

Volume XIII Number 1

April 2019 through July 2019

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Palmer Lake Historical Society

Board of Directors 2019

President - Michele Lawrie-Munro

Vice President - Su Ketchmark

Secretary - Patricia Atkins

Treasurer - Melissa Robohn

Museum Director - Rogers Davis

Directors-at-Large

Pat McCarthy

Barbara Morehead

Susan Kuehster

Rodger Voelker

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, June 16, 2019, 2-4 PM

ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

FREE pie and ice cream!

Music by Nick Davey

Special Antique Car Show

April - July Program Schedule

April 18, 2019, 7:00 PM - "Hidden Hero at the Printing Press: Emma Langdon and Miners' rights" - Katherine Scott Sturdevant

May 16, 2019, 7:00 PM - "Troubadours on Horseback: The History of Singing Cowboys" - Donna Guthrie

June 20, 2019, 7:00 PM - "The U.S. in Mediterranean North Africa: A Diplomat's Perspective" - Mary Ann Casey

July 18, 2019, 6:00 PM* - "American Milking Devon Oxen at Three Eagles Ranch" - Rollie and Paula Johnson

**Note earlier meeting time!*

*Palmer Lake Historical Society -
Making History more than a Memory!*

Contributing to this issue:

Patricia Atkins Michele Lawrie-Munro

Roger Davis Mike & Sigi Walker

Thanks to all who reviewed and commented!

A Newsletter of the

Palmer Lake Historical Society

and the

Lucretia Vaile Museum

Palmer Lake's Hidden Gem: The Lucretia Vaile Museum

Hidden away on the lower level of the Pikes Peak Library District's Palmer Lake Branch is a gem waiting to be discovered. If you haven't already made a visit, you need to plan one. Come often - special displays are periodically added.



Over 60 years ago, Marian McIntyre McDonough led a number of civic-minded individuals to found two organizations: the Palmer Lake Historical Society and the Palmer Lake Community Library and Museum. They would work in tandem to preserve the history of the Palmer Divide area. Today, exactly as envisioned those many years ago - they preserve and tell the story of Palmer Lake and the Tri-Lakes area. And now, as then, all staff are volunteers: the board, museum director, and docents.

The Palmer Lake Community Library and Museum's first home, opened in February 1964, was in the former AT&SF section foreman's house. A \$46,000 bequest from Lucretia Vaile to the Town of Palmer Lake enabled the construction of a new library/museum building, dedicated on October 4, 1981, and named in her honor. The former Santa Fe building became the Palmer Lake Police Department's office.



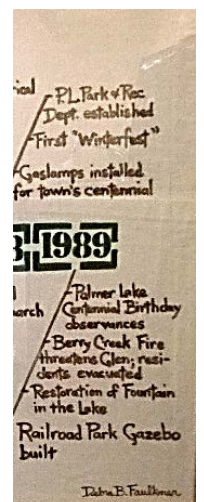
The new building provided much-needed additional space for the many historical photos, articles, data, and artifacts in the museum's collection as well as for new museum exhibits and fixtures. Donations included the glass display cases still used in the museum today, donated by an area furrier who was going out of business.

With the new building came new museum pieces. In 1996, an addition was built with money the PLHS received from the estate of Lena Royse, providing storage and administrative space. The permanent exhibits tell the story of the rich history of Palmer Lake, Monument, and the Palmer Divide area, a legacy for those yet to come.

Now extended through June 2019, the Vaile Museum is host to a special exhibit commemorating the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918, - the time and day when the armistice ending hostilities of "The Great War - The War to end all Wars" - was signed. Special items are on loan from Wayne Russert and Christine Kimberly. The exhibit, "100th Anniversary of the WWI Armistice" curated by museum director Roger Davis, continues to receive items related to the exhibit. Ending date is June 29th. *Don't miss it!*



One particular "gem" is the timeline painted under the windows on the museum's east wall by artist Debra B. Faulkner for the 100th anniversary of Palmer Lake (1888-1988). You will see that much has happened in the now almost 200 years since the Stephen Long Expedition came through the Palmer Divide area in 1820!



President's Message



Greetings, Palmer Lake Historical Society members and guests! I'm excited to be assuming the leadership for your Board, taking over from the President of the last three years, Tom Baker. His effective direction will be missed, but he has assured the Board that he will remain an actively engaged member, for which we are grateful.

I'm also thrilled to report that PLHS' first year participating in the Give! campaign from The Independent newspaper has been a rousing success. Through it, we garnered over \$3,200 in new donations and a website overhaul from UZU Media worth another \$4,000. As a result, we look forward to delivering new products and services to the membership this year. Thank you to those who helped with the campaign tasks and, especially, to those who donated to this new cause.

The PLHS Board has completed its orientation and is planning a strategic retreat in April to review mission, vision, goals, and governing documents as well as to draft a longer-term strategic plan. We would love member input. We also have an immediate need for volunteers to assist with treasurer's duties and information technology. If you have an interest in any of these, please contact any Board member or email me directly at PLHSPresident@gmail.com. I look forward to meeting or speaking with you at an upcoming function!

