

MARKING MILESTONES IN THE AHS ARCHIVE

On July 14, 2017 we celebrated the Grand Opening of the newly renovated Archive Building. The 9-month project increased efficiency and upgraded the building to industry standards for artifact storage and access without increasing the original footprint.



AHS operates one of the largest public archives on the Western Slope, featuring priceless artifacts from every era of the area's history. Over 58,000 historical items include maps of 1800s mining claims, 40,000 images, ledgers, oral histories, moving images, the entire Aspen Times newspaper archive since 1881, over 7,500 objects, and more. These artifacts and records provide vital information about the history and heritage of the Aspen/Snowmass area and AHS ensures the information is preserved according to archival best practices.

The renovation and Grand Opening Event not only marked the first of several milestones for AHS, but also sparked excitement for the Archive itself. Following the event, research appointments continuously broke records each month through December. Significant archival donations also followed. 74 people donated to the Collection in 2017, including Robert Chamberlain who gifted his Aspen photographic collection to AHS (see sidebar).

With Robert's gift, the AHS Collection reached 40,000 photographic records. This is a noteworthy benchmark for the Society, especially considering the approximately 30 minutes it takes to process a single image. Whether photographs, records, or 3-dimensional objects, accessioning is a delicate and time-consuming process that involves physically and legally transferring ownership of the object, careful documentation of provenance and content, as well as organization to enable continued accessibility.



This work to document our shared past is essentially valuable to our community. A public archive of primary sources supports a collective understanding of our history, fosters a sense of community, and encourages a life-long vested interest in the future of this special place. It is our privilege to do this work and we thank the entire community for your continued support.

In advance of the renovation, AHS Archivists secured a large portion of the AHS Collection on our growing keyword-searchable online Collection for the public to access at www.archiveaspen.org.

ROBERT CHAMBERLAIN PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION



IDCA, 1969

AHS recently received a donation from notable photographer Robert M. Chamberlain. Bob, a professional photographer and artist, entrusted his extensive collection of Aspen images to the AHS Collection, where it will be preserved and shared. Bob has documented life in Aspen since the 1960s, from hippie culture to modern-day ski racing, he artfully captured the pulse of the community.

The Chamberlain photographic collection is available online at www.archiveaspen.org, along with photographs from other local photographers such as Mary Eshbaugh Hayes, James "Horsethief" Kelley, and many more. The online Collection is available for research as a free community service. Prints can be purchased and commercial or editorial photograph use is offered on a fee basis.



Mall Fountain,
circa 1980



Powder Skiing on
Difficult Creek, 1982

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS: STAFF'S FAVORITE ITEMS FROM THE AHS COLLECTION

"Besides the entire photographic collection, my favorite artifacts are the design sketches by Herbert Bayer. Bayer, a prominent member of the Bauhaus, was invited to Aspen by the Paepckes in 1946 to help brand and promote the couple's endeavors. The designer/architect/painter/photographer/sculptor/mountaineer left an indelible mark on modern Aspen's aesthetic."

— Eliza Burlingame, *Marketing Director*



"I'm picking the issue of the Aspen Times from 1899 that was printed on the 1893 Bird's Eye maps. I've always loved looking over the map itself, but having the newspaper printed on the back and the story behind it (the Aspen Times' paper supply was cut off due to the trains being unable to reach Aspen during the harsh winter of 1899) makes it an even more intriguing piece."

— Megan Cerise Winn,
Archive Technician

"I am especially fond of the last ZG license plate. A ZG plate meant the owner was a local, an important moniker for many residents since Aspen was growing so quickly. Pitkin County Clerk Loretta Banner (my mother) noted that during the 1977 arraignment of serial killer Ted Bundy, the national news media mistook the crowd waiting in line to ensure they got ZG license plates for onlookers gathered for the proceedings."

— Lisa Hancock, *Curator & VP of Collections*

"I am intrigued and constantly amazed by the panorama created with four William Henry Jackson glass plate photographs, from 1893, that clearly show the extent of development in Aspen at the peak of the silver boom. It is staggering to think about the congestion, the noise, the smell and thusly the world-renowned success Aspen experienced 130 years ago."

— Nina Gabianelli, *VP of Education & Programs*

"One of my personal favorites in the Collection is the ASFAR Sweatshirt from 1989. While the shirt was created for the anti-fur ballot issue that year, protests began in Aspen during the '70s. It's what prompted me to design the "Aspen Cape" for my store Geraniums 'n Sunshine as a fashionable alternative that could even be worn over a warming parka."

