



ELDORA HIGH COUNTRY©

Newsletter of the Eldora Civic Association
May 2010



Photos by Diane J. Brown

The ECA Mission is to improve civic conditions to promote a feeling of good fellowship and sociability, to maintain the historic fabric, and to establish and maintain a reasonable balance between preservation and use of the natural environment in the Eldora area.

↔The view to the northeast over the Arapaho Ranch from the ski area shelf road.

ECA Board of Directors for 2009-10

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Everett Colburn, Member at Large
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ECA Committees:

EEPP – Pete Birkeland, Mike McCoy, Audrey Godell
ELPF – Diane Brown, Fran Sheets, Jeanne McCleery
Noxious Weeds – Diane Brown
Newsletter – Diane Brown
USFS/Ski Area/County-State Liaison – Pete Birkeland, Audrey Godell, Everett Colburn
History – Diane Brown, Earl & Barbara Bolton
Eldora Road Cleanup – Pete Birkeland, Earl Bolton
Nominations – All board members
Social – Fran Sheets, Audrey Godell, Pete Birkeland
Transportation – Audrey Godell, Greg Massey
Member participation on these committees is welcomed!

Calendar of Events:

First Friday each month at 5:00 PM – Eldora Night at the Pioneer Inn (Call Ted at 303-258-7273)
Saturday, June 12, 2010 at 9:00 AM – Eldora Road Cleanup – Meet at the Bolton Cabin (502 Eldorado)
Thursday, July 1, 2010 – Deadline for submissions to the July Eldora High Country newsletter
Thursday, July 8, 2010 – Date for determination of eligible ECA Voting Members
Saturday, July 10, 2010 at 2:00 PM – Annual Business Meeting - Brown/Hallock (2478 Eldora Road)
Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at 7:00 PM – Eldora History Night at the Goldminer Hotel Clubroom
Sunday, August 15, 2010 – Eldora Community Picnic on the Bolton Greens (502 Eldorado)
Saturday, August 21, 2010 at 2:00 PM – Annual Member Meeting - Donahue Garage (1075 Eldorado)

**The Road to Hessie⇒
Photo by
Audrey Godell**



**Dipper on a Rock↑
in Middle Boulder Creek
Photo by Diane Brown**



ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION Minutes for Board Meeting – May 14, 2010

President Diane Brown called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and read mission statement. Four Board members participated which qualified for a quorum: Diane, Audrey, Pete and Fran were present at Pete's cabin. Everett was absent. Also in attendance were Sue Birkeland, Caitlin Crouch from the Boulder Creek Watershed Initiative and Linell and Duane Wohlers from the North Fork Council.

Minutes for the 1/8/10 Board Meeting were previously approved and published in the last newsletter, prior to this meeting. Audrey gave the **financial report**. There hasn't been much activity since the last meeting. The Nederland post office box payment came due, as well as the property tax on the Lazzarino Bird Sanctuary.



New Business:

Boulder Creek Watershed Initiative (BCWI) – BCWI employee, Caitlin Crouch, presented her work and told us how this work might be helpful in updating the EEPP and monitoring Middle Boulder Creek water quality. BCWI is upgrading its sampling protocols and reorganizing to become part of the state organization River Watch (RW). RW is coordinating water sampling statewide. These organizations are helping Colorado communities to become effective stewards of watershed resources, to assist and encourage current inhabitants to restore and protect water resources. Soon all the BCWI information will be included in the River Watch website for the entire state. By joining with RW, BCWI will use updated and more standardized sampling techniques. Utilizing trained volunteers, BCWI is sampling water from high up on the Boulder Creek watershed, through the foothills and into the plains (Longmont).

Volunteers are needed to collect samples every month. There is a need for more volunteers from Eldora and Nederland. The work requires 2-3 hours of work monthly to sample with supplies and training from the BCWI. They are testing for pH, metals, dissolved oxygen and invertebrates. To some degree we will be able to decide where we sample and what we test for (e.g. carbaryl spraying, septic effluent and other chemicals) and BCWI will supply the training and equipment. Currently BCWI doesn't have the money to test specifically for carbaryl in the water but there are possibilities for funding. Caitlin encouraged the board to write a letter to BCWI and RW including the results of Dave Hallock's water testing for carbaryl. In order to have a full picture of the Boulder watershed, 12-15 committed volunteers in Eldora will be required to collect from 3 sites every month.

Committee Reports:

- Eldora Environmental Preservation Plan:

Dave Hallock has already put in many hours on updating the EEPP and pulling together a team of volunteers with expertise in needed areas. Pete Birkeland is helping to rewrite the geology, hydrology and hydrogeology sections. Mark Williams of Boulder County Health Department will help with information on water quality, Pete Fogg of Boulder County Land Use Department will help with the section on land use and Carol Beam, historic preservation specialist with Boulder County Parks and Open Space has rewritten much of the cultural resources section. Diane Brown is updating plant lists for native and non-native species and will be doing considerable fieldwork in the EEPP geographical area this coming summer. Mike McCoy has agreed to develop a new section on climate change.

