

P. L. Historical Society & Vaile Museum News

Serving The Tri-Lakes 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: Dee Kirby
- Secretary: Bob Kirby
- Treasurer: Victor Vaile
- Museum Director: Roger Davis
- Cougar: Old Disappearance
- For Membership Information call 559-0837 or see our website.

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In the beginning; the Palmer Lake Historical Society

By: Dee Kirby

Good things don't happen by themselves. The effort takes active people with active interests to get the job done. So it was with the formation of the Palmer Lake Historical Society. Marian McIntyre McDonough and her Palmer Lake History Committee urged the creation of a Palmer Lake Historical Society for the purpose of preserving history and promotion of continued study of historical events that occurred in Palmer Lake, Monument and the surrounding area. The PLHS was incorporated on October 18, 1956 as a non-profit, educational institution.

PLHS' first order of business concentrated on publishing, "Palmer Lake, A Historical Narrative," by Marion Savage Sabin. Because much research for the manuscript had been done

by the town library committee, chaired by Dr. Evalena Macy, minister of the Little Log Church, Sabin gave the manuscript to this group in 1942.

In the fall of 1956, the Historical Society resurrected the handwritten text which McDonough read aloud to a group of Palmer Lake residents at a series of public meetings. The PLHS decided to publish it. The editorial task fell to Lloyd McFarling, editor, historical researcher, writer and former official of Palmer Lake who said, "I have only edited the manuscript: I have not rewritten it." The cloth-bound copy sold for \$2.00 and the paper-bound copy sold for \$1.50.

As the years passed, the Society embraced the history of the whole of the Tri-Lakes area. Today, the Society publishes area history books and main-



Marian Dorothy McIntyre, age 10

tains the Lucretia Vaile Museum. "History Should Be More Than A Memory." - RMD

Marian McIntyre McDonough: 1898-1990

By: Dee Kirby

Natalie Soto wrote in the Rocky Mountain News, Jan. 12, 1990, "McDonough was an independent woman who eloped at 17 wearing galoshes."

Married to Lt. Col. Rogers Maxwell McDonough for 65 years, McDonough said, "I guess it wasn't a bad match after all."

McDonough packed a lot of life

into her 92 years. She made bathtub gin during Prohibition, wrote five historical novels about the wild-west, which led to a feature of her in *Life* magazine in 1960 and wrote a column for the Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph.

A member of the Colorado Pen Women and the Colorado Authors League, McDonough served as the first president of

PLHS.

"She was independent and a little stubborn. "She lived life to its fullest and taught her Grandchildren to value history.,," said her grandson, Rogers Davis, current Director of the Lucretia Vaile Museum.

The name "Teddy Bear" originated with President Theodore Roosevelt refusing to shoot a small bear cub, in a tree.

What's New at the Museum?

By: Sharon Jarnagin

"Who Let the Bears Out," is the current display of stuffed Teddy bears, a collection that belongs to Rogers and Susan Davis. The story begins when Rogers was a small child. Of all the Teddy bears Rogers may have loved as a child, he brought two, very old stuffed Teddy bears, whose fur had been loved off, into his marriage with Susan.

Susan said that when they got married her mother made her get rid of all her stuffed animals. Her mother said, "A woman didn't take stuffed animals into a marriage."

From the day the couple said "I do," Rogers has given Susan a new bear every year to replace those she had to give up. They range in size from one to twelve inches and come in shades of browns, beige's and even reds.

We thank them for sharing this cute, whimsical display, sure to delight the child within us all as well as the stuffed animal collector.

The story behind the Teddy bear originates with Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt, United States President in November 1902.

An avid outdoorsman, he took a break from politics to go on a bear hunt. When he refused to shoot a small bear cub in a tree, the Washington Post newspaper ran a cartoon of him and the bear. Soon, a small toy company began making stuffed bears. They labeled them "Teddy" bears in reference to the President's nickname. Nearly a hundred years later, most people in the United States still call a child's stuffed bear, a Teddy bear.

As for real bears, black bears do live in the foothills and mountains of Colorado. They emerge from hibernation from mid-April to late May. Every summer there are numerous sightings in town. We must all do our part to remember never to feed or approach them, but it is fun to observe and take photos.

Pictures of local bears, taken by Anne Shimek and Sharon Jarnagin are on display at the museum. Also on display are numerous brochures and printed material about real bears provided by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

A Message from the President



Fellow members, I am delighted to have this opportunity to introduce you to the first issue of our PLHS Quarterly Newsletter and to its editor, author and Board member Dee Kirby.

This year, PLHS is working on a project to record oral histories from long-time area residents.

As part of the PLHS continuous contribution to the community, it sponsors programs of historical interest, which are presented every third Thursday of the month at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. These meetings are free and open to the general public.

We have great meetings at the Town Hall. Come join us for we have lots of fun. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Bring friends & family!

PLHS Co-Sponsoring the "Artwalls 2007" project in Monument



Monument Lake Ice Harvest - ca 1910

The Historical Society is represented on the Tri-Lakes Views committee and is proud to be a co-sponsor of their new community project located in the Town of Monument.

