

SMOKY HILL EXPRESS

Elbert County Historical Society & Museum Newsletter

SPRING 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

A Brief History of Music	4
Explore the Gift Shop	3
Farewell To Our Friend	3
Kiowa Centennial Yearbook	5
Memberships/Sponsorships	2
Museum Sponsors	6
Pioneer Fourth	3
Recurring Gifts Made Easy	3
Share the Museum	3
Who Am I	2

THE MUSEUM IS OPEN
THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY
1:00 TO 4:00PM EVERY WEEK
DURING THE SUMMER!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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, 9:00 am
 Elbert County Museum Office

DONATE NOW
 THROUGH
COLORADOGIVES.ORG



GUITARS AND VARIOUS STRINGED INSTRUMENTS, 1890s, CARL MAUL FAMILY COLLECTION

MUSIC ON THE PLAINS

It's been said that music is the international language that can bring people together and that was never more evident than during the settling of the American West. People from all walks of life came to homestead the vast frontier, and towns and communities soon followed.

Long before electricity, television or the internet, free time and evenings were spent creating and making one's own entertainment and music helped to fill that gap. During homesteading days, stringed instruments, such as guitars and violins, were the musical instruments of choice. However as civilization came to the West, pianos and even pump organs could be purchased from local merchants, and proudly graced the corner of family living rooms and parlors.

This year the Elbert County Historical Society proudly presents: *Music On The Plains*, an exhibit featuring a turn-of-the century vignette parlor complete with pump organ, as well as a variety of musical instruments, early photographs and stories of some of the county's musicians.

Smoky Hill Express
 Elbert County Historical Society Newsletter
 Volume 1, Issue 1 January 1992

A Friendly Greeting
 Welcome to the first of many newsletters to come. The purpose of this monthly letter is to keep members of the Historical Society and other individuals informed with what is going on within the Elbert County Historical Society. The name of this newsletter, the *Smoky Hill Express*, is derived from one of the three Smoky Hill Trails that stretched across Eastern Colorado. The particular trail that went through central Elbert County was the Smoky Hill South. It is my hope that through this newsletter, historic interest will be stirred. Not only in Elbert, Elizabeth and Kiowa, but in Agate, Matheson and Simla as well. After all this organization is named the Elbert County Historical Society.
 Joe Martell
 Editor

Membership
 Lifetime Memberships
 Family - \$50.00
 Single - 40.00
 Senior Citizen - 60+ - 25.00
 Senior Couple - 60+ - 40.00
 Annual Memberships
 Family - \$15.00
 Single - 10.00
 Senior Citizen - 60+ - 5.00 each

Elbert County is Special
 Elbert County is a special place to live and many special people make Elbert County their home. As the *Smoky Hill Express* gets started, we would like to recognize the special people who live in Elbert County.
 (continued on the back)

Next Meeting
 The next meeting for the Elbert County Historical Society will be Sunday, February 2nd at 2:30 p.m. at the Senior Center in Kiowa.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

Wow, where does the time go?

It's hard to believe but the *Smoky Hill Express* made its debut in January 1992. Back then the newsletter was just a single page flyer that announced the Historical Society's monthly meetings and upcoming programs.

During the past decade, the *Smoky Hill Express* has evolved into a multipage biannual publication with a distribution of over 500 email addresses and is viewable online.



ELBERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

JOE MARTELL

President

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Past President

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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.

WHO AM I?

- Where was I born?
 - Colorado
 - Kansas
 - Nebraska
- What did I do for a living?
 - Grocery Clerk
 - Newspaper Man
 - School Teacher
- How many years was I in my profession?
 - 16 years
 - 28 1/2 years
 - 40 years



Answers on page 5

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.



PIONEER FOURTH CELEBRATION

Monday, July 4 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Elbert County Museum Grounds

Mark your calendars so you can plan on spending a fun-filled time celebrating Independence Day with new and old acquaintances, neighbors, and visitors. Enjoy live music, games, silent auction and viewing the exhibits inside the Museum. Don't miss out on the traditional BBQ lunch prepared fresh during midday. The cakewalk and pie auction will provide everyone the opportunity to take a delicious homemade pie or cake with them. Local artisans will be demonstrating their talents again this year in various locations throughout the grounds.

