

President's Message to the Membership...



It's been an honor and a privilege to serve as your President and, before that, as your Vice-President. During that time, we've gone from a locally known organization to one that's well known throughout the

Front Range. We now have a vibrant program of speakers for our monthly programs. Attendance has increased from a handful of people to as many as 90 to 100, and instead of searching for speakers, we now have speakers contacting us to give presentations.

Through our outreach activities, we've partnered with nonprofit organizations and others to bring history-related events to Palmer Lake and the local area. We've sponsored the Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua, tours of Estemere, various fundraisers, and Native American music events and powwows. Attendance at our July 2013 powwow, held indoors in Colorado Springs, exceeded 2000 people. We are an active member of El Pomar's Native American Council and have participated in their training opportunities. We even wrote and published a book - "Communities of the Palmer Divide" - which is a pictorial history of the local area.

In 2012, we applied for and received a Federal Conservation Assessment Program grant, which paid for an assessment of our Museum and its collection. This assessment will be used by the Board of Directors to seek future grants to provide assistance to the Museum staff in their efforts to catalog, preserve, and protect our historical artifacts.

This year we were successful in having the Palmer Lake Star placed on the Colorado Register of Historic Properties. Shortly, we will begin restoration of the old jail house that has been a fixture on the Village Green for many years. Also, we contacted the current owner of PLVFD Engine No.1 and are tracking down the location of the D&RG Railroad Depot. Both these items were sold years ago. Our hope is to acquire these items and return

Volunteer Docents Needed to Staff the Lucretia Vaile Museum

The Lucretia Vaile Museum has two primary objectives. They are the collection and preservation of artifacts and the use of these items in educating the public about the history and culture of the Tri-Lakes Region. The Museum relies upon volunteers to provide school children and other visitors with an enjoyable learning experience. These volunteers are called docents.

In becoming a docent and in learning more about the area's history and sharing that knowledge with Museum visitors, you become an "expert" on the Museum and what it stands for. Docents are special people who have an avid interest in history, especially local history, and want to share it.

Docents give generously of their time and enthusiasm to increase appreciation of the history of the Palmer Divide Area. The activities

of the docent program take place throughout the year. Several times each year, new and experienced docents receive intense training about exhibit content and tour techniques.

them to Palmer Lake. Finally, we are drafting a Strategic Plan to identify goals and objectives necessary to guide the direction and expansion of the Historical Society and Museum over the long term.

The most important of all these efforts was creating a solid foundation for the Historical Society, now and for the future. In the last two years, we have organized our administrative files and created a financial reporting system that allows full transparency and accountability. These efforts will ensure the organization is on sound financial footing for years to come.

We are all volunteers - we have no paid staff. None of this would have been possible without the assistance and support of the Board of Directors, past and present, the Museum Director and Docents, and the many people who give willingly of their time. I would like to extend my gratitude to them and thank them for their efforts to make "history more than a memory."

--Al Walter, President

**The new 2014 Board of Directors
will be installed on January 17 at
the annual free PotLuck Dinner at
the Palmer Lake Town Hall at 1830**

of the docent program take place throughout the year. Several times each year, new and experienced docents receive intense training about exhibit content and tour techniques.

In addition, docents meet on the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. as a committee to discuss and plan the direction that the Museum will take. Docents will discuss tour methods, share in developing educational programs, and learn more about the area's history and museum methodology from guest lecturers.

We ask that each docent give at least one Saturday every two months and consider serving on Wednesdays. The Wednesday shifts are from 1 to 4 p.m. in June through August and from 1 to 3 p.m. in the other months of the year. Some docents take on responsibilities in an area of interest to themselves such as taking oral-histories, display preparation, and artifact preservation.

Will you consider working with us? If so call 719-559-0837 or contact the Museum Director, Rogers Davis at roger_d@q.com.

Palmer Lake Historical Society

Annual Potluck

to be held on January 17 at 1830 at the Palmer Lake Town Hall.