- Eldora Land Preservation Fund:

The ELPF savings account has \$22,172.86 in it. The Boulder County Parks and Open Space Foundation has \$7,860 earmarked for the Eldora Land Preservation Fund. Diane spoke with Scott Bruntjen and he would like to hold off on ordering new merchandise to sell at the Goldminer until they have sold more of the current inventory. The Goldminer Hotel welcomes people to come in and look at what they have for sale. Robert Goolsby will be bringing honey to Eldora in August, which will be sold at the Goldminer.

- Newsletter:

The May newsletter is ready to go out and just waiting for the minutes of this meeting to be written and approved. Fran has agreed to get the minutes ready and sent out to the board for approval ASAP. Board members can expedite the process by reading and sending comments on the minutes back to Fran in a timely fashion. The next newsletter comes out in July. June 1 is the deadline for submissions to the July newsletter.

- History: Eldora History night is on August 11 at 7:00 at the Goldminer Hotel. Frandee Johnson suggested we encourage local artists to show examples of their work at this event and Diane is contacting them. Scott Bruntjen felt this would be a good addition to the evening's entertainment. Scott and Carol are collecting untold stories about the Goldminer and there will be an article in the July newsletter soliciting Goldminer stories, photos, etc

- Nominations: Nominations are due on or before the Annual Business Meeting on July 10. Diane has the necessary nomination forms to use according the ECA bylaws. Please be thinking of good candidates for next year's board.

- Boulder County Mountain Town Transit Feasibility Study:

Diane Brown, Pete Birkeland and Joe McDonald attended the May 6 meeting on mountain transit. Boulder County Transportation Department staff gave an overview of the project and solicited input from stakeholders from Nederland, Eldora, Ward, Allenspark, Coal Creek and Gold Hill. The Mountain Transit Feasibility Study will focus on a cost effective way to provide public transit for a low-density population spread out over a large geographic area based on demand for transit. This could be accomplished by using creative solutions including RTD fixed routes, van pools and on demand transit. Public mountain transit would help move commuters and recreationists to their destinations, and also provide access to social services such as shopping, laundromats, doctor appointments, etc. Parking, handicapped access, bike transport, bike corrals and bike pools were discussed. Boulder County is currently applying for grant funding for this project. The County recognizes that each community is unique and that transit needs to be tailored to community preferences. Community outreach is essential in the planning of the project and to this goal informational meetings and flyers, as well as a survey of the mountain communities are planned by August 2010. Stakeholders will continue the dialogue on mountain transit at further meetings on May 20, June 17 and July 15 from 4:00 to 6:00 on the third floor of the Boulder County Courthouse.

Unfinished Business:

- Audrey sent an email to the county transportation department regarding various speed limits driving into Eldora and the possibility of solution through signs.

- Eldora Mountain Resort/US Forest Service Master Plan Update :

The ski area hasn't published their management plan. It is a month after the date they said it would be ready. The Forest Service says the plan will be dealt with item by item with public hearings. Though the plan has not been released to the public, Eldora is a stakeholder and has not had any input, as yet, in the plan. What the ski area does directly impacts Eldora, particularly since pushing the ski area's current boundary out, developing Hessie and using the town of Eldora as access to that area are included in their plans. The Board members agreed that the ski area should not be allowed to expand beyond their current boundaries, nor should the ski area be permitted to use Hessie or Eldora for maintenance purposes. This includes a ban on new roads, pump houses, maintenance paths etc. built or accessed from Hessie or the town of Eldora. Expanding the ski area into Hessie would directly impact not only the town of Eldora, but the quality of experience for hikers, snowshoers and cross country skiers who use this valley. The Board will continue to contact representatives with these concerns.

New Business:

Nominations are open for election to the next year's ECA Board. There are 4 positions available!

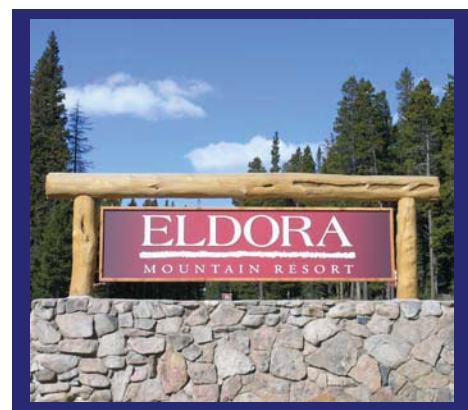
Nominations are due by the ECA Business Meeting on July 10. Diane has nomination forms.

