

Volume X Number 1

April 2016 through July 2016

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## Palmer Lake Historical Society

### Board of Directors 2016

President - Tom Baker

Vice President - J. Patrick McCarthy

Secretary - R. Michael Walker

Treasurer - Barbara Arbuthnot

Museum Director - Rogers Davis

### Directors-at-Large

Phyllis Bonser (Community Liaison)

Su Ketchmark

Melissa Robohn

Rodger Voelker

Sigi Walker, *ex officio* (newsletter)

### Program Schedule:

#### April 2016 — July 2016

**April 21, 2016** 7:00 PM – "Spinning in the Western Region" Charlease Elzenga-Bobo

**May 19, 2016**, 7:00 PM – "Spencer and Julie Penrose" Joyce Lohse

**June 2016** – no program - see June event

**July 21, 2016**, 7:00 PM – "The Goodnight Legacies" Larry Schlupp

### Mark your 2016 Calendars

**Saturday, May 14, 2016, 1-4 PM:**  
Walking Tour of Monument Tree Nursery Site with Eric Swab

**Sunday, June 19, 2016, 2-4 PM:**  
Father's Day Ice Cream Social.  
Free event on Village Green



### Contributing to this issue:

Tom Baker Dan Edwards  
Mike & Sigi Walker

Thanks to all who reviewed and commented!

# A Newsletter of the Palmer Lake Historical Society and the *Lucretia Vaile Museum*

## The History of the Chautauqua in Palmer Lake

"Chautauqua" describes an adult education movement in the United States which was highly popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Named after Chautauqua Lake in western New York where the first was held, Chautauqua assemblies expanded and spread throughout rural America until the mid-1920s. A Chautauqua Assembly brought entertainment and culture for the whole community, with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, preachers, and specialists of the day. Former US President Theodore Roosevelt was quoted as saying that Chautauqua is "the most American thing in America."

**The New York Chautauqua Assembly**, the first Chautauqua, was organized in 1873/74 by businessman Lewis Miller and Methodist minister John Heyl Vincent (whose brother Rev. Bethel Vincent participated in many Chautauqua Assemblies at Palmer Lake) at a campsite on the shores of Chautauqua Lake in New York State. The organization later became known as the Chautauqua Institution. It was called the Mother Chautauqua, because many independent or "daughter" Chautauquas were developed in similar fashion.

The educational summer camp format proved to be a popular choice for families and was widely copied. Within a decade *Chautauqua assemblies* (or simply *Chautauquas*) sprang up in various locations across North America. The Chautauqua movement may be regarded as a successor to the Lyceum movement earlier in the nineteenth century. As the Chautauqua assemblies began to compete for the best performers and lecturers, lyceum bureaus assisted with bookings. The original site in Chautauqua, New York, near Jamestown, has hosted such diverse speakers and performers as Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys.

Lectures were the mainstay of the Chautauqua. Prior to 1917, lectures dominated the circuit Chautauqua programs. The reform speech and the inspirational talk were the two main types of lecture until 1913. Later topics included current events, travel, and stories, often with a comedic twist.

Christian instruction, preaching and worship were a strong part of the Chautauqua experience. Although the Chautauqua movement was founded by Methodists, nondenominationalism was a Chautauqua principle from the beginning, and prominent Catholics like Catherine Doherty took part. In 1892, Lutheran Church theologian Theodore Emanuel Schmauk was one of the organizers of the Pennsylvania Chautauqua.

The popularity of the Chautauqua movement can be attributed in part to the social and geographic isolation of American farming and ranching communities. People in such areas would naturally be hungry for education, culture, and entertainment, and the Chautauqua movement was a timely response to that need in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Within a dozen years of the first assembly in New York, the **Rocky Mountain Chautauqua Assembly** was one of at least fifty summer camp meetings scattered across the country calling themselves Chautauquas. There were some traveling meetings not associated with the New York Assembly. Many of the authentic Chautauquas became famous, including the Rocky Mountain Assembly, the first in Colorado, which held its first assembly in 1887 and ran for almost 20 years.



