

Volume IX Number 1

April 2015 through July 2015

Email: [palmerdividehistory.org](mailto:palmerdividehistory.org)

Museum: 719-559-0837



## Palmer Lake Historical Society

### Board of Directors 2015

President - Al Walter  
Vice President - Phyllis Bonser  
Secretary - R. Michael Walker  
Treasurer - Barbara Arbuthnot  
Museum Director - Rogers Davis

### Directors-at-Large

Su Ketchmark  
J. Patrick McCarthy  
Melissa Robohn  
Rodger Voelker  
Sigi Walker, *ex officio* (newsletter)

### Program Schedule: April through July 2015

**April 16, 2015**, 7:00 PM – "Ute Indian Prayer Trees of the Pikes Peak Region"  
John Wesley Anderson

**May 21, 2015**, 7:00 PM – "American Bison"  
Robin Hammitt

**June 18, 2015**, 7:00 PM – "Trains in the Ute Pass"  
Mel McFarland

**July 16, 2015**, 7:00 PM – "Navy Ships Named USS Colorado"  
Dick Cooper

### Mark your 2015 Calendars

Tour of Maguireville - May 9  
Father's Day Ice Cream Social - June 21  
One Nation Pow Wow - July 18  
Annual Chautauqua - Aug 1  
Tour of Estemere - early-mid September

### Contributing to this issue:

Pat McCarthy Tom VanWormer  
Al Walter Mike & Sigi Walker  
Thanks to all who reviewed and commented!

# A Newsletter of the Palmer Lake Historical Society and the *Lucretia Vaile Museum*

## Monument Pioneers: Henry and Caroline Limbach

Henry Limbach was born in Germany in 1842 and immigrated to America in 1863, serving with the 41st New York Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. He came West in 1866 as an enlistee in the 8th Cavalry. Caroline Linder Limbach was also born in Germany in 1842 and came to America in 1872 with her mother, Maria Linder. The Limbachs were married in 1872, and Caroline and Maria accompanied Henry to his ranch, which had just been made a station on the D&RG RR called Henry Station.



Henry Limbach was one of an eight-member group which incorporated the Monument Bergens Park and Fairplay wagon road in November 1874. The purpose was to construct and maintain a wagon road from Monument to Florissant. The route was surveyed and some grading done, but the road was never completed.

Monument was incorporated in 1879. Limbach was the town's first mayor, from 1880 - 1882, its second postmaster, serving from March 1871 to December 1880, a notary public, a good businessman, and owner of a considerable amount of land in and around Monument; he also served on the "Calaboose" committee in 1880. In 1881, the town council appointed Henry Limbach and Charles D. Ford to plan for bringing water to Monument from Monument Creek, a distance of two miles, using ditches, flumes, and bridges wherever necessary.



Caroline Limbach was active in church and charitable work, the school board, and for twelve years was the proprietor of a large dry goods, millinery, and dressmaker store, located on the corner of Front and Second Streets.

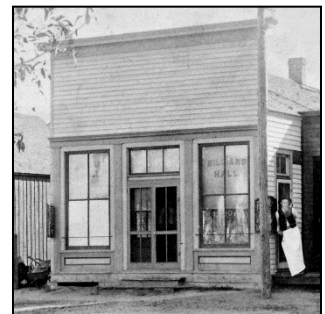


In 1881 there was a woman dubbed "Peeping Sal" who was very much opposed to saloons. Wanting to know who the men were who frequented Limbach's Saloon, she would peek in the windows of the saloon after dark, particularly in the narrow one-way passage between the saloon and Rod Walker's store. She was cured of this when one of the men urinated on her in the pitch dark passageway!

One Halloween prank also involved Limbach's Saloon. One of Monument's preachers had a lovely two-seat surrey, which ended up astraddle the roof of the saloon. Since the preacher knew the boys who did it, he offered them the best chicken and dumpling dinner if they would take the buggy down the way they put it up!

Ironically, two men were murdered in Monument in separate incidents, one in 1876 in the Limbach store and the other in 1909 in Limbach's Saloon.

Monument had three land sites that had been designated as park areas but never named. In 1979, the townspeople voted on names, and the site on Front Street, south of Second Street, given to the town in 1883, became Limbach Park. Henry had planted the trees and seeded the grass many years earlier.



Sources: *Monument's Faded Neighbor Communities and its Folklore, Through the Years at Monument, Colorado*, and *Communities of the Palmer Divide*, all available from the Lucretia Vaile Museum.

## President's Message



The Palmer Lake Historical Society is looking forward to another successful year of sponsoring programs and events to educate and inform the community about the rich history of Colorado and the Palmer

Divide. Those who attended our annual Membership Meeting and Potluck Dinner in January were treated to some great baked ham with all the "fixins," as well as musical entertainment by local artist Joe Bohler on the piano. The business portion of the night included a wrap-up by outgoing President Tom Van Wormer of the Society's activities in 2014 and election of new officers for 2015. We were blessed this year by having eight highly qualified individuals interested in serving as Directors this year. Four of the eight were selected to fill the open positions on the Board.

