



# P. L. Historical Society

*Serving The Palmer Divide Area Since 1956*



## Pat Murphy—Pioneer

*This piece was written on November 21, 1921 by Ramona Brown Wissler when she was in the eighth grade at Monument, Colorado. Then, the school was called Lewis School and was District #5. The article won first prize in the County.*

**“Pat Murphy is one of the oldest ranchers in Colorado. He was one hundred years old March 16, 1921.**

His native home was in Cork, Ireland. He was born in the year 1821.

He left Ireland in the middle of the afternoon April 21, 1864. It took his ship, named Kangaroo, fourteen days to cross the ocean. This ship was among the oldest steamers then.

Mr. Murphy, in a joking way says, **“The reason I came to America is because I wished to see the finery and pretty girls.” But he evidently was hard to please for he never succeeded in getting a wife.**

He landed at New York. Then decided to go west and went from New York to Jersey City, from there to Nashville, Tennessee, then to St. Louis. He stayed there one year. He then went to Fort Leavenworth and walked up the Mississippi River. From there he decided to come across the plains to Colorado. This trip took just three weeks. There were great herds of buffalo all over the country.

One night on this trip, he was tired and weary so he took his blankets from his back and went to sleep on the side of a hill. In the morning, when he awoke and started again, a great and sudden surprise came to him. Just as he reached the top of a hill, he saw at the foot of the hill, some Indians just packing up, ready to

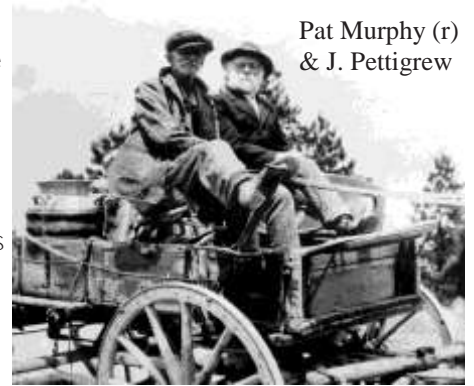
start. They were all painted up and ready for war. Mr. Murphy knew if he turned back the Indians would find him. He boldly walked down the hill through the Indians camp and kept on his way. **The Indians didn't say or do a thing. They simply looked astonished and muttered something to one another.**

Mr. Murphy arrived in the vicinity of Monument at five o'clock one January morning in 1865. He homesteaded here in 1870 and has lived in the same place ever since. His log cabin was the best around here at that time.

Shortly after he built his home, he walked to Fountain (thirty miles) and bought three cows for three hundred and sixty dollars.

His first neighbor was Bob Ireland, a fine looking man. **Mr. Murphy says, “Good**

looks make a good neighbor.”



**Pat Murphy (r) & J. Pettigrew**

Mr. Murphy has had pneumonia four times. Once he cured himself of appendicitis with horse medicine.

When children go to visit him, he tells them his wife is **“down cellar.”**

Mr. Murphy never wears glasses. He can see trains **going up Pike's Peak at a distance of thirty miles.**

His home is an old log cabin. It has two rooms which are well furnished. An old fire place is at one end of the room. Mr. Murphy is always glad to have company and is a friend to all children. He always has candy to give to them.

Mr. Murphy, as old as he is, is very quick and lively. He walks almost as straight as a young man. He often walks from Monument to his home, a distance of six **miles.”**

### In case you wanted to know:

- **Museum hours:** 10-2 PM Sat. and 1-4 PM Wed., June to Aug.
- PLHS President: Phyllis Bonser
- Vice-President: Al Walter
- Secretary: Ron Heard
- Treasurer: Victor Vaile
- Museum Director: Rogers Davis
- Board Members at Large:
  - Kim Braun
  - Bob Kirby
  - Mary Meyer
  - Hans Post
- Editor: Dee Kirby
- Managing Editor: Rogers Davis
- **Mountain Lion: “Old Disappearance”**

### Inside this issue:

What's New at the Museum	2
A Message from the President	2
The Brass Ensemble of Castle Rock	3
Jim Sawatzki documents history	3
<b>Zebulon Pike's Expeditions</b>	3
Estemere Tour	4

## Model Crafter

Mr. Roy Holm has hand-crafted two miniature scale models of the Judd Eating House and the early Denver & Rio Grande depot, seen to the right, that were located in Palmer Lake.

See his work at the Vaile Museum. Mr. Holm has been a valued contributor in making the museum facility and exhibits a source of pride for the Palmer Divide area.

## What's New at the Museum?

The miniatures are no longer on display at the museum, replaced by holiday decorations. PLHS thanks members of the Pikes Peak Miniature Club of Colorado Springs for their time in setting up the display and sharing their miniatures.

The PPMC was formed in July 1977 as a member of the National Miniature Association known as "NAME," (National Association Miniature Enthusiasts.) The club has met once a month for 32 years. They have one surviving charter member and four members who have received their 30

year pins. Each month, the creative and artistic members, dedicated to the future of the miniature hobby, hold a hands-on-workshop.

The PPMC has sponsored one National Convention at the Antlers Hotel as well as three Southwest Roundup Regional Conventions in Colorado Springs. Proceeds from events are donated to local charities.

Each October, which is Miniature Month, PPMC exhibits miniatures at local libraries and other venues. The club has been invited

to exhibit at the Western Museum of Mining & Industry for the past two years.

PPMC recently donated 120 Christmas candle favors to the Annual Miniature Show in Denver to benefit the Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls & Toys. For more information about PPMC, phone President, Doris Dillie; 719-598-2987



## A Message from the President



This year we presented lifetime memberships to three of our supporters:

Joe and Alaina Bohler who give us permission every year to use one of Joe's paintings on the front of our Historical Calendar.

