

SMOKY HILL EXPRESS

Elbert County Historical Society & Museum Newsletter

FALL 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

- 17 Mile House Farm Park Tour3
- Friends of the Museum3
- Membership/Sponsorship Levels ..2
- Museum Sponsors4
- Online Giving Made Easy2

THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED FOR THE WINTER.

REOPENING SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Meeting and Volunteer Orientation
 Saturday, May 18, 10:00 am
 Elbert County Museum Assembly Room

Elbert County Museum 2018 Opening Day
 Sunday, May 26, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Pioneer Fourth Celebration
 Thursday, July 4, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Elbert County Museum Grounds

Annual Membership Meeting
 Saturday, September 7, 10:00 am
 Elbert County Museum Assembly Room



2018 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The Elbert County Historical Society celebrated a major milestone this year with the completion of the final phase of the Smoky Hill Trail exhibit. The finished display examines and follows the history of the trail and transportation in Elbert County from its early days up through the modern era. In partnership with the creative team of Visual West and an army of museum volunteers; the exhibition was designed and constructed over the last five years in three separate stages: origin of the trail, trails to rails, and the automotive age. Along the way, the exhibit was largely funded in part by a grant from the Boettcher Foundation, gifts from the Colorado Tourism Office -Heritage and Agritourism Program, several anonymous donors, and through the generous support of museum season sponsors and visitors. To celebrate the latest addition to the museum, a new t-shirt design made its gift shop debut in May.



In addition to the opening of the Smoky Hill Trail automobile exhibit, the museum also featured a couple other automotive-related displays over the summer season. Visitors -young and old alike, enjoyed an array of Nash, Rambler and American Motors Corporation (AMC) memorabilia from Terry Gale's Rambler Ranch. The diversity of this impressive collection included: children's toys, scale models, promotional materials, stock parts and much, much more. Another fun extension to this year's car theme highlighted road signs in Elbert County. Hank and Donna Smith traversed the towns and back roads taking photos of well-known and sometimes unusual signs for this display.



Independence Day was celebrated with old and new friends, good food, and a museum open house at our 18th Annual Pioneer Fourth. Live music, kid's games and an enthusiastic cake walking crowd opened up the festivities, with the pie judging contest and silent auction following. The day was

Continued on page 3



ELBERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Joe Martell
President

Lucy Hoffhines
Secretary

Patsy North
Board Member at Large

Carla Martell
Past President

Hank Smith
Vice President

Donna Smith
Treasurer

Monty Ashliman
Board Member at Large

Elbert County Historical Society
515 Comanche Street ▪ PO Box 43
Kiowa, Colorado 80117

ElbertCountyMuseum.org

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

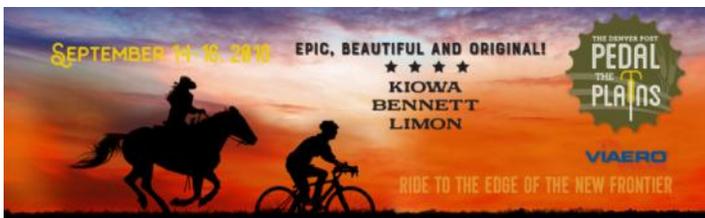
To work for the establishment of appropriate vaults and archives for the preservation of original manuscripts, documents, photographs and artifacts which may come into the possession of the Society.

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

FOR GIVING MADE EASY, DONATE ONLINE!

Visit Elbert County Historical Society & Museum on ColoradoGives.org, a year-round online giving website that features more than 2,000 Colorado charities. Learn about our programs, how we are helping our community, and donate online directly to us. Tell your friends and family -- no more stamps, no more envelopes -- simply donate online.

Go to ColoradoGives.org and enter *Elbert County Historical Society* in the search field. Or, simply click on the Donate Now link from our website. From all of us at Elbert County Historical Society & Museum, thank you for your support! ColoradoGives.org is made possible by Community First Foundation.



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Individual - \$15

Student/Senior - \$8

Family - \$20

Volunteer - Donation of six (6) hours of volunteer time or participate in two (2) functions and/or events.