— Jane Click, *Docent*

"My two favorite artifacts are the ghost towns I spent so much time working (and enjoying) during my intern seasons. Whether opening Independence early with snow everywhere, or winding up the summer in Ashcroft with fall colors, I love sharing the stories of these two "artifacts" with our visitors."

— Travis Lane McDuffett, *Programs & Events Director*

"My favorite artifact would have to be the women's dress with the sash that says, "Votes for Women." In 1893, Colorado was the first state to give women the right to vote. I am proud that our state was so progressive and I hope our country continues to make change and take leaps of faith like Colorado did back in its early history."

— Kasey Klabunde, *Program & Education Assistant*

"Seeing my child's face light up when the Snow Screw was on display at the Aspen World Cup Finals Village in March was priceless. Young and old alike were stopped in their tracks by this huge antique "snow-machine." Thanks to the help of generous donors and Aspen Skiing Company, we can't wait to see the restored Snow Screw in action during demonstrations at Buttermilk Mountain!"

— Kelly May, *Development Director*

"My favorite artifact in our current collection is Steve Jobs' "Lisa" computer mouse and the transcript from his speech at the 1983 IDCA. He very presciently described the future of "email" saying, "One day when we have portable computers connected by radio we can be walking around Aspen and be able to retrieve it." Now THAT is genius... and world-changing."

— Michael Monroney, *History Coach*

"The 1896 Willits map is probably one of my most favorite collection pieces – I use it daily in my work to research properties, consult locations of mines, buildings, water utilities and much more. I don't know what I would do if I didn't have access to such a historically rich map!"

— Anna Lookabill Scott, *Archivist*

"I love our group of WWII-era Tenth Mountain artifacts—an iconic white jacket, skis and boots, goggles, and a tent. They represent not only the supreme skiing and mountaineering skills, backbreaking work, and extreme sacrifices of these soldiers, but also the building of a resort based on their sheer love of mountain sport."

— Kelly Murphy, *President & CEO*

WINTER 2018

Programs & Events



NEW RETRO FILM SERIES: DECADES OF SKIING ASPEN/SNOWMASS

Partnership with Limelight Hotel Aspen

Second Friday of each month, January - April | 5:30pm
Limelight Hotel, 355 S Monarch St.

\$10 suggested donation at the door
Limited seating – first come first serve

Friday, Jan. 12th – The '40s

Friday, Feb. 9th – The '50s

Friday, Mar. 9th – The '60s

Friday, Apr. 13th – The '70s



TIME TRAVEL TUESDAYS

Aspen to the Olympics: Our Legacy of Youth Sports

Tuesdays, February 6, 13 & 20; March 6 | 5:30pm – 7pm
Wheeler Opera House, 320 E. Hyman Ave.

\$10/free for AHS Lixiviator members and above

Tuesday, February 6th –

Aspen Figure Skating Clubs

Tuesday, February 13th –

Aspen Junior Hockey

Tuesday, February 20th –

Aspen Valley Ski & Snowboard Club

Tuesday, March 6th –

Aspen's Olympians



Local Aspenaut skiers at
Buttermilk, 1978.

NEW HISTORY LESSONS WITH LARRY

Thursdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 | 3pm - 4pm
AHS Archive Building, 620 W. Bleeker St.

FREE

Thursday, March 1st – Aspen Myths, Legends and Tall Tales

Thursday, March 8th – Geology and Surveying

Thursday, March 15th – History of Smuggler Mine

Thursday, March 22nd – The Apex/Sideline Debate

Thursday, March 29th – Miners' Journeys into Aspen

HISTORY ON TAP: ASPEN BREWING COMPANY 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Aspen Brewing Company's brewery facility, 404 AABC

\$15 in advance, limited capacity, advance registration required
(ticket includes one beer, additional beers \$5)

Tuesday, March 13 | 5:30pm

For reservations and more information call
970.925.3721 or AspenHistory.org

ASPEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY WINTER TOURS (THROUGH APRIL 12)

