



P. L. Historical Society

Serving The Palmer Divide Area Since 1956



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: Judith Harrington
- Treasurer: Victor Vaile
- Museum Director: Rogers Davis
- Board Members at Large:
 - Kim Braun
 - Pat McCarthy
 - Hans Post
 - Jim Sawatzki
- Editor: Dee Kirby
- Managing Editor: Rogers Davis
- **Mountain Lion:** "Old Disappearance"

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Ice Harvesting on Palmer Lake

By: Herbert "Hobie" Edwards

Locally, Monument is associated with ice harvesting. Ice was cut from Monument Lake from 1901 to 1943. Ice harvesting also began on Palmer Lake when in the fall of 1873 a group of English capitalists leased the lake from the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad and had an ice house built on the northwest shore just south of the present fishing pier/platform/deck.

Sometime after the 1877 ice harvest and prior to the 1882 harvest, the D&RG took over Palmer Lake's ice harvesting. It was reported in March 1882 that the D&RG had shipped "900,000 tons of ice ...from the lake on the Divide," which amounted to \$30 to \$40 worth of ice shipped daily. In 1883, the original ice house was apparently torn down when the railroad deepened and enlarged the lake to approximately its present size.

In 1889, the railroad constructed facilities for a large scale ice harvesting operation. A five-unit frame, ice house was constructed at the south end of the lake, along with a skid-way, over 1,000 feet long. They also constructed ice handling machinery to get the cut ice

into the houses plus icing platforms for loading the blocks of ice into freight cars. Ultimately, three spur tracks totaling over 4,000 feet in length were constructed to accommodate freight cars to be loaded with ice.

Reports of the ice cutting on Palmer Lake indicated that it was quite an operation:
 January, 1886: D&RG was "...taking out forty cars of ice per day from Palmer Lake. . . . The ice is eight inches thick and very clear."
 November, 1888: "The ice crop at Palmer Lake is worth about \$3,000 a year."
 December, 1897: "The D&RG expects to ship out 1,000 cars (of ice)."
 February, 1899: "The ice crop at Palmer Lake, in regular figures, shows that 18,000 tons of ice was cut , , Four teams [of horses] were employed [to cut ice] and about forty men assisted."



Earliest known picture of Summit Lake, to be renamed Divide Lake and finally Palmer Lake. 1st, Ice House, privately owned, ca 1873

Ice harvesting was dangerous work according to newspaper accounts.

February 1900, "A boy named George Elliot, who was running an ice cutting machine on the lake, was dragged under by the ice giving way under his horse [pulling an ice plough]. The boy and horse were rescued with difficulty."

January 1915, "Mr. Harry Street, who has been working on the ice, was badly hurt, Friday afternoon, when he slipped and fell on an ice saw. Four points entered his side about an inch

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What's New at the Museum?

By: Sharon Jarnagin

“The birds seem to consider the muzzle of my gun as their safest position.”

Attributed to Sydney Smith (1771 - 1845)



Our latest exhibits at the museum are courtesy of local Palmer Lake resident, Jerry DalFerro. On display are a few of his photographs that highlight the natural beauty of this area. DalFerro is well known for his ability to attract numerous hummingbirds to his feeders at one time and for taking stunning photos of them. In 2008 at a PLHS monthly program, he presented a slide show of the hummingbirds

Also, one of DalFerro's many hobbies and talents is cutting rough semi-precious stones. His faceting equipment as well as stones that he has cut, including his own design called the “Colorado Star,” are on display.

Come see this fascinating exhibit through the month of March. To find out if the exhibit has been extended through April or to inquire about the next exhibit, please call Sharon at 481-2488.



Broad-Tailed Hummingbird

This broad-tailed hummingbird, *Selasphorus platycercus*, hovers above a honey-suckle flower, creating its characteristic humming sound with its wings. The specialized skeletal structure of the hummingbird, shared only by its relative the swift, allows its wings to twist. Able to produce 22 to 78 of these wing move-

ments per second, the bird can hover forward and backward while it drinks from a flower. Hummingbirds belong to the Trochilidae family of birds, which contains the smallest birds in the world.

Photo and descriptive text is from Microsoft Encarta 2004

A Message from the President

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I would like to begin my message with a great big **THANK YOU** to our volunteers who have faithfully made reminder calls each month to inform you of the upcoming meeting. They are Bonnie Allen, Ethel Engel, Tommy Jackson, Margie Maloney, Jodie Watkins and Paula Whittier. Some of these ladies have been calling for years! The monthly phone calls will be discontinued. Those people with e-mail will receive a notice for the monthly meeting. Those without e-mail will continue to be called if they wish. If you have not received a notice, please give me a call (481-9245).



Those faithful souls who distribute the posters for each meeting deserve a great big **THANKS** They are Mal & Tommy Jackson, Bob Kirby, Sharon Kuykendall, Gerry McDuffee, Mary Meyer, Kim Braun, Hans Post, Al Walter and Phyllis Bonser.