As part of our History Series, we invite local authors and researchers to present programs about local historical figures or events that helped shape our community. The programs are free to both PLHS members and the community, and light refreshments are served. We were delighted to note increased attendance in 2014.

We have a number of special events planned for the year. In May, we will hold a special program at Maquireville in Monument to tour Jim Maquire's vast collection of farm implements, household items, wagons, tools, and other examples of items commonly used in everyday life many years ago. In June, we will hold our annual Father's Day Ice Cream Social, featuring free ice cream, pies and bluegrass music. In July, we will host our 7th Annual Native American Indian Festival and Powwow, featuring Native dancers, singers, artists, Native foods, and live wolf and bird of prey exhibits. In August, we will again turn time back over 100 years as we present the annual Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua. Finally, in September, we will sponsor a tour of the famous Estemere Victorian Mansion, built by the founder of Palmer Lake in the late 1800s and lovingly restored to its former glory by Roger and Kim Ward. Look for details of these events on our website and in local media.

We are a small organization, staffed by volunteers who truly believe that history should be more than a memory. We are always seeking volunteers to help preserve, promote, and protect our local history. If you can donate a few hours of your time each month, you could be a valuable contributor to our organization. Please email us at [plhs@palmerdividehistory.org](mailto:plhs@palmerdividehistory.org) or call 719-559-0837 to volunteer.

Al Walter, PLHS President

## THEN AND NOW: Tri-Lakes Photos from the Past and Present

*Below left: Highway 105 railroad underpass under construction - 1927:*

*Below right: Highway 105 railroad underpass - March 20, 2015*



Originally built by the Santa Fe Railroad, the bridge and tracks are now part of the Joint Line, operated by the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroads. Coal trains and shale oil trains now frequently pass overhead.

*Below left: White Kitchen Cafe, built in 1927, photo ca 1927*

*Below right: - Rock House Ice Cream & More - March 20, 2015*



Much of the stone of this building came from a white quartz outcropping on nearby Sundance Mountain. The Rock House is now owned and operated by pioneer family descendants. The business is a sponsor of the Father's Day Ice Cream Social in June.

*Below left: Palmer Lake Elementary Schoolhouse - 1934:*

*Below right: Palmer Lake Elementary Schoolhouse - March 21, 2015*



The Palmer Lake Elementary School was built to serve the needs of the local population. It has remained a primary school and was greatly enlarged in the 1980s. Parking, playground equipment and sports facilities have also been added.

*Below left: PLVFD's first fire truck (1921 Dodge) ca 1938*

*Below right: PLVFD's current fire truck - March 20, 2015*



The firehouse was built in 1938 as a W.P.A. project, with an additional bay subsequently added. The Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department has served the town for over 77 years. The current specially-built American LaFrance fire truck was purchased in 2002.

"Then" photos courtesy of Lucretia Vaile Museum; "Now" photos by Mike Walker

## Compendium of Monthly PLHS Presentations April through July 2015

Social Hour at 6:30 PM, Presentations begin at 7:00 PM

### Thursday, April 16, 2015 – “Ute Indian Prayer Trees of the Pikes Peak Region” Presenter: John Wesley Anderson



John Wesley Anderson returns to talk about Ute Indian Prayer trees of the Pikes Peak Region. Focusing on the culture and history of the indigenous Ute Peoples between 150 and 450 years ago, he will discuss the sacred living artifacts they left behind. These Culturally Modified Trees (CMTs) can still be found across the Pikes Peak Region. Anderson will describe what to look for and where - in the land around the sacred mountain known to the Utes as "Tava" (Pikes Peak).

John Wesley Anderson has lived in the Pikes Peak Region since 1956 and was the 26th Sheriff of El Paso County from 1995 to 2003. He collected arrowheads as a youth on the family ranch in eastern El Paso County and has always been fascinated with Native American history, culture and artifacts.

### Thursday, May 21, 2015 – “American Bison” Presenter: Robin Hammitt



Robin Hammitt will present a slide show and discussion about the massacre to near extinction of the American Bison. As a long time student of history, he will present his theories on why it happened. Politics and the expansion of the West were involved. Find out how the deliberate extermination of the buffalo related to the American Indian Wars.

Robin's parents were both born in Colorado, but he was not, so he considers himself a "semi-native." His father is a 1944 graduate of Lewis Consolidated School in Monument. A 29-year employee of the Pikes Peak Library District, Robin has presented three programs for the PPLD Regional History Symposium.

