



C O L O R A D O

Heritage

The Magazine of History Colorado

March/April 2015

EL MOVIMIENTO

THE CHICANO MOVEMENT IN COLORADO

At the History Colorado Center and Inside This Issue

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- *The 1968 Exhibit*
- 1960s-Themed Programs and Happenings
- Spring Programs Around the State

Edward C. Nichols
PRESIDENT AND CEO

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For a full listing of benefits and more about membership, visit www.HistoryColorado.org and click on "Membership."

COmingle

Join History Colorado for our afterhours history "happenings" with an offbeat mix of games, trivia, demos, exhibit adventures, performances and cash bar.

At the History Colorado Center on Thursdays, 6–9 P.M.
\$10 at the door or at www.HistoryColorado.org



COLORADO IS STUCK IN '68

March 12—Try on retro fashions, taste a mid-century snack, learn a '60s dance and explore *The 1968 Exhibit*.

COLORADO IS WILD

May 14—Help create wilderness-themed art, then test your outdoor skills and your knowledge of Colorado's fourteeners.

Mount Sneffels in Ouray County



FWD: RACE

Join community leaders for a series of programs about race.

What will Colorado look like in 2015?

At the History Colorado Center on Tuesdays, 6–8 P.M.
Members and students \$4, nonmembers \$5
303/866-2394

Social Movements of the 1960s and Early 1970s

March 24—The Civil Rights movement of the '60s spurred many other human rights movements. From Black Power to GLBT, how have people stood up and fought for civil rights?

Colorado Today

April 28—How has the racial and ethnic composition of Colorado changed over time? What does our future look like, and how do we move forward? Have we achieved a post-racial Colorado?

COLORADO Heritage

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ON THE COVER

The pedestal for the statue of a Civil War soldier at the foot of the State Capitol steps in Denver was a popular perch for demonstrators in the 1970s. The soldier seems to be flying a Mexican flag at this demonstration on March 17, 1974, in support of the Chicano rights organization the Crusade for Justice. Photo by Juan Espinosa; courtesy of the photographer.

All images are from the collections of History Colorado unless otherwise noted.

HISTORY COLORADO CENTER

1200 Broadway, Denver

Open: Daily, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.**Extended evening hours! Open till 9 P.M. every third Tuesday.****Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$12; seniors and students \$10; children \$8; children 5 and under free. **303/HISTORY**, www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org**BYERS-EVANS HOUSE MUSEUM**

1310 Bannock Street, Denver

Open: Daily, except Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Guided house tours from 10:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$6; seniors and students (with ID) \$5; children (6–12) \$4. Group tours available. **303/620-4933**, www.ByersEvansHouseMuseum.org**EL PUEBLO HISTORY MUSEUM**

301 North Union, Pueblo

Open: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$5; seniors, children 6–12, and students with ID \$4; children 5 and under free; children 12 and under free on Saturdays. **719/583-0453**, www.ElPuebloHistoryMuseum.org**FORT GARLAND MUSEUM**

25 miles east of Alamosa off U.S. 160

Open: April–September, daily, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. October–March, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.; closed Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$5; seniors \$4.50; children ages 6–16, \$3.50. **719/379-3512**, www.FortGarlandMuseum.org**FORT VASQUEZ MUSEUM**

13412 U.S. 85, Platteville; 35 miles north of downtown Denver

Open: March 1–31, Wednesday–Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. April 1–September 30, daily, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. To schedule tours, call 303/866-4591.**Admission:** Members and children under 5 free; nonmembers \$2. **970/785-2832**, www.FortVasquezMuseum.org**GEORGETOWN LOOP HISTORIC MINING & RAILROAD PARK®**

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770 Pennsylvania Street, Denver

Open: For rental events, including receptions, weddings, and business meetings. **303/894-2505**, www.GrantHumphreysMansion.org**HEALY HOUSE MUSEUM AND DEXTER CABIN**

912 Harrison Avenue, Leadville

Closed for the season. Group tours (20+) can be arranged in winter (depending on availability) with reservation.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$6; seniors \$5.50; children (6–16) \$4.50; children 5 and under free. **719/486-0487**, www.HealyHouseMuseum.org**PIKE'S STOCKADE**

Six miles east of La Jara, near Sanford, Colorado, just off Highway 136

Open: Memorial Day to October 1, or by appointment.**TRINIDAD HISTORY MUSEUM**

312 East Main Street, Trinidad

Closed for the season. **Open:** May 1–September 30, Tuesday–Friday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Closed on state holidays. Free self-guided tours of garden and grounds, Monday–Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Baca House and Santa Fe Trail Museum available by appointment for groups of six or more. Bloom Mansion closed for restoration.**Admission:** Members free. Nonmember ticket options for Historic Homes Guided Tours, Santa Fe Trail Museum self-guided tours, Friday Heritage Garden Tours, and combination tickets at adult, senior, and child rates. Children 5 and under free. **719/846-7217**, www.TrinidadHistoryMuseum.org**UTE INDIAN MUSEUM**

17253 Chipeta Road, Montrose

Open: January–June: Tuesday through Saturday, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

July–October: Monday through Saturday, 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.; Sunday, 11 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. November–December: Monday through Saturday, 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Admission: Members and children 6 and under free; nonmember adults \$4.50; seniors \$4; children ages 6–16, \$2. **970/249-3098**, www.UteIndianMuseum.org

From the PRESIDENT

A few months ago, we surveyed you, our members, about your experiences with History Colorado and the benefits of membership. I want to thank every one of you who took the time to give us your thoughtful feedback. Through that survey,

we've enjoyed getting to know you better and are continuing to learn what you love about History Colorado and what else you'd like to see. In a future issue of *Heritage*, we plan to tell you more about what we learned and our upcoming plans. In the meantime, dynamic exhibits and rich programs top your list, and we have exciting plans on both of those fronts.

February saw the opening of two new exhibits that many of you are already talking about: *The 1968 Exhibit*, a fascinating new traveling exhibition about a pivotal year in American history, and *El Movimiento: The Chicano Movement in Colorado*, a companion exhibit developed by our own staff in partnership with statewide advisors directly involved in the Chicano Movement of the '60s and beyond.

The 1968 Exhibit is a national story, and we've added elements to make it Colorado's story too—with our own collections and through a Colorado timeline of 1968. To enrich your experience, we've added an afterhours “happening,” panel discussions, crafts, a Hippie Haven Lounge, and a day honoring the service of our veterans. We celebrated the exhibit's opening with a 1968-themed gala—with lots of tie-dye and music for more than 350 guests, media, members and friends.

El Movimiento is all Colorado's story: a chronicle through images, voices, film, and artifacts of one of the most vital social movements in our state's history—and one with ramifications to today's demographics. We opened *El Movimiento* with a celebration, too. Nearly 400 friends and partners came to honor their past and hear remarks from Eduardo Diaz, Director of the Smithsonian Latino Center, and Colorado Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia. It was a fitting tribute to the community effort that this exhibit represents.

The key to everything we do is this: we don't do it alone. We're telling Colorado's stories, and to do that, we rely on our partners. Those partners are supporting the relevance of our exhibits—last season's *RACE: Are We So Different?* and this season's *1968 Exhibit* and *El Movimiento*—and the relevance of our statewide programming. Our growing ranks of partners—members, veterans, sponsors, museum visitors, program attendees—are helping spread the word that we're here to tell Colorado's stories.

As our members, you are History Colorado's invaluable ambassadors. We thank you for spreading the word too!

Edward C. Nichols, President and CEO

Preservationist Ann Pritzlaff Named History Colorado Board Chair

History Colorado has named Ann Alexander Pritzlaff its new board chair, taking over for departing chair Jim McCotter. Pritzlaff has long held a deep commitment to historic preservation, heritage education, volunteer programs and policy through her position on the History Colorado board of directors and her Preservation and Policy consulting practice. For thirty-five years, she has built a reputation as a leader in the field of historic preservation, with appointments by three Colorado Governors—Bill Owens, Bill Ritter and John Hickenlooper—to the State Historic Preservation Review Board. She was selected by President George W. Bush to serve as a “Historic Preservation Expert” for two four-year terms on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

“Heading the History Colorado board is profoundly important to me,” she says. “No other organization can help Coloradans understand the present in the context of the past, so that informed decisions can be made for the future. No other organization can serve as a forum for civic, civil discussion about today’s issues in a historical context the way History Colorado does. And no other organization has the obligation that we do to preserve the places and the unique stories of Colorado.”

Pritzlaff has served on the History Colorado board for eleven years, chairing the Archaeology and Historic Preservation Committee and the State Preservation Plan Committee. She received the 2012 Governor’s Award for Historic Preservation for creating and producing the Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit, and in 2014 Colorado Preservation, Inc. honored her with its prestigious Dana Crawford Award, underscoring her leadership in promoting, saving and sharing historic places on national, state and local levels. Nationally, she has received recognition from such organizations as the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the US Forest Service and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

A Coloradan since 1982, Pritzlaff also serves on the board of the National Western Stock Show and the University of Colorado’s Center for the American West. She sits on the Board of Advisors of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



Ann Pritzlaff

Mother’s Day Gift Memberships

What better way to show Mom how much you love her than with the opportunity to enjoy History Colorado year-round! As a special thank-you to our existing members, enjoy a **10% discount on NEW Mother’s Day gift memberships** purchased between now and May 1.

With a brand-new downtown Denver museum and many museums and historic sites just an adventure away, a History Colorado membership is a meaningful way to tell Mom how much you love her, whether she’s new to our fine state or can boast native status!

She’ll enjoy these privileges:

- Unlimited free admission to the History Colorado Center
- Unlimited free admission to History Colorado museums and historic sites statewide
- *Colorado Heritage* magazine
- Discounts on lectures, tours and gift shop and café purchases
- And much more!

To ensure mail delivery to the gift giver by May 10, purchase by May 1 by calling 303/866-3639 or coming in to the History Colorado Center.

Special offer applies to new memberships purchased as a gift for another household. Not valid on renewals. Gift memberships will be mailed to the gift purchaser and are valid for 12 months from purchase date. Offer valid 3/1/15–5/1/15 on memberships purchased by phone at 303/866-3639 or in person at the History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203. Not valid online.

In our last issue, we mentioned the USS Pueblo, the Navy intelligence vessel captured by North Korea in 1968. Unfortunately, the photo we included was of an earlier USS Pueblo. Thank you to the many kind readers who pointed out the error. Here is the actual USS Pueblo still in North Korean hands.



Courtesy U.S. Naval Historical Center

Thank You, Volunteers!

National Volunteer Week (April 12–18) honors the inspiring work accomplished by volunteers every year. History Colorado would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers for their commitment to preserving and promoting Colorado history. Our volunteers come from all over the state, serving their communities by telling their unique stories, preserving historic artifacts and engaging visitors. Our work wouldn't be possible without them!

Interested in volunteering at History Colorado? Visit <http://www.historycolorado.org/volunteers/volunteers>, or email emily.dobish@state.co.us.

Calling All Volunteers!

Saturday, March 21, 9:30 A.M.–1:30 P.M.
Byers-Evans House Museum

The Byers-Evans House seeks volunteers to help guide tours and work in the gallery and gift shop. If you're interested, please attend our training session.

RSVP: jillian.allison@state.co.us or 303/620-4933



Call for Nominations

Do you know local historians who deserve recognition? Have you or your organization worked on an exhibit or historical project? If so, nominate a project for the Caroline Bancroft or Josephine H. Miles History Awards! Every year, History Colorado gives two monetary awards to individuals, organizations, or museums in Colorado that have made a major contribution in the past year (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) to the advancement of Colorado history. The Caroline Bancroft History Award is given for history projects in communities with population of less than 50,000. The Josephine H. Miles History Award may go to a project in any size community.

The awards will be presented at History Colorado's annual meeting in the fall. Nomination forms must be postmarked or emailed by June 30. Self-nominations are encouraged! For forms and eligibility criteria, email megan.rose@state.co.us or call 303/866-2306.



Thank a volunteer during National Volunteer Week in April!

New & On View

Denver

History Colorado Center
(unless otherwise noted)



We ♥ Rocky Mountain National Park

Opening March 21

Rocky Mountain National Park turns 100 in 2015. History Colorado is celebrating the people and the places of one of our most cherished spots in the We ♥ Rocky Mountain National Park exhibit. The exhibit is part of a yearlong, statewide celebration of the park's centennial.

Every day, Coloradans and visitors alike have amazing experiences in the park. Seeing a moose for the first time. Breathing in deep lungfuls of high mountain air. Proposing to our future spouse in front of Bear Lake. Climbing Longs Peak for the first—or 47th—time. Posing for a photo by a snowdrift on Trail Ridge Road. Camping with friends, or with an entire youth group.

We ♥ Rocky Mountain National Park introduces you to amazing people and the ways they've loved the park. Meet Ted Matthews, who attended the park's 1915 dedication at the age of ten. He and his wife Lois climbed, hiked and photographed the park for decades. View the autochromes of Fred Clatworthy, the park's premier early color photographer. Learn to be a park ranger from Bob Flame, the fictional hero created by real-life ranger Dorr Yeager. Teddie Haines shows you the beauty and the isolation of living in the park fulltime. Find out how urban kids are learning to love the park with Roberto Moreno, founder of the Camp Moreno Project. And, share your own stories of the park!

