



Whispers from the Woodbine

Newsletter of the Wheat Ridge Historical Society

Vol. 6, No. 1, February 2025

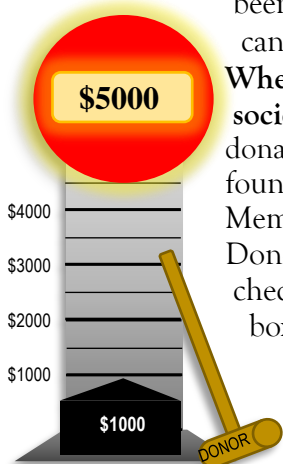
Generous donor offers to match donations for Old Post Office Mural Project

Recently, the WRHS board was informed that an anonymous donor would match each donation for the mural project up to \$2500! Still reeling (but tremendously thankful!), volunteers have mounted the biggest fund-raising effort the organization has seen in years.

Fund-raising for the Old Post Office Mural Project is, indeed, off to a strong start. In the first two months after the announcement that the WRHS was going to sponsor an advertising mural to be painted on the north exterior wall of the 1913 building, the project has received over \$1000. Matching funds should assure achieving the goal of \$5000.

Noted sign painter and artist Mark Oatis, who grew up in Wheat Ridge, will paint the mural in May and be a featured attraction at the popular Second Saturday May festival May 10th.

Donation containers will be available in every museum, at all Saturday events, and the first set of donation request letters has been sent out. People can donate online at: Wheatridgehistorical.society.org where the donation portal is found on the Membership page. Donors can also mail checks to the P.O. box listed on page 3.



Second Saturday Social

Valentine-making party scheduled for Saturday

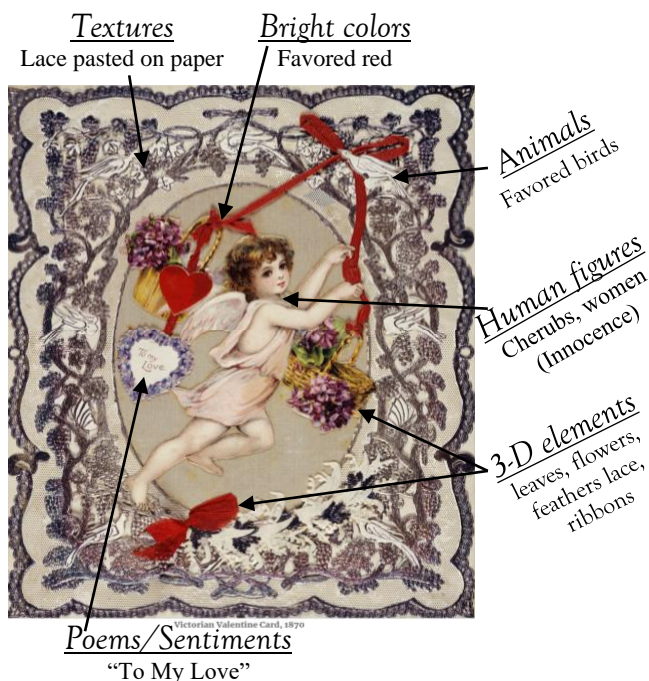
It's time to make your annual list. No, not your Christmas list - your Valentine list! That's all you'll need to bring to the Historical Society's traditional Valentine-making event at the Baugh House this Saturday, the 8th, from 10:00-2:00.



You bring a list of your intended Valentines, and we'll supply everything else you will need to craft beautiful Victorian cards of love: lace and ribbons, bows, gobs of glue, old photos (you may want to bring your own photos if you want to add a personal touch!), illustrative cut-outs and pretty colored paper, all of which used to be called "scraps" back in the good ol' days. We'll even have a few pre-written verses on hand.

When you've finished making your own cards, plan to make one or two more for residents of local assisted living facilities who very much appreciate being remembered. Volunteers will deliver cards before February 14th.

Typical contents in a Victorian Valentine



Victorian Card CONTENTS

Think maximalism
cover every inch with something

•
Include 3-D elements

•
Feature animals
fur and feathers sell

•
Get cheeky

•
Include your hair
(so sentimental, but only if it's for your own true love!)

News to amuse — and use!

Huge, amusing images

Early 1900s advertising full of whimsy, exaggeration to attract attention of public

One of the curious and entertaining features of old-time advertising was the use of outlandishly large vegetables to call attention to various kinds of produce available in the area. Ahhh, the good old days when advertising actually made you smile.

These days you'd have to live under a rock to not feel assaulted by advertising. It's everywhere! Algorithms assure that our (or at least our children's) attention will fixate upon a subject for as long as possible.



Early advertising sometimes featured larger-than-life vegetables, such as sugar beets (left), onions (up right) and potatoes (right).

Images seen here were typically seen in magazines, catalogs and on post cards. Ads also ushered in an era of doctoring photos.



