

THE SANFORD HISTORIAN

Today is tomorrow's history

Issue 7

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A food drive is happening this morning in front of the Museum. What a wonderful thing it is to be part of a community that cares. Giving of material goods, time, and talents enriches our community and the lives of all who have roots here and who visit here. We are connected by kindness, and we are connected by history.

*Frankie Colton,
Sanford Museum Board President*



Museum Update

It is an exciting time for the Museum! Previous issues of the Sanford Historian have described the need to preserve and protect the historic building that houses our museum. An engineering assessment was completed in the fall, and a detailed Assessment and Preservation Plan is now being developed by Avanyu General Contracting, which specializes in adobe restoration. They have done work on many adobe structures, including among others, Isleta Pueblo, Ohkay Owingeh, and the Presidio in San Francisco. This plan will provide information regarding priorities, costs, and possible timelines for doing the work needed to preserve the building.

Some of the work that is needed can be done by local contractors and workmen, including:

- Drainage system to keep water away from the foundation
- Roof/Gutter improvements to move water further from the building

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MUSEUM HOURS

We are currently open by appointment.
Call (719) 580-4114.

HISTORY CORNER



Nortonville

Nortonville, also known as Excelsior, is located several miles northeast of Sanford. In 1884, this large tract of land was purchased by a group of investors from Illinois for agricultural development. Sometime around 1906, the Norton brothers from Canada visited the San Luis Valley, fell in love with the fresh air and sunshine, and purchased 10,832 acres for \$2-\$3 per acre.

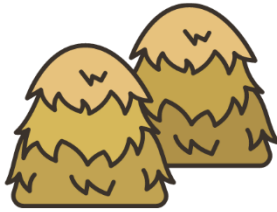
Improvements included 32 miles of underground drainage constructed of wood and tile, over 100 miles of fence, and around 50 artesian wells. The land was cleared with picks and shovels by some whose names you may recognize—Gene Poulson Sr., Jim Reed, Alfonso Rasussen, Manuel Olguin, Amarante Martinez, and many others.

Sixteen families lived at the ranch in a close-knit group. In the beginning, children rode horses to school, which was originally held in the Nortonville Store. Eventually there was a school bus.

Both boys and girls played basketball. They practiced together on an outdoor court using boys rules, which some felt gave the girls' team an advantage when competing against other rural schools.

There is much, much more to tell about this little community so tightly connected

to Sanford, much more than we can tell here. To learn more, see *We Call It Home*, by Mary June Miller. Copies of this book may be purchased at the Sanford History Museum.



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

MUSEUM UPDATE, CONTINUED

- Electrical evaluation and improvements
- Bathroom improvements to be ADA compliant
- Floor refinishing
- Interior work such as painting, ceiling repair

Our goal for the museum is not just that it will continue to exist, but that it will grow and thrive as a cultural and historical treasure for our community and beyond. This was the vision of Mary June Miller, Madge Perko and Gary Bailey, who founded this museum with pride in 1995.

Did you know that people from all over the country come to visit our little museum? Visitors use our library, enjoy our displays, and frequently comment that this is one of the best small-town museums they have seen! We are proud to be able to share our heritage and to continue for many years to come.

We will need community support to make this vision a reality. Please consider getting involved in whatever way you can. We are seeking additional board members as well as volunteers and financial support.

You can find the Sanford History Museum online at sanfordhistorymuseum.org, and on Facebook.

Sanford History Museum Board

President – Frankie Colton, President; Scott Kreps, Vice President; Linda Smith, Secretary; Lois Miller, Treasurer.
Members: Lynette DePriest, Brian Crowther, Valerie Crowther, Terry Colton