

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: Richard Cooper
- 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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John Fielder & Chuck Pyle

Dec. 12, 2007



L-R Mary Meyer, Bob & Dee Kirby, and Sharon Jarnagin
PLHS members all, enjoy the Fielder ~ Pyle event.

By: Dee Kirby

A capacity crowd enjoyed The Palmer Lake Historical Society fund raiser in collaboration with the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts held on December 12. The dynamic duo of John Fielder, who presented a slide show of his photographs with commentary, and Chuck Pyle, who presented a mini-concert from his new CD "Higher Ground," created a magical evening for all in attendance.

Both men share a passion for Colorado. Pyle called Fielder "The Eyes of Colorado" whereas Fielder referred to Pyle's "cowboy music" as "evocative of everything Colorado stands for."

Pyle's critics write that his search of an 'inner life' is evident in his "thought-



provoking performance" that is at once hopeful and skeptical." As a result, his reviewers called him the "Zen Cowboy." Adopting his nickname with fervent action, Pyle shaved his head and "Blended his upbeat perspective with old-fashioned horse sense."

"Always ride the horse in the direction it's going," says Pyle.

Fielder, who hikes and skis 500 miles a year, finds that his photography allows him to be in nature. He wrote, "I love the sights, sounds, smells and weather of different places such as mountains, deserts, plains and coasts. I enjoy isolating the order out of the chaos within the viewfinder of the camera."

Fielder and Pyle pulled the audience into their spiritual-

ity uniquely reflected in their own way through their chosen vocations. Thank you Chuck and John.

Proceeds from the event will help fund Jim Sawatzki's documentaries and a historical marker for Monument's future town hall.

A special thanks to the restaurants who so generously contributed food for the event.

Bella Panini, The B & E, The Mosaic, Pinz Bowling Alley, Safeway, Three Margaritas, Chili's and Wal-Mart.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped with the sale of tickets, books and CD's. and special thanks to TLCA and Suzy O'Banion for all her hard work.



Chuck Pyle

"In ice harvest days, the winters were COLD! From the first of November you could always plan on the weather to range from 10 to 20 below zero every night until the first of February"

- LVM

What's New at the Museum?

By: Sharon Jarnagin

Our new display being assembled in the Museum is "Ice Harvest". This was a profitable business for both Monument & Palmer Lake & employed many people from 1901 - 1943. Some of the original tools used in harvesting ice along with many historic photographs can be viewed.

The wages in those days were 40 cents per hour for men working ten hours a day, 7 days a week. Men were paid \$2.00 a day for their team of horses. In

1920, Doyle replaced the horse-drawn plows for cutting ice with two gasoline powered plows, (saws) which took the place of six horses and ten men. In a largely agrarian economy, the ice-harvest provided critical Winter employment for 40 to 50 men.

If you have a collection that you'd like to display for our guests enjoyment, please contact Sharon at 481-2488.

The Winter Ice Harvest



A Message from the President

The Palmer Lake Historical Society wishes all a Happy New Year.



PLHS has completed its Historical Calendar project for 2008 which netted over \$6,000. This money will greatly contribute to the preservation of the history in our area. Special thanks to Joe Bohler who, once again, donated one of his paintings

as the cover photo for the calendar. PLHS thanks the advertisers who make the calendar possible. Without the diligent efforts of Rogers Davis, who chose the pictures and compiled the actual info to be noted each month plus the efforts of Richard Cooper, Mary Meyer, Bob & Dee Kirby, Jodie Watkins, Pam Becker, Ethel Engel, Gerry McDuffee and

Phyllis Bonser. who contacted each advertiser and delivered finished calendars to them, the project could not have moved forward.

PLHS thanks Chuck and John for participating in its annual fund raiser event. The only thing to say is WOW, what a great evening!

PLHS Upcoming Events and Programs

February 21: "A History Journey on the New Santa Fe Regional Trail."

Jack Anthony, an avid runner on the NSFRT, will talk about the history of the communities and people who lived along the trail many, many years ago when Colorado was settled.

March 20: "Colorado's Colorful Newspaper Characters"

Rob Carrigan a local newspaperman tells of some of the outstanding characters of the newspaper business in days gone by.

