

Adult programs

Sunday, Dec. 6 from 1 to 5 meet Abigail Mott, a travelling poet who writes poetry on the spot and accepts payment for each poem. Just give her a topic and she writes a poem for you!

Enjoy listening to harp music performed by talented local harp students from Renee Quinn’s Harp Studio in Monument on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 12:30 to 1:30. No registration necessary.

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, Dec. 18 to discuss Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly book group.

On the walls during December will be a collection of acrylics by Judith R. Yankes. In the display cabinet will be a collection of Santa Claus figures owned by Patt Murphy.

Palmer Lake Library Events

December’s Family Fun program on Saturday, Dec. 19 at

10:30 is Reindeer Dog. Sienna is tired of being a dog. She wants to be a reindeer! Will her wish come true or will the other reindeer refuse to let her join in their reindeer games? Elf Denise Gard and Sienna spread some holiday cheer with this festive program.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library facilities will be closed all day on Dec. 24 and 25 and close at 4 p.m. on Dec. 31.

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History of the Palmer Lake Star



Above: The Palmer Lake Star shines in its 80th year. Photo by Bill Benson.

By Jack Anthony

Harry Krueger and his brothers Orville and Kenny dutifully departed their home at the base of Palmer Lake’s Sundance Mountain with precious cargo in hand. They were being dispatched by their dad Jesse to replace a burned out 40-watt light bulb on the 500-foot, 92-light bulb star that each December shined from the steep slopes of Sundance.

The star was built in 1935 as a show of courage and determination in the face of the Great Depression. Bert Sloan was the community’s leader of the star endeavor and he affirmed the significance of the star. “We tried to keep the town from dying and make it a good place to live. We wanted to do something the town could be proud of for many years and the star did just that.”

Jesse Krueger was one of the men who built the star, and his family emerged as the caretakers of the giant star. The Krueger boys were the star’s maintainers and often scurried up the slopes to keep nearly 100 light bulbs shining. As the boys approached the rocky outcrop where the ailing bulb beckoned them, a mountain lion laid perched in the early morning sun. The boys spied the lion and it too gazed up them. Like an avalanche, the youthful trio came bolting down from the mountain, bounding into the Krueger home announcing the impediment to their mission. “Dad, there’s a mountain lion up there” came the words from heaving breath.

Jesse Krueger’s stern look accompanied a surprising directive, “You boys get back up there and change the

bulb; the lion will be gone.” The boys reluctantly marched back up and found dad’s lion prophesy to be true, the lion was gone and the bulb was successfully installed. That evening, all bulbs shined brightly as the five-point star decorated the Front Range.

The Palmer Lake Star shines down to dusk in December and also on special occasions. The star is listed in the Colorado Register of Historic Properties and this year shines in its 80th year. ■

Palmer Lake Historical Society, Nov. 19

Overflow crowd hears about orphan trains

By Al Walter

On Nov. 19, storyteller and performer Jane Milne provided an educational and fascinating look at the Orphan Train Movement to an overflow crowd of about 190 people for the final program in the Palmer Lake Historical Society’s 2015 History Series.

During the Orphan Train Movement, which covered the period from the 1850s to the 1920s, almost 200,000 orphaned, homeless, or abandoned children were transported from Eastern cities to new homes in the West and Midwest. Milne presented this story of hardship, heartbreak,

and triumph of young children as told from the perspective of Puebloan Stan Cornell, who travelled this road with his younger brother, Victor.

Although a number of books were written about the orphan trains, one of the more popular books was written by Christina Baker Kline. Kline’s book, as well as the other books on the Orphan Train Movement, have been embraced by many book clubs. In addition to a number of members of local book clubs, there were several members of the audience whose grandparents or parents were children relocated to the West as part of the Orphan Train

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Questions? Call John Heiser at 488-3455.