

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: Al Walter
- Secretary: Ron Heard
- Treasurer: Victor Vaile
- Museum Director: Rogers Davis
- Board Members at Large:
 - Kim Braun
 - Bob Kirby
 - Mary Meyer
 - Hans Post
- **Mountain Lion:** "Old Disappearance"

Traveling Medicine Shows

By: Dee Kirby

During the 1890's approximately 125,000 traveling medicine shows or units traveled throughout the United States. Musical acts, magic tricks, jokes and story-telling entertained the crowd while the lecturer or salesman pitched pills, salves, potions and lotions to cure all ailments.

William P. Burt, employed on the **Colorado Writers' Program** in 1942, joined the "**Hamlin Wizard Oil Company**" in 1891 as a baritone with the Lyceum Four quartette. The entertainers performed from an open coach drawn by four horses and when they appeared on the street they had to wear identical frock coats, gray dress

vests, pin striped trousers, topped off with high silk hats and pearl-gray spats over patent leather shoes. This uniform became a trademark for all Wizard Oil advertising units.

After a year with Wizard Oil, Burt joined The "**Big Sensation Medicine Company.**" Two large tents formed a canvas theater that had the capacity to hold 1,000 people. Every fifteen minutes, following the entertainment, "**The King of the Forceps**" with the help of the "**Queen**" extracted teeth to the tune of a twelve-piece band. Burt wrote that the show skipped town when corks on a batch of bottles labeled Big Sensation Blood Tonic exploded on stage.

In 1893, Burt joined the "**Shaker Remedies Advertising Units**" which performed in Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Denver and Boulder. Each unit carried a lecturer, a qualified physician and a visiting physician registered to practice medicine in 27 states. Entertainers sung psalms, wore "**Shaker**" bonnets and one piece gowns of brown. Psalms weren't crowd pleasers so entertainers were engaged to "hold



the crowd."

Burt wrote that the lecturer insisted that he sell the 'first bottle' for maximum sales. His voice trembled with emotion while his eyes were tearful as he singled out a potential customer and yelled, "And wouldn't you give a dollar to save a life by buying this bottle?" With the first bottle sold, the agents worked the crowd. Burt continued to lose a standing bet that the lecturer wouldn't sell the 'first bottle.'

Burt thought that the Shaker Community at Lebanon, Pennsylvania kept "a watchful eye on the output."

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"Fashion"

French writer Anatole France said that if he could come back to Earth 100 years after his death and have only one thing to read, he would choose a fashion magazine because that would show him the way people lived.

One week he's in polka dots, the next week he's in stripes.

'Cos he's a dedicated follower of fashion.

Ray Davies
Song Lyric



What's New at the Museum?

By: Dee Kirby

The current exhibit at the Palmer Lake Museum is a preview of the upcoming PLHS Fashion Show.

Some of the accessories that may be seen in the museum and at the show include handkerchiefs, gloves and purses.

The first evidence of a handkerchief was reported in England's Household Rolls or accounts that belonged to Richard II. It said that "little pieces (of cloth) were created for the lord King to wipe and clean his nose."

During the 13th century ladies began to wear gloves. But, Queen Elizabeth I set the fashion trend by wearing

richly embroidered and jeweled gloves which she put on and took off during audiences to draw attention to her beautiful hands.



Do mark your calendars for April 16th as Mary Meyer will present an elegant fashion show that will feature clothing from the Victorian times through the Swinging Sixties.

If you would like to share and display your hobbies at the museum, we'd be pleased to put them on dis-

play. Please call Sharon at 481-2488.



A Message from the President

About 65 people attended the annual potluck dinner sponsored by the Palmer Lake Historical Society. Fun was had by all.

The year, 2009, promises to be another busy year for the historical society. One of our goals is to endeavor to in-

volve everyone in the events, programs, fund raisers and the museum which comprise the Palmer Lake Historical Society. What talents would you like to share with us?

The door is open. Come on in. Have some fun with us.

