

The rise and fall of Tri-Lakes ice production

By Bernard L. Minetti

Palmer Lake Historical Society President Tom VanWormer presented "Tri-Lakes Ice Production, Storage, and Delivery" at the Feb. 1 meeting of the group. Ice production had become a viable and merchandisable business in the late 1890s and was centered in the Tri-Lakes area, he said. Palmer Lake and Monument Lake provided a source for this commercial ice production.

Production of ice by natural methods was the turning point in the transportation of perishable food items. It allowed large amounts of food and meats to be sent all over the country by using refrigerated freight cars and overland trucks. With the advent of electrical refrigeration units, natural ice production began to decline almost simultaneously with a temperature increase in the Tri-Lakes area during the winter that spoiled the freezing of the lakes.

VanWormer explained that in those days, temperatures in the Tri-Lakes area averaged below zero in the both daytime and nighttime all winter season. This allowed for the formation of large amounts of ice that could be harvested from the lakes in Monument and Palmer Lake. In the 1920s, there appeared to be a reversal of that trend and the area winter temperatures rose too high for the manufacture of commercial ice in these two lakes. He noted that at the same time as the temperature variation, commercial production of refrigeration containers for in-

home and commercial use began in earnest.

VanWormer noted that commercial refrigeration progressed to a point where sawdust became a prime factor as the insulation utilized in railroad freight cars and overland trucks. In the home, iceboxes were replaced with refrigerators, with sawdust remaining as the main insulation.

He noted that the American diet began to change because of this industry. Refrigeration began to allow for the transportation and storage of large amounts of foods that had not been available in certain seasons. The ice industry had been a major industry in Palmer Lake and Monument, and economic conditions declined as this industry dissolved.

Two presentations in March

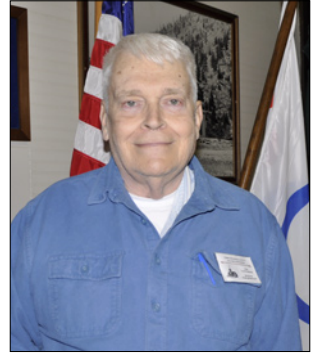
The Historical Society is instituting two presentations each month beginning in March. The first of these, on March 11, is titled "The Day the Forest Burned." Terry Stokka presents a documentary of the Black Forest Fire of 2013. He will discuss the causes that led up to severe fire danger and take you through the days of the fire and the ongoing recovery.

The second monthly presentation, on March 20, is titled "Doctor at Timberline - Medicine in the Late 1800s and Early 1900s." John Stansfield will portray Dr. Charles Fox Gardner, a leader in the early days of tuberculosis treatment in the Pikes Peak area.

Both presentations will take place in the Palmer Lake Town hall at 28 Valley Crescent, Palmer Lake. These events are free, and refreshments will be served after each presentation.

Bernard Minetti may be contacted at bernardminetti@ocn.me.

Right: Palmer Lake Historical Society Board President Tom VanWormer spoke on "Tri-Lakes Ice Production, Storage, and Delivery." Photo by Bernard Minetti.



Our Community Notices

By Judy Barnes, Events Editor

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

- March 5:** Roast pork with apple cider cream sauce, roasted potatoes, salad, rolls
 - March 12:** Chicken Marsala over fettuccine, Caesar salad, rolls
 - March 19:** BBQ brisket sandwich, tater tots, cole slaw
 - March 26:** Tuna sandwich on a croissant, avocado, chips
- 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.

Recent burglaries

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office has recently taken reports of several residential burglaries in the Kings Deer and Bent Tree subdivisions. Most of these incidents have occurred in the daylight hours, when residents are not home. If you discover a crime or witness suspicious activity, call the Sheriff's Office immediately. For emergencies, dial 911. Otherwise, call the non-emergency dispatch number at 390-5555.

