

SMOKY HILL EXPRESS

Elbert County Historical Society & Museum Newsletter

SPRING 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun., May 1

2:00 p.m. **Host Orientation
Membership Meeting** following

Sat., May 14, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

KCHS Alumni Open House

Sun., May 29, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Opening Day of
Elbert County Museum**
(The Museum is open Thursday -
Sunday, 1:00-4:00 p.m. every week
through the summer)

Fri., June 3, 6:00 p.m.

Pioneer Fourth Planning Meeting

Mon., July 4, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Pioneer Fourth Celebration

Sat., August 13, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Kiowa Street Fair

(Museum open all day)

Sun., September 4, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Closing Day of
Elbert County Museum**

Sun., September 11

2:00 p.m. **Volunteer Appreciation**
3:00 p.m. **Annual Membership
Meeting**

Sun., November 6, 2:00 p.m.

Membership Meeting

Please check our website:

www.elbertcountymuseum.org
for any changes or updates
to the schedule.

YESTERDAY'S TOOLS –TOOLS FROM THE HOME, BARN AND MACHINE SHOP

Tools are an intricate part of our lives no matter where we live or what we do. Some tools haven't changed much in design, but the composition may have changed from wood to metal or even to plastic. Others have become obsolete as the use of electricity and machinery became commonplace.

The museum's 2011 exhibit includes tools your grandparents may have used as well as items which you might have used just yesterday. You will see *Grandma's Kitchen* which includes tools used for cooking, canning and cleaning. As you take a look at the display of *My Shop*, you may see tools you remember from your childhood -some you have and use now, and maybe some unfamiliar tools as well. For the young and young at heart, there is an interactive display.

There is also a special display of Native American items on loan from the Douglas County Repository. It shows the beginning of some of the tools of today shaped out of rock.

May you enjoy this season's exhibit on "Yesterday's Tools."



ATTENTION CRAFTERS!

Craft booth space is available during the Pioneer Fourth on Monday, July 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Each 10' x 10' space is \$15.00. Booths can be set up on the tennis court next to the museum.

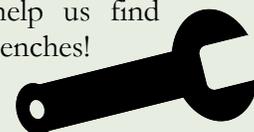
If you are interested in having a space, please contact Carla Martell at 303-621-2229 or e-mail elbertcountymuseum@gmail.com.

MISSING!!

Kids, we need your help!

Over the winter, workers were busy building the summer display and misplaced their tools in the museum's Assembly Room!

Please help us find all 20 wrenches!



HOST ORIENTATION

Host Orientation for the 2011 Season will be on Sunday, May 1st at 2:00 p.m. at the museum. This is a good time to familiarize yourself with this year's exhibits. Feel free to bring a friend or two as we look forward to another great summer. There will be a sign up calendar available if you know when you would like to volunteer as host.

The museum is staffed by volunteers so it is because of all of you that the exhibits and history of Elbert County can be enjoyed!

Thanks to all who contributed to the writing of this issue of the Smoky Hill Express.

PIONEER 4TH

'A Grand Old Fashioned Celebration'

Monday ~ July 4th

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

at the Elbert County Museum Grounds

Bring family and friends and join in on the fun at the annual Pioneer Fourth. The celebration starts an hour earlier this year, so you have more time to enjoy the museum exhibits, games, silent auction, craft booths, live music, food, pie judging and auction, and more!

Corporate Sponsorships

Would you or your business like to be a corporate sponsor? For a donation of \$200 or equivalent merchandise, your name will appear on all flyers and advertisements. In addition, recognition of all contributions will be given that day from the main stage. Contact Carla Martell for more information, sponsorship deadline is May 15th.

Pie Judging and Auction

If you are interested in entering your pie(s) for the pie judging, please bring them to the museum by 11:30 a.m. This auction is a fundraiser for the museum, and we thank all of you who donate your pies and those who bid on them!

Silent Auction

If you are interested in donating any item(s) to the silent auction, please contact Carla Martell at 303-621-2229. Items need to be received by Saturday, June 18th.

