

Curtain Call

Francisco Center for the Performing Arts ~ Home of the Spanish Peaks Players
127 Francisco Street La Veta, CO 81055

Editor Beverly Jensen

Publisher FCPA

Summer 2009

Summertime...

Summer is upon us...finally! That means basking in the sun, family and church picnics, BBQs, swimming, skinny... Oh and yes, Melodrama! We get to *boo* and *hiss* the villain, say *hooray* for the hero and *ooh* and *aah* the heroin.

Melodrama actually goes back to the 1800s. Special effects were used quite often and piano was a must since no other music was around. The dramas were short, 15 to 30 minutes, while others could last two hours.

Being the melodrama "Queen" (or maybe it's just being type-cast), I remember the three-a-day shows; now that was dedication and perseverance. We were still on the old stage with folding chairs and tin can lights; performing three half-hour to one-hour shows a day on Saturday and Sunday. We would finish, have time for a small break and back with a crowd pleasing performance. We called those "The Two-Four-Six's", referring to the starting times for the shows.

Well, we've come a long way since that time. Thanks to our members, we are now able to offer comfortable seating and better lighting.

Our tickets were \$6 a show back then, now they're \$10. Hey, you're getting a deal. Other theatres offer tickets ranging from \$15.75 to \$30.00. Bet you don't get to throw popcorn at the bad guy either!

Melodrama has an appeal to modern audiences. It gives them a chance to forget the hurry-worry of today and go back in time to a place of innocence.

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Check the Signature Newspaper

...for current schedules, last
minute updates, ticket prices
and casting calls!

Blue Rooster Saloon Bar & Grill

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923 Oak Street, La Veta CO 719-742-3093

Melodrama

Melodrama is a wonderful format for actors to experience an energetic, light-hearted approach to our vaudeville past. This one-act comedy promises to be a fun-filled evening for the entire family!

Everyone knows Pop Sicle's Ice Cream Parlor serves the best ice cream in town. Thanks to a secret recipe known only to him, his sister, Nana Peel, and his adopted son, Robin Baskins, Pop has the competition covered. When that cold-hearted villain, I.C. Custard, decides to steal Pop's recipe, things get a little sticky. Custard hires an accomplice, Parfait Deluxe, ex-chorus girl and total klutz. Despite her shortcomings, Parfait is instructed to entice the recipe from Robin. But Robin has given his heart—and lips—to Marsha Mellow, the sweet young waitress Nana has just hired. (Their romance is enough to melt your heart!)

Employees getting locked in the freezer, a stage-struck prop man, a scoop of madcap characters and a show-stopping fight all make *The Great Ice Cream Scheme* a delightfully flavorful show!

Tickets are just \$10.

See the back page for dates & times

La Veta Youth Doners Donate

On May 18, 2009 the La Veta Youth Donors (LVYD), formally the El Pomar Youth Donors, held a grant giving ceremony. Among others the FCPA received a grant from a group of fine young citizens that all should be proud of.

There were four very deserving organizations that received monies that will be used for the good of the community. Other than the FCPA, LVYD donated to Dorca's Circle, in Walsenburg, which not only carries donated clothing and furniture but also creates food boxes for those less fortunate. Also on the list was the Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center Outreach Program, whose mission is to offer health related education to the schools.

Last, but certainly not least, was a couple who run a camp for the families of children who have cancer. The families pay nothing and they try to pair families up with others that have been through the same struggles. We respect the fact that they did not want recognition, but their web site will be up soon and we will let you know as soon as we do.

As for the FCPA, we have received \$500 to help finish repairs on Harmon Hall. Two winters ago both heaters in the bathrooms went out and pipes were frozen. After the new heaters were installed, Greg McCoy donated his time and a hot water heater. This money will go toward new flooring, drywall repair, paint, and shelving.

From all of us at the FCPA, a special thank you to those of LVYD.

Charlie's Grocery & Ice Cream
supports the FCPA
Thank You!

Melodrama

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A theater critic once said, "One form of entertainment which appears destined for perennial popularity is the good ole time melodrama. So if your ready to cheer on the hero, ahh at the heroine or gasp as she pleads for her life, and hiss the villain, you'll enjoy our next melodrama performance on July 24, 25, 26, 31 and August 1 & 2. Friday & Saturday at 7 PM, Sunday at 2:00.

Until next time, FCPA production coordinator and local thespian;
Sher Clouse

Upcoming Events...

July 3rd 7:00 PM

A musical presentation by La Veta's own Hack Andrews, guitarist.

