



HISTORIC LITTLETON INC.

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Members Invited to Tour Willowcroft July 26

Historic Littleton Inc. members and guests have been invited by HLI director Bruce Wolf to tour his childhood home, Willowcroft Manor, on Wednesday, July 26. Willowcroft was built by Joseph Bowles in 1884.

Willowcroft is located at 3600 W. Bowles Avenue in Columbine Valley. The house will be open from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served on the lawn.

In 1865 Joseph Bowles purchased 160 acres west of the Platte River. During 40 years of farming wheat, oats and potatoes, and raising cattle, Bowles acquired 2,000 acres in the South Platte River Valley.

In 1883, Bowles hired Denver architect R. S. Roeschlaub to design a fitting home for a prosperous farmer.

Willowcroft Manor is a Queen Anne style house built of Castle Rock rhyolite, the same stone used in Richard Little's home and the 1875 railroad depot. The house features gabled and hipped roofs, a large wooden cornice, and heavy wooden ornamentation.

In 1950, Paul and Cynthia (Cee) Wolf purchased Willowcroft. Bruce Wolf grew up amongst a menagerie of animals that his mother raised on the property. Cee died in 2005.

Bruce Wolf says the future of Willowcroft is uncertain at this time, as he and his siblings settle his mother's estate.

Don't miss this chance to tour historic Willowcroft! RSVP to Rebecca Kast at 303-730-2639.



Please park at Creekside Center on Middlefield Road and enter through the side gate on Middlefield.

Annual Meeting At Museum on Sept. 6

HLI Director Lorena Donohue will present a slide show and lecture on former Littleton Independent publisher Ed Bemis and his connection with Littleton history on Wednesday, September

6 at 7:00 p.m. at the HLI annual meeting, to be held at the Littleton Historical Museum. There will be a brief business meeting before the lecture. Refreshments will be served. Historic

Littleton will honor the past and present publishers of the Littleton Independent for their contribution to preserving Littleton history over the decades.

Historic Littleton Inc. is dedicated to preserving the historical and architectural heritage of the greater Littleton area through advocacy and education.

Ed Bemis House Open House A Success

Over \$600 was raised to help restore the Ed Bemis House at the May 13 open house sponsored by Historic Littleton Inc.

Western Welcome Week Executive Director Cindy Hathaway said HLI's donation will go towards refurbishing the leaded glass windows.

One of the highlights of the open house was meeting two of Ed and Katharine Bemis's granddaughters, Sandy Bemis Geoffrion and Maya DeBus. Maya journeyed from Santa Monica, California, and Sandy and her husband Ed came from Los Alamos, New Mexico, for the open house, which they learned about after reading the Littleton Independent.

They brought several photo albums of historical photos and a number of family artifacts.

Both Maya and Sandy have fond memories of summers spent visiting their grandparents in their Littleton house. They would walk over to swim at the YMCA (now the Colorado Center for the Blind) or feed the ducks and play in the lake at Sterne Park. And they always visited the Littleton Independent office. "Daddyette (Ed Bemis) loved to share his enthusiasm for history and Littleton and the paper," Maya remembers. "A trip to visit my grandparents always included a trip to the paper. He had a roll-top desk there. We used to love to get into it and get the top rolled down on us."

Both of the granddaughters are happy to see WWW occupying the house now. "I can't imagine any other use for it," said Maya. "We're very happy to know it will be taken care of now," echoed Sandy.

"We couldn't hope for anything better." Sandy and her husband donated \$1,000 for the restoration of the house. While in Littleton they toured Main Street, visited Bemis Library, and spent time going over their photos with Lorena Donohue at the Littleton Historical Museum.

They also gave WWW two stuffed pheasants which used to perch in the dining room during their grandparents' days.



Above right: Ed Bemis's granddaughters Sandy Geoffrion and Maya Debus in front of Bemis House.

Right: Littleton Mayor Jim Taylor looks over Bemis family photos displayed at the open house.



Louthan House Being Restored

The former home of Charles G. Louthan is being rescued from obscurity by owner David Svenson, who plans to open a restaurant and office space in the refurbished building.

Charles G. Louthan was a mayor and city councilman in Littleton in the early 1900's. He built many of the homes in the Littleton Heights neighborhood, including a block of pebble-dash bungalows that form the Louthan Street Historic District.

Mr. Louthan's own home at 5649 S. Curtice Street, where he and his wife Lorena Bair Louthan raised seven children, had been dramatically altered over the years. The wrap-around porch had been removed and the brick exterior had been covered by an unsightly layer of stucco.

On April 4, the Littleton City Council approved Local Historic Landmark Designation for the property. That allows the owner to be eligible for tax credits and to apply for grants from the State Historic Fund.

The city council also recently amended the Historic Preservation Code to allow commercial buildings that are designated historic landmarks in the downtown area to be eligible for funds from the Main Street Historic District Grant Fund. Grants of up to \$10,000 per year can be used for architectural design assistance, façade improvements and maintenance. The Louthan House is now eligible for a grant from this fund.

QUOTE FROM SVENSON
ABOUT PLANS FOR BUILDING

If you have a red mark on your address label, you need to renew your membership for 2006. Please send your \$25 membership fee to:

Historic Littleton Inc.
P.O. Box 1004
Littleton, CO 80160-1004

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- I'd like to help with:
- Membership Committee
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