

SMOKY HILL EXPRESS

Elbert County Historical Society & Museum Newsletter

FALL 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
ECHS Meeting and Program
 Elizabeth Branch Library
 - Meeting Room -
 651 West Beverly St., Elizabeth

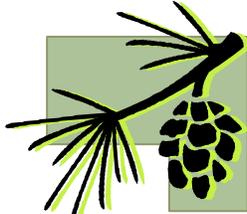
This ECHS meeting will update everyone on the work and progress of the Smoky Hill Trail exhibit.

There will also be a short program following the meeting. Come and enjoy being part of this new chapter in the museum's life.



ECHS is delighted to announce the opening of a new permanent exhibit on the Smoky Hill Trail for the 2013 Season. Elbert County has the distinction of being the only present day county in Colorado which had all three branches of the Smoky Hill Trail pass through it.

The exhibit will touch on the Smoky Hill Trail crossing Kansas to its ending destination in downtown Denver while highlighting its history and significance to Elbert County.



Please check our website:

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



2012 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

This season's exhibit at the Elbert County Museum, *Arc and Spark: The Story of Electricity*, included artifacts and photographs from Intermountain Rural Electric Company and Mountain View Electric Company. There were also special exhibits on "Early Wiring" from Charlotte Mundy, "Lighting Arresters" from the Billy M. O'Pry Family Collection, and "Ceramic Fixtures" and a children's interactive display from the Fred Sieders' Collection. The exhibit was rounded out with personal stories by residents of Elbert County, including additional stories written by guests. We appreciate everyone's participation in sharing this part of our county's history.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the current Courthouse Building, there were photographs on display of the building in 1912 as well as early items from the courthouse. With 2012 being an election year, an antique voting booth and ballot box were also featured.

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

NEWS BRIEFS FROM ECHS

The Elbert County Historical Society had an informational booth at Elizabash, Simla Days, Kiowa Street Fair and Elbert's Historic Rendezvous this summer to promote the museum's exhibits and activities and to participate in the community events. It also helped promote the *Our Journey* program as well as other museums and historic buildings on the eastern Colorado plains.

The museum was represented at the Courthouse 100 Year Anniversary Celebration and barbecue on Saturday, September 29th. There were panels on display from the museum's *Window to the Past, Door to the Future* exhibit and an informational booth with books available for purchase on local history.

Board members attended an April 14th meeting of the Eastern Colorado Museums & Historical Societies held at the Lowell Ranch and hosted by Historic Douglas County. There were 11 organizations represented in the gathering. The day included everyone sharing ideas and upcoming activities as well as a tour of the Castle Rock Museum. The fall meeting hosted by Kit Carson County Carousel & Museum, to be held in Burlington, was rescheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2013.

Remember that memberships follow the calendar year and no reminders or membership cards are sent out. Thanks to those of you who get a jump start on our 2013 Season by sending in your membership check the first of the year. For more information on the different levels of membership or to print out a membership form, visit our website at www.elbertcountymuseum.org.

When one young girl was asked to name one thing she learned from the exhibit or had never seen before, she replied that she had never seen the thing that plays records.



Also, one day a young boy looked at a manual typewriter and asked where the screen was.

Museums are truly for the young and older!

HISTORY COLORADO TOUR

The ECHS Board of Directors were on hand when History Colorado's Tours and Trek's "Colorado's Central Plains" tour members showed up on Friday, June 15th. Joe Martell shared various stories on Elbert County's history and highlighted the *Arc and Spark* exhibit as well as other features in the museum. There were 17 people in the tour group and the feedback was very complimentary.

For additional information on other History Colorado activities, visit www.historycolorado.org.

2012 MUSEUM SEASON SPONSORS

Thank you for your commitment to the educational and historical importance of the Elbert County Museum to the communities and residents of Elbert County!