Aspen Highlands History Ski Tour
Mondays, 11am and 1pm

Hotel Jerome Tour
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:30pm

Wheeler Opera House Tour
Wednesdays, 1:30pm

Historic Pub Crawl
Thursdays, 3:30pm
Reservations required, 970.925.3721

Snowmass History Ski Tour
Tuesdays, 11am and 1pm

Aspen Mountain History Ski Tour
Fridays, 11am and 1pm

Aspen Historical Society Archive Tour
Thursday, February 15th & March 15th, 11am

History Coach & Victorian West End
Walking Tours
Available by appointment



Wheeler/Stallard Museum:
Open Tuesday through Saturday,
11am -5pm (closed May 1st – June 11th)

Holden/Marolt Mining &
Ranching Museum:
Open by appointment until June 12th
Summer hours: Tuesday through Saturday,
11am – 5pm

SNOWMASS STORIES IN TIME

Pre-1879

Ute Indian summer camps are located throughout the Roaring Fork Valley, including the Owl Creek, Brush Creek, and Snowmass Creek valleys.

Colorado becomes a state in 1876.



Ute Indians, circa 1900

1879

Prospectors are at Ashcroft, Ute City (Aspen) and Independence after the 1878 Hayden Geological Survey indicated the presence of silver in the Roaring Fork Valley.



Pieces of the largest silver nugget ever mined in the U.S. from Aspen's Smuggler Mine, 1894.

1893

Congress repeals the Sherman Silver Purchase Act, crushing Aspen's silver industry and prompting a decades-long decline.

1908

Telephone lines are extended to Snow Mass divide and Brush Creek residents.

1958

Developer Bill Jans identifies Baldy Mountain as suitable terrain for a new ski area. Friedl Pfeifer opens Buttermilk Mountain. Whip Jones opens Aspen Highlands.

1962

Skiing tours are first offered to the public on the Big Burn via snowcats.



A snowcat delivers skiers to Snowmass powder, circa 1963

1973

The first Snowmass Rodeo is held (the longest continually operating rodeo in Colorado).



Bucking bronco at the Snowmass Rodeo, 1973

1975

"Ski Splash" is instituted at Snowmass as part of Wintersköl™.



The Wintersköl™ ski splash, 1980

1880

A large forest fire clears the area now known as the Big Burn.

1881

Pitkin County is established.

1884

Ranches including the Stapleton ranch on Owl Creek, Carroll and Burke ranches on Brush Creek, and Watson ranch on the divide, are delivering fresh produce to the miners in Aspen.



Brush Creek and Mt. Daly, circa 1910

1941- 1945

The 10th Mountain Division stationed at Camp Hale near Leadville uses the Aspen area for training exercises. Many veterans return after the war and help develop skiing.



Tenth Mountain Division soldier

1946

Aspen Ski Corporation begins operations. Lift 1A unofficially opens on Aspen Mountain on December 14th.

1964

The US Forest Service grants approvals for the Snowmass-at-Aspen Ski Area.

1966

Ceramic artist Paul Soldner founds the Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village.

1967

Aspen Ski Corp. opens Snowmass-at-Aspen with 5 chairlifts, 50 miles of trails, and a shelter restaurant at Sam's Knob. Lift tickets are \$6.50.



Snowmass-at-Aspen, circa 1967

IN HONOR OF THE 2017 ANNIVERSARY OF 50 YEARS OF LIFT-SERVED SKIING

1980

The “Rodeo Lot” at Snowmass is developed for day skiers.

1981

Aspen Ski Corp. changes its name to Aspen Skiing Company. The Snowmass Club opens with a new golf course.



Golfers at the Snowmass Club course, circa 1981

1989

Snow Cubs and Big Burn Bears open as the first licensed ski drop-in day care in Colorado.

1995

Two Creeks base area at Snowmass opens providing quick access to the Elk Camp area.

1997

Snowmass celebrates 30 years of skiing. The Cirque lift opens (the first lift powered solely by wind energy) providing the nation’s longest lift-served vertical rise of 4,406 feet.

2008

A portion of Base Village officially opens but additional construction (under new ownership) is halted by the Great Recession.

2010

Fossils of mammoths, mastodons, a giant sloth and many other Ice Age animals and plants are discovered during the expansion of the Ziegler Reservoir in Snowmass Village.



DMNS scientists Dr. Ian Miller and Dr. Kirk Johnson with excavated bones.

1976

The first Snowmass Balloon Festival takes flight.



Snowmass Balloon Festival, 1977

1982

Snowmass holds its first organized Mardi Gras celebrations. Locals organize the first Food & Wine Classic in Snowmass Village.

