

# Englewood Historic Preservation Society

## Preserving Englewood Colorado History

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EHPS ~ 1000 Englewood Parkway ~ Englewood, Colorado 80110

Doug Cohn & Dave Paschal - Editors  
Lindsey Runyan - Graphic Design

### Englewood Videos



We invite everyone to look at the Englewood history videos that the City of Englewood and EHPS have collaborated on over the last year. There are 17 out now with more in the works. How to find them? Go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for "Englewood Moments in History" and enjoy. Special thanks to Chris Harguth & Ann Lauricello from the City's Communications Team for putting these videos together.

#### Here Are the Titles For Each Video

- Gold Rush
- The First Mayoral Election
- Englewood Speedway
- Cherrelyn Horse Car
- The Griffin in the Stairway
- Alexander Aviation
- City Ditch
- Carnation City
- Executive Order Resistance
- Arapahoe Acres
- Gothic Theatre
- Englewood Public Library
- Water Independence
- Historic Homes
- Marshall Reed
- The Ida Family
- Alexander Industries
- Swedish Hospital

### Membership

Interested in becoming a member of our society? Have questions? Reach out to Doug Cohn at [dcohn1@hotmail.com](mailto:dcohn1@hotmail.com).

You can also use the form in this newsletter or go to our website.

#### Contact Us:

[HistoricEnglewood.org](http://HistoricEnglewood.org)  
[contact@historicenglewood.org](mailto:contact@historicenglewood.org)

**303-242-3257**

Please like us on facebook!

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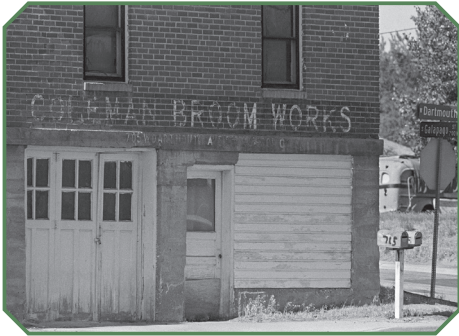
**Lindsey Runyan**  
*Communications Director*

### Englewood Historic Preservation Society Mission

To Preserve and share  
Englewood's history.

# THE COLEMAN BROOM WORKS

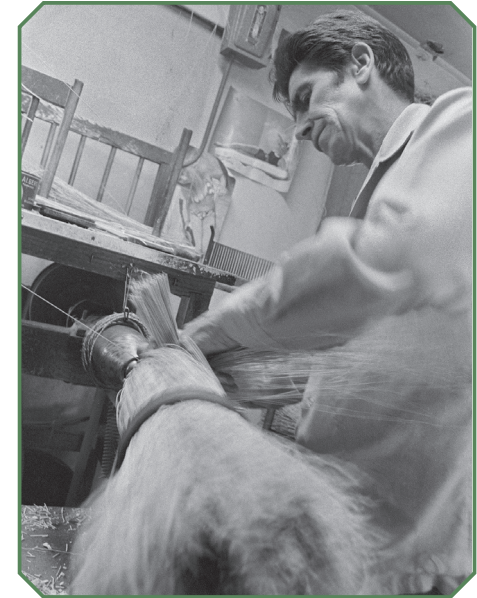
By Doug Cohn



Broom making was a major business for centuries. People everywhere needed to keep their homes and businesses and castles clean and brooms were the tools. One source mentions that the United States had 303 broom factories by 1839 and that the number peaked at 1,039 in 1919. The city of Broomfield is named after the broomcorn grown in the area. Generations of farmers made their livings growing broomcorn. Broom corn is not actually corn but a variation of Sorghum.

Many of you will remember when you were young houses did not have carpets. The houses had polished wood floors with maybe a throw rug. Fancy floors were made of hardwood, most from pine. The throw rugs were cleaned by hanging them on the clothesline and beating them with a stick. The floors were cleaned with brooms. The invention of artificial brooms in the 1950s created competition for the natural brooms. Home vacuum cleaners were not invented until after WW2 and they were needed for carpets. Wall to wall home carpeting came along in the 1970s and seemed such a luxury. That spelled the end of the small broom companies. Broom corn brooms can still be purchased at a number of stores.