This annual event brings together new board prospects and new annual members and those just plain curious about history.

Bring something that you created in the home food line and enjoy the culinary creations of others who seek history as a good way to find out who they are and where their country came from.

The Palmer Lake Historical Society invites the public on Thursday, January 16, 2014, at 6:30 PM to the Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent, Palmer Lake, CO 80133, for its annual potluck dinner and membership meeting. As a special treat, Dwight Haverkorn, a retired Colorado Springs Police Detective, will present the results of his research into the infamous unsolved murder of CSPD Officer Richard Burchfield on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1953.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the Historical Society and the "cold case" involving the murder of Officer Burchfield.

This program is free to the public. We will provide the baked ham, coffee, and tea. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. For more information, visit our website at www.palmerdividehistory.org.

Museum Hours

10-2 p.m. Saturdays

1-3 p.m. Wednesdays

and additionally,

June through August

1-4 p.m. Wednesdays

also

the Museum is open for one hour prior to each Society event that may occur in the Town Hall.

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 Arbutnot
 Museum Director - Rogers Davis

Directors-at-Large 2013

Gary Coleman
 Georgia Follansbee
 Pat McCarthy
 Tom Vanwormer

Palmer Lake Historical Society 2014 Program Schedule

January 16, 2014, 6:30 P.M. -- **Annual Potluck Dinner and Membership Meeting.**

February 20, 2014, 7:00 P.M. -- **"Tri-Lakes Ice Production, Storage, and Delivery"** Tom VanWormer
 March 20, 2014, 7:00 P.M. -- **"Doctor at Timberline - Medicine in the Late 1800's and Early 1900's"** John Stansfield

April 17, 2014, 7:00 P.M. -- **"Restoration of Cumbres & Toltec Railroad Cars."** John Eng.

May 15, 2014, 7:00 P.M. -- **"Maggie: She Went West for the Cure"** Mary Ann Davis, June 15, 2014, 12:00 - 4:00 P.M. **"Father's Day Ice Cream Social"** Bring the family to the Palmer Lake Town Hall for free ice cream, pie, and music on the Village Green as we celebrate Dads!

June 19, 2014, 7:00 P.M. -- **"Dragoons in the Revolution"** Brent Brown.

July 17, 2014, 7:00 P.M. -- **"Stories You May Not Have Heard"** Mel McFarland.

August 21, 2014, 7:00 P.M. -- **"Finding Your Roots"** Chuck Loeffler.

September 18, 2014, 7:00 P.M. -- **"A Palmer Lake Living History"** Dwight Haverkorn.

October 16, 2014, 7:00 P.M. -- **"Sheriff Rankin Scott Kelly, First Sheriff of El Paso County"** John Wesley Anderson.

November 20, 2014, 7:00 P.M. -- **"Mountain Man Jedediah Smith"** Dave Wallace.

Palmer Lake Historical Society Contributing Writers

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

(Your name could be here, too!)

Palmer Lake Historical Society

publishes this newsletter at
 P.O. Box 662
 66 Lower Glenway
 Palmer lake, CO 80133-0662

Layout and Editing: Bernard L. Minetti

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

PLHS Joins Railroad Group

At the September meeting of the Palmer Lake Historical Society, the Board voted to become a part of the membership of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Heritage Society. The Society is dedicated to Colorado railroading and the restoration of all historical artifacts associated with Colorado history. The following is a note from the Society's President, James Jordan, describing the purpose of the foundation and its vision.

Our Society felt that since Palmer Lake is very involved in railroading, the we should be a support system to Colorado railroading history.

"The Rocky Mountain Railroad Heritage Society is dedicated to preserving the railroad heritage of the Rocky Mountain States. To this end, we deeply believe in locating, researching, restoring, and ultimately preserving the historic railroad icons, that represent the growth of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and New Mexico, during the last 150 years.

