2019 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The Elbert County Historical Society and Museum closed out the decade with a full year of activities and events. The first four months of 2019 were busy planning building projects, redesigning the website and preparing for opening weekend and the annual Pioneer Fourth celebration. Early in the spring, work began on a new exhibit in the basement hallway that will make its debut during the 2020 Season. The display will feature the county’s high schools and include a creative integration of artifacts from the museum’s collection.

The Museum Season Sponsorship program grew dramatically in 2019 - setting a new record of seventy-six sponsors! Contributions were made in person, through the ColoradoGives website or the East Central Enterprise Zone program. Thank you sponsors!

Second graders from Running Creek Elementary visited the museum in early May. ECHS Board members, Hank and Donna Smith, Monty Ashliman, Lucy Hoffhines, Patsy North and Carla Martell, guided the kids on a tour which included “walking the ruts” of the Smoky Hill Trail, retelling tales of the trail’s hardships and the coming of the railroads and highways. The model cars and children’s toys from the extended display of the Rambler Ranch Collection was also a popular favorite. Later in the season, docent Harold Heckman, led several private tours and entertained each group with stories and tales of early Elbert County.

Opening day welcomed an unexpected visitor when Society President, Joe Martell, came face to face with a four foot bull snake sunning itself out on the front steps of the museum. With a long stick and a little coaxing, both parties soon parted and the snake was not seen the rest of the summer.

The 19th Annual Pioneer Fourth was well attended and included all the favorites that have become a mainstay of the day - museum open house, pie baking contest and auction, cake walk, silent auction, good BBQ food, kids games and live music. Each year an extraordinary group of volunteers come together to help from start to finish in making the day a great success. Thank you volunteers!

In August, ECHS and Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society co-sponsored a presentation on the 155th Anniversary of the Hungate Massacre. Dr. Jeff Broome gave an enlightening program on his research and

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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.
A BIG BOY VISITS ELBERT COUNTY

We were able to see history being made when the Union Pacific #4014 “Big Boy” passed through eastern Elbert County probably for the first time in history. After spending the weekend in Limon, Colorado, on November 25, 2019, the Big Boy departed Limon about 8 am for Denver where it would spend the night before going to its final destination in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Traveling on Union Pacific rails the #4014 passed through the town of Agate and the ghost towns of River Bend and Buick before making a scheduled stop in Strasburg.

The 4014 was completing the final leg of its tour of the southwestern US as part of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. In May 2019, Big Boy 4014 left Cheyenne to go to Ogden, Utah where it met another UP steam engine, #844, to recreate the iconic photo at Promontory Point near Ogden for the driving of the Golden Spike. The Union Pacific laid tracks westward from Omaha, Nebraska while the Central Pacific built the railroad from the west and on May 10, 1869, Union Pacific #119 and Central Pacific “Jupiter” were face to face for the driving of the Golden Spike, celebrating the connecting the East Coast to the West Coast.

The 4014 is the only Big Boy in operation of the twenty five that were built by Alco for the Union Pacific in 1941. It is about 133 feet in length and weighs about 1,200,000 pounds, #4014 was a coal burner and could reach speeds of 70 mph. Big Boys have a wheel arrangement of 4-8-8-4 (a 4 wheeled pilot truck followed by two sets of drivers consisting of 8 wheels each and then a 4 wheeled trailing truck) and are articulated. The pilot truck and first set of drivers are hinged to swing independently of the boiler and rear set of drivers. This enabled Big Boys with their long wheel base to negotiate tighter curves. Big Boys were designed for pulling heavy freight trains over the steeper grades between Ogden, Utah to Cheyenne, Wyoming without the use of helper engines. During their heydays, they were considered King of the Rails.

Big Boy No. 4014 was retired from service in 1959 after 18 years and donated to a museum in 1962. In 2013 UP reacquired 4014 and moved it to Cheyenne in 2014 for a complete restoration. During the restoration it was converted from coal fired to an oil burner engine for economic and environmental purposes. It will be housed in Cheyenne with other UP vintage engines including the #844, a 4-8-4 engine. There are seven other remaining Big Boys scattered across the nation in museums or city parks - all are out of service.

The Kansas Pacific Railroad completed their railroad from the Kansas City area to Denver in 1870, generally following the Smoky Hill Trail. The Smoky Hill Trail was established in 1859 as the third route to the gold field of Colorado. After the initial gold rush of 1859-1860 the trail was used for stage travel and a freight route. The larger Union Pacific Railroad acquired the struggling Kansas Pacific in 1880.

2019 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS
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interpretation of the events of that fateful day.

And lastly, the Fall Conference for the Eastern Colorado Museums and Historical Society group met in October at Maguireville, just outside of Monument. The annual meeting was attended by representatives of ECHS, as well as 17 Mile House Farm Park, Bailey Saddleland Museum, Castle Rock Museum, Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society, Highlands Ranch Historical Society, Historic Douglas County, Kit Carson County Carousel Assn, Larkspur Historical Society, Our Journey/ECCOG, Palmer Lake Historical Society, Parker Area Historical Society and Roxborough Area Historical Society.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

Thank you to our fantastic museum hosts for another successful season! Our docents for the 2019 Season included: Darrel & Shirley Abbey, Monty Ashliman, Terry Courtright, Jan Erker, Lynn Hayes, Harold Heckman, Lucy Hoffhines, Betty Hood, Judy Kimzey, Rick & Katee Kolm, Jim & Carla Martell, Herb & Nita McKnight, John & Sherry Metli, Marge Mottinger, Margie Musgrave, Paul Nasrallah, Patsy North, Verana Nelson, Donna Reese, Cecil Pugh, Hank & Donna Smith, and Patti Thayer.

The board of directors appreciates the dedication of all our faithful volunteers. If you would be interested in being a museum host in 2020, 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!

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360 Diesel & Auto Repair
Anonymous Donor
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Elbert County
Abstract & Title Co.
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Lucy Hoffhines
Intermountain Rural Electric Assn (IREA)
JR’s Village Repair
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Legacy Plow & Trailer

(LOCOMOTIVE CONT.)
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