Upcoming social events: Road cleanup on June 12, 9AM at the Boltions

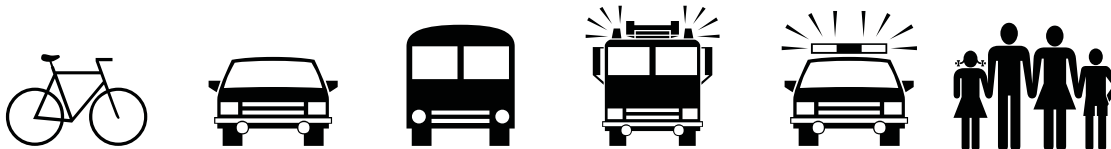
- All Board members present unanimously decided to put together a membership survey regarding Eldora Mountain Resort ski area expansion and will meet, or work by email, to compose the survey questions, which will be sent out to ECA members with the ballots for electing next year's Board members.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Fran Mandel Sheets



⇐ Peterson Lake drawn down from snowmaking
May 2010
Photos by Diane Brown



Boulder County Transportation Department Transit Feasibility Study of Mountain Communities

Starting in late April and running through August, the Boulder County Transportation Department will be conducting a transit feasibility study of its mountain communities.

This study will examine the feasibility of introducing new, or improving existing transit services in the mountain communities of Boulder County. The project will focus on the communities of Eldora, Ward, Jamestown, Allenspark, Lyons, Gold Hill, Nederland, the Brainard Lake Recreation area and potential connections to the Cities of Longmont and Boulder, as well as connections to Gilpin County (Blackhawk/Central City) and Larimer County (Estes Park). The results of this project will be integrated into Boulder County's update of the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan which is currently underway in 2010.

Areas of highlight for the Mountain Transit Feasibility study include:

- Analysis of the current level of transit service available to Boulder County mountain communities
- Evaluation of the latent demand for additional transit in these communities. Types of transit services include fixed route, route deviation, on-demand, call and ride and even vanpools.
- Outlining and prioritizing potential new transit services

Criteria to be considered when evaluating routes/ programs include:

- ◆ Productivity potential
 - ◆ Cost efficiency
 - ◆ Community connection
 - ◆ Enhancement of current service level
 - ◆ Fills service gaps
 - ◆ Supports other services
 - ◆ Leverages other funding
-
- Ensure that all Boulder County communities have access to public transportation when feasible

We are currently putting together the initial stakeholder list for the project and request your participation in our study. As a participant of this group, your time commitment will entail two meetings per month from May-August. Meetings will be from one to two hours in length, and will be held in a central, efficient location, beneficial to as many people as possible. We are working to identify 8-12 stakeholders to participate in a regular stakeholder participation group for the duration of this study. The stakeholders will include: transit service providers, municipal representatives, local residents and workers.

Eldora Mountain Resort Master Development Update



The 68 acres that Eldora Mountain Resort would like to lease and develop lie between the bottom of the pictured Corona ski runs/lifts and the Hessie meadow and Middle Boulder Creek wetland and riparian area. The Indian Peaks runs and lifts are not shown, but are located to the left.

Photo by Dave Hallock ⇨



As of the writing of this newsletter, the ski area is proposing to extend ski lifts on the resort's backside (Corona and Indian Peaks lifts) all the way down to Middle Boulder Creek and Hessie. The following are comments from Dave Hallock that provide some background history:

There has been a historical conflict between residents of Eldora and the ski area regarding their proposed use of the bottomlands along Middle Boulder Creek known as Hessie. Hessie was contemplated as the location of base lodge facilities in the original planning of the ski area. Eldora residents were in opposition. During the last revision to the Master Development Plan in the mid-1990s the ski area proposed a water pumping station below Corona along Middle Boulder Creek. Again, residents of Eldora were in opposition. Both of the proposals were dropped.

In 1996, the Eldora Civic Association, working with the Boulder County Land Trust, approached Dr. Toll about purchasing his land west of Eldora along Middle Boulder Creek that included Hessie. Our community had worked with Dr. Toll to help control the parking situation on his land by volunteering time to fence vehicles out of the meadow. There were two primary concerns for ECA's interest in acquiring the property: the first was potential residential development; and the second was the ski area trying to drop down from Corona Pod and use these lands (based on past proposals). At the same time the Forest Service had an interest in purchasing the property partially to solve parking problems at Hessie. The Forest Service made a significant move by getting the Toll property to rank #1 on the Forest Service regional list for land acquisition. When the Forest Service appraisal came in at a higher value than what ECA and the Boulder County Land Trust wanted to offer, it became obvious that the Forest Service would purchase the land. Eldora community members then helped contact Colorado congressional members to make sure the funds were appropriated. The land was purchased by the Forest Service (I think with the help of Trust for Public Land) in 1996 and 1997.

With that history in mind the following are some of the issues with the ski area's proposal to drop the lifts and runs to the valley bottom and make an emergency access road across Middle Boulder Creek from the 4th of July Road (and some of these will also apply to expansion of the Indian Peaks Pod).

- **Compatibility:** Hessie is a year-round primary access into the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. The focus is on a non-motorized experience. Is this compatible with bringing lift operations and snowmaking into the bottom of the valley? There is ongoing planning occurring looking at

redesigning the parking and access to the Indian Peaks. One of the goals has been to reduce impacts to the riparian and wetland ecosystems along Middle Boulder Creek and in Hessie. Do we reduce impacts on the north side of the creek just to increase them on the south side?

