or providing additional information as necessary.

Over the course of one-hundred-and-twenty hours, I came to admire the works of southwestern tribes like the Hopi, the Navajo, and the Tewa, who are all well represented within the collection. I especially respected the Hopi's mastery of coiled basketry, which often left me in awe when I gazed into the colorful face of a



Will Bottoms the new Hiwan Intern

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REFLECTIONS: President's Pen

By Elaine Hayden

In recent months, I have been pondering the purpose of the Jefferson County Historical Society and its role in the community. It is recorded in the by-laws that the mission of the Society is to, "bring together those people interested in history, and especially the history of Jefferson County (Evergreen Mountain Area). By knowing our past, we can provide a background of information and a foundation of wisdom upon which to base our understanding of the present and our planning for the future". It is this statement that powers our education programs, oral history programs, speakers and interpretation of Hiwan Museum through our tours. Our educational programs are self-sustaining through nominal program fees and support from JCHS while the teaching professionals are supplied from our volunteer cohort under the leadership of staffer, Jennee Hancock. The success of these programs is testament to the dedication of our volunteers who are fulfilling the JCHS statement of purpose. Our well-informed tour guides further the presentation of history through tours and interpretation of Hiwan Museum.

Will Bottoms, our summer intern, conducted extensive and valuable research of the JCHS collection of Native American art. His research and dedication resulted in a beautifully printed updated report on what and where in the museum our collection rests. (See feature article in this issue).

Over time, there has been confusion as to whether JCHS focuses on the entirety of Jefferson County and whether our organization receives funding from County coffers. In an attempt to present a clear understanding of the purpose of JCHS, the Strategic Planning committee resurrected the decades old discussion and feasibility of re-branding the Society. Watch for notices of the progress of this effort in months to come.

JCHS volunteers have enjoyed a very busy year at Hiwan and we have basked in the visibility. We were delighted to be involved

with the Jeffco Historical Commission's symposium in May that was held in the Timbervale Barn. June found JCHS at the Mt. Evans Outdoor Education School for our annual membership brunch and Jock Spence presentation by Candy Porter. It was a treat to tour and compare the architectural style of the Dodge House and Camp Neosho: both Spence masterpieces. The Navajo rug exhibit opened at Hiwan Museum in June. The exhibit showcases C. W. Douglas' journeys to the Southwest and includes Navajo spinning, dying and weaving techniques as well as examples of the JCHS collection of rugs connected to the Douglas family. If you haven't visited the exhibit, there is still time as the exhibit will run through December.

July found our JCHS Board attending 'class' at the Medlen School, our property on South Turkey Creek Road. We held our July meeting and lunch in the old schoolhouse and viewed improvements made possible by JoAnn Dunn and JCHS.

August brought a bounty of Western Slope peaches to Hiwan where we were successful in selling 80 boxes of the delicious fruit. In August we were honored to present Mike McPhee, grandson of J.J. Benedict who was the architect of many familiar buildings including Chief Hosa Lodge, Rosedale Ranch, Echo Lake Lodge, the Keys on the Green building and most of the park pavilions of the Denver Mtn. Park system. *Steamboat Bill* roared onto the screen in August as we enjoyed the annual Movie in the Grove with Hank Troy accompanying on the piano.

A campfire in the grove was attended by many in September as attendees played games and enjoyed treats. Susan Grannell presented another successful and enjoyable Outdoor Quilt Festival in September. We rounded out September with a book-signing event at the Timbervale Barn to present John Steinle and his new book, *Evergreen*. We were entertained by Jerry Grannell who played his guitar, much to our delight.

The aforementioned activities are simply a highlight of the many activities presented by JCHS. Our school and home-school programs throughout the year have been very well attended, as were the summer educational programs, Discovery Days and the Hiwan Kids day program.

We look to the membership and the community at large to support our efforts to bring educational and enjoyable history programs to the Evergreen mountain area. Through fundraising activities, memberships and book sales, we are afforded the opportunity to re-invest in presenting to a wide-ranging audience the texture and richness that history itself provides.

JCHS Book Club:

We meet generally on the fourth Wednesday of each month except for November and December. We gather at Eric's House (museum offices) at 12:30 pm. We choose reading selections several months in advance and book suggestions are considered from within our membership. Everyone is welcome to join us. Title selections through April are:

December 6th: Potluck meeting.
Dinner with Buddha by Roland Merullo

January 24th:
The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton

February 28th:
Mrs. Grant and Madame Juel
by Jennifer Chiaverini

March 28:
Audacity by Melanie Crowder
(local author)

April 25th:
The Last Bus to Wisdom by Ivan Doig

THE BOOK SHELF

By Elaine Hayden

The long anticipated publication date of John Steinle's book entitled, *Evergreen*, arrived on August 23rd. Published by Arcadia Publishing, this volume presents over 200 photographs of the Evergreen area residents, events and establishments. Chronicling Evergreen's history from 1859 through 2009, Steinle artfully captures the essence of Evergreen in text and photographic display. Many familiar characters are showcased in every chapter of this important contribution to understanding Evergreen's past. Steinle successfully brings to light many historic traditions and events that allows an awareness of pride in the residents of the multi-faceted Evergreen community of today. Steinle records the emergence of ranching and timber harvesting in Evergreen's early years to the, "robust community organizations and natural beauty" that has sustained our community over time. Essentially, it was the ranchers; timber harvesters, entrepreneurs and spirited residents that have sewn the social quilt of Evergreen together.

