

SMOKY HILL EXPRESS

Elbert County Historical Society & Museum Newsletter

SPRING 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun., May 27, 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 8, 6:00 p.m.

Pioneer Fourth Planning Meeting

Fri., June 15

History Colorado's

"Tours and Treks"

(includes Elbert County Museum)

Sat., June 30, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Kiowa Street Fair

(Museum open all day)

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

Pioneer Fourth Celebration

Sun., September 2, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Closing Day of

Elbert County Museum

Sat., September 8, 10:00 a.m.

Volunteer Appreciation and Annual Membership Meeting



Please check our website:

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



WELCOME TO THE 2012 SEASON!

Arc and Spark: The Story of Electricity- The museum's main exhibit this year focuses on the advent of electricity to the towns and rural areas of Elbert County. It includes photographs and artifacts from the early days of electricity and stories of people as they adjusted to the electrical inventions and the effects they had on their daily lives. Discover the various power plants that existed in Elbert County at one time. Check out the before-and-after appliances, equipment and home furnishings. Also there is a display demonstrating the early wiring of electricity. There is something for all ages to recognize, reminisce about and enjoy.

Centennial Celebration- Since this is the 100th anniversary of the county courthouse building, view a part of its history in the judge's bench and courtroom furniture on permanent display in the museum's East Room. Legend has it that the bench, witness stand and jury box were original furnishings in a courthouse at Cripple Creek, Colorado. Following the construction and dedication of Elbert County's third courthouse in 1912, the furniture was freighted to the new courtroom by Elbert County Under-Sheriff Roy Brown.

Main Street has seen some changes over the winter. See if you can spot some new items that might have appeared in the mercantile and elsewhere after electricity arrived!

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

PIONEER 4TH

'A Grand Old Fashioned Celebration'

Wednesday ~ July 4th

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

at the Elbert County Museum Grounds

By popular request the game of horseshoes is back this year and a costume parade for all ages has been added! Come see what is new or sit back and enjoy the old favorites as you spend July 4th celebrating with family and friends. Once again there will be live music, good food, craft booths and games for all, as well as the traditional pie judging and auction and the watermelon eating contest.

Costume Parade

Come as a particular person in history, wear a costume from an historical period, or simply dress in a patriotic costume. The parade line-up will be at 12:30 p.m. near the games area. All ages, including adults, wearing a full costume will receive free tickets to use at the games, cakewalk or snow cone booth.

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. (no cream pies please). The auction will start at 1:00 p.m. and is a fundraiser for the museum. We thank all of you who donate your pies and those who bid on them!

Craft Booths

10' x 10' craft booth space is available for \$15.00. Booths will be set up on the basketball court next to the museum. Crafter Registration forms can be printed from our website under the Pioneer Fourth page at: www.elbertcountymuseum.org/crafterform.pdf or you can contact Carla Martell at 303-621-2229

Silent Auction

This is a great way to donate and/or to bid on any items as part of the museum's fundraising. If you would like to donate to the silent auction, please contact Carla Martell at 303-621-2229. Items need to be received by Saturday, June 16th.

NEWS BRIEFS FROM ECHS

Colorado Department of Transportation recently transferred a collection of prehistoric artifacts to ECHS. The artifacts are the result of CDOT highway construction projects through Elbert County over the years. This new collection is on permanent loan and we look forward to developing a display of Native American artifacts found in the area based on this new acquisition.

Just a reminder: All meetings count as one of your two activities if you have chosen to be a member of ECHS by donating your time. Membership forms are available at the new welcome area in the museum as well as on-line: www.elbertcountymuseum.org/membershipform.pdf. Membership follows the calendar year.

The presentation by Lee Whiteley last November on the Cherokee Trail, co-hosted by ECHS and the Elbert County Library District, was so well attended that the Board is looking at possible future programs to expand the community outreach and educational goals. Scheduled activities will always be listed on the website, www.elbertcountymuseum.org.

ECHS stocks a booth at the Carriage Shoppes on Main Street in Elizabeth all year with books on local history and other books of historical interest. Feel free to check it out when the museum is not open or whenever you're in Elizabeth.