Free income tax filing assistance by AARP

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is offering free income tax filing assistance in the Tri-Lakes area. Trained AARP volunteers will be available to answer questions and to assist filers in completing their federal and state income tax returns every Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at Tri-Lakes Cares, 235 Jefferson St. in Monument, until April 14. Free e-filing of both federal and state returns is available. Taxpayers with more complicated returns should seek the advice of a paid professional. Filers are asked to bring their W-2s, 1099-INT, 1099-DIV, etc. needed to complete their 2013 tax returns, plus a copy of last year's (2012) tax return. A photo ID and copy of your Social Security card are also required. For more information or to make an appointment, call 481-4864 Ext. 118. Leave your name and number and someone will return your call.

Polling locations needed

El Paso County Clerk and Recorder's Office is soliciting public comment and suggestions regarding the location of Voter Service and Polling Centers for the 2014 General Election. If you own or know of an appropriate potential location (such as a business, school, church, community center, etc.), contact Liz Olson at lizolson@elpasoco.com or at 520-6222. For details about requirements for a Voter Service and Polling Center, visit car.elpasoco.com.

Register now for spring sports at Tri-Lakes Y, sessions begin March 24

Sign up now for volleyball, grades 1-8, March 24-May 9; soccer, ages 3 years-6th grade, March 24-May 10; or flag football, ages 6-14, March 24-May 10. Register at ppymca.org or at the Y, 17250 Jackson Creek Parkway, Monument. Financial assistance is available. For more information, call 481-8728 or email ppymca.org.

Citizen's Police Academy, April 15-June 3

The Monument Police Department is now taking applications for the Citizens Police Academy. This free eight-week program is open to all who live or work in the Tri-Lakes area. Participants will learn about criminal law, patrol procedures, use of force, computer forensics, internal affairs, community policing, tactical considerations, and have the opportunity to shoot a variety of police weapons and much more. Classes will be held April 15-June 3 on Tuesday evenings, 7-10 p.m., at the Monument



Furball Cleaning

Residential and Commercial
Bonded and Insured
References on Request
24/7 Emergencies
Real Estate Move Outs
Hauling and Trash Removal
Car Detailing
Poop Scooping

Marina Harris
(719) 660-1266
(720) 985-4648
Furball.cleaning@yahoo.com

Lightning Electric

For ALL Your Electrical Needs
Residential • Commercial • Industrial
Service Calls • Reasonable Rates • Free Estimates
Fully Insured & Licensed
Master Electricians

David Lambert (719) 243-2257 Keith Profita (719) 243-2258

Terrie Spells

Tri-Lakes' professional color specialist

719-487-8660

located at Monumental Styles

Knowing your hair is my business



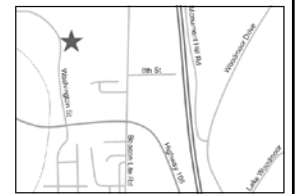
"YOUR LOCAL DUMP"

PEAK DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING, LLC (719) 481-2340
856 N. Washington St. Monument

www.peakdr.com

M-F 8-4 & Sat 10-4

Got Spring Cleaning?



TREE MAN

Tree Service & Fire Prevention

We are a local professional tree service offering quality work at affordable prices.

- We do all types of tree work **any time of year**: Removal, thinning, trimming, chipping.
- Winter discounts

719-488-1818

Licensed and Insured

CONCRETE WORK

All types of concrete work
25 Years Experience • Insured
www.sharpestcut.com

Sharpest Cut 719-491-4811

Need a Summer Housesitter?

Older couple from Texas would like to help you out! Very reliable, clean, and come with a small, well-mannered dog. Available 1-2 months June-September. Looking in the Woodmoor or Red Rocks Ranch area to be near sister. LOCAL references available.

Call 339-5507 or 481-1751.

HayCo L.L.C.

For All Your Livestock and Reclamation Needs!

Sm. Squares • Lg. Squares • Rounds
Alfalfa • Grass • Mixed • Straw

We Deliver • 719-481-3575

www.hayco.us • Licensed & Bonded

Now accepting