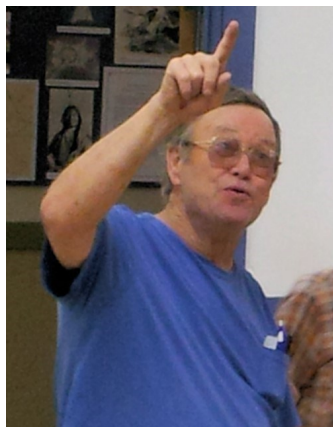


FAREWELL TO OUR FRIEND

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to our friend John Metli, who passed away in February.

John was a member of the Elbert County Historical Society & Museum. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors (2011-2018); he spent countless hours helping to construct exhibit spaces, served as a museum host and Pioneer Fourth Pie Auction Ringmen, and spent one winter stripping and refinishing the museum's oak stair treads and landings.

John's enthusiasm and humor will be greatly missed.



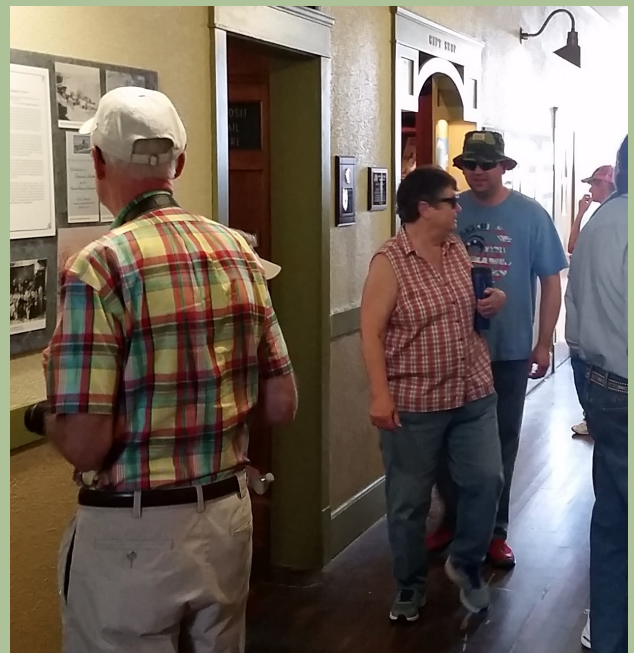
EXPLORE THE GIFT SHOP

Be sure to visit the museum gift shop this summer for fun and unique gift giving ideas. With over 30 local/regional history book titles, colorful t-shirts, lamps, clocks and much more, there is something for everyone!

The gift shop now accepts credit cards!

SHARE THE MUSEUM

Planning a family reunion, birthday party, alumni reunion, church event, homeowner's association meeting or other special occasion this summer? Please keep the museum in mind. Doors are open four days a week- **Thursday through Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm**. This would be an excellent opportunity to share with others the rich history of Elbert County.



RECURRING DONATIONS: GIFTS WE CAN COUNT ON!

Your recurring donation to **Elbert County Historical Society and Museum** is support we can count on!

When you use this option, you are making a commitment to donate a particular amount over a specific period of time. You can give as little as \$10 per week, month, quarter or year. Simply set up your donation schedule and your deductions will happen automatically, straight from your credit card, debit card or bank account.

To learn more about recurring donations, contact ECHS Treasurer Donna Smith at info@elbertcountymuseum.org, or visit www.ColoradoGives.org FAQs.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MUSIC

What is music? When did our ancestors begin making music? If we consider singing, music probably started with the earliest human beings... a parent humming or crooning to calm a baby would probably count as music. This simple form of music may even have predated speech.

We know that music has been with us since the very first humans appeared on earth. The major reason that music arose and persists may be that it brings people together. Dancing and singing before a hunt or war bound participants into a cohesive group. Music helped to create society itself.

Rhythm is one of the most important components of music. Our very early ancestors probably created music by clapping their hands - and this action may be linked to the earliest musical instruments, when people realized that smacking stones or sticks together made louder sounds than simply clapping hands. Percussion instruments have probably been in use longer than any others.

Any object that produces sound can be considered a musical instrument. Many of these early "instruments" were likely to have been made from soft materials like wood or reeds. Historians have suggested that the world's oldest musical wind instrument was a flute-like whistle discovered in Slovenia. It had four pierced holes and was made from the thighbone of a young bear. Similar instruments were discovered in Germany. These were made from vulture wing bones. Experts agree they were made by people almost 45,000 years ago. Other ancient instruments have been found in various places across the world.