Tri-Lakes Views is a unique group that is devoted to the marriage of art and history

throughout the area. Their current project is a large mural picturing men taking part in an "Ice Harvest" on Monument Lake. The mural has a 3 dimensional component and will be located on a town building, on the corner of Beacon Lite and Second St. We believe that this high visibility mural will present

an opportunity for the PLHS to further promote the history of the area. The ice harvest continued on Monument Lake until 1943 when a windstorm blew the five large ice storage buildings down.

January: Annual Potluck, Story Swap & Honky Tonk!

Over fifty folks enjoyed the annual potluck with good, home-made food from salads to desserts. After dinner, a few members shared their stories.

Recent, winter weather reminded Virgil Watkins of his Minnesota boyhood. "We had nine months of winter and three months of poor sleighing and, in the 1970's, feisty broom-ball tournaments were held in Palmer Lake in the dead of

winter."

Rogers Davis told the story behind the Palmer Lake Star and the bronze replica of Bert Sloan's German Shepherd, Dizzy, who carried light bulbs and other supplies to the volunteers building the star on Sundance Mountain in 1935. "Dizzy represents the great volunteer spirit of Palmer Lake that continues today," he said.

Before and after the dinner stories, folks tapped their fingers and toes to local artist, Joe Bohler's honky-tonk piano. They said, "Bring Joe back."



Members of the board at Dizzy's dedication on September 21, 2006

February: Lincoln's Greatest Speech by John Snyder

John Snyder recited Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address in March of 1865. Considered his greatest speech, six minutes long, it was met with profound silence and mixed response from Lincoln's audience. Panned by The Chicago Times, it was deemed by The London Spectator as "the noblest political document known to history."

Snyder assessed Lincoln's speaking style and explored the implications of Lincoln's ad-

dress, which he said, "strove to unify the country in the wake of his Emancipation Proclamation." Snyder emphasized his point with Lincoln's words, "Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained." Lincoln concluded, "Fondly do we hope-ferverently do we pray-that this might scourge of war may speedily pass away...let us strive on to....achieve a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations." Forty-one days

later, John Wilkes Booth assassinated Lincoln.

A sing-along of Civil War songs, including *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *Grafted into the Army* and *Think of Your Head in the Morning* followed the presentation.

*"The noblest
political document
known to history"*

*Lincoln's second
inaugural address
given in 1865*

March: The Monument Tree Farm

Bryan Grossman (editor of the Tri-Lakes Tribune) and Brian "Chip" Fleming (past president of the Friends of the Monument Tree Preserve) spoke about the Monument Tree Farm, which the government started in 1904, and its connection to the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW), which became known as the Civilian Conservation Corps, or the CCC. In a move to rescue the U.S. from a crippling depression, newly-elected President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in-

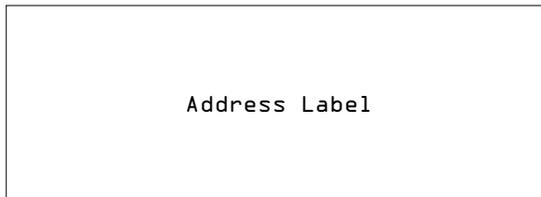
troduced the ECW in March, 1933. The CCC established 150 camps in 48 states, taught 40,000 illiterate men to read, and, before it was dismantled in 1942, its members built 97,000 miles of fire roads and planted three billion trees. In Monument, CCC members, who lived on the Tree Farm, planted and harvested trees, dug irrigation systems and constructed the Mt. Herman Road. Discontinued as a nursery in the 1950's, the site housed the

Pikes Peak Hotshots. Most of the Preserve, located west of Monument on Mt. Herman Road, is open to the public. There are hiking and biking trails, some original buildings and the Memorial Grove, which honors fallen firefighters. Brochures are at the entrance.



The Monument Tree Nursery - ca 1930
Monument Rock is in the background.

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Serving The Tri-Lakes Area Since 1956

Visit Us At: <http://www.ci.palmer-lake.co.us/plhs/>

Greenmont, Palmer Lake's Abandoned Cemetery

By: Jim Sawatzki

Did you know that Palmer Lake once had a cemetery? Until the opening of the new Greenland Open Space, it had been a secret place for over a hundred years. Part of Greenmont, it was dedicated as the town's cemetery in October of 1889.

One of the main trails, called Kipps Loop, leads hikers to its location on a high, lonely ridge. There, stands a tall, stone monument surrounded by an elaborate, wrought-iron fence. Today, one can rest on a wooden bench next to Kipps grave-site.

Besides the prominent Kipps stone, more graves lie just to the east, hidden in the scrub oak. A new stone marker was erected by the Dalton family in memory of a great grandmother interred there. Their family history is recorded on this beautiful, black stone. Greenmont was abandoned in the 1920's when most of the graves were moved to Monument's cemetery.

Originally, the site was purchased from the Ben Lomand Ranch, the first homestead in the area, which mostly lay in Douglas County. Years later it became part of the Greenland

Ranch spread, owned by the Higby family.



Edward Thomas Kipps: 1861-1889:
A leather merchant, husband and
U.S. citizen at age 27.