Roger and Kim Ward who graciously open their Victorian Mansion, Estemere, to public and private tours. (as a PLHS Fund Raiser)

Ms. Linda Lantz who has supported the museum for many, many years. Thanks to all of you.

2010 projects include getting the Palmer Lake Star registered on the list of Historic Places as it is believed to be the largest star of its kind in the United States; mounting various historical plaques and historical markers, revamping the Crawford Memorial; revising and re-

printing local history booklets plus maintaining and enlarging the museum.

I look forward to seeing you at the **Annual Membership Drive and Pot Luck Dinner on January 21, 2010 at the Palmer Lake Town Hall at 6:30 PM.** (Bring your renewal form and drop it in the basket) The Society will supply the meat, coffee and tea. Please join us and bring a favorite dish to share. Invite your family, friends and acquaintances. Bring items **from the Divide Area's past** or items that could have been for Show & Tell following dinner. Please share with us how you acquired the item and any information you may have about it. Please pray for good weather.

Memberships are the very foundation which allows the

society to exist and carry on the important functions of preserving historical documents, photographs and artifacts pertinent to the Tri-Lakes area. In addition, we fund and support the Lucretia Vaile Museum; the only museum devoted to the local history of the Tri-Lakes/Palmer Divide area. If **you haven't visited the museum** put it on your list of places see in 2010? We truly appreciate and thank YOU, the local merchants, program presenters and all the volunteers who work behind the scenes for your continuing support and commitment to preserve the history of our area. It is through caring, good people like you that we can continue to preserve and protect the **Historical Heritage we have been entrusted with!**

*Phyllis V. Bonser*

"For a people to be without History, or to be ignorant of its history, is as for a man to be without memory—condemned forever to forfeit the rich pleasures of recollection."

Henry Steele Commager  
(1902 - 1998)

## August: The Brass Ensemble of the Castle Rock Band

Text from Bernard L. Minetti's article to Our Community News

"On August 20, the Castle Rock Trombone Ensemble, which is loosely associated with the Castle Rock Band, presented a medley of

pieces specifically orchestrated for the trombone quintet. They opened the evening with "The Star Spangled Banner" and performed seven additional pieces, including "Kensington Portraits" and "Ode to Joy" from Beetho-

ven's Ninth Symphony. The final piece was "When the Saints Meet Lassus Trombone Variations."

Doug Stroup, the group's leader, is from the Tri-Lakes area. Rod Classen and Dwight Hein are from Castle

Rock, Tod Ellis hails from Colorado Springs, and Larry Tallant comes from Elizabeth. They have been together for approximately five years and play all their presentations *pro bono*."

## September: Jim Sawatzki Documents History

Text paraphrased from Bernard L. Minetti's article to Our Community News

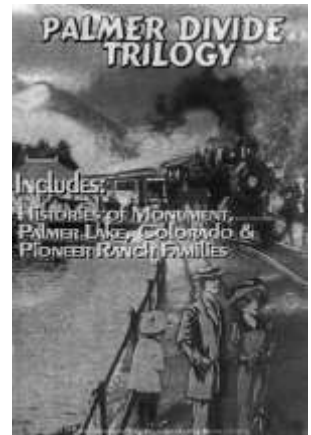
Local resident, Jim Sawatzki, nationally known for his documentaries on historical events and people, spoke to the PLHS meeting about his projects. In 1992, he began making documentaries. They have been featured on local PBS affiliates, local TV channels and nationally on A &

E's Biography Channel.

An art teacher for most of his career, Sawatzki believed children, in particular, would be drawn to a video presentation on historical subjects rather than having to learn them from a history book. He has now made it his life's work giving presentations to schools, libraries and other interested organizations. He continues to di-

rect and produce DVD documentaries. One of his works is the "Palmer Divide Trilogy" which provides a glimpse of the Divide area from prehistoric times through the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Sawatzki's videos are available at the Lucretia Vaile Museum which is open on Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM.



## October: Zebulon Pike's Expeditions

Text paraphrased from Bernard L. Minetti's article to Our Community News

Air Force Lt. Col. Paul Seeling discussed the two major expeditions Zebulon Pike took into the northern and southwestern areas of the early United States in 1805-07.



In the first expedition, Pike was to find the source of the Mississippi River, select sites for military posts, establish trading relations with the northern Indian tribes and ascertain the activities of the English traders

On his second expedition, which at one point took Pike into the Colorado Springs area, he was to restore Osage Indian captives back to their people, consummate a permanent peace treaty between the Osage and Kansas tribes, establish friendly relations with the Comanche tribe and acquire knowledge of the southwest boundary of the Louisiana Territory. The western boundary of the Louisiana Purchase went

through the Colorado Springs area.

Zebulon Montgomery Pike Jr. (January 5, 1779 - April 27, 1813) was an American soldier and explorer for whom

Pike's Peak in Colorado is named. His Pike expedition, often compared to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, mapped much of the southern portion of the Louisiana Purchase.



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Stamp



Address Label

*"History Should Be More Than a Memory."* (rmd)

Visit Us At: <http://www.PalmerDivideHistory.org>

## The Pikes Peak Coalition of Historic Museums

On November 11, 2009, The Pikes Peak Coalition of Historic Museums had their meeting and a tour of the Lucretia Vaile Museum. They were then given a tour of Estemere by Roger Ward assisted by Society members dressed in period costumes

The Coalition of Museums helps members improve their efforts to provide educational opportunities and engaging exhibits to the public. The PLHS is a member.



L to R Mary Meyer, Kellie O'Regan, Sharon Jarnagin and Kim Braun