We have an exciting schedule of "Third Thursday" history programs and annual events planned for 2019. Pick up a listing or trifold, mark your calendars, and join us!

Michele Lawrie-Munro

Your hard-working **2019** PLHS board



Row 1: Rodger Voelker, Su Ketchmark, Pat McCarthy
 Row 2: Barbara Morehead, Melissa Robohn
 Row 3: Michele Lawrie-Munro, Patricia Atkins, Susan Kuehster. Missing from photo: Roger Davis

THEN AND NOW: Tri-Lakes Photos from the Past and Present

Historic photos from the Lucretia Vaile Museum collection



D&RG Depot (left) and Judd Eating House ca 1894 (left and below)



Pastor Evalena Macy (left), Little Log Church (below), started 1930 - 1959



Ben Lomond Ranch House below and Pillsbury Store ca 1888 (right)



Jeremiah Mouse, part of the museum's "Mouse Mania" collection (left)
 Yule Log Hunt in 1934 (right)



Above: Monument Creamery (left) and Ice Harvest on Monument Lake (right)

Upcoming PLHS Programs and Events April 2019 through July 2019

Social Hour at 6:30 PM, Presentations begin at 7:00 PM in the Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent Street

Thursday, April 18, 2019 – "Hidden Hero at the Printing Press: Emma F. Langdon and Miners' Rights" Presenter: Katherine Scott Sturdevant



Emma Langdon and her husband Charles were publishers of the *Victor Daily Record* newspaper during the 1904 miners' union strike. As anti-union sentiment rose, the National Guard imprisoned the paper's male staff. Emma rose to the occasion, printed the news, and personally distributed the papers. National attention fell on her as she became the strike's historian, and a seemingly unlikely hero.

Katherine Scott Sturdevant, Professor of History at Pikes Peak Community College, has worked with the Pikes Peak Library District and the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum as a speaker, consultant, writer, and editor, has authored and edited numerous books, winning local, state, and national teaching awards.

Thursday, May 16, 2019 – "Troubadours on Horseback: The History of Singing Cowboys" Presenter: Donna Guthrie



Cowboy songs were written to glorify the life of the cowboy and the "Wild West." "Troubadours on Horseback" is a musical lecture that celebrates the Western boom that took over Hollywood in the 1930's and the creation of the singing cowboy. The simple melodies, harmonies, and instrumentation of cowboy songs is told through music, slides and movie clips.

Donna Guthrie is a Colorado Springs-based author of children's books and producer of online educational videos. Her ideas have benefited the community, brought people together, or advanced a cause. She is a former member of the Pikes Peak Library District board.

Sunday, June 16, 2019, 2 - 4 PM SPECIAL EVENT – FREE Annual Father's Day Ice Cream Social



We continue a decades-old tradition. The Palmer Lake Historical Society, with donations from the Rock House Ice Cream Shop and the Monument Village Inn restaurant, invites Dads and their families from the local area to join us in this annual event. Free pie and ice cream. Music by Nick Davey. And especially for Dad, a private antique car show: Model T's, Model A's, Corvairs, and more. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and relax on the green.



Thursday, June 20, 2019 – "U.S. in Mediterranean North Africa: A Diplomat's Perspective" Presenter: Mary Ann Casey

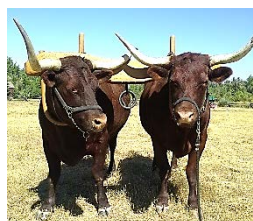


Retired U.S. Ambassador Mary Ann Casey profiles in image and word U.S. adventures in Mediterranean North Africa, including early American efforts to defeat the Barbary pirates; North Africa's essential role during World War II; and her own experiences working as a diplomat for twelve years at American Embassies in that part of the world.

Mary Ann Casey is a Middle East specialist, having developed deep area expertise while working for twelve years as an American diplomat in Arab North Africa. She served as President George H. W. Bush's Ambassador to Algeria and later served as President Bill Clinton's Ambassador to Tunisia.

Thursday, July 18, 2019 – "American Milking Devon Oxen at Three Eagles Ranch" Presenters: Rollie and Paula Johnson

Note: This is a field trip. Attendees will meet at the Palmer Lake Town Hall at 6:00 PM to caravan to Three Eagles Ranch



During the westward migration of the 1840s and 1850s, many pioneers used oxen to pull their wagons. Oxen could eat as they walked, were unsurpassed for draft work, produced milk high in butterfat and fine lean beef on relatively poor forage. They are calm, friendly, and intelligent. Milking Devon Oxen are extinct in England. In the U.S., the approximately 1500 American Milking Devons are listed as critically endangered.

