

Palmer Lake Historical Society, Nov. 15

Early weapons in the Colorado Territory

By Bernard L. Minetti

Speaking to about 70 gun aficionados and Palmer Lake Historical Society members on Nov. 15, Jerry Wlodarek, Johnny Mulligan, Kenneth James and Dave Heide talked about 50 early rifles, muskets, and pistols that they displayed for the audience.

Wlodarek discussed the differences between caplock and flintlock ignition systems on early weapons. Flintlocks were more prevalent in the Colorado Territory. This ignition system produced flint-on-steel sparks to ignite priming powder to fire the gun.

Wlodarek said the flintlock ignition system has a higher firing failure rate than the caplock because of the flintlock's susceptibility to moisture problems. The caplock mechanism, the successor to the flintlock mechanism, used a percussion cap struck by a hammer to set off the main charge, rather than using a piece of flint to strike steel.

The type D gun, made in 1720, was the earliest weapon that they had brought with them to this presentation, Wlodarek said. These weapons had elegant and eye-pleasing lines and were known as "trade guns." The French and the British both traded these French-made weapons for pelts in the 1700s.

Wlodarek noted that the rifles would be labeled by the place where they were made. For instance, many of the rifles came from Pennsylvania, specifically from Allentown and Bethlehem.

All early weapons that came west were utilized either for self-protection or for hunting game. As the explorers, trappers, and mountain men moved westward into the Rockies, their survival depended on the reliability and accuracy of their weaponry. Both Wlodarek and Mulligan work to restore these weapons from disrepair and neglect into fine functioning weapons.

The presenters are known as "restoration specialists" for Douglas County. They work to restore buildings, forges, and early items that have been neglected.

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be on



Thursday, Jan. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. Members and the public are invited to attend. This will be the Annual Potluck Dinner and Membership Meeting. Bring a dessert or side dish. No charge.

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Left: Some of the weapons talked about in the Palmer Lake Historical Society's November presentation, *Early Weapons in the Colorado Territory*. Above: Palmer Lake Town Hall was filled to overflowing. Below: From left, Kenneth James, Jerry Wlodarek, Johnny Mulligan, and Dave Heide brought early Colorado and early American weapons to the Palmer Lake Historical Society's November meeting. Photos by Bernard Minetti.



Special Events and Notices

By Judy Barnes, Editor Emeritus

Although we strive for accuracy in these listings, dates or times are often changed after publication. Please double-check the time and place of any event you wish to attend by calling the info number for that event.

Wednesday Senior Lunch at Big Red December Menu

Dec. 5—Spaghetti & meat sauce, Caesar salad, garlic bread.

Dec. 12—Chicken Dijon over rice & salad.

Dec. 19—Roast pork, roasted potatoes, applesauce.

Dec. 26—No lunch, Merry Christmas!

Rolls and butter are served with each meal except sandwiches. Dessert is also provided.

An activity of Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership. Meals are provided by Pinecrest Catering, Palmer Lake; Nikki McDonald, executive chef, 481-3307.

LEAP—Help for heating bills

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a federally funded program that provides cash assistance to help families and individuals pay a portion of winter home heating costs. The eligibility period for LEAP runs now through **April 30**. Application packets will automatically be mailed to residents who received LEAP assistance last year at the address where they were living at that time. To find out if you qualify for LEAP, call 1-866 HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) or visit www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap to view the most current program application requirements.

The U.S. Postal Service 2012 Holiday Mail-by Dates

The U.S. Postal Service suggests the following mail-by dates for domestic mail to ensure packages, cards, and letters arrive before Christmas. Priority Mail International **Dec. 3**, Express Mail International **Dec. 11**, parcel post **Dec. 15**, ship to military **Dec. 17**, most international

shipping **Dec. 19**, first-class mail **Dec. 20**, priority mail **Dec. 21**, express mail **Dec. 22**.

Coat drive at Wescott Fire Department through Dec. 10

Donate your extra coats to Coats for Colorado Springs and El Paso County. You may drop off new or clean gently used coats at the Donald Wescott Fire Department, 15415 Gleneagle Dr., through **Dec. 10**. Coats will be distributed to those in need through the support of Partners in Housing and the Salvation Army. For more information, contact Fire Marshal Margo Humes, 488-8680, or e-mail mhumes@wescottfire.org.

Santa on Patrol toy drive, ends Dec. 14

Monument Police Chief Jacob Shirk and the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Department will deliver toys to children in the Tri-Lakes area Dec. 15, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and they need the community's support. Please drop off new, unwrapped toys or gift cards by Dec. 14 to fire stations 1, 2, and 3, the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Department Administration Building (166 Second St., Monument), Palmer Lake Police Department, or any D-38 elementary school. Any family in need or with questions may call Jennifer, 484-0911.

Volunteers needed for County Fair and Events Complex Advisory Board, apply by Dec. 14

The El Paso County Board of Commissioners is seeking community-minded citizen volunteers to serve as associate members on the Fair and Events Complex Advisory Board. Applications are due by **Dec. 14**. The Fair and Events Complex Advisory Board assists with the development, management, programming, and operation and maintenance of the Fair and Events Complex in Calhan. The volunteer application is located at www.elpasoco.com and can be accessed by clicking on the "Volunteer Boards" link. For more information call 520-6436.

Colorado Gardener Certificate Training; apply by Dec. 15

Colorado State University (CSU) Extension is accepting applications for the Colorado Gardener Certificate training course. Classes will be taught by CSU Extension educators. These classes are the same classes that Colorado Master Gardener volunteers attend. Parks department, school district and golf course maintenance personnel as

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