Gathering at the dedication of Rocky Mountain National Park in Larimer County, 1915. From History Colorado's Fred P. Clatworthy Collection. 20010483



Members-Only Preview:

We ♥ Rocky Mountain National Park

Friday, March 20, 5:30 to 8 P.M.

RSVP by March 17!

Enjoy an exclusive first look at the History Colorado Center's newest exhibit, *We ♥ Rocky Mountain National Park*, as we celebrate the park's 100th anniversary. Experience the exhibit before it opens to the public with behind-the-scenes talks from curators and historians, stories from park rangers, vintage home movies and fun interactives. Sign the official birthday card, have a slice of cake and wish a very happy birthday to Colorado's favorite national park! Café Rendezvous will offer a special dinner of upscale campfire foods for \$19.15.

Members free!

Nonmember guests \$12 (adult), \$10 (seniors, students 13–22), \$8 (children, 6–12)

RSVP: 303/866-4477 or www.HistoryColorado.org/

RMNPmember

Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s



Opens June 10

Gumby. Barbie. Slinky. Mr. Potato Head. Wham-O. Spirograph. Hot Wheels. The names of these popular toys capture the craziness, the joy, the sheer fun of being a kid. But beneath those nutty names are rich veins of nostalgia, memory and history. The stories of the kids who played with these toys, the adults who bought them, the child-rearing experts who judged them and the people who invented them reflect the rhythms of American life. Developed by the Minnesota History Center.

The 1968 Exhibit

Through May 10

The 1968 Exhibit, an award-winning traveling exhibit making stops in some of the nation's top museums, is at the History Colorado Center this spring! This pivotal American year comes to life through photographs, artifacts and vintage pop culture items. Presented month-by-month, *The 1968 Exhibit* explores the cultural and political events that shaped the 1960s and '70s—and that continue to reverberate today.

The exhibit opens with a full-size Huey helicopter that's "landed" in a '60s-era living room. Vietnam vets tell their stories in films projected in the interior of the helicopter. This chopper was actually flown as a Red Cross medevac helicopter in Vietnam, providing emergency care and transporting wounded soldiers. Local veterans—many of them pilots who flew similar Hueys in Vietnam—helped reassemble the helicopter.



THE 1968 EXHIBIT

Also on view:

- A '68 voting booth
- A Vietnam War draft notice
- A camera used to photograph Bobby Kennedy the night he was shot
- A program from Dr. King's funeral service
- Jimi Hendrix's purple jacket
- Clips from '60s films, TV shows and albums

Developed by the Minnesota History Center, in partnership with the Atlanta History Center, the Chicago History Museum and the Oakland Museum of California.

**El Movimiento:
The Chicano Movement in Colorado**

On view now

El Movimiento immerses you in the urgency and vitality of one of Colorado's most important social movements. Artifacts, images and the voices of the activists reveal the struggle for labor rights, the founding of the Crusade for Justice, student activism and the Vietnam War. History Colorado created *El Movimiento* with advisers from across the state. The Museo de las Americas is showing a companion exhibit—*CHICANO*—through May 29.

Presenting sponsor:



With support from:

The Abarca Family Foundation



Rock Posters from Denver's Family Dog

Byers-Evans House Gallery
Through May 10

See original rock posters and photos from Denver's '60s music scene.

Free receptions on First Friday Art Walk nights:

March 6, April 3 and May 1, 5 to 9 P.M.

The 1968 Exhibit at the History Colorado Center



Pueblo

El Pueblo History Museum

Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863, and the March on Washington, 1963

Opening Friday, March 6

One hundred years separate the *Emancipation Proclamation* and the March on Washington, yet they are linked in the larger story of liberty and the American experience. Both were the result of people demanding justice. Both grew out of decades of bold actions, resistance, organization and vision. *Changing America* commemorates two pivotal achievements in our country's history.

Changing America is presented by the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of American History in collaboration with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The tour of the traveling exhibit is made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor.

Free opening reception March 6, 5 to 8 P.M.

Changing Colorado: Civil Rights in the Centennial State

Opening Friday, March 6

Changing Colorado explores Colorado civil rights issues, from Japanese internment to women's suffrage, worker rights to the Chicano movement. High school students from eight Pueblo schools collaborated to create the exhibit.

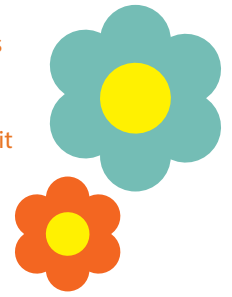
Free opening reception March 6, 5 to 8 P.M.



Participants at the March on Washington. Image courtesy of U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

Courtesy Minnesota History Center

All 1968 Exhibit and *El Movimiento* programs happen at the History Colorado Center. Tickets for *The 1968 Exhibit* are available at www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org. The exhibit is free for members.



Family Fun

1968 Hippie Haven Lounge

Soak in the ambiance of '68 while relaxing in a lounge area designed for families. Explore some fun activities, find out what happened in 1968 on your birthday and see if your 2015 outfit would have been acceptable in '68!

The lounge is open 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. on:

- Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28
- Friday and Saturday, April 3 and 4
- Saturday, May 9

Macramé Me

Fridays, March 27 and April 3, 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Join us to learn a popular craft from 1968—macramé. Learn the technique and create your own small plant hanger. Drop in for this activity before or after visiting the Hippie Haven Lounge.

Adult Programs

1968 Veterans Appreciation Event

Thursday, March 19

History Colorado invites all veterans and their families to enjoy free admission to the History Colorado Center in honor of their service. A dinner program from 6 to 9 P.M. features the USO Show Troupe and Jim Nicholson, former Secretary of the Veterans Administration and Vietnam veteran. Contact 303/866-3670 for details and reservations.

Colorful Colorado

History Colorado Center

Members \$4, nonmembers \$5 (unless otherwise noted)

Meet Colorado authors, History Colorado curators and others. Call 303/866-2394 to reserve your spot, or register online! Early registration recommended! All programs require a minimum number of participants and may be canceled if the minimum is not met 48 hours ahead of time. Early registration recommended!

The Yearbook: A Picture-Storied Record of Student Hope and Achievement in a Changing World

Monday, March 9, 1 to 2 P.M.

More than just a record of facts, the school yearbook is a form of expression. In times of conflict, the yearbook becomes a tool for students to show the world that they're tuned in to what's happening. As one CU-Boulder yearbook editor said, "We want you to be able to distinguish this year—1969—from all the rest." History Colorado's Kerry Baldwin explores how major historic events changed yearbooks over time.

Jimi, Janis, the Family Dog and More: 1968 in Music

Saturday, March 14, 1 to 2 P.M.

From Jimi Hendrix's performance at Regis University to Led Zeppelin's first U.S. appearance; from a young Tommy Bolin playing shows at the Family Dog on West Evans to one of Janis Joplin's last shows with Big Brother and the Holding Company, 1968 was a big year on the Colorado music scene. This illustrated talk by Elisa Phelps looks back at the musicians, performances, venues and personalities.

The American War in Viet Nam: Then and Now

Monday, March 23, 1 to 2 P.M.

Denver photographer Ted Engelmann describes his 1968 military experiences in Viet Nam through his photographs. Two decades after he left Viet Nam he returned—and began a twenty-five-year journey to revisit many of the places he'd photographed in the war. In 2006, Ted found resolution to his emotional war when he released his photographs from that time and replaced them with images made in peace.

Nixon Now: Colorado and the 1968 Election

Monday, April 13, 1 to 2 P.M.

Colorado voters awarded Lyndon Johnson a thumping victory over Republican opponent Barry Goldwater in 1964. Four years later, the roles reversed, as voters turned out to support Richard Nixon over Hubert H. Humphrey. Join Colorado State Historian Bill Convery as he explores the legacy of '68 in Colorado politics.

Journalistic Activism: A Photographic Journey Through El Movimiento

Monday, April 27, 1 to 2 P.M.

Juan Espinosa's four-decade career as a journalist began with the Chicano Movement. After a tour of duty in Vietnam, Espinosa returned to Colorado and joined the antiwar and Chicano movements. As a founder of *El Diario* and cofounder of *La Cucaracha* newspapers, he reported and photographed major events in the early '70s: El Partido la Raza Unida's

national convention, the United Farm Workers' Grape Strike of 1973, the police attack on the Crusade for Justice and the early history of the United Mexican American Students at the University of Colorado.

Coming in May...

Denver's Amusement Parks: A Story of Fun

Monday, May 11, 1–3 P.M.

Nearly 5,000 amusement parks were built in the United States between 1895 and 1920, and most major cities had one. By 1908, Denver had four to choose from, while memories of a recently closed fifth still lingered. After 1914, only two—Lakeside and Elitch's—remained to entertain tens of thousands of customers yearly. Then two new ventures in the '50s threatened their dominance. Join historian David Forsyth for a trip through this rollercoaster history.

2014–15 Lecture Series *Our Shifting Times*

1 and 7 P.M.

Single lectures: Members \$8.50, nonmembers \$10, students (with ID) \$6.50

303/866-2394

Sponsored by the Walter S. Rosenberry III Charitable Trust

Segregation in Denver Public Schools: The 1960s and Today

Tuesday, March 17

In 1973 the Supreme Court ruled that DPS had deliberately segregated schools. The court ordered busing to remedy the situation, and busing brought success in achieving racial balance. But massive "white flight" led to a dearth of white students to be bused by the early '90s. Today, the district may be more segregated than ever. Former DPS board member Laura Lefkowitz discusses the legacy of this controversial policy.

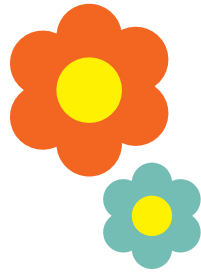
Apollo 8: First Voyage to the Moon

Tuesday, April 21

At the end of 1968, humans ventured into deep space. Three astronauts spent twenty hours orbiting the Moon, witnessing something no one had ever seen: Earth rising over the lunar surface. That image has become one of the most widely known pictures of the last forty years. Join the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's Dr. Michael Neufeld as he describes the historic voyage.

Tours & Treks

Take a Guided Trip Into the Past
(To register call 303/866-2394)



1968: Denver, a Tour by Bus

Saturday, April 11, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

For the nation at large, 1968 made headlines for assassinations, upheaval and the quickening pace of change in a decade that had already seen its share. Though Denver didn't always make the headlines, much was changing in the Mile High City. See how the built environment went through an upheaval of its own, and learn what was saved and lost in this dynamic year.

Members \$36, nonmembers \$46

(Includes bus transportation and a break for lunch on your own dime.)

El Movimiento: Looking Back, Looking Forward

Join us for a series of community dialogues exploring Colorado's Chicano Movement and where we are today. Sponsored by AARP.

History Colorado members \$4, nonmembers \$5

Organizing a Better Tomorrow: The Labor Movement

Thursday, March 26, 6 P.M.

From the San Luis Valley lettuce fields to the Coors beer boycott, the collective voice of workers has always been heard. Join us as we examine the Chicano labor movement past and present. Panelists include Cecilia Flores and Ricardo La Foré. Moderated by Dr. Priscilla Falcón.

Student Activism, Then and Now

Tuesday, May 5, 6 P.M.

El Movimiento was fueled by the activism of young people. In March 1969, students marched out of West High School to demand a better education. Walkouts occurred throughout the city. Join us to watch clips from the film *West High School March 1969: Blow Out!*, followed by a panel discussion with people involved in the action, including Carlos Santistevan and Emanuel Martinez from the Crusade for Justice. Today's student leaders and activists will also join the discussion. Moderated by Deborah Espinosa.



FAMILY FUN

Denver

Día del Niño Celebration 2015

Sunday, April 26, noon to 4 P.M.

Enjoy free admission and "Day of the Child" programming at the Denver Art Museum, History Colorado Center, Byers-Evans House Museum, Denver Public Library, Clyfford Still Museum, Molly Brown House Museum and McNichols Civic Center Building. The Byers-Evans House offers free tours of the first floor, a craft station and a "please touch" artifacts area, with Latin American dancers performing all day.

FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES at the History Colorado Center!

These are just highlights, and performances are subject to change, so check www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org for updates.

Free with admission.

MARCH

March 7: **Flintknapper** Tim Boucher, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

March 14: **Heritage Irish Stepdancers**, 11:30 A.M. and 2 P.M.

March 21: **Explorer** Isabella Bird, 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

March 28: **Did going to the Moon in '68 save Earth?**

Find out at 11:30 A.M.

APRIL

April 4: **Flintknapper** Tim Boucher, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

April 11: **Mountain man** Doc Grizzly, 10:30 A.M. to 2 P.M.

April 18: **Buffalo soldier** sergeant Jack Hackett, 11:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

April 25: **American Indian Beading**, 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.

April 26: **Día del Niño** (Day of the Child) performances, noon to 4 P.M.

First Wednesday Preschool Story Time

Wednesdays, March 4 and April 1, 9:30 A.M.

History Colorado Center

Bring the kids (age 2-5) to story time in our *Destination Colorado* exhibit and learn about farms, cowboys and animals. We'll read a story and then have playtime in the exhibit before the museum opens. Free with admission!

El Movimiento features the art and activism of the Chicano Movement.

