

Pueblo Medal of Honor history, facts captivate Trinidad audience

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thing permanent for those original four winners and for all living MofH recipients (currently 91) to be proud of other than just having streets named after them.

"We decided to do sculptures and the sculptures turned out to be a phenomenal thing." At the time the Pueblo Convention Center was just being built in the downtown area so locating the sculptures there where lots of traffic would be going through was an easy decision to make, Stuart said.

For the sculpture unveiling, she said the city invited the Congressional Medal of Honor Society to come to Pueblo for their 2000 national convention, a process that took two years to plan. Planners also had to bid for the convention. To help lay the groundwork, Paulette said she needed Jim, "her medal of honor junkie" who she married in 1996, to fill her in on military history details to help make "what we thought was the coolest presentation in the whole world" to society members in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. in 1998.

What Stuart said really sold society members was having three of four Medal of Honor recipients in your home town stand up right after their presentation and tell the group there, "I want you to come to my hometown. How are they going to say no to that?"

While that was going on, Stuart said Pueblo foundry sculptor David Dirrin needed six months to complete each MofH sculpture by 2000. Everything then came together for the 85 MofH committee members to organize 24 events in five days for convention attendees. Also involved were nearly every youth group in town, along with 900 high school and middle school students. At the sculpture unveiling, 7,000 people showed up, including 97 of 147 living MofH winners from around the



Photo by David J. Santistevan Jr.

Pictured from left to right are Kiwanis President Mike Tranter, Paulette Stuart Executive Director of "The Pueblo Medal of Honor Foundation", Jim Stuart Member of "The Pueblo Medal of Honor Foundation" and Rick Johnson, Trinidad Rotary President. Paulette Stuart helped create "The Medal of Honor Memorial" in Pueblo at the Pueblo Convention Center in 2000. Jim Stuart has done research and has interesting stories to tell about people who have received "The Congressional Medal of Honor."

country.

She learned that the Medal of Honor Society never talks about military rank in their conversations, addressing fellow members just by their first names and making no distinction from an admiral to a sergeant. "We learned a lot about bravery and learned much more about each man through reading their citations. We had each man's citation in the paper, one a day for 147 days." Stuart said that her committee has since kept its Medal of Honor Foundation intact in the past 10 years to keep adding new names of MofH winners and other memorial projects for Pueblo area veterans and to organize youth essay patriotic contests.

Pueblo's current project involves a veterans bridge over the Arkansas River that will hold granite plaques of more than 4,000 veterans names with Pueblo connections.

Jim Stuart's power point presentation depicted a history and narrative of Pueblo's Medal of

Honor winners, with unique and compelling stories of each recipient — Bill Crawford, Carl Sitter, Raymond "Jerry" Murphy and Drew Dix, plus some favorite stories he knew of other famous MofH recipients like Henry Erwin.

Crawford, for example, kept his medal winning exploits quiet for many years until he was found out by an Air Force Academy cadet while teaching there.

His slide show offered some of the following unusual facts about MofH winners since the first medals were handed out to Andrews Raiders members after their March 25, 1863 Civil War battle involvement. Stuart noted that each winner had to risk his own life and his or her heroic act has had to be observed by at least two other witnesses. Most winners earned their medals for saving their fellow soldiers in combat, not for killing a lot of enemy soldiers.

■ Of the 3,447 recipients, there were five sets of brothers, 91 are still alive

today, one woman and eight civilians were honored, 19 received double medals, the Battle of Vicksburg had the most recipients with 96 and New York state leads all others with 663 winners. Tom Custer, the brother of George Armstrong of Civil War and Little Bighorn

fame, won two medals before dying alongside his brother.

■ William Carney, who was portrayed accurately in the civil war movie, "Glory" was the first African-American winner. Desmond Doss was the only conscientious objector to win the medal.

■ More than half the medals have been awarded posthumously.

To their knowledge, the Stuarts said they couldn't find any medal winners from Trinidad or Walsenburg. But Pueblo is apparently making up for that absence in Southern Colorado.