IREA	Mountain View Electric Assn.	Cultivator	
Andrea Michaels Photography	Bender Menders LLC	Locomotive	
Federal Financial Group	High Plains Food Store	Laurel Brown	Elizabeth Family Dental
Spring Valley Golf Club	Spruce Up Roofing & Construction	PDC Energy	Smith Ranches
Elizabeth Big O-Tires	Elizabeth Cost Cutters	Ranchland News / West Elbert County Sun	
HOO Motors	JC Greenhouse	Ponderosa Pine	
Jim & Carla Martell	Kiowa Farm Bureau	Elizabeth Locker Plant	Elizabeth Wal-Mart
Sun Valley Electric		Kit Carson County Carousel	Rick & Katee Kolm
		Simla Frozen Food Locker LLC	Sizzor Magic
		Windmill	
Angie's Cuttin' Corner	Bank of the West	Barr Bear Salon	Doris Ehmann
Elbert Country Store	Elizabeth Napa	Elizabeth Sonic	Elizabeth Subway
Elbert Tax Services	Good Samaritan Society	Hair By Herrick	Hamacher Well Works Inc.
John & Lucy Hoffhines	Integrity Auto Repair	Kiowa Country Store	Kiowa Lions Club
Don & Marilyn Lemley	Phil Link	Nita McKnight	MK Liquors
Parker Costco	Parker Port-A-Potty	Parker The Egg & I	Stroh Ranch King Soopers
Truth Talk T-shirts	Western Trails Steakhouse		

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

EARLY ELECTRICITY MEMORIES

Thanks to all who added to our *Early Electricity Memories* by writing in the exhibit notebook. Here are some of the stories and comments shared:

"I was a city girl, married a farmer. What a shock! No central heat, plumbing or electricity." -- Betty Stambaugh

"I have a wind generator, 6 volt, we used on the farm to charge a battery. Then used the battery to operate our radio." -- Robert E. Whitehead

"We didn't get electricity in West Bijou until I was 13 years old, about 1950." -- Doris Ehmann

"The Rural Electric Association (REA) came to the area around 1949. Before that, many had 6 volt or 32 volt electricity that required many batteries. Others used kerosene lamps, white gas lanterns and candles. All homes had to be wired for 110 volt electricity that required knowledge to be done properly. Only a few locals could do that." -- Walt Maul



Advice from Hugh Mundy shared by his daughter, Maylois Fraley, "Be sure you're a plug puller and not a cord puller". Always unplug items by pulling the plug at the outlet and not just pulling the cord.