THANKS to Rhettta Walter, who chaired the Refreshment Committee, and all of you who brought goodies and helped in the kitchen! This year, three volunteers offered to run the committee: Bonnie Allen, Janis Fraze, and Mary Meyer. Please sign up to help with the goodies!

I would like to acknowledge the Museum Docents: Bar-

bara Arbuthnot, Sharon Jarnagin, Dee Kirby, Marjorie Kline, Gerry McDuffee, Mary Meyer, Raymond Proctor, and Rodger Voelker. They keep the museum open, accession objects, set up displays, and do many other projects in the museum under the direction of Rogers Davis, Museum Director.

A non-profit organization like ours needs many volunteers. Please consider how you can use your talents to help.

VOLUNTEERS: THANK YOU ALL FOR HELPING IN OUR VARIOUS PROJECTS!

Phyllis V. Bonser

Ice Harvesting on Palmer Lake, cont.

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and it was necessary to take several stitches.”

under the chute of the ice-house at Palmer Lake, according to the confession of W. D. White, a cat

that ice was cut by private contractors with the permission of the railroad. In December 1926, the railroad officially retired its icing facilities at Palmer Lake, ending over 50 years of formal ice harvesting on the lake of which 40 involved the railroad itself.

Upper Reservoir was completed in 1905. There are no accounts of ice being harvested from it.



Ice House at Palmer Lake ca 1889

February 1916, “L. W. Chase was the only one who fell through the ice this winter while it was being cut.”

Disaster struck on May 17, 1908 when the railroad’s large wooden ice houses at the south end of the lake were destroyed by fire, which included 6,000 tons of ice. The damage was estimated to be from \$10,000 to \$30,000.

The *Colorado Springs Gazette*, in November 1908, reported, “Jewelry to the value of \$600 lies hidden

burglar, who told Sheriff O. P. Grimes that he had secreted much of his booty when he robbed the D&RG freight car at Palmer Lake two years ago and took more than \$1,000 worth of medals and jewels.” It is interesting to note that the ice house had burned that previous May.

Exactly when the D&RG stopped cutting and/or using its ice facilities at Palmer Lake is unclear. Since some of the structures remained in place until 1926, it is possible

D&RG built the First (Lower) Reservoir in North Monument Canyon in 1887 and according to newspaper accounts, at least in 1902 ice was cut from the reservoir. In January, it was reported that the ice was “fine and clear as window glass and twelve inches thick.” A D&RG representative estimated that there was enough ice to cut to fill 25 railroad cars. The Second or

THE GLEN’S ICE HOUSE

At some point, a large ice house was built in the Glen, which stood opposite the picnic grounds on the north side of Lover’s Lane. Constructed of logs and large timbers, it remained until the late 1940s or early 1950s. This may well have been the place where the ice was kept until delivered to local stores and some houses in town until electric refrigeration became somewhat common. Today, absolutely nothing remains of the Glen’s ice house.



Manitou Mineral Waters

The undersigned are now prepared to deliver these Waters daily in all parts of the city. - Our facilities are complete for shipping in large or small quantities to any section of the country. .

DIVIDE LAKE ICE

We have a large quantity of this Ice which we are prepared to deliver at all hours of the day or night. Particular attention is called to the fact that all of our Ice is from the DIVIDE LAKE, and therefore free from the alkali which is prevalent in all creek ice.

Appeared in a paper in April, May and July 1877.

Palmer Lake Historical Society
PO Box 662
66 Lower Glenway
Palmer Lake, CO
80133-0662

Stamp



Address Label

“History Should Be More Than a Memory.” (rmd)

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

2010 Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua

Planning has begun by the Palmer Lake Historical Society for the **2010 Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua**. The original Chautauqua Assembly came to Palmer Lake in 1886 and was an annual summer event for more than two decades. The Chautauqua Assembly provided entertainment, education, inspiration and outdoor recreation to **enrich people's lives**.

The 2010 Chautauqua will build on the success of last years' event, which drew almost 1000 people to historic Palmer Lake over the three-day period. History-related events will include more interactive activities for the entire family such as how to make candles, pick-

les, etc. and how to milk a cow/goat, build a teepee, etc. Also planned is a Civil War encampment, a campfire sing-a-long, a ghost tour, an exhibition by the Fort Carson Mounted Cavalry, a petting zoo, pony rides, and much more.

The Vaudeville show, a big success, will return. If you, or someone you know, has a musical talent or are gifted with a quirky or unusual forte' that would fit into a family style 1900's Vaudeville show, phone Mary at 719-487-1030 or email marymeyer53@comcast.net. This is an unpaid gig, but we promise that after the show you will be a local legend.

We welcome volunteers to join various committees to help plan and support the 2010 Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua. No experience required, only

enthusiasm. If you would like to help, call Al Walter at 719-559-0525 or email him at wldrdr@hotmail.com.

