

THE SANFORD HISTORIAN

Today is tomorrow's history

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I remember seeing photos of the destruction of the Tivoli, which was in a state of disrepair. People in the photos watched the destruction of this building that was once a lively gathering place for dancing, socializing, and even bowling. I still hear comments on how sad it is that a unique structure with a rich history in the community was not preserved. Now we have a chance to preserve another historic building in Sanford. The former Town Hall, now the Sanford History Museum, needs repair. Please think about how you can support the effort to preserve this historic building.

*Frankie Colton,
Sanford Museum Board President*

Make a Difference

An engineering assessment was completed during the fall to help us prioritize needed building repairs. The assessment identified several parts of the building that are showing duress. We are in the process of collecting bids for repair work, which will help us firm up our fundraising goals. Our strategic plan to repair and revitalize the Museum will soon be available for viewing in the Museum and on our website.

As noted in the first issue of the Historian in June 2021, the museum building itself has a rich and important history that deserves to be preserved.

There is much to be done, and many hands make light work. We need your support.

How can you help?

1. Encourage your friends and family members to visit the Museum and learn what a treasure it is.
2. Become a volunteer or a member of the Sanford Museum Board. We need hands and hearts of those who love our local heritage.
3. We have a special need right now for expertise in fundraising, grants, publicity, and oversight of building projects.
4. Make a donation. See the back of this newsletter for details.
5. Let the Sanford Town Board members know what the Museum means to you.
6. Help get the word out! Follow us on Facebook (@SanfordHistoryMuseum)

MUSEUM HOURS

We are open by appointment during the winter.

Call (719) 580-4114.

Children love visiting the Sanford History Museum! We have some popular hands-on activities for kids. Learning about local history gives young people a strong foundation and appreciation of the people who came before them and their place in the world.



BIOGRAPHY CORNER

King Driggs

In February of 1907 King Driggs, a 21-year-old graduate of Brigham Young University, made a journey by train to the destination of his first professional job as a music teacher in the town of Sanford. Upon his arrival he sought out a place that would provide room and board as well as a piano on which he could practice. He found a room to rent in the home of Lars and Cornelia Mortensen, and a piano in their daughter and son-in-law's home across the street. Swen Peterson, owner of the piano, agreed to let King use the piano for his own practice in exchange for piano lessons for his children. This piano is on display in the Sanford Museum and still has a lovely sound.

King quickly fell “hook-line-and-sinker” in love with Pearl Mortensen, daughter of his landlords. He cast her as the female lead in his productions of Gilbert and Sullivan's H.M.S. Pinafore, and in his own operetta called Navajo Princess. Not long afterward, they were married and began a family.

King Driggs was always restless, anxious for the next thing. The family moved to Provo for a time. World War I stirred his sense of patriotism, and with the encouragement of Senator William H. King, he returned to Sanford to farm as his way of contributing to the war effort.

More children came, and music filled their home. The children began to perform together. The family took their show on the road. Their harmonies charmed audiences. The family traveled from place to place in their old Dodge car giving concerts, mainly in churches. Eventually they ended up in

California, where they became quite successful.

The King Family Christmas Specials on television were something I looked forward to!

To learn more about King Driggs and his family, visit the Sanford Museum's arts and music section. Information in this article came from “The Singing Kings” by Luise King Rey and Ora Pate Stewart.



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

Support the Sanford History Museum with a Donation

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

Sanford History Museum Board

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