



VOLUME IV, ISSUE 4

# NORTHEASTERN COLORADO HERITAGE LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

WINTER ISSUE

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Bill Jackson, missed
- Ruth Fritz, pioneer family
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## HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2016

The year 2015 was a productive year for the Northeastern Colorado Heritage League. Our president, Susan Harris did a wonderful job of leading our group this year and we wish to thank her for her time, effort and sensible ideas. One of her projects was to get more exposure for our group and to see that we had a vinyl banner printed and supplies were purchased for putting up a display.

We again partnered with U.N.C. and Collette Pitcher's Art with a Flair to put on our third annual Inspirations Art Show. We thank the Greeley Art Association for allowing us to print their newsletter story about the show.

Tours were given at Linn Grove once each summer month and

by reservation. We again spotlighted Linn Grove Cemetery with the sponsorship of the Wreaths Across America project. (See page).

As usual we had four membership meetings where great programs were presented. Linda Peters put on her wonderful genealogy classes at the Centennial Park Library. Sue Seager and Starr Jageler continued their digitizing projects.

With all the good happening, it was with great shock and sadness to hear of Bill Jackson's death resulting from a terrible accident "on the mountain." His wife, Cheryl, was injured and is still recuperating. Both, Bill and Cheryl were charter members and served on the board; Bill

served as president our fourth year. (See obit on page 3).



Thank you Susan Harris for serving as the President of Northeastern Colorado Heritage League this past year. You did a great job.

## SAY HELLO TO YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the membership as I begin this year as president of NCHL. I was born in Sterling, CO and was raised on a farming/ranching operation near New Raymer. My ancestor, William Henry Harrison Bliss and his family came to Greeley in 1887,

so my roots run quite deep here. My mother instilled in me a deep love of learning and especially a love of learning history. I taught elementary school for 26 years and shared that love with my students. NCHL seemed to me to be the perfect place to continue both learning

and teaching after my retirement. I am looking forward to 2016 as we continue working on our projects "to promote and preserve the historical, genealogical, and cultural roots of Northeastern Colorado."

Ruth Fritz

**MEET NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

In November, we voted on new board of officers and directors. Susan Harris became a non-voting director. The following officers were elected: Ruth Fritz , President; Olive Richter, President-elect, secretary/ treasurer. Suann Haas and Rebecca Farris were elected as directors to replace Gabe Lopez and Louanne Timm.

Our thanks goes out to Gabe and Louanne for their service.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT- Ruth Fritz  
[landfritz@Q.com](mailto:landfritz@Q.com)

PRES. ELECT: Olive Richter-  
 SEC'Y/TREASURER: "  
[om\\_richter@yahoo.com](mailto:om_richter@yahoo.com)

**DIRECTORS TERM ENDS**

Joyce Carr 2016  
[elcarro@greeleynet.com](mailto:elcarro@greeleynet.com)

Ron Harms	2017	Susan Harris	Non-voting
Sally Harms	2016		xxx
<a href="mailto:srharms@msn.com">srharms@msn.com</a>			
Starr Jageler	2017		
<a href="mailto:sjageler@gmail.com">sjageler@gmail.com</a>			
Suann Haas	2018		
<a href="mailto:lillyshh@comcast.net">lillyshh@comcast.net</a>			
Rebeca Farris	2018		
<a href="mailto:eng2206ine@gmail.com">eng2206ine@gmail.com</a>			

**INSIDE STORY HEADLINE**

On December 12, 2015, Northeastern Colorado Heritage League members and the near 200 guests gathered near the bell tower in Linn Grove Cemetery for the Wreaths Across America Day of Remembrance Ceremony and the placing of wreaths on the grave markers of the fallen veterans.

This was the third year the ceremony had been presented. The first year Daughters of the American Revolution worked on the project. In 2014, NCHL took over the project.

Chris Ruth, Honorary Regent for the Centennial State Chapter of NSDAR spearheaded the first wreath project then brought the project to us. Linda and Mike Peters joined her working on organization and promotion of wreath sales.

Bob Bernd was emcee for the ceremony. The Poudre Valley Young Marines were on hand for the setting up and clean-up from the morning's activities. The Northridge High School JROTC took part in the flag ceremony and the placing of wreaths on gravesites that represented the branches of the military.

The snow started coming down pretty determinedly at the end of the ceremony, but, when the guests were challenged, most gathered up two or three wreaths and set out to lay them against the markers. It was a somewhat emotional exercise, but everyone worked diligently and soon all the wreaths had been dispersed. This writer came home with a happy heart and feeling like I had been part of a beautifully thankful, caring tribute to our fallen soldiers who had

served our country so gallantly. Also, I was so proud of my longtime friend, Chris Ruth who did such a fantastic job, with the help of Mike and Linda.

We really want to thank all who had a part in the ceremony and all who came out on such a cold, wet day

Jcc

Addendum: I read on the WAA site this evening that Arlington Cemetery has had to postpone (for the second time) the cleanup of the cemetery because the snow is so deep. They will try for February 13<sup>th</sup>. I would guess that if the ceremony had been held a bit later here, we may have had the same problem.

