

NIWOT GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Niwot Historical Society
September 2019



Be a part of Niwot's future by helping to preserve our past.

NOW & THEN Lecture Series

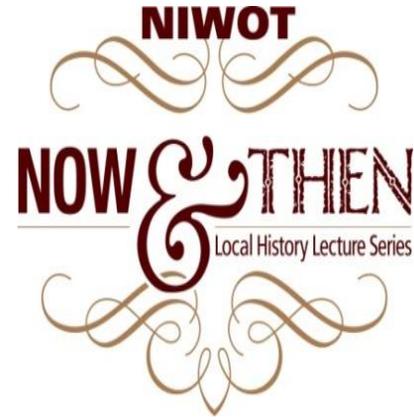
7:00 PM, *Doors open at 6:30 PM for coffee and conversation.*

NOTE: Doors Close when seating is at capacity.

Left Hand Grange Hall, 195 2nd Ave, at Franklin St intersection

General Admission: \$5.00,

No charge for members of the Niwot Historical Society



Lithophones, Colorado Digs

October 9

A new class of prehistoric artifacts called portable lithophones has been identified from the *Great Sand Dunes National Park, Preserve* and *San Luis Valley* in Colorado.

"Litho" is Greek for stone, and "phone" means sound.

A lithophone is a musical instrument consisting of a purposely-selected rock (often formally-shaped) that is tapped or rubbed with friction to produce musical notes. Portable and stationary lithophones have been utilized in ancient and modern cultures around the world for thousands of years.

Presenter: Marilyn Martorano, Registered Professional Archaeologist



History of Banjos, Music Today

October 23

The banjo's origins are in Africa and banjos became an important part of the music heard on plantations in the American south, before going through many permutations in American white culture and eventually being virtually abandoned by African Americans. Banjos had a place in early jazz as a 4-string instrument and in marching bands and even banjo orchestras, but it was the 5-string banjo in the southern mountains that maintained a thread as part of America's folk music. By mid-20th century, Pete Seeger and Earl Scruggs were bringing the banjo to new audiences worldwide with a new level of virtuosity and depth. Niwot's own Pete Wernick is a disciple of both Seeger and Scruggs, and will share what he knows from a lifetime of playing the instrument as one of its ambassadors.



Presenter: Pete "Dr. Banjo" Wernick, Accomplished Musician, Teacher, Songwriter, Author

NOTE: *Detailed information about the lectures is posted on niwothistoricalsociety.org*

The Niwot Historical Society Board of Directors, contact information, membership, donation, Niwot historic information and links to other regional historic organizations are on our website.



It is back to school time! I remember that, even for my children, you did not go back to school until the end of August or after Labor Day! That was **THEN & NOW** it is back to school in mid-August.

Niwot Schools And School Items In Our Artifacts

By Vivian Knaus, Director of NHS Archives

On February 4, 1863, the first nine Boulder County School Districts were established, with Niwot being District 7. According to a statement attributed to Doyle Hornbaker, former editor of Niwot Tribune, the first schoolhouse in the Left Hand Valley was a small log structure built west of Niwot Cemetery on Nimbus Road (ca. 1863). Next, a one-room wood-frame schoolhouse was built (ca. 1880) on the Dan Burch property, northeast corner of 81st and Oxford Road. It was razed. The brick Niwot "Willowdale" School was built in 1902, located at 7710 Niwot Road at Franklin Street, and held classes 1902-1909. The existing building is now a residence. The fourth school was a two-story brick building, built in 1910 and closed in 1967. It was located 0.7 miles north of the intersection of the Diagonal Highway and Niwot Road. It was razed in 1972 to make room for the southbound lane of the Longmont Diagonal Highway. These schools only went through the eighth grade.

Niwot Elementary School was built in 1967 at Walker and Morton Road, south of Niwot Road on land donated by Howard Morton. Niwot High School was built in 1972 and occupied in January of 1973.

In the photo is an inkwell from the early 1900s – a square glass bottle with a round neck. "Sanford Ink" is embossed on the bottom with "O" in the middle of the base. Also shown is an 1890 metal-nibbed ink pen made by Eagle Pencil Co. N.Y. An eagle with spread wings is embossed on the grip (or tip), and it has a wooden pen holder painted rusty orange. On the oblique-shaped steel nib is "No.13".

Items donated by Anne Dyni in 2013.



Both of these school artifacts are on display in the Fire House Museum.

In this photo is a traditional wooden single school desk ca. 1910 (the date the two-story brick school was built) - seat in front, desk behind. Mounted on cast iron frame. It has an inkwell hole and pencil groove on the desktop. Desk was assigned to Doyle Hornbaker in the 1920s, and saved by him when the school was razed in 1972. His initials, DMH, are among numerous other carved initials on the desktop.

Donated in 2005 by Don Spangler from Doyle Hornbaker collection.

Members, Volunteers and Friends are our most valuable resource.

Niwot Historical Society Board

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Niwot Historical Society

P. O. Box 354, Niwot, CO 80544-0354

or online at

niwothistoricalsociety.org

Mark your calendars for NOW&THEN Lectures:

- **History of Pies, International Pie Day ~ February 26, 2020**
- **A Land Made From Water, Left Hand Ditch ~ April 29, 2020**