

Story Times at Palmer Lake are on Wednesdays at 10:30 and Toddler Time on Fridays at 10:30. Please note that all Pikes Peak Library District facili-

ties will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4, in observance of Labor Day.

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Palmer Lake Historical Society

Activities, entertainment mark Chautauqua

By Sigi Walker

The Palmer Lake Historical Society's annual Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua was held on Aug. 12. Many of the activities took place on the Village Green, including demonstrations of vintage arts and crafts such as spinning, bobbin and tatting lace making, quilting, tole painting, and weaving. There were "hands-on" exhibitions: gold panning from the Western Museum of Mining & Industry and fur pelts from Colorado Parks & Wildlife. Jonathan Ehresman happily performed card tricks to the delight of the youngsters.

This year's Chautauqua portrayals drew enthusiastic audiences. Ron West appeared as James "Jimmie" Burns, owner of the Portland Mine; Catherine McGuire portrayed Alice Bemis Taylor; and Richard Marold was an extremely believable Nikola Tesla.

During the morning and later in the afternoon, the Frontier Army Band played vintage brass instru-

ments in the Gazebo on the Village Green. Near the gazebo, the original 1891 Palmer Lake town jail, newly restored and furnished by Palmer Lake Historical Society volunteers, was open for inspection while the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department displayed its fire engine in front of the firehouse.

This year, food was available from the Smokey the Pig BBQ food truck. Then, at 1 p.m., the Friends of the Tri-Lakes Library began to serve free ice cream to a long queue that had formed. During this time, the Velcro barbershop quartet sang traditional barber-shop melodies and popular songs. Along the path to the ice cream, the library had placed their book cart holding free books.

For those who liked getting a bit of exercise, Jim Sawatzki led a walking tour of Glen Park in the morning and a tour of the historic area of Palmer Lake in the afternoon. Jim's film, Summer Sojourn, was shown in the Town Hall in both the morning and afternoon.

Throughout the day, emcee Chuck Loeffler called the names of winners of numerous door prizes donated by local businesses.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, Sept. 21, for the next monthly history series program. Gordon Anderson, a nationally-published photographer, will present "Historic Homes of Colorado Springs & Vicinity" based on the book by the same name. It was written by his mother, Helen M. Anderson, and the photographs were provided by Gordon Anderson. The presentation will provide details of Helen Anderson's life, give details on several of the homes, and highlight the partnerships of Gen. William Palmer and Dr. W. A. Bell, and Spencer Penrose and Charles Tutt. Venue is the Palmer Lake Town Hall located at 28 Valley Crescent St. This event is free and open to all. ■



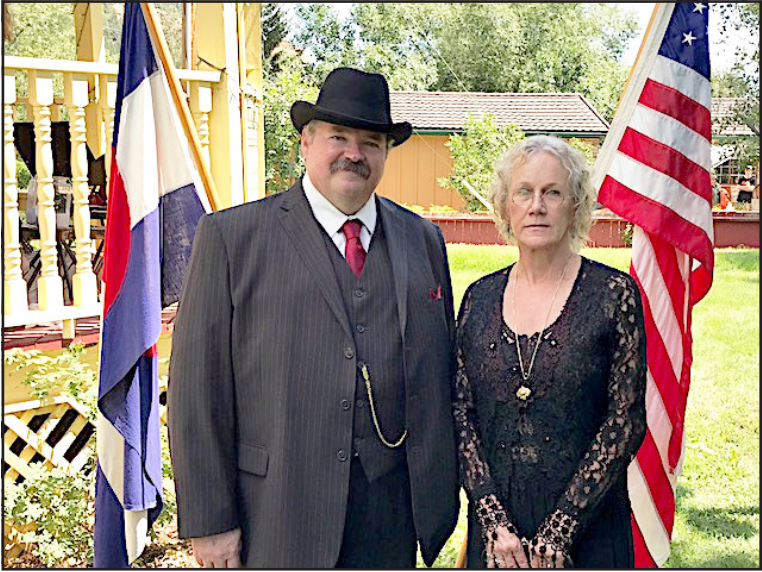
Above: The newly restored and furnished 1891 Palmer Lake Jail (shown in inset photo by Mike Walker) was briefly occupied by Bethany Bonser and Renna Lage. Photo by Tommy Olson.



Above: Jonathan Ehresman, entertained with sleight-of-hand. Photo by Tommy Olson.



Above: Sandy Smith demonstrated weaving. Photo by Tommy Olson.



Above: Presenters Ron West as Jimmie Burns and Catherine McGuire as Alice Bemis Taylor. Photo by Tommy Olson.



Above; From left, Oliver, Naomi, and Zachariah Rosebush enjoyed some cool treats at the Ice Cream Social. Photo by Harriet Halbig.



Above: The Colorado Frontier Army Band, led by Norman Hughes, helped entertain visitors. Photo by Tommy Olson.

High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)

The book of nature and lazy gardening

By Janet Sellers

"I cannot tell you how readable the book of nature is becoming for me; my long efforts at deciphering, letter by letter, have helped me; now all of a sudden it is having its effect, and my quiet joy is inexpressible."—Goethe to Charlotte von Stein, 1786
I am a lazy gardener, and I let nature work hard while I watch. Being a successful lazy gardener requires good preparation but offers lasting, prolific results. Many of us feel that as we garden, we learn nature's secrets of soil as a living, complex organism. Reading the book of nature is simple, repetitive and fun, but only when using organic and

natural processes, as pharma chemical compounds stress the natural health of plants, undermining soil microbiology instead of improving it.
As cool nights appear growth slows, but crops for the next 50 days include: bush beans, beet greens in 30 days or roots in 50 days, scallion, chive and garlic leaves, baby kale, bok choy, mustard greens and lettuces, snow peas, radishes, and spinach. My favorite growing medium this time of year is inside a compost-inoculated straw bale as a raised garden bed.
The National Center for Biotechnology Information published, "Unifying model of shoot gravitropism reveals

proprioception as a central feature of posture control in plants...." Simply put, the life drive of plants relates most to growth and sunlight/photosynthesis and is affected by gravity as revealed in the plants' posture. I would add that plant posture is also affected by weather, as that can greatly add to plant health or peril, informed by the microbiology of the soil and its ability to thrive in its stages of soil change coinciding with the plant as it grows and changes.
Sun, soil, and water are the basis for our gardens—or are they? I have seen nature be able to grow plants in the cracks of sidewalks, a hunk of wood,

and in decaying pine needles; the key here is decay. The microbiology that we cannot see is at work for the basis of our gardens. We can offer protection from the crazy warm and cool weather with a blanket of mulch such as straw, or if the plant is large enough already, it will self-mulch and protect itself with its leaves. Gardeners know plants have a proprioception response to growing conditions and gravity as related to the shoots of plants, and we find this in the posture of growing plants.
Janet Sellers is an avid nature lover and prolific lazy gardener. Send in easy gardening tips to: JanetSellers@ocn.me.