

Livermore Woman's Club
Report for Meeting on 31 July 2021
Visit to the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery

Members of the LWC gathered at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery at 1:30 for its July meeting. Part of our group (Sheila Baker and spouse Van, Kathy Packard and spouse Gary and Terry Turner) met before the meeting at the historic Silver Grill for lunch. We joined the rest of our group (Beverly Larson and mother Phyllis Angers, Claudia O'Neill and spouse Michael, Mary Torrez and spouse Andy, and Kris Paige) at the Museum of Discovery after lunch. The Museum of Discovery kindly gave us a special rate for admission.

Our program was presented by Linda Moore, Curator of Collections, and included a tour of the Archives, Collections, the Dome Theater, and the Observation Deck. Members could choose to peruse the exhibits or accompany Linda for a visit to the theater and observation area followed by visits to the exhibits.

The first stop on our tour was the Archives where archive assistant Jenny Hannifin explained that she sees archives as a place where "flat things" such as photographs, maps, documents, books and so on are housed whereas collections are for three dimensional objects such as textiles, historical artifacts and so on. Jenny explained that the Archives currently are available for research only by appointment, although "Walk In" Wednesdays that will not require an appointment are planned for the near future.

After our visit to the Archives, we went "behind the scenes" to see the Collections area. Collections at the Museum of Discovery cover the geographic area that includes Fort Collins and the Cache la Poudre valley. Artifacts from the Folsom Culture of 10,000 years ago and unearthed at the Lindenmeier Site (now part of Soapstone Prairie Natural Area) are the oldest in the Collections.

Many items are stored in large metal cabinets and are indexed in a grid system for easy retrieval. Climate control and general storage conditions are on par with those of the Smithsonian Institution. Ninety-nine percent of the Collections are donated, and The Museum of Discovery does not routinely solicit donations. Donated items must have a connection to a person, event, or local story and be in generally good condition. It takes sixteen hours to process donated material and integrate it into the collections. The Museum has textiles representing fashion trends in different time periods. That collection ends in the 1980's when trends began changing so quickly. The only items to have been deaccessioned are human remains and turn of the century batteries that were leaking.

Among the many interesting items in Collections are vintage clothing, a saddle collection from the 19th and early 20th century, a beaver muff (made by a Livermore rancher for his wife), and a mail bag used for delivering mail between Virginia Dale and Livermore.

Our thanks to Linda Moore and the Museum of Discovery for a superb experience.

Submitted by Kathy Packard, President (Standing in for Secretary Cindy Henk who is recovering from a broken right wrist)

Livermore Woman's Club Meeting 31 July 2021 Tour of Fort Collins Museum of Discovery



We are in the Collections area, and Linda Moore (Curator of Collections) is explaining how items are obtained, processed, and integrated into collections. From left to right: Kris Paige, Linda, Michael and Claudia O'Neill, Phyllis Angers, Beverly Larsen's mother



Linda's area of interest is textiles. She shows us a cabinet containing a variety of children's clothing (left). On the right, she holds a christening gown, one of many in the Museum's holdings.



The Museum's textiles collection includes clothing that represents fashion trends through the years. Linda is holding a paper dress (left) from a short-lived fashion novelty of the 1960's. Several members indicated that they had had paper dresses during that time. Gary Packard looks on.



The dress displayed here (left) looks as if it could be much older than it actually is. Linda explained that the dress is an example of Gunne Sax dresses, a popular brand for prom dresses dating from the 1980's.

Show here is a mail bag from the Museum's collection of tack. This mail bag was used to carry mail between Livermore and Virginia Dale.

