

President's Message to the Membership...



Folks, thank you for allowing me to serve you for the year 2014. I have been on the board for one year in 2013 and came into this position with a hefty respect for the unique town of Palmer Lake and an even greater respect for the Northwest corner of El Paso county. This includes the towns and communities of Palmer Lake, Greenland, Spring Valley, Tower Rock, Gwillimville, Husted, and Pring. This also includes the more modern areas of Woodmoor, Gleneagle, Kingsdeer, Brentree, Arrowwood and any the others in this very historic corner of the county. The thing that drew me most to this office was the many historic presentations sponsored by the Palmer Lake Historical Society and the quality of the members of the society. So, thanks, for giving me the opportunity to help you grow your Society.

I was very impressed at the acceptance of the \$5 increase in membership dues and the willingness of the members to include the dues fees and donations in the membership drive in January. You are a very impressive group. Thanks!

PLHS presents a second monthly historical presentation this spring and fall

I suspect one of the first new things that you will notice is the additional presentation we will host each month on the Second Tuesday of each month in the Spring and Fall seasons. The first of these was held on 11 March where the topic addressed was the Black Forest Fire. Your board felt this is an important topic because of the events of the past two years. We plan to have at least two follow ups on the fires and what to do in your personal life to prepare.

One will be given by John Putnam, retired insurance executive, who was appointed as the go-between for the residents of both fires and the insurance companies and the other by the local fire departments on how to prepare to survive the "coming fires."

You society has offered our support to the Town of Palmer Lake in its quest to secure a "Firewise" grant from the State of Colorado to assist town residents in preparing their property to survive a fire. As has been demonstrated in both Waldo Canyon and Black Forest, those families who prepared their homes for wildfires in many cases had their homes survive the effects of the fires. This is a worthy effort and your society encourages you to participate.

Our regular presentations scheduled on the Third Thursday of the month continue in our proud tradition of quality presenters expanding our members' knowledge of the past for their daily lives. Your society continues to appreciate your regular attendance at these presentations and especially the wonderful donations of such great refreshments that always top these gatherings off to perfection.

As those of you have attended the February and March gatherings have noticed, both the sign up for refreshments and the jar for cash have been circulated. The refreshments are to assist in topping off the gatherings with the joyful delights of members' kitchens and the cash goes to assisting the Vaile Museum in correcting the issues brought out in our Assessment Review conducted by a professional evaluator. The current effort is to meet the illumination standards required in an institution to ensure no fading damage to our exhibits. Thank you to those of you who donate and please do not feel any pressure to donate.

While discussing the state of the Society, I would also like to thank the dedication of the docents of the Museum who have been placed under greater stress to ensure the Museum is open 120 days a year, which is a requirement placed on the Museum to be eligible for State and Federal Grants. To meet this requirement the Museum is now open Saturdays -10 to 3, Wednesdays - 1 to 3 and on the Third Thursday - 6 to 7 prior to the monthly gatherings and presentations. To join the docent committee, please come to the Museum at 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month. The training program is very easy and experienced docents will partner with trainees for their first several tours of duties.

Your Society is pursuing several grants to provide growth seen as necessary for the improvement of the Society and the Vaile Museum. Recently, one of our members attended a class given on the "Preservation of Garments" and we have other members signed up for similar classes.

Several of these grants will provide a basis for "planning for emergency situations" and improvement of the Museum Environment Support Systems (another finding in our last year's assessment.) The Board will provide you with follow-ups of our progress in these areas.

Your Board has established standing committees of members and the Board for the events of the Society coming up for 2014, these include the "Fathers' Day Ice Cream Social" in June, the "All Nations Pow Wow" on 19 and 20 July at the Freedom Financial Center, and the Chautauqua in early August. All committees are looking for additional members to assist in the planning and execution of these long time events. Please sign up at any of our gatherings. We are also looking at holding an event at Maguireville this summer and need assistance in this event, also.

If you want to discuss things with me, please feel free to contact me at 719-481-8273 or my email: robsmom@pcsys.net Tom

Vaile Museum Hours

10-3 p.m. Saturdays
1-3 p.m. Wednesdays
1-3 on the Third Thursday
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.

