

SMOKY HILL EXPRESS

Elbert County Historical Society & Museum Newsletter

FALL 2020

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**THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED
FOR THE WINTER.
REOPENING
SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer Orientation

Saturday, May 22, 10:00 am
Elbert County Museum Assembly Room

Elbert County Museum 2021 Opening Day

Sunday, May 30, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Pioneer Fourth Celebration

Sunday, July 4, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Elbert County Museum Grounds

Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, September 11, 10:00 am
Elbert County Museum Assembly Room

DONATE NOW
THROUGH
COLORADOGIVES.ORG

2020 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The Elbert County Historical Society and Museum started the year like those prior -with planning exhibits and programs for the summer season, reaching out and meeting with sponsors, and preparing for the 20th Annual Pioneer Fourth. Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and everything came to a screeching halt.

Out of concern for museum volunteers and visitors, ECHS Board members made the difficult decision to close the museum for 2020 and cancel the Pioneer Fourth celebration. In addition, they unanimously extended all sponsorships into 2021 in appreciation to all our generous season sponsors. Contributions were made through East Central Enterprise Zone, Colorado Gives and in person (to see a complete list of our sponsors, look for the banner in the front of the museum, on our website, and on the back of this publication).

And yet despite being closed, online artifact donation inquiries and history requests increased significantly this summer... the pandemic it seems gave individuals an excuse to clean out closets and basements, as well as revisit long, lost family trees.

Lastly, thank you for helping ECHS reach and exceed our goal of \$1,000 during the annual Colorado Gives Day on December 8.

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY ARE THE SAME

Looking back into our not-so-distant past, we recently delved into the 1918 issues of the Elbert newspaper, the *Elbert County Tribune*, and discovered striking similarities between the Spanish Influenza epidemic and today. Even then there was encouragement to social distance and rolling quarantines.

NOTICE

In compliance with the proclamation issued by the Governor of Colorado it is hereby ordered by the County Health Officer of Elbert County that all theaters, churches, schools and other places where people assemble, be closed until the epidemic of Influenza has run its course. I further urge that the quarantine be respected and the people of Elbert County be requested to remain at home while suffering from severe colds or other indispositions until the nature of their illness be determined.

(Signed) J. S. Rogers,
County Health Officer.

The "flu" epidemic is raging full blast in Elbert now, 14 cases in town. Dr. Rogers was up from Kiowa Monday and steps will be taken to enforce rigid quarantine measures here.

New cases of the flu are developing and when the people wake up and realize what a dreaded disease is in their neighborhood they will see that strict quarantine is enforced.

NOTICE

Kiowa, Colorado, Oct. 29, 1918.
The quarantine in Elbert County is hereby raised on all schools and churches and other indoor and outdoor meetings, on Monday November 4th, 1918.

(Signed) J. S. Rogers,
County Health Officer.



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.



WHIRLIGIG HEXAGON QUILT PATTERN, KANSAS CITY STAR NEWSPAPER

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.

QUILTING DURING A DECADE OF DISASTERS

Following the good times of the “Roaring Twenties” the decade of the 1930’s brought many hardships to Elbert County residents in the form of drought, depression, dust bowl, and floods.

Along with shrinking pocketbooks and limited resources women met many challenges in providing for the basic needs of their loved ones.

Relying on the common craft of handmade quilts that had been handed down for centuries, women and young ladies carefully gathered fabric scraps from home made clothing to make warm bed coverings for the family.

Often ladies would meet together in a “Quilting Bee”, where they shared patterns, fabric and help in the construction and finishing of their quilts. Occasionally a woman might earn a bit of extra money by making quilts for someone else.

1930’s ladies looked forward to the quilting patterns offered in the *Kansas City Star* newspaper and in some local newspapers also. Popular patterns of this time were the Wedding Ring, Dresden Plate, Grandmother’s Flower Garden, and Star of Bethlehem to name a few.

