

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: Rogers Davis
- Board Members at large:
Kim Braun, Dee Kirby,
Mary Meyer and Hans Post

Columbine Flower Discovered

By: Dee Kirby

Springtime in the Rockies struts its predictable, capricious self—days of cozy sunshine fanned by Chinook winds to days of arctic cold pelted by corn snow or worse. In spite of its bluster, when the snows melt, the trees bud and the grasses green, the Rocky Mountain Columbine, Colorado’s state flower, spreads across a broad range of habitat and thrives from June through August on hot, dry, talus slopes and in moist, shady forests. The colors vary through a wide range of

whites, blues and purples.

The discovery of this particular columbine occurred on July 11, 1820, when its beauty captured the eye of geographer, Dr. Edwin James, who was a member of Major Stephen H. Long’s exploration party, which included topographers, a map maker, a zoologist, a physician-botanist-geologist, a naturalist and a landscape painter.

According to official reports filed in the library of the Colorado State Historical society, on one expedition,

Long’s party “left Defile Creek (West Monument Creek) and stopped for lunch on Monument Creek at a point near Elephant Rock.”

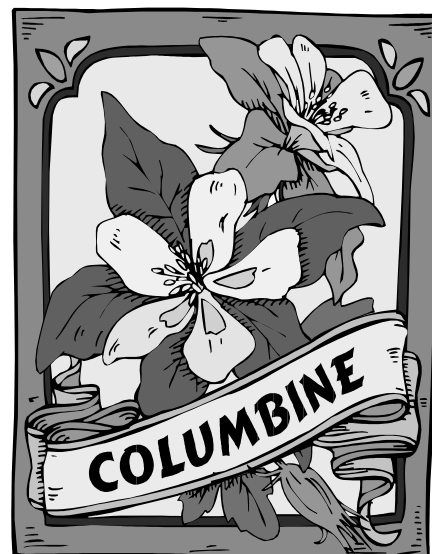
The men scattered in all directions to record details of the landscape that fit their expertise. James and fellow companion, named Peal, collected a species of columbine to which James gave the technical name, *Aquilegia coerulea*, loosely translated by James to mean “the heavenly blue columbine.”

Columbine Becomes State Flower

By: Dee Kirby

The Colorado State Historical Society asked George L. Cannon, a long-time botanist and nature guide at the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua at Palmer Lake, to determine, as nearly as possible, the exact location where James discovered the blue and white columbine. In Cannon’s judgment, he thought Pinecrest seemed the most probable site because, in 1820, “magnificent specimens of the flower” could still be found.

Colorado was one of the first states to select a state flower. Senator Eilas P. Ammons, who later became governor, sponsored the bill that declared the Rocky Mountain Columbine to be the official state flower on April 4, 1899. It is unlawful to dig or uproot this fragile species on public lands or to pick more than 25 blooms, buds or stems in a single day.



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What's New at the Museum?

By: Sharon Jarnagin

If you are a "back of the plate" reader, then our newest display at the museum is for you. On display is a small but interesting collection of vintage saucers and plates, including pieces of Nippon, which are decorative and collectible.

Nippon china was produced from 1865-1921. The word, used in the back stamp of famous Asian china,

"Nippon," simply means Japan. The Nippon china, produced for western consumption, was exported to the United States. Much of the antique Nippon china was hand-painted with ornate decorations that ironically were considered excessive and distasteful by the Japanese of that era.

When the United States enforced the McKinley Tariff act in 1921, it prohibited the import of items which were

not plainly marked, stamped, branded or labeled in legible English words. Since Nippon was considered the Japanese word for the country of origin, Japan being the English equivalent, the period of the Nippon china came to an end.

If you would like to share your collection with our visitors, please call Sharon at 481-2488.



Douglas DC3, ca 1935



Die cast metal collectible model airplanes, from 1930 to present day, on exhibit at the museum.



A Message from the President

Welcome to the second issue of the PLHS Newsletter in 2008. This past December the John Fielder/Chuck Pyle fund raiser was a huge success. Between the fund raiser and the publication of the Historical Calendars, which were delivered, the two projects raised over \$8000 to be used to preserve the history of the Tri-Lakes area.

New projects for 2008 include: Historical Relief by local artist, Ronnie Walker that will hang in the new Monument Town Hall; replacement of historical markers of homes on the Palmer Lake Walking Tour; republication of the Little Log Church brochure; museum expansion and a Chautauqua on August 3rd.

The January annual potluck featured Italian cuisine. The audience enjoyed Joe Bohler's musical entertainment plus a trip down memory lane when Joe showed and discussed slides of many of his paintings.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 3rd Thursday of each month .



Chatauqua 2008

By: Mary Meyer

Palmer Lake is proud to present the first Chautauqua Revival at the beautiful, Historic Pinecrest and Chapel on Sunday August 3rd, 2008.

The original Chautauqua came to Palmer Lake in 1886 and was an annual event for over two decades. Palmer Lake had the distinct honor of hosting the very first Chautauqua in the Rocky Mountain West. It made Palmer Lake a destination point for many.

The purpose of the Chautauqua was to provide entertainment, inspiration, athletic activities and education to enrich people's lives.