GIFT PLANNING

Have you wondered how to include a gift to the Palmer Lake Historical Society or the Lucretia Vaile Museum in your will or trust. If so, read on to see how simple it is to make a difference for years to come.

The legal term for a gift in your will or trust is a "bequest." The gift can be included in the distribution language of a last will and testament or a revocable living trust. The Palmer Lake Historical Society periodically receives bequests from former members.

State law in all 50 states dictates that the debts of the deceased person are to be paid before any distributions are made to beneficiaries. After all debts have been paid, charitable gifts are fulfilled in a specific order. Specific requests, which have a specific dollar amount going to a person or an organization such as the Historical Society, are distributed first.

If you are thinking about including a gift to the Historical Society in your will or trust, there are many different options. Your attorney can help you find the type of bequest that works best for your unique situation. Two forms of bequests are "Specific Bequests," explained above, and a "Contingency Provision Clause," which is used when you want to name the Palmer Lake Historical Society as a substitute beneficiary if your primary beneficiary passes before you do.

Bequests are a favorite gift type because of the flexibility, allowing you to create a gift that works for you and your loved ones. When you decide to add a charitable gift to your estate plans, please consider a bequest to the Palmer Lake Historical Society. However, it is important to seek the assistance and guidance of an estate planner or attorney when considering any charitable gift in your will or trust.

by Al Walter

Photos of the Palmer Lake Railroad Depot Back When...



Photo courtesy Jim Jordan, Palmer Lake Historical Society Archives



Palmer Lake depot in its early days. Photo courtesy Jim Jordan, Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Society

Palmer Lake Historical Society

Board of Directors 2014

President - Tom VanWormer
 President Emeritus - Phyllis Bonser
 Vice President - J Patrick McCarthy
 Secretary - Bernard L. Minetti
 Treasurer - Barbara Arbutnot
 Museum Director - Rogers Davis

Directors-at-Large

Al Walter
 Georgia Follansbee
 John Vincent
 Tom Dickinson

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 8, 2014, 7:00 P.M. -- Jack Anthony's History of the Palmer Lake Star

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

May 13, 2014, 7:00 P.M. -- John Putnam - Interface with the Insurance Industry

May 15, 2014, 7:00 P.M. -- "Maggie: She Went West for the Cure" Mary Ann Davis

June 10, 2014 7:00 P.M. -- John Vincent - Preparing your property for Wildfire

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.

"This is one of the few times I have found an article that made railroading on the Colorado Midland Railway sound a little like life in an Western Movie." --Tom VanWormer, President, Palmer Lake Historical Society and Secretary, Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Society

8-26-1890 – LANGDON LAID LOW – Sheriff Jackson, of El Paso County, Captures Him on a Midland Train – AFTER DESPERATE STRUGGLE – A telegram was received by Sheriff White at 10 o'clock this morning, from Sheriff Jackson, of El Paso county, informing him that he had captured Langdon, and asking for instructions as to what disposition to make of him. Sheriff White immediately wired to hold him and that he would come after him. In accordance therewith, the sheriff left over the Midland this afternoon for Colorado Springs, and will return with his man tomorrow night. The circumstances of Langdon's capture are as follows: Sheriff Jackson left here Monday night over the Midland en route to Colorado Springs. After the train had left Leadville he saw Langdon on the train and undertook his arrest. The latter fought the sheriff desperately and had to be knocked down several times before he was overpowered. During the struggle a number of passengers took a hand, and at one time it looked as if a general row would take place, as there were 150 passengers on board, and all were more or less excited. The supposition is, that after Langdon succeeded in escaping from the conductor of the Rio Grande at Grand Junction, he made his way over the mountains to Leadville, where he had friends, who concealed him, and then kept him out of the way of the officers. The news of his arrest will be very gratifying to those who entrusted their money in his hands and his reception here, will not be in the nature of an ovation by any means. Aspen Daily Chronicle

Follow on article: 8-28-1890 – LANGDON'S RETURN – William McKenzie, alias "W.E. Langdon," was brought back to the city last night in shackles and in the custody of Sheriff White and Marshal Crowder. The officials were taking no chances on Langdon's escape, for he had proved himself both a sprinter and a fighter. When Langdon stepped off the Midland train last evening among the crowd who knew him well the rattling of his chains must have grated very harshly on his ears.