YEAR ROUND SHOPPING

The museum Gift Shop is open during the summer season. When you are in Kiowa, feel free to drop by the museum and check out the books and unique gifts (cash or check only at this time). Summer hours are Thursday through Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

There is also a variety of historical adult and children's books available at the ECHS booth at The Carriage Shoppes on Main Street in Elizabeth. The Carriage Shoppes is open year round and credit cards are accepted.

Keep in mind that books are displayed on the website and can be ordered with a payment by check or money order. Go to www.elbertcountymuseum.org and click on Gift Shop for more information.

PLANNING MEETING

There will be a meeting on Friday, June 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in the museum office to plan for the Pioneer Fourth. Volunteers are needed in all areas which include set-up, games, hosting in the museum, food and so forth.



We are open to hearing, and appreciate your input and suggestions on how to improve and provide an even more enjoyable experience for all.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Martell –President

John Hoffhines –Vice President

Lucy Hoffhines –Secretary

Donna Smith –Treasurer

Carla Martell –Past President

John Metli –Member at Large

Cindy Taylor –Member at Large

The museum OPENS Sunday - May 29th!

ECHS MISSION STATEMENT

To record and maintain the history of Elbert County, Colorado from the earliest settlement.

To work for the establishment of appropriate vaults and archives for the preservation of original manuscripts, documents, photographs and artifacts which may come into the possession of the Society.

To maintain, preserve and house the above stated articles in the Elbert County Museum.

For additional information, volunteer opportunities and schedule of events, check out our website: www.elbertcountymuseum.org

THE TOWN BLACKSMITH

Blacksmithing probably began during the Iron Age, when one of our ancestors discovered that a certain type of rock, when heated by the coals of a very hot campfire, yielded iron which could be fashioned into crude tools. Iron was important because it was stronger and more durable than wood.

For centuries after that early discovery, metal-working remained a crude art, but eventually people became skilled at fashioning tools from iron, and the term “blacksmith” was coined—“black” referred to the color of iron and “smith” to “smite” or pounding.

Anyone who ever visited a blacksmith shop can remember the sounds of the hammering, and of the hissing as an object was plunged into the water barrel; the slapping of the drive belt overhead as it turned the trip hammer and other equipment in the shop; and the smells that went with working around hot metals and animals.

The “smithy” was called upon to do many things. He could make an axe or a knife or a set of door hinges or a bunch of nails. He could repair a log chain or put rims on wagon wheels or fix a chipped axe. His local shop was the town hardware store. He might also be called upon to act as veterinarian, and there were always horses to shoe. The towns in early Elbert County relied on the skills of this tradesman, as did the rest of the country.