- Impacts to Middle Boulder Creek Riparian Area: A rich wetland and riparian area exists along Middle Boulder Creek below the Corona Pod. It is enhanced by the presence of a healthy beaver colony. Is this compatible with bringing the lifts down into the valley floor along with an access route from the 4th of July Road? Are the impacts of industrial recreation (tree clearing, lifts, outhouse, snowmobiles and grooming machines, snowmaking, a new bridge across Middle Boulder Creek, and potential spraying of carbaryl) compatible with the habitat? There is potential displacement of wildlife including moose and boreal owl. Do we simply accept this degradation of the habitat as a cost of having some additional vertical feet on a ski run? There are currently few human generated impacts on the south side of Middle Boulder Creek.
- Unintended Consequences: The proposal from the ski area includes an emergency access route from the 4th of July Road (a little before the Hessie fork) to the new base of the Corona lift, including bridging of Middle Boulder Creek. What is the potential for increased access to the south side of Middle Boulder Creek for recreation during the winter and summer? Can this be controlled by the ski area and/or the Forest Service, particularly during the summer when both parties have a poor history of controlling access on their lands? Do we really want to open up a whole new area to summer recreation, as it is probable that social trails will evolve? What are these impacts to the ecology of Middle Boulder Creek?

Overall, there is a difference in philosophy between the ski area and our valley that includes the community of Eldora. The nature of ski areas is to grow. This is not always by increasing user days of the area, but is often accomplished by providing new facilities and experiences to market to the public and keep them returning to the area: more vertical feet of ski runs, better food facilities, new types of ski terrain for an evolving user market.

We have been moving in the opposite direction. In 1973 the incorporated town was disbanded in order to come under rule of Boulder County in an attempt to better control future development. The Arapaho Ranch donated a conservation Easement to Colorado Open Lands to limit future development after the Town of Nederland mapped the ranch as a location for future development. The Eldora Civic Association has been working with Boulder County Open Space to purchase the many mining claims on Spencer Mountain in order to contain the spread of our community and protect an important wildlife movement corridor. As mentioned earlier, Eldora was active in seeing the preservation of the Toll property west of our community (upon which the ski area is now proposing development). The Eldora Civic Association has the Eldora Land Preservation Fund, where local residents have contributed over \$50,000 to partner with Boulder County and purchase mining claims on Spencer Mountain along with protecting wetland and riparian areas within our community. We clearly recognize that as a human settlement we have our own set of impacts on the land and water. But we keep striving to limit our own growth and expansion, monitor our own impacts, and work toward minimizing our own footprints on the landscape.

Finally, part of this is territorial. The lands, which the ski area is proposing to expand into, are within the boundary of the Eldora Environmental Preservation Plan, which has been adopted into the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan. When the boundary of the Plan was first proposed it included portions of the ski area. The ski area objected. We redrew the boundaries to exclude the ski area. Now we feel they are dropping into an area that is more within our sphere of interest. I recognize that these are National Forest lands and the ski area has a right to propose an expansion of their use. But over the years our community has been more involved in the issues and protection of this area. And the area has greater connection with the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. It currently has little connection to a ski area.

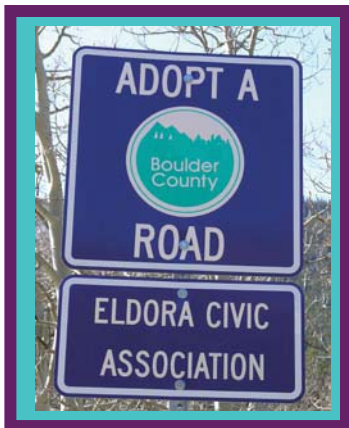
Contacts: Glenn Casamassa, Forest Supervisor, 2150 Centre Ave. Bldg. E, Ft. Collins CO 80526
Christine Walsh, US Forest Service, 2140 Yarmouth, Boulder, CO 80301 cwalsh@fs.fed.us
Jim Spenst, Eldora Mt. Resort, P. O. Box 1697, Nederland, CO jim.spenst@eldora.com

Happy Valley Happenings



Nominations for the 2010-11 ECA Board must be made at or before the July 10 Annual Business Meeting. Please contact Diane Brown for a nomination form. Required by the ECA bylaws, this form must have the signature of both the nominator and nominee along with a brief candidate profile. Only full voting ECA members may run for the board.

Please drive slowly when passing road cleanup crew!



Wanted: Eager Beavers
Eldora Road Cleanup
 Saturday, June 12
 9:00 AM
 Meet at Boltons
 502 Eldorado
 Keep Eldora clean & beautiful!



Goldminer Hotel State Historical Fund Grant Application:
 The ECA Board sent a letter of support for a grant to replace the Goldminer Hotel roof. The request is for \$35,000 with a match by the hotel owners of no less than \$35,000. The project will add a solar component to the roof, utilizing an integrated thin film solar collector, which is 4 mm thick and is adhered to the metal roofing without changing the color of the roof. The electrical service will be upgraded to current building code and will be underground, removing one visual intrusion that was not present 112 years ago.