When he was taken to jail he begged to have the shackles taken from his feet, but the sheriff said no. He has put shackles on all the prisoners and this will somewhat dampen the ardor of those enterprising criminals who are inclined to dig out of their cells. The old jail is not safe and with the record of attempted breaks that have been made. Sheriff White no longer intends to take chances of a prisoner getting away.

Langdon said to the reporter that he had nothing to say in regard to his recent escapade. Nevertheless he told everything about his adventure that the public cares to hear. He got to Aspen Junction all right where he was arrested by conductor Riley Miller. In his flight after he escaped from

Frank Hotchkiss, he says he got mixed up and took the wrong direction. He had to swim the river twice to get on the road up Frying Pan.

When asked where he stayed the night, he replied that he didn't stay anywhere but just kept traveling. Sometime next morning he said a train overtook him and he boarded it and got into Leadville. There he remained secreted for three days and nights and then decided to go to Denver. It was while on the train that he was captured by Sheriff Jackson.

In reply to a question as to how much money he went away with, Langdon said it would have to be proved that he went away with any money. He, however, assigned no other reason for his sudden flight and reluctance to return. He admitted that he held stakes for James Madden and Jack Grant to the amount of \$110, and that when he was captured, he had on his person \$138, which Sheriff Jackson turned over to Marshal Crowder.

The story of Langdon's arrest shows that he is a desperate man, and Sheriff White is right in keeping him carefully guarded. At first it was thought strange that he should have escaped from Hotchkiss, who is a big strong man, but it took Sheriff Jackson, Conductor Robinson, the colored porter, Mat and George Reynold's bother, all four, to hold him on the train.

Conductor Robinson saw Langdon at Aspen Junction when they attempted to put on the train to bring him to Aspen. When Langdon boarded his train at Leadville, he at once recognized him as the same fellow and told Sheriff Jackson. Mr. Jackson kept the man shadowed until the train got over into El Paso county. Then he came up behind Langdon as he was walking towards the door and remarked suddenly "Hello, Langdon." This caught the sleek sprinter off his guard and he turned around and answered. The sheriff remarked that he guessed he was Langdon sure enough and that he could consider himself under arrest. Although the train was going at full speed, Langdon made a break for the door and undoubtedly would have jumped off. The other gentlemen came to the sheriff's assistance and after a time the prisoner was conquered and remained very docile till lodged in the jail at Colorado Springs.

Langdon's right name is William McKenzie. He took the name of Langdon when he went on the variety stage. He has a brother, R.J, McKenzie, who works in Tourtelotte park. His brother was down to see him last night and held a short conference with him in jail. Aspen Daily Chronicle

Palmer Lake Historical Society Contributing Writers

Jack Anthony	Bernard Minetti
Dan Edwards	Tom Vanwormer
Roger Davis	Al Walter
Dee Kirby	J. Patrick McCarthy

(Your name could be here, too!)

Palmer Lake Historical Society

publishes this newsletter at
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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

Palmer Lake "Calaboose" to be Refinished



We all have seen the Palmer Lake Jail located on the east end of the Green by the Town Hall. Not too many of us have seen the inside. It is not too viewable as a matter of fact. In any case, you see the photo on the left and it shows the jail as it sits today. What we can't readily see is the rot and the mold that is presently infesting the log construction.