Pueblo

Changing Tomorrow: Future Leaders of Pueblo

El Pueblo History Museum
March 23–27

Pueblo's future leaders are invited to a spring break camp.
Information: 719/583-0453

ADULT PROGRAMS

Denver

Doors Open Denver Free Days

Byers-Evans House Museum
Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Enjoy free tours of the lower levels of the Byers-Evans House as part of the annual citywide celebration of architecture and urban design.

Members-Only Mother's Day Brunch

History Colorado Center
Sunday, May 10, 10 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.
Reserve by May 5!
Treat Mom to a historic Mother's Day! Enjoy a delicious brunch buffet—with delectable gourmet dishes created by Chef Samir Mohammad—and great views of downtown Denver from our Terrace Room. Then watch performances and presentations about amazing mothers in history. Mimosas and bloody marys just \$4 each or bottomless for \$8!
Members \$32, children (6–13) \$13
Nonmembers \$38, children (6–13) \$17
Children 5 and under free
RSVP: 303/866-4477 or www.HistoryColorado.org/mothersday

COLLECTIONS & LIBRARY PROGRAMS at the History Colorado Center

Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center
Members \$4, nonmembers \$5
RSVP required. Call 303/866-2394, or register online! *All programs require a minimum number of registered participants and may be canceled if the minimum is not met 48 hours ahead of time. Early registration recommended!*

Family History Research

Saturday, March 14, 10:15 to 11:15 A.M.—History Colorado's research collections include a wealth of materials for visitors interested in their Colorado roots. Join our reference librarian to explore our family history resources in a program designed for genealogists of all experience levels. *(Limited to 10 people)*

Collections Close-Ups: Great Women of Colorado



History Colorado Center—*Free with museum admission*
Tuesday, March 17, 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Celebrate Women's History Month! We'll be sharing personal artifacts, photographs and stories of women who've made Colorado history.

Fashion in the 1960s

Wednesday, April 8, 7 to 8 P.M.
The '60s were a time of social and political change—and fashion reflected it! Join us for an evening of fashion history and personal stories. Denver designer Mona Lucero explores iconic styles and designers, street style and more. Participants can share their favorite '60s clothing, footwear and accessories. Bring your fashion hits (or misses!) to win prizes—and be prepared to share your stories!
Members \$8, nonmembers \$10

Photo Digitization 101

Wednesday, April 15, 1 to 4 P.M.
Join History Colorado's photographer and photo archivist for a hands-on digitization workshop! Learn how to use photo-editing software and a flatbed scanner to digitize photographs, slides and negatives. You'll also get tips on how to archive and manage your digitized photograph collection. *(Limited to 7 people)*
Members \$8, nonmembers \$10



Behind-the-Scenes Collection Tours

Fridays, March 20 and April 17, 1 P.M.
Ever wondered what happens behind the scenes at the History Colorado Center? Join us for free collections tours every third Friday. We'll visit rarely seen storage and processing spaces and get an up-close-and-personal view of artifacts. *(Limited to 12 people. Sign up at the front desk when you arrive!)*

Pueblo

El Pueblo History Museum (unless otherwise noted)

For more about these programs, call 719/583-0453

Mass Incarceration: Race, Immigration and the Tangle of Drug Laws

Thursday, March 12, 7 P.M.

Sociologist Dr. Earl Smith presents a lecture on mass incarceration and drug laws.

Culture and Diversity Fair

Saturday, March 14, 10 A.M.–4 P.M.

Community Conversation: Race and Law Enforcement

Thursday, March 26, 6 P.M.

Memory Writing Workshop on the Civil Rights Era

Saturday, March 28, 10 A.M.

Breaking Bread Project on Race

Friday, April 10, 6–9 P.M.

Share perspectives on race over dinners hosted in private homes, churches, restaurants and businesses.

The Myth of Black Savagery in Contemporary America: Media Representations in Times of Racial Crisis

Wednesday, April 15, 7 P.M.

Dr. Scott Gage (CSU-Pueblo) discusses the visual rhetoric of race.

March Film Series

Rawlings Public Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., Pueblo
Wednesdays at 6 P.M.

March 10—*The Abolitionists*

March 17—*Slavery by Another Name*

March 24—*Freedom Riders*

March 31—*The Loving Story*

PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board Meetings

The Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board meets three times a year to review state and national register nominations of places in Colorado worthy of preservation. Open to the public, the meetings usually take place at the History Colorado Center. This year's remaining meetings are on May 15 and September 18. Information and locations: 303/866-3392 or www.historycolorado.org/oahp/nomination-deadlines.

May is Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month!

Go to www.ahpm-colorado.org for a schedule of statewide events celebrating Colorado's rich archaeological and historic heritage. This year's theme is "History in the Making: Celebrating Youth in Preservation."

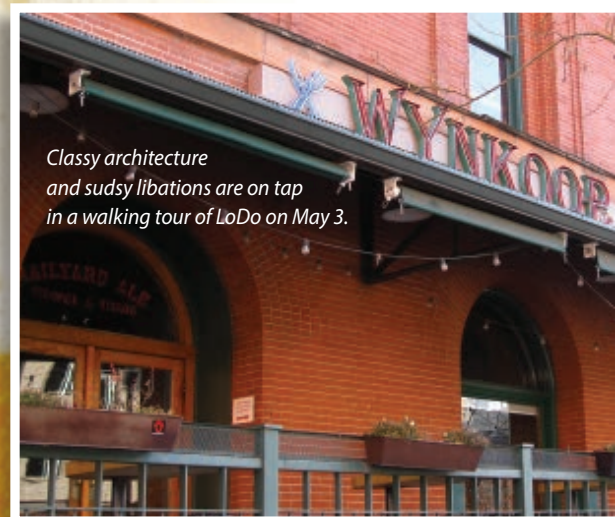
Members-Only Last Call Night: 1968 Exhibit

Friday, April 24, 6–9 P.M., History Colorado Center

Come see '68 before it's too late! *The 1968 Exhibit* closes on May 10, so join us for the Members-Only Last Call Night before we say goodbye to the year that rocked history. Enjoy exclusive evening access to the museum, special activities and crafts and a \$19.68 meal for two in the Café Rendezvous.

RSVP at 303/866-4477 or membership@state.co.us with your name and membership ID number, number in party and email address.

**Tune in.
Turn on.
and drop by!**



Classy architecture
and sudsy libations are on tap
in a walking tour of LoDo on May 3.

Tours & Treks

Take a Guided Trip Into the Past (To register call 303/866-2394)

Lafayette Walking Tour

Wednesday, March 25, 9 A.M. to noon

When Mary and Lafayette Miller reached this region in the early 1860s, they had little indication of the promise that lay ahead—at least for Mary. After her husband’s early death, one of the richest veins of coal in the state was found, and Mary proved an able leader for the community she founded and named after her late husband. Today, Lafayette has much to offer, from historic buildings and museums to healthy habits.

Members \$21, nonmembers \$26

(Provide your own transportation to starting point.)

Forgotten Denver Bus Tours: Northeast Denver

Saturday, April 18, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

When William Larimer envisioned the city of Denver in 1858, he turned his eyes to the northeast, assuming the city would naturally lead in that direction. And he was right. It’s time to turn our own eyes northeastward; there’s fascinating history, with stories galore. From the gates of City Park and the traces of rails and runways, you’ll be surprised what you learn.

Members \$36, nonmembers \$46

(Includes bus transportation and a break for lunch on your own dime.)

Denver’s Architecture Through the Ages

Saturday, April 25, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Calling all the folks who have an eye for architecture, or who’d like to! We’ll look at decades of Denver’s architecture, showing you the lovelies—and the not-so-lovelies. Much of Denver’s Victorian heritage was torn down as part of urban

renewal, but there are pieces left to be found. Fancy some Art Deco? We’ve got it! How about some Brutalist, Post-Modern, International, or Richardsonian Romanesque? We’ve got that too!
Members \$36, nonmembers \$46
(Includes bus transportation and a break for lunch on your own dime.)

Northglenn and Thornton Walking Tour

Wednesday, April 29, 1 to 4 P.M.

Driving north along I-25, you might not realize there’s impressive history between you and the sunrise. Let’s take a walking

tour of Northglenn and Thornton, with some car-hopping jumps between locations, to see just what you’ve been blowing right by all these years. From the country’s “most perfectly planned community” to the street so curvy it’s named after Jane Russell, visionaries saw unending potential north of Denver.

Members \$21, nonmembers \$26

(Please provide your own transportation to starting location.)

History on Tap in Lower Downtown

Sunday, May 3, 1 to 5 P.M.

Belly up to some oases renowned for their history! Tom “Dr. Colorado” Noel leads a jaunty stroll among the liquid delights of LoDo. Tom will fill your mental cup with the area’s history and up-close looks at the faces of those places today. With salty pretzels and foamy mugs in hand, it’s a great way to have your history and drink it too!

Members \$46 nonmembers \$56

(Please provide your own transportation to starting location.)

Includes one drink ticket and a light supper.)

Yampa River Rafting Adventure

Wednesday, June 17, to Sunday, June 21

Register by May 15!

History Colorado and Adrift Adventures team up for a whitewater adventure in Dinosaur National Monument. Enjoy action, excitement, geology and the history of the Yampa and Green Rivers with historian Andrew Gulliford, who’ll bring the area’s cowboys, outlaws and explorers to life. Bring the kids and get wet!

Members \$755, nonmembers \$815, kids 7–12 \$275

Information and reservations: Adrift Adventures, 1-800-824-0150. *(Space limited)*

Gunnison River Canoe Trek

Tuesday, July 7, to Friday, July 10

Register by June 5!

Join History Colorado and Centennial Canoe Outfitters to explore a wild and remote area with fascinating history! On this canoe and camping journey along the Gunnison, Andrew Gulliford shares stories of the colorful characters and events that shaped this stunning landscape.

Members \$519, nonmembers \$579, kids 6–12 \$499

Information and reservations: Centennial Canoe Outfitters, 1-877-353-1850. *(Space limited)*



Thanks to the 1968 Exhibit Premiere Party Sponsors

History Colorado gives special thanks to the sponsors of the 1968 Exhibit Premiere Party. Guests wore their most groovy threads, enjoyed signature cocktails from Breckenridge Distillery, nibbled on '60s-inspired treats and danced to live music to kick off the opening of *The 1968 Exhibit*.

- MDC Richmond American Homes Foundation
- Breckenridge Distillery
- Land Title Guarantee Company
- The ART Hotel
- St. Charles Town Company



Thank you to our Event Committee—seated (from left): Mary Schaefer, Amy Slothower; standing (from left): Betty Heid, Stephanie Tryba, Janet Burlile, Nora Heitmann, Judy Grant, Rebecca Olchawa Barker, Annie Slothower, Kitty Koch, Meg Nichols.



Back row (from left): Adriana Abarca, Ramon Del Castillo, Juan Espinosa, Deborah Espinosa, Antonio Esquibel, Emanuel Martinez, Lucha Martinez de Luna, Phil Hernández, Ernesto Torres, Roberto Rey, Ricardo La Foré
 Front row (from left): Gail Gonzales, Charlotte Gonzales, Carlos Santistevan, Cecilia Flores, Rita Martinez, Priscilla Falcón, Nicki Gonzales
 Not pictured: Magdalena Aguayo, Dana EchoHawk, Maruca Salazar, Daniel Salazar, Ruth Sanchez, David Atekpaztin Young

To El Movimiento Community Advisory Committee

You inspire us.

You have struggled and fought
 so that future generations
 will know less injustice.

Thank you for telling your story,
 and for making our community
 and the world a better place.

—The History Colorado team

JJ Rutherford, Beth Kaminsky, B. Erin Cole,
 Megan Friedel, Ginni Baker, Keith Valdez and David Lopez



Calendar

MARCH

6 Friday

CHANGING AMERICA OPENS
CHANGING COLORADO OPENS
El Pueblo History Museum
See page 6.

9 Monday

THE YEARBOOK
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

12 Thursday

COMINGLE: COLORADO IS
STUCK IN '68
History Colorado Center
See page 1.

MASS INCARCERATION
El Pueblo History Museum
See page 10.

14 Saturday

FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP
History Colorado Center
See page 9.

CULTURE AND DIVERSITY FAIR
El Pueblo History Museum
See page 10.

1968 IN MUSIC
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

17 Tuesday

SEGREGATION IN DPS
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

COLLECTIONS CLOSE-UPS:
WOMEN OF COLORADO
History Colorado Center
See page 9.

19 Thursday

1968 VETERANS APPRECIATION
History Colorado Center
See page 6.

20 Friday

MEMBERS-ONLY OPENING
WE♥ROCKY MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL PARK
History Colorado Center
See page 5.

21 Saturday

WE♥ROCKY MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL PARK OPENS
History Colorado Center
See page 4.

23 Monday

THE AMERICAN WAR
IN VIET NAM
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

24 Tuesday

FWD: '60 AND '70S
SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
History Colorado Center
See page 1.

25 Wednesday

LAFAYETTE WALKING TOUR
See page 11.

26 Thursday

THE CHICANO LABOR
MOVEMENT
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

RACE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
El Pueblo History Museum
See page 10.

28 Saturday

MEMORY WRITING WORKSHOP:
CIVIL RIGHTS
El Pueblo History Museum
See page 10.

APRIL

8 Wednesday

FASHION IN THE 1960S
History Colorado Center
See page 9.