Beaver Ponds at Marysville ↑ Photo by Diane J. Brown

EEPP!

The update of the Eldora Environmental Preservation Plan (EEPP) is off and running. This has evolved into an all-volunteer project as well as utilizing help from Boulder County. EEPP was first written in 1994. Information is being gleaned from existing sources to update all the sections of the plan, including hydrology, vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources, recreation and land use planning. Funds from community members received for the update will be used for expenses, such as printing.

Work has begun on several of the report sections. Carol Beam, historic preservation specialist with Boulder County Parks and Open Space, rewrote much of the cultural resources section. Pete Birkeland is taking the lead on rewriting the geology, hydrology and hydrogeology sections. Mark Williams, with the Boulder County Health Department, will help with information on water quality. Dave Hallock, conservation planner, is revising the vegetation and wildlife sections. Diane Brown will update plant lists for native and non-native species. Pete Fogg and the Boulder County Land Use Department will help with the section on land use. And finally, Mike McCoy will be developing a new section on the potential effects of climate change.

The nice thing about living in a small community is, if you don't know what you're doing, everyone else does.

⇐ Unidentified Tracks on Pond at Hessie
 Photo by Audrey Godell



Speed Matters In Eldora



Volume and speed of traffic through Eldora have long been a concern to Eldora residents. Here are some suggestions that have recently been made for calming traffic through town:

1. Request Boulder County to add "stop sign ahead" signage in both directions on Eldorado – either street signage or road painting
2. Post a "welcoming sign" at the entry to town with a reminder of NEIGHBORHOOD speed limit. Gold Hill and Jamestown have very creative examples of this. Hold a contest to design sign and wording. It should be welcoming, tasteful, and eye-catching. Example: "Welcome to Eldora - we love our children, pets, and wildlife - so please drive 25"
3. Have a speed limit sign posted somewhere on Klondyke. There is no sign on this street, so people assume there is none and can't be held accountable. Speed limit of 15 or 20 mph?
4. Encourage residents to keep putting out their own signs and orange cones. Have a contest to see who can create the most interesting/effective sign(s). Then "mass produce" 5-10 of them.
5. Make tasteful, temporary "sandwich board" signage with speed limits and have willing residents on each block put them out in front of their houses on the busiest traffic days.
6. Approach general contractors on building sites and ask them to tell their crews to drive the speed limit in town for neighborhood good will.
7. Ask the County Sheriff for more (occasional) enforcement in town on weekends.
8. Ask the visitor center staff in Nederland to remind anyone they happen to "send our way" to drive our posted speed limit.



County road crews plan to have the Fourth of July Road cleared and open by May 25th according to sources on the North Fork.

Native Plant Restoration: Gardening in Reverse

Photos and Text by Diane J. Brown

For most people, gardening consists of plotting out beds of color and form with nursery stock as the source of plant material. When my husband and I bought a six-acre parcel along Middle Boulder Creek near Eldora in 1986, I thought we had found a small piece of paradise and I would never need to garden again. However, after several botanist/naturalist friends visited us and made comments about the non-native plants that were present, I decided I wanted to try an experiment and turn our property into a native plant sanctuary by removing all non-native vegetation. Little did I know how much work that would entail, nor how rewarding the results would be.

When it comes to gardening with native plants, knowledge is everything. Before beginning to transform our property to a state of purely native vegetation, I needed to learn not only the local native plants, but also a host of introduced species. I was fortunate to have access to the plant lists done by Nan Lederer for the Eldora Environmental Preservation Plan, as well as the list of plants she compiled for the Arapaho Ranch, which is adjacent to our property.

Six acres....it doesn't sound like much, but because I prefer to remove the non-natives only by hand and with no chemicals, mowers, goats or other methods that might damage native plants, it has taken a lot of time and hard work to attempt to reach my goal.

In the beginning I focused on the area around our house and outbuildings. Our acreage is a south-facing hillside that gradually slopes its way down to the riparian zone along Middle Boulder Creek. In the late 1890s a miner's log cabin and forge were built. We presume that during that time period there would have been livestock on the property. The cabin was later enlarged and a septic system added, causing further disturbance around the house. In the 1950s several donkeys were kept in an enclosure near the creek.



Most of the non-native plants in this area are introduced grasses such as timothy, orchard grass, rescue grass, Kentucky bluegrass, and smooth brome. In the early years because there was so much, my first priority was to be certain these grasses did not continue to go to seed. I clipped the seed heads off, dug as many clumps of grass up as possible, year after year. Now I am finding fewer and fewer of these grasses around the house, and native plants are moving into these spaces. Louisiana sage, needlegrass, waterleaf, golden aster, showy aster, gaillardia and others are flourishing in the open spaces.