July 17th and 18th

Haywire! The Denver comic magician will change your perception of what *is* a magic show. See our website for the details on this side-splitting variety performance which features unpredictable antics, mayhem and magic. 7:00/\$12

July 11th 6:00 PM

Al Clymer - Art Show and Reading. Subject matter is the Massacre at Wounded Knee. Al is an internationally acclaimed artist living in the La Veta area. This will be the first local showing of his work.

Clymer will be joined by Robert Buckner. Buckner studied with master painter Louis Maestas and has won several awards in New Mexico and Colorado. He was also featured in the book *How Did You Paint That? 100 Ways to Paint People*.

**July 24, 25, 26th and
July 31st, August 1 & 2nd**

The annual Francisco Fort Day Melodrama will be *The Great Ice Cream Scheme*, directed by Matt Dobbs. See Page 1 for more information

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Building Fund Enters New Era

Through the years that I've been with the FCPA, I have seen an enormous amount of changes. Every year the board of directors puts together a wish list for the theatre. Some are as small as a list of props or costumes that we need, others are as big as the remodel with the new stage and seating that we all enjoy.

Well, this is a brand new day with a brand new wish list. First and foremost is the insulating of the wall of the theatre, (believe it or not 100 years ago they didn't know about insulation). We already have quotes in and are looking for a grant to help pay for the cost.

Next on our list is a caulking and paint job for the outside. We do have volunteers and community service workers to take care of the caulking, but a professional painter is a must for such a big task. We would like the theatre, Harmon Hall, and the lumber rack to all be painted at the same time.

We at the FCPA see these two jobs as achievable. Between you the member and those that give grants to help support us. I do expect to see both the painting and insulating done by the end of summer.

That leaves the future. The FCPA board is unanimous that we need a building in the back to make the theatre complete. With the remodel and new carpeting, we lost our work space. With a "mock stage" we can build sets without creating a mess in the theatre with ti's new carpeting. In order to reach such a goal, first we must go to the Historical Comitee for approval. Then also to the Town Board for their approval (it is the towns building).

We look forward to your thoughts and ideas. A building like this takes a lot of planning and work. If you are interested in helping or donating, please feel free to contact us. As always, keep your mind and ears open.

Shane Clouse, President FCPA

Events *Continued from Page 2*

August 13th

Award winning story-teller Donna Ingham will delight, spell-bind, educate and move us to tears and laughter with her verbal stories of history, and

culture of a family, a region, a state, a nation and a world. Don't miss this fabulous folk-tail artist. See our website for more details.

Dinner To Die For

Dinner Theater is coming this fall. You won't want to miss *Death by Dessert*, which will be co-directed by Coral Anderson and Debbie Blouin.

This is a delightful, murder-mystery, comedy production. It's dinnertime and you're invited to a meal to die for! In New York's little Italy, the Donnaducce family and the Duccedonni family have been feuding for a generation, while operating two competing Italian restaurants that share a common wall.

When the curtain rises, the building's landlord is dead at center stage, and everyone is suspect; from the old-world Italian grandmother and mafia don grandfather, to the passionate chefs and bumbling wait staff. When the zany group of characters all become suspects in the murder of the building's landlord, it's up to the restaurateurs to settle their differences, and the audience to decide whodunnit.

Thank you

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1010 Cherry Street
719.742.3626

FCPA History

This historic building which currently is being used for live theater and other community projects was originally the Presbyterian Church built in 1892. The land, on Francisco Street, was donated by Colonel John Francisco and Mrs. P.Q. McComb V. The Church, a stately white wooden building, was built by William H. Adamson at a cost of \$1,200. It contained two rooms initially, an audience room 38 by 40 feet and a second room of 16 by 22.

In 1893, the membership had grown to 35. The Presbyterians signed over the structure to the town of La Veta in the early 1970's for use by the Francisco Fort Museum. It is now under the management of the Francisco Center for the Performing Arts. Over the years, many talented groups have called this stage home such as the Spoon River Players, the Fort Francisco Players and currently the Spanish Peaks Players.

From: *La Veta - The First 40 Years*,
by Nancy Christofferson



**Francisco Center for the
Performing Arts**

P.O. Box 663 ~ 127 Francisco Street
La Veta, CO 81055

Coming Attractions

Haywire.....See Page 2

July 17th and 18th - 7 P.M.

Al Clymer.....See Page 2

Saturday, July 11th at 6:00 PM

Summer Melodrama....See Page 1

July 24, 25, 26th and

July 31st, Aug 1 & 2nd

Friday and Saturdays at 7 PM

Sunday Matinees at 2 PM

Donna Ingham.....See Page 3

Thursday, August 13th

Dinner Theater.....See Page 3

Coming this fall! Do

check the website for more info!!!