The Chautauqua was held in

Glen Park where an auditorium was built for the patrons. It was located on what we now know as Chautauqua Avenue. Activities for the Palmer Lake Chautauqua included lectures and debates, concerts, campfire gatherings and burro excursions up to the reservoirs. Many homes in the Glen started out as rustic tent cottages, where the attendees of the Chautauqua stayed for the six-week long assembly. These cottages eventually evolved into permanent homes where some descendants still live today.

Due to changing times, the Chautauqua eventually faded away.

This summer we will be bringing the Chautauqua

back to Palmer Lake and hope to make it an annual event. The theme for our first Chautauqua will be "The Wild West." The day will begin with a Cowboy Church Service followed by speakers, entertainment, music and tours of Glen Park. The day will end with a rousing, western square dance.

Mark your calendars and be our guest for this historic event which is assured to be a memorable day. To learn more about the Palmer Lake Chautauqua, check out Jim Sawatzki's latest video "Summer Sojourn."



Recap of Past and Upcoming Programs & Events

PLHS thanks: Jack Anthony who presented an historical tour along the Santa Fe Trail; Rob Carrigan who talked about Colorado's Colorful Newspaper Characters; and Debra Faulkner who portrayed Polly Pry, a reporter in the late 1800's. Their programs were very much enjoyed by all.

Upcoming programs:

...June 15, "Annual Fathers Day Ice Cream Social." Enjoy ice cream, pie and Historical Videos!

...July 25, "Dr. William Finley Thompson: New Information about Palmer Lake's Founder," by Dr. Dan Edwards

...July 26 from 10AM-4PM

Sat. "Estemere Tour." Tour this elegant Victorian Queen Anne Style Mansion at 380 Glenway St. in Palmer Lake. Tickets on sale at the door.

...September 18, "Italians in America," by Sam DeFelice. This is a presentation not to be missed.



Volunteers Needed

The Vaile museum is looking for volunteers. Come be with us and provide a vital service to the community. Our guides (docents) have the opportunity to be part of the exciting history of Northern El Paso County. You are certain to find something inter-

esting to do from telling the history of the area to explaining what a particular item is used for. All types of skills and interests are in demand for display preparation, artifact preservation, fabric care, oral histories and a host of other activi-

ties. We can train in the proper techniques. Call 719-559-0837 and leave a message. We will call, answer your questions and invite you to one of our monthly museum meetings to see and talk with other guides/docents.

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

PORTER'S CORNER

By: Jim Sawatzki

The current corner at Third and Hwy 105 in Monument, now occupied by the 7-11 store and Rampart Car Care, looked a bit different in yesterday. From the late 1920's through the 1950's, it was known as Porter's Corner. It was a prominent landmark possessing giant cottonwoods, which provided a wind break as well as cool shade for Porter's tourist cabins and café.

Across the street on Third was MacReynold's garage, also a popular spot, where a grease monkey would pump your gas, wash your windshield and check your oil and tire pressure. Ole Mac was an irresistible character

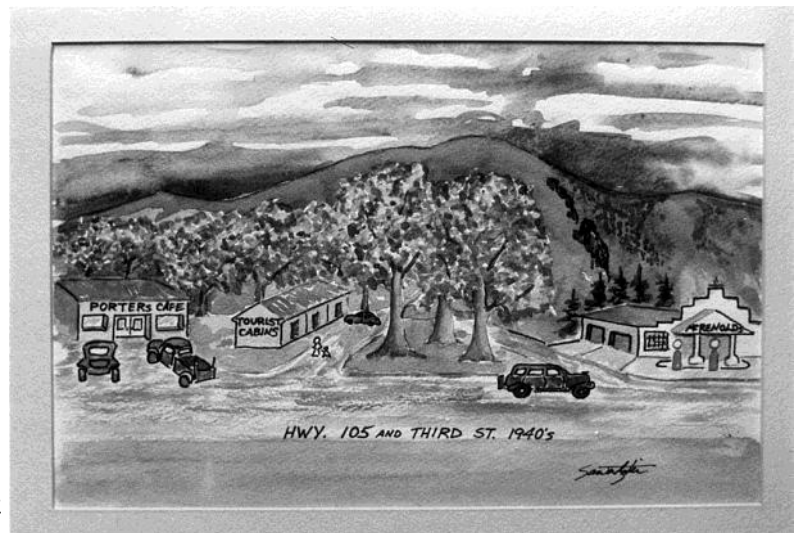
known and trusted by all. Porter's café was a local hangout which served delicious, home cooked meals and the quaint cabins provided a place for the weary motorist to spend the night while traveling along the Front Range. These were the days before non stop, interstate travel when the speed limit was a mere 45 mph.

The Porter's were also discreetly known to be the reliable source for "moonshine" during the days of prohibition. Then, Monument was known for its abundant potato harvests. Plenty of these spuds were

distilled into Vodka in the nearby hills.

Unfortunately, when this scenic corner was redeveloped

in the mid 1970's, all the magnificent cottonwoods were bulldozed away from our memory.



Porter's Corner, illustration from "Milestones" a video history of Monument, CO. part of the Palmer Divide Trilogy produced by Jim Sawatzki