SEASON SPONSORSHIPS

Museum Season Sponsorships are collected annually and expire at the end of each calendar year. Sponsorships support the general operating fund, new and permanent exhibits, development of educational initiatives and public programs, and the historic museum building and its infrastructure.

Season sponsorships are available at four different levels and are identified by icons of early Elbert County industry

Locomotive -

Contributions of \$200 cash/merchandise or more will receive:

- acknowledgment as a Season Sponsor on all exhibit and event flyers (including Pioneer Fourth)
- recognition on signage inside the museum and at the Pioneer Fourth
- inclusion in the newsletter(s) and
- on our website

Ponderosa Pine -

Contributions of \$100 cash/merchandise or more will receive:

- recognition on signage inside the museum
- inclusion in the newsletter(s) and
- on our website

Windmill -

Contributions over \$25 cash/merchandise will receive:

- recognition on signage inside the museum
- inclusion in the newsletter(s)

Cultivator -

Contributions of \$250 cash or more through the **East Central Enterprise Zone**** will receive:

- acknowledgment as a Season Sponsor on all exhibit and event flyers (including Pioneer Fourth)
- recognition on signage inside the museum and at the Pioneer Fourth
- inclusion in the newsletter(s) and
- on our website

****East Central Enterprise Zone**

By making a \$250 or more cash donation, contributors receive **25% of that amount as a credit against their state tax liability (i.e.: \$250 donation = \$62.50 credit)**. The contribution also may be itemized on their federal tax return.

For additional details on the different levels of [membership](#) or [sponsorship](#), forms can be picked up at the museum's visitors desk or printed off our website at ElbertCountyMuseum.org.

2018 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from page 1

cut short with a fast moving thunderstorm but not until after the BBQ lunch and highly-anticipated pie auction. Special thanks to our fantastic group of volunteers who each year do a superb job setting up/tearing down and cleaning up afterwards. We're also thankful for our talented musicians, auctioneer and pie judges- Duane, Billie and Anna Owens, Buddy Strachan, Amelia Campbell, Lee Benjamin, Linda Ehmann and Jim Emig.

In August ECHS sponsored a field trip to 17 Mile House Farm Park outside of Parker. Karen Sear and Garry O'Hara welcomed our group and presented an exceptional program and tour.

The Annual General Membership Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation reception was held the weekend after Labor Day. Following a recap of the summer's activities and recognition of our talented museum hosts and volunteers; board members Joe Martell (President) and Lucy Hoffhines (Secretary) were reelected. After serving four consecutive terms on the board, John Metli retired and Patsy North was elected to that position (1st Director-at-Large). John and his wife Sherry have been involved with the museum for a number of years -helping build exhibits, refinish floors and furniture, fundraising and more. We wish them a well-deserved break and look forward to seeing them at future events!

This year's Pedal the Plains bike race started and finished in Kiowa, in mid-September. The three-day tour took riders on a 200 mile adventure through Elbert, Arapahoe and Lincoln Counties; and members of the historical society hosted a booth at the fairgrounds, as well as an open house at the museum on the final day of the race. During the closing ceremonies, ECHS was honored to receive the community grant award from the Denver Post Community Foundation and the Town of Kiowa.

In October, ECHS joined representatives from the Arriba Museum, Castle Rock Museum, Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society, Eastern Colorado Historical Society, Historic Douglas County, Historic Littleton, Kit Carson County Carousel Association, Larkspur Historical Society, Limon Heritage Museum, Old Town Museum, Our Journey/ECCOG, Parker Area Historical Society, and 17 Mile House Farm Park for the Eastern Colorado Museum and Historical Society's Annual Fall meeting hosted by Old Town Museum in Burlington. The conference is always a fun and interesting day; catching up with museum friends, learning what each group has been doing over the previous year, discussing new ideas and techniques, and touring the host venue's facility. This year was no exception. Following a lively gunfight performance by Old Town's *High Noon Gunfighters*, the group enjoyed a self-guided tour of the museum grounds.

And lastly, the Elbert County Historical Society saw one additional milestone this year -64 Season Sponsors! Gifts were made through the East Central Enterprise Zone and Colorado Gives website, as well as in person. Thank you to all our sponsors, we appreciate your support.



