6/15/2022 Edition #2

The Friends of Historic Southeast Colorado

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Website: fhseco.net Email us at: Friendsofhistoricsoutheastcolorado @outlook.com and like us on facebook

Pres. Holly Bryan, VP Donna Abert, Sec/Treas. Jeanette Myers, Director Dustin Bryan

The Friends of Historic Southeast Colorado

is organized as a public benefit corporation exclusively for charitable & educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and, more specifically, to discover, collect, restore, and preserve materials of information, publications, accounts, and illustrations about Southeast Colorado, and then, develop, promote, and teach said history to engage the community. A repository for historic data. We can now serve all of Southeast Colorado with our newly revised volunteer program and historic projects. We are excited to see where our new venture will take us. So come join us!

Membership Drive for the FHSECO In our initial phase in developing this Organization, we are offering you an incentive to raise funds for the Little White Schoolhouse to protect it from the elements of today's world, we are offering for one paid membership, we will give you a free ticket for a drawing of one of 4 guns (17HMR, 270, His or Hers 20 gage shotguns or $200 Cash!

The "Little" White Schoolhouse was built in 1877, 12 years after the Civil War and 23 years before the RF Sugar Factory. It was truly part of the Wild West. It was first to accommodate 15-20 students. It was the first schoolhouse in the township of Rocky Ford, and was located where the Otero County Office and Nava Manor are located now, 10th and Chestnut streets. The 15 X 15 foot original adobe building was weather-boarded and painted white. Ten years later, Rocky Ford held it's first election in the building on August 6, 1887. The Little White Schoolhouse was the place of all important meetings at the time, whether it was held as a voting booth, a city ordinance meeting, or a meeting place for churches at that time. While the Sugar Factory was being built, the town grew very fast and the student population doubled and tripled in size monthly. In 1896 the school was then enlarged to hold more students.

Finally, when a bigger school was built to replace this building (known as the First Liberty School) this school was then sold and moved to its present location in 1898.

Now, the Friends plan on restoring the 1877, historic Little White Schoolhouse to its original condition but cannot start until we can get funding. Our share of a Colorado Historical Society grant would be about 25%. We can start sooner If we could get more volunteers and of course, money! We are a 501(c)(3) so you could get a tax deduction if you chose to donate.

Our volunteers will be working from home until our new office in the schoolhouse has some restoration before working in there.

Our plan is to also have classes in the schoolhouse like quilting, painting, genealogy, etc. We plan on helping Southeast Colorado in raising funds for specific historic community projects like restoring the schoolhouse, ghost signs, historic cemeteries, public projects, etc.

A Special thanks go out to First National Bank of Rocky Ford for their generous donation in getting the FHSECO set up with our new website that is active & currently Under construction!

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
A BETTER BRAND OF BANKING
• FOWLER • LA JUNTA • LAS ANIMAS •
• MONUMENT • ORDWAY • ROCKY FORD •

Membership Application

The Friends of Historic Southeast Colorado is always seeking new members. Below are the fee requirements.

Name_____

_____

[] Address_____

City_____State____ Zip_____

[] Email _____

Contact # _____

Please check how you want your next newsletter, by mail or email. Email is suggested due to cost of mailing or you can let us know in an email or call. Email us for questions.

[] Annual Membership $25 Individuals

[] Annual Membership $50 Businesses

[] One time donation $_____

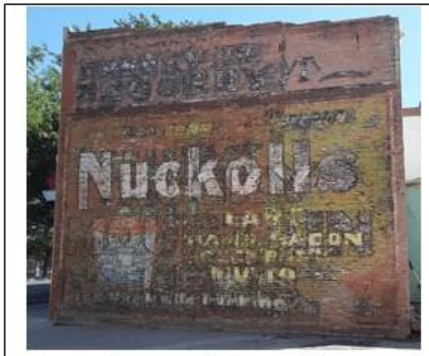
For _____

state which project you are donating to

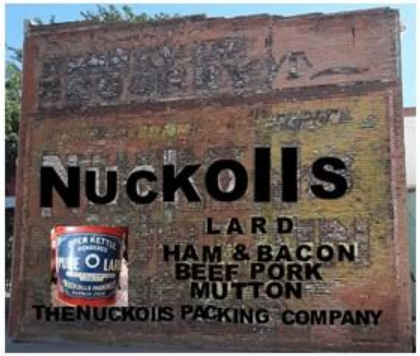
[] I want to volunteer _____

_____

_____



Below is the second of several signs on this wall. Above is the actual, below is the translation of the old historic sign. There are several signs there painted on top of each other. Members will have their option of which project they like to donate to, like the ghost signs, which the late 1800's Nuckolls Plant was located in Pueblo, restoring the White schoolhouse, scanning for graves in a late 1800's active cemetery near Trinidad, etc.



Walking Tours of Downtown Rocky Ford

Emmett Davis, a Friend of FHSECO will be providing walking tours with tours offered in Rocky Ford at first and plans to give tours in other areas soon. If you would like to help in these tours of local towns, please contact us. Comfortable shoes are a must! Tours will be wandering south and east through Rocky Ford's historic neighborhoods, across Main Street to the museum park, all the way to the Fairgrounds and historic adobe stables.

All this area was once a shallow sea with dinosaurs leaving their footprints in the shore's mud. We will discuss the pre-Columbian Apishapa Phase (a 1000 - 1400 BCE culture), the Apache, the Spanish, the Comanche and Kiowa, the Cheyenne and Arapahoe, the French Louisiana, Bents Fort, Santa Fe Trail, and the Atchison Topeka Santa Fe Railway. We will discuss George Washington Swink, his Illinois roots and migration to what becomes Rocky Ford with its future cattle-raising, experiments with irrigation and horticulture and honeybees, the sugar beets and our former factory, the Volga Germans, the Japanese, and Latinx, especially from northern New Mexico. We will cover Odd Fellows, seeds, Woman's Club, Carnegie Library, and Watermelon Day, plus much else in between. Call or email for a special tour.

We are looking for board members, volunteers, volunteer contractors like carpenters, painters, electricians, gas installers, tech savvy individuals, etc. to join our team; we are tax deductible. Our meetings are held on the last Thursday of every month at 5pm, unless otherwise amended. Call Jeanette Myers 719-468-9126 for more information.

A special thanks to Joan Proctor, Will Dell, Emmett Davis, First Natl Bank of RF & Patrick Shima for becoming corporate members. Carol Wilson for donating school desks & chalk boards, Tracy Marshbanks for donating a scanner to get started scanning large items. Dave & Laura Mendenhall for donating the historic collections of Mendenhall Attorney at law items.

Remember us prior to throwing away those old newspapers, scrap books, flyers, signs, documents, pictures of Southeast Colorado, awards, phone books, etc. When you are digging through it thinking "what am I going to do with all of it?" Email or call us!

The Schoolhouse was gutted of chalkboards, child desks, etc. in the late 1800s to use in other schools in Rocky Ford. So we are looking to replace them. Items needed are four rows of school desks seating 20 students. Let us know what you have.