Coleman Broom Works made broomcorn brooms by hand inside a dilapidated building in Englewood for over 50 years. I found the factory on an old map from 1927. The owner, Frank Coleman, inherited the business from his father who began



the business in the early 1920's. Billie Jean adds: My husband's Aunt and Uncle owned the broom factory My Grandfather Lawrence Robinson, uncles and Father in law Earl F. Bandy Sr. worked in the factory in the 1930. We were given and still have one of the last dozen brooms made personally by Uncle till have one of the last dozen brooms made personally by Uncle Frank before he retired in the mid-1970s, Uncle Frank passed away in June 1984, Aunt Mary Grace Coleman passed away in August 2018 at the age of 101 just shy of 102.

An interesting side note: from the Englewood History Book: Henry Taylor Sr. had 7 children. Henry Taylor Jr. was blind and lived in Englewood. His wife was also sight impaired. Henry Taylor Jr had many accomplishments: he tuned pianos for schools for many years; he and

his wife operated a concession stand in the Arapahoe County court house; he grew vegetables and chickens and delivered them from a horse and wagon; he learned broom making at Coleman Broom Works, started his own factory and delivered brooms to homes. Henry made a living selling brooms door to door for many years. His blindness did not stop him.

His faithful dog, Sofa, accompanied Henry one day on his broom route. In the wind Henry lost his hat and the dog was sent to fetch it. He ran wildly round and round a small foreign car. The hat was finally discovered under the very low slung car and was retrieved. The car was too low for the dog to dart under.

Thank you Jay Mather for allowing us to use your photos of the Coleman Broom Works which was located at 715 W. Hampden Avenue across from Cushing Park.

## Murals & Mason Jars



*Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun at the Murals & Mason Jars Event. 72 people signed up to play and over 40 local businesses donated prizes with 3 Grand Prizes donated by Kaldai Coffee Roasters and Emerge Salon! Special thanks to all our volunteers: Matt Crabtree, Ida May Nicholl, Doug Cohn, Sharlene & Jeff Barker, Kirby Peterman, Lindsey Runyan, David Carroll and Madeline Hinkfuss for a successful event! Looking forward to next year!*



## Fun Facts About Thanksgiving

from [Worldstrides.com](http://Worldstrides.com)

1. The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 over a three day harvest festival. It included 50 Pilgrims, 90 Wampanoag Indians, and lasted three days. It is believed by historians that only five women were present. Turkey wasn't on the menu at the first Thanksgiving. Venison, duck, goose, oysters, lobster, eel, and fish were likely served, alongside pumpkins and cranberries (but not pumpkin pie or cranberry sauce!).
2. Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday on October 3, 1863. Sarah Josepha Hale, the woman who wrote "Mary Had A Little Lamb," convinced Lincoln to make Thanksgiving a national holiday after writing letters for 17 years.
3. The history of U.S. presidents pardoning turkeys is patchy. Harry Truman is often credited with being the first president to pardon a turkey, but that's not quite true. He was the first to receive a ceremonial turkey from the National Turkey Federation – and he had it for dinner. John F. Kennedy was the first to let a Thanksgiving turkey go, followed by Richard Nixon who sent his turkey to a petting zoo. George H.W. Bush is the president who formalized the turkey pardoning tradition in 1989.
4. There are four towns in the United States named "Turkey." They can be found in Arizona, Texas, Louisiana, and N. Carolina.
5. The average number of calories consumed on Thanksgiving is 4,500.
6. Butterball answers more than 100,000 turkey-cooking questions via their Butterball Turkey Hotline each Nov. & Dec.
7. The tradition of football on Thanksgiving began in 1876 with a game between Yale and Princeton. The first NFL games were played on Thanksgiving in 1920.

# *Join Us!* IN A HISTORY MAKING ADVENTURE!

*We have a broad-based mission, including the restoration and preservation of historic buildings, accepting, cataloging and displaying donated artifacts, recording, transcribing and publishing the oral history of Englewood and its residents, providing interesting and educational lectures each month on historical subjects, and reaching out to our local schools to assist with instilling a love of history in the students.*

## **SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AS A MEMBER, A VOLUNTEER, AND AN ADVOCATE!**

We welcome new members at all levels of involvement: positions of leadership, administration, committee chairs and volunteers, or simply furthering our mission by supporting us with your annual dues.

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### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

*We are a 501c3 non-profit organization. Dues and other contributions are tax deductible.*

Annual membership rates include: Individual \$25, Family \$40.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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New Member     Renewing Member    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ check enclosed to: