

One of our Charter Members-

# Clawson works to get Frisco museum organized

By Julia Carey  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Janet Clawson will be working hard for the Frisco Historical Society during the next few months to develop and organize the society's museum in the old school building at the Frisco Historic Park.

Clawson was hired March 1, according to Susan Thompson, society president, on a four-month contract to get the museum ready for a Memorial Day grand opening.

Clawson has a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of Denver and expects to complete her master's degree in anthropology and museum administration for a June graduation. She was raised in Colorado and has been living with her parents in Frisco for five years. She has worked as a museum intern for the Colorado Historical Society in Denver and for the Summit County Historical Society. She has also served as an archeologist at several Colorado historical sites.

Thompson said the Frisco Historical Society hired Clawson on a four-month contract because her expertise was needed to start the museum. "We felt in four months she could get the museum pretty well set up and we need the knowledge she has. She will be

able to give us a lot of help in choosing the right kind of equipment, display cases, and in seeing that pictures are taken care of properly," Thompson said.

Frisco Mayor Doug Jones said Clawson may be kept on after the contract expires if the historical society has the funds, but the society's 1984 budget of approximately \$25,000 doesn't leave much room for salaries. "If the fundraisers and membership drive in the latter part of May and early June are successful, it (the historical society) will be in better shape to talk about keeping Janet longer," he explained.

Clawson has established a system for cataloging and recording each piece donated to the museum. She said she uses the same system used by the State Heritage Center, numbering each item as it comes in, recording it in a card file, and keeping information about the object provided by the donor. Clawson also works with several volunteers cleaning artifacts.

Clawson said plans for the museum include a gift shop and displays on the ground floor of the old schoolhouse, with a research library upstairs.

Museum displays will illustrate different eras and aspects of life in the Frisco area. Clawson plans to

include exhibits about the region's Indians, trappers, miners and loggers. Clawson said she also wants to include a display about the two world wars and their local impact.

To fill the museum, the society sent letters to Frisco natives early in March requesting donations of old letters, photographs and "memories." Clawson said the request for memories includes anecdotes from everyday lives of residents that can't be found in newspapers, which will give a more human insight into the collection. She said Helen Foote donated a complete edition of the Summit Sentinel from its first publication and a set of the Summit County Journal from 1971.

The old schoolhouse building, soon to be a museum, she said, was originally built as a saloon, but construction was stopped by the owners because of the silver crash in 1893, the structure was then finished as a schoolhouse.

The other historical park buildings were moved to the site in 1983 because, according to Jones, they were from the early days of the town, were in good condition and were of historic significance. The only other building slated to be moved to the park is the log chapel which the Rocky Mountain Bible Church will donate when through

using it, Jones said.

The town of Frisco owns the buildings and leases them to local artisans. The Ruth House has been turned into a natural food store on the ground level and a potter and a painter work upstairs. A knitter, weaver and quilter work in the Staley House and the Bill's Ranch House has a leather worker, wood carver and a jeweler as its tenants. Colorado Mountain College has an extension office in the Bailey House. All the shops are currently open for business.

Clawson said she is very excited about working for the Frisco Historical Society, and hopes to get more of the community involved in the museum and the park. She said projects for this summer, such as barbeques and socials, would help accomplish that goal. "We want to offer people something more than just fishing in the summer and skiing in the winter," she explained.

The Frisco Historical Society is funded by donations and grants. The town of Frisco gave the society a grant of \$15,000 this year, Jones said. The rest of its funds are earned through donations, fundraisers and membership dues. Thompson said an annual individual membership is \$5, a lifetime membership is \$100 and an annual business membership is \$25.



Janet Clawson will be spending the next few months getting the Frisco Historic Museum ready for opening.