

## Museum of the Mountain West Farm & Ranch Heritage Fri. & Sat. July 15 & 16



10-5  
both days

Join us next weekend for a Celebration of the Old West. Museum of the Mountain West hosts a 2-day fundraiser, which includes activities for the whole family and a graduated gate fee that includes all activities. Enjoy live music, cash bars, cowboy poetry, square dancing, roping, history demonstrations, vendors, food and drink, Antique Market, petting zoo, kids' art contest, and more. Entrance is at the west gate—look for the balloons.

Visit the art show in our new Gallery featuring work by 3rd-generation rancher Susan Sanburg Humphrey, who is also co-chair of the Heritage Days event that winds up Saturday afternoon with Ghost River Band playing from 2-5 pm in the big tent. Tickets and more info here: [museumofthemountainwest.org/activities](http://museumofthemountainwest.org/activities)

## MMW Gallery opening a success



Artist Susan Sanburg Humphrey visits with MMW's Darcie Lewis and Jim Wendt in the new gallery. Image: Kate Burke.

What once was the workshop in the main museum building is now our expanded Gift Shop and new MMW Gallery showcasing local artists and artisans. We celebrated

## TEI Rock Drills donates to museum



L-R: MMW Asst. Dir, Kate Burke, & MMW Founder & Exec. Director, Rich Fike receive donation from TEI CEO, Sue Frank & TEI Sales Mgr., Billy Aller. Image: Darcie Lewis

The 2nd Empire House at Museum of the Mountain West is about to get a facelift. Built in 1904, the historic home reached its final resting place at the Museum in 2016 where it has been patiently waiting for a benevolent benefactor.

Now it's got one: TEI Rock Drills. Assistant director, **Kathryn (Kate) Burke**, secured a large donation from TEI Rock Drills to help the museum. "We are pleased to help the museum restore the 2nd Empire House," said TEI CEO Sue Frank. "We are also contributing to the Farm & Ranch Heritage event in July and willing to help out with other activities."

the Grand Opening Saturday, July 2nd with July's featured artist [Susan Sanburg Humphrey](http://www.museumofthemountainwest.org/susan-sanburg-humphrey), *Western Landscape and Lifestyle*.

Over 100 guests attended our Grand Opening and Reception held from 6-8 pm in the Main Museum building. Guests enjoyed light apps, live music by Paul Bellavance, craft beers, and wines from LaNoue Dubois Winery. The event, a fundraiser, brought in more than \$1,000 in sales and donations.

Humphrey's art has experienced brisk sales in the days following the opening. Her paintings and digital photography, available through mid-August, reflect her love of the country and western lifestyle. Humphrey's family has been ranching in the area for 3 generations; she is active in the local farm and ranch community. Read more about here: [museumofthemountainwest.org/susan-sanburg-humphrey/](http://museumofthemountainwest.org/susan-sanburg-humphrey/)

**MMW Summer hours, Guided & Self-guided tours: Monday - Saturday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.**

## 2nd Empire House to get a facelift



Built in 1904, and donated to the museum by the Walker Family, the Second Empire house was moved in 2016 from South Fifth Street and Selig Avenue in

downtown Montrose to the Museum of the Mountain West.

The building's architecture, known as Second Empire, is not common in this area; a good reason for its preservation. Getting it here was quite an undertaking. Noah Vogenthaler (Vogy's House Moving) managed the move and, aided by local businesses and DMEA, donated part of the \$20,000 to move it to the museum property. Once located at the museum, the city of Montrose Office of Business and Tourism donated \$14,000 to help pay for the foundation—it had been sitting up in the air, on blocks. The donation also helped cover the cost of rubber barriers on the top of the roof to protect the building.

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## MMW Activity Calendar

### July

New Gift Shop and Gallery featuring artist Susan Sanburg Humphrey all month.

**15 & 16.** 10 am -5 pm both days. [Farm & Ranch Heritage Days](#). Live entertainment, cash bars, kids' activities, living history demonstrations, food, vendors, Antique Market. Pay at gate or [sign up online](#).

**19. 10-11:30 am.** Painting History for Kids. Learn history of 1890 Jutten School, then create take-home painting. Kids ages 8-15. Register and [signup online](#).

### August

**27.** [Tribute to Western Movies](#). Live music, Movie re-enactments, food, vendors. kids activities. Pay at gate or [sign up online](#).

### September

**10-11.** Old Spanish Trail Plein Air Show and Sale at the Ute Museum. Work by local artists and students painting at MMW, Ute Museum, and Fort Umcompahgre. Spanish Trail Party at the Ute Museum 6-8 pm, Sat., Sept. 10.



Please DONATE to the museum. Mail check to MMW at 68169 Miami Rd., Montrose CO 81401. or go to website and [click](#) on the **big red donate button**.

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Montrose County helped pay for the 50 tons of special gravel used as part of the foundation. Preserving historic buildings is a pricey proposition.

The house gained dubious (and mistaken) notoriety as a “haunted house” when “Ghost Adventures” of the *Travel Channel* filmed and featured it as being the site of a murder/suicide in 1956. However, according to local historian Marilyn Cox who researched the story, the event “Ghost Adventures” referred to actually occurred at a house located across the alley and up the block at 222 S. Fourth Street. While this information disappoints a few visitors who love the idea of a haunted house, it certainly improves employee and volunteer morale to know that the story was just that...a story, and no ghosts are likely to jump out at them when they are working in the house!

After a six-year wait to continue restoration, stalled by a fund shortage, the old house will now start coming back to life thanks to the donation by TEI Rock Drills.

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Call 970-240-3400. We'll sign you up!

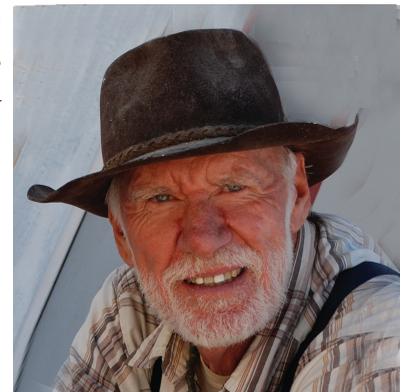
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## About MMW founder, Richard E. Fike

[By Carol Anne McKelvey, *Montrose Daily Press*, April 16, 2016. Reprinted with permission.]

The Museum of the Mountain West was founded in 1997 by Fike, a former historical archaeologist. Archeology and collections of historical memorabilia have been in his blood since he was four when he began collecting; his family could not have any guests, because by the time he reached eight, he'd filled up the guest room in his parents' home with antiquities. Fike spent most of his life working as an archeologist with Colorado and Utah's Bureau of Land Management and serving on committees for the Register of Historical Places for both the state and federal governments. He has also authored a number of historical articles and books; he is considered an expert in the area of historical medicine bottles.

Fike currently serves [on the museum's board of directors] and contributes as the historical preservationist and director of the museum. He [and his wife, Carol, President of the Board] reside on the museum property where he can “keep an eye on things.”



Founder, Richard Fike. Courtesy Photo.

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