

Pikes Peak Country



Pikes Peak
Photo by David Martinek

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The 2013 Midland Days Story

Mark Twain once said, "History may not repeat itself, but it does rhyme a lot." For the last four years, since 2010, the Midland Days Symposium has been trying to rhyme and rhyme again about the history of the Colorado Midland Railway and the Midland Terminal Railroad, while at the same time providing a fund-raising venue to support the restoration of the Midland Depot at Divide. The 2013 Midland Days event may have been the best poetic rendition yet of "Midland" history and that effort.

Traditionally, if one can evoke tradition from only four years of experience, Midland Days has occurred each year on the Saturday before Easter. Set in the historic old lodge of the John Wesley Ranch just south of Divide, Colorado, railroad enthusiasts and wannabes gather for a day to see and listen to Midland railroad history unfold before their very eyes and ears. Outside, only a few feet away from the ranch's boundary, the remnants of the Midland Terminal rail bed pass silently by.

Those attending are entertained, informed, fed, enticed (to buy a few railroad souvenirs) and shown well over 500 historic photos throughout the day. Sometimes, there are archival movies, like last year, and sometimes actual people (usually old-timers who used to work on the railroads at a much younger age, or whose fathers did) are interviewed. But the numbers of remaining folks like that who are still around are getting fewer and fewer.

There was one aspect of the 2013 Midland Days Symposium that definitely was an exception from the last three years – the gathering grew much larger! In the first year of the symposium, about 25 people managed to attend; and that number included the presenters. This year, over 56 folks attended Midland Days, easily twice as many as the first year. The popularity of the event along with good word-of-mouth promotion has helped Midland



Mel McFarland gave an overview of the Midland Terminal Railroad at the 2013 Midland Days Symposium, held on Saturday, March 30, at the historic John Wesley Ranch south of Divide, CO. Photo: D. Martinek

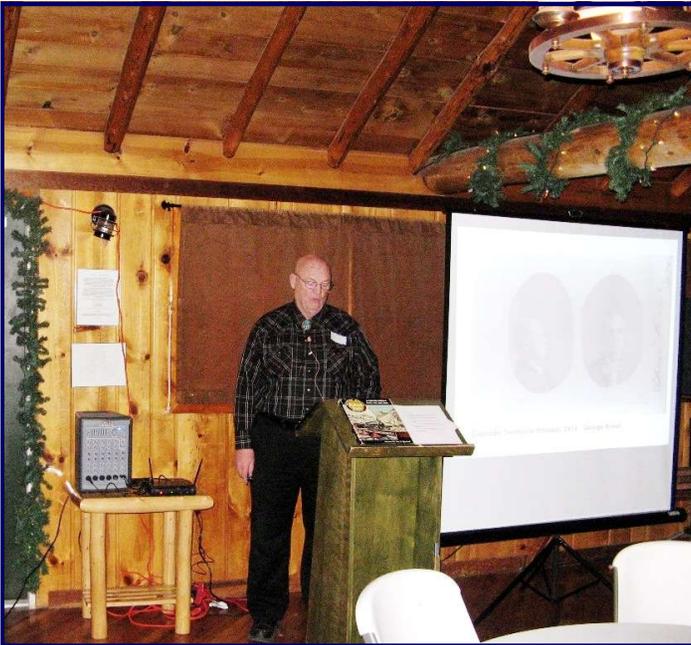
Days blossom into a regional happening. As a result, the organizers may have to effect some creative re-adjustments next year in order to accommodate even more people in the John Wesley Ranch lodge.

"The lodge is the perfect venue for hosting Midland Days," said Kenny Funk, director of the John Wesley Ranch, a retreat owned by the First United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs. "The wood paneling, log-beamed ceiling, the huge fireplace and the history that oozes from the rafters make it an ideal location for the subject of railroads."