A unique variety of fabric prints were developed which brightened the dark days of this decade of disasters. Feed sacks began to be available in colors by the late 1920’s and by the mid-to-late 1930’s mills were competing to attract women by offering the most popular prints on sacks of sugar, flour, beans, and cornmeal. This competition allowed ladies to purchase food not by any particular brand but in the fabrics they wanted.

Some of these quilts have become cherished family heirlooms adding to the historic value of our past.



PIONEER PATCHWORK 2001 EXHIBIT,
ELBERT COUNTY MUSEUM

BARN QUILTS

Similar to cloth quilts, barn quilts can be equally telling and just as beautiful. This folk-art tradition originated in Ohio about twenty years ago, when Donna Sue Groves sought out a creative way to honor her mother and painted a quilt block on the end of her barn.

Since then, “Quilt Trails” have sprung up across the United States and Canada with beautiful quilt squares appearing not only on barns, but even unconventional places like buildings along small-town main streets, rural mailboxes, gardens and more.

Many of these quilt blocks are constructed of plywood or smooth MDF board and vary in size depending on where they are placed, but generally barn-mounted quilt blocks range from four to eight feet square. The patterns on these wooden squares can be colorful, intricately detailed and personal; and are limited only by their creator’s imagination.



BARN SOUTHEAST OF FORT MORGAN

Colorado has several Barn Quilt Trails spread across the state. A couple notable ones can be found in Grand County, Morgan County and Palisade.



PALISADE BARN QUILT TRAIL



GRAND COUNTY QUILT TRAIL BARN



ELBERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

PO Box 43 • KIOWA, COLORADO 80117



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

All Wired Up Electric
Anonymous Donor
Bino's Pizza
Ben & Laurie Duke
Front Range Kubota
Christian Hertneky
High Plains Food Store
High Prairie Survey Co.
Lucy Hoffhines
Intermountain Rural
Electric Assn (IREA)
JR's Village Repair
Katee & Rick Kolm
Legacy Plow & Trailer
Jim & Carla Martell
Mountain View
Electric Assn (MVEA)
Murdoch's -Parker

(LOCOMOTIVE CONT.)

Ann Pidgeon
Marta Railsback
Sawmill Bar & Grill
Sun Valley Electric Inc.
Pattie Thayer
True Value -Elizabeth
Mindy Webb

PONDEROSA PINE

360 Diesel & Auto Repair
AAC Enterprises
Angie's Cuttin Corner
Monty & Phyllis Ashliman
Margie Ashura
Big R -Elizabeth
Laurel Brown

(PONDEROSA PINE CONT.)

Elizabeth Locker Plant
Hamacher Well Works Inc.
Integrity Auto Repair
Jill's Feed & Country Supply
Tom & Marge Mottinger
Royal B Threads, LLC
Skadoodles Ladies Boutique

WINDMILL

Adriana's
Mexican Restaurant
Advance Quality Auto Repair
America's
Most Lovable Painters
Anonymous Donor
Bernie's Kitchen
Cost Cutters -Elizabeth
Dusty Plains
Veterinary Service
El Rinconcito -Elizabeth
Elizabeth Floral
Forty Mile Feed
Lynn & Ronald Hayes
Sharon Hoffhines
HomeSmart Realty Group
-Karen Berends
Betty Hood
Iron Horse Equine Medical
& Surgical Services
Kings Kars

(WINDMILL CONT.)

Kiowa Creek Community
Church Foodbank
KW Home Accents
-Karin Royston
MK Liquors
Patsy North
Once Upon A Tan
Parker Port-A-Potty
Running Creek Auto Center
Safeway -Elizabeth
Karen Sear
Sweet Alfas
William Thomas
Walmart -Elizabeth

CULTIVATOR

Glaser Gas &
Equipment Co. -Kiowa
Harold Heckman
HOO Motors
JC Martell
John & Sherry Metli
RE/MAX Accord
-Tammi Schneider
Smith Ranches