

THE SANFORD HISTORIAN

Today is tomorrow's history.

Issue 2

July 2021

What is my Heritage? Sometimes we think our own lives are unremarkable, that we don't have much of a Heritage. Wrong. Heritage involves many things: the music, dance, arts, language, and food of our ancestors; rights and responsibilities of living in our country; religious faith and traditions. Each of us has a Heritage to preserve and honor. Join us at the Sanford Museum as we celebrate Heritage Month in July.

*Frankie Colton,
Sanford Museum Board President*

HERITAGE MONTH CONTINUES



MUSEUM HOURS

- Thursday, July 15th, 12pm-7pm
- Friday July 16th, 10am-2pm
- Saturday July 17th, 10am-3pm

We can also open by appointment.

Call (719) 580-4114. August hours will be posted on our website,
www.sanfordhistorymuseum.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

John Canty will be here to talk about Catawba history from *1pm-2pm on Saturday, July 17th*

Gather, Gab, and Remember

Come join this fun, informal evening of sharing. You bring your memories. We'll bring snacks.
Saturday July 24, 6pm



Look Out for Enemy Planes!

Have you noticed the watchtower on the roof of the Sanford Museum?

During the cold war of the 1950's there was great deal of concern that potential enemies had the power to make sudden, devastating attacks on our country. The United States Air Force enlisted the help of citizens as observers in the United States Ground Observer Corps.

The watchtower on top of the current museum building provided a perfect spot from which volunteer observers could scan the skies for possible enemy aircraft. At the time, the building was Sanford's town hall.

A 1955 observer manual said, "You, and thousands of other observers in the United States and Canada, will be the eyes of North America. Your reports may constitute the first warning of an enemy approach...At the very least, your reports will help keep track of the enemy's aircraft so that the attack against them can be started and targets in their path can be warned."

An old observer manual, worn by weather and age, was discovered in the watchtower above the museum. It shows examples of the types of aircraft that observers were to look for. The salvageable parts of the manual are on display in the museum.

BIOGRAPHY CORNER

Viola Elizabeth Garcia Schneider



Viola Garcia was born in 1919 and spent her childhood living and going to school in Sanford. Viola's grandfather, James Goodwin Patterson, led the Catawba group that left Rock Hill, South Carolina and settled in the San Luis Valley in the

1880s after being taught by missionaries and joining the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Viola attended Sage Memorial School of Nursing at Ganado, Navajo Nation, which was a school designed to provide nursing education to Native American women. She graduated as valedictorian of her class in 1943. Soon after, she enlisted in the military and was assigned to Camp Carson (now Fort Carson) in Colorado Springs, where she assisted in thousands of amputation surgeries for severely injured GIs. She was shipped out to the Pacific Theater and eventually to Tokyo, Japan, where she served as head surgical nurse at the 42nd General Hospital. The hospital was in poor condition with insufficient supplies, so her job was a challenging one.

After the war, Viola was welcomed as a hero and was invited to speak to local school children. She was proud to be from Sanford and said that even though her childhood years were difficult due to poverty, she would not trade them for anything.

This biographical information was compiled from materials donated by family members to the Sanford History Museum.

Would you like to submit a short biography of someone in Sanford's history? Send it to administrator@sanfordhistorymuseum.org.

THANK YOU!

We appreciate our volunteers who have been keeping the grounds neat and being available to open the museum to visitors. If you would like information about becoming a museum volunteer, please contact one of our board members.

We invite you to become a Friend of the Sanford Museum. Annual dues are only \$50.00, or contact a Board member about using volunteer hours in lieu of payment. Donate at www.sanfordhistorymuseum.org Or make checks payable to *Sanford History Museum* and mail to:
Frankie Colton, Sanford History Museum
295 Greenleaf St, Sanford CO 81151

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Visit our website at www.sanfordhistorymuseum.org.

Sanford History Museum Board

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