### Thursday, June 18, 2015 – Trains in the Ute Pass Presenter: Mel McFarland



Mel will take a look at spots in Ute Pass and how they looked with trains in them. The Colorado Midland and the Midland Terminal were the main ones, but not the ONLY ones! The first train up Ute Pass was before the Colorado Midland, and the last one was in the 1970's, which does not consider a wandering caboose or two! He will talk about these, too!

Mel McFarland is a native of Colorado Springs and grew up "in the shadow of the remains of the Colorado Midland." He is the author of *The Midland Route* (soon to be republished) and a popular speaker, as well as an artist, photographer, and model railroader.

### Thursday, July 16, 2015 – Four Navy Ships named USS Colorado Presenter: Dick Cooper



Our heart and soul is with the USS Colorado SSN 788, a Virginia class submarine - the most advanced in the Navy - but how much do we know about the first three USS Colorado ships? Dick will tell us about the ancestral namesake ships that preceded SSN 788: the Civil War era Steam Screw Frigate USS Colorado, WWI era USS Colorado ACR-7, and WWII Colorado BB-45. We'll find out about the Navy tradition of when a ship is named for a state, the namesake state creates a commissioning party and helps adorn the ship.

A Michigan native, Dick Cooper is a retired Naval Reserve Commander and a retired public school teacher who moved to Palmer Lake in 2005. He is immediate past president of the Colorado Springs chapter of the Navy League and a member of the USS Colorado Commissioning Committee.

#### Notice of Upcoming Events:

**Special Tour of Maguireville** on May 9, 2015, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Palmer Lake Historical Society's annual **Father's Day Ice Cream Social** on June 21, 2015, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**Annual Colorado Springs Native American Festival and Powwow** will be held at the Freedom Financial Services Expo Center on July 18, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Grand Entry at 12:00 noon. The PLHS is a partner in this event.

Our **Annual Chautauqua** is scheduled for August 1, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Come and enjoy portrayals, re-enactments, demonstrations, exhibits, a brass band, and guided tours of Palmer Lake.

# Palmer Lake Historical Society

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## History of the Palmer Divide Powwow

PLHS to again Partner with One Nation Walking Together for Powwow in 2015

by Al Walter

The term powwow derives from the Indian word "pau-wau," which originally stood for a healing ceremony conducted by the spiritual or religious leaders of various tribes. How the powwow got its exact start is not known, but it was thought to have originated with the Pawnee tribe as a religious ceremonial meeting, filled with dancing and other rituals. Other Indian tribes adopted the practice of the powwow and added their own traditions. Indians held these ceremonies to celebrate a successful hunt and to thank the spirits for a bountiful harvest. Powwows also spiritually prepared a warrior for an impending battle. Native Americans were big believers in all things living and spiritual and viewed life and death as an inevitable circle. Some of the powwow ceremonies they conducted celebrated this circle with tribal drums, dancing, food, chanting and traditional healing rituals. They acted out ancient stories handed through the generations, which kept their history alive.

The mission of the Historical Society is to preserve, promote, and protect the history of the Palmer Divide. Since American Indians were the first inhabitants of the area, the Historical Society decided to preserve and promote their history, traditions, and culture. In 2009, Board of Director member Rhett Walter proposed that the Historical Society sponsor an outdoor Native American Intertribal Festival and Powwow next to the lake so that non-Natives could interact with Native Americans from local tribes and experience their traditions and culture. The summer day was filled with the sounds of Native drums and singers and the sight of dancers in full Native dress (regalia). Attendees could buy Native made items and sample Native food. Approximately 200 members of the local community attended this first powwow. By 2012, the annual powwow attracted almost 500 people. However, with the lake drying up and July temperatures reaching the mid-90s, it was decided to move the event indoors.

In 2013, the Historical Society partnered with One Nation Walking Together, a Native charity in Colorado Springs, and moved the powwow indoors to the Colorado Springs Freedom Financial Services EXPO Center. That year attendance approached 2,000 people. In 2014, attendance grew to almost 3,000 people, with 50 Native artist booths, 20 nonprofit booths, live wolf and birds of prey exhibits, Aztec Dancers, an Indian teaching lodge and three Native food vendors. Over the years, the small, lakeside powwow started by the Palmer Lake Historical Society has grown to one of the largest Indian festival and powwows in the area. The Annual Colorado Springs Intertribal Festival and Powwow, to be held on July 18, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., promises to be even bigger! For information about the event, visit [www.palmerdividehistory.org](http://www.palmerdividehistory.org) or call 719-559-0525.

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Note: All submissions may be edited for content, grammar, and space allocations, and become the property of the Palmer Lake Historical Society unless other arrangements have been made. Digital word submissions in .doc or .docx, photos in .jpg format, please. Submit pieces and photos to Editor at [mikensicai@comcast.net](mailto:mikensicai@comcast.net)