

President's Message to the Membership...



Bernard L. Murrell

The Board of Directors continues to take steps to make quality history-related events and activities available to Historical Society members, as well as members of the community. The following are just a few of the activities we have underway to promote, preserve, and protect the history of the Palmer Divide.

Special Tours: Those of you who signed up to be notified of special events of historical significance sponsored by local groups were able to participate in tours of the Spring Valley School restoration, a restored working farm in Larkspur, and most recently, unique trees in Fox Run Park used by Native Americans for spiritual and travel purposes. We will continue to notify those on our "sign-up" list of future tours and events involving local historical sites.

Old Jail House: A local Restoration Specialist examined the Jail House located on the Village Green and give us a proposal on the cost and methodology to restore the building as accurately as possible. We contacted the Town of Palmer Lake and outlined our desire to restore the building and to include it as one of the exhibits of the Lucretia Vaile Museum. We are hopeful the Town will support our request.

Native American Powwow: In July, we held the annual Palmer Lake Powwow indoors at the Freedom Financial Services EXPO Center in Colorado Springs. This facility provided protection from the elements and a number of amenities that were not available in Palmer Lake. The event, cosponsored by a local Native charity, One Nation Walking Together, was a tremendous success. It was attended by over 1700 people, in addition to a large number of Native American singers, dancers and artisans. This was the first experience of a number of non-Natives at a powwow and most left with a greater understanding of the rich history and traditions of the first inhabitants of this area.

Conservation Assessment Program: We received a Federal grant to fund a professional

assessment of the practices, displays, exhibits, and operations of the Lucretia Vaile Museum. Thanks to the efforts over the years by Museum Director Roger Davis and Museum volunteers the assessment found little that needed improvement. However, two areas that have been identified as concerns for the Museum over the years were also highlighted by the Assessor - the need for increased storage space and an Emergency Management plan to protect and evacuate valuable artifacts in the Museum collection in case of a disaster. We are presently examining options to address these concerns, to include applying for Federal, State, and local grants.

Planning and implementing these activities takes considerable time. Although the Board of Directors and the Museum staff, all volunteers, have tried their best to continue providing quality, history-related, family-friendly events for the community, we simply do not have enough people from the Historical Society membership or the community stepping forward to help. Although we sponsored the Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua event this year, the sixth year in a row, the events were limited. The Chautauqua was almost cancelled this year due to lack of people willing to step up and help put it on. It is disheartening to me when I hear from members of the community, not only locally but along the Front Range, how great a job the Historical Society does in putting on quality events and programs. However, no one wants to volunteer to help continue these activities. We sincerely need your help. If you can give us just a little of your time to ensure we can keep these programs going, please contact me at wldrdr@hotmail.com or 719-559-0525.

Rail Construction 1871

Recently two railroad historians from the Western Slope, Cres Flemming, and Ken Jays, discovered the hand written contract between the Denver & Rio Grande Railway and the North & South Construction Company to do all of the grading from Summit Lake for a distance of 26 miles south toward Colorado City.



Tom Vanwormer

For those historians who recognize that Summit Lake was the original railroad name for our pleasant town, now known as Palmer Lake. The destination of Colorado City, which was a going little town just west of the present Colorado Springs, is known as the West Site or Old Colorado City today.

A digital copy of the contract from the History Colorado Collection is now available in the Palmer Lake Historical Society's collection, for viewing and research purposes. As with all contracts, this one is a delight to engineers and lawyers and it contains such things as each

cubic yard of dirt moved was worth \$0.30 for payment purposes and for each one hundred feet that a cubic yard of dirt was hauled, the contractor earned an additional \$0.02.

If the dirt was not used to build the grade, it was worth only \$0.25 and there was no reimbursement for hauling the wastage. Hard rock excavation was worth \$2.25.

All of these costs were to be determined by the railroad's Chief Engineer. This contract followed the rules established by the Kansas Pacific Railway. It stated that one half of the amount due was paid monthly and the final payment was due upon acceptance of the grade by the Chief Engineer, when the grade reached a point at or east of Colorado City.

As we know the city of Colorado City did not pay all of the tribute required by Gen. W.J. Palmer and so, rather than using Colorado City as a depot, Palmer used the "East of" option and platted the city of Colorado Springs and the rest is history. *Submitted by Tom Vanwormer*

The next edition of the Palmer Lake Historical Society
Newsletter will be published in December of 2013.