10 Friday

BREAKING BREAD: RACE
El Pueblo History Museum
See page 10.

11 Saturday

1968 DENVER BUS TOUR
See page 8.

13 Monday

COLORADO AND THE
1968 ELECTION
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

15 Wednesday

PHOTO DIGITIZATION 101
History Colorado Center
See page 9.

MYTH OF BLACK SAVAGERY
El Pueblo History Museum
See page 10.

18 Saturday

NORTHEAST DENVER BUS TOUR
See page 11.

21 Tuesday

APOLLO 8
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

25 Saturday

DENVER ARCHITECTURE TOUR
See page 11.

26 Sunday

DÍA DEL NIÑO
See page 8.

27 Monday

PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY:
EL MOVIMIENTO
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

28 Tuesday

FWD: COLORADO TODAY
History Colorado Center
See page 1.

29 Wednesday

NORTHGLENN AND
THORNTON TOUR
See page 11.

Repeated Events

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME
History Colorado Center
March 4 and April 1
See page 8.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES
COLLECTION TOURS
History Colorado Center
March 20 and April 17
See page 9.

1968 HIPPIE HAVEN LOUNGE
History Colorado Center
March 27, 28; April 3, 4; May 9
See page 6.

MACRAMÉ ME
History Colorado Center
March 27 and April 3
See page 6.

DOORS OPEN DENVER FREE DAYS
Byers-Evans House Museum
April 25 and 26
See page 9.

SPRING BREAK CAMP
El Pueblo History Museum
March 23–27
See page 9.

Mission 66: Our National Park Legacy

BY KRISTI ROBERTS,
STATE HISTORICAL FUND OUTREACH AND TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST

My love for national parks didn't arise from family vacations. When I was young, we took few road trips that deviated from the long drive from Chicago to Florida to visit my grandparents and go to Disney World. My parents weren't outdoorsy, which was perhaps the reason I fell in love with camping as a teenager and have become an avid camper as an adult. A trip through Glacier National Park in college was my first foray into the wild, but also into the grandeur of the national park system and its architecture. The park's century-old lodges and rentable lake cabins, all with indoor plumbing, seemed very luxurious to someone whose first experience with the wilderness was a week-long backcountry trip where we fished the glacial lakes for dinner.

Though I thought most of the buildings at Glacier were unnecessarily lavish, I completely took for granted the services they offered, from efficient indoor plumbing to ranger stations with interpretive signs to the park's basic cleanliness. Today, most large national parks operate like small cities, each with its own infrastructure, governing body, and workforce. This design was intentional, and the initiative that created it remains one of

the National Park Service's largest programs in its history. The program, Mission 66, provided funding for buildings and infrastructure that created the National Park System we know today.

The Mission 66 Program

Between 1931 and 1949, national park visits increased from 3.5 million to 30 million as a result of increased mobility, an emerging middle class, and a growing appreciation for outdoor recreation. But the federal government hadn't done much to maintain park sites and facilities. The Park Service needed a plan—and the funding—to maintain the parks. Mission 66 sought to elevate the parks to a modern standard of comfort and efficiency and to conserve natural resources by 1966, the year the National Park Service turned fifty.

A 1956 issue of *Architectural Record* proclaimed that Mission 66 would produce “simple contemporary buildings that perform their assigned function and respect their environment.” Modern architecture expressed progress, efficiency, health, and innovation—values the Park Service hoped to embody over the decade. Mission 66 was praised as a program that would boost the conservation movement and inspire the country to develop long-range projects for natural and cultural preservation.

Read the full story, including a short history of the Mission 66 visitor center at Mesa Verde National Park, on our blog at: www.h-co.org/Mission66.

Mesa Verde National Park's Far View Visitor Center was dedicated in 1968.
Photo courtesy Adrian Studer.



The new visitor center at Mesa Verde National Park, built in 2012. Photo courtesy National Park Service.



New Listings

In the National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation’s historic places worthy of preservation.

Engelbrecht Farm

Strasburg vicinity (5AM.3086)

This farm is nationally significant for its association with the center-pivot irrigation system invention. Frank Zybach, the system’s inventor, sought a place to develop and use a system prototype; the nearby Ernest Engelbrecht farm provided the perfect location. Together, Zybach and Engelbrecht utilized assorted farm equipment pieces to build and test the center-pivot irrigation system. Widely used today, the 1949 invention transformed irrigation technology worldwide.

Dodge-Hamlin House

Colorado College Campus, Colorado Springs (5EP.1515)

This 1916 Mission Revival–style house and landscaping are important works of architect Nicolaas van den Arend. It is also significant for growth in the college’s educational programs.

Winks Panorama/Winks Lodge (*amendment and boundary increase*)

Pinecliffe vicinity (5GL.6)

Winks is nationally important as the only Rocky Mountain region African American resort during the last 40 years of the segregation era. The lodge offered a mountain oasis to African American vacationers who had few options for travel and leisure. Resistance took many forms, including the opening of African American enclaves such as Lincoln Hills, the setting of Winks. It provided a nationally important entertainment and recreation venue exemplifying African Americans’ efforts to create their own resorts in response to their exclusion in white-dominated venues. Between 1925 and 1928, Obrey Wendall “Winks” Hamlet built his three-story stone and wood shingled lodge, a vernacular expression of Craftsman design principles, which operated until his death in 1965.

Good to Know

National or State Register listed properties may be eligible for investment tax credits for approved rehabilitation projects. Listed properties may also be eligible to compete for grants from Colorado’s State Historical Fund. These grants may be used for acquisition and development, education, and survey and planning projects. The next nomination submission deadline is June 5. For information, call 303/866-3392.

For more about these and all National and State Register properties in Colorado, go to www.HistoryColorado.org/oahp/national-and-state-registers.

Monument Lake Park Building and Hatchery Complex

Weston vicinity (5LA.12777)

This 1934–38 complex is significant for its association with the WPA and CCC programs, which helped establish a fish hatchery and a small zoo in the midst of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The WPA also constructed visitor cabins and buildings.

Great Western Sugar Company Effluent Flume and Bridge

Fort Collins (5LR.1828.1)

The flume and bridge are important for their association with beet sugar manufacturing and industrial waste disposal and are good examples of a suspension bridge and flume.

South Park City Museum

Fairplay (5PA.394)

Reflecting local preservation efforts, the South Park City Museum is an entertainment and recreation venue showing the area’s mining heritage.

Correction: In our last issue, we inadvertently indicated that the following properties were newly listed in the National Register of Historic Places. They are actually listed in the State Register of Historic Properties:

- Upper Brush Creek School
- Denver & Rio Grande Western Rail Cars
- Barlow and Sanderson Stagecoach (*amendment*)
- Dougherty Building/Kit Carson Hotel (*delisting*)

Do you know this building?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. What significant woman lived here? | 2. When did she live there? | 3. What style is the building? |
| a) Mary Coyle Chase | a) 1921–32 | a) Brutalist |
| b) Fannie Mae Duncan | b) 1938–53 | b) International |
| c) Golda Meir | c) 1954–59 | c) Mid-Century Modern |
| d) Florence Rena Sabin | d) 1962–65 | d) Mediterranean |

Answers on page 32



The United Mexican American Students march in support of the United Farm Workers on the CU-Boulder campus, summer 1973. Courtesy D. Atekpazin Young.



EL MOVIMIENTO CHICANO DE COLORADO, 1960–1980

BY ANTONIO ESQUIBEL

El Movimiento Chicano rose in an era when Mexican Americans vowed to create a better world. They called themselves Chicanas and Chicanos: terms that reflect a history of conquest that deprived people of their Mexican and indigenous roots and characterized Mexicans as inferior. Chicano refers to a Mexican American born in the United States who recognizes his or her indigenous and Mexican roots. Rubén Salazar, the Los Angeles Times reporter killed in the National Chicano Moratorium antiwar march in Los Angeles in 1970, further described a Chicano as a Mexican American with a non-Anglo image of himself.

Shifting National Tides and a Statewide *Movimiento*

In the 1960s, Chicano Cultural Nationalists emerged, rejecting assimilation as a goal; the African American Civil Rights movement's emphasis shifted, for many, from "Civil Rights" to "Black Power," and the women's liberation movement gained prominence. Education was the rallying cry on college and high school campuses, police/community relations deteriorated, and Chicanos' awareness of discrimination in public accommodations, housing, transportation, communication, and the media grew.

Che Guevara became a symbol of opposition to U.S. intervention in South America, a sentiment that carried over to the antiwar and Chicano movements. Vietnam raised the political conscience of Chicanos, as funding from the War on Poverty was diverted to war in Southeast Asia and a disproportionate number of Chicanos were killed or wounded because of the racist nature of the Selective Service.

At the same time, thousands of Colorado Chicanas and Chicanos rallied to the United Farm Workers' Grape Boycott, New Mexico's Land Grant struggle, the Poor People's Campaign sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference,

Wounded Knee and the American Indian Movement, and the Black Berets. They founded myriad organizations in support of these and other causes. Coloradans followed Fidel Castro's struggles in Cuba, Guevara's activities in South America, and other anti-colonial struggles; at least one activist, Dora Esquibel, personally visited President Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, Denver artists formed the Chicano Humanities & Arts Council (CHAC), and professors and administrators formed the Colorado Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (CACHE). United Mexican American Students (UMAS) and Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA) were organized on the campuses of CU Boulder and Denver, Colorado State University in Fort Collins, the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Metropolitan State College (now University) of Denver, and Southern Colorado State College (today's Colorado State University) in Pueblo.

In response to biased reporting by the mainstream media, Colorado Chicanas and Chicanos published their own newspapers: *El Gallo: La Voz de la Justicia* (Crusade for Justice); *El Escritor del Pueblo*, *Somos Aztlán* (UMAS Publications), *El Diario de La Gente* (CU-UMAS), *La Cucaracha*, *Ahora* (the voice of San Luis Valley farm workers), *Ya Basta* and *Tierra y Libertad*, published by Ray Otero in San Luis, *Despierta* (Rocky Ford), and others.

Northern Colorado

On July 1, 1968, Guadalupe Briseño organized the women-led National Floral Workers Organization strike against the Kitayama Corporation's floral operations in Brighton for better working conditions (see page 30). Activist, poet, and Colorado Migrant Council member Lalo Delgado championed statewide farm issues, as did Dr. Ramón Del Castillo, today's chair of Chicano/Chicana Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Between 1968 and 1972, Ricardo and Priscilla Falcón and others worked as community organizers and activists in the Kitayama Strike and César Chávez's Grape Boycott, and with UMAS at CU Boulder. In a racially motivated confrontation, Ricardo was killed by the owner of a Chevron gas station in Orogrande, New Mexico, while en route to the September 1972 La Raza Unida National Convention in El Paso, Texas. Priscilla, a longtime professor and Chicana activist at the University of Northern Colorado, and fellow activist Ricardo Romero continue to work on behalf of immigrant rights and other community issues in Greeley.

Around Colorado, other activists also lost their lives as a result of their involvement in the Chicano Movement. Luis "Junior" Martínez was shot and killed by Denver police in the bombing at the Crusade for Justice building on March 17, 1973. Community organizers and activists Reyes Martínez, an attorney; Neva Romero, UMAS leader; and Una Jaakola, CU student, were killed by a car bomb on the CU-Boulder campus on May 27, 1974. Two days later, a similar bomb killed Florencio "Freddie" Granado, Heriberto Terán, and Francisco Dougherty in Boulder. Carlos Zapata died in a Denver explosion on March 22, 1978. In 1970, Gabriel Llanas, a young CU Boulder student, died in a late-night car crash while returning to Boulder after a day spent recruiting students for the UMAS Educational Opportunity Program in the San Luis Valley.

In 1969, the UMAS Educational Opportunity Program at CU Boulder recruited 200 Chicana and Chicano students for a summer orientation before

their matriculation in the fall, followed by another such class the following year. The effort extended, reaching about a thousand students by the summer of 1972. The Migrant Action Program recruited farm workers but in smaller numbers. At the same time, CU Boulder professor Salvador "El Huevo" Ramírez recruited Chicano activist students from his home state of Texas.

At CU Boulder, the Aztlán Boycott Coors Committee formed by UMAS and chaired by Juan Federico called for a nationwide boycott of Coors beer. The original 1966 Coors Boycott by the G.I. Forum—a Latino military veterans' organization (see page 28)—was called to protest the company's opposition to organized labor and its discriminatory hiring practices against Hispanos, African Americans, women, gays, and lesbians, and because the Coors family actively supported and funded conservative politicians and organizations. The boycott was particularly strong on the Boulder campus because Joseph Coors served on the school's Board of Regents and opposed the development of UMAS, the Black Student Union, and the Students for a Democratic Society.

Southern Colorado

In Pueblo, Al Gurule, Marty Serna, Eddie Montour, La Raza Unida, the Brown Berets, and Madres de La Casa Verde all took part in César Chávez's National Grape Boycott, the Coors Boycott, and college and high school walkouts. Chicanas and Chicanos in Pueblo were involved in marches, sit-ins, boycotts,



Luis "Junior" Martínez in 1969.
Courtesy Robert Gonzales.

strikes, and demonstrations. More than 100 organizations participated in the first statewide Cinco de Mayo celebration—held in Pueblo in 1971 and drawing more than 25,000 marchers. Today, Cinco de Mayo celebrations in Denver draw more than 500,000 participants during a weekend of celebrations.