Three Eagles Ranch on the Palmer Divide southeast of Larkspur, Colorado, is one of the few western ranches that raises American Milking Devon Oxen. Three Eagles began its herd in 2006. Today Rollie and Paul Johnson devote their life to raising, preserving, and promoting this iconic breed.

COMING AUGUST 3RD – "CHAUTAUQUA CELEBRATES RAILROAD DAYS IN PALMER LAKE"

Palmer Lake's Hidden Gem: The Lucretia Vaile Museum

(continued from page 1)

We begin our tour of the museum with a short historical overview of the geology and history of the Palmer Divide followed by a description of some of the amazing “treasures” to be found in this small but oh-so-interesting space.

Geology: The Palmer-Divide is a geological ridge running from Palmer Lake eastward, creating its own weather patterns and separating the Arkansas River Drainage to the South from the Platte River Drainage to the North. The highest point of the divide is about 7700' in elevation at Vollmer Hill in the Black Forest area while Monument Hill in the Tri-Lakes area is 7352' high.

History: The earliest known area inhabitants were Mountain Ute, Arapahoe, Kiowa, Apache, and Cheyenne, tracing back 10,000 years ago to the Folsom period, a time when buffalo and the Woolly Mammoth were present in great numbers. The earliest recorded activity in the area was the U.S. Army's Major Stephen Long Expedition of 1820, which discovered the Colorado State Flower, the Columbine, between Monument and Palmer Lake. The 1860s brought “Wild West” events, gold seekers, ranchers and homesteaders, several forts, and in 1872, Gen. Palmer's Denver & Rio Grande Narrow Gauge Railroad.

Museum Exhibits:

- Native American artifacts of unknown tribal origin
- Displays of local wildlife: a cougar named “Old Disappearance”, chukar partridges, a quail, a pheasant, and a Grey Wolf pelt
- Pioneer era displays and photographs, including a 1996 quilt depicting scenes of Palmer Lake, Depression glass, handmade and hand-painted pottery, vintage women's clothing, and a 40-pound “portable” hand-powered vacuum cleaner
- Displays of early Palmer Divide commercial activities: Ice harvesting, fox farms, Angora rabbit farms, sawmills, dairies and creameries, dry-land agriculture, including tools of the trade - traps, saws, and various types of barbed wire, --- and saloons
- Items from the Pillsbury General Store, which carried everything from Colt revolvers to coal oil to flour sacks to “Student Lamps” and strap-on ice skates, served as the post office as well. If the store didn't carry a certain item, it could be special-ordered.
- The drug store display contains various items sold along with medicine bottles; some of these items are still currently used. There is a catalog of medical instruments as well.
- Early community infrastructure such as piece of a wooden water main and a section of a grey lead pipe
- Railroad history exhibits - the Judd Eating House and D&RG depot, examples of 30# and 136# rail, telegraph keys and a semaphore signal arm, the importance of Palmer Lake's water, and displays of model trains and a Railway Express wagon.
- Rockland Hotel display – a 61-room hotel with abundant amenities and even a petting zoo; the hotel burned down in 1920
- Monument bronze Bas Relief panel – a gift to the Town of Monument – and a display of Monument history
- Photos of the Little Log Church, its foot-powered organ on display, as well as photos of the Yule Log Ceremony begun in 1934
- “Mouse Mania” display; collecting these stuffed mice was the “Beanie Babies” craze of the time
- Conestoga wagon model exhibit – transporting family belongings to the West was difficult on wagon trails and bad roads - Conestogas were the “U-Hauls” of their time
- Replicas of a Colt model 1860 New Army revolver and a model 1858 Remington Army revolver, powder horns, uniform buttons, bullet mold, bullets, percussion caps, and bayonets from the Civil War

Lucretia Vaile Museum Hours:

Saturday 10 AM–2 PM all year
 Wednesday 1–3 PM September–May
 Wednesday 1–4 PM June–August
 1st Thursday of month: 10 AM–noon
 Tours: Call 559-0837 and leave message



Like us on Facebook

Visit the PLHS website by scanning our QR code with your smart phone.



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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

- History and photos of the Palmer Lake Star and the role of “Dizzy” in its construction
- Exhibit dedicated to Lucretia Vaile, her family, and their many contributions

We are grateful for the many services that our museum staff provides to the Tri-Lakes area, including assisting museum visitors, conducting tours and presentations for groups and clubs, coordinating liaison activities with the towns in the Palmer Divide area, creating museum displays, cataloging and archiving accessioned materials, making resources available for researchers, and sponsoring special museum events.

The Palmer Lake Historical Society encourages donations of historically significant data and artifacts to the museum as well as donations of funds to ensure the continued operation of the museum.

DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL EXHIBIT!

VAILE MUSEUM SPECIAL EXHIBIT

**COMMEMORATING THE 100TH
 ANNIVERSARY OF WWI ARMISTICE
 EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 2019**



Museum Hours: Saturday 10 AM–2 PM; Wednesday 1–3 PM; 1st Thursday 10 AM–noon