

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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An Immigrant Establishes Monument

By: Dee Kirby

The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad rolled through a section of Henry Limbach's 160 acres of land on January 1, 1872. The area, known as Henry's Station, was renamed by Limbach and the D&RG people to Monument after the "yellow rock" a beacon for all to see. On June 2, 1879, an election was held to incorporate the town of Monument. Twenty people cast their votes, seventeen for and three against. Limbach served as Monument's first mayor.

Limbach immigrated to this country from Germany in 1866, fought in the Civil War for the north, joined the Eighth Cavalry, so he could fight Indians and settled in Colorado in 1870. He bought land in partnership with his mother-in-law to be, Marie Linder. In 1872, Linder and her

daughter Caroline, from Germany, met Henry in St. Louis, MO. There, Caroline and Henry married.

An astute business man, Limbach acquired more land, opened up Limbach's Dry Goods & Millinery store, which Caroline managed for twelve years. He also opened a barber shop and saloon. A liquor license cost him \$250.

The couple raised six children, two daughters and four sons. Their first-born, Ed captured the curiosity of the Indians who often visited the Limbach home to peek into the windows to see the baby. By then, Limbach had switched allegiance from being an Indian fighter to being a close friend to Chief Ignacio of the Utes.

Caroline died at age 51. She and her mother are buried in the Monument Cemetery. Henry

died in Denver on June 1, 1918.



Henry Limbach, ca 1885

Monument Prospers

By: Dee Kirby

Industrious, hard-working pioneers added their style of entrepreneurship to Monument's fledgling start. Within ten years, Monument had several general stores, a hotel, a saloon, three churches, a drug store, a butcher shop, a doctor, a telegraph service, a private school, a newspaper, a jail, a park, a Confectionery Store, a livery

stable, blacksmiths, wagon wheel makers, a sawmill, a barber shop, a cemetery, running water, oil street lights, telephone service, a cheese factory and a creamery.

Divide potatoes, the best in the country, were the cash crop. In 1890, 1500 people attended the Monument Potato Bake. Two roasted beefs, four roasted sheep, two roasted hogs, fifty

bushels of potatoes, home-made bread, butter, cakes, pies and coffee fed all for free.

The "psyllid yellows," a blight caused by insects common on wild rose bushes ended the potato boom by 1900.

“Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty.”

- J. F. Kennedy

What's New at the Museum?

By: Sharon Jarnagin

"My Generation, Baby Boomers Reflections", is a nostalgic look back at growing up in the 1950s & 60s through personal items loaned to the museum by two local Boomers.

Born between 1946 and 1964, Boomers represent 76 million people nationally and approximately 30% of Colorado's population. You are probably a Baby Boomer on the verge of turning 60 if you remember adults fussing over Elvis Presley's risqué moves and where you were when you heard the news that John F. Kennedy died.

You may be a Baby Boomer if

you remember these:

Laurel & Hardy, Howdy Doody, The Lone Ranger, I Love Lucy, The Little Rascals, the Mickey Mouse Club, Ozzie & Harriet, Jackie Gleason,

The Ed Sullivan Show, Roy Rogers & Dale Evans, American Bandstand, Leave it to Beaver, Bonanza, Gunsmoke, hula hoops, slinky, candy cigarettes, soda pop in glass bottles, roller skate keys, drive-ins, Tinkertoys, erector sets, Lincoln logs, penny candy, five-cent pack of baseball cards with a pink slab of bubble gum, metal ice cube trays with levers, home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers, penny

loafers, circle pins, telephone party lines, 45 rpm records, green stamps, hi-fis, the Twist, Woodstock and hippies.

Whether a Baby Boomer or not, please visit the museum exhibit, enjoy and reminisce with us!



A Message from the President



The PLHS board is working on several projects throughout the Tri-Lakes Area.

PLHS plans to repair and replace the Historical Markers in front of the old homes on the Palmer Lake Walking Tour as well as the Monument Walking Tour. In conjunction with Douglas County, PLHS plans to post educational signage at the Greenmont Cemetery, which is located in Douglas County but was used by early Divide pio-

neers. An update on the History of the Little Log Church pamphlet is underway. PLHS continues to help catalog Jim Maguire's extensive historical collection housed on his Monument property. Oral histories of long-time Tri-Lakes residents continue. Also, a PLHS building committee is working with architect, Peter Kavanagh to pursue the possibility of expanding the museum which is sorely cramped for space. We wel-

come volunteers to help catalog our PLHS collection, staff the Museum, serve refreshments, conduct oral interviews and act as eyes and ears for future programs.

See you every 3rd Thursday of the month at the PLHS presentation Phyllis V. Bonser



Bill Crawford with President John F. Kennedy

Bill Crawford Memorial Gardens

By: Mary Meyer

PLHS is restoring the two gardens at the Bill Crawford Memorial at the north end of Palmer Lake. Neglected for years, gophers and weeds overran the gardens. Without access to regular water, maintaining the gardens was difficult. The County Parks Department enthusiastically agreed to install a

timer-valve thus ensuring that the gardens will receive adequate water as required.

