

Volume XI Number 2

August 2017 through November 2017

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Museum: 719-559-0837



Palmer Lake Historical Society

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Sigi Walker (ex officio): Newsletter

Mark your 2017 Calendars

Saturday, August 12, 2017

10 AM until 5 PM

**RETURN OF THE ROCKY
MOUNTAIN CHAUTAUQUA**

A "truly American experience"

Program Schedule:

September 2017 – November 2017

September 21, 2017, 7:00 PM – "Historic Homes of Colorado Springs and Vicinity" – Gordon Anderson

October 19, 2017, 7:00 PM - "Potpourri of Rarely-Seen Rich Luckin Videos" - Rich Luckin

November 16, 2017, 7:00 PM - "The Star on Sundance Mountain" - Jim Sawatzki

Note: There is no program in December



Contributing to this issue:

Tom Baker Mike & Sigi Walker

The many portrayers at PLHS events

Thanks to all who reviewed and commented!

A Newsletter of the

Palmer Lake Historical Society

and the

Lucretia Vaile Museum

The Many Faces of Portrayers and the Stories They Tell

We have all learned about historical figures from history books and classroom teachers. But it is quite a different experience to see familiar - and sometimes not so familiar - figures brought to life firsthand by a portrayer. Performances are presented in the first person, Chautauqua-style, followed by a question-and-answer session when audiences are invited to learn more.

Portrayers spend considerable time and effort to research their subjects and from this research distill the essence of the character and their achievements. Next, a working script is developed, and along with that, period clothing to illustrate the times is selected. All of this takes time, effort, and resources.

Success in developing one portrayal often leads to the development of others; some portrayers have a number of notable figures in their repertoire. And some portrayers have formed a group and perform as an ensemble while others are solo performers or loosely associated with other portrayers for booking dates. Word of mouth among historical societies and museums is often a good way for a portrayer to become known.

Portrayers come from a wide range of backgrounds. They are retired teachers, authors, and professionals, while some are still employed. All have one thing in common: they're skilled at re-enacting in the first person the life and times of the person they are portraying and to transport the audience to that earlier time.

The Palmer Lake Historical Society has been fortunate to be able to present a good number of portrayers who live in the area, and Society members and guests have learned a great deal from the stories they've told. We have heard their stories at the Monthly History Series programs and at the annual Rocky Mountain Chautauqua, and all have been most memorable. They include:



John Stansfield as
Enos Mills and
Dr. Charles Fox Gardiner



Ron West portrayed
mining tycoon
James F. "Jimmie" Burns

Ann Williams was
Kid Curry's soiled
dove girlfriend



Don Moon as President Teddy Roosevelt,
Old Colorado City Mayor Johnathan Tabler,
and others



Dave Wallace
as George Washington,
Jedediah Smith,
Zebulon Pike,
and others



Gene Johnson as
Buffalo Bill Cody



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President's Message



Midway through 2017, we look back on a busy schedule of programs and look forward to more excitement this summer and fall.

In May, the Palmer Lake Historical Society awarded our first ever scholarship grants to two outstanding recent graduates of local high schools: Morgan Edstrom from Palmer Ridge and Lauryn Ritchie from Lewis Palmer. The \$500.00 scholarship awards were based on academic achievement, extra-curricular activities, and contributions to the community. Both are headed to Colorado State University in Fort Collins this Fall.

The Society presented five Monthly History programs at the Palmer Lake Town Hall and partnered with our friends at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry to offer two standing-room only presentations by Jack Anthony on the Husted railroad communities. The presenters this year have been outstanding, and attendance to date has been well above last year.

A favorite summertime event – the Father's Day Ice Cream Social – brought over 200 people together for food, fun, and music from Nick Davey on the Village Green. Special thanks to Jeanine Engel of the Rock House, who again contributed the Ice Cream, and to the Monument Village Inn for the pies.

Coming right up in July is a music program by Daniel Blegen on the Life of Pete Seeger followed in August by the Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua. Information on upcoming Fall programs is elsewhere in the Newsletter. All programs start at 7:00 p.m. at the Palmer Lake Town Hall and are free and open to all. Light refreshments are served.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Michele Lawrie-Munro as a new member of the Board of Directors. Michele moved recently to the area from Canada and has a strong leadership background with non-profits.

