

# NIWOT GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Niwot Historical Society

September 2015

## *The Boulder Oil Field: In Our Back Yard Since 1901*

**Wednesday, September 30, 2015**

**7:00 PM**

*Doors open at 6:30 PM  
for coffee and conversation*

**Left Hand Grange Hall**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ave & Franklin St

*Admission: Members are free,  
\$5 charge if you are not a member*

*Around Niwot will be on sale at all Lectures.*

### **Presenters:**

**Matt Silverman, Petroleum Geologist and  
Karl Anuta, Historic Preservation Advocate**

One hundred and fourteen years ago, in 1901, the Boulder Oil Field was discovered between Boulder and Niwot. It was the second field found in the state and one of the first in the entire West. The field was discovered the same year as the giant Spindletop Field in Texas, and its early development shares some of that boomtown excitement.

About 100 wells were drilled in the first few years, east and northeast of Boulder. Nearly 200 have been drilled in all, but hardly any other trace of this activity remains.

In January 2005, the only well still producing in the field – one of the longest continuously producing wells in the country – was formally recognized in the National Register of Historic Places. Known as the McKenzie Well, it has now been plugged, but its surface equipment still greets visitors and commuters on the Diagonal Highway, just north of Independence Road.

Boulder was the focus of a long-forgotten boom. Over a hundred oil companies sprouted up, and promoters promised “oil or money refunded.” The Boulder Field opened the oil industry in a geologic basin which stretches from Boulder as far as SE Wyoming, SW Nebraska and all of NE Colorado.

The oil field in our back yard teaches us that vital natural resources like oil and natural gas are not always located where exploration and production may be popular.

*Presentation overview by Matt Silverman*



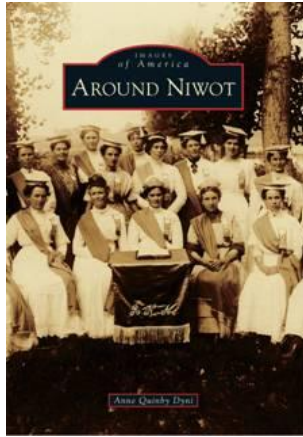
### **Lecture Dates**

- **Wednesday, September 30**
- **Wednesday, November 18**
- **Wednesday, February 24**
- **Wednesday, April 27**

## Around Niwot

By Anne Quinby Dyni

### Images of America Around Niwot



was released for sale on June 1<sup>st</sup> by Arcadia Publishing.

In 2014, Niwot historian Anne Dyni was asked by Arcadia Publishing, a company that has published over 9,000 local and regional histories, to write a book on the history of Niwot. The Board gave permission for Anne to use the Niwot Historical Society's digital photo collection, as the history is told through pictures and commentary.



The Historical Society hosted a book release and reception at the Left Hand Grange on Friday, June 5. At the book signing, Anne also presented a

slide show and spoke about many of the photographs featured in *Around Niwot*. The book has been sold during the summer at the Fire House Museum on Niwot's First Friday Art Walks and at the Niwot Market. It will also be available for sale at the Now & Then Lecture Series events.

Anne was also featured in June at the Boulder History Museum for a presentation and book sales of *Around Niwot*.

*Around Niwot* will be sold at all Now & Then lectures.

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### Heritage Roundtable Local History and Preservation Honor Awards

were presented to Silvia Pettem (left) and Anne Dyni (right) at the Chautauqua Community House in Boulder on May 11, 2015. Anne was nominated by the Niwot Historical Society for this award.

## Fire House Museum Dates to be Open



- **Holiday Parade:**  
Saturday, November 28, 2015
- **First Fridays:**  
May – September 2016

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## Archiving & Walking Tour Workshops Held

On July 16 Anne Dyni conducted an archiving workshop to record new items acquired by the Niwot Historical Society. The participants worked to accession 12 artifacts. The NHS volunteers included Dave Morgan, Kathy Koehler, Meri Gibb, Judy Dayhoff, Diane Schumpert and Judy Litsey.

Anne trained NHS Members Mary Claire Collins, Joan Grunzweig and Gary Gransar to give walking tours of the historical district in Niwot. If you are interested in a walking tour, please contact

[Info@NiwotHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:Info@NiwotHistoricalSociety.org)

## Self-Guided Walking Tour Maps

*Now Available*

Take an autumn walk and learn the stories of the Niwot Historic District. You can find descriptive maps in the mailbox by the display in front of the Fire House Museum on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

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## Niwot Historical Society Board

President: Meri Gibb

[Info@NiwotHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:Info@NiwotHistoricalSociety.org)

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