For the most part I have not tried to control which native plants grow where. With help from the wind, pocket gophers and other wildlife, the seeds seem to germinate in the places best suited for them. I have collected seeds from native plants that I wished were on our property and strewn them about, hoping for success. This worked especially well with pasqueflower, Lambert loco, blanketflower and Parry oatgrass. In some cases when I heard of an undisturbed site that was scheduled for construction damage, I appropriated some natives as transplants. Some of those that did well for me were blue mist penstemon, pussytoes and pink plumes. When I transplanted wild iris from another garden in Eldora, I accidentally introduced the highly undesirable ox-eye daisy, which I quickly dispatched to the trash bin.





The Creek Meadow

East of our house over a massive rock outcrop and down through Moonshine Gulch is the creek meadow. Moonshine Gulch got its name because when the moon rises in the east, it first strikes this area of our property. A local herbalist once came to look at the mariposa lilies in Moonshine Gulch. She said these lilies are influenced by the moon, and indeed, this is the primary location where they grow around our place. The early inhabitants of the miner's cabin used the creek meadow in two ways. They grew potatoes there because it was moist and sunny. They also used it as a garbage dump, climbing up over the rock outcrop from the cabin and down into the meadow. For the past twenty-four years I have picked out pieces of glass and metal from the earth there. Frost heave and pocket gophers churn the debris upward. Mostly the glass is broken from the garbage being burned, but occasionally I find an intact bottle or a piece of a porcelain doll. The latest disturbance comes in the form of beavers cutting down aspen trees and dragging them to the creek. It will be interesting to see if and how this changes the plant composition of the meadow.

The disturbances in the creek meadow allowed non-native vegetation to get started. There may have been livestock there, but my theory is that native ungulates and rodents eat timothy and other introduced grasses and forbs, then leave the seeds in their droppings to germinate in new places. I have been removing timothy, rescue grass, salsify, dandelions, pennycress and others over the years. Luckily much of the meadow is dominated by native stinging nettle and Fendler waterleaf. They seem to hold their own against the alien invasion. Stinging nettle is the host plant for the Milbert's tortoiseshell butterfly, therefore we encourage its presence. After removing the alien plants, it is most rewarding to see how the natives react. Native plants that appeared not to be present at all, suddenly appear and begin to flourish! The earth where timothy once dominated, is now covered with wild strawberry plants sending out runners everywhere. Under the aspens, a favorite place for timothy to invade, now grows the native wild blue rye along with aspen sunflower. In place of the crowd of dandelions, salsify and rescue grass there are lovely and colorful native meadow plants such as black-eyed Susan, false dandelion, showy aster and tall one-sided penstemon, complemented by wonderful native sedges. Were the seeds of these natives already long in the soil waiting for the opportunity to grow, or were they carried in from other sites by birds, mammals and wind?

The Bridge Meadow

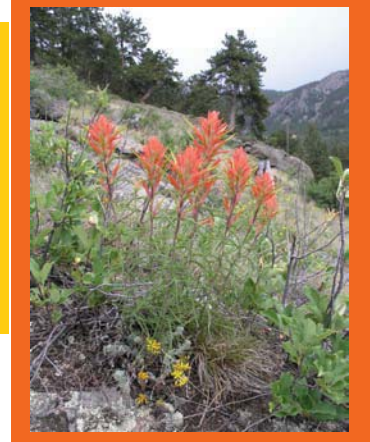
The dry meadow at the entrance to our property is divided in half vegetatively because of construction activity associated with the replacement of the county bridge that crosses Middle Boulder Creek. Approximately every 20 years heavy machinery destroys half of the meadow. The last time the bridge was replaced was in 1990 and at that time the county reseeded the disturbed area with a witch's brew of non-native grasses and clover, then fertilized it with nitrogen and phosphorus.

In addition to bridge construction the county provides road maintenance in the winter, spreading sand and gravel on the paved highway. This mixture comes from somewhere down on the plains and

contains all manner of introduced weed species. The snow plow pushes gravel and snow onto the meadow edges and from there the weeds work their way further into the meadow. A few years ago the plow accidentally “planted” a plains cottonwood at the entrance to our driveway, the only one I know of in Eldora.

On the disturbed part of the meadow I spend a little time each day bagging dandelion heads and digging the plants out. I have used a weed whip in early spring to keep the alien grasses lower. Here and there hairy golden aster and showy aster are establishing themselves. I carefully pull and hand clip around them to encourage them to flourish. The colorful blanketflower is making inroads as well.

The half of the meadow that was undisturbed is in relatively good shape with native plants such as sulphurflower, Fremont geranium, leafy cinquefoil, mountain harebell and many others. Here I have successfully introduced pasqueflower from seed collected at the Arapaho Ranch. I pull sheep sorrel and smooth brome grass wherever I see them and carefully bag the seed heads.



The Sunny South-facing Hillside

The steep south-facing slopes above our cabin are in good condition from a native plant perspective. They support many native grasses such as Thurber fescue, squirreltail, beardless wild rye, mountain muhly, Junegrass and others. Native wildflowers delight the eye of the beholder from early April through October. Some that are abundant are Fendler rockcress, wild candytuft, Wyoming paintbrush, limber vetch, Britton skullcap, lambstongue groundsel, blue mist penstemon, tall penstemon, mountain beard-tongue, goldeneye and fairy trumpets.

