

SMOKY HILL EXPRESS

Elbert County Historical Society & Museum Newsletter

FALL 2021

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**THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED
FOR THE WINTER.
REOPENING
SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer Host Orientation
Saturday, May 21, 10:00 am
Elbert County Museum Office

**Elbert County Museum
2022 Opening Day**
Sunday, May 29, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

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

Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday, September 10, 10:00 am
Elbert County Museum Office

**DONATE NOW
THROUGH
COLORADOGIVES.ORG**

2021 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The Elbert County Historical Society and Museum celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Elbert County Museum building, formerly the Kiowa High School, in grand fashion this year. This milestone was celebrated throughout the year and began in the spring with the exterior receiving a fresh coat of paint. Upstairs in the Assembly Room, this year's main exhibit was on the building itself and included an assortment of Kiowa School memorabilia. The display featured photos of Kiowa's first schoolhouse and classes, early report cards, school books, athletic and cheerleader uniforms, trophies and scrapbooks.



In May, the Kiowa Alumni Association gathered for their annual banquet and celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Kiowa's first graduating class. The museum hosted an Open House and welcomed former graduates to walk through the old schoolhouse, reminisce with classmates and view the exhibits.



As the summer progressed, our annual Pioneer Fourth Celebration returned after being on COVID hiatus in 2020. This year's weather and attendance was absolutely fantastic and a special tribute took place in the afternoon to recognize the laying of the museum building's cornerstone

on July 5, 1921! Visitors enjoyed many of their old favorites -from the kid's games and cake walk on the basketball court, to the pie judging contest and BBQ lunch under the pines. The live music and pie auction on the front stage provided entertainment, and the museum open house immersed old timers and newcomers into Elbert County's rich and colorful history. Thanks to our great volunteers who helped make the day a success from start to finish!

Visitor attendance was up significantly this summer and museum hosts led a handful of group tours throughout the summer - one Friday in August we had three large groups!

The summer season concluded with the General Membership Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation in September. Following the meeting the Society sponsored a field trip to the West Lincoln



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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.

FAREWELL TO OUR FRIEND

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to our friend Donna Reese, who passed away last August.

Donna was a member of the Elbert County Historical Society & Museum for nearly thirty years, serving in countless roles including but not limited to Museum Curator (1993-2004), volunteer and hostess, and Pioneer Fourth Pie Judge Registrant (2000-2021). Donna had an extraordinary talent for arranging unforgettable exhibits and creating beautiful display cases. Her energy, enthusiasm and laughter will be greatly missed.



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.

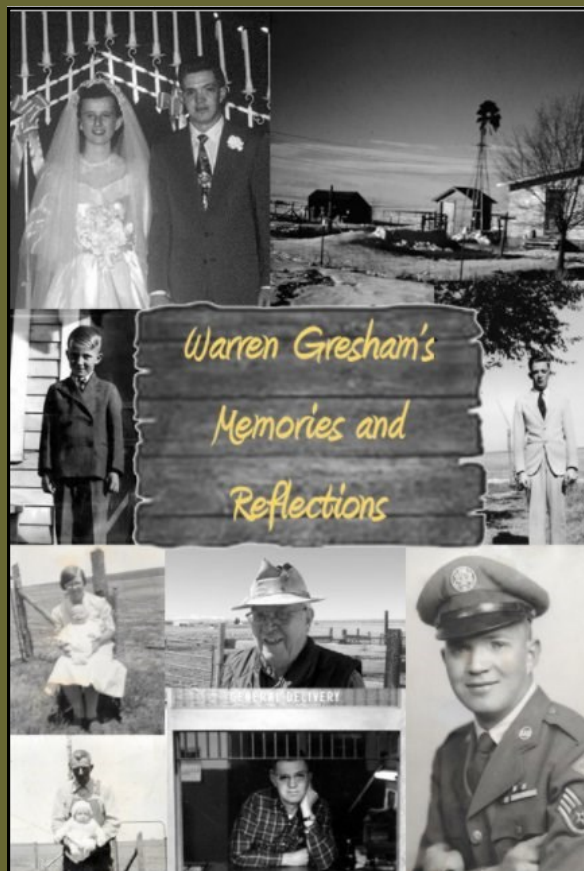
For additional details on the different levels of **membership** or **sponsorship**, forms can be picked up at the museum's visitors desk or printed off our website at ElbertCountyMuseum.org.

MEET THE AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

The 2021 Pioneer Fourth Celebration featured local author and retired Elbert Postmaster, Warren Gresham.

Earlier in the spring Warren and his eldest son Jim, published a memoirs book entitled: *Warren Gresham's Memories and Reflections*, a collection of Warren's writing about life growing up on a farm near Elbert and other stories from his life.

