



Midland Days At Divide, Inc.

P.O. Box 1088, Divide, Colorado 80814

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David Martinek - 719.213.9335

The “2023 Midland Days” Symposium – A Mountain of Memories!

Divide, CO July 1, 2023 — “Oh, there’s gold in that mountain!” The history of the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining District repeats that phrase over and over. There are a mountain of memories in the World’s Greatest Gold Camp. And the railroads that served it were an integral part of that history. Come and join the symposium to discover some of those memories.

The 2023 symposium asks and answers some defining questions about the gold district in Teller County and the railroads that helped ignite one of the region’s most famous landscapes. How did mills and samplers work? Why was the Carlton Mill built? Who was the “King of Cripple Creek?” Did railroads have chapel cars? Why did Richard Newell have to die? “We’re just scratching the surface of all the memories that flow toward us from the past about the search for gold in Cripple Creek and Victor,” said Dave Martinek, President of Midland Days at Divide, Inc. “Frankly, there’s a mountain of those memories.”

Midland Days at Divide, Inc., along with its partners, the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition (T.H.E. Coalition) and the Divide Chamber of Commerce, and its sponsors, proudly announce the 13th annual gathering of the Midland Days symposium, to be held again at the historic **John Wesley Ranch** south of Divide on **Saturday, September 9, 2023, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**. The event will begin, as usual, with a social gathering at 9:00 a.m. followed by introductions and announcements.

The agenda will include presentations (including numerous historical photographs) and conversations with railroad author and historian, **Mel McFarland**, local historian **Art Crawford**, law enforcement historian **Dwight Haverkorn**, **David Martinek**, president of Midland Days at Divide, Inc., as presenter and moderator, and introducing **Ken Valles** of KP Chronicles as our newest presenter.

Seating for the symposium will be limited, as always. Reservations, at \$50.00 per person, are strongly encouraged, and should be made on or before Monday, September 4, 2023 (Labor Day) by calling **David Martinek** (719-213-9335) or by emailing your RSVP to MidlandDays@yahoo.com. A reservation fee may also be mailed to Midland Days, P.O. Box 1088, Divide, CO 80814.

Refreshments will be available throughout the day and a light breakfast and lunch will be served. Walk-in attendees are welcome for the same attendance fee, but seating and lunch cannot be guaranteed. According to the tradition established at the first symposium, all those with reservations will receive a limited-edition railroad print (ink on

parchment) - entitled “A Significant Meeting.” especially drawn and provided courtesy of Mel McFarland, the 13th in a series. Additional copies of the print, and commemorative prints from past symposiums, as well as other special items and memorabilia, will also be available for purchase.

The **John Wesley Ranch**, is operated by the First United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs who once again have graciously opened their historic lodge facilities to host the symposium. The ranch is located south of Divide at 21285 Highway 67 just before the entrance to Mueller State Park. There is ample parking. **Directions from Colorado Springs:** Take U.S. 24 west up Ute Pass for 25 miles, through Woodland Park, to Divide. Turn left on Highway 67 South. The entrance to the John Wesley Ranch is 3 miles on the right (*look for the Midland Days sign*).

Midland Days at Divide, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit Colorado corporation formed in 2013 (EIN 46-4067659). Midland Days devotes its assets and operations to the protection of the historic legacy of the Colorado Midland Railway and the Midland Terminal Railroad, as well as other related railroads, and those cultural and natural resources affecting the continued preservation of such history. Midland Days at Divide, Inc. also owns the Midland Depot at Divide property and complex.

The **Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition, Inc.** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit Colorado corporation formed in 2000 (EIN 84-1552939). T.H.E. Coalition’s mission is to facilitate preservation of the historic, environmental, recreational and scenic resources in and around Teller County, and to broaden public understanding regarding the significance of those resources. T.H.E. Coalition is actively working to preserve the Midland Depot at Divide.

The **Divide Chamber of Commerce**, a partner of T.H.E. Coalition and Midland Days at Divide, Inc., is a 501 (c)6 non-profit corporation supporting local businesses in the Divide community.

All proceeds, sponsorships and contributions (less meal costs) from the “2023 Midland Days” symposium will help support Midland Days at Divide, Inc., future symposiums and the Midland Depot at Divide Preservation Project, and its partnering organizations.

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Contact:

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Note: The attendance contribution may be paid in advance by mail (c/o Midland Days, P.O. Box 1088, Divide, CO 80814) or upon arrival (make checks payable to “Midland Days” – check or cash only may be used at the door). Submission of an RSVP is an obligation to pay the tax deductible (less meal costs) attendance fee.