The Glen Park Association was a separate legal entity, but personnel overlapped and operations were cooperative with the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua Assembly. Incorporated on February 15, 1886, as a non-profit institution, "the association handled business matters, such as buying and selling land, building and renting cottages, and constructing and maintaining improvements." Among the directors for the first year was W. Finley Thompson; later, the association's assets were transferred to the Glen Park Company, a stock company incorporated December 28, 1889. This organization was superseded by the Glen Park Improvement Company on June 15, 1895. Forrest M. Priestley, described as "tall, gaunt, brown bearded, and very thin," was for many years the moving spirit of both the assembly and its business auxiliary. (*continued on page 4*)

### President's Message



In 2016 the Palmer Lake Historical Society celebrates 60 years of sponsoring programs and activities highlighting the rich history of the Palmer Divide region.

The year kicked off as usual with the annual Potluck Dinner and Membership Meeting. Officers selected by the membership to lead the Board of Directors are: Tom Baker (president), Pat McCarthy (vice president), Mike Walker (secretary), and Barb Arbuthnot (treasurer). Continuing to serve on the Board are Su Ketchmark, Phyllis Bonser, Melissa Robohn, Rodger Voelker, Rogers Davis (Lucretia Vaile Museum director), and Sigi Walker (ex officio member and Newsletter editor). As the only new member of the Board, I feel extremely privileged to join this experienced and committed group of volunteers. We all owe a special thanks to retiring president Al Walter who has provided superior leadership and dedicated service for many years.

Please read about and plan to attend the upcoming programs in our monthly History Series. The programs are always educational – and fun. All start at 7:00 pm at the Palmer Lake Town Hall and are free and open to the public. Light refreshments are served. Later this Spring, join Eric Swab on a walking tour of the Monument Tree Nursery site and celebrate Father's Day at the annual old-time Ice Cream Social on the Village Green.

This Newsletter's feature article recounts the history of Chautauqua in Palmer Lake. In August plan to take part in the revival of the tradition as the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua returns to Palmer Lake.

The Palmer Lake Historical Society is staffed exclusively by volunteers. We hope you will join or renew your membership in the Society and consider donating some of your time and talent. Please email us at [plhs@palmerdividehistory.org](mailto:plhs@palmerdividehistory.org) or call 719-559-0837 for more information and to volunteer.

Tom Baker

Below: 2016 Officers at Annual Potluck



Photo by Anastasia Borner, UCCS student

### THEN AND NOW: Palmer Lake Photos from the Past and Present

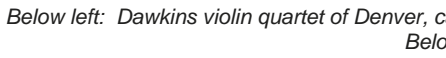
Numerous photos of Rocky Mountain Chautauqua Assembly participants, many dating to around the turn of the 20th century, are in the collection of the Lucretia Vaile Museum. Below is a representative sample for your enjoyment.



Above left: Tents in the Glen, ca 1899



Above right: Chautauqua participants and camp cook, ca 1899



Below left: Dawkins violin quartet of Denver, ca 1895



Below right: Tennis Court on Chautauqua Crest, ca 1898



The arrival of the railroad made travel a great deal easier for Chautauqua attendees, many of whom came from the Denver area to escape the summer heat.



Above left: Glen Park D&RG railroad station, ca 1888



Above right: Bridge in Glen and Hanks Tally-Ho wagon ca 1906

"Then" photos courtesy of Lucretia Vaile Museum; "Now" photos by Mike Walker



Left and right: These cabins are two of the oldest still standing in Glen Park January 2016



Left: YWCA Summer Rest House opened in 1893



Right: Glen Park private residence January 2016

## Upcoming PLHS Programs and Events April through July 2016

*Social Hour at 6:30 PM, Presentations begin at 7:00 PM in the Palmer Lake Town Hall*

### Thursday, April 21, 2016 - "Spinning in the Western Region"

**Presenter: Charlease Elzenga-Bobo**



The history of spinning (the act of creating yarn) begins with hand-twisted thread followed by the creation of "rock and stick" spindles, more sophisticated hand spindles, and then spindle wheels, believed to have been invented in China/India and moved westward to Europe. Mechanized spinning was invented in the 1760s and 1770s. In Europe and in the New World, women were the spinners. Spinning wheels traveled west with the pioneers. Charlease will demonstrate both her full size spinning wheel and weaving loom.