Warren, his son and daughter in law, John and Gayle Gresham, spent the afternoon meeting and visiting with museum visitors, while Warren signed his book.



WARREN GRESHAM'S MEMORIES AND REFLECTIONS BOOK IS AVAILABLE IN THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP.



WARREN GRESHAM AND MR. ZIP TAKING A BREAK DURING WARREN'S BOOK SIGNING AT THE PIONEER FOURTH

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.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

Thank you to our fantastic museum hosts for another successful season! Our docents for the 2021 Season included: Darrel & Shirley Abbey, Monty Ashliman, Terry Courtright, Lynn Hayes, Lucy Hoffhines, Betty Hood, Dulcie Jones, Judy Kimzey, Rick & Katee Kolm, Carla Martell, Herb & Nita McKnight, John & Sherry Metli, Marge Mottinger, Margie Musgrave, Patsy North, 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 2022, please call Carla Martell at 303.621.2229.

2021 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from page 1

School west of Elbert (see related story on page 4).

And lastly, thank you to our eighty-six Museum Season Sponsors (a new record)! Contributions were made in person, through the East Central Enterprise Zone program and via the Colorado Gives website. On December 7, (Colorado Gives Day), the Elbert County Historical Society & Museum received over \$1,750 in donations from 12 individual donors, surpassing our goal of \$1,000.

WEST LINCOLN SCHOOL FIELD TRIP

The Elbert County Historical Society and friends visited the West Lincoln School on Saturday, September 11. Hidden away just miles from Elbert, Colorado, this one-room schoolhouse is one of Elbert County's best preserved. The West Lincoln School, District #42 was organized in 1909 and served the surrounding community for 36 years before consolidating into Elbert School in 1945. The school building was given to the Lincoln Community Club, a social club, who continued to use the building for meeting and social gatherings. The present building was built in 1913 by Jens Olkjer, and today is lovingly cared for and maintained by the Bob Gresham family.

Bob's father and uncle, Allen and Warren Gresham, both attended school in the building. They shared memories of their school days, talking about early teachers, classmates and the families who lived nearby.

The tour was well attended, with over 25 people attending. Thank you to the Gresham family for a fun and memorable tour!



ALLEN AND WARREN GRESHAM



2021 PIONEER FOURTH CELEBRATION

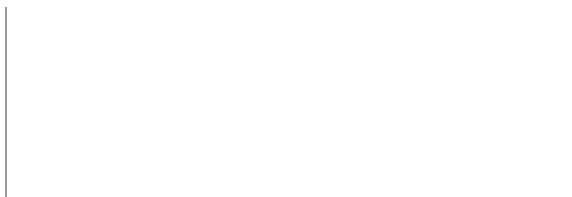
Photos courtesy of Melissa Crippen





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
Elbert County
Abstract & Title Company
Front Range Kubota
High Plains Food Store
High Prairie Survey Co.
Lucy Hoffhines
Inermountain Rural
Electric Assn (IREA)
JR's Village Repair
Robert Kirch
Katee & Rick Kolm
Legacy Plow & Trailer
Jeff & Connie Lehman
Jim & Carla Martell

(LOCOMOTIVE CONT.)

Mountain View
Electric Assn (MVEA)
Murdoch's -Parker
Phillips 66
Sawmill Bar & Grill
Sun Valley Electric Inc.
Patti 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
Buzzard's Pizza

(PONDEROSA PINE CONT.)

Elizabeth Locker Plant
Hamacher Well Works Inc.
Christian Hertneky
Integrity Auto Repair
Jill's Feed & Country Supply
Kiowa Alumni Association
Tom & Marge Mottinger
Patty Ann's Cafe
Marta Railsback
Royal B Threads, LLC
Skadoodles Ladies Boutique

WINDMILL

Adriana's
Mexican Restaurant
Advance Quality Auto Repair
America's Most
Lovable Painters
Anonymous Donor
Lenore Bates
Bernie's Kitchen
Catalina's Diner
Leanne Cook
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

(WINDMILL CONT.)

Iron Horse Equine Medical
& Surgical Services
Kings Kars
Kiowa Creek Community
Church Foodbank
KW Home Accents
-Karin Royston
MK Liquors
Patsy North
Once Upon A Tan
Parker Port-A-Potty
Tom & Linda Peterson
Ann Pidgeon
Running Creek Auto Center
Safeway -Elizabeth
Karen Sear
Sizzor Magic -Betty Haulman
Sweet Alfas
William Thomas
Judith Tobias
Walmart -Elizabeth

CULTIVATOR

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