CENTRAL PLAINS TOUR

History Colorado's Tours and Treks for 2012 include the "Colorado's Central Plains" tour on Friday, June 15th. The tour begins at the Comanche Crossing Museum in Strasburg and then comes to the Elbert County Museum. For more information on this or other History Colorado activities, visit www.HistoryColorado.org.





CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Simla: The town of Simla was named after the hill town of Simla in India by the daughter of a Rock Island Railroad superintendent, who was reading a book on India at the time. Simla was incorporated in 1912. During the 1930's, the town was a leading shipping point for pinto beans in the Pikes Peak area.

Kiowa: Unlike other towns in Elbert County which were built along the railroad lines, the town of Kiowa had its start in 1859 as a stage station on a branch of the Smoky Hill stage route. In the 1860's, the community was known as Middle Kiowa, and the town was incorporated in 1912 as Kiowa. It was designated the county seat when Elbert County was formed in 1874.

County Courthouse Building: Elbert County's third courthouse building was completed in 1912 and celebrated with a bear barbeque on the east lawn. The building was designed by Denver architect John J. Huddart and was built by M. J. Kenney, a Denver contractor.



Courthouse Dedication Day, 1912

ENJOY VOLUNTEERING THIS SUMMER

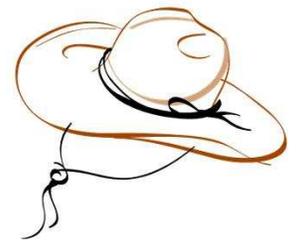
If you were unable to attend the Volunteer Orientation on May 12th, you're still able to enjoy the museum as a volunteer host and at the Pioneer Fourth. Please contact Carla Martell at 303-621-2229 as she has the calendar for the hosts. Also, there will be a Pioneer Fourth planning meeting on Friday, June 8th at 6:00 pm at the museum office if you would like to volunteer and help with the Pioneer Fourth activities.

GIFT SHOP

Whenever you find yourself needing a gift, remember the museum's Gift Shop is open Thursday through Sunday from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. We are happy to have you browse as you look for something for yourself or for a special occasion.

This year you will find a wider range of books for adults and children. The crafts continue to expand in variety as well, including handmade items for infants and children. So if you are looking for a unique handcrafted gift or a book about the west or the Elbert County area, please check out the Gift Shop.

Take advantage of our 2-day **Father's Day Special** on Friday, June 15th and Saturday, June 16th. Save 15-20% off on selected books and craft items, including leatherwork and woodworking.



WORD SEARCH UNSCRAMBLE

ELECTRICAL TERMS

Unscramble each of the clue words.

RAYTETB

DOCROCTUN

TERNURC

NURGOD

SFLEROENUTC

SULTOARIN

TAIKOLWT

MLPA

TIHCSW

RORNFARREST

GLTAVOE

Take the letters that appear in and unscramble them for the final message

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!

Cultivator

Locomotive
Bender Menders LLC
Federal Financial Group
IREA

Ponderosa Pine
Elizabeth Wal-Mart
Elizabeth Cost Cutters
HOO Motors
Sizzor Magic

Windmill
Bank of the West
Barr Bear Salon
Elizabeth Napa
Elizabeth Subway
Good Samaritan Society
Integrity Auto Repair
Kiowa Country Store
Parker Port-A-Potty

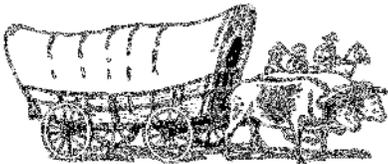
It's not too late to be a sponsor for the 2012 Season. You may still be listed on the summer fliers and signage as well as the fall *Smoky Hill Express* newsletter depending upon when you send your sponsorship form in.

For more information on the levels and benefits of seasonal sponsorships, please visit our website at www.elbertcountymuseum.org. Thank you for your interest and your willingness to support ECHS as we honor Elbert County's history.

WORD SEARCH
UNSCRAMBLED

Battery
Conductor
Current
Ground
Fluorescent
Insulator
Kilowatt
Lamp
Switch
Transformer
Voltage
Arc and Spark

The museum
OPENS
Sunday - May 27th!



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