Some researchers think musical instruments came about randomly, depending on materials that would have been available in any given area. Human beings in all corners of the world and in various stages of their history have created musical artifacts using animal bones, skin, hair, wood, bamboo, shells, and other natural items they had available.

Archaeologists have discovered several primitive musical instruments dating from about 12,000 years ago. They include scrapers and "bull-roarers," which were pieces of wood on the end of a cord that made a loud sound when swung through the air. Natural rattles, usually gourds with dried seeds inside, have also been used for music from the earliest times.

Musicologists believe the first stringed instrument is probably the musical bow. It may have originated from the bow used in hunting. The strings of the bow were tapped with a light stick or plucked to create sounds. By the beginning of recorded history, in about 3000 BC, the harp had descended from the musical bow and began to be widely used.

By about 2000 BC, the lute, a stringed instrument with the body as a sounding board, was in use. The lute is the ancestor of the family of stringed instruments that now includes the guitar and any other instruments which are plucked. The lute was the favored instrument during the 16th and 17th centuries and was featured in many classic paintings of that time.

In the 3rd Century BC, a scientist in Egypt is credited with inventing an organ with a hand-operated pump, which sent air through a set of large pipes. The organ became a familiar and popular instrument and was used for several centuries. Then in 1397, the harpsichord, which adapted the keyboard to the playing of strings, was invented. It became a widespread and successful instrument. In 1698 a maker of keyboard instruments in Florence, Italy, began work on a harpsichord that could play both soft and loud notes by employing a mechanism that struck the strings rather than pluck them. This instrument evolved into the modern piano.

By the end of the 18th century, the piano occupied the central place in both professional and amateur music, which it has held ever since. The piano is the most popular instrument in the U.S. with an estimated 21 million Americans playing it, with these instruments following in order of popularity: guitar, violin, drums, saxophone, flute, cello, clarinet.



Who am I?

Continued from page 2

Answers: c) Nebraska; b) Newspaper Man; c) 40 years

Floyd Lemon was born April 15, 1889 and grew up in Grant, Nebraska. Before coming to Kiowa, he was a railroad fireman and ran a print shop in Wyoming.

He arrived in Kiowa in June 1920, and started right to work on his newly purchased paper, *The Divide Review*. Right from the beginning Lemon had a policy of complete honesty with his readers, and his masthead stated that four of the eight pages were printed in Kiowa and the other four printed in Denver.

Every week for forty years from 1920 until 1960, Floyd never missed a single issue and took great pride in the



numerous roles he had as reporter, ad salesman, editor, publisher, typesetter, pressman and mailer of his weekly paper. Many days Lemon could be found sitting on the front step of his print shop with a pad and pencil asking folks as they passed by if they had any news for the paper. And every January he featured a Year-In-Review column where he published all of the previous year's noteworthy events that had happened around the Kiowa area in chronological order.

Floyd's second passion was music and he kept a piano in the corner of the print shop. Whenever he needed a break, he would take a couple steps over to it and play. Besides the piano, Lemon played the banjo and a variety of wind instruments. Over the years he played in a number of small bands and orchestras in and around Kiowa.

In the fall of 1960, Floyd was forced to retire because of poor health. Friend and fellow Douglas County publisher, George Kobolt, continued the weekly publication of the paper under a new name, *The Elbert County News*.

Floyd Lemon passed away in July 1966 after a short illness at the age of 77.

KIOWA HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL YEARBOOK

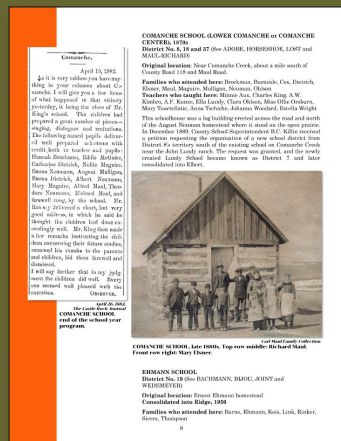
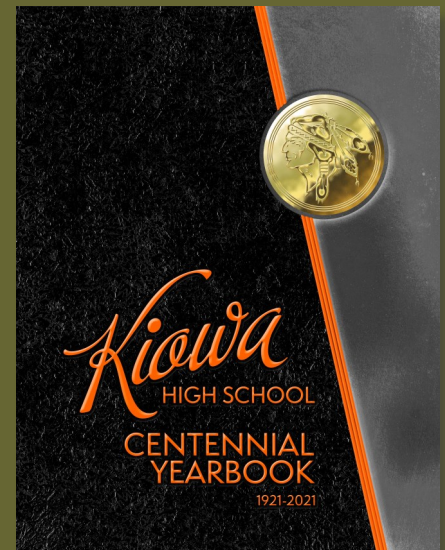
The Kiowa High School Alumni Association and Elbert County Historical Society are pleased to announce a Kiowa Keepsake... the 100th Anniversary Memoirs book! This deluxe illustrated volume presents the history of the Kiowa School District from the 1870s to the present, and features 266 full-color pages, containing over 1500 photographs, all in a hardbound cover.