Charlease Elzenga-Bobo is a long-time board and orchestra member of the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs. She is passionate about history, music, and historic textile production and participates annually in yarn spinning demonstrations at Living History Days in Fairplay, CO, and Railroad Day in Como, CO.

### Thursday, May 19, 2016 – "Spencer and Julie Penrose: Colorado's Community Collaborators"

**Presenter: Joyce Lohse**



The Penroses built the Broadmoor Hotel, the Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun, the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the Pikes Peak Highway, and many other important Pikes Peak area resources and attractions. They worked together as partners. Spencer, a colorful pioneer, invested his mining riches in building, developing, and promoting the community, while Julie supported culture, religion, education, and the arts. Their El Pomar Foundation continues to donate millions of dollars to Colorado non-profit groups.

Joyce Lohse's latest book, *Spencer Penrose: Builder and Benefactor*, is her seventh biography. She is president of the Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society in Littleton and works as administrator for Women Writing the West. Her writing and research combine journalism, history, and genealogy skills.

### Thursday, July 21, 2016 – "The Goodnight Legacies"

**Presenter: Larry Schlupp**



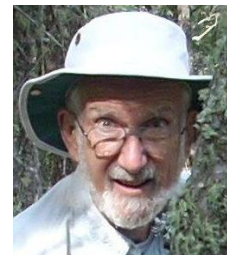
The life and legacies of Charles Goodnight (1836-1929), a major influence in the mid-nineteenth century growth and breadth of the cattle industry in the West, are presented. Primarily a self-educated man, Goodnight's strong moral character, far-ranging insight, strong entrepreneurial mind, inventiveness, and ability to attract and establish beneficial relationships established the foundation of what is today the oldest ranch in the Texas Panhandle. He also had operations in Colorado, the JA Ranch.

Larry Schlupp earned a BS in Mech/Ind Engr from North Dakota State Univ. A founding member, vice-president, webmaster, and primary presenter of Historic Douglas County, Inc., his presentations include *Earth, Wind & Fire* and *Breeds, Brands & Early Ranchers* and his portrayal of Daniel C. Oakes.

### Walking Tour of Monument Tree Nursery Site with Eric Swab

**Saturday, May 14, 2016, 1-4 PM** *This tour is by popular request.*

In August of 2015, Eric Swab presented a program on the Forest Service's Monument Tree Nursery. Begun unsuccessfully on Pikes Peak, the Monument Nursery (located just west of the town of Monument) ended up successfully producing over 72,000,000 tree seedlings between 1906 and 1964. It was one of the first in the forest system and the most important in the Rocky Mountains.



### Annual Father's Day Ice Cream Social on the Palmer Lake Village Green

**Sunday, June 19, 2016, 2-4 PM.** We continue a decades-old tradition. The Palmer Lake Historical Society, with donations from the Rock House Ice Cream Shop and the Village Inn restaurant, invites Dads and their families from the local area to join us in this annual event. Music will be provided by a bluegrass band. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and relax on the green while you tap your toes to the music and enjoy a tasty treat of pie and ice cream. **FREE!**



**History of Palmer Lake Chautauqua** *(continued from page 1)*

In 1886, the Glen Park Association began constructing roads, trails, and other improvements. Accommodations ranged from house tents to tent cottages with wooden floors, canvas sides, and shingled roofs and from little rustic cabins to large permanent cottages and summer homes (see page 2). An auditorium seated 500 to 700 people, and the Verano Lodge and Rockland Hotel prospered during the height of the Chautauqua.

What began as a summer school for religious education diversified and expanded to include lectures by eminent men and women in the fields of education, politics, religion, industry, literature, music, and science. Less formal programs were also provided, such as good music, wholesome entertainment, and amateur theatricals. Outdoor life was a large part of the program and included fishing in the lakes, boating, horseback riding, golf, tennis, picnicking, long mountain excursions, nature study walks, geology and botany field work, and viewing breathtakingly brilliant summer stars through a telescope.

The success and influence of the Rocky Mountain Assembly put Palmer Lake on the map; it was selected for its accessibility and natural beauty. From July 4, 1887, until January 21, 1900, when the building burned, the "Glen" had its own railway station 0.3 miles south of Palmer Lake (see D&RG depot on page 2). The charge for a round trip from Denver was \$1. An enthusiastic supporter and regular summer visitor, Major S. K. Hooper was the general passenger agent of the railroad. The Glen also had its own post office in the store of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wilson, who arrived in 1901.