The Midland Days agenda for 2013 contained a variety of programs charting both railroad histories. After a good overview of the Colorado Midland of the Midland Terminal, several special presentations followed, including: the history and operation of the railroads' roundhouse in Old Colorado City, a report on Well Fargo robberies that involved the "Midland," a very comprehensive summary of the "laundry trains" which ran from Aspen, Denver, Leadville, Grand Junction and other places to Glenwood Springs and a review of the history of the Midland Depot at Divide, as well as the recent restoration work done on the depot foundation this summer. Midland Days is, and has always has been, a fund-raiser to support the

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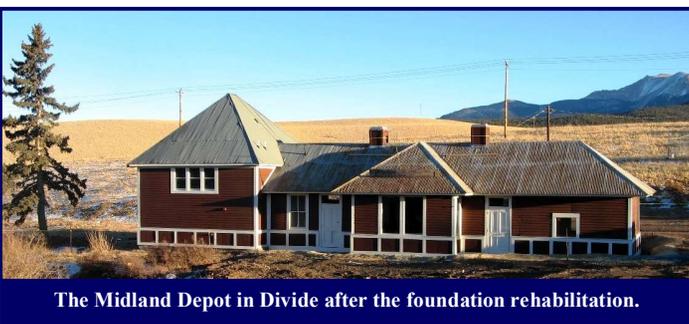
continued restoration of the Midland Depot at Divide. At the conclusion of the rehabilitation of the Divide depot foundation in 2012, that project is poised to continue at a much faster pace until, hopefully in the not too distance future, the depot is transformed into a fully restored historical landmark, interpretive center regarding area history, visitors' center for the local chamber of commerce and a regional asset.



Dwight Haverkorn, a retired CSPD officer, gave a talk on a series of related Well Fargo Express robberies that took place along the Midland in Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek.
Photo: D. Martinek

The co-founders of Midland Days are yours truly and Edward M ("Mel") McFarland, author, historian and chief conductor of the Pikes Peak Cog Railroad. Mel wrote one of the definitive data books on the Colorado Midland in 1980, and followed up a few years later with a similar book on the Midland Terminal. The co-sponsors of Midland Days are the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition (T. H. E. Coalition), the organization restoring the Midland Depot at Divide, and the Divide Chamber of Commerce (www.dividechamber.org.)

For more information about the Midland Depot at Divide Preservation Project, go to the T.H.E. Coalition website at www.thecoalitionco.org. And to find out more about the Midland Days Symposium and our plans for the 2014 event, send an email to midlanddays@yahoo.com.



The Midland Depot in Divide after the foundation rehabilitation.

Gold from CC&V donated for Capital dome

Work begins this summer to regild the Colorado state capital dome in Denver using gold donated by the Cripple Creek and Victory Gold Mining Company located right here in Teller County. In a ceremony with Governor Hickenlooper in September 2011, company officials presented him with a 68-pound gold 'dore' (an impure button of mostly gold and silver) processed at the ADR plant outside of Victor.

"CC&V is proud to provide the gold for the capital dome," said Jane Mannon, the local community affairs manager for the mine. "We see our donation as a real-life example of living our mining heritage."

The semi-pure gold was transported to a refinery in Salt Lake City where it was converted into seven 24 karat gold ingots, about 65 ounces, worth around \$120,000. From there, it was flown under tight security to Florence, Italy to the Giusto Manetti Battiloro gold leaf factory where the ingots are being shaved into 140,000 "tissue-thin" (1/8000s of a millimeter thick) sheets approximately three inches square.

Having first been covered with copper, in 1908 Colorado's capital dome was gilded to commemorate the state's gold rush era - the gold coming from a pool of several Colorado mines - about 200 ounces. However, when the dome was regilded in 1991, gold from a variety of out-of-state and international sources was used. Now, the tradition of providing gold from Colorado has returned.

After part of the dome structure fell off in 2006, due to a century of corrosion, it became necessary to restore the dome and regild it yet again.

"Back in 2006, when the piece of cast iron fell off the dome, I contacted the state and said, 'We have a gold mine here,'" said Marie Patterson, manager of state government affairs for AngloGold Ashanti, the parent company of the Cripple Creek and Victor gold mining operation. Patterson is also a board member of Colorado Preservation Inc.

Once available, the actual gold leaf gilding will require a half-dozen people working on scaffolding to apply about 50 to 100 square feet a day. During that time, the capital dome will be shrouded. A completion date and unveiling is set for sometime in 2014.

"Participating in this initiative aligns with AngloGold Ashanti and CC&V's values in that safety is number one and the community and society in which we operate will be better off for [our] having been there," said Ron Largent, Executive Vice President of AngloGold Ashanti's Americas Operations. "The donation of gold from CC&V has been mined by employees dedicated to safety and environmental stewardship. They all take pride in knowing they played a significant role in the restoration of the capitol dome."



A gold button, or 'Dore,' similar to those pictured, was presented to Gov. Hickenlooper by CC&V in September 2011.
Photo by D. Martinek

Dave's Buyers' Guide

Cabins, second-homes and land specials from Coldwell Banker 1st Choice Realty

Prices and status effective as of April 4, 2013



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What do buyers really want?