In 1976, Juan and Deborah Espinosa, David Martinez, and Pablo Mora founded *La Cucaracha* newspaper. Mora went on to be city editor at *The Denver Post* and recently retired as city editor of the *Pueblo Chieftain*. Martinez is now an attorney working with the San Luis Land Rights Council's case (see page 26). Juan Espinosa, who founded *El Diario de La Gente* newspaper in Boulder in 1972, went on to a career with the *Pueblo Chieftain*, while Deborah Espinosa became director of El Pueblo History Museum. In 2014, the Espinosas were honored for their work as crusaders for Chicanos, civil rights, and the Pueblo community as recipients of the Latino Lifetime Achievement Award by the Pueblo Latino Chamber Foundation.

George Autobee, Pablo Gonzales, and other Chicano student activists in El Movimiento Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA) at Southern Colorado State College got Chicano studies approved in 1972. During El Movimiento, hundreds in Pueblo challenged the local school board to implement Chicano studies at high schools and diversify hiring practices district-wide in order to improve the education of Chicano youth.

Magdaleno “Len” Avila was a leader of the 1972 San Luis Valley grape and lettuce boycotts and collaborated with the United Farm Workers of America. Along with local farm workers and supporters, he initiated a lettuce strike against the Finerman Lettuce Company of Center, Colorado (in Saguache County) because of poor living conditions, low pay, and health/safety issues. Earlier he, Marty Serna, and others organized the August 2, 1970, farm workers’ 112-mile march from Pueblo to the State Capitol in Denver. Dicho y Echo and Campesinos Nacionales, two farm-worker organizations, were also formed in the valley.

As at other higher education institutions throughout the state, Chicana and Chicano students at Adams State College in Alamosa founded an UMAS chapter. The college also established El Centro Emiliano Zapata to recruit and support Chicana and Chicano students from throughout the valley and southern Colorado.

Ray Otero secured a grant to create the Land Rights Council to explore a court fight for the common lands of La Sierra. Shirley Romero Otero, his wife and equal partner in the fight for historic grazing, timber, and hunting rights to



Chicano activists in Colorado march in support of the United Farm Workers' lettuce boycott on July 29, 1973. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection. Rocky Mountain News Historical Collection

the land, and other activists founded the council in Chama, Colorado, in 1977 (see page 26). Shirley continues to work in education and Chicana and Chicano community activities in Grand Junction, Colorado.

In the Arkansas Valley of southeastern Colorado, Dora Esquibel and others organized farm workers to address farmers' treatment of migrants. Esquibel later enrolled at CU Boulder and took part in the UMAS and MEChA student sit-ins of 1972 for such issues as timely financial aid.

Denver

In Denver, activists held high school walkouts, boycotts, marches, 16th of September parades, demonstrations against police, and hunger fasts in support of various causes. One of the fasts came in 1969, when the Denver Boycott Grape Committee, established by Alfredo and Juanita Herrera of César Chávez's United Farm Workers Union, formed a new group they called the “Denver Witnesses for Human Dignity.” The group set up three tents on Denver's Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception lawn (on the day that the First National Chicano Youth Conference began) and staged a ten-day fast, from Friday, March 28, through Easter Sunday, April 6. The goal of the fast was to call attention to, and support for, three legislative bills that had been introduced in the Colorado General Assembly to give Colorado farm workers the right to form a union and be covered under the Workman's Compensation Act and Colorado's Workmen's Disability Act. The fasters and Youth Conference participants held a joint rally on the State Capitol steps that drew more than 2,000 people. At one point, demonstrators took down the United States flag from the flagpole and ran up a large

Mexican flag. None of the bills passed, and to this day it is still illegal for farm workers to form a labor union in Colorado.

Corky and Geri Gonzales and other members of the Crusade for Justice in Denver were the most active, best known, and most controversial of Chicano and Chicana leaders—and they garnered the most media attention. They had rivals both inside the Crusade and in the wider Chicano community. Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales—boxer, poet, playwright, lecturer, political activist, community organizer, and publisher—and the Crusade’s militant activism generated not only strong support but strong opposition, especially from law enforcement.

The Crusade for Justice hosted three National Chicano Youth Liberation Conferences in Denver: in 1969, 1970, and 1971. From the first conference, held March 27–30 of 1969, came *El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán*, which set the goals for El Movimiento. The preamble of *El Plan* was written by the poet “Alurista” (Alberto Urista), born in Mexico and raised in San Diego, California. Corky Gonzales wrote the plan’s program section at the conference. The manifesto for El Movimiento, the plan emphasizes Chicano nationalism and self-determination. *Aztlán* refers to the southwestern United States and is considered the mythical homeland of Chicanos from where the *Chichimecas*—forefathers of the Aztecs—migrated south.

In 1967, Gonzales wrote and published the epic poem *Yo Soy Joaquín/I Am Joaquín*. It became a bestseller in the Chicana and Chicano community and, today, every Chicano studies program in the country uses it as a major piece of literature

emerging from El Movimiento. El Teatro Campesino produced a film version of the poem in 1972, and the Board of Trustees of La Escuela Tlatelolco has reprinted the original 1967 version.

As the title suggests, *Yo Soy Joaquín/I Am Joaquín* was published in both Spanish and English. David Conde, in his 1992 critique, writes that there is little doubt it was written as a social document that sought to instill Chicano pride as well as encourage community activism in support of self-determination. Describing it as a literary work of art, Conde explains that the book’s literary merit comes from the manner in which the poem is constructed and how theme and structure come together to produce a superior artistic experience. Its epic qualities, he writes, arise from the depiction of a dual journey into the post-classic world of pre-Columbian Mesoamerica and into the contradictions of the Chicano heritage. In doing so, the poem models the task of the modern hero—who must not only resolve the socio-political struggle for self-determination but, more important for Gonzales, come to terms with the contradictions of the cultural and spiritual reality that is Chicano identity.

The issues it raised are as applicable to Chicanas and Chicanos today as when Gonzales wrote it almost fifty years ago.

The Crusade for Justice, from the 1960s to the ’80s, was a full-blown, comprehensive civil rights organization, or as Gonzales referred to it in a 1970 Arizona State University speech, a “human rights” organization. It provided a full array of community services in employment, legal defense, education, civil rights, political action, immigration, and recreation. Chicanos and others, who had problems especially with police, schools, or on the job, came to the Crusade for help, comfort, and relief.

The Crusade building at Sixteenth Avenue and Downing Street in Denver had a bookstore, a curio shop, a large lunchroom, a boxing gym, a 500-seat auditorium, twenty-four classrooms, several offices, a lounge, art studios, and a print shop. It housed one of the finest Mexican ballet folklórico groups outside of Mexico, the Ballet Chicano de Aztlán, and a theater group, El Teatro Pachuco. It housed La Escuela Tlatelolco, which taught students from pre-school to an undergraduate college program. (Today, La Escuela is run by Nita Gonzales

A youth studies alongside “Chicano Power” graffiti, about 1974. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection. X-21637

Corky Gonzales, in a photo by John Gordon. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection. Z-8827



at Speer and Federal Boulevards.) The building also housed La Raza Unida Party.

In 1969, a social studies teacher at West High School near downtown Denver allegedly made anti-Mexican remarks in class, an incident that led to the West High School Blow Out on March 20 and 21. As Ernesto B. Vigil writes, the teacher reportedly said, “All Mexicans are stupid because their parents were stupid, and their parents (before) them were stupid,” and, “If you eat Mexican food you’ll look like a Mexican.” In this and other walkouts, Denver students demanded curriculum reforms—primarily instruction about the history, culture, and contributions of Chicanos. They also demanded amnesty for students who walked out. In support of West High students, Chicano high schoolers walked out of North, Manual, Lincoln, and East High Schools. Junior high schoolers walked out of Cole, Kunsmiller, Lake, Horace Mann, Skinner, Morey, Baker, Smiley, and Kepner. Students from Adams City Junior and Senior High Schools and Kearney Junior High School also walked out, as did students from Englewood High School (where the author taught). Walkouts followed in Adams City, Pueblo District 60, Monte Vista, and other Colorado high schools.

In 1970 Colorado Chicanas and Chicanos formed La Raza Unida Party with Corky Gonzales as state chairperson. They held state and regional meetings and attended the 1972 national La Raza Unida Convention in El Paso, Texas. At the convention, Gonzales characterized the two-party system of Democrats and Republicans as a monster with two heads that feed from the same trough. La Raza Unida Party ran candidates for local, state, and national offices in 1970: Al Gurule from Pueblo for governor; George García from Denver for lieutenant governor; Leo Valdez for state treasurer; Marcella Trujillo and Marcus Saiz for CU’s Board

of Regents; Flor Lovato Saiz for the Board of Education; Patricia Gomez for the State Legislature; Madaleno “Len” Avila for secretary of state; Sal Carpio and Martin Serna for U.S. Congress; Carlos Santistevan for state senator; and Joe R. Gonzales for state representative. In 1971, Marcia García, Al Lucero, David Hermosillo, and Eloy Espinoza ran for Denver City Council; John Haro for mayor; and David A. Sandoval and Soledad J. Martínez for Denver School Board. Although none of these candidates won on La Raza Unida ticket, Sal Carpio from Denver and Al Gurule from Pueblo went on to successful political careers.

El Movimiento in Colorado created a renaissance—a revival of Chicano literature, art, music, dance, poetry, and theater. It inspired and motivated a generation to write and to get involved in improving our condition in this country and the world. It inspired Chicano studies programs and Chicana and Chicano student groups at Colorado colleges and universities.

Because of El Movimiento, Chicano art is thriving. The most famous Colorado Chicano artist, Emanuel Martínez, created the famous Mestizo Head as well as dozens of murals, sculptures, and posters. He continues to create sculptures and other works from his studio in Morrison, Colorado. Artists of El Movimiento include Carlos Santistevan (dean of Colorado *santero* artists), muralists Carlota Espinoza and Leo Tanguma, Jerry Jaramillo, Tony Ortega, Sylvia Montero, Stevon Lucero, Bob Luna, Carlos Frésquez, Frank Zamora, Jerry De La Cruz, Patty Ortiz, Huberto Maestas (from San Luis, who sculpted the Stations of the Cross), and photographers Daniel Salazar and Judy Miranda.

Juanita Domínguez of the Crusade for Justice wrote the song “Yo Soy Chicano,” now regarded as the Chicano

The Crusade for Justice dance troupe, Ballet Chicano de Aztlán, performs in 1970. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection. Gloria Montez, AUR-2277



National Anthem, on a bus en route to the 1968 Poor People's Campaign in Washington, D.C. It was recorded in an album of Chicano Movement songs, *El Movimiento Chicano*, by Manuel, Ramón, and Emilia Alvarado (Los Alvarados) of the Crusade for Justice in 1973. Other songs Chicanas and Chicanos sang during marches and boycotts include "De Colores," "No Nos Moverán" (We Shall Not Be Moved), "El Picket Sign," and "Nosotros Venceremos" (We Shall Overcome).

The best-known Colorado Chicano theater group to come out of El Movimiento is Denver's El Centro Su Teatro, under the direction of Tony Garcia, now located at 721 Santa Fe Drive. Su Teatro began in 1971 as a student-organized theater group at the University of Colorado at Denver.

El Movimiento inspired today's Chicana and Chicano writers, poets, artists, musicians, dancers, actors, politicians, lawyers, and educators. Colorado leaders who were influenced by El Movimiento include former senator and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, former Denver mayor and Secretary of Transportation and Energy Federico Peña, Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia, college and university administrators and professors such as Dr. Luis Torres, Dr. Ramón Del Castillo, Dr. Priscilla Falcón, and others.

The activists of the 1960s and '70s set the stage for the social justice activities of today. Just as Corky Gonzales influenced a generation of Chicanas and Chicanos to get involved, El Movimiento has inspired today's young Chicanas and Chicanos to get involved. In just one of many examples, the Colorado Latino Forum headed by state officers Julie Gonzales, Gia Irlando, Lisa M. Calderón, and Dulce Saenz is addressing issues of voting rights and access, criminal justice, economic development and housing, education, energy and environment, human and health services, immigration, and LGBTQ issues within and beyond the Chicana and Chicano communities.

¡Qué viva El Movimiento en Colorado!

For Further Reading

For their contributions, the author thanks Juan Espinosa, former *Pueblo Chieftain* reporter and editor; Deborah Espinosa, former El Pueblo History Museum director; Rudy Gonzales, director of Servicios de La Raza; Priscilla Falcón,

University of Northern Colorado professor; and Luis Torres, Deputy Provost for Academic and Student Affairs at Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Published sources include *Message to Aztlán: Selected Writings of Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales*, edited by the author (Arte Público Press, University of Houston, 2001); *Border Correspondent: Selected Writings, 1955–1970*, by Ruben Salazar, edited by Mario T. García (University of California Press, 1995); *The Crusade for Justice: Chicano Militancy and the Government's War on Dissent*, by Ernesto B. Vigil (University of Wisconsin Press, 1999); *United We Win: The Rise and Fall of La Raza Unida Party*, by Ignacio M. García (University of Arizona Press, 1989); *Aztlán: Essays on the Chicano Homeland*, edited by Rudolfo A. Anaya and Francisco Lomeli (University of New Mexico Press, 1993); *Dictionary of Literary*



Emanuel Martínez designed a symbol to embody the mixed heritage Chicanos embrace. The three faces show a Spanish father on the left, an indigenous mother on the right, and their mestizo son.