Several new enhancements to some of the Vaile Museum exhibits have been completed. Come in for a look and a listen...

Phyllis V. Bonser

PLHS Upcoming Events and Programs

All upcoming events held at the Palmer Lake Town Hall on the 3rd Thursday of each month except for the June 21st Sunday Social.

All are welcomed free of charge. Doors open at 6:30 PM. The program begins at 7:00 PM. Refreshments are served.

March 19: **"To Preserve Colorado Springs Street Railways,"** presented by Howard Noble, Pikes Peak Historical Street Railway Found.

April 16th: **"Vintage Fashion Show,"** coordinated by Mary Meyer of the PLHS & Lucretia Vaile Museum.

May 21: **"Early Preachers – How the Early Sermons Were Delivered,"** presented by the Rev. John Snyder

June 21, 2 to 4 PM Sunday: **"Fathers Day Ice Cream Social"** at Palmer Lake Town Hall, ice cream, pie and Bluegrass by the Jessum Buds!

Historical Society Hosts Potluck 2009

By: Dee Kirby

On Jan. 15, the Palmer Lake Historical Society (PLHS) celebrated its annual potluck at the Palmer Lake Town Hall, which was brightly decorated in patriotic red, white, and blue with touches of Americana décor to complement the theme **“Historic Show and Tell.”** Two tables held artifacts from the museum and personal, historical treasures contributed by people.

The Pledge of Allegiance and a robust **“Yankee Doodle Dandy”** opened a brief meeting to elect the new officers to the PLHS

board and thank the outgoing board members and volunteers who distribute fliers and make phone calls for the monthly meetings.

Incoming officers are: Phyllis Bonser, president; Al Walters, vice president; Victor Vaile, treasurer; Ron Herd, secretary;

Other Board members are:

Rogers Davis, museum director; and Mary Meyer, Kim Braun, Hans Post, and Bob Kirby as at-large board members who cover other board duties.

During dinner, Dee Kirby

played piano music for the diners. The evening concluded with a show-and-tell by those who brought their historical artifacts to share. The PLHS plans to repeat a Historical Show and Tell at the January 2010 potluck.



Above: Guests at the Potluck



Left: Sharon & Jim Jarnagin

The Cumbres & Toltec Railroad

By Dee Kirby:

The program for November of 2008 was about one of the few remaining narrow gauge railroads still operating.

Charles Halaska, a docent for the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad presented a slide show and discussed the history of the railroad that operates between Antonito, CO and Chama, NM.

Halaska pointed out that unlike the standard gauge width of 4 feet, 8 inches, the narrow gauge width of 3 feet allows the trains to maneuver steep turns

that wind 68 miles through pristine scenery, especially as the train curls along the side of a cliff above the Toltec Gorge, which took **this writer’s breath** away. Docents aboard the trains provide historic information and accounts of early Western railroading.

I agree with Halaska that this would be a wonderful vacation event for families.



Courtesy C & T Railroad



Photo by Tom Kneib



Photo by Dan Osteck

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Stamp



Address Label

Serving The Tri-Lakes Area Since 1956

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

The Little Log Church

The church was founded in 1924 as Palmer Lake Friends Community Church with 41 charter members. Services were held in the Town Hall until 1925 when two log houses were purchased for \$2700. The first house was converted into a sanctuary while the second was designated as a parsonage. The new parsonage became home to Orville Bender, pastor, his wife Myrtle and their children.

The bell in the belfry

came from the first schoolhouse. The stone wall in front of the property was built at a cost of \$75.34. The basement was entirely hand-dug by church members and was completed in 1948. When additional space was needed for a study, library and classroom great care was taken in selecting additional logs to blend with the old.

When Orville Bender retired, in 1930, Dr. Evalena

Macy, a Quaker missionary, became pastor. She was ordained in 1939 and remained until her retirement in 1959.

The Little Log Church is located on High Street and Upper Glenway in Palmer Lake, CO.



The Little Log Church and Parsonage ca 1928