Feeling like I had been part of a beautifully caring part of a tribute to our fallen soldiers who had served our country so gallantly.



D.A.R. Ladies help distribute wreaths at Linn Grove Cemetery on December 12, 2015: L.r.o r. Joyce Carr, Mary Ann Forbes, Wilma Heckman, Teri Hamilton and Christine Etherton Ruth

**OBITUARY: WILLIAM JACKSON, JR.**

William Burton Jackson Jr., known fondly as “Bill”, died after an accident driving in the mountains. His wife, Cheryl, was badly injured and Bill lost his life on September 27, 2014

Bill was born on January 21, 1944 in Butte, Mont., to William Burton Sr., and Evangeline M. (Austin) Jackson. His father served in World War II, stationed in Savanna, Ga. After the war the family returned to their hometown in Fort Morgan and Bill attended elementary school there. Seventh grade found him in Montebello, Ca., then the family moved back to Colorado. Bill graduated from Yuma High School in 1962 with Cheryl.

Bill joined the U. S. Navy after high school and served four years as a radioman. His duty included three tours of the Middle East.

Bill and Cheryl Richardson were married on Dec.19, 1964 and celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014.

After receiving his BA in Journalism from Arizona State University in 1970, Bill began his career at the Tempe Daily News. He also worked for the Sterling Journal Advocate before coming to work for the Greeley Tribune in 1977. He was the agricultural reporter at the Tribune for 34 years, retiring in 2011. Bill earned a reputation as a very knowledgeable reporter of farming, ranching, water law and other types of agricultural stories. He was named to the Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2004.

In his leisure time, Bill participated and donated his time to the 4-H Foundation, the Farm Show, the Paul and Jean Hoshiko Memorial 4-H Golf Tournament and the Northeastern Colorado Heritage League. He served the Heritage League as president in 2014. When not volunteering, Bill could be found outdoors enjoying golf, fishing, sports or travel. On a less active note, Bill enjoyed card games, especially Bridge.

He is survived by his wife Cheryl, his son Theodore William (TW) Jackson and wife, Jennifer (Channel) Jackson of Las Cruces, N. M.; his daughter Amy. (Jackson) Hanks and her husband, Glenn Hanks of California, MD. He is also survived by six grandchildren: Emma, Jacob, Caleb and Lillia Jackson of Las Cruces; and Meaghan and Killian Hanks of California, MD.

His sister Barbara (Jackson) Ingalls and husband Robert live in Yuma, his nephew Christopher and wife Naomi live in Arvada; nephew Michael Ingalls and wife Melissa live in Lawrence, Kan.; nephew Bryan Steyaert lives in Greeley.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, William Sr. and Evangeline; Grandfather, Dwayne G. Jackson, grandmother Anna N. (Klingbeal) Jackson, grandparents William J. Austin and Elizabeth

(Worth) Austin; and niece Brook Renee (Ingalls) Steyaert of Greeley.

A celebration of Bill’s life was held on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015 at the Exhibition Building in Island Grove Park. Memorial contributions can be made to the “Weld County Foundation” writing “Bill Jackson Ag Scholarship” on the memo line, or to “Northeastern Colorado Heritage League” writing Bill Jackson Memorial Fund on memo line.

(See story following this obituary).

**Bill was the agricultural reporter at the Greeley Tribune for 34 years. He was named to the Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2004.**

**LEAGUE STARTS BILL JACKSON MEMORIAL FUND**

The Northeastern Colorado Heritage League has established a fund in memory of Bill Jackson who was a charter member of the League and served on the League’s Board of Directors serving as its President in 2014.

Bill passed away in September and will be greatly missed by the members of the League, especially the board members.

Since he had been an agricultural reporter for so many years, it was agreed that we should start a fund related to agricultural pursuits. We decided a fund to promote FFA activities would be appropriate. The fund was started with money voted and approved by the board.

A committee is setting up guidelines for the award

distribution.

It was decided that the award would be distributed on a rotation system and will be awarded to the chosen chapter, not an individual member.

Guidelines should be ready soon and will be included in the next issue of the Northeastern Colorado Newsletter.

There should be more pictures throughout this issue, but I downloaded Microsoft 10 and when it came time to scan in pictures nothing happened.

# GRASSLANDS INSPIRATIONS: LOOKING EAST EXHIBITION AND OPENING RECEPTION



*Best of Show*  
*Colette Pitcher*  
*"Retired Farmer" - Watercolor*



1st Place Oil/Acrylic  
Sarah Davison  
"Tis the Season"

1st Place  
Watercolor  
Donna  
McLean  
"Kalidoscope  
Shadow  
Boxes"



1st Place Dry  
Media  
Lotte Muster  
"Storm  
Brewing"



1st Place Photography — John Blake  
"Milky Way Over Briggsdale"

## GRASSLANDS INSPIRATIONS: LOOKING EAST EXHIBITION AND OPENING RECEPTION

Northeastern Colorado Heritage League joined the University of Northern Colorado and Colette Pitcher to present the third annual Grasslands Inspirations Art Show. Held at the Mari Mitchener Library, the art show was on display from August 11 through September 25. Again, the response was very good, and the art work was interesting as the artists have chosen sites and objects that evoked memories of the past or highlighted the beauty of the open vastness of the drylands of Northeastern Colorado.