Biography, "Rodolfo (Corky) Gonzales," by David Conde (Gale Research Co., Buccoli Clark Layman, 1992); *El Gallo: La Voz de la Justicia* (newspaper); Juan Federico "Freddie Freak" Miguel Arguello Trujillo Chicano Movement Collection, 1965–2009, Colorado State University–Pueblo Library, University Archives and Special Collections; "Chicano Movement 1971–1974: One Man's Perspective in Photos," by Juan Espinosa, <http://academic.regis.edu/aortega/for%20regis%20web/Juan%20Espinosa.pdf>; *Reclaiming Aztlán: Southern Colorado and Chicano Activism of the 1970s*, by Rick Christopher Archuletta, Jr. (Master's thesis, Department of History, Colorado State University–Pueblo, 2012); *Siglo de Lucha: Journal of Chicano National Liberation*, <http://siglodelucha.wordpress.com>; "Chicano Art in Colorado: An Overview," by George Rivera, Ph.D., <http://latinoartcommunity.org>.

DR. ANTONIO ESQUIBEL is an emeritus professor of Spanish, former Vice President of Student Affairs, and former trustee of Metropolitan State University of Denver. He has served as chair of the Board of Trustees of La Escuela Tlatelolco. He graduated cum laude from Adams State College (1967), earning a master's degree from New Mexico Highlands University (1973) and a Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico (1977). His books include *HiPolito: The Prodigal Son*, *The Career Mobility of Chicanos in Higher Education*, and the compilation *Message to Aztlán: Selected Writings of Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales*.

PHOTOGRAPHING

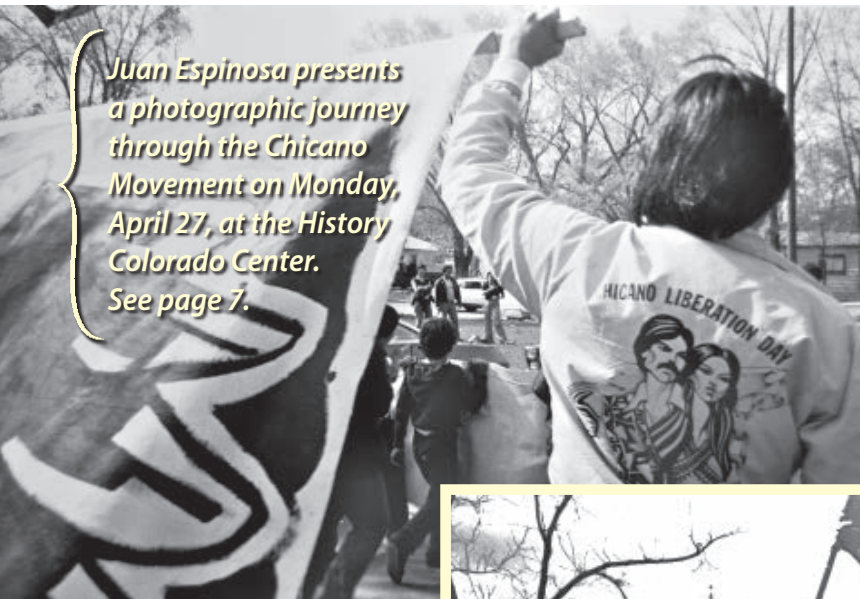


I took most of these photos between 1971 and 1974, when I was a journalism student at the University of Colorado in Boulder. I transferred from Mesa College in Grand Junction, where I was coeditor of the *Criterion* student newspaper and learned about journalistic photography. I was in my early twenties and had been honorably discharged from the Air Force in December 1969. While serving at Da Nang Air Base in Vietnam, I won my first camera in a poker game.

When my wife and I arrived in Boulder, the United Mexican American Students (UMAS) association was in its third year and had enrolled about 1,000 students. UMAS hired me as a photographer in my first semester, and I started *El Diario* student newspaper in 1972. Until I graduated in 1974, I spent much of my time documenting the Chicano Movement. I met and interviewed the *jefes*: César Chávez, Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales, Reies Tijerina, and many others, including José Angel Gutiérrez, Abelardo “Lalo” Delgado, and Dolores Huerta. In summer 1973, I joined the staff of *El Malcriado*, the United Farm Workers’ (UFW) newspaper, and went to California to cover the historic Grape Strike. Later that fall, I reported on the UFW’s constitutional convention in Fresno.

THE FRONT LINES OF EL MOVIMIENTO

BY JUAN ESPINOSA



Juan Espinosa presents a photographic journey through the Chicano Movement on Monday, April 27, at the History Colorado Center. See page 7.

We moved to Pueblo in summer 1975 and started La Cucaracha community newspaper the following year. After publishing La Cucaracha for eight years, I was hired at The Pueblo Chieftain, where I spent the next twenty-two years.

Above: A rally at a Denver park in 1979

Right: The Mexican flag flies over a large crowd that marched to the Capitol on March 17, 1974.

Facing: Supporters of the Crusade for Justice march in Denver on March 17, 1974—the anniversary of the confrontation with police that left Luis “Junior” Martinez dead.



All photos by Juan Espinosa. Courtesy of the photographer.

All photos by Juan Espinosa.
Courtesy of the photographer.

Corky Gonzales holds his grandson at the demonstration on March 17, 1974, to commemorate Luis "Junior" Martinez.



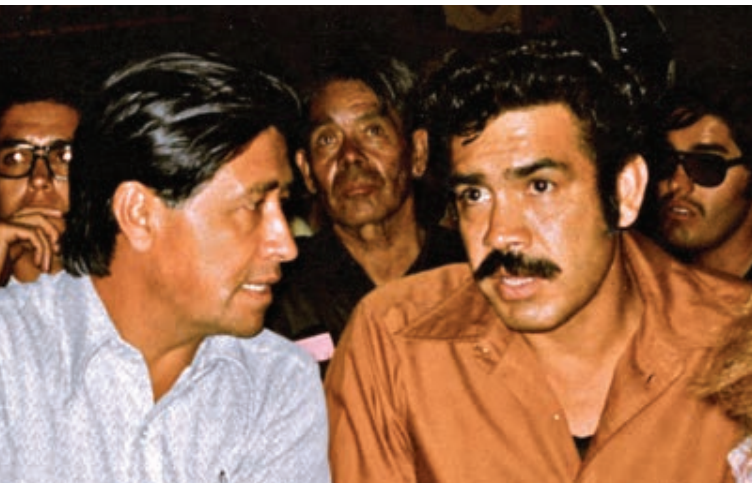
Gonzales speaks out against the Vietnam War on the steps of the State Capitol.



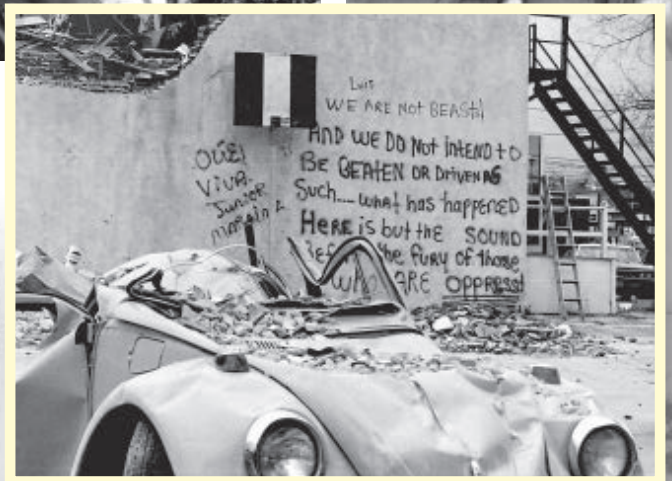
Below left: Labor leader César Chávez joins Gonzales at the Crusade for Justice in the summer of 1974.

Below center: Activist Carlos Zapata died in March 1978 in a Denver explosion.

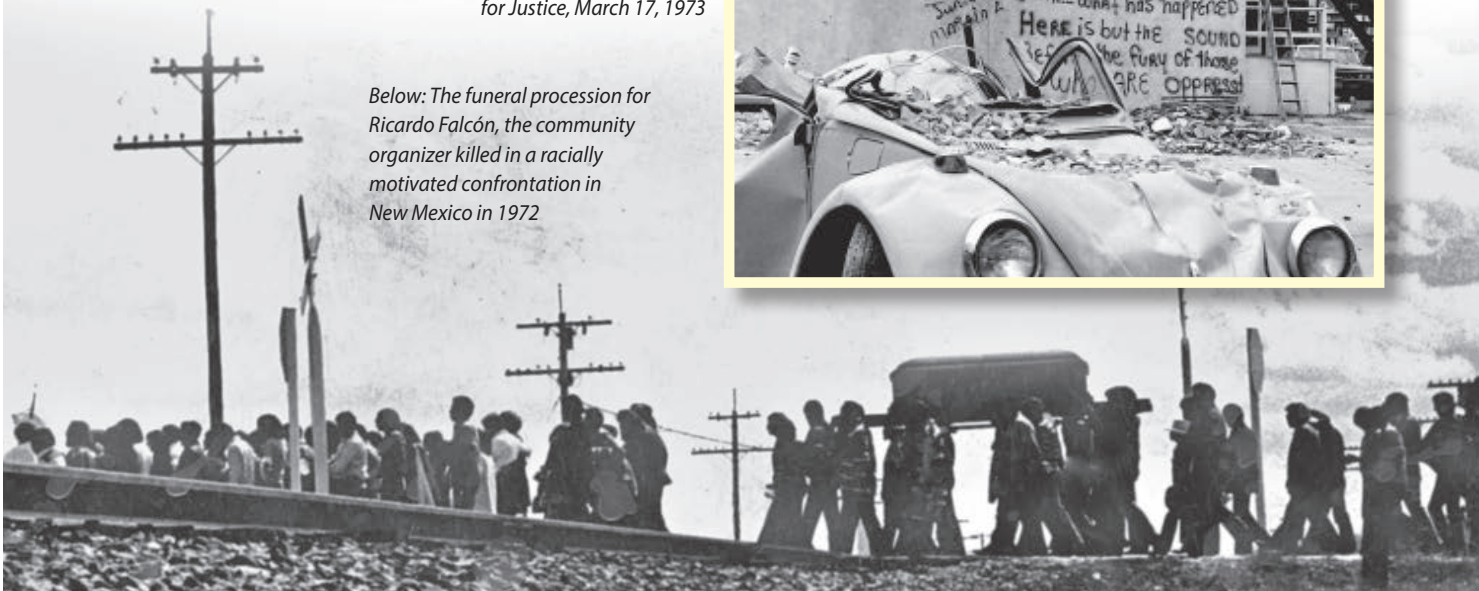
Below far right: United Mexican American Students leader Neva Romero was among those killed by a car bomb on the CU Boulder campus in May 1974.



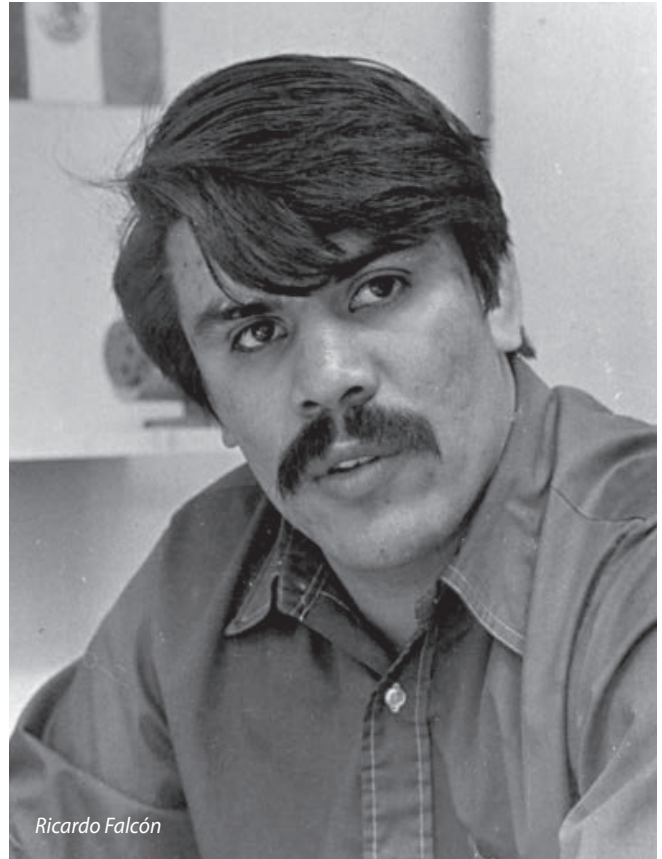
Right: The aftermath of the police attack on the Crusade for Justice, March 17, 1973



Below: The funeral procession for Ricardo Falcón, the community organizer killed in a racially motivated confrontation in New Mexico in 1972



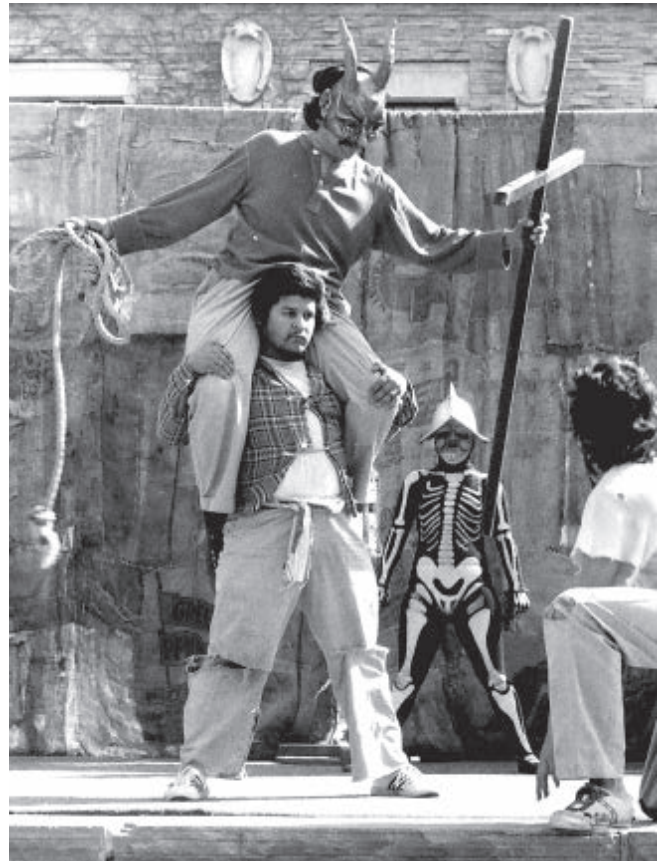
Black Berets from the Crusade for Justice line the street in front of the Denver Federal Center during a march to support the American Indian Movement's occupation of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, in 1973.