1984

New expert terrain opens on the ski area including Hanging Valley Wall and the Cirque.

1988

Snowboarding is allowed on Snowmass.

2000

Aspen Skiing Company purchases the undeveloped Base Village and partners with IntraWest to design and develop the area.

2004 – 2005

Snowmass Village Town Council approves the Base Village development plan to include the Elk Camp gondola, Village Express high-speed chair, and the “Skittles” gondola.

2006

Construction of the new Snowmass Base Village begins.

2015

The original fixed-grip High Alpine lift is upgraded to a high-speed quad chair and slightly relocated.



Ribbon cutting at the opening ceremony of the original High Alpine Lift, 1978

2017

Snowmass celebrates 50 years of lift-served skiing with a \$6.50 anniversary ticket. Construction resumes on Base Village under a partnership group intending to build a Limelight hotel, public plaza and community building.

1977

Citizens vote to incorporate the Town of Snowmass Village.

1979

Developers and Snowmass land owners Jim Chaffin and Jim Light produce the town’s first master plan with development concentrated at the base of Fanny Hill.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

HISTORY ON TAP

Under the leadership of Board President Chace Dillon, AHS launched a new history education program for adults in 2017. Pairing history with beer, *History on Tap* programs explore specific aspects of Aspen and Snowmass history. AHS hosted four *History on Tap* events last year: a panel discussion about the history of backcountry skiing in March; a guided Aspen history bike tour in June; “Ashcroft After Dark” in September; and a retro film screening in honor of Snowmass’ 50th anniversary in December.

Thanks to Aspen Brewing Company, the generous sponsors of HoT, attendees enjoy one free beer with admission to these casual, après-style offerings. Each program features a short, educational presentation about the history that is “on tap” for the event. AHS has partnered with venues like Highlands Alehouse and Base Camp Bar & Grill at Snowmass to host the events. At Ashcroft, AHS partnered with expert astronomer Bryan White to offer guided stargazing following beers in the Blue Mirror Saloon and tours of the ghost town. The



Ashcroft’s last citizen Jack Lahey (Mike Monroney) awaits HoT patrons outside Ashcroft’s Blue Mirror Saloon.

bike tour culminated at the Holden/Marolt Mining & Ranching Museum where beers were served as AHS staff shared stories from Aspen’s mining and ranching past.

On deck for *History on Tap* is a special celebration on March 13th in honor of Aspen Brewing Company’s 10th anniversary. To commemorate the occasion, a short presentation will look back at the history of brewing in Aspen and the town’s taste for beer over the years.

The program will also include a guided tour of the Brew Co’s brewing facility at the ABC. Stay tuned for additional 2018 *History on Tap* program announcements!



MUSEUM THEATRE: HISTORY WITH PIZAZZ

AHS is fortunate to employ several full-time staff in our Programs and Education department who are also professionally trained actors. Under the leadership of these staff members, many of our offerings have been developed as museum theatre programs, utilizing theatrical techniques for educational purposes. This entertaining approach brings unique perspectives, creativity, and authenticity to our history education programs that appeal to all ages.



Mike Monroney, Travis McDiffett, and Nina Gabianelli perform “A Briefly Complete History of Aspen” on the Wheeler/Stallard Museum grounds in July, 2017.

In the staff-written and -performed Vaudeville-influenced production, “A Briefly Complete History of Aspen,” three actors present over 100 years of area history through song, dance, and silliness. Another staff-produced program, “Aspen History 101” resurrects the historic all-fun era of the Aspen State Teacher’s College in a “course” that presents narrated vignettes of Aspen’s storied past through character performances. AHS history scholars have created character scripts, known as first-person interpretation, based on extensive research for several historical figures. Performances of notable citizens like Jerome B. Wheeler, Fred Iselin, Hildur Andersen, Ella Stallard, Elizabeth Paepcke, and Nick DeWolfe, among others, are featured across a range of our programs, from Cemetery tours to in-school lessons. AHS has been touted as an industry leader in museum theatre programming at national conferences and our staff is proud to continue to develop engaging ways to share our collective history.

