

President's Message to the Membership...



Bernard L. Minetti

The Palmer Lake Historical Society and Lucretia Vaile Museum are operated and staffed by unpaid volunteers. They believe strongly in providing opportunities for families and others to experience that which the early inhabitants of the Palmer Divide faced. It is difficult to imagine what happened when they explored and settled this area and sought to make it their home.

Initially, many settlers faced what seemed like insurmountable odds as they sought to carve out an existence on the Palmer Divide. Small communities emerged, and with the coming of the railroads, they became business or tourist centers.

While some of these communities eventually passed into history, others, like the Towns of Monument and Palmer Lake, remained. We believe that the stories of the brave souls who saw opportunity in this land, should be told and preserved for those who come after us. We can only do that if we have your support and the support of the community.

The Society continues to seek new members (and returning members). This, not only increases our membership base, which demonstrates that we are serious about being stewards of local history, but it also shows that members of this community value our efforts. Our goal is to promote, protect, and preserve the history of the area.

If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so. If you know of someone interested in local history, encourage them to join the Society, or at least attend our programs and events.

We have an incredible lineup of presenters and programs this year, and we are planning several family-oriented special events that will generate greater interest in our local history. If you would like to help us make history "more than a memory," visit our website at www.palmerdividehistory.org and learn more about the Palmer Lake Historical Society and how you can become a volunteer.

Palmer Lake Star is Now Officially a Colorado Historical Site

Palmer Lake Star fans!

Here's an "initial" report from me regarding the State History Board... State History Board (14 high end history/archaeology experts who comprise the board) voted 14-0 in favor of Palmer Lake Star earning its way onto the state registry!

Below is a photo of me with Astrid Liverman



and Kara Hahn, who are key leaders in the state's history initiatives, posing with me and my favorite Mike Holmes' photo. My first email to kick this off was to Astrid and soon Kara was our dedicated helper and advisor. Both ladies are awesome.

Allow me to share how the board went. 4 national nominations were reviewed for an hour, on schedule, great learning experience for me. A 40-minute topic less than 10 minutes to complete. It was a rolling schedule (stated in letter), I WAS UP NEXT, 45 minutes ahead of the timeline.

Kara gave a Powerpoint presentation she prepared, including Mike Holmes' photos. Well done. Then I was invited to sit at the head table and take questions. I answered a few questions. The board briefly discussed the 1976 and 2002 alterations, no issue! Very nice comments about the star and nomination. They enjoyed learning the history!

They asked me for final comments. I spoke briefly. I thanked Kara Hahn for her help, said how honored PLHS and the community is to nominate the star, I gave Kara a light bulb... the board applauded. Nikki and Tara came in when I was speaking, I immediately introduced them. They were invited to the table. Nikki and

--cont'd: See Palmer Lake Star, page 2, column 3

Gift Planning

Have you wondered how to include a gift to the Palmer Lake Historical Society or the Lucretia Vaile Museum in your will or trust. If so, read on to see how simple it is to make a difference for years to come.

The legal term for a gift in your will or trust is a "bequest." The gift can be included in the distribution language of a last will and testament or a revocable living trust. The Palmer Lake Historical Society periodically receives bequests from former members.

State law in all 50 states dictates that the debts of the deceased person are to be paid before any distributions are made to beneficiaries. After all debts have been paid, charitable gifts are fulfilled in a specific order.

Specific bequests, which have a specific dollar amount going to a person or an organization such as the Historical Society, are distributed first. If you are thinking about including a gift to the Historical Society in your will or trust, there are many different options.

Your attorney can help you find the type of bequest that works best for your unique situation. Two forms of bequests are "Specific Bequests," explained above, and a "Contingency Provision Clause," which is used when you want to name the Palmer Lake Historical Society as a substitute beneficiary if your primary beneficiary passes before you do.

Bequests are a favorite gift type because of the flexibility, allowing you to create a gift that works for you and your loved ones. When you decide to add a charitable gift to your estate plans, please consider a bequest to the Palmer Lake Historical Society.

