

# Museum Happenings

## Museum Of Moab to Celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018

During the great uranium boom of the late 1950's, old and new residents of Moab began to consider the value that a museum might bring to the town. Here was a region with a past rich in geological change, paleontological remnants, and a human history that stretched from pre-historic cultures to Mormon pioneer families to the new miners and investors. And, yet, there was no place where that fascinating history could be presented and preserved.

On November 13, 1957, members of several civic organizations met to initiate the formation of a museum. By February 1958 after just a few more meetings, the non-profit Moab Museum was organized and eventually incorporated as the Southeastern Utah Society of Arts and Sciences. Amongst the early organizers was Lloyd Pierson of the Lions Club who would serve as the first museum curator, volunteering his service from 1957 to 1961 while he was the Chief Ranger at Arches National Monument.

In 1959, Grand County donated the use of a small four-room adobe house located at 150 East Center as a "temporary" home for the new museum. On August 22nd, 1959, the facility opened to the public. During the first 14 months of operation, a volunteer staff of about 125 Moab citizens saw some 6,000 people come through to see the exhibits.

After seven years in its "temporary" home, in April, 1965, the Museum moved into a larger new building at 118



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East Center where its collections continued to expand.

In 1979 and 1980, Dan O'Laurie, a successful business man and philanthropist, made sizable contributions to the Museum. He set up a building fund and even personally paid the salary of the receptionist when necessary.

On August 20, 1988 – some 29 years after the Museum first opened its doors--the structure we see today was dedicated as the Dan O'Laurie Museum of Moab

2018 marks the 60th anniversary of the Museum and we hope you will join us in celebrating! January 17th we are hosting our annual dinner with a twist. On January 20, join us for cake and a preview of some of our plans and thoughts on where the museum is headed into the next 60 years. More information on



both these events and more can be found on our website, moabmuseum.org, and our Facebook Page and Twitter. If you have not liked or followed us, please do so!



**Museum of Moab**  
est. 1958

*The Museum of Moab is the center for cultural and natural history of eastern Utah and the Moab area. The exhibits include everything from a Jurassic dinosaur found just outside Moab to artifacts of the earliest human inhabitants of the region. Enjoy displays of pioneer settlement and mining equipment alongside geologist Charlie Steen's bronzed boots and props from several movies filmed here. See our website, [www.moabmuseum.org](http://www.moabmuseum.org), for information on our exhibits, tours, and programming.*

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**60th Anniversary**

Membership Dinner  
January 17th  
RSVP Required!

Party Jan. 20  
Everyone Come!

**Museum of Moab**  
182 N Main, Moab UT. 435-259-7985  
More Info ONLINE : [WWW.moabmuseum.org](http://WWW.moabmuseum.org)