Raton City Commission sees preliminary budget

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to close the current landfill and build the transfer station. The city currently has 1.3 years left on the landfill capacity and nine months on the permit.

City Manager PJ Mileta indicated the city currently bales tires to keep them out of the landfill and last year baled over 5000 tires. The baled tires are offered to ranchers and others for use in erosion control projects and as wind breaks. They also have an agreement with a local scrap dealer to take all the white goods, which are appliances and other metal goods. The city also burns the used oil from city vehicles to reduce the cost of natural gas for heating at the city shops. Cindy Montoya asked Mileta noted that the best way for it to work is to start at the homeowner level because landfill workers aren't allowed to pick through the landfill to sort out recyclables.

Commissioner Henry asked about the gross receipts figure indicating he didn't believe the figure was correct especially in light of the lack of construction and the possibility of lower retail sales. Approximately 65 percent of the city's revenue is expected to come from gross receipts. He specifically suggested that the city would have to really look at things in light of the changes concerning La Mesa Casino and Race Track. At this point the city is looking at expenses being \$127,658 over income but once again this is a preliminary figure. Steve Draper then brought up the question of the city



Photo by Marty Mayfield

Paul Cassidy of RBC Capital Marketing explained historical data that his firm put together to explain some things to consider while the commission worked on the budget.

paying both City Clerk Michael Ann Lannon and Deputy Clerk Geneva Trujillo. Mileta informed Draper that both were employees on the payroll and they were part of last year's budget. Draper then questioned Trujillo's qualifications to handle the job at which Mileta responded that Trujillo was a state certified municipal clerk, which met the requirements of that position. Draper felt that Trujillo should be a CPA or accountant to be qualified.

Cindy Montoya also urged commissioners to really consider the public

when they consider raising rates. She added there are a large number of people in town who are having problems coming up with money for deposits and such based on her experience as a property manager.

Ron Harris then asked commissioners about the paper work filed for defending itself in the election case, noting that the city has two attorneys listed on the filing. In the last city commission meeting Mileta told commissioners that he expected to set aside about \$40,000 to deal with the election case.

The meeting was then adjourned due to time constraints of other meetings that were scheduled for the commission chambers at 7 p.m.

Capulin restaurant faces high hurdles

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suspended April 21, 2010, when an inspector from the Raton office, Monica Steinberger, arrived for the regular pre-opening inspection of the restaurant and found three "high-risk" violations.

The first citation was for "Immediate suspension of permit based on surfacing sewage on lawn, not backed up into restaurant." The second infraction stated, "Septic system is still not in compliance with all state laws and regulations. Variance application denied May 5, 2009." The final violation was "Water system not protected by having sewage approximately 30' from well head."

Owner Jenny Lee Pugh explains that the plumbing had backed up when a store customer used the rest room and overstuffed the plumbing with paper. She hired a Raton plumber who she says arrived ten minutes after the NMED inspector left on April 21. A follow-up inspection was scheduled for late this week.

The septic system problem, however, threatens to be more difficult to solve.

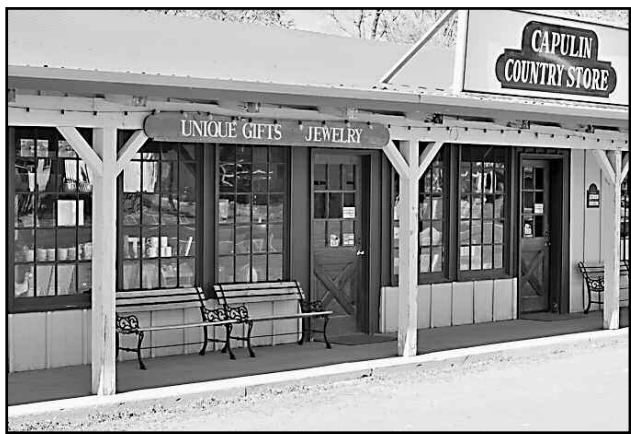


Photo by Tim Keller

The Capulin Country Store has opened its popular restaurant every summer since 1964.

