

Family history wanted for new Phillips County book

Written by Chris Lee

Do you know your family history? If so, the Phillips County Historical Society would like to know it too.

Progress for a third volume of “Those Were the Days” history book is in the works. Phillips County Historical Society board members decided to publish the book because volume two is 20 years old.

Carol Haynes, Hilda Hassler and Gordon Thomas said they look at volume two as a bible. If they can't remember something while speaking with friends, they pull out the book. A new generation has grown up, and it is time for a new book, they said.

In 1988 the second volume of “Those Were the Days” was printed with family histories and information on businesses and buildings throughout the county. The book contains 670 pages of Phillips County history. Volume three, according to Haynes, will hopefully consist of about 200 pages.

As of now, only about 20-25 family histories have been submitted, according to Hassler. Haynes and Hassler hope more are submitted soon. A tentative deadline of September 2009 is set, but Haynes said they will see where they are with submissions when that time arrives. May of 2010 is the expected release date.

If family information was printed in the past two books, an updated version is welcomed. The Historical Society asks all entries be kept to around 500 words. One picture may accompany the entries.

The museum asks for complete names, including maiden names, for parents, grandparents and children.

Some ideas for special sections are in the works as well. The “do you remember” section is about memories from the past.

The Historical Society gives some examples of different things and places around Phillips

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County to spark some memories: Means Lake, Gilbert's Grove, Spur Club, Posegate Hall, passenger trains to Sterling, Trailways buses, Scout Building, Hide-out-Cafe, tornados and blizzards, Sweet Shop, pool halls and slot machines, band concerts on courthouse lawn, county horse and chariot races, Haxtun bank robbery, Nora's Grocery, stealing watermelons, midways at the fair, Rialto Theatre, telephone operators, swimming pools, box socials, roller rinks, bomb shelters, turkey plant and Saturday night shopping.

Anyone with a memory to share is welcome to submit it in short story form.

Another section that is being looked at is a section dedicated to soldiers and veterans. Anyone with stories or any connection to any war is encouraged to contribute to the section. Haynes said the section won't work unless people contribute.

A photo, brief biography with name, rank, branch, unit, wars served in, honors, dates and locations served are welcomed.

There is no charge to submit anything for the book. The book committee reserves the right to edit stories for space requirements, and the Phillips County Historical Society assumes no responsibility for copyright violations.

Entries may be handwritten or typed out.

Anyone with questions or new ideas may contact the museum at 854-2129 or pcmuseum@pctelcom.coop

Entries may be mailed to the museum at: Phillips County Historical Society, 109 S. Campbell, Holyoke, CO 80734