Having served as director of Hiwan Museum for over 20 years, Steinle knows of what he writes. He has explored nearly every corner and character in the area and has brought history to life in these pages. You won't want to miss adding this title to your home library or gift a copy to friends and relatives. *Evergreen* is available for purchase at the Hiwan Museum.



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Jefferson County Historical Society 2017-2018 Officers

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Recording Secretary	Juanita Weare
Treasurer	Jerry Grannell
Co- Treasurer	Hank Fuchs
Corresponding Secretary	Susan Grannell
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Kachina—a spirit venerated in Puebloan culture for their influence over nature and the cosmos. When I studied the museum's paintings of Yeii figures in the dining room, I respected the Navajo's desire to retain the power of their Night Chant ceremony by creating small errors in their depictions, maintaining anonymity even under the pressure of commercialization. And although taking photos of the polished black pottery of the Tewa peoples proved difficult because of the glare, I was always astonished by the designs that were perfectly carved into the pots, like they had been created by some kind of computer instead of the hand of a master craftsman.

My internship at the Hiwan Museum instilled in me such an appreciation for Native American Art that I decided to write my master's thesis on the artifacts accessioned into the museum since 1979. In the coming months, I will be researching and identifying 100 additional artifacts, granting the museum a better understanding of the Native American pieces housed within the collection to facilitate the education of the community in accordance to the institution's mission and values. It has been my greatest pleasure working at a museum I first visited as a child, and I look forward to continuing to do so for the betterment of the city of Evergreen, and the State of Colorado.

The Hiwan Museum Educational Programs

By Joan Ball and Dale Devine

The educational programs at Hiwan Museum were started by our first curator, Connie Fahnestock. The first program was the Colorado History program, developed in 1975 in conjunction with Jefferson County School District's curriculum. Although the program has changed and evolved over the years, one segment has always been included: we have always made Journey Cake, using the wonderful stove in our kitchen. Students also imagine they are in the 1860s deciding what to take as they pack their wagon for the trip to a new home in the West. In another segment of the program, the students locate items in an 1890s mercantile store. In the 1876 Centennial School Room, students experience how they would have been taught in a one-room schoolhouse.

In 2005, one of the visiting teachers asked why we didn't do a program on Native Americans, as we had such a wonderful collection of materials. That was the start of our Pueblos and Plains program that complements the Jeffco school district's third grade unit on Native Americans. Sue Ashbaugh, the educational coordinator at the time, and several volunteers developed that program, which has evolved under Andy Spencer and Jennee Hancock into the popular program that we currently teach. Students discover how environment affects lifestyle and arts and make a clay pot to take home.

Originally, school field trips were very inexpensive. Today, schools contend with high costs associated with bus transportation. Thanks to the Jeffco Outdoors Foundation, the

cost of field trips to Hiwan Museum for schools with a 30% free or reduced lunch rate is now covered. Some students who have never been on a field trip or even to the mountains now have the opportunity to enjoy the educational programs at Hiwan Museum.

An additional educational program is Here's History, an outreach program for second grade classes. It helps kids connect with their community's past through a Power Point show of local historic landmarks and people, as well as hands-on exploration of our Heritage Trunk antiques.

Summer programs include Discovery Days, an outdoor day camp that teaches history and nature in our Evergreen area through fun activities. In addition, the Hiwan Kids program is offered as two-hour classes in mid-summer at Hiwan Museum.

All educational programs are sponsored jointly by Jeffco Open Space and the Jefferson County Historical Society. Last year alone, over 2,300 students participated in our programs. We are indebted to the many volunteers who teach the educational and other programs offered by Hiwan Museum.





UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1st: Annual Holiday Walk from 5 to 9 pm. The public is invited to enjoy Hiwan Museum at its holiday finest, complete with roasted chestnuts and light refreshments. A shuttle service will transport visitors to and from downtown Evergreen to enjoy this community event.

December 4th: Annual Open Space Volunteer Recognition gathering. By invitation.

December 11th: Annual Christmas Tea 11:30 am A delightful experience in the lavishly decorated Hiwan Museum. A tour will be offered following tea time.

December 24th and 25th,

December 31st and January 1st: Hiwan Museum will be closed in observance of the holidays.

January TBD: Community Mixer. This event is taking shape as a get-to-know-your-neighbors event, celebrating Indian Hills, Idledale, Kittredge and Conifer as well as the Evergreen community. Watch for notice of details.

For More Information

For more information about the
Jefferson County Historical Society
or Events happening at Hiwan
Museum go to

www.jchscolorado.org



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