However, it is important to seek the assistance and guidance of an estate planner or attorney when considering any charitable gift in your will or trust.

--PLHS Board President, Al Walter

Museum Hours
10-2 p.m. Saturdays
and
additionally,
June through August,
1-4 p.m. Wednesdays
Docents needed.
Contact the Museum Director.

Palmer Lake Historical Society

Board of Directors 2013

President - Al Walter
 President Emeritus - Phyllis Bonser
 Vice President - John Snyder
 Secretary - Bernard L. Minetti
 Treasurer - Barbara Arbuthnot
 Museum Director - Roger Davis

Directors-at-Large 2013

Gary Coleman
 Georgia Follansbee
 Pat McCarthy
 Tom Vanwormer

Submitted by Tom Vanwormer



--by Michael Nystrom | November 5, 2012

Above is a picture of America's first flag, also known as the Grand Union Flag.

You've probably heard of it, or seen it. This is the picture I carry of it, as the background image on my phone. Whenever I get a chance, I show it to long time Bostonians, and ask them if they have ever seen it.

Invariably, they haven't. I never had either, until about a year ago when I moved just a few blocks from where the flag was first hoisted by General George Washington on January 1, 1776, on Prospect Hill, in Somerville, Massachusetts (back then, Charlestown).

It is a beautiful flag. I love looking at it, and see her almost daily on my morning runs and midnight walks. Where the stars would be on our current flag, instead you see the British Union Jack. I cannot look at it without pondering its significance. The flag was raised after the Battles of Lexington and Concord, but before America formally declared her independence. General Washington raised the flag in the midst of warfare, strife and revolution, in the latter half of the Siege of Boston, when the future was anything but certain.

From the Aspen Tribune 14 November 1895:

A Tramp's Mistake

Palmer Lake Colo., Nov. 13--An unknown tramp, traveling along the Denver & Rio Grande, finding the section house at Edgerton locked up, the family having gone to Colorado Springs on business, concluded to see what was in the house he might use. He broke in and after helping himself to a square meal began to search for valuables. He found the section foreman's good suit of clothes, which he exchanged for his, and started towards Denver.

The men soon returned from work and discovered the theft and took after him on a hand car, overtaking him, and divested him of the good clothes and started him on his way almost naked.

From the Aspen Tribune of 15 November 1895

CHARRED REMAINS

Found in a Burned Box Car at Larkspur Siding, Palmer Lake, Colo., Nov. 14--A narrow gauge box

on the Larkspur siding burned today. It had gained such headway when discovered that it was impossible to extinguish the flames.

The charred remains of a man burned beyond recognition were found in the car. It is supposed he built a fire, had fallen asleep and was burned to death. Another theory is that he was murdered by tramps and the car set on fire. The coroner will investigate.



The Colonists had known of the planned confiscation for weeks in advance, and were alerted by Paul Revere that the hour was nigh. Having waited through the night at the Buckman Tavern, just across from the Lexington Green, the soldiers were prepared when the British arrived at the break of dawn.

Palmer Lake Star, cont'd

Tara made remarks, very nice. Afterwards several board members chatted with Nikki and Tara and me. It was great to have our Mayor and Town Clerk there! I'll admit, it's all a blur, I was excited and a little nervous.

Next Thursday the State History President signs the official paperwork, then we get a nice letter about 2 weeks later. In the letter is info on contractors who make the state approved signs. Kara thought the manufactured signs are approximately \$250 in price.

National is gonna be a challenge, but based on the issue of alterations coming up today, I learned how they assess that criteria. I think after a few weeks of recovery (humor) I can research the criteria and see how we can pitch the Star for National Registry and getting the GO in Washington, DC.

Kinda long, sorry, but now ya know... we are about to help Palmer Lake SHINE more with the star that is on the State Registry of Historic Properties!

Jack Anthony
 Home 719-282-9799, Cell 719-205-1741

Recent Document Acquisition from Colorado History on Summit Lake

Recently two historians working on their research of the Denver & Rio Grande Rwy on the Western Slope, ran across a document that pertains to the very early days in Palmer Lake when it was known as Sumit (original spelling) Lake.