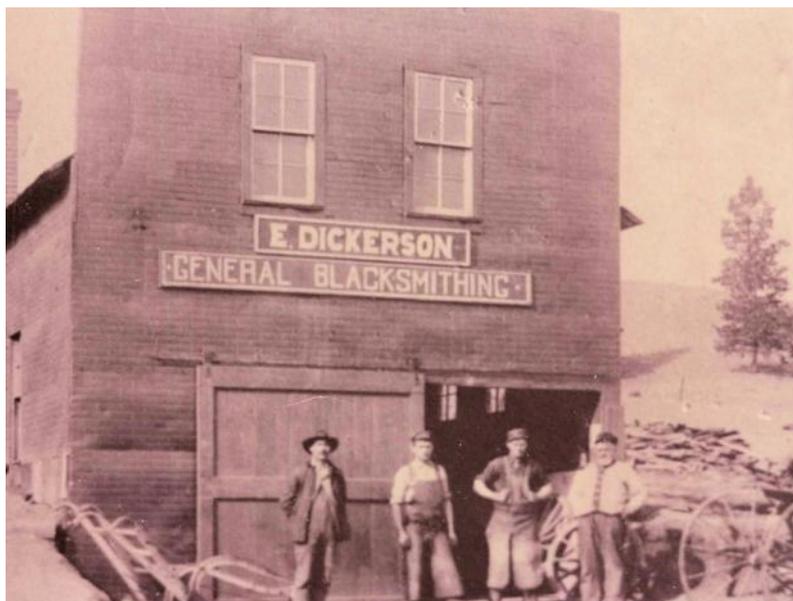
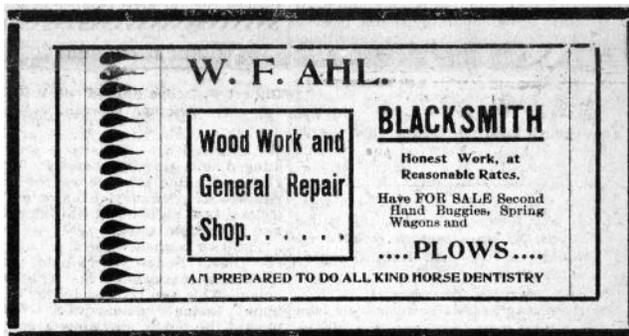
The most important part of the blacksmith shop was the forge. The forge was an open fireplace, raised off the floor, where the blacksmith would heat the metal. He learned to judge the temperature of his fire by the color—a dull red fire was good for smoothing iron without changing its shape while a white hot fire made the iron more flexible. Also the color of the heated metal told the blacksmith when it was right for what he needed to do. The bellows helped adjust the temperature of the fire by forcing air into the forge and making the fire burn hotter.



TOP- Frank Miller and John Hart working in the blacksmith shop, Kiowa.

C E N T E R – A h l Blacksmith in Elizabeth performed horse dentistry, in addition to blacksmith and buggy repair.

BOTTOM- Dickerson Blacksmith in Elbert.



The blacksmith used many tools to do his work. The anvil provided a strong surface for the blacksmith to work with the iron. The anvil needed to be on a stand at the right height for the blacksmith to work comfortably. Tongs were used to hold and move the variety of metal items from the fire to the anvil or to a vise. Many different types of hammers, chisels and files were used to pound, cut, bend and shape the iron into an endless variety of items.

Working with fire and metal is still part of our life today whether someone is using an old-fashioned forge or electric welding equipment. While the town blacksmith shop has disappeared, items for our ranches, farms and households are still being made and repaired within Elbert County with the skills of the trade.

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

Over the winter, the Board of Directors has been reviewing the qualifications for membership. Any proposed changes will be presented at the Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, September 11th. Your yearly tax deductible donation allows you to vote as a member of the Elbert County Historical Society at the annual and all general membership meetings. All meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.

Membership forms can be printed off of the website: www.elbertcountymuseum.org or picked up at the museum building.

Yearly Membership:

- Individual (\$15)
- Family (\$20)
- Student/Senior Citizen (\$8)

Your donation helps to financially support the programs and activities of the Elbert County Historical Society & Museum. Please check the schedule for upcoming meeting dates.

Museum Hours



1 - 4 p.m.

Thursday through Sunday
May 29th to Sept. 4th



A NEW BUSINESS ON MAIN STREET

Banking has come to the museum. The teller cage from the Stock Grower's Bank is now on display in the *Main Street* exhibit. The ironwork and woodwork have been beautifully restored, and seeing the teller cage brings back memories of another era. Even with countless volunteer hours into the project, some of your financial donations have literally gone into the bank to complete all of the restoration required. Come see another part of Elbert County history restored and on display!

Historic Fact: The Stock Grower's Bank was one of two banks in Kiowa when it opened in 1928. J.J. Kruse was the cashier, who later bought the business. And though the bank survived the financial collapse of the Great Depression, in 1938 it merged with Kiowa State Bank. Through this merger Kiowa State took over the banking affairs of both and in turn Stock Grower's assumed the abstract and land records and was renamed The Elbert County Abstract & Title Company.

The Elbert County Museum is owned and operated by the Elbert County Historical Society, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

ELBERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

515 Comanche Street • PO Box 43
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Be sure to check out our website at
www.elbertcountymuseum.org