

# NIWOT GAZETTE

## Newsletter of the Niwot Historical Society

Winter 2009

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### A BUSY YEAR FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The year 2009 has been filled with activities that have met the goals of our Mission Statement, which is to preserve the history of Niwot through artifact conservation, publications, programs and public outreach.

We encourage our entire membership to become involved in planning and participating in activities for the coming year.

Please encourage your friends to join our organization by bringing them to our annual meeting in March. If you have out-of-town guests, why not schedule a private walking tour of Old Town and share with them the historic district we all love. Combining a half-hour tour with lunch at one of the local restaurants or coffee shops would round out a perfect visit.

### RECENT DONATIONS

The Artifact Accessioning committee met last month to accession a record number of artifacts into our collection.



Laura Skaggs and Connie Herbst enter data for a dinner napkin after carefully measuring and researching its proper category.

Following is a partial list of items that were cataloged:

**Pat Murphy** – a 1960s-era grange cookbook belonging to Ruth Morton, mother of Howard Morton.

**John Montoya** – a box planer, two manual sheep shearing tools and one electric sheep clipper belonging to his father Apolonio Montoya, hired hand for Alva Dodd in the 1920s.

**Jason Midyette** – three 1940s matchbooks covers from the gas station and café at Rick's Corner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Niwot Road. Also a cancelled check from the Niwot State Bank dated 1/09/1931, the year the bank failed.

**Biff Warren** - a 20-year collection of Niwot Youth Sports yearbooks and manuals

**Dorinda Dembroski** - a collection of 1970s uniform badges from Niwot Youth Sports sponsors, including Bob Bowron Builders, Jim Matthews Realty, Ralph's Auction, Head Skis, Flatiron Paving and many more.

**Joanne Sampson Bell** - photos of the United Brethren Church burning down in 1951, and a framed photo of the 1904 Niwot School student body..

**Unknown** – Original landscaping plans by Jane Langdon for the firehouse.

**Anne Dyni**– Commemorative dinner and cocktail napkins from the old Rev Taylor Restaurant.



Sponsor patches from the 1960s



One of two donated sheep shears

## REMEMBERING AN OLD FRIEND

Our historical society lost a long-time supporter in August with the death of Jim Martinsen. Jim had been NHS treasurer since 2008, and personally looked after our museum building whenever it needed attention. Every November, he perched precariously on a ladder to hang holiday lights so that our little museum could shine as brightly as its neighbors.

‘Thank you’ to members Connie and Darwyn Herbst for stepping forward to fill the two board vacancies created over the summer. Darwyn will assume the office of treasurer for the remainder of our fiscal year, and Connie will complete the term of Mike Holubec.

## SHARING HISTORY AT A LOCAL HARVEST FAIRE

Shepherd Valley Waldorf School invited the NHS to become part of their annual Harvest Faire in September. Welcoming the opportunity for community outreach, we set up our booth and shared artifacts, photos and publications with the hundreds of people in attendance. We reached many visitors who didn’t know about our historic town just a half mile up the road from the school grounds.

In turn, we were treated to Medieval performances, music, great food, and strolling musicians.



Although our historical display wasn’t Medieval, it was historical enough to attract attention.

## WHAT IS THIS OBJECT?



This artifact was part of a large collection of historical items collected by Doyle Hornbaker, former editor of the *Niwot Tribune*. Artifacts such as this are valuable for future exhibits and can provide important information for scholars researching local history.

What is it? Check your answer on page four.

## NOSTALGIA DAY

Nostalgia Day is one of those community events where everyone participates and celebrates life in Niwot. This year was especially meaningful with the rededication of the Left Hand Grange Hall. Our museum was open for visitors as well, and Laura Skaggs and Betty Singleton hosted those curious to see our quirky little building and what it holds inside.

In preparation, Tim Wise and Charley Whisner wheeled our chemical fire cart out of storage and back to its rightful place in front of the museum. Anne Dyni and Art Wainwright, creators of the Niwot video gave continuous showings for audiences in the remodeled grange kitchen.



Tim Wise and Charley Whisner roll the fire cart out of storage and back to the museum in time for Nostalgia Day.

## ENCHANTED EVENING

On the evening after Thanksgiving every year, Niwot lights up in holiday garb and celebrates the beginning of the holiday season. From Cottonwood Square to Whistle Stop Park to Second Avenue, holiday lights are switched on the town Christmas tree and along shop rooflines.

Although our museum is not open to the public on Enchanted Evening, it too is aglow with lights. Thanks this year go to Charlie Whisner and his family for hanging the greens on our museum building. The NHS hopes to participate next year with candle light walking tours.



## ARTIFACT STORAGE SPACE NEEDED

A continual flow of donations is prompting the society to look for more storage space for our growing number of artifacts. For safety reasons, we can't store them in our museum, so we need local storage for easy access.

At present, our storage boxes don't exceed forty cubic feet, so if you know of anyone willing to provide a secure, clean and dry storage space, we'd like to hear from you. Please call 303-665-6932, or contact the NHS at P.O. Box 354, Niwot, CO. 80544.

## AT HOME IN OLD NIWOT: MEN'S WORK, WOMEN'S WORK

The 1960s cookbook donated by Pat Murphy will become the centerpiece for our annual meeting in March 2010. Its old-fashioned recipes will provide the basis for both our program AND our refreshments.

Folks are already signing up to prepare dishes that they enjoyed as children or are attempting recipes they've only heard about. It's worth coming just to sample Idyll Leinweber's family recipe for icebox cookies, Katie Moran's tomato soup cake, or suet pudding prepared by David Skaggs, husband of board member Laura Skaggs.

There will be a display of kitchen items and tools from yesteryear, but we need your help for that part of the program. We would love to have a "show and tell" with your participation. So, reach in the back of that workshop or pantry drawer to see what heirloom tool or utensil is hiding there. Let us know by late January what you intend to bring. You'll have five minutes to describe it.



**Multi-tasking is nothing new.**

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Niwot Historical Society exists to preserve, collect and protect the history of Niwot, the surrounding area and Chief Niwot, through the preservation of artifacts, documents, photos and other documentary sources relating to their history. It also encourages the conservation of these resources through publications, programs and other related activities, and brings people together who are interested in the history of Niwot;

## Answer to "What is it?"

*Apple peeler, a common household item from the 1800s. This one was manufactured by the Goodell Company of Antrim, New Hampshire. There has been little design change in mechanical apple peelers over the past century.*

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009-2010

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