These same historians several years ago turned up the stereo photo of Sum(m)it Lake that is now in the PLHS collection (see similar photo, page 3) as the earliest known photo of the Palmer Lake area. The photo and the new document date to 1871 during the construction of the Denver & Rio Grande along the Front Range.

This new document is the contract let by the Denver & Rio Grande Railway for the construction of the road between Sum(m)it Lake and Colorado City. As we all know, the "Grande" never went to Colorado City. Instead, Gen. W.J. Palmer built a new city as was to become his practice whenever an existing city lay close to the proposed line of travel for his "Baby Railroad."

The North-South Construction Co. contracted with Moore & Carlile for the construction of the D&RG from the Summit Lake south to Colorado City... a distance of twenty-six miles.

--Submitted by Tom Vanwormer

Palmer Lake Historical Society

Contributing Writers

Jack Anthony
 Dan Edwards
 Roger Davis
 Dee Kirby
 Bernard Minetti
 Tom Vanwormer
 Al Walter

(Your name could be here, too!)

Palmer Lake Historical Society

publishes this newsletter at
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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 are made. Digital word submissions in .doc or .docx., photos in .jpg please. Submit pieces and photos to Editor at blm1931@gmail.com.

Compendium of monthly presentations for 2013 by Bernard Minetti extracts courtesy of Our Community News

January 17, 2013 - Palmer Lake Historical Society Annual Potluck and Membership meeting



Palmer Lake Historical Society board members for 2013 are Patrick McCarthy, Board Secretary, Bernard Minetti, Georgia Follansbee, Tom Vanwormer, Lucretia Vaile Museum director, Rogers Davis, President Al Walter, Vice president and retired local pastor, Rev. John Snyder, and Gary Coleman. Coleman's son Travis stands in the very first row. Treasurer Barbara Arbutnot was not able to be present.

--Photo by Patricia Minetti

Al Walter, President of the Palmer Lake Historical Society, opened the meeting by introducing the two new board members. He named Tom Vanwormer and Bernard Minetti as the new additions to the board. Minetti also assumed the position of Board Secretary. This meeting was the annual Potluck sponsored by the Society in reporting to the membership and for acquiring new members. Approximately 50 persons attended.

Member Jack Anthony then advised the membership concerning the status of the Palmer Lake Star and its standing with the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties. This list-

ing is a registry of the state's significant cultural resources worthy of preservation for the future education and enjoyment of Colorado's residents and visitors.

He continued by noting that the day following this meeting, the status of the listing would be known. He did advise on the following day, that the Star had been accepted for placement in the Colorado State Registry of Historic Properties. The next step was listing on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Anthony then introduced Michael Holmes, who had taken a picture of the star at night from Mt. Herman. This photo was part of the presentation to the board governing acceptance and placement on the state registry.

March 21, 2013 - Women Who Fought as Men in the Civil War



(l-r) The Sons of Union Veterans (SUV) Senior Vice-Commander, Tom Zink, with Commander of the Centennial Company of the SUV, Gene Cheney, alongside narrator, Benny Nasser, of the Palmer Lake Historical Society's March 21 presentation, "Women Who Fought as Men in the Civil War," and James Barker, Past Commander of the Centennial Chapter of the SUV.

The Sons of Union Veterans member, Benny Nasser, presented an overview of the history of women who disguised themselves as sol-

diers in the Civil War. He stated that there were 300 to 400 women who participated as male soldiers in this conflict. Many never had their true gender discovered and some even retired at their wartime rank. In that era, women had no property rights, were not allowed to vote, and could not enter the legal or medical profession. This was a way for them to participate.

Nasser explained that women sought to volunteer to enter the Union Army for several reasons. Some did it for patriotic reasons, while others sought to follow a husband, brother, father, or lover. Others were independent and did whatever they wanted to do. Some wanted to avenge the death of a loved one while others sought to take advan-

age of the bounties placed on the enemy. Some were enlisted while others were disguised as officers. Nonetheless, they served effectively and helped to achieve the ends of the Union's cause.