It's the perpetual question every Realtor wants to answer and every seller thinks they are providing. On a national scale, there may be help.

The National Association of Home Builders recently released a study outlining home buyer choices for the kind of home they would buy and the kind of features they prefer.

Some of the general preferences are understandable - home type and size, floor plan, type of kitchen and bath, windows and doors, accessibility, community and technological features.

Conducted in 2012, the NAHB's study is based on a nationwide survey.

"This survey [study] is a great resource..., as it provides an inside look at the things home buyers really want, or don't want in their homes," said Rose Quint, NAHB's AVP for Survey Research. "With the housing market beginning to recover, and more consumers in the position to purchase a home, it is more important than ever...to be armed with this information."

So what do buyers want? They want features that involve saving energy and energy's cost - energy-star rated appliances, windows and doors and well insulated homes. A large majority of buyers would rather pay a little more to have lower utility bills that buy a home costing 2 - 3 percent less.

They also want laundry rooms, linen closets, garage storage and a walkin pantry (and who doesn't?).

What they don't want are programmed communities on golf courses, only a shower (no tub) and elevators.

Is the buyer universe is getting younger? Maybe. Or maybe they are just plugging-in to current trends.

To inquire, email or call 719.687.1516

(Martinek Team listings are BOXED)



\$625,000

9 Arapahoe Trl, Woodland Park Swedish Cod Log Home! Breathtaking great room w/ suspended steel FP for starters! Australian cypress & bamboo floors. 29 acres. 4BR/4BA/3GAR, 3626 S. F. There is so much to see! #743499



\$383,500

64 Skyline, Woodland Park Catamount Area! Custom home w/ spacious kitchen, ceramic/tile counters, upgraded appliances. Red oak HW floors in kitchen, dining and LR. 3BR/4BA/2GA, 3276 S. F. 0.96 treed acres. #793968



\$275,000

2087 S. Mtn Est Rd, Florissant Colorado Mountain Log! Sitting on 2.42 acres, covered porch views rock formations, elk and deer. FP and gourmet kitchen granite counters and designer cabinetry. 2080 S.F. 3BR/3BA/2GAR. #774513



\$164,900

10770 Olathe St, Green Mtn Falls Mountain Cabin! Updated windows and roof, detached garage and wonderful mountain views. Walking distance to GMF lake. 745 S.F. on 0.09 acres. 2BR/1BA/1GAR. Built in 1920. Enjoy the beauty of living in the mountains. #773619



\$110,000

130 Wabash TE, Cripple Creek Rustic! Set on 2.15 acres w/ plenty of aspen and pine, this is a getaway place to go back in time. One level living, T&G ceiling, wood burning stove, breakfast nook, large deck and two storage sheds. Nestled in the trees for privacy. #751023



\$100,000

172 Dunlap Rd, Florissant Secluded! Set on almost an acre w/ plenty of trees and wildlife, this place is a peaceful mountain setting. One level living, w/ FP and wrap around deck. Circular driveway and storage shed. 3BR/2BA/0GAR w/ 1127 S.F. #796602



\$99,900

27666 Triple B, Woodland Pk Country Living! 2.5 acres w/ dbl-wide. Wood stove; large laundry/pantry; metal roof. Horse property. 3BR/2BA/0GAR, 1288 S.F. Domestic well. Level lot; nicely treed. May need a cistern. #713188



\$17,500

432 Doublet Lane, Divide Scenic! 0.77 acres lot with a good open, level building site at the end of a cul-de-sac. Utilities at property line; mountain views. Manuf. homes okay. Nestled in the heart of Sherwood Forest. #722274



\$14,000

1001 S. Mtn Est. Rd, Florissant Meadow! Two acres of meadow and trees and some nice building sites in beautiful Colorado Mountain Estates, south of Florissant. Easy access to nearby Fossil Beds and Cripple Creek. #530773



\$9,999

0 McKinney St, Cripple Creek Three Lots! Here are three small lots sold together in the Montrose Addition of Cripple Creek, and located across Hetig Avenue from the Retirement and Rehabilitation Center. #738052



\$9,000

92 May Queen Dr, Cripple Creek Corner lot! 1.7 acres of gently sloping meadow makes a nice building site. Rock formations are across the road. A few trees add character. Just the right lot for that dream home! #791533

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