

Hello Everyone!

Here is one of my rare (!) emails, and I hope this finds you well and happy!

This is going to be a wild summer, but that's how I like them. A lot of book/writing/speaking activities are coming up - but I also wanted to share with you my last trip of note - down to the fabulous Southern Colorado area brimming with history that comparatively few know. Maybe I should speak for myself on that one, but I learned a lot. The mini "tour" ended up in being an exploration of Colorado's old coal camps. Now, I'm pretty sure that's not what I intended when I started out BUT all connections, events, encounters gently pushed me in that direction. I mean, when the universe is seemingly guiding, who am I to argue?

The trip started in Walsenburg at the "Little Fox" Theater, where we watched the Best Little Whorehouse in Texas - and honestly, I'd never seen it before and loved it. Let me give a BIG SHOUT OUT to Mike (not sure of his last name) and Sandy Dolak (apparently a new partner in crime). Also, let me give a BIG SHOUT OUT to Dolly Parton, who is not only talented (as we all know), but an extremely fine person who values literacy and kindness. OK, off my soapbox.

There I met a lady who volunteers (runs?) the Walsenburg Mining Museum - which is an AWESOME local museum housed in the old jail. Stop by if you get the chance, it is worth your time. It's about at this point where I started thinking about doing my next book project. . .

Next up was La Veta's fabulous library - it was so wonderful to see friends! They were the first place that let me speak when my first book was published!

Then came the touring of the old Walsen power plant and former entrance, and onward to the mining camps of Rugby, Aguilar, Ludlow, Berwind, Cokedale . . . and I might have even left some names off. The traces are hard to find in some of these, such as Berwind. Surprisingly, a building I have always admired when driving past on I-25 turned out to be an old general store (I believe) in Rugby. I learned how the mining camps/company towns would literally disappear due to a combination of circumstances (which I will no doubt be writing about in the near future)!

Next up was a talk at History Colorado in Trinidad about Mae Phelps and the brothel business. Wonderful people and a great town!

In the meantime, some photos are at the bottom.

Also, I did a podcast with the fabulous folks at Saddle Up in Gilcrest - the title of this should be "Sitting Around the Saddle Shop and Telling Ghost Stories." Here is the You Tube link if you care to listen.

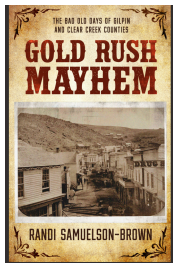
<https://youtu.be/EB7aPJr1IDU?si=Baisw9WRpDpC97UP>

Next Up on the Agenda:

- Mountains of Authors, Colorado Springs. May 16, 2026 – I'm the Keynote Speaker and I'm going to talk about a changing Colorado and a changing West - both what I consider to be the good . . . and the bad!
- Golden Public Library. May 17, 2026 - talk about Golden's Wild West past. 12:15.
- Colorado Creatives - Trinidad Colorado. Sandy Dolak and I will be leading the brothel tour! What else?
- Lou Bunch Day, Central City 12:00-5:00. Selling books!
- Founder's Day, Blackhawk 10:00 - 7:00. Selling books!
- Burro Days in Fairplay, July 25-26. Selling books!
- Mustang Film Festival - details TBA - Steamboat Springs, and the Wild Horse Refuge. August 5-8
- Pueblo - October 3 - Details forthcoming
- San Juan County Historical Society, Farmington, NM, October 21, 2026 – details coming
- Kiwanis October 22, 2026 - Farmington, NM. - details coming.

If you happen to be in any of these locations, please stop by or email and I can provide more details as they become available.

Upcoming book (in time for the Gilpin County Festivities in Central City and Blackhawk):



Colorado Coal Country photos:



Aguilar



Walsen Power Plant





Rugby



Coal Slag heap - Berwind

Happy travelling, writing and creating!

Randi

P.S. If you would like to be removed from the mailing list - no hard feelings! Just let me know.