17 MILE HOUSE FARM PARK TOUR

On Saturday, August 4, the Elbert County Historical Society and friends had an enjoyable field trip to the 17 Mile House Farm Park. The 17 Mile House is located in Arapahoe County near the Douglas/Arapahoe County line just north of Parker. Today many people driving down Parker Road probably don't realize the historical significance of this property, but the 158-year old farm served as an important resting stop for pioneers traveling on the Cherokee/Smoky Hill wagon trails in the 1860's. More recently (up until about 25 years ago) the property was operating as the Richlawn Turf Farm. In 2001, nine entities collaborated to preserve this valuable piece of Colorado history and provide an open space area for the public to enjoy. Partners included: Arapahoe County, Douglas County, Town of Parker, Great Outdoors Colorado, Gates Family Foundation, Colorado State Historical Fund, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, City of Aurora and the Trust for Public Land.

The field trip was well attended with nearly 30 participants taking part. Garry O'Hara with Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society presented an interesting program on the origin and history of the property; while Karen Sear with 17 Mile House Farm Park led visitors through the old farm house and out buildings, sharing stories of the families who lived and worked on the farm. Thanks Karen and Garry for a fun and memorable tour!

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

Thank you to our fantastic museum hosts for another successful season! Our hosts for the 2018 Season included: Darrel & Shirley Abbey, Monty Ashliman, Terry Courtright, Jan Erker, Harold Heckman, Lucy Hoffhines, Dulce Jones, Rick & Katee Kolm, Jim & Carla Martell, Herb & Nita McKnight, Helena Miller, Marge Mottinger, Margie Musgrave, Paul Nasrallah, Patsy North, Verena Nelson, Sylva Pemberton, Tom Peterson, Cecil Pugh and Hank & Donna Smith.

The board of directors appreciates the dedication of all our faithful hosts. If you would be interested in being a museum host in 2019, please call Carla Martell at 303.621.2229.

ELBERT COUNTY MUSEUM SPONSORS

While the museum receives funds through monetary donations given at the museum and with annual historical society memberships; Season Sponsorships and the Pioneer Fourth celebration are the main areas of income which allow the Elbert County Historical Society to develop exhibits and educational opportunities and to improve and maintain the museum building.

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

Locomotive

Alan Lasater
Foundation
Anonymous Donor
Bender Menders
Laurel Brown
Jeff & Connie Lehman
Denver Post Community
Foundation
DrJohnStevens.com
Ben & Laurie Duke
Elbert County
Abstract & Title Co.
Elizabeth Auto Repair
Elizabeth Locker Plant
Front Range Kubota
High Plains Food Store
High Prairie Survey Co.
Lucy Hoffhines
JR's Village Repair
Katee & Rick Kolm
Legacy Plow & Trailer
Jim & Carla Martell



(Locomotive continued)

Ed and Marcia Stafford
Spring Valley Golf Club
Spring Valley -Jim Marshall
Sun Valley Electric Inc.

Ponderosa Pine

Advanced Quality
Auto Repair
Angie's Cuttin Corner
Community Banks of
Colorado
James Duvall
Hamacher Well Works Inc.
Jill's Feed & Country Supply
Kiowa Alumni Association
Napa -Elizabeth
Stablemaster Products, Inc.
Jeanne Thompson



Windmill

Anonymous
Donor
Bentley's Pet Store
Bernie's Kitchen
Roger Berst
Big O Tires -Elizabeth
Big R -Elizabeth
Burger King -Parker
Costco -Parker
Dominos -Elizabeth
Dusty Plains Veterinary
Service
Elbert Tax Services, Inc.
Elizabeth Family Dental
Integrity Auto Repair, Inc.
King Soopers -Stroh Ranch
Laura Lempe
MK Liquors
Mountain Man Nut &
Fruit Co. -Elizabeth
Murdoch's -Parker
Parker Port-A-Potty



(Windmill continued)

Ann Pidgeon
Safeway -Elizabeth
Sizzor Magic Haulmann/
Jean/McFarland
Sprouts -Parker
Sweet Alfas
Cherie Wyatt

Cultivator

Glaser Gas &
Equipment Co. -
Kiowa
Harold Heckman
HOO Motors
JC Martell
John & Sherry Metli
Smith Ranches



ELBERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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