**History is the
refiner of the future.
Care for it!**

Museum Hours
10-2 p.m. Saturdays
and additionally,
June through August
1-4 p.m. Wednesdays

Palmer Lake Historical Society

Board of Directors 2013

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The Palmer Lake Historical Society presented its annual Father's Day Ice Cream Social. This scene is the inside view showing those who attended and are in the Palmer Lake Town Hall. It is an annual tradition of the Society. --Photo by Bernard Minetti



Palmer Lake Historical Society Fathers Day Social country western music was provided by a band called, "Out Of Nowhere." Band members include (l-r) Corinne Nelson on the bass, Tony Reduto with the mandolin, Reb Tobiasen, guitar, and Jonny Stumpf playing banjo. Everyone enjoyed the down to earth lyrics and music. Each year the Society presents this tribute to the dads of the Tri-Lakes Monument area. This year due to the snowstorm in February, the Social and a presentation happened in the same month. Bob Cronk presented a piece on "Chief Manitou" also known as Pedro Cajete. This occurred on the third Thursday of the month.

--Photo by Bernard Minetti

Palmer Lake Historical Society

Contributing Writers

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 Dan Edwards
 Roger Davis
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 Bernard Minetti
 Tom Vanwormer
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(Your name could be here, too!)

Palmer Lake Historical Society

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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.

Palmer Lake Mayor Nikki McDonald receives the official certificate placing the Palmer Lake Star on the Colorado State Register of Historic Sites, from Palmer Lake Historical Society member, Jack Anthony

The Palmer Lake Historical Society (PLHS) was on the agenda for the April 11, 2013, Town Council meeting. President Al Walters introduced Society Member, Jack Anthony, who was responsible for crafting the nomination and appearing before the State Historic Preservation Board in January 2013. There, he presented the case for the Star to be listed on the Colorado State's Register of Historical Sites.

Anthony, in his remarks highlighting the nomination, listed the names of the many people who have contributed to the construction and participated in the history of the star. He then presented the framed certificate designating the Palmer Lake Star as officially listed on the State Registry of Historical Properties to Palmer Lake Mayor Nikki McDonald.

Jack's remarks described how in 1935, Bert Sloan, and B.E. Jack, developed the idea of having a star on Sundance Mountain. It would be the citizen's way of showing their determination and perseverance during the tough times of the Depression. The five-point Star is comprised of 91 40-watt light bulbs and measures 405 feet in height and 457 feet in width and sits on the 58% slope of Sundance Mountain.

He listed the original team that led the construction, including café owner Bert Sloan, Mountain Utility workers, B.E. Jack, Richard Wolf, CE Rader, as well as Byron Medlock, who served as the surveyor. He noted other key participants, including Jess Krueger, Gilbert Wolf, Floyd Bellinger, George Sill, and even Dizzy, Bert Sloan's German Shepherd.

Local artist Arthur Bradley owned the land and allowed the star to be built on it. In 1966 he would deed the land to the town. In 1937, the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department took on the role of maintainers of the Star and have played that role ever since.

Anthony highlighted, how, in 1980, Rod Van Velson and Jane Van Velson Potts wrote the "Star Light, Star Bright" essay and that it was updated in 2008 by PLHS members Rogers Davis and Herb Edwards.

The star has undergone two updates to keep

it shining. In 1976, Colonel Carl Duffner and Harry Krueger, led the Bicentennial project to replace the posts and update key aspects of the electrical system.

Harry, and many members of his family, were present. Anthony made special mention of Margot Krueger's role in the star. He also noted that she had recently passed away.



Palmer Lake Historical Society member Jack Anthony presents the Colorado State certificate which places the Palmer Lake Star on the State Register of Historical Sites to Palmer Lake Mayor, Nikki McDonald.

--Photo by Bernard Minetti

In 2002, Todd Bell, along with Dan Reynolds, lead a 50 person volunteer team in a complete updating of the electrical system. During the preparation for the nomination, Jack mentioned that Gary and Travis Coleman did some key property research and coordinated efforts with the Mayor and staff who assisted him.

A key element of the nomination was the 2009 completion of a detailed survey of the Sundance Mountain by Tim Wagner. Sadly, Tim passed away in January and Anthony made special mention of Tim's contribution to the star.

At the conclusion of the presentation, he displayed photos of the Star taken by photographer, Mike Holmes.

In conclusion, Anthony acknowledged that there are many, many, citizens, unnamed, who have played a role in keeping the star shining and that the listing of the star in the State Register honors them all.

--Courtesy of Jack Anthony

**Remember to
 support your
 historical society.**

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

April 17, 2013 - "Mining for the Real Baby Doe"



Joyce B. Lohse

Joyce B. Lohse, author and lecturer, presented the efforts of her research on Colorado legend and prominent figure in Colorado mining history, Baby Doe Tabor. The narration told of the coincident history between the Tabors and the Does. Lohse began her presentation by discussing a brief history of the relationship and marriage of Augusta Pierce and Horace A.W. Tabor.

The Tabors were married in Maine and came west to engage in business in the town of Leadville. His business allowed Horace to "grubstake" miners of the region. If they were unable to pay for the equipment and supplies, he executed an agreement with them that

provided him with a share of the mine production should the miner be successful. This and his purchase of mines in the region made the Tabors very wealthy. He also became Mayor of Leadville and built an Opera House in 1879 in the town. They had a son named, Maxcy Tabor.

Lohse continued by relating some of the history of the Does. Elizabeth Bonduel McCourt married Harvey Doe in Oshkosh, Wisconsin in June of 1877. They came west to Central City in 1877. While there, the locals began to call Elizabeth by the name of "Baby Doe." The name stuck. Baby Doe met Horace Tabor at a chance meeting in a local restaurant. He became infatuated with her.

Elizabeth Doe eventually divorced Harvey

in 1880 after she had a stillborn child. Harvey had not wanted a child and his attitude precipitated their divorce. Tabor tried to divorce from his wife, Augusta, but it took awhile to accomplish this. Eventually, "Baby Doe" became Elizabeth Tabor.

Congress repealed the Sherman Silver Mining Act in 1893 and the bottom fell out of the silver industry leaving the Tabors penniless.

The Tabors tried to go back into mining but Horace was too old and the work was too much for him to handle. He eventually died on April 10, 1899, from appendicitis.

Baby Doe stayed in their Matchless Mine Cabin as a recluse. She died from unknown causes in 1935.

May 16, 2013 - "Colorado Ice Houses"



Bill Reich

Bill Reich, author and historian, presented a thorough overview of icehouses and their implementation into American and specifically, Colorado, history, to approximately 70 local history buffs. He described the evolution of the icehouse phenomenon and its intermeshing with railroad history in particular.

Reich noted that icehouses went way back in history even as far as 1700 B.C. in Mesopotamia and 700 B.C. in China. He also described primitive icemakers that utilized the venturi tube effect to make ice. Ice was known far back in history to preserve freshness in food products.

He also described the introduction of ice

into the households of America to help to preserve food in appliances called iceboxes. He described some of the early companies that were forbears of this industry, such as Knickerbocker Ice Company in N.Y. He also described the local part of ice use history in businesses such as the Doyle Ice House here in the Palmer Lake Area. Ice was removed from Palmer Lake and shipped far and wide in newly constructed insulated freight cars. Rail cars were also designed with ice refrigeration to help preserve fresh fruits, vegetables, and meat, during overland transit.

In this time period, ice almost became a utility. With the advent of electricity, refrigeration became mechanized and machinery was developed that made "cold" to freeze water and to refrigerate areas to store food and food

products. The railroad system, while slow to accept the concept of rolling refrigeration, developed the technique. The rail system became a kingpin of refrigerated transportation of items requiring cold while in transit.

Palmer Lake became a hub of the ice industry in the beginning, circa 1872, and thrived on the ice business. Of course, electricity replaced the manual ice cutting and transportation and Palmer Lake's primary industry of the time, disappeared.

Bill Reich has written many books on the subject of rail and rail history and retails them through the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden, Colorado. Two are entitled, "Colorado Railroad Icehouses," and "Colorado Industries of the Past," and he has written several other railroad oriented books.

June 20, 2013 - "Chief Manitou and His Contributions to the Pikes Peak Region"



Robert Cronk

Researcher and lecturer, Robert Cronk, presented an evening of history and information concerning Pedro Cajete, commonly known as Chief Manitou, during the June Palmer Lake Historical Society monthly presentation. This session had been postponed from Feb-

ruary to this month due to the paralyzing snowstorm that enveloped the area at the time. Approximately 66 history devotees attended the evening.

Cronk became interested in Chief Manitou while exploring a cave, named Pedro's Cave, near the Cave of the Winds in southwestern Colorado Springs area. Pedro Cajete came

originally from Santa Clara Pueblo in New Mexico. This area was known for its poverty. He migrated to the Manitou Spring's area and entertained tourists with his dancing and story telling. He became a highlight of the area and was a well known tourist attraction in his own right. Cronk displayed many photos and discussed events in the life of Cajete.

July 18, 2013 - "The Western Museum of Mining and Industry: a Beacon of Mining History"



Richard Sauers

Western Museum of Mining and Industry director, Richard Sauers, discussed the history, activities, and educational function of the museum at the July Palmer Lake Historical Society presentation. He noted that the present building in which it is housed, located at 225 Northgate Boulevard in Colorado

Springs, opened in 1982. The museum itself was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 1970. Its purpose is to preserve and to provide understanding of the mining history of Colorado and the American West.

During the 31 years that it has been open to the public, the museum has put on many different mining related programs. There are three primary sections to the site. They are

the Mine Reclamation Exhibit, the Reynolds Ranch House, and the Stamp Mill in addition to the two burros, who reside on the grounds. The burros are representative of the animals used to pull the mine ore cars from the drifts or lateral mine shafts.

The museum, he added, is open to all and is especially equipped to provide tours for school children.

Palmer Lake Historical Society

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"KILL CRAZY GANG"



The following are excerpts from the review by Kirkus Reviews, of a true life crime novel, titled, "Kill Crazy Gang," by author Jeffrey S. King, about the infamous Lewis-Jones gang.

This gang terrorized the central and western United States, including Colorado, from 1912 to 1918. The Lewis-Jones Gang was the subject of a presentation by Dwight Haverkorn, retired Colorado Springs Police Detective, to the Palmer Lake Historical Society in February 2012. Some of Dwight's research is included in the book.

True crime veteran King unrolls the harrowing rap sheet of the Lewis-Dalton Gang, briefly notorious brigands, who terrorized the central and western United States. The early years of automotive culture created fine opportunities

for mayhem, King writes, and easy access to stolen getaway vehicles.

The gang was founded by the Lewis brothers and headed by ringleader, Frank. However, in 1916, Frank began recruiting new members, one of whom was Dale Jones, a young car thief with a habit of disguising himself in female drag. The gang held up banks, a train, even an early Hollywood studio, and may have targeted the U.S. Mint in Denver.

During police shootouts, the Gang made incredible escapes and inflicted more casualties than they sustained. After the slaying of a popular Colorado police officer, the police finally caught up with the Lewis brothers. They also caught up with Jones and his wife, who were killed in a Bonnie and Clyde - type shootout in California.

King writes in short, staccato chapters, and prose. His breathless, richly footnoted storytelling, delivers. Readers may wish for more material about the molls - especially the lone Lewis sister, a glamorous St. Louis showgirl who helped her brothers. This corker of a true-crime story rediscovers historic villains whose deeds, though bloody, would soon be eclipsed by the outlaws of Prohibition and the Depression.

Mr. King donated a copy of his book to the Lucretia Vaile Museum.

--by Al Walter

Entering the Grant Writing Phase, Time for Expansion...

On July 21, 2013, several members of the Palmer Lake Historical Society Board met with two experts on grant-writing. These two were representatives of the Museum Training Network.

Their field of expertise is in guiding small museums in the achievement of grant-writing expertise to obtain federal monies available to small museums.

At the present time, the Society is looking into the prospects of achieving a grant to expand the physical plant of the Lucretia Vaile Museums.



(l-r) Members of the team from the Museum Training Network are Siegfried Rempel and Terri K. Schindel. They are standing next to Lucretia Vaile Museum Director, Rogers Davis. All are part of a team exploring grant-writing for the Palmer Lake Historical Society. --Photo by Bernard L. Minetti