ARTIFACT RESTORATION PROJECTS

In 2017, thanks to support from various donors and partners, AHS launched several restoration projects to bring damaged or non-functioning objects (and structures) back to their original glory. Here are three projects we've been working on:

SNOW SCREW

Aspen Skiing Company and AHS have partnered to restore the Snow Screw, a first-generation snow machine built in the late 1930s, to working conditions. The Snow Screw was designed and built by Denver-area mechanic Marty Keller for Aspen's DRC Brown Jr. (Darcy) in the late 1930s. Measuring 6 feet by 9 feet, the vehicle is powered by a Ford flathead V8 engine with parts dating as far back as 1918. The machine moves across snow on

two large pontoons that "screw" in spiral motion propelling it forward. Thanks to Aspen Skiing Company, Donny Mushet, and his team at Buttermilk, the unique machine will run again!

Aspen Historical Society is grateful to the donors who have supported the Snow Screw: Steve Knowlton, the Iselin Foundation, the Ruth H. Brown Foundation, ZG Chicks, and the Cerise and Beck families. Special thanks to

the Aspen Skiing Company, whiz mechanics Donny Mushet and Jeff Jensen, and their team.



MARY ELLA STALLARD PORTRAIT

AHS is undertaking a major refurbishment project for an item with significant importance to the Collection: a crayon photograph portrait of Mary Ella Stallard, who lived



in the house that is now the Wheeler/Stallard Museum (and AHS headquarters) for 40 years during the early 1900s. The portrait is the only depiction of the prominent Aspen resident in the AHS Collection but sustained damage due to unknown

circumstances. AHS is working with Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts on the extensive conservation treatment process. Once conserved and protected, the portrait will be re-hung prominently in the Wheeler/Stallard Museum, where it will help AHS tell the story of the house and the people who lived there during the "quiet years" in Aspen.

AHS is raising funds to restore the artifact and has already received generous donations from First Western Trust and the Greenwood Fund towards the restoration, as well as shipping support from Art Forward.

ZUPANCIS BUILDINGS

Last summer, the City of Aspen moved forward with the considerable renovation project to refurbish the Zupancis buildings that were relocated from downtown to the Holden/Marolt Mining and Ranching Museum. In partnership with Aspen Historical Society, the historical structures will serve as additional interpretive sites on the property.

The three buildings — a miner's-cabin-turned-Victorian-era-home, a shed, and a barn — are in place

on new foundations. The City has completed the first phase to remove hazardous materials, stabilize the structures, and replace the siding and roofs. The second phase is approved to begin restoring the interior of the home. AHS and the city have been working with architectural conservator Natalie Feinberg Lopez to guide interior restoration.

The 1888 home changed very little since it was last occupied,

making it historically valuable as one of the only intact homes from Aspen's Victorian era. AHS is honored to collaborate with the City on this project and looks forward to interpreting the history of the Zupancis buildings in programs beginning this summer.



Aspen Historical Society mourns the passing of lifetime Trustee Carl Bergman (April 16, 1932 – January 28, 2018). Among many contributions to AHS, Carl was instrumental in the creation of the Holden/Marolt Mining & Ranching Museum. We are immensely grateful to Carl for his time, talent, and support over the years.



