

vember 1892 he was awarded a patent for his “pea huller or sheller” and promptly leased the device to other Colorado canners. He continued to improve his pea viner and was granted 10 more patents for improvements between 1893 and 1907. After Empson died in 1926, the company was sold to Kuner’s, which is still in business today.

Reich grew up in Wheat Ridge and graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Management and Mechanical Engineering. He spent his professional career in management of small, start-up, technically-oriented companies and in engineering product design. His books include Colorado Industries of the Past (2008), Colorado Rail Annual No.

29—Black Smoke & White Iron (2009), Colorado Railroad Icehouses (2010), and Colorado Rail Annual No. 31—Colorado Railroad Water Tanks (2012). His most recent book, published in 2014 by the Colorado Railroad Historical Foundation, is Colorado Inventions and Inventors of the 19th Century.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, Oct. 20, when the Historical Society presents John Anderson’s debut of his new program, “The Legacy of Juan Batista De Anza.” Appointed governor of New Mexico by the Spanish king, De Anza traveled across the San Luis Valley vowing to rid colonists of Comanche attacks. Learn about the battle in 1779 near the present site of downtown Colorado Springs.



Above: The evening’s presenter, Bill Reich, and Mike Walker, Historical Society secretary. *Photo by Historical Society board member Su Ketchmark.*



Above: Dan Edwards holds his award of recognition, standing with Roger Davis, Historical Society museum director. *Photo by Historical Society board member Su Ketchmark.*

For more information, visit our website at www.palmerdividehistory.org or call 719-

559-0837. ■

Western Museum of Mining & Industry, July 15-17

Restoration Day at the museum

By David Futey

On Sept. 10, the Western Museum of Mining & Industry hosted the Reynolds Ranch Restoration Day. The event acted as a fundraiser, with proceeds going toward restoring the 1892 Reynolds Ranch House located on the museum property. The first of three phases of restoring the house began in August, with foundation and drainage work to be completed in October. The house was built by Joseph and Sarah Reynolds and is a remnant of

the town of Husted, a stop on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. Besides seeing a parade of tractors and Model As and Ts, visitors could watch a blacksmith at work, museum steam engines operate, and, the highlight, enter portions of the Reynolds House and feel a sense of local history. As part of the ongoing fundraising efforts, the museum is selling a tree ornament depicting the house for \$25, which can be purchased at the museum gift shop. Upcoming events at the museum and information on

how to assist in the fundraising efforts is at www.wmmi.org.

David Futey can be contacted at davidfutey@ocn.me

Right: Museum staff and members of the Palmer Lake Historical Society are dressed in period clothing on the porch of the Reynolds Ranch House. *Photo by David Futey.*



High Altitude Natural Gardening

Tiny helpers in the garden

By Janet Sellers

This time in the fall, September, we have wonderful harvests (well, some of us sustained so much hail damage we had much less to harvest than usual) and great fall colors bursting up against our clear blue skies and even on the ground. We can look up, down, and sideways and see the bright colors against the natural forest of deep and moody greens.

I was hiking around in Palmer Lake with Phyllis Head, who wanted to show me how some eradication efforts were going around town and in the trailhead areas, and we sure got an eyeful of fall majesty in colors from earth to sky. I remembered there is a Ute Indian Spirit Tree, I think I remember that it is a trail marker or direction tree, and it’s above the first part of the trail, its direction pointing to something very important, or about someone very important. It does point towards Tava, the Sun Mountain of the Ute (we call it Pikes Peak but it had the Ute name Tava for thousands of years).

The tree is up high on the slope, and as

I pondered what its direction could mean, I gazed out in the direction it pointed and below, near the trail, was a huge patch of poison ivy. Even if the majestic Spirit Tree indicated some other motive of import, it sure brought my awareness to the brightly colored red, orange, and yellow leaves of poison ivy. Yikes! So pretty but so dangerous.

Then, Head called my attention to the side of the trail where some fine examples of weed eradication were done by our little friends the knapweed flower weevils. Knapweed is also known as “hardhead” due to the seeds’ hard shell. Spotted knapweed was accidentally introduced into North America in the late 1800s in contaminated alfalfa and clover seed and in soil used for ship ballast. In North America, plants generally live three to seven years but can live up to nine years or longer.

We can see the white/purple flowered knapweed menacing our forests, pastures, meadows, roadsides, field borders, waste areas, and woodland edges. It is drought tolerant, and the nasty plants and seeds can

last in the soil over 100 years and pop up then as well. It kills out native plants and takes over an area. The plants expand by seed and by root to cover any area with their vicious, thistly vegetation.

Luckily for us, the flower weevils and root weevils have come to our rescue. This time of year the weevils have done their job and are already back in the root area soil hunkering down for the winter. It is most advisable to not disturb the soil, but cut the knapweed off at the ground, since the VIP bugs need to stay in the root area to overwinter until spring, and then get going on their knapweed eradication. This natural weed control method is the most successful and (benign to other plants) in Colorado, and is specifically targeted to eradicate knapweed.

I’m glad the weevils are there already and can continue to protect our land—they are very valuable tiny garden friends!

Janet Sellers is an avid newbie gardener and nature friend, and can be reached at janetsellers@ocn.me.



Above: Local volunteer and avid gardener Phyllis Head points out the poison ivy along the trail to the Palmer Lake reservoir area, cautioning “Leaves of three, let them be.” *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

Art Matters

Fall genre seasonal art

By Janet Sellers

Fall is here and so is the start of the autumn art season. Get ready for art shows, local pop-up shops, studio art markets, and more from now until New Year’s holiday fun. Many of us enjoy the October/November art works for Halloween and El Dia de los Muertos (also known as “All Soul’s Day” or “Day of the Dead” which honors/memorializes loved ones in a fun way). There are also a lot of occasions coming up that will spark the desire for artfully made paintings, jewelry, ephemera, and decorations.

Historically, the nature of the Octo-

ber fun is ephemera, or short-term themed goods and pumpkins, gourds, apples, and other fall garden harvest items. There exist in private and museum collections amazing vintage Halloween or El Dia ephemera that are treasured, and they command a high price—that is, if they even go on the market at all.

Our best chance at the memorabilia is to collect some pieces each year and save them for posterity. What were once expected to be short term in popularity, such as papier-mache or tinwork cats, bats, goblins, and pumpkin-faced characters, are

now sought-after collectors’ items fetching big prices in spite of their humble origins and materials. It’s the spirit of the imaginative art and crafts that create the interest year after year.

The most widespread, from North to South America, seems to be the Dia de los Muertos art and celebrations. Here in the U.S. Southwestern states, the fun rivals the Halloween and harvest festivals for a month of festive parties, trinkets, costumes, and art. As an artist, it’s been my favorite season, and I often have had El Dia-themed artworks in galleries this time of

year where the art receptions always made a polite nod of respect to the sacred theme of remembering loved ones in a joyous way. My friends from Mexico would tell stories of going with their grandmothers to fill the cemeteries with carpets of golden marigolds in ornate patterns, bringing favorite treats, toys, and the like to have a party atmosphere and remember with storytelling those who have passed before us.

Some places in our area will have this art available this season; the ones I know of or find out about I will post on our area’s Facebook page, “Local Holiday Pop Up