In the late 19th Century, many small school districts were scattered across Elbert County, Colorado. Each of these districts had its own small, one-room schoolhouse, which served as the center of their local community. In addition to holding classes, many of these buildings hosted box socials, church services, community dances, and even served as polling locations.

As the need for secondary education became an ever-pressing issue, the school districts surrounding Kiowa began to merge, and the Elbert County Consolidated School District C-2 was created. A high school building was constructed, and the first Senior Class graduated in 1921. Since those early days, the school district and community have grown and changed with the times.

Authored by Kiowa High School Alumni Joe Martell, Nita McKnight and Sarah Malerich; the Kiowa High School Centennial Yearbook chronicles the early one-room school districts that consolidated to become Kiowa School, the history of Elbert County C-2, the many beloved traditions of Kiowa High School, 100 Years of KHS graduates, and includes personal memories and fun anecdotes.

The Kiowa High School Centennial Yearbook is available for purchase at the Elbert County Museum throughout the summer during regular museum hours. Or you can order online at www.tinyurl.com/kiowacentennialbook and have it shipped directly to you.





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

Bender Menders
Bino's Pizza
Laurel Brown
Champion Bank -Parker
Mark & Lynn Conroe
CORE Electric Cooperative
Ben & Laurie Duke
Elbert County
Abstract & Title Company
Front Range Kubota
High Plains Food Store
High Prairie Survey Co.
Lucy Hoffhines
Integrity Auto Repair
JR's Village Repair
Kamerzell Bros
Well & Pump Service
Kiowa Car Wash
Katee & Rick Kolm

(LOCOMOTIVE CONT.)

Legacy Plow & Trailer
Jeff & Connie Lehman
Jim & Carla Martell
Mountain View Electric Assn
Napa -Elizabeth
Outback Liquor
Patty Ann's Cafe
Phillips 66
Sawmill Bar & Grill
Sun Valley Electric Inc.
Patti Thayer
Town of Kiowa
Mindy Webb

PONDEROSA PINE

360 Diesel & Auto Repair
Monty & Phyllis Ashliman
Big R -Elizabeth
Elizabeth Locker Plant
Galt, Inc.

(PONDEROSA PINE CONT.)

Hamacher Well Works Inc.
Christian Hertneky
HOO Motors
Jill's Feed & Country Supply
Mark & Teri Moore
Tom & Marge Mottinger
Murdoch's Ranch &
Home Supply -Parker
Tom and Linda Peterson
Marta Railsback
Sprouts Farmers
Market -Castle Rock
True Value -Elizabeth

WINDMILL

Adriana's
Mexican Restaurant
Albertsons
Anonymous Donor
Lenore Bates
Bernie's Kitchen
Bucknam Mortgage, LLC
dba Taylor Mortgage Group
Leanne Cook
Cowboy Handyman
Culver's -Parker
Dairy Queen -Elizabeth
Dusty Plains
Veterinary Service
Edward Jones -Elizabeth
Isabel's Coffee
King Soopers -Stroh Ranch

(WINDMILL CONT.)

Kiowa Creek Community
Church Foodbank
KW Home Accents
-Karin Royston
MK Liquors
Mountain Man
Fruit & Nut Co. -Elizabeth
Patsy North
Once Upon A Tan
Ann Pidgeon
Safeway -Elizabeth
Sandra's Fuzzy Pets
Sizzor Magic -Betty Haulman
Sonic -Elizabeth
William Thomas
Judith Tobias

CULTIVATOR

All Wired Up Electric, LLC
Buzzard's Pizza Inc.
Catalina's Diner
David & Linda Ehmann
Glaser Gas &
Equipment Co. -Kiowa
JC Martell
Potestio Brothers
Equipment, Inc.
RE/MAX Accord
-Tammi Schneider
Simla Frozen
Food Locker, LLC
Smith Ranches