The gardens and a stone memorial were erected for WWII veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, Bill Crawford, a Palmer Lake resident. A bench, donated by a local resident and his company, is now installed as a tribute to Mr. Crawford and

his bravery.

Pavers in the gardens were purchased by locals to help raise money to fill Palmer Lake. Come visit the memorial, the lake, sit on the new bench and enjoy the view and beauty of this great area.

April: Come Dizzy!

Excerpts from Diane Sawatzki's article to Our Community News

"He's poised at the base of Sundance Mountain, ready to carry supplies to volunteers as they build the Palmer Lake Star. You can almost feel him nuzzling your hand. You can almost hear him barking."

"Donna Arndt, the creator of the Dizzy, shared the challenges of making Palmer Lake's first pub-

lic sculpture at the April 19th Historical Society Meeting. The Society commissioned the artist to build the bronze German Shepherd to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary and the Vaile Museum's twenty-fifth. To build the armature, she made frequent visits to Home Depot for supplies, alarming some of the employees. "They were concerned the pipes I used wouldn't be up to code," she said,

"but I told them I was creating a sculpture, not a plumbing project."

"Dizzy's dedication was October 21, 2006, and now he stands facing the Star he helped build, honoring the volunteer spirit of Palmer Lake. Now he belongs to us all."



Dizzy, on the Palmer Lake Village Green across from the Town Hall

May: Emily Griffith: Denver's Schoolmarm Saint

Excerpts from Diane Sawatzki's article to Our Community News

"She never went to high school, yet Emily Griffith has her own stained glass window in the state capitol and her own chair at the Central City Opera. Dressed to the nines in period costume, Debra Faulkner portrayed educator Griffith at Palmer Lake Historical Society's May 17th meeting."

"Armed with an eighth-grade education, Griffith moved to Denver in 1894 and taught sixth and eight grades in Five Points. She was appalled by the immigrant population's high truancy rate, so set out to found a school that would meet the needs of working people. The school opened Sept. 9, 1916 and 1,400 eager applicants enrolled the first week."

"The visionary who spent her life helping countless students was granted honorary degrees from CU and UNC, was featured in a Time magazine article which dubbed her "Denver's Schoolmarm Saint," and was inducted into the Colorado Hall of Fame."



Emily Griffith

June: Father's Day Celebration

PLHS honored dads with a treat of ice cream, pie and Archie Archuleta on the piano at the Town Hall in Palmer Lake on June 17th. Approximately 70

people enjoyed the event. Virgil Watkins set-up tables and chairs in the Town Hall, while Jodi Watkins oversaw the pies, ice cream, ice tea and coffee.

PLHS thanks the Watkins for their dedication to PLHS and to the community of Palmer Lake.

PLHS Upcoming Events and Programs

PLHS upcoming events held at the Palmer Lake Town Hall on the 3rd Thursday of each month. All are welcomed free of charge. Doors open at 6:30 PM. The program begins at 7:00 PM. Refreshments are served.

August 16th: Professor Joan Fairchild will speak about the Chautauqua, a unique educa-

tional and recreational activity held in Palmer Lake until the early 1900's.

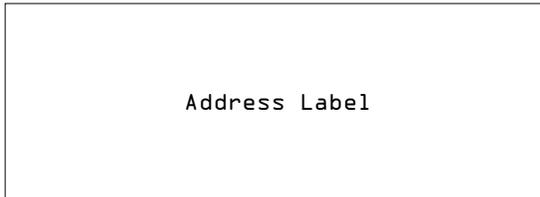
September 20th: Sam Defelice will share stories about his great, great, great, great grandfather "John Albert: Mountain Man"

October 18th: "The 1911 Colorado Springs Ax Murders." Learn

who-dunnit from Detective Dwight Haverkorn (ret.) Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD)



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The Cottage City of Glen Park

By: Jim Sawatzki

Glen Park is a triangular parcel of land situated between North and South Monument Creeks, below the Village of Palmer Lake. It was originally platted in the fall of 1886 as the cultural site for the first Chautauqua Assembly in the Rocky Mountain West. It was an idyllic location that soon evolved into a summer resort as the Glen Park Association began selling private lots for a summer resident population.

A large auditorium that could seat up to 500 people was built at the intersection of Crescent and Chautauqua streets. Its eastern wall

opened on hinges so that attendees seated outside could view within. The auditorium's location defined the western end of the official assembly grounds which continued east between Corso and Walnut streets and ended at Virginia.

For nearly twenty years, the Chautauqua Assembly held sway at Glen Park. Its educational and cultural influences put Palmer Lake on the map, defining it as one of the most popular summer resort communities along the Front Range. The only remaining assembly structure that can still be seen is the eight-sided Octavia, which served as a refresh-

ment stand and ticket kiosk for program attendees.

Learn more about Glen Park and the Chautauqua movement from the PLHS upcoming TV documentary "Summer Sojourn" that will premier this September 2007. Stay tuned.



The Glen Park "Chautauqua" auditorium which had a capacity of about five-hundred people. Ca 1905