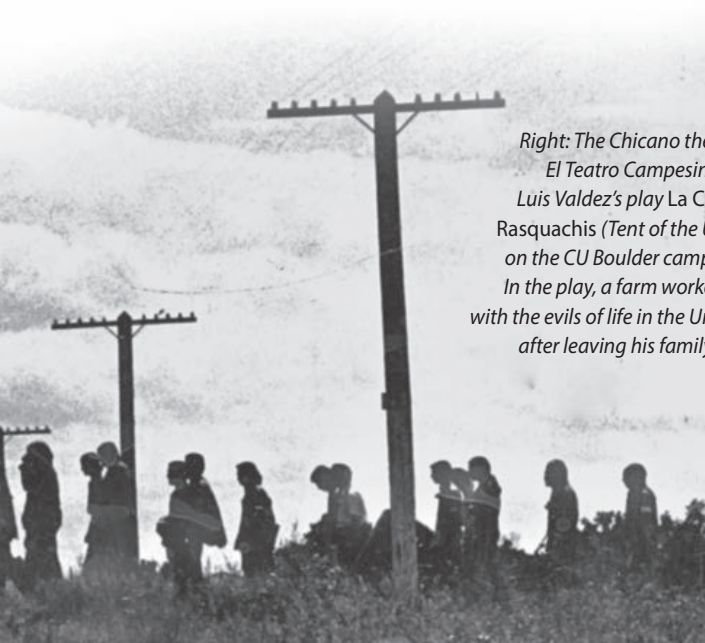
Ricardo Falcón



Above: Students with UMAS—the United Mexican American Students—march towards Regent Hall on the CU Boulder campus in the fall of 1973.



Right: The Chicano theater group El Teatro Campesino performs Luis Valdez's play La Carpa de los Rasquachis (Tent of the Underdogs) on the CU Boulder campus in 1974. In the play, a farm worker struggles with the evils of life in the United States after leaving his family in Mexico.





LA SIERRA AND THE SAN LUIS LAND RIGHTS STRUGGLE



~ BY NICKI GONZALES ~

On August 18, 1980, in a tiny, windowless adobe building in the hamlet of El Rito, Colorado, the leaders of the Land Rights Council of San Luis called a meeting to introduce their new legal strategy. Shirley Romero Otero, Ray Otero, and Apolinar Rael spoke passionately of the injustice of 1965, when the district court took away their community’s historic land rights to La Sierra, a 77,500-acre mountainous common land. El Rito—also called San Francisco—sat at the foot of La Sierra, just east of San Luis. For the “mountain people” of El Rito, La Sierra shaped every aspect of life—diets, shelter, recreation, history, and spirituality. Losing legal access was devastating to El Rito and the nearby communities of San Luis, San Pablo, San Pedro, and Chama. Now, the activists called on them to join their lawsuit and win back their rights.

Facing: Children of the Chicano Movement march in San Luis to support the Land Rights Council. Inset: Apolinar Rael, lead plaintiff in the Rael v. Taylor lawsuit. Photos by Juan Espinosa; courtesy of the photographer.

When asked to sign on as plaintiffs, however, those in attendance responded with silence. The American legal system had done them wrong in the past—why would they trust it now? Finally, a woman no taller than four feet, a victim of childhood polio, steadied her crutches in both hands and rose to her feet. Her squeaking metal crutches and her chastising words broke the deafening silence: “*Bueno cabrones, si ustedes hombres no tienen los huevos para firmar, dejame pasar.*” (Fine, if you men don’t have the balls to sign, get out of the way and let me pass.) Agatha Medina’s husband, Ray, followed her to the front. Others soon did the same. The movement was gaining momentum, with women emerging as some of its most important leaders.

The advent of the Land Rights Council (LRC) and the lawsuit, *Rael v. Taylor*, represented a critical turning point in the San Luis land rights struggle. It signaled the revival of a long tradition of resistance—a tradition with roots in the 1870s. To understand this history of resistance, one must go back to 1843, when New Mexican Governor Manuel Armijo awarded the million-acre Sangre de Cristo Grant under the Mexican land grant system. By 1847, Charles Beaubien, a naturalized Mexican citizen, owned the grant and was offering settlers free individual lands, along with rights to access a 77,500-acre mountainous common land known as La Sierra. La Sierra would remain private property, but the San Luis community retained legal rights to use the land.

By 1851, southern Colorado was American territory, and settlers, now Mexican American, had established San Luis and the surrounding villages—all under Mexican-era land agreements and customs. In 1863, Beaubien recorded these communal land rights in what would later be called “the Beaubien Document.” This Spanish-language document states that residents possess rights to La Sierra—to hunt, fish, collect wood, graze their sheep, and recreate. Its validity would be at the heart of the ensuing legal conflict.

In the next century, locals developed a reverence for and dependence on La Sierra. Though outsiders challenged the community’s unique land rights, the people defended their relationship with La Sierra time and again. In 1960, however, a formidable foe arrived. Intending to profit from the trees on La Sierra, Jack Taylor acquired title to the land and began fencing out local residents, even hiring armed guards.

A veritable range war ensued as local activists fought back on the ground and in the courts. Taylor took the community to court, and in 1965 the district court ruled in his favor. While small-scale resistance never subsided, community-level activism ebbed, as the economic and psychological effects of losing legal access to La Sierra took hold.

By the early 1970s, dazzling social and political changes had created an atmosphere ripe for protest. The Vietnam War, the War on Poverty, and the civil rights movement had carved a new political landscape. Colorado had become a hotbed of Chicano activism with boycotts, walkouts, Chicano-run newspapers, and the fiery rhetoric of Corky Gonzales. In San Luis, activists seized this energy. The San Luis land rights movement would become one of the most successful components of Colorado’s Chicano Movement.

Apolinar Rael, an 82-year-old repository of community history, culture, and wisdom, determined that the LRC would achieve justice in the courts. He believed that a racist court produced the 1965 ruling, and if they could just present their case again, they would achieve different results. The legality of the Beaubien Document was central to his belief that they could win. He also had a backup plan. If the courts failed, Rael said he would be the first to pick up his rifle and fight. While Rael supplied the inspiration, Ray Otero and Shirley Romero-Otero provided the organizing genius, political savvy, and energy needed to revive the community’s longstanding relationship with La Sierra. A movement was reborn.

Through decades of litigation, the LRC and their dedicated attorneys persevered. In 2002, Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey declared it “the height of arrogance and nothing but a legal fiction” for the Court not to interpret the Beaubien Document in its proper historical context. Though legal details are still being sorted out, the wisdom of the elders and the community’s unfaltering devotion to La Sierra prevailed. Since 2004, dozens of descendants of the original heirs have received keys to La Sierra, and the mountain is once again being accessed for firewood, timber, and grazing.

DR. NICKI GONZALES is an associate professor of history at Regis University. She earned her PhD in history at CU Boulder and her BA in English literature at Yale University. A native of Denver, she is particularly interested in the history of the American West, specializing in Chicano and Borderlands history.

DR. HECTOR GARCIA, THE AMERICAN GI FORUM, AND THE FIGHT FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN RIGHTS



BY RICARDO LA FORÉ

Returning to south Texas after World War II, Dr. Hector Perez Garcia began assisting Mexican American veterans who faced obstacles getting help from the Veterans Administration. He was shocked to find Mexican American vets treated like second-class citizens after they had just fought to defend democracy. In early 1948, Garcia found himself arguing with officials from the U.S. Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, Texas, who were refusing to accept sick Mexican American vets. Garcia called a community meeting to fight against this discrimination, and by the end of the meeting, the first chapter of the American GI Forum had formed.

While there may have been other veteran's advocacy groups at the time, none focused exclusively on the rights of Mexican Americans. The thousands of veterans of Hispanic descent in the United States needed a leader, and they found one in Garcia. The organization's early successes were confined to south Texas, but the Forum would soon become the most recognized voice for Mexican Americans in the post-World War II era.

“Education is our freedom and freedom should be everyone’s business.”

—Dr. Hector Perez Garcia

An event that came to be known as the Longoria Affair put the American GI Forum onto the national stage. In 1945 Private Felix Longoria was killed in the Philippines. His body was returned to his native Texas in 1949, and his widow asked to bury him at the cemetery in Three Rivers, Texas. But her request was denied because the “white people would not like it.” Garcia intervened on behalf of the widow, but the funeral home director in Three Rivers reiterated his denial. Next, Garcia took the case to newly elected Senator Lyndon Johnson, who responded with a telegram offering to arrange a burial for Longoria at Arlington National Cemetery. Longoria was buried with full military honors with Johnson and Lady Bird in attendance. The incident was described in the *New York Times* and catapulted the American GI Forum to the forefront of the civil rights movement. Word spread quickly about the group’s fight for Mexican American rights, and soon Colorado and New Mexico opened chapters, followed by California, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and others.

The American GI Forum was now a national organization and a recognized voice for Mexican American issues everywhere. In addition to services for veterans it fought to protect migrant farmworkers from exploitation, worked to ensure Mexican Americans received fair trials, and fought for school desegregation. Garcia continued to be influential in Texas as well as on a national level. In December 1948, he called for a meeting of veterans to discuss strategies for desegregating the schools in Taft, Texas. This was years before *Brown v. Board of Education* declared segregated schools unconstitutional. The group also challenged racial discrimination in voting. In 1949 and 1950, the American GI Forum initiated local “pay your poll tax” drives to register Mexican American voters in Texas. The Texas poll tax wasn’t repealed until 1966, but the Forum’s efforts brought in new Hispanic voters who would begin to elect Latino representatives to the Texas legislature and to Congress in the late 1950s and early ’60s.

In 1960 Garcia was named national coordinator for the Viva Kennedy Clubs, which were organized to help JFK win the presidency. Garcia is credited with helping to deliver 85% of the Hispanic vote in one of history’s closest elections—it’s possible that without the Viva Kennedy Clubs, JFK would

never have been president. Garcia’s activism continued. He campaigned against attempts to make English the official language and in 1972 was arrested after staging a sit-in to protest de facto segregation in the Corpus Christi School District. One of Garcia’s last projects was to improve the standard of living for people along the U.S-Mexico border. In 1984 Dr. Hector Perez Garcia became the first Mexican American to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in honor of his lifelong service to the Hispanic community.

The American GI Forum in Colorado

The American GI Forum and the Chicano Movement became inextricably intertwined because of the Coors Boycott.

In 1966 the GI Forum dispatched three members to negotiate with Coors to hire more Chicanos. The Coors response—an emphatic no—initiated a boycott of Coors products. The Chicano movement’s strong support of the boycott became a symbol of resistance, addressing larger issues such as the Coors family’s support for the California grape growers who were at odds with Cesar Chavez’s grape boycott. Joseph Coors also vehemently opposed the creation of a Chicano Studies program at the University of Colorado,

which brought broad condemnation from the Chicano student movement.

