



P.O. Box 1004 • Littleton, Colorado 80160-1004

HISTORIC LITTLETON INC.

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Historic Preservation Month

National Historic Preservation Week has become Historic Preservation Month!

National Historic Preservation Week has become a month-long celebration! In Colorado, May has been designated as Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month and Historic Littleton Inc. Will sponsor two events during the month, the annual Renewal Dinner and Museum Day.

Renewal Dinner May 16

On Wednesday, May 16, HLI will host the Fifth Annual Renewal Dinner at the Inn at Hudson Gardens. This annual event, open to the public, is a time for the Littleton community to come together to renew friendships and to renew their commitment to preserving Littleton's special spirit and historic buildings.

Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. with time to stroll through the gardens and view the spring flowers. Dinner at 7 p.m. includes Appetizers, Salad and Dinner Rolls, Grilled Salmon with Soba Noodles, Grilled Marinated Chicken with Fettucini, Fresh Vegetables, and Dessert and Coffee.

Dan Brickley will entertain with "Historic Littleton: Sights and Sounds," a musical review of the decades paired with slides from the Littleton Historical Museum

collection. A speaker from the Colorado Historic Foundation will give a short presentation on the economic benefits of historic preservation. The 2001 - 2002 board of Historic Littleton will also be elected.

Cost for the dinner is \$30.00. Checks should be sent to Historic Littleton Inc., P. O. Box 1004, Littleton, CO 80160-1004. Call Barb Eaton at 303-977-4054 for more information.

Museum Day May 20

HLI will join with the Friends of the Littleton Library and Museum in sponsoring Museum Day Sunday, May 20 at the Littleton Historical Museum, 6028 S. Gallup from 1 - 5 p.m. Bus tours will leave the museum to explore Littleton's historic neighborhoods. This is funded by a grant from the Colorado Historical Society and the State Historical Fund. The Littleton Community Music Association's Festival Band will play pop music, polkas and marches from 1-3:15 p.m. From 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. there will be Dixieland music. The Rough and Readies Vintage Baseball Team will play the Territorial All Stars at 1:30 on the south forty of the 1860s farm. Popcorn, lemonade and cookies will be served all afternoon.

HLI received a grant from the Colorado Historical Society and the State Historical Fund to provide a bus tour of Littleton's historic neighborhoods including some of the

recently surveyed area in the City. The first bus tour will leave the museum at 1:15. Other tours will be a 2:30, and 3:45. Tickets will be on first come bases and will be available at the front desk at the museum on the day of the even. The bus holds 24 passengers.

Volunteers are needed for this event call the museum at 303-795-3950 to sign up!

Buckhorn Dinner a Success

Why should someone restore a historic structure?

According to Roi Davis, owner of the former Carnegie Library (the Melting Pot) in Littleton and the Buckhorn Exchange Restaurant building in Denver, "the reason we get into historic structures is because we want to save and preserve what is good in our culture."

Davis spoke on the advantages and pitfall of owning historic structures at the March 21 dinner at the Buckhorn Restaurant. Forty-seven members of HLI and the Friends of the Library/Museum attended the event, which included a light rail ride to the restaurant.

Civic pride is another reason to restore a historic building, Davis also said. "You get a sense of re-creating something."

"Old buildings have character," Davis said. "They're well

built. There's a lot of quality in old buildings that you don't get today." Davis began his love affair with old structures as a child. His father restored the Park Lane Hotel in Toledo, Ohio, turning it into an upscale residential hotel.

In the metro area Davis has also restored the Glendale Grange building at Leetsdale and Alameda and the University Building on the 16th Street Mall in Denver.

Older structures have their problems as well, Davis said. Pipes in old buildings can get "hardening of the arteries" and start to leak. Often beautiful architectural features have been covered over by subsequent remodeling. Parking is sometimes a problem with old historic buildings.

At the Carnegie Library building in Littleton, the parking lot is built over a former swamp and landfill and is sinking, Davis said. "It's very difficult to have a normal parking lot there. It's hard to put asphalt over a swamp!"

Both the Carnegie Library building and the Buckhorn Exchange building are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Both also have local landmark designation, Davis said. When asked if landmark designation placed restrictions on the building, Davis said historic buildings are often "grandfathered" and don't have as many requirements as more modern structures. Designation does mean he would have to get approval to change the façades of the building, Davis said.

This first joint event of HLI and FOL/M was a great success, judging from the reaction of those attending. "The evening at the Buckhorn was a lot of fun," commented Karen Dvorchak. "I hope Historic Littleton and FOL/M continue to schedule joint affairs."



Roi Davis, right, owner of the Buckhorn Exchange, introduces Rox Brown, entertained the group with the autoharp. Flo Bullock looks on.

What do you do with a Kinkajou?

Members of HLI will have a unique opportunity to meet Cee Wolf, who is now 93 years old, and visit her historic farm Willowcroft in Columbine Valley on Sunday, July 15.

Willowcroft was the first home in the Littleton area built by Joseph W. Bowles in 1884. Bowles, whose name graces Bowles Avenue, had a ranch which stretched from the Platte River to the foothills. Cee and Paul Wolf moved to Willowcroft in 1950, where they raised several children and a menagerie of animals. Paul served as the treasurer of Arapahoe County for 20 years.

Littleton Realtor Bruce Wolf and his sister Alice Wolf Gilborn were the lucky children to grow up among dogs, cats, cows, horses, goats, skunks, donkeys, and a kinkajou,

which is a South American mammal that is somewhat of a cross between a monkey and a raccoon. The antics of this animal and other tales from their interesting childhood are depicted in Alice's book, *What Do You Do With a Kinkajou?* Only 400 copies of this 1976 book, now out-of-print, remain, and Alice and Cee will autograph them.

Bruce Wolf, a member of the board of directors of HLI, will give partial tours of Willowcroft and speak about the home's history and architecture. More details will be forthcoming for this exciting afternoon. This event is only for members of Historic Littleton, Inc.

Calendar of Events

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| May 16 | Renewal dinner at Hudson Gardens |
| May 20 | Museum Day |
| July 15 | Ice cream social at Willowcroft |