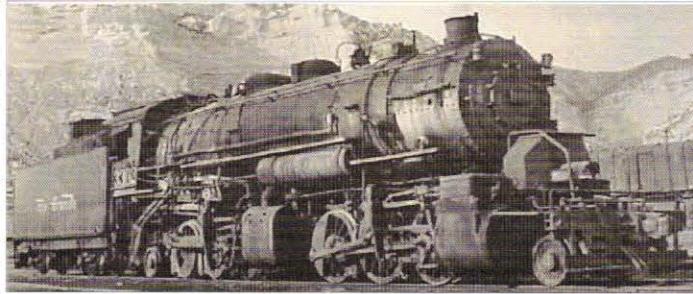
Currently, we are attempting to save five depots located in Colorado. These depots range in age from 133 years to 100 years, and the loss of any one of them would be a tragedy. The one located in Loveland, Colorado, is a prime example of a depot that should be "saved" from the wrecking ball.

Through the very valiant efforts of Mrs. Pam Sheeler, who contacted our organization, we have been trying to save this depot for at least a year.

Both the City of Loveland and Larimer County would like to see this depot rescued. Currently, we do not have the funds to accomplish the saving of this icon.

property owner, Great Western Railway/OmniTrax. The railroad has agreed to sell or donate this depot, but it must be removed in less than sixty days or it will be destroyed.

Our Society has arranged with one of our associate organizations (The Moffat Road Railroad Museum & Railroad Interpretive Center) to disassemble the depot, transport it, and reassemble and restore it in Granby, Colorado. They have also agreed and will put



This is a photo of an L-62 locomotive that was in service with the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad. It utilized a Mallet (pronounced "Malley") steam expansion system which simply defined meant that it utilized steam twice. Steam was directed first to its high pressure propulsion cylinders and then again to its low pressure drive cylinders.

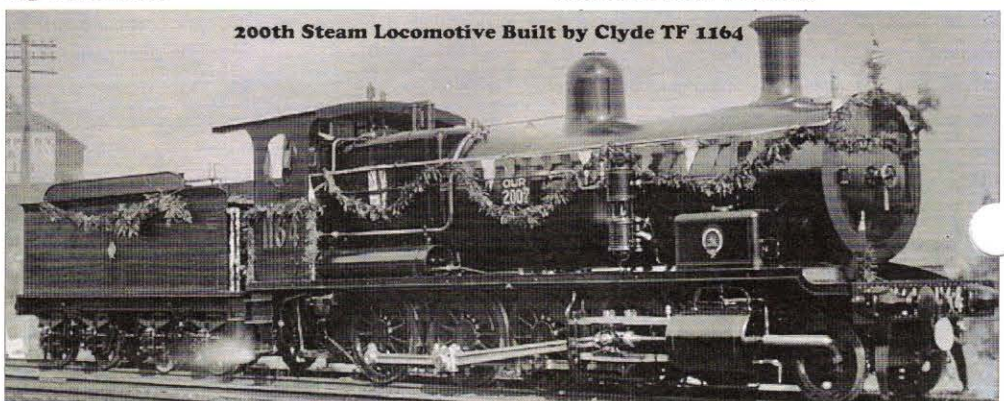
Photo courtesy of Tom VanWormer

it in writing that the sign boards on the depot will read Loveland, Colorado. The sign on the top of the depot roof will read Great Western Railway, while the interior of the depot will be restored to represent the Great Western Railway Depot of the 1925 to 1945 period. It will, in effect, be paying homage to Loveland, Colorado, and the Great Western Railway. They have the funds to accomplish this and the City of Granby has agreed to contribute funds aid in this project.

The Society's By-Laws stress that we will try to preserve depots, and out buildings, whenever possible on the original site. The only exceptions are if the building(s) are in threat of imminent demolition.

The Society believes that this depot will be destroyed, if it is not moved in the immediate future, and to that end we strongly recommend that the depot be given or sold to The Moffat Road Railroad Museum & Interpretive Center.

