



PATRONS PERUSE OFFERINGS among the venues at the Cheesman Park Art Festival PHOTO BY JEFF HERSCH



LIZ DISPLAYS A BIG SMILE as she poses with her sculptures at the Cheesman Park Art Festival 2014 PHOTO BY JEFF HERSCH

Cheesman Park Art Fest Returns for Third Year

By Jason McKinney

The third annual Cheesman Park Art Fest will be held on Sat., July 25 & Sun., July 26 in Cheesman Park at 8th & Williams. The free, all-ages event, goes from 10 am-7 pm Sat. & 10 am-5 pm Sun. Juried artists and craftsmen, 115 in total, from across the country have been invited to showcase their work. The selection process was made based on quality and variety of work, in addition to range of prices. The artists attending represent 24 different states.

The festival will provide shoppers the opportunity to browse work by potters, woodworkers, painters, glass artists, jewelers, quilters, leather workers, sculptors, photographers, and metal workers – all in a large range of styles. There will also be live music, appearances from 10 of Denver’s most popular food trucks (El Toro the Tot, Em’s

Ice Cream, Tacos La Tapatia, Meatball, Deer Creek Pizza, Gathering Grounds Coffee, Freddy’s Cuisine, Maui Wowi Smoothies, Cilantro Truck and Colorado Pig Rig) and ongoing artist demonstrations. Please note that Cilantro Truck and Colorado Pig Rig will only be at the festival on Sunday.

Attendees are encouraged to walk, bike, run, bus or carpool to the festival as automobile parking will be at a premium. Bike racks with free parking will be available. RTD lines run through the park and street parking is only available along the north lane of 8th Avenue on the weekends. The southern and western roads inside of Cheesman Park will either be affected in some way or closed for the event, beginning on the morning of the 24th.

For more information and/or a preview of the artists (and their work) who will be participating, go to dasheventsdenver.com.

BONFILS

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ground. In the trial that followed, Bonfils was fined \$50 and court costs. And what became of Alferd Packer? Thanks to *The Post*, he was finally paroled in January 1901 and subsequently moved to Littleton where he died in 1907. He is buried in the Littleton Cemetery.

One of *The Post’s* most enduring promotional events has been the running of the Frontier Days Train from Denver up to Cheyenne. Being seen on the train, a one-day summer excursion – in those days the trip was compliments of *The Denver Post* – became a prestigious affair. The train ran every year until 1970, and then it rolled out again from Denver Union Station once more when it was revived in 1992 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of *The Post*.

The Frontier Days Train continues to chug along to this day.

In 1913, Bonfils mounted a noteworthy campaign against the privately owned Denver Union Water Company which was seeking a 20-year extension of the franchise to provide Denver’s water needs. A year later with *The Post’s* unrelenting opposition, the franchise was voted down and that defeat brought about “the municipal ownership of Denver’s water system.”

This may have been “the single largest factor in municipal growth on the arid eastern slope of the Rockies,” according to Bill Hosokawa, who wrote *Thunder in the Rockies*, a comprehensive history of *The Denver Post*.

Shortly before World War I, Bonfils bought a mansion at E. 10th & Humboldt where he and Belle lived until he died in 1933. Sadly, the home located on the west side of Cheesman Park, fell to the wrecking ball as did many

of Denver’s mansions of note during the urban renewal craze of the 1960s and 1970s. Now the Cheesman Gardens high-rise looms on the corner where the stately Georgian mansion once stood, with only a concrete balustrade remaining from the Bonfils garden.

Fred’s longtime partner, Harry Tammen, died in 1924. This forced Bonfils to cast a net to try to find a replacement for someone to ultimately take over as publisher of the paper. Bonfils finally settled on his youngest daughter Helen, a 35-year-old intelligent, spunky, tall blonde.

For the better part of two years (1927 & 1928) *The Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News* duked it out in the “journalism-as-entertainment game.” According to Colorado historians, the two papers...

“Countered stunt with stunt, premium with premium, flag-pole sitters, free gasoline, illus-

trated love novels of flaming youth, limerick contests, comic strips, and screaming headlines often substituted for solid news and investigative reporting.”

On January 26, 1933, Fred Bonfils, complaining of a pain in his ear, left his dear *Post* for the last time. To ease the pain, his ear was surgically drained four

days later, however, on February 2, Bonfils died of an “acute inflammation of the brain.” The following day in a fitting tribute, *The Denver Post* dedicated most of its first six pages to the death of its longtime publisher. Fred Bonfils lies buried in a mausoleum in Fairmount Cemetery.

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