The Palmer Lake Historical Society, through the efforts of Al Walter, has made arrangements to restore the entire structure. The rotting wood will be replaced by authentic wood from the era in which the jail was built. The inside with its bed and furniture will also be restored to make the structure viewable for and by the public. Restoration should be complete by the Summer.
 Photo by Bernard Minetti

Compendium of monthly presentations for 2014

by Bernard Minetti
extracts courtesy of Our Community News

January 16, 2014 - "Who Killed Officer Burchfield?" & Potluck, Membership and Officer Installation



Dwight Haverkorn

The January meeting of the Palmer Lake Historical Society began with the annual Potluck consisting of many different food dishes provided by the attendees. This year a presentation by retired Colorado Springs Police Officer, Dwight Haverkorn, was rescheduled to this December meeting due to the snowstorm in November that caused the original presentation to be cancelled. The 2014 officers and directors of the Palmer Lake Historical Society were installed during the business session. They are President Tom VanWormer, Vice-President Pat McCarthy, Secretary Bernard Minetti, and Treasurer Barb Arbuthnot. Directors at large are Rogers Davis (also Lucretia Vaile Museum Director), Georgia Follansbee, Tom Dickinson, Jack Anthony, Al

Walter, and Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Chief, John Vincent. Following the installation of officers, Haverkorn gave a short history of the unsolved murder of Officer Burchfield. He described the suspect and his associates and the history of each. To this day the mystery has not been solved.

The Schedule of presentations for the 2014-year was then presented. They are:

February 20 - 7:00 p.m. "Tri-Lakes Ice Production, Storage, and Delivery" by Tom VanWormer
 March 20 - 7:00 p.m. "Doctor at Timberline - Medicine in the Late 1800's and Early 1900's" by John Stansfield.
 April 17 - 7:00 p.m. "Restoration of Cumbres & Toltec Railroad Cars" by John Eng
 May 15 - 7:00 p.m. "Maggie: She Went West for the Cure" by Mary Ann Davis
 June 15 - 2:00 p.m. "Father's Day Ice Cream Social" for

free ice cream and pie.

June 19 - 7:00 p.m. "Dragoons in the Revolution" by Brent Brown.

July 17 - 7:00 p.m. "Stories You May Not Have Heard" by Mel McFarland

August 21 - 7:00 p.m. "Finding Your Roots" by Chuck Leoffler

September 18 - 7:00 p.m. "A Palmer Lake Living History" by Dwight Haverkorn

October 16 - 7:00 p.m. "Sheriff Rankin Scott Kelly, First Sheriff of El Paso County" by John Wesley Anderson

November 20 - 7:00 p.m. "Mountain Man Jedediah Smith" by Dave Wallace

All presentations will take place in the Palmer Lake Town Hall on the dates and at the times specified. Refreshments will be served to all.

February 20, 2014 - "Tri-Lakes Ice Production, Storage, and Delivery"



Tom VanWormer

Palmer Lake Historical Society President, Tom VanWormer, presented an evening discussion entitled, "Tri-Lakes Ice Production, Storage, and Delivery." The essence of his talk was that ice production had become a viable and merchandisable business in the late 1890's and was centered in the Tri-Lakes area.

Palmer Lake and Monument Lake provided a source for commercial ice. Production of ice by

natural methods was the turning point in the transportation of perishable food items. It was beginning to allow for large amounts of food and meats to be sent all over the country by using refrigerated freight cars and overland trucks. With the advent of electrical refrigeration units, natural ice production began to decline and this was al-

most simultaneous with the temperature increase in the Tri-Lakes area during the winter that spoiled the freezing of the lakes.

He explained that in those days, temperatures in the Tri-Lakes area averaged below 0 in the both daytime and nighttime all winter season. This allowed for the formation of large amounts of ice that could be harvested from both lakes. In the 1920's, there appeared to be a reversal of that trend and the area winter temperatures began to be insufficient for the manufacture of commercial ice in these two lakes. He noted that at the same time as the temperature variation, commercial production of refrigeration containers for in-home and commercial use began in earnest.

In describing the commercial production and transport of items requiring refrigeration, VanWormer noted that by that time, commercial refrigeration had progressed to a point wherein sawdust had become a prime factor since it was the insulation utilized in railroad freight cars

and overland trucks. In the home, iceboxes began to be replaced with refrigerators with sawdust still the initial insulation factor.

He continued by noting that the American diet began to change because of this industry. Refrigeration began to allow for the transportation and storage of large amounts of foods that heretofore were not available in certain seasons. The ice industry had been a major industry in Palmer Lake and Monument and with the loss of this product the economic conditions declined.