If this depot were to remain in Loveland, it would cost in excess of \$250,000.00 to move and restore. The Society feels that saving the depot and restoring it is to the benefit of all parties concerned."
 --James Jordan, President,



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

August 15, 2013 - "Pikes Peak As Seen in Early Postcards"



Mel McFarland

The August presentation to the Palmer Lake Historical Society was the subject of "Pikes Peak As Seen in Early Postcards."

The presenter was engineer and chief conductor on the Manitou and Pikes Peak Railway in Manitou Springs, Mel McFarland. The subject was to examine historic post cards of the Pikes Peak area and observe history through that venue.

He started by giving some background of the railroad and noted that the person who crafted the original idea of a railroad to Pikes Peak was Zalmon G. Simmons. He was also

the founder of the Simmons Beautyrest Mattress Company. This all began in 1889.

In painting this picture of history, McFarland, made a point to note to the attendees, that the postcards of that era, sometimes did not necessarily agree with fact. He specifically pointed to several areas such as the color of the railroad cars which was usually red in the postcards of that time, while they were green in reality.

He also noted that sometimes localities were not identified correctly and he showed and example of a card that was labeled Pikes Peak when in actuality it was Cheyenne Mountain.

He continued by saying that sometimes photographs of trains on the cards were tilted

to make it look as if they were going up to Pikes Peak, when in actuality they were going down. Additionally, he said that sometimes people were placed in photos when in the originals, there were none. He showed cards that would place you in an airplane that was supposed to be flying over the Peak when in actuality the plane was "photoshopped" into the photos.

McFarland did show many cards that portrayed the history of the cog railway that climbed to the top of Pikes Peak in the early days of it's being. The cards themselves were able to define and portray the actual progression of the railway to what it is today.

September 17, 2013 - "Minerals, Iron, and Steel"



Pat McCarthy

The September meeting of the Palmer Lake Historical Society featured a presentation titled, "Minerals, Iron and Steel," by local historian, Society member, and professional engineer, Pat McCarthy. The subject dealt with the history of minerals, steel, and iron, and the associated railroad systems that came into being as a result of the growth of these mining inter-related industries in southern Colorado.

He discussed the evolving iron industry in

southern Colorado from 1872 onward, and how it affected the city of Pueblo and the economic, and in small part, the environmental impact caused by the industrial growth resulting from the placement of the steel mills and iron ore processing plants at this location. It's beginning can be further traced to W.J. Palmer and his Southern Colorado Improvement Company, which had a charter that required the construction of a steel mill in southern Colorado. Palmer was an industrialist, engineer, and soldier of the era.

McCarthy noted that the placement of this industry in the Pueblo area resulted in the first integrated steel mill being placed in southern

Colorado. It was specifically located in a site in Pueblo called Bessemer. This Company eventually became the largest employer and landowner in Colorado.

McCarthy summarized by noting that steel was initially produced in blast furnaces, which evolved into the usage of the Bessemer Converters, open hearth, basic oxygen furnace, and eventually the electric furnace. The products resulting from these industry production transformations, he added, were items such as nails, tubing, rods, bars, and rails to name a few. This industry added greatly to the economy of Colorado in that time.

October 17, 2013 - "Ghosts of Douglas and Surrounding Counties"



the time period... circa the late 1800's.

The subject of the October meeting of the Palmer Lake Historical Society was "ghosts" in Colorado, especially Douglas County, and the areas surrounding it. Historian, writer, and lecturer, Shaun Boyd, went over the details of some of the well-known "ghosts" of