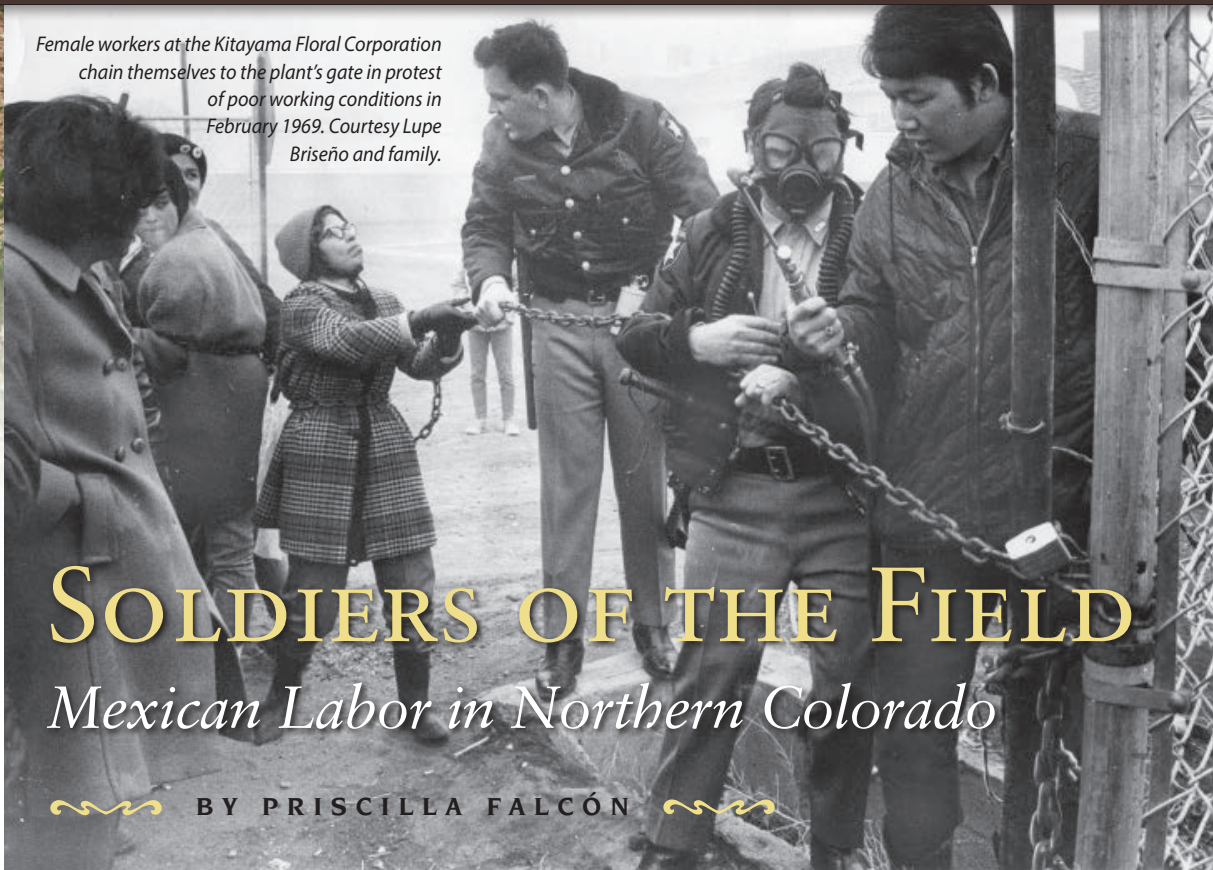
The American GI Forum and Dr. Garcia’s spirit live on in Colorado today. The American GI Forum Mile Hi Chapter in Denver is the largest in the United States, boasting 242 members. The chapter continues the fight for justice, working on issues including meaningful immigration reform, the end of discrimination, and the achievement of social and political power through education and political action.

RICARDO LA FORÉ is a native Coloradan who retired in 2006. He has held a number of high-profile jobs including executive director of the Colorado Migrant Council, Head Start director, and Denver district director for former U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. He regards his proudest achievement as being active in the Chicano community for the last forty-six years. He spends his time volunteering at the Mile Hi GI Forum and writing, acting, and singing.



Above and facing: Members of the American GI Forum picket against Coors on Denver’s Larimer Street. Photos by Juan Espinosa; courtesy of the photographer.

Female workers at the Kitayama Floral Corporation chain themselves to the plant's gate in protest of poor working conditions in February 1969. Courtesy Lupe Briseño and family.



SOLDIERS OF THE FIELD

Mexican Labor in Northern Colorado

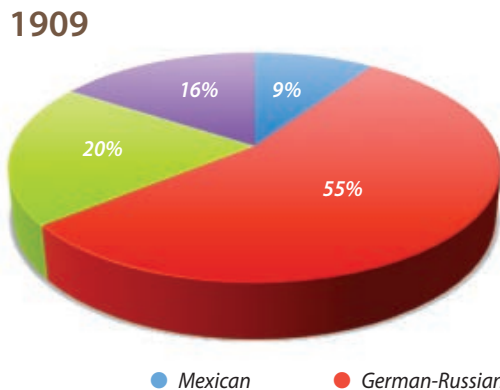
BY PRISCILLA FALCÓN

In the early days of Colorado's sugar beet industry, companies recruited German Russians as contract laborers. The immigrant workers transplanted their culture and built communities in northern Colorado. But immigration decreased as anti-German sentiment spread with the outbreak of World War I, and sugar beet companies shifted their recruitment efforts.

As early as 1903, 200 Japanese and 275 Mexicans worked in northern Colorado's sugar industry. Japanese laborers—"solos," or single individuals—were recruited in California and Utah. But the Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907, in which Japan agreed to stop further emigration to the United States, greatly reduced their numbers. The industry needed workers, so sugar companies and growers looked to Colorado's San Luis Valley, Arkansas Valley, and Western Slope as well as New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico for Mexican hand laborers to recruit.

Companies recruited "Mexicans" to work in the beet fields of northern Colorado, but the birthplace and citizenship of many migrants was unclear. Between 1903 and 1909 sugar beet companies recruited an estimated 1,000 Spanish Americans from the San Luis Valley and the Western Slope. In World War I,

Workers in the Sugar Beet Fields of Northern Colorado



Spanish Americans were also recruited from Pueblo, Walsenburg, and Trinidad in Colorado, and from New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico. The recruitment represented a major shift from the days of recruiting German Russian and Japanese labor. Journalist Carey McWilliams estimated that between 1910 and 1930, more than 30,000 Mexican nationals came to work in Colorado's sugar beet industry.

The crash of the stock market in 1929 signaled worldwide economic depression. And for the Mexican labor employed in the beet fields, it meant deportation. The Great Western Sugar Company provided transportation for its workers to return to Mexico. Mexican families could register to voluntarily return to Mexico at designated locations in Brighton. One hundred Mexican families left Weld County, twenty-four families left Adams County, and twenty-five each left Boulder and Logan Counties. More than 2,000 Mexicans boarded trains in Denver headed for Juarez, Mexico.

When faced with labor shortages in World War II, American employers again sought Mexican workers. The Bracero Program brought 5.5 million temporary Mexican workers into the United States over a twenty-two-year period. *Braceros* (manual laborers) from Mexico arrived by train to Denver's Union Station in May 1943. Graffiti written on the sides of the trains read, "De Las Democracias Será la Victoria" (From The Democracies Will Come the Victories). *Through the Leaves*, the magazine of Great Western, portrayed the braceros as "Soldiers of the Field" and carried headlines that read, "Mexican nationals pass through Denver to work in Great Western territory."

The backbreaking work, which required workers to crawl on all fours, lasted from sunup to sundown. When topping beets, workers were forced to labor in a hunched position using a short-handled hoe, a practice outlawed decades later. Beet workers lived in tarpaper shacks or poultry sheds with

no running water. Workers, whether from Mexico, Texas, New Mexico, or southern Colorado, faced discrimination and prejudice.

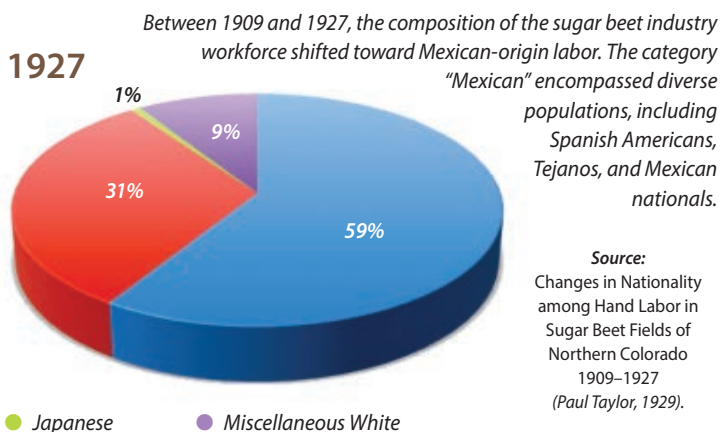
Communities throughout Colorado were socially and residentially segregated, and many had designated "Mexican schools" or "opportunity rooms," which were segregated classrooms. Young people felt the racism practiced against their parents and themselves. Veterans came home from World War II and continued to experience racism in their hometowns.

Chicanas and Chicanos began to challenge these conditions. In 1968, Guadalupe Briseño, Mary Padilla, Martha de Real, and Rachel Sandoval organized the National Floral Workers Organization and went out on strike against the Kitayama Floral Corporation of Brighton, Colorado. Their action was one of the first strikes led by Chicanas and Mexicanas. The women were tired of long hours and poor working conditions, the lack of sanitary eating areas, and low wages. They worked inside the nurseries on uncovered floors where dirt turned to mud, with high humidity year-round. In winter, the humidity produced a misty rain; slipping and falling were constant problems, as were colds, flu, and pneumonia.

Families of the striking workers experienced harassment, both in the community and at school. Lupe Briseño alone had been on the picket line for months, and the strike had lasted for over a year, when the women decide to end it. On February 15, 1969, Mary Padilla, Rachel Sandoval (who was six months pregnant), Martha del Real, Mary Sailes, and Lupe Briseño arrived at the plant at six o'clock in the morning and chained themselves to the company gate. When Weld County sheriff's deputies arrived several hours later, they sprayed the women with teargas.

Briseño still keeps the chain and lock from that day. In 2003, she explained why: "It is part of history. People are not violent, but they are put into violent conditions. . . . They are put up against the wall. What do you do? You just can't close the door and forget about it, you stay on it and you change it . . . that is the honorable way, the right way, that is the way of human beings."

DR. PRISCILLA FALCÓN is a professor at the University of Northern Colorado in the Department of Hispanic Studies. She received her doctorate from the University of Denver's International Relations School. She was an active participant and community organizer in Colorado's Chicano Movement.



Do you know this building?

Continued from page 15

BY HEATHER PETERSON,
NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTER HISTORIAN

Answers: d) Florence Sabin, b) 1938–53, b) International

Born in Central City in 1871, Florence Sabin studied medicine and became the first female full professor at Johns Hopkins University and the first woman on the Rockefeller Institute staff. She wrote the renowned “Sabin Health Laws” for the state of Colorado, reducing the number of Colorado tuberculosis patients by half and dramatically decreasing the infant mortality rate.

At 67, Sabin moved with her sister Mary into the new Stanley Arms Apartments. Denver architect Walter Simon designed the 1938 apartment house in the International style with Moderne-style influences. Read more about Sabin and her National Register-listed home on our blog at h-co.org/PresBlog.



HISTORY

Mystery

*an occasional
series of historical
oddities*

The Golden Arches
BY PATTY MAHER

Maybe it was the unfairness of being sidelined from a career in mining engineering that made Orville Harrington commit his crime. Despite his degree from the Colorado School of Mines in 1898, employers refused to hire him. His missing leg and pronounced limp—the result of a boyhood hunting accident—held him back in an era long before the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Years later, in 1919, he worked the swing shift at the Denver Mint, making just four dollars a day. Seeing all that gold every day made Orville think about Denver’s mining titans: Why wasn’t *he* living the good life on Capitol Hill?

But Orville was doing more than just fuming about his bad luck—he was forming a plan. Putting on his prosthetic leg one morning, he was struck by the size of a slit in the side that gave way to a hollow chamber. It was a little larger than the gold bars produced at the mint—one would slide easily into the leg.

Orville’s degree wouldn’t go to waste after all.

With his knowledge of mining, he devised a plan. He’d lease an abandoned mine near Victor, take the stolen bars there, and melt them down, combining the liquid gold with a low-grade ore. Later, he’d sell the gold back to the mint.

In the warm days of summer, Orville started leaving work with the occasional gold bar in his hollow leg. Over the next five months he squirreled out fifty-three bars—worth over \$970,000 today. No one could figure out who was taking the gold—or how they were doing it.

Called in to squelch the theft, the Secret Service identified Orville as a suspect and began watching him. Two things led to his capture. First, he was seen working in his garden a lot—but it was winter. Second, he fell for a trap set by the Secret Service, which had planted a \$1,400 gold bar near his workspace. When he tried to leave work that day, authorities found it on him. A search of his home revealed several more bars buried in the garden and cellar.

Orville was sentenced to ten years in prison for embezzlement. Paroled three and a half years later, he was hired by the City of Denver to supervise street-paving crews. We don’t know if Orville ever took his work home with him again.

Is there a Colorado history mystery you want to know more about? Contact patty_maher@yahoo.com and it may be featured in this column.

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Note: In our last issue, we inadvertently listed William Wei, PhD, and Dan Love in the Executive Committee and Katherine Lilly Koch and Tamra J. Ward among our Directors. We regret the error. The above are the correct listings.

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Recent additions include *Lost Ski Areas of Colorado's Front Range and Northern Mountains* by Caryn and Peter Boddie and *Legendary Locals of Broomfield* by Carol Turner.

Send any new books or booklets about Colorado, for listing and possible review, to:

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Saturday, September 12 to Wednesday, September 23

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