Monument Town Trustee, John Howe, addressed the 63 assembled attendees and briefed them on a new project that he is starting. He stated that for 2 and a half years he had been studying notes, maps, and documents, which were in the town's files but not organized or verified. He stated that what were claimed to be the first burials in Monument Cemetery, were not as noted on headstones and handwritten notes that were from the 1880 census. Howe indicated that he personally would continue the investigative process to correct the errors and at some time in the future would open the task to volunteers.

When this was to happen, he would make it known to the public.



--Photo courtesy Lucretia Vaile Museum, Director, Rogers Davis

SUMMIT LAKE ICE HOUSE

Before refrigerators and freezers, most everyone with a lake or pond would harvest the ice that formed and store it into July. Produce and meats were shipped across the country in railroad boxcars that used ice to keep the contents fresh.

During the winter, working the Ice Harvest was a way to earn wages for two or three months in what otherwise would be a hard time in a farm and ranch economy. The Doyle Ice Company of Monument, was built from scratch and had ice storage houses that would hold 4,000 tons of ice for use in warmer weather.

Annually, about 36,000 tons of ice was

shipped for a wide variety of uses. The man delivering an ice-block to the home ice-box was very popular as he often had to chip ice from the block so that it would fit into the ice-box. Ice chips were a treat in the hot summer months to any kid lucky enough to get some.

The Summit Lake Ice House, pictured on the left, is one of those ice houses. This photo, one of the earliest on record for the Palmer Lake area, was made available through the generosity of the Director Rogers Davis of the Lucretia Vaile Museum. It was from a stereographic image and dates to about 1872 or 73. Note the rough hewn ties of the track layed down by Gen. Palmer. The original photo was in sepia tone.

Palmer Lake Historical Society

P.O. Box 662
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Palmer lake, CO 80133-0662

Special Event:

May 18, 2013, 11 AM to 2 PM

The Larkspur Historical Society

**will honor our veterans at the Spring Valley Cemetery,
13944 Spring Valley Road, Larkspur, CO.**

Musket demonstrations, mounted cavalry, cannon firing, and more.

The 137 year old Spring Valley School will also be open to the public .

Lucretia Vaile Museum, Local History on Display



The Lucretia Vaile Museum began in the basement of the Palmer Lake Marshal's Offices (originally the AT&SF Section Foreman's house). The museum quickly outgrew that building, and the current Library-Museum was dedicated on October 4,

1981.

The building was erected as a memorial to Lucretia Vaile, who left a bequest to the town of Palmer Lake, which was used to build the original structure.

With the new building came new museum pieces. An area furrier who was going out of business donated the glass display cases still used in the museum. An addition was built in 1996 with money the Palmer Lake Historical Society received from the estate of Lena Royse, providing storage and administrative space.

The Museum now contains permanent exhibits dedicated to the towns of Palmer Lake, and Monument as well as the surrounding area. The rich history of the Tri-Lakes is maintained as a legacy for those yet to come.

The Palmer Lake Historical Society maintains



--photo by Bernard L. Minetti

and oversees the operation of the museum and its artifacts and documents. This is all under the direction of Roger Davis, who succeeded his wife as director of the museum. The museum collects and displays historical items that are local to the area.

Railroad artifacts are predominant and reg-

ister the participation that Palmer Lake and its environs acquired with the advent of rails in and through the area.

As can be seen in the accompanying photo to the left, there are many and diverse railroad items that were acquired over time. The display is one of the more relevant displays in the museum and is of great interest to rail buffs in the Palmer Lake area and to visitors from other parts of the country who come to the museum, annually.



--photo by Bernard L. Minetti

The Lucretia Vaile Museum and the Palmer Lake Historical Society can always use additional assistance. If you are so inclined to become a patron, benefactor, or donor, please send your individual support to P.O. Box 662, Palmer Lake, CO 90133. Your gracious generosity will be most appreciated.