Early in the twentieth century, another popular form of advertising was seen in hand-lettered signs on the sides of commercial buildings. Ads called attention to the businesses or products found within. Ads were also painted on the sides of barns and water towers. North Denver residents have long been able to view an ad for Savory-Savery Mushrooms painted on a water tower at Federal and 114th Ave.

Wheat Ridge residents will soon enjoy an ad for "Wheat Ridge Celery" painted on the north wall of the Old Post Office by sign painter Mark Oatis, a former resident.



Quilt collection management requires know-how and hours of specialized care

Annually, quilt specialist Jane Harvey, this year assisted by volunteers Dave Curtis and Carol Visalpatara, prepare all or most of the Society's quilts for the annual display at the August Heritage Day celebration. It's no easy task, and the quilts are left on display for several Second Saturdays for the public's viewing pleasure. Getting them back into storage is equally, perhaps more, difficult.

The quilts can't just be folded and placed on a shelf like many linens. Preservation is the key. That means complete avoidance of acid secreted by cardboard and the cloth

itself. Each quilt must be covered with special acid-free tissue paper, then rolled onto a foil- and fabric-covered cardboard tube and secured with fabric ties before placement in special overhead cabinets for storage.

In an effort to keep up with best practices, Harvey and Visalpatara attended a quilt storage workshop at the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum in Golden recently where they gained a few tips but also came away reassured that the WRHS quilts have been stored properly and will last a good long while. "It's nice to know that our quilts are stored appropriately," said Harvey.

The Society's quilt collection numbers in the 60s; some quilts can be traced to the mid-1800s.

New quilters to be part of knit/crafts group

Due to a lack of response from people indicating an interest in forming a new quilt group, those who are interested will become part of the 4th Friday's Knit One/Craft, Too group on fourth Saturdays at the Red Brick House from 10-noon.

Renewal time for annual memberships

WRHS annual memberships were due for renewal in January. It's easier than ever this year. The WRHS website (wheatridgehistoricalsociety.org) allows members to pay online using a credit card. Just log on to the site and go to the membership page. If you would rather, mail a check to the P.O. Box listed below, or drop one off any Friday at the Historical Park, 10-3.

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is the official newsletter of the Wheat Ridge Historical Society, a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization. It is published five times a year and sent electronically to members. Article ideas, contributions and letters to the editor are welcome! Submit them at the email address listed at right.

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WRHS 2025 Board of Directors

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- Displays & Exhibits Chair – Linda Grantham
- Artifact Collections Co-chairs – Bonnie Botham & Barbara Bankovich
- At-Large Members – Betty Jo Page, Dick Stark
- Sustainability Program – Barbara Bankovich & Kassandra Rumbaugh

Contact information:

Email: WRHistorical@gmail.com

Website: Wheatridgehistoricalsociety.org

Facebook: Wheat Ridge Historical Society

Mailing address:

WRHS, Box 5, Wheat Ridge 80034

Historical Park

4610 Robb Street, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

Phone: 303-421-9111

Open: Fridays 10:00–3:00 & by appointment

Tours available: \$5pp/\$2 kids;

Groups, please call ahead

Hostesses: Jane Harvey & Janet Bradford

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday / Sunday
	Home of the Wheat Ridge Historical Society, the Historical Park is located at 4610 Robb Street. The Baugh House is two blocks south at 11361 44 th Ave.			Historical Park Museums Open Fridays 10-3	1-2
3	4	5	6	7	8-9
				Featuring the Century-long Story 1859-1940	Second Saturday Social Valentine-making Party Baugh House, 10-2
10	11	12	13	14	15-16
	Board of Directors Mtg 6:30, Red Brick House In-person/Zoom format			Pioneer Cabin Sod House WR Original P.O. Sears Kit Home	
17	18	19	20	21	22-23
				Tours: \$5pp Children \$2 Groups call 303-421-9111	SAT Knit, Quilt, Craft group Red Brick House, 10-12, \$2 4 th SAT Work day, 10-2 Come join the fun!! FREE!
24	25	26	27	28	
				Research Library in Old P.O. open by appt.	

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				Historical Park Museums Open Fridays 10-3	1-2
3	4	5	6	7	8-9
				Featuring the Century-long Story 1859-1940	Second Saturday Social Spring Equinox Baugh House, 10-2
10	11	12	13	14	15-16
	Board of Directors Mtg 6:30, Red Brick House In-person/Zoom format			Pioneer Cabin Sod House WR Original P.O. Sears Kit Home	
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24	25	26	27	28	29-30
31				Research Library in Old P.O. open by appt.	

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	1	2	3	4	5-6
7	8	9	10	11	12-13
	Board of Directors Mtg 6:30, Red Brick House In-person/Zoom format			Featuring the Century-long Story 1859-1940	Second Saturday Social Earth Day/Sustainability Baugh House, 10-2
14	15	16	17	18	19-20
				Pioneer Cabin Sod House WR Original P.O. Sears Kit Home	
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