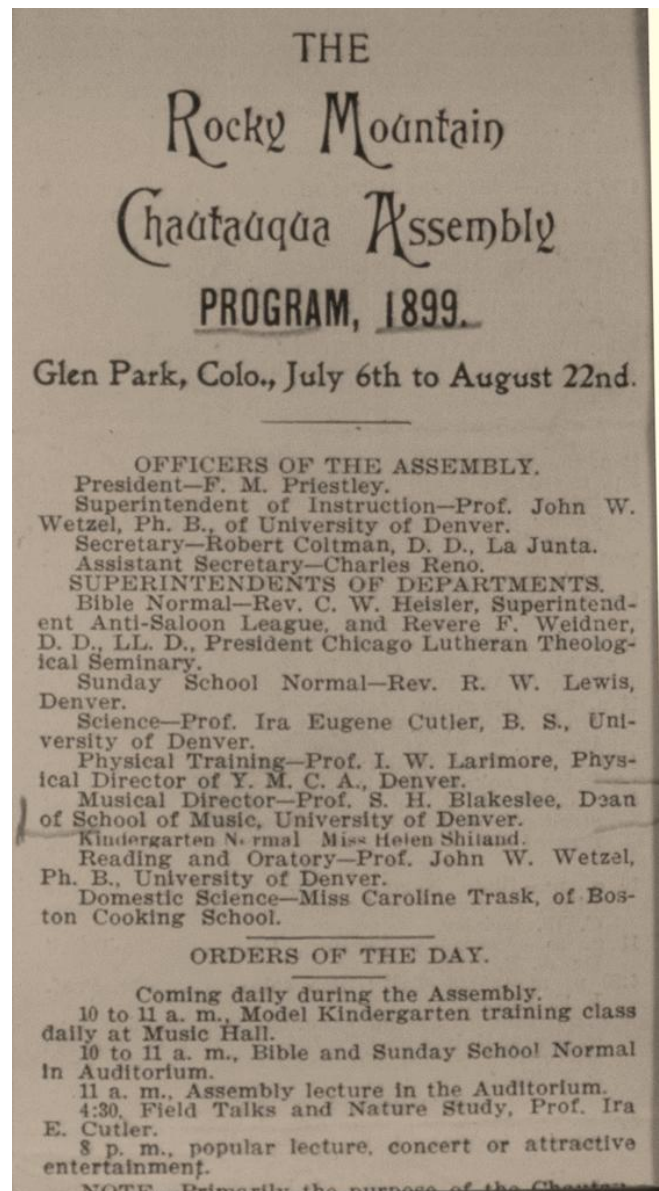
*Below: 1907 houses in The Glen*

In 1910, the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua held its last assembly in Glen Park. However, since 2008, the Palmer Lake Historical Society has held the **Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua**, with the 2016 event scheduled for August 6th. The all-day event is free and open to the public.



*Right: Page of 1899 Program*

Sources: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia; *Palmer Lake: A Historical Narrative* by Marion Savage Sabin and edited by Lloyd McFarling; *Communities of the Palmer Divide* by the Palmer Lake Historical Society and the Lucretia Vaile Museum, and Daniel W. Edwards' Occasional Paper No. 3, "The Glen Park Companies and Their Chautauqua," July 2011.

**Lucretia Vaile Museum Hours:**

**Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM all year**  
**Wednesday 1 - 3 PM Sept - May**  
**Wednesday 1 - 4 PM June - August**  
**1st Thursday of month: 10 AM-noon**  
**For information or tour requests,**  
**call 559-0837 and leave a message.**

**Palmer Lake Historical Society**  
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**Layout and Editing: Sigi Walker**

Note: All submissions may be edited for content, grammar, and space allocations, and become the property of the Palmer Lake Historical Society unless other arrangements have been made. Digital word submissions in .doc or .docx, photos in .jpg format, please. Submit pieces and photos to Editor at mikensigi@comcast.net

## 2015 Chautauqua

