

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: **July 16 - 18, 2017**

Destination: **Silverton Historical Field Trip**

Leaders: **Joan and Byron Kellogg**

Number of Participants: **10**

Sunday, July 16: Some of the participants camped at the lovely South Mineral Creek Campground. We enjoyed a board game where we quizzed one another about Colorado Plateau trivia. Good thing the game was rated for age 8 and above!

Monday, July 17:

Our group thoroughly enjoyed the morning tour of the Silverton Cemetery led by Mary and Paul Beaber. The Beabers explained the ongoing restoration and documentation effort. We were intrigued by the newer headstones that local volunteers have been adding over the years. We also viewed the segregation of the cemetery and were reminded how the early cemetery reflected the social relationships of the early mining days in Silverton.

After our picnic in Memorial Park, Bev Rich, local historian and former county treasurer, conducted a tour of the very impressive Silverton Museum. In addition to touring the old jail building, Bev took us through the recreated three-story mine within the museum. Words do not begin to describe the extent and the quality of the presentation of the of the mining equipment and memorabilia. Several folks commented that the quality of the exhibit is unsurpassed and Smithsonian-worthy. Of course, having Bev Rich as our guide certainly added to the experience. We concluded our day by enjoying ice cream at Smedley's Ice Cream Parlor.

Tuesday, July 18:

Our day began meeting Bev Rich at Memorial Park. We drove to Animas Forks. On the way, we discussed the mining operations at the Little Giant Mine near Arrastra Gulch and Eureka mill history. Bev spoke of the experiences she had as a child growing up in Silverton and having a father and husband who were both miners. Her firsthand stories were quite interesting as well as educational. The road was rocky and rough once we left the Eureka area. The hundreds of 4wheeler ATVs added to the challenge of driving over rocky, narrow roads, but it was well worth the effort to explore Animas Forks with Bev.

We then drove to the Old One Hundred Gold Mine in Cunningham Gulch. After a quick picnic lunch, we boarded the mining car train and traveled 1/3 mile into the mine. The tour was very informative, especially the demonstrations of the authentic mining equipment. Our tour guide had once been a miner and seemed to fit the part just perfectly. Upon

our return to Silverton, we once again had an ice cream rendezvous at Smedley's. I believe we all left Silverton with a better understanding of the hardy souls that put Silverton on the map and the history that was made there.

- by Joan Kellogg

Participants: Nancy and Rege Leach, Randy Graham, Michael and Elain Moravan, Jim Mueller and Ronda Raffo, Lyle Hancock, Byron and Joan Kellogg