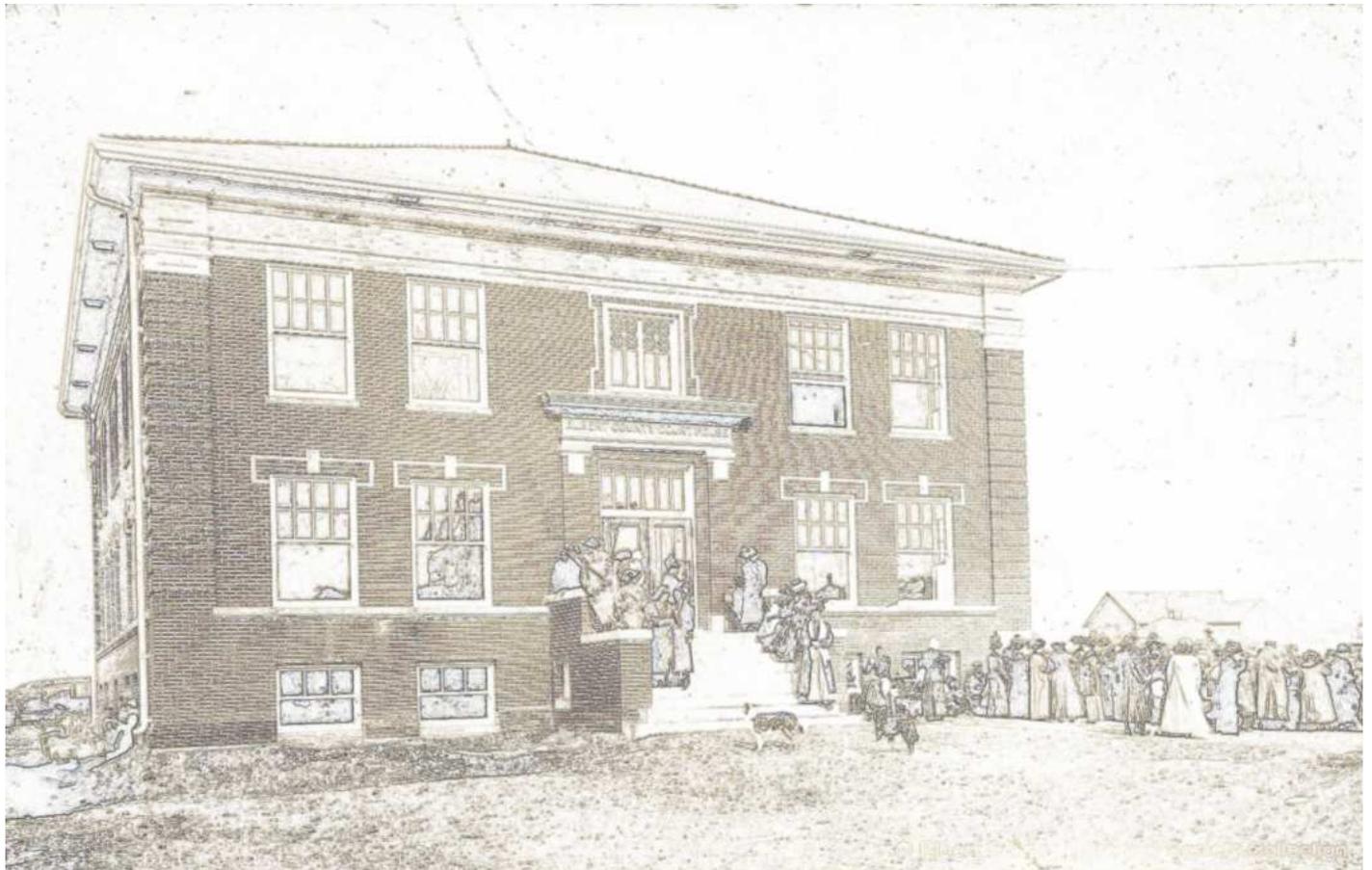
PIONEER FOURTH

The Pioneer Fourth continues to be a day of friendship and fun as we remember the importance of July 4th. We thank all who came to celebrate and enjoy the museum's open house as well as the games, music, food and costume parade and everyone who supported the various fundraising activities. We appreciate those who entered the pie contest as well as those who bid on the pies. Also, thanks to everyone who contributed items for the silent auction.

This event happens because of the generous support of our sponsors and of those who help in the planning and who volunteer on the day to set up, oversee the activities, and help put everything away. Thank You!

COLORING FUN

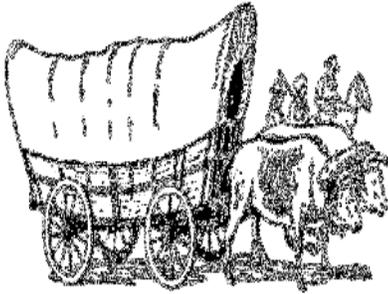
Elbert County's Third Courthouse was dedicated 100 years ago this month, November 28, 1912.



HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual membership meeting was held on Saturday, September 8th. Here are some of the highlights:

- The new Museum Season Sponsorship Program was successful with the museum receiving more sponsorships than in the past.
- The 2013 Season exhibit will be on the Smoky Hill Trail. It was suggested that the following two years could expand the theme with a year on the stagecoach route, railroads and towns of Elbert County and a year on the advent of autos, roads and highways in Elbert County.
- Lee Whiteley, Bev Blotter and Garry O'Hara gave a brief overview of the Smoky Hill Trail, the research that has been done and the importance of the trail to this area.
- The current Board of Directors up for re-election (Joe Martell, Lucy Hoffhines and John Metli) were voted in.
- The volunteers, including the volunteer hosts, were recognized and appreciated for the commitment they make and the gift of their time.
- The next meeting of the membership will be **Saturday, February 9, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.** at the meeting room in the **Elizabeth Branch Library**.



ELBERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DIRECTORS

Joe Martell –President
John Hoffhines –Vice President
Lucy Hoffhines –Secretary
Donna Smith –Treasurer
Carla Martell
John Metli
Cindy Taylor

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.

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 & MUSEUM

515 COMANCHE STREET • PO BOX 43 • KIOWA, COLORADO 80117