A reception was held during the show for the artists and judging results were announced. On the opposite page is a copy of the first page of of a piece in the Art Association Newsletter The Unlimited Palette with pictures of the winning work.

Other prize winners' work was photographed but, your editor was unable to scan the other three pages. The following works were shown:

### ***Place Winners***

2nd Place Photography "Life on the Prairie" by Rebecca Farris

2nd Place Dry Media "Wash on 19 in Winter" by Nancy Dee

2nd Place Oil /Acrylic "Distance is Forever" by Julie Etheridge

2nd Place Watercolor "Pawnee Buttes" John Howell

3rd Place Photography "Cold Moon Rising" Linda Peters

3rd Place Dry Media "Fremont Orchard" Janet Reams

3rd Place Watercolor "Cattle Chute of Yesterday" by Donna McLean

3rd Place Oil/Acrylic "Starry Night" Sheryl Wilson

### ***Honorable Mention***

Oil/Acrylic "Peaceful" by Sheryl Wilson

Oil/Acrylic "Eventide" by Gail Rowe

Dry Media "Forgotten Grain Bins" by Nancy Dee

Dry Media "Greeley Ditch #3" by Lotte Muster

Watercolor "Gathering Clouds Over Crow Creek Valley" and "High Noon at Briggsdale" by Audrey Hopkins

Photography "Giant Evening Star" and "Silver Rails" by Ron Harms

### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

The show looked "marvelous"!

## SUMMARY OF WINTER TIME MINUTES

At the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Northeastern Colorado Heritage Executive Board, Linda Peters asked that someone take over the task of webmaster. Linda has done an amazing job with the site since the inception of our organization. Surely, someone out there has ability to take responsibility for this essential arm of our communication system. Linda will work with the new person to get him/her started. Also, Gabe Lopez gave up his directorship position because of his health. Someone will be named to be nominated in November to assume the position.

On October 9<sup>th</sup> Olive Richter conducted a tour for about 25 people who were on a City of Greeley 'G-Town Tour'. She handed out information about both Wreaths Across America and the "League."

Chris Ruth reported sales for Wreaths Across America, , at 136 wreaths; six were for specified for specified graves. The Wreath placing ceremony will be on December 12 at Linn Grove Cemetery. She advised us she would have a table set up at the WWII memorial site at Bittersweet Park on Veteran's Day from which wreath orders would be taken. She also said arrangements had been made for Bob Bernd to emcee and the Young Marines would present the colors and assist with the event.

After discussion, it was decided that a \$250 fund be established in memory of Bill Jackson be given to schools in our area (old Weld County) on a rotating basis for agricultural programs. Committee was appointed to set up guidelines for the use of these funds.\*

In November it was moved and passed unanimously that a donation be given to Gabe and Jody Lopez to assist them with travel expense connected with the Greeley Grays Baseball exhibit. The Bill Jackson Memorial Fund Committee chairman will be President -Elect Ruth Fritz, with Ron and Sally Harms on the committee.

No meeting of the board is held in December. But, a regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting was held on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Evan Andermann, a landscape photographer, was the guest speaker. Election was held for 2016 officers: Ruth Fritz, president and Olive Richter, president-elect and secretary/treasurer. Directors will be Ron and Sally Harms, Joyce Carr, Starr Jageler, and new directors Suann Haas and Rebeca Farris. Also, as past president, Susan Harris will be a non-voting member of the board.

A board meeting was held January 18 at the home of Olive Richter. After oath of office was administered by Susan Harris to the new board members, Ruth Fritz assumed the role of president. Ruth reported she has been working on contacting folks from other historical societies to set up an exchange of information about upcoming events our groups have coming up. So far, she has spoken to the LaSalle Historical Society, Barry Bartram from Stoneham, and Joyce Chaput from the Johnstown Historical Society. The Johnstown group would like Starr to give the Weld County Ledger Project at one of their meetings. She has given that presentation in Brush as well as at a seminar for educators at U.N.C.

It was reported that we now have 20 individual members, 19 families and 1 lifetime member. Linda Peters is starting a new genealogy class soon and she is still looking for someone to take over management of the website. Also, Ron and Sally Harms have researched how many FFA groups are in the old Weld County area and reported there are 26 schools with FFA programs. Guidelines for the Bill Jackson award distribution are being put together. We had a productive discussion on programming and Starr Jageler will research availability of those mentioned activities and presentations. The Wreaths Across America event will be held on December 17 this year. The 2015 event was very successful with 200 attending.

Meeting dates for the Board of Director's Meetings have been changed to the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. to accommodate our new board members who work outside the home. General Membership Meetings have been tentatively set for March 23, May 25, July 27, September 28 and the annual meeting on November 15.

\*Ron and Sally Harms are working on this committee and Ron has requested that anyone who is interested in serving on this committee should call Ron at 303-659- 4949.

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

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

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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