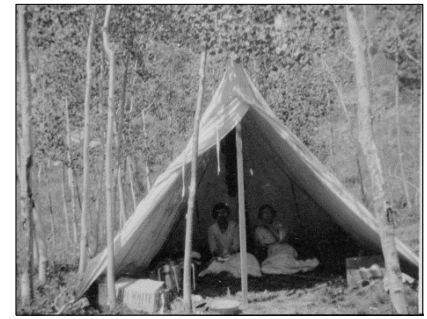
Please consider joining PLHS or renewing your membership. The Society operates exclusively through volunteers, and we have a variety of jobs for willing hands. Please consider donating some of your time and talent. Contact us by e-mail at plhs@palmerdividehistory.org or call 719-559-0837 for information and to volunteer.

Tom Baker

Below: Our first Scholarship Recipients



THEN AND NOW: Palmer Divide Photos Past and Present Rocky Mountain Chautauquas



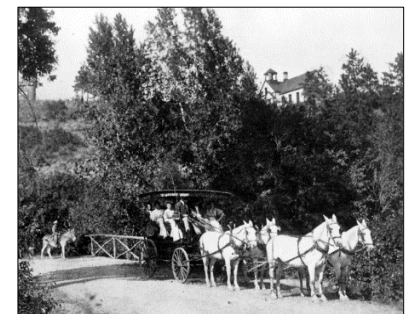
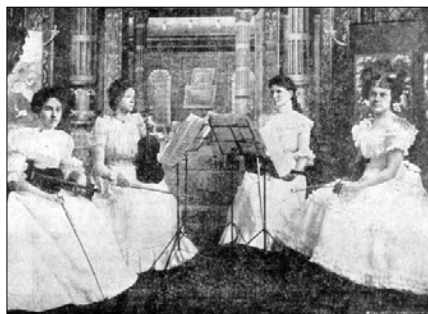
Above: The photos above are from the collection of the Vaile Museum and are entitled "Chautauqua, west of auditorium" and "Tent west of Palmer Lake."

Today, people still gather for the Chautauqua, but on the Village Green. And as far as is known, those attending the modern-day Chautauqua commute from their homes without having to stay in tents!



Above: Palmer Lake Town Hall, gathering place for today's Chautauquas. Ice cream is served on the porch by the Friends of the Tri Lakes Library during the event. While tents are no longer in vogue, permanent cottages and homes now fill the Glen. Mike Walker photos

Below: This Vaile Museum photo is of a string quartet from Denver which played during an early Chautauqua. The photo at right is of livery transportation available for early participants.



Today, the music and the mode of transportation may be different, but the purpose of the Chautauqua remains the same: education, culture, and entertainment in a setting of natural beauty.



Above: Tom Dickinson's 2014 Chautauqua photos of the musical entertainment and PLHS volunteers and today's means of transportation.

Upcoming PLHS Programs and Events August 2017 through November 2017

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

Saturday, August 12, 2017, 10 AM-5PM

SPECIAL EVENT

“Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua”



From 10 AM to 5 PM on August 12th, the Palmer Lake Historical Society presents "The Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua." Chautauquas began in New York state in 1874 as an adult education movement and spread throughout rural America until the mid-1920's. They 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."



A full day of vintage arts, crafts, portrayals of historic men and women, wildlife displays, activities for children, walking tours of Palmer Lake and The Glen, and bluegrass music is planned. The Friends of the Tri-Lakes Library will also hold their annual ice cream social during the afternoon.

Thursday, September 21, 2017 – “Historic Homes of Colorado Springs & Vicinity” Presenter: Gordon Anderson



This program is based on the story of *Historic Homes of Colorado Springs and Vicinity*, authored by the presenter's mother, Helen M. Anderson. The program will describe Mrs. Anderson's life, give details on several homes in the book, and highlight two partnerships vital to the history of the Pikes Peak region: the partnerships between General William Palmer and Dr. W A Bell and between Spencer Penrose and Charles Tutt.