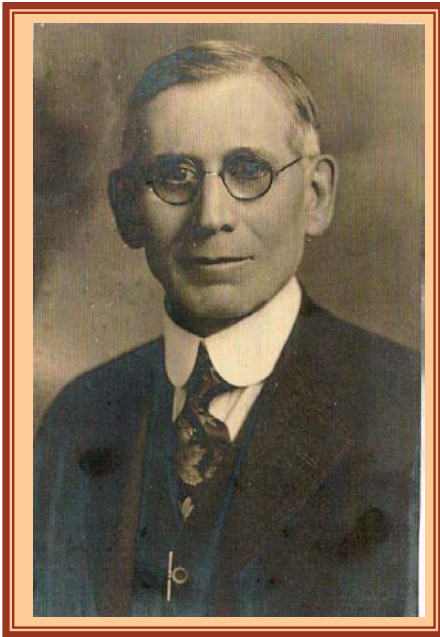
However, there are alien invaders even in such untrammelled habitat. These, if left to their own ways, will eventually have a negative impact on their native neighbors by crowding them out and robbing them of water and nutrients. The non-native weeds I actively remove are timothy, cheatgrass, salsify, musk thistle, mullein, yellow toadflax and several species of introduced mustards. I carry a bag and a digging tool and carefully remove seed heads from undesirable plants, uprooting and tossing the rest of the plant on the ground to recycle into the soil. Every year there are fewer weeds.

Timing is very important in weed removal. In early spring it is still cool enough to work on the sunny slopes. The soil is moist and weeds come out with little resistance. I find the non-natives easily because of their habit of greening up long before the natives in most cases. Spring is the best time for digging out musk thistle and mullein rosettes. Cheatgrass is best pulled when it is green; otherwise when it turns brown, the seeds fall apart and scatter. I keep checking the slopes on a regular basis. During the monsoons of midsummer there are usually some cool, rainy days that are advantageous to working on the sunny slopes. After the rains it is good to check for newly germinated weeds.

Wild gardening has been a very enjoyable experience over the past 14 years. When I compare our property to those that have been allowed to be taken over by introduced plants, I am pleased with the results I see from my labors. It is a good feeling to know that I have helped native plants to flourish and that it has required virtually no additional water to be taken from Middle Boulder Creek for outside use. When we go on vacation, I don't worry about watering my garden. It takes care of itself. This is my Garden of Eden, a little piece of paradise saved, a place that stands relatively still in time.

This article appeared Winter 2008 in *Aquilegia*, the newsletter of the Colorado Native Plant Society.

The James H. Naylor Family



⇐ James Naylor was in his 30s when he lived in Eldora in the late 1890s. This photo shows him as a successful businessman in later years.

Ollie Mae Naylor and her three sons, Lawrence, Ray and Earl in 1905, a few years after they left Eldora. ⇒

Current ECA members Earl and Joan Naylor contributed information and photos for this article.



James H. Naylor is mentioned twice in Don Kemp's book "Silver, Gold and Black Iron." Once on page 140 where it lists the executive committee of the town planners, he is one of them. Then on page 172 he is mentioned again when he was appointed Police Magistrate.

James Naylor was born in Brighton, Michigan in 1868. He came to Denver about 1889. James married Ollie Mae Mohn in 1892. They had two sons, Lawrence and Earl. The Denver city directories showed his business as furniture or carpet sales. He took the family to Eldora in 1897. Their third son Raymond was born there that year. It sounds like 1897 was the beginning of a boomtown. Family members have said he went there expecting to get into mining.

The Naylor family is back in Denver around 1903. James continued in the selling business until 1918. Then he became a dealer for Lexington and DeVaux cars. He was in that business until his death. He died in 1932 and is buried in Fairmount Cemetery in Denver.



The Naylor Family car in 1921 with the Eldora 6th Street bridge in the background on the right.



↑ In 1921 James Naylor and his son Earl came back to Eldora to see if they could locate the cabin they owned in the late 1890s. They took a picture of this cabin. On a later family trip to Eldora in 1969 James Naylor's son Raymond believed the Valley's End cabin to be their old cabin, much improved upon. Raymond was born in Eldora on January 8, 1897 in this building on Eldorado Avenue with the "x" above it. ⇒

Photos from the Naylor Family Collection



Early Eldora Photographers

JOSEPH BEVIER STURTEVANT

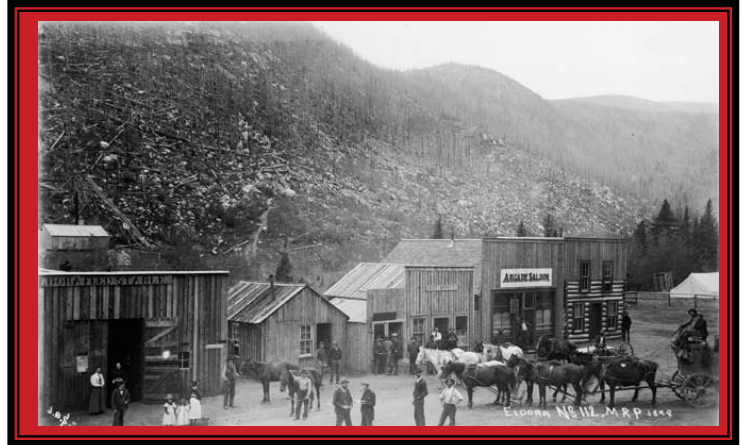
(1851-1910)

