



Expanded Tours

This summer we will be expanding our mine tours once again, thanks to the Cripple Creek & Victor Mining Company. Tours will be at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. every day but Thursday from June 1 to Sept. 5. See giant trucks hauling ore, boulders smashed into pebbles in the crusher, the depths of the largest gold mine in Colorado. Reservations are recommended at VictorColorado.com.

Hours: 9:30-5:30 daily May 28-Sept. 5 and weekends September to Oct. 9.

Admission: \$6 adults, \$4 Seniors 62 & older, \$3 Children 12 & under Admission includes 1 hour of gold panning.

Gem & Gold Panning Continues

Try your hand at finding Cripple Creek turquoise, topaz and other gems as well as real gold. The museum hosts panning thru Labor Day and panning for real gold over Gold Rush Days the third weekend in July. This activity is made possible by a grant from the El Pomar Youth in Community Service grant.

Your 2011 Board of Directors

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Annual Report for 2010

January 2011

ACHIEVEMENTS



2010 was an exceptional year at the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum. Some of the successes with your support and volunteer help include:

- **Phase 2** funded by the State Historic Fund was begun. This includes supports in the basement for the first floor and restoration of second story windows. The supports are in place and new windows have been installed, ensuring better protection for collections.
- **We were awarded Feb. 1, 2010 for Phase 3 by SHF \$104,196** - this includes restoration of the storefront & supports to the second floor. This work is underway and will be completed this winter.
- **The storefront restoration** resulted in the loss of our large Lowell Thomas logo window, which will be repainted this spring thanks to a donation by Marvin Maples of Torix GC. And thanks to Dave Coons of Torix GC, the 2004 logo window has been saved for a future use.
- **We received a CDoT** grant to replace the roof, which will be completed later this year.
- **We had an Outstanding 2010 Season** doubling our visitor numbers (from 4308 in 2009 to 8064 in 2010), nearly tripling the revenue from tours (693 tours for \$3464 in 2009 to 1643 tours for \$9229 in 2010), and increasing our museum sales (from \$3162 in 2009 to \$5377 in 2010).



Phase 3 Underway

The State Historical Fund (SHF) awarded the museum \$104,196 toward Phase 3 stabilization on Feb. 1, 2010. Phase 3 got underway late in 2010 and will be completed in early 2011. This part of the project includes support columns and a newly renovated storefront. New storefront windows were installed the last week of January. Exterior painting will be finished in the spring when the weather allows.



- **Continued expanded staffing &** kept the museum open 7 days a week. This year Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining CO. is donating the funds for staffing and marketing the mine tours.
- **We continued** to work with the Colorado Springs Convention & Visitor's Bureau and regional museums on cooperative marketing.
- **Continued a window challenge** to raise funds to restore the windows in the museum; 9 windows have been funded thanks to several donors.



Exhibits and Programming

- **Received donations of photos,** and artifacts from several individuals with family ties to Victor. One of the largest donations was an 1890's sheave wheel that was used at the School Section Mine in Grassy Valley. Thanks to the Colorado Land Board for their assistance with that donation.
- **Improved our contribution** to the community by drawing visitors to Victor through our marketing efforts, providing for visitor experiences to compliment our local businesses and give visitors a reason to stay and explore Victor, the museum, Gold Belt Byway and Trails of Gold.

Curatorial, Inventory and Gift Shop

- **Continued work toward a new inventory** of all artifacts in the collection.
- **Participated in the Holiday Bazaar** at the VICCI Center and Victor Elks.
- **Worked to improve security** for exhibit items.