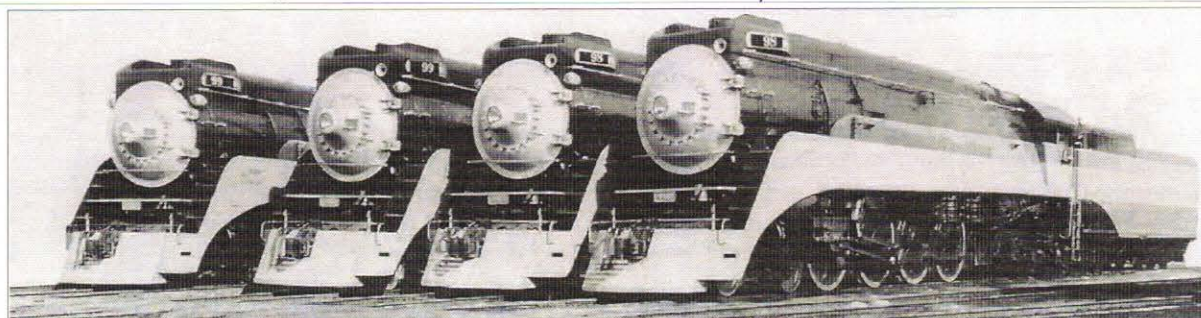
She told the story of Michael Fagan whose purpose for being in this area was not known. His burial site is on the Platte-Arkansas divide beside the Cherokee Trail in central Colorado in the vicinity of a navigation point for the Colorado gold rush, called, "Point of Rocks." A grave alongside the Cherokee Trail was thought to contain the remains of a person identified as Michael Fagan. The grave is covered with rocks and is there to this day.

Fagan was a teamster and drove the horses

and the oxen for westward moving groups of persons. This all happened during the Colorado gold rush era, around 1859. In April of 1859, he froze to death and it was thought that he had gone out of shelter for an unknown reason, and was caught in a snow-storm.

Following his death, many reported seeing Fagan riding his horse across the prairies. Boyd talked about several other ghostly mysteries and then closed the talk.

Four new "Daylight" Streamline Locomotives of the Southern Pacific Company. GS-3 locomotives were designed for Southern Pacific's "Coast Daylight" train. The train made its debut in 1937 with GS-2 locomotives which were replaced in late 1937 or early 1938 with the newer GS-3s.



Palmer Lake Historical Society

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



Calamity Jane in a photo which was taken circa 1895.

It's Cold and Icy Outside

As many have noticed for the past several weeks, the cold and wind has caught the Tri-Lakes in its grip. This same condition has afflicted the region for longer than the period of current civilization. For almost sixty years of this period, the farmers and residents of this area were able to productively use these characteristics to provide a nice winter income to supplement their long winter seasons.

Starting in 1873, Palmer Lake and Monument residents and farmers found a market for the commercial natural ice produced on our initial two lakes of the Tri-Lakes. The first commercial ice storage house was constructed on the Northwest side of Palmer Lake by a consortium of English Developers.

They quickly found a market in the form of the Denver & Rio Grande Railway and the merchants of Manitou and Colorado Springs. The farmers in these two sites provided the work force to harvest and prepare the ice blocks for commercial use.

Both towns had ice houses to support the community for their year around ice needs. The locals had routine ice delivery to include the Glen area of Palmer Lake for the summer inhabitants during the Chautauqua session.

Most of the "frozen product" was shipped by rail and wagon to the growing towns of the area including General Palmer's new colony at Colorado Springs and the long time Indian Meeting

Place of Manitou Springs. The latter location sold "Pure Ice" from the spring fed, non polluted Palmer Lake. In the late 1880's, the primary competition came from the South Platte River location of Lake George which was downstream of the 80,000 head of cattle and 40,000 head of sheep.

Fires, wind, and other natural disasters forced the closing of the industry in the late 1940's. This closed the agricultural history of the Tri-Lakes as it transitioned into its new role of the area we know and love today.

The Palmer Lake Historical Society will host the story of the Ice Industry at our February 2014 meeting with a presentation on the History of Ice Production in the Tri-Lakes area. The answer to most questions during this presentation is "Sawdust." Please join the group for this informative discussion of our past.

Tom VanWormer



The photos above and below show the commercial ice workings in progress in the mid 1800's in the Palmer Lake vicinity. Photos courtesy of Tom VanWormer.