"This has been ongoing for about 3 years," says Romero. "It all came up as a result of a transfer of ownership in 2007. Their system failed to pass the required inspection." The sale was never completed. Jenny Lee and Jim Pugh have owned the business and the property since 1985. It was built in 1964 and has included a seasonal restaurant ever since.

"There are some obvious modifications that have been made since then," Romero notes. "State per-

mitting began in 1973. Any modifications since then would have been required to be inspected and approved." Romero notes that it wasn't until 2005 that New Mexico required upgrading of old septic systems at the time of a sale, although he says many

design a solution. They'd have to pay to bore under the highway, though, and they'd have to buy an easement on the other side."

Jenny Lee Pugh has been talking with Baca Valley Telephone and says the company needs a commitment from her by June 1 if it's to include the job with its current projects. The costs are high. Though Pugh hasn't fully made up her mind, she says, "I don't know how we'd ever recover the costs through the restaurant. We think at this time that the plan will be cost prohibitive."

Meantime, she says she's been overwhelmed since Monday with the outpouring of support and suggestions from Chronicle-News readers. She's still in a brainstorming stage, hoping to find a solution even as it becomes clear that the restaurant will not open for Mothers Day, or any time very soon.

Thank You Delegates and Voters Of Las Animas County!

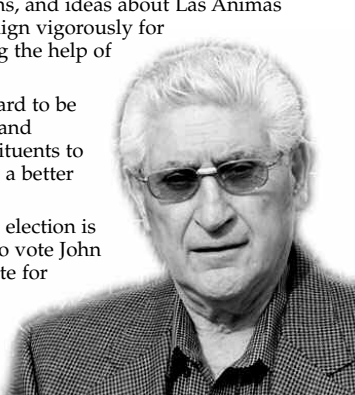
I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the delegates who participated in the Democratic Assembly last Month. I'd especially like to thank all the delegates who supported me in my efforts to become a candidate for Las Animas County Commissioner at the primary election on August 10th.

Over the coming months, I'll be attempting to contact voters of this county-either by phone call or personal visits to discuss some of my goals, concerns, and ideas about Las Animas County. I intend to campaign vigorously for this seat, and I'm soliciting the help of every Democratic voter.

If elected, I will work hard to be dedicated, open-minded, and approachable to my constituents to make Las Animas County a better place.

Remember, the primary election is August 10th. Remember to vote John Rino, Democratic candidate for Las Animas County Commissioner District 3

Respectfully,
John Rino



Please join the Lucky Monkey & Staff in a happy celebration as we honor our Mothers, Grandmothers, Great Grandmothers, Sisters & Daughters for all they do to bind our community together.

Happy Mother's Day, Ladies!

Mother's Day Buffet at the Lucky Monkey is 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Celebration Menu

<p>ON THE BUFFET</p> <p>Carne Adovada, Chicken & Green Chile Enchiladas, Baked Cod, Roasted Sweet & Sour Pork Loin, Manicotti w/ Pesto Cream Sauce, Southern Style Cornbread Stuffing, Herb Roasted Potatoes, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Sautéed Green Beans, Chef's Mixed Veggies, Assorted Dinner Rolls & Tortillas.</p>	<p>CHEF'S CARVING STATION</p> <p>Fresh Bake Ham w/Pineapple Glaze, Roast Beef w/ Au Jus & Roasted Turkey w/ Giblet Gravy.</p>
<p>*CHEF'S PASTA BAR</p> <p>*ASSORTED DESSERT STATION / CHOCOLATE FONDUE FOUNTAIN</p> <p>*COFFEE TEA & WATER</p>	<p>SALAD BAR</p> <p>Tossed Mixed Green Salad, Seafood Salad, Fresh Cut Fruit, Assorted Cubed Cheese, Marinated Beets, Macaroni Salad, Marinated Veggie Salad, Assorted Dressing & Condiments.</p>

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(719) 846-3311
FAX: (719) 846-3612
Members Associated Press - Colorado Press Association.
Periodicals Postage Paid For At Trinidad, CO.
Published Daily
Except Saturday and Sunday
©2006 The Shearman Corp.
www.thechronicle-news.com

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Business Hours:
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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