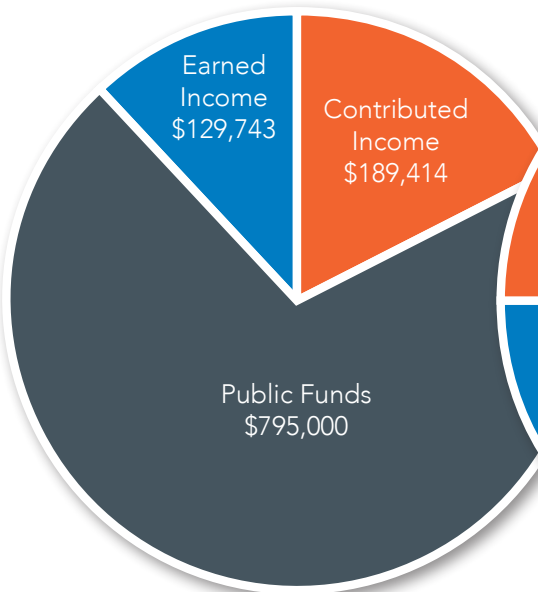
Carl Bergman, 1972

ASPEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

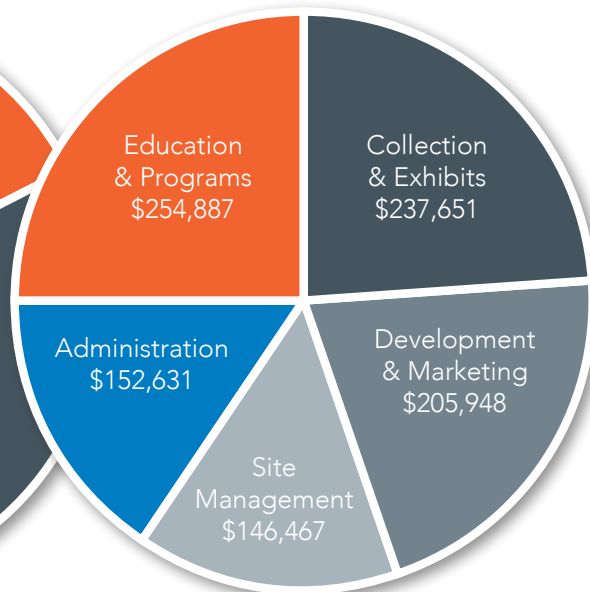
Allocation of Income and Expenses For Year End October 31, 2017

For full financials and current balance sheet please visit www.AspenHistory.org

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*This list represents
donations received
through January 15, 2018*

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With your help, the AHS Campaign raised \$1 million in capital funds to renovate the Archive Building. Thank you for supporting this important effort and preserving Aspen valley's exceptional history.

The Grand Opening in July launched the second phase of AHS Campaign to raise \$2 million in endowed funds to carry educational programming, research positions, the archive collection, and our four historical sites into the future.

Please continue to support AHS and strengthen our endowment for the next generation!

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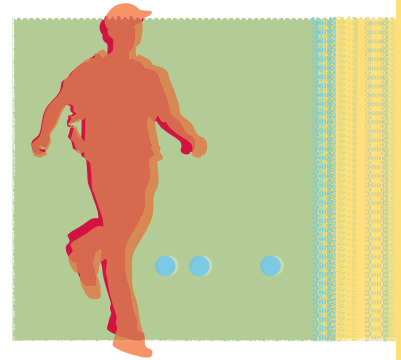
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2018 EXHIBIT PREVIEW

CURRENT EXHIBITS:

"Bests, Firsts and Worst: Aspen in Objects" (Exhibition at the Wheeler/Stallard Museum)

This winter is the final season for the superlatives exhibit that shares Aspen's history through artifacts and stories. Due to its popularity, Aspen Historical Society released an updated exhibition catalog in 2017. This evergreen literary exhibition is included with Museum admission and then will be available for purchase after the exhibit comes down.

"Top of the Mountain" (Display in the Gondola terminal at the top of Aspen Mountain)

Look for a new display featuring historical images from the AHS Collection of the Sundeck, Ski School, Ski Patrol, and Lift One. The display is made possible through a partnership with Aspen Skiing Company.

"Ranching in the Roaring Fork Valley" (Display at the Aspen Airport)

Installed in Spring of 2017, this thirteen-image display in the departures terminal honors the area's ranching heritage. Photographs show historic scenes of ranch life and properties, including the ranch where the airport now sits.

COMING SOON:

Chamberlain Photographic Display (AHS Archive Building, summer 2018)

Curated images by Robert Chamberlain, who donated his Aspen photography collection to AHS in 2017, will tell the story of a community of young ski bums evolving slowly and sometimes gracefully into Aspen old-timers. An Aspen resident since 1958, Bob's first published work graced the cover of SKI Magazine Annual in 1962 and he was a frequent contributor to many local and regional publications.

"Freak Power" (Exhibition at the Wheeler/Stallard Museum, summer 2018)

Aspen Historical Society looks forward to hosting this guest exhibition, a collection of political art and writing from Hunter S Thompson's 1970 campaign for sheriff of Pitkin County. AHS partnered with "Freak Power" curator Daniel Watkins to share a special selection of the exhibition's 125 pieces for the summer season.

Herbert Bayer/Bauhaus (Exhibition at the Wheeler/Stallard Museum, winter 2018)

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the German art school Bauhaus in 2019, AHS will host an exhibition highlighting the work of Bauhaus master artist, Herbert Bayer. Bayer was instrumental in shaping the aesthetic of modern Aspen. The exhibition will explore his legacy in our community with graphics, art works, tributes to Bayer-designed properties, and more.