

NIWOT GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Niwot Historical Society

October 2011

LECTURE SERIES "NIWOT: NOW AND THEN"

The overwhelming success of our September 28th lecture by Professor Patty Limerick was underscored by the large attendance (estimated to be in the 90s), and the fact that eighteen new members signed up that evening. The NHS is definitely filling a cultural niche in our community.

The second lecture in our series is scheduled for Wednesday evening, November 30th. Entitled "*Niwot on the Right Track: Colorado Railroads Now and Then*", our speaker, Larry Dorsey, will talk about railroading in Colorado, with a nod to the trains that rumbled through Niwot in the early years.

Mr. Dorsey hails from Superior where he currently serves on the Superior Historical Commission and is a trustee of the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden. As a respected historian, lecturer and writer, his presentation promises to bring Colorado's early railroads to life through historic photographs and artifacts, including some from our own collection.

Recommended reading on early Colorado railroads includes "*Goin' Railroading*" by Margaret Coel.

The NHS lecture series will continue on February 29th, with Donlyn Arbuthnot, descendent of early Boulder County pioneers, speaking on the facts, fiction and legends of Haystack Mountain - the unique geologic feature west of Niwot that many early settlers believed was a volcano. Our final lecture will be on April 25th.

All programs will be in the Left Hand Grange Hall, beginning with refreshments at 6:30 pm, followed by the program at 7pm. General admission at the door is \$5, and historical society members are admitted free of charge.

Many thanks to all who helped make the evening a success. Special thanks to Patty Limerick, Meri and Paul Gibb, Laura and David Skaggs, Donna Sinor, Connie and Darwyn Herbst, Donlyn Arbuthnot, Donald Vukovic (the

Baklava Guy), Kathy Koehler, Ira Star, Mary Claire Collins, Heather Morgan and Ken Truhan, Frank and Diane Karash, Gail Ludwig and Kirk Stewart.

A big thank you also to our sponsors, the Center of the American West, The Baklava Guy, Gunbarrel King Soopers, Bike Caffe, Left Hand Grange, Left Hand Valley Courier, Niwot Rotary, the NBA and the law firm of McKenna, Long and Aldrich.

SHARING OUR COLLECTION

Once the Niwot exhibit at the Longmont Museum was over, volunteers gathered up the many artifacts from our collection and returned them to Niwot. Among them, the 32 framed photographs that were reproduced created for the exhibit, went into storage as well.

The NHS Board, preferring to see these photos publicly displayed rather than stored out of sight, is offering to lease them at no charge to members of the Niwot Business Association to hang them in their shops or offices. One important stipulation requires all lessors to be current members of the NHS as well.

To examine a copy of the lease form, please contact Anne Dyni at 303-665-6932.



Collections chairman Diane Karash marked each photograph with its own unique catalog number before wrapping and storing it. Here she numbers the portrait of Niwot's founder, Porter Hinman.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO OUR ARTIFACT COLLECTION



This water cooler once stood in the old Niwot Elementary School north of Niwot. It was donated by Janice and Norma James, whose great-grandfather, John Buckley, was the school janitor.



This gilt-framed pastel painting of the former Niwot State Bank building, was donated by pastel artist Terry Ludwig of Littleton.

WILL OLD TOWN NIWOT'S HISTORIC LOOK ENDURE?

When Boulder County established the Niwot Historic District back in 1993, it made sure that their "investment" would stay historically preserved long into the future. Having committed considerable time and money on Second Avenue's drainage and sidewalk improvements, which had been requested by the fledgling Niwot Business Association, the county established regulations to safeguard their investment.

The businesses agreed to collect additional sales tax in order to repay the municipal bonds issued by the county, and to become part of the county's first historic district, the Niwot Historic District.

With this prestigious historic designation came additional regulations similar to those also placed on State and National historic districts.

Of the three levels of governmental oversight, the county designation carries the most weight. In Boulder County, for instance, there can be no demolition or exterior alterations made to any 'contributing' building within that district, and all needed repairs must be made using materials similar to the original construction. Any deviation requires a site review by the county Land Use Department.

In addition, new construction, or modification to existing 'non-contributing' buildings in the district must adhere to certain basic architectural standards, such as proper signage, setbacks, landscaping, and the use of vertical windows only.

www.niwohistoricalsociety.org

More and more people are discovering our website to learn about upcoming events, membership details, and information about our organization. Check us out at www.niwohistoricalsociety.org. NHS member Heather Morgan Truhan is our new webmaster, so look for new features to be added in the coming months.

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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 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.