



HISTORIC LITTLETON INC.

Special Edition
May 13, 2006

Historic Ed Bemis House Opened to Public

Welcome to the Ed Bemis House, the former home of Edwin and Katherine Bemis! This special edition of the Historic Littleton Inc. newsletter has been prepared to assist you in your tour. We appreciate your interest in the restoration of the Bemis House and invite you to further your interest in Littleton history by joining Historic Littleton, Inc.

Who was Edwin Bemis?

The Bemis name is a familiar one—Bemis Street, the Edwin A. Bemis Public Library—but who was the man behind the name?

Edwin A. Bemis was one of three children born to Fred and Elizabeth Bemis, Littleton pioneers and dairy farmers. The frame home the Bemis family lived in is now part of the 1890's farm at the Littleton Historical Museum.

Son Edwin didn't become a dairy farmer like his father. Instead he started working at the Littleton Independent newspaper at the age of 11. He later became the publisher of the Independent and brought legendary editor Houstoun Waring to work at the paper.

Ed Bemis also became town treasurer, deputy sheriff, fire chief, and overall city booster. He founded both the Littleton Historical Society (which later became the Littleton Historical Museum) and Littleton Rotary. With his prized Kodak camera, Bemis photographed early Littleton. When Ed Bemis died in 1978, he donated his home at 5890 S. Bemis St. to the City of Littleton. Ed Bemis and his wife are buried in the Littleton cemetery.



The Bemis Family in 1904. From the left: daughter Ella, mother Elizabeth, sons Luther and Edwin and father Fred.



Edwin Bemis residence at 5890 So. Bemis St. c. 1920

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

What's the Future for Bemis House?

After several decades of being rented out and largely neglected, the Ed Bemis House faces a bright future.

The Ed Bemis House was declared a Historic Landmark in 2005 by the Littleton City Council. That means the outside façade of the home is protected. Any exterior renovations will be approved by the Historical Preservation Board.

The City of Littleton also signed a 15-year lease with Western Welcome Week, Inc. allowing the non-profit to use Bemis House as its headquarters.

WWW Executive Director Cindy Hathaway said their goal is to get the house back the way it was, using volunteers and donated services. Two volunteer workdays to clean up the yard have been held, in conjunction with South Suburban Parks and Recreation.

Historic Littleton Inc. has funded a survey of the home's interior by a preservation consultant. HLI will use an upstairs room in Bemis House as its office.

Hathaway said renovation priorities for the house include repairing the leaded glass windows, replacing the screens, sanding the floors, repainting the inside and outside, and eventually replacing the roof and removing the asbestos siding.



Ed Bemis house in 2006, before landscape improvements.

How Can I Get Involved ?

Volunteers are needed to help with the restoration of the Ed Bemis House. To get involved:

1) Contact Cindy Hathaway, Executive Director of Western Welcome Week, 303-794-4870.

2) Join Historic Littleton, Inc.

Contact Rebecca Kast at 303-730-2639.

Or send \$25 to Historic Littleton Inc. P.O. Box 1004
Littleton, CO, 80160-1004.

3) Learn more about Ed Bemis and his family at a lecture on Sept. 6, 2006 at the Littleton Historical Museum.

This lecture is part of the 2006 annual meeting of Historic Littleton Inc. and is only open for members of Historic Littleton. (See step 2.)

4) You're already involved! 100% of the price of your tour today goes to fund restoration of Bemis House.

Historic Littleton Inc. Loses Three Friends

Three friends of Historic Littleton Inc. passed away this summer.

Cee Wolf, mother of HLI board member Bruce Wolf, died July 30 at age 97. Mrs. Wolf hosted HLI members at a tour of her Willowcroft Farm (the former Joseph Bowles home) in July, 2001. Remember her miniature horses and pot-bellied pigs?

A memorial service for Cee Wolf will be held Thursday, September 8, 2005 at Chapel Hill Mortuary, 6601 S. Colorado Boulevard, at 10:00 AM. Our deepest

condolences to Bruce on the death of Cee.

Eugene Sternberg, the architect who designed Arapahoe Community College, Bemis Library, and Geneva Village, died June 4 in Evergreen. He was 90.

Mr. Sternberg designed more than 400 buildings. He was honored at Historic Littleton's Renewal Dinner in May, 2004 for his lifetime achievement as an architect in Littleton and Englewood.

And lastly Roi Davis, owner of the Carnegie Building (the Melting Pot restaurant) and the Buckhorn Ex-

change Restaurant building, died in May.

Mr. Davis began his love affair with old buildings as a child. At a talk he gave March 21, 2001 at the Buckhorn to members of Historic Littleton and the Friends of the Library/Museum, Davis said, "The reason we get into historic structures is because we want to save and preserve what is good in our culture."

HLI regrets the passing of these fine individuals.

If you have a red mark on your address label, you need to renew your membership for 2005. 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
 - Newsletter
 - Special Events
 - Educational Programs



—Photo courtesy of Dick Valore, from the Littleton Historical Museum collection

Above, the “Valore Block” at the corner of Prince and Main Street on June 3, 1927. Dick Valore’s grandfather built the one-story red brick building, which has three identical store-fronts.

To the right, Dick and his father in front of Valore Hardware, located at 2389 W. Main.



HLI Board of Directors to be Elected at Annual Meeting

The following slate for Board of Directors will be voted on at the HLI annual meeting on September 28, 2005:

Karen Arras, Jack Ballard, Charlie Carroll, Lorena Donohue, Barb Eaton, Sonya Ellingboe, Vern Hendrickson, Doris Hulse, Rebecca Kast, Mike Massey, Leti Mudlo, Joe Racine, Ron Richards, Bernard Small, and Bruce Wolf. Nominations can also be made from the floor.