



VOLUME IV, EDITION 4

# NORTHEASTERN COLORADO HERITAGE LEAGUE

FALL ISSUE 2014

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>GRASSLAND INSPIRATIONS 2014</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>INSIDE STORY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>INSIDE STORY</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>INSIDE STORY</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP FORM</b>	<b>6</b>

## HOLIDAYS LOOM AS WE CELEBRATE FOUR YEARS

Four years? Yes, our organizing meeting was in November of 2010. During that time the membership has developed several programs for membership participation in the fulfillment of our mission, enjoyed a myriad of interesting, informative and enjoyable speakers at our membership meetings, and successfully reached out to the community with projects.

Most spectacular of the projects has been the Plein Art "Inspirations Looking East". From the beginning in 2013, the participation was higher than expected. Our partnership with Collette Pitcher and her business, Showcase Art Center, grew this year to include the University of Northern Colorado Foundation.

Another project that we promoted was Linda Peters' genealogy classes. Her classes have been extraordinarily thorough, interesting and most informative.

We, also, enjoyed an excursion to New Raymer and Doris Williams' ranch to view sheep shearing and we put on a concert and picnic at Centennial Village, featuring music from the World War II era.

The website and this newsletter have tried to communicate our mission and our membership's love of history-especially, the history of the "Old Weld County."

And, lastly, due to the hard work of some of the board members, we obtained our

non-profit designation on the first try.

Looking forward, we will expand, explore and expect to learn more, enjoy each other's company and employ our talents to make our organization an integral part of the telling and preservation of Colorado's rich lode of history.



### BEST OF SHOW

Clifford Bailey painted this lovely scene east of Greeley near the Platte River. And named it "July Cloud."

See page 2 for story about the plein air show .

## GREETINGS

THE FOLKS WHO SERVE ON THE LEAGUE'S BOARD EXTEND THEIR WISHES FOR A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO YOU AND YOURS.

## EDITOR'S NOTE: WHAT IS IN THIS ISSUE

When those wagons began streaming along the Oregon Trail in 1849 they were headed to Oregon State or California for the gold rush. A decade later, gold was discovered in the Rocky Mountains. The Overland Trail allowed the seekers to turn off the Oregon Trail and follow the South Platte River into Denver, Colorado and the area of the first gold strike in the area. In this issue we will

visit the extreme northeastern corner of the area of the original Weld County-Julesburg and Sedgwick County. We will take a look at the origin of the Overland Trail, also.

This month it is time for our full membership annual meeting, at which you will vote for new officers.

(Look on page 2 for that infor-

mation).

With the membership meeting, we realize membership dues will be due next month. Pay now and get it out of the way, so you don't forget during the Holiday Madness!

-Editor

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 Mike Peters



Mike and Linda Peters, both past presidents of Northeastern Colorado Heritage League, stand in front of "Darcy's Inspiration" by Linda.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

The fall/winter Annual Membership meeting of the Northeastern Colorado Heritage League will be held on Wednesday, November 12, at the Centennial Park Library, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. The program will be presented by Chris Ruth, who is chair of the local committee for

Wreaths Across America, a nationwide program to honor the graves of veterans during the holidays. This is the first year this program has been available in Northern Colorado, and we are privileged to have Chris speak to us about its history and local implementation. Please plan to

attend and bring a friend!

We will also be electing officers for the coming years.

Current nominations include: President Elect-Ruth Fritz and Treasurer-Olive Richter.

See you on November 12.

~Bill Jackson

**Set your vision for the 2015 Grassland Inspirations III. You can begin your project today and have until August to finish.**

**GRASSLAND INSPIRATIONS II: Looking East Art Show a success**

"Grassland Inspiration II", a juried show featuring art and photography inspired by historical Weld County, was held August 25-September 26 in the Mari Michener Gallery at the James A. Michener Library at the University of Northern Colorado campus. A reception was held at the gallery on September 5, to announce the winners.

In the picture to your upper-right you will find Linda and Mike Peters standing in front of Linda's entry, which earned a second place in photography. On the first page of this newsletter we find a picture of Clifford Bai-

ley's "July Cloud", which earned the "Best of Show" designation. (My photography does not do this work justice). Congratulations to Clifford and a huge "thank you" to all the other entrants for a lovely show.

First place in photography was "Primrose Morning on the Grassland" by Ulli Limpitlaw; First in painting was "Spring Song" by Judy Meyers; Second Place, photography was "Darby's Sunrise" by Linda Peters;

Second place, painting was a tie between two paintings by Jenifer Cline-"Skylight" and

"Sunworshippers;

third photography was "Purple Asters" by Ulli Limpitlaw; and third for painting was again a tie. Collette Pitcher for "Rusted by Time" and "Horse With No Name" by Norma Erickson. Honorable Mentions were awarded to Jill Harms for "Windows of Time", Mike Peters for "American Eagle, Colorado Sky"; Richard Trahan for "Prairie Sunset", John Blake for "Abandoned", Janet Ream for "Burrowing Owl", Sheryl Wilson for "Abandoned, not Forgotten", and Carol Farrell for "Relic from the Past."

This is the second show sponsored by Northeastern Colorado Heritage League, working with Collette Pitcher of . This year we partnered with the U.N.C. Library Foundation to put on the show.