Gordon Anderson is a graduate of Colorado Springs' Palmer High School and Colorado State University. His work has appeared in local, regional, and national publications including the cover of the inaugural edition of National Geographic Traveler magazine. *Historic Homes of Colorado Springs and Vicinity* won the Golden Quill Award from Pikes Peak Library District.

Thursday, October 19, 2017 – "Potpourri of Rarely-Seen Rich Luckin Videos"

Presenter: Rich Luckin

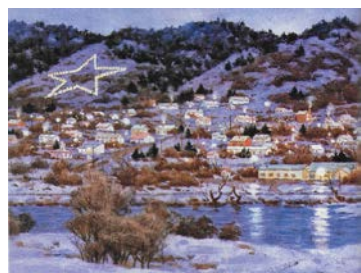


Variety is the spice of life - exemplified by this program of rarely-seen videos. Included are *Tour of the Turbo*, a 1971 film chronicling a year-long tour by Amtrak of this unique train; *Mexico Rail Odyssey: The Tour of Discovery*, GrandLuxe Rail Journeys' Copper Canyon Train; *Arthur Stilwell*, a short overview of the Kansas City Southern's history; a 2008 GrandLuxe promotional short filmed in Montana; and the recently completed *City of Spokane - Denver to Cheyenne* AAPRCO private car train.

Rich Luckin has been involved in television/film making for over thirty years. After a career with Coors Brewing Company, he began producing regular television programs which have aired on over 130 PBS stations nation-wide. His work has been nominated for Regional Emmys; he's received over thirty awards, including over twenty Tellys.

Thursday, November 16, 2017 – "The Star on Sundance Mountain"

Presenter: Jim Sawatzki



This film features the giant 500-foot Palmer Lake Star, the world's largest illuminated star, seen for over 20 miles shining on a ridgeline between Denver and Colorado Springs. It was built during the depths of the Great Depression by determined citizens wishing to spread a light of hope and goodwill during the Christmas Season and became an iconic symbol of inspiration for all. The Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department is the guardian of the Star.

Telly Award winning and Emmy Nominated producer/director Jim Sawatzki, a graduate of Michigan State University, has been documenting Front Range Colorado history since 1992. His work has been featured on regional PBS affiliates, local cable channels, and shown nationally on A&E's Biography channel.

Our Motto: History should be more than a memory

The Many Faces of Portrayers and the Stories They Tell

(continued from page 1)

The Legendary Ladies are an example of a performance ensemble. Organized 25 years ago, they specialize in portraying unconventional Women of the West. The group has 18 members and portrays more than 35 characters. Members do all of the research, write their own scripts, create their authentic costumes, and perform in "first-person living history."



Shows are either 30 minutes or one hour in length while each portrayal is 6-8 minutes. Portrayals include Katherine Lee Bates, Poet; Mother Cabrini, First American Saint; Maud Nelson, Baseball Player and Team Owner; Doc Susie Anderson, Frontier Doctor; Polly Pry, Reporter; Mary Elicht, Businesswoman; Dr. Florence Sabin, Medical Researcher; Captain Jack, Lady Miner; Molly Brown, Philanthropist; Bertha Spears, a Harvey Girl; and Helen Hunt Jackson, Indian Rights Activist. For a complete list of characters, visit their website: www.legendaryladies.org.



Our last newsletter featured the story of the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, a Presbyterian minister who during his career travelled about one million miles and established more than 100 missions and churches. John Redmond portrayed Rev. Jackson at a 2015 meeting of the Park County Historical Society in Bailey. His portrayal can be seen on youtube at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZB8AipIU_Y

We are grateful for the portrayers who invest so much of their "time and treasure" to bring to life interesting men and women of the American past. They enlighten and enrich us and encourage us to learn more about both the familiar and perhaps not so familiar figures they portray.

Mike and Sigi Walker



Lucretia Vaile Museum Hours:

Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM all year

Wednesday 1 - 4 PM all year

1st Thursday of month: 10 AM-noon

For information or tour requests,
call 559-0837 and leave a message.



Like us on Facebook

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



Palmer Lake Historical Society
publishes this newsletter at
PO Box 662
66 Lower Glenway
Palmer Lake CO 80133-0662

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

August 12, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

*Your FREE ticket to a living Palmer Lake Past
and the Tri-Lakes Library Ice Cream Social*