The Palmer Lake Historical Society is now instituting two presentations per month. The first of these presentations will be held on Tuesday, March 11, and is entitled, "The Day The Forest Burned." Terry Stokka presents a documentary of the Black Forest fire of 1913. Stokka will discuss the causes that led up to severe fire danger and take you through the days of the fire and the ongoing recovery. This is a compelling story of heart-break and survival.

March 20, 2014 - "Doctor at Timberline: Medicine in the late 1800's & early 1900"



John Stansfield

Popular storyteller and historian, John Stansfield, portrayed Dr. Charles Fox Gardiner, a leader in the early days of tuberculosis treatment in the Pikes Peak region. Stansfield narrated the story of Gardiner in the first person. He discussed the upbringing and early days of Gardiner as a child in Europe as he lived among the wars in France. He discussed how Gardiner, as a child, saw the soldiers brought in from the battle

lines wounded in horrible fashion and how he had become inspired to medicine with what he saw.

Stansfield continued the story of Gardiner and how he came to Crested Butte, Colorado, following his completion of schooling to become a doctor. He briefly discussed Gardiner's arrival in Colorado Springs and his work there with those who had come west to be healed. He also elaborated on the primitive conditions in those days. This presentation in the "first person" helped the listeners to place themselves in the same time and place. The narration was superior in the form presented. Hopefully, Stansfield will come back... and often.

Stansfield is known for his storytelling talent and his work with the Chautauqua Assemblies. He was raised in Massachusetts and is now a resident of Colorado. He has been a teacher and storyteller since 1970 and has told stories professionally since 1979.

**Palmer Lake Historical Society
Board of Directors
meet in the**

Vaile Museum

**board room
at 6:30 p.m.
on the first**

Tuesday of each month

The Palmer Lake Historical Society is now presenting two historical presentations a month. One is on the second Tuesday and the other on the regular third Thursday of each month. The additional second seasonal presentations will take place in the spring and the fall until further notice.

Palmer Lake Historical Society

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Ludlow – The Hundredth Anniversary

The steel industry in Southern Colorado can trace its roots to 1872 and W.J. Palmer and his Southern Colorado Improvement Company. Part of the Southern Colorado Improvement Company charter was to build a steel mill in Southern Colorado. This resulted in the first integrated steel mill west of the Mississippi River (in South Pueblo at a place called Bessemer), the largest private landowner, and the largest employer in Colorado.

In the spring of 1901, J.C. Osgood, then president of Colorado Fuel & Iron (CF&I), purchased the Colorado portion of the Maxwell Land Grant, thus becoming the largest coal operator and ensuring their place in the Coal mine Operators Association and their Steering Committee. In 1903, John D. Rockefeller assumed control of CF&I.

In August 1913, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) decided to strike the Huerfano and Las Animas coal fields. The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) shipped large quantities of arms and ammunition to these counties. The operators responded in kind. The strike began on September 23, 1913. Any person on strike had to

vacate company housing. They moved to tent cities established by the UMWA. The largest of these was at Ludlow. That the strike would be vicious, was borne out by ten men being killed in the first ten weeks of the strike. In October of 1913, Governor Ammons ordered State Militia into the Southern strike zone, and in February 1914 most were withdrawn.

On April 20 of 1914, a military detachment was fired upon. After being reinforced from a nearby facility, they returned fire. The firefight resulted in at least eleven dead, mostly women and children, and was called a massacre by the UMWA. The strike continued until the end of the year. During that time President Wilson ordered Federal troops into the strike zone to maintain order. Several initiatives were presented to end the strike. The UMWA terminated the strike in December 1914.

In 1915, J.D. Rockefeller initiated the Employee Representation Plan, a company union. In 1933, the company recognized the UMWA. Later the Mine Safety Administration came into being.

by J. Patrick McCarthy

Sister Nation Color Guard at the 2012 POWWOW



This year, the Powwow will be held on July 19 and 20 at the Freedom Financial Center. It is located at 3650 North Nevada Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80907. See you there?

Photo by Bernard Minetti

Palmer Lake in Washington State (Wishful thinking?)