ATTENTION-For this third year of our show, folks can begin now to work on pieces to show in 2015.

The time was expanded in order to get works of the different seasons.

## TUMULTUOUS TIME IN SEDGWICK COUNTY

With and the discovery of gold on Cherry Creek in 1859 and Denver's establishment at the junction of Cherry Creek and the South Platte river, an opportunity for entrepreneurs arose, especially for transportation and communication. The ruts of the Oregon Trail had been carved out after the 1849 gold strike in California. Stage Coach routes were established and with all this traffic going west stations and forts were built along the trails to provide water, rest, food, and protection. One of these stations was established at the most northeastern corner of Colorado Territory by a French-Canadian named Jules Beni in the early 1850's. The little settlement that grew around the site, was named Julesburg by Beni.

Julesburg would become a large and prominent stagecoach station and the site of Fort Rankin (later Fort Sedgwick). In revenge for the Sand Creek Massacre, one thousand warriors made up of Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Lakota Indians, attacked Julesburg on January 7, 1865. Sixty US Army soldiers and fifty armed citizens were defeated. Following that incident Indians raided up and down the South Platte River valley. On February 2, 1865 the natives returned to Julesburg and burned down all the buildings in the settlement, but they did not attack the soldiers and civilians holed up in the fort. After the attack the fort was renamed Fort Sedgwick and town was moved four miles east. When Union Pacific Railroad laid tracks north of the river, the town was moved closer to the new tracks. In 1881, surely the most restless town moved six miles east when the Union Pacific Railroad began construction on a branch line to Denver. A new town was platted at the site and named Denver Junction. But, the old name prevailed and Julesburg was now in its fourth location

Jules Beni proved to be quite an unscrupulous character. In 1858, Joseph A. "Jack" Slade, who was a superintendent for the Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express Company was tracking down horse thieves. Slade learned that Jules Beni had been stealing the company's horses and supplying safe haven for others of the same mind when he caught up with Jules at Julesburg. Beni shot Jack five times in their confrontation. Thinking Slade was dead, the people ran Jules out of town. They would return to find Slade trying to stand, as he was very much alive and vowing to hunt down his assailant.

Beni continued to steal horses from the company. Beni planned to ambush Slade at Slade's ranch at Cold Springs. Slade and some of his ranch hands captured Beni. Slade ignored informing the authorities and tied Beni to a fence post and shot him five times. The report of this killing is quite chilling as it would appear Beni was tortured and mutilated by the prolonged shooting.

Born in Carlyle, Illinois, Slade ran away from home and became a cowboy in the Southwest, serving in the Mexican War in 1848. He was known as a vicious gunman after the Beni shooting. Later, in Fort Halleck, CO, he was indicted on another charge of assault and fled to Virginia City, Montana in 1861. In Virginia City he gained such notoriety as a vicious, drunken, gunman that local vigilantes dragged him from a saloon on March 10, 1864 and hanged him.

Russell, Majors and Waddell of Saint Joseph had established a route from Kansas to Denver which followed a trail along the Republican River. They would substitute the South Platte Route for the Republican River route to save five days travel time. The government's contract with Russell, etc. called for them to haul supplies to Denver and then on to army units in Utah Territory. The men created the Leavenworth and Pike's Peak Express to provide coach service. The company was short-lived. In 1860 it was reorganized as Central Overland, California and Pike's Peak Express Company, the company that ran the short-lived Pony Express. The Pony Express used a relay station at Julesburg. In 1861 the COC&PPE sold out to Ben Holladay's Overland Mail and Express Company. Five years later the Holladay was taken over by Wells, Fargo and Company. The daily mail service used the Oregon Trail, with the Colorado gold camps serviced by a tri-weekly branch from Julesburg. When Indian raids disrupted traffic on the main trail, the mail company sent its coaches to Denver, then north on the old Cherokee Trail.

In 1887 Logan County separated from Old Weld County. Then, Sedgwick County separated from Logan County and Julesburg became the Sedgwick County Seat. Fort Sedgwick and Sedgwick County were named after Major General John Sedgwick who had fought in the Indian Wars and in 1860 was commanded to establish a new fort on the Platte River. He joined the fighting of the Civil War and was killed by a sharpshooter at the Battle of Spotsylvania



Richard Trahan won Honorable Mention for his photo of farm equipment in "Prairie Sunset"

**Julesburg must be the most restless town in the nation as it was relocated three times.**



"Abandoned But Not Forgotten" earned Honorable Mention for Sheryl Wilson who captured the family homestead in Keota.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**2014-15**

I/we have read and agree to support the objectives and purposes of the Northeastern

**Colorado Heritage League**

**Website: [necoheritage.org](http://necoheritage.org)**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Fees:**

Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00

Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00

Youth (age 12 to 18) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00

Institutional \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00

Corporate \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail with payment payable to: Northeastern Colorado Heritage League

P.O. Box 337241

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**MORE HONORABLE MENTION WINNERS**

The pictures below are from: Collette Pitcher's "Rusted by Time", Janet Reams' "Burrowing Owl", and Mike Peter's "American Eagle, Colorado Sky." I am sure you have noticed the light reflections. It was worse from different areas of the gallery, so I gave up and did not get to photograph all of the pictures, for which I apologize. jcc

