

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Navajo County Historical Society



The labels on the various tonics and medicinal products on display in the drug store exhibit now can be read with the addition of LED lighting.

Merchandise displayed in Schuster's store window can also be easily viewed under the new lighting system.



It has been another full year for NCHS as volunteers continued to work on improving exhibits.

Stop by and see for yourself what the team has been doing. The Visitors' Center and Museum are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. Closed federal and state holidays.

Yes, it has been an exciting year and the momentum is continuing into 2015.

The historic courthouse enjoyed 18,775 visitors in 2014, compared to 16,997 in 2013, a steady growth since 2010. And what makes it even more rewarding is that many of these folks stop every year on their way to or from their "snowbird haven". And they love to tell you how much they enjoy the annual visit, and discovering new exhibits or objects they missed earlier.

Yea, let's give a cheer for our volunteers. For the past five years a total of more than 30 individuals have accumulated yearly hours well into 2,000 a year and last year a hefty 2,574 hours were turned in. Some days there would be 3-4 people working on projects. Visitors would take note and poke their nose in the office door to comment what a great job was being done to preserve history. Thank you volunteers for all you do!

We relate to visitors that our objects and collections are donated by people who lived or worked in the area over the decades and that the exhibits tell their stories. Grandma on a hot July day using the hand-turned beater to get a meringue that will do her lemon pie justice for the family picnic, or Grandpa gathering his farrier tools so he is ready to re-shoe the stock before round-up.

And then there are the many dedicated teachers over the generations, with Esther Hess one on the most outstanding early ones. Or Letife Koury, who attended school in Holbrook and returned to spend her lifetime teaching youngsters, who in turn became teachers in the community: the Gardners, Palmers, Bennett, Fitzgerald and many more. Students

obviously received a well-rounded education since the community has produced legislators and community leaders along with successful business proprietors.

Recent objects added to NCHS collections include have padlocks, Hall Kitchenware, Portenier's room-size Navajo Rug, Addine Carpenter Collection, WWII gas mask from Arizona Rancho, sewing notions from Domias, Hubbard and other personal collections. There also are objects from the family collections of Wolfington, Dlugajczyk, Christensen, DeSpain, Franklin, Henning, Grace, Hennessey, Brinkerhoff, Tsinnie, Pearson, Lee, Nelson, Hunt, B. Heward, Payne, Julian, D. Heward, Barger, Reynolds, Bragg, Bork, and SDA Museum. There also were many, many books bringing the total processed items in 2014 to well-over 700.

Many generous cash donations, donated equipment, increases in donation box income, book shop sales and memberships (41 people), have added to NCHS assets such as a sturdy ladder, professional quality security system, software and computer accessory upgrades, security gate, water fountain, LED lights and a new auditorium projector.

Thank you all for being part of NCHS' growth and helping with exhibit expansion and improvements. None of which would have been accomplished without the volunteer hours, dedication and generosity of so many.

Thank you members, community residents, staff, volunteers, business community and city and county staff for all being part of the team.