April 17: "Polly Pry, Tell the Truth and Shame the Devil"

Debra Faulkner tells of Polly Pry a cantankerous Denver Post reporter. She wrote about her subjects in a "take no prisoners" manner. Her reputation was earned in the late 1800's



William B. Young

October: Grisly Axes to Grind

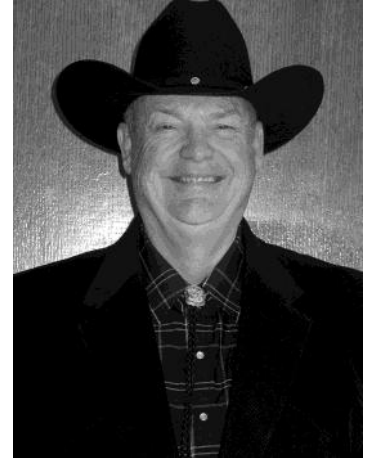
Excerpts from Diane Sawatzki's article to Our Community News

In 1911 Colorado Springs was a tranquil resort town of 45,000, and many of its visitors had spent all summer here. On one of those flawless September afternoons that Colorado is so famous for, Mrs. Ruth set off to visit her sister and do some sewing. Approaching her tiny home at 321 W. Dale, she found it odd that the blinds were drawn on such a sunny day. She knocked, but received no answer, so walked home and returned that evening. As she crept in, she saw dirty dishes still on the table from Sunday dinner. She spied the body of a woman, face-down, and blood splattering

the walls. Her sister and her two children were dead, their skulls crushed with an ax, but Mr. Burnham was missing. Their neighbors were also found murdered—a young couple and their 2 year-old daughter. With horrible precision, their bedclothes had been laid neatly over them.

According to Dwight Haverkorn, a retired CSPD detective who spoke to the historical society on Oct. 18, the murders shocked the townsfolk. Assuming the worst, the police arrested Burnham, a tuberculosis patient who lived and worked in a local sanitarium. After jailing him for a week, they decided he was too feeble to have trudged twelve miles and

murdered his family. Pinkerton and other detective agencies were called in. An ax coated with blood and hair was found in Burnham's shed, along with an observation hole. Had the murderer watched Mrs. Ruth when she came to find her sister? Haverkorn said there were many ax murders around this time, prompting him to suspect they were the work of a serial killer. Of the ten reported in Oregon, Colorado, and other states, all but one were performed with an ax, and many occurred near a railroad. In the Springs, five men were arrested, three of them hobos, but all were released. The murderer was never found.



Detective (ret.)
Dwight Haverkorn

November: Chuggin Through the Divide

Excerpts from Diane Sawatzki's article to Our Community News

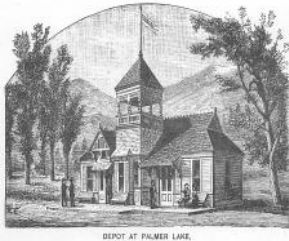
General William Palmer brought the railroads to Colorado in 1869, and train buffs have been enjoying them ever since. At the Nov. 15 Historical Society meeting, town council trustee Gary Coleman shared train lore and showed a movie of the "Northern Steamer 844." This vintage steam train chugged through Palmer Lake last August 25 on the "State Fair Express" from Denver to Pueblo and back. Hundreds of onlookers waved. Four

fire trucks showed up. Gary Coleman cut a huge "844" into his lawn. The Northern pulled two tenders, (each carrying 6,200 gallons of fuel oil and 23,500 gallons of water), 15 passenger cars (four of which were dome cars), and consumed about 160 gallons of water per mile. The film Gary showed, made by Douglas County TV-8 featured the 844 in its 1997 journey around Colorado,

on the last trip a passenger train made over the Tennessee Pass.



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

Greenland Ranch

By: Jim Sawatzki

Wonder why the dramatic scene change occurs when you reach the top of Monument Hill? Suddenly, at County Line road, on the Douglas County side, one views a tremendous open space. This is due to the fact that Douglas County residents voted to tax themselves to preserve open space back in the early 1990's. Instead of more suburban sprawl cluttering the landscape one enjoys incredible vistas with uninterrupted view sheds to the west. At one time, most

people believed there would be continuous development along the Front Range from Denver to Pueblo.

Thanks to partnerships between Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), Douglas County Open Space, the Nature Conservancy, and cable billionaire, John Malone, Greenland Ranch remains one of the oldest operating cattle ranches in Colorado. Formerly owned by the Gaylord family, who own the Broadmoor Hotel, the Higby family, of Monu-

ment fame, acquired the 22,000 acre spread in 1900.

Today, motorists' can cruise through this wondrous site and imagine what it looked like thousands of years ago on this north slope of the Palmer Divide Ridge. At the old town site of Greenland, just west of the interstate, one finds the trail head to this open space which leads one back to Palmer Lake and

the New Santa Fe Trail, which continues on to Monument, through the Air Force Academy and eventually down to Colorado Springs.