Indian fighter, scout for General Custer, captured by the Sioux for almost 2 years, and Civil War cavalry veteran, Joe was a picturesque frontiersman, with long hair falling over his shoulders, often wearing rustic trapper's clothing.

Eldora's very first Post Office in 1898⇒ Stagecoach sign reads: "Eldora Mail - Talmadge & Lilly" Photo taken by J. B. Sturtevant

Joe Sturtevant, widely known in Boulder County as "Rocky Mountain Joe," had arrived in camp from Boulder, where he maintained a studio, about noon of a sunny, warm September day. Stabling his horse at Dave Hodgson's livery and himself across the street at the Vendome Hotel, he set out after lunch to drop a word here and there among residents that he was in camp to make pictures, not alone of the building activities and mines, but also of the citizenry.

"Silver, Gold and Black Iron" by Donald C. Kemp



↑The Hodgson Stable in 1898 – Photo by J. B. Sturtevant
Dave Hodgson is standing next to the horse in the stable door.

↑On the left is the Hodgson Stable (Eldora Feed & Stable) and on the right is the Arcadia Saloon in 1898. They were located on the south side of Eldorado Avenue
Photo by J. B. Sturtevant

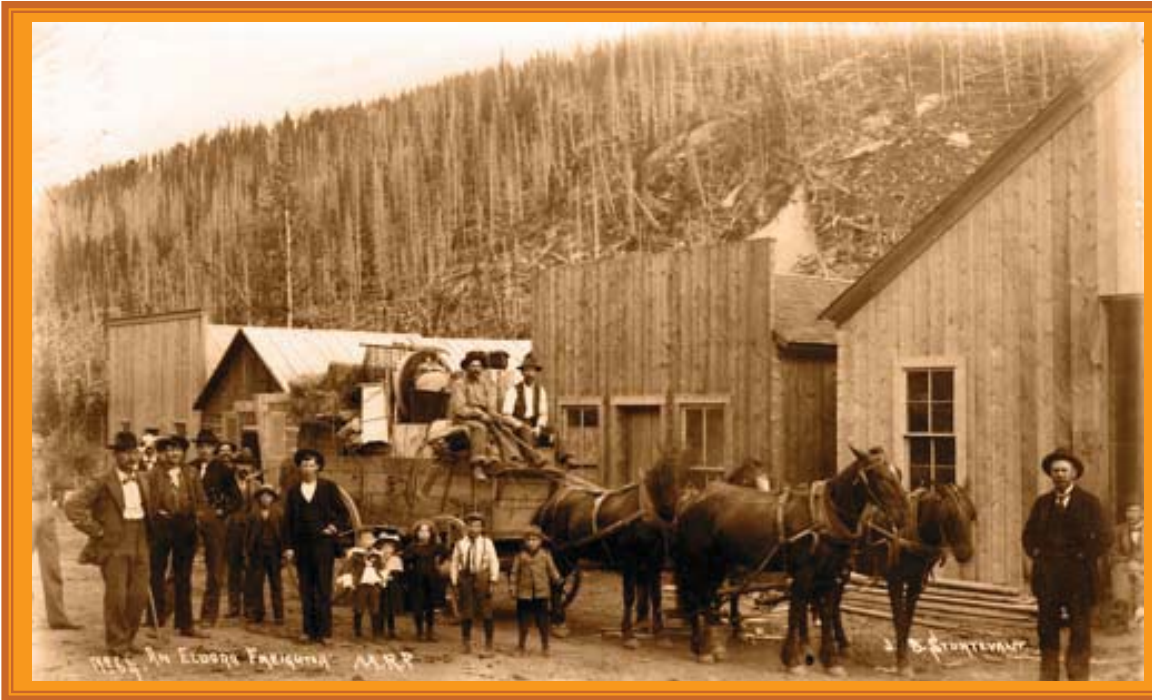
Notwithstanding the closely spaced eleven saloons which reportedly garnished Eldorado Avenue during the first months of the boom and the fact that the bulk of the population were men – prospectors, miners, lumber jacks, freighters and others of that ilk who whiled away idle hours in these emporiums – the town marshal and the police magistrate had few law violators to deal with, and these paid fines for minor infractions only. A fistfight livened the avenue now and then, but rarely was there gunplay.

"Silver, Gold and Black Iron" by Donald C. Kemp

↑This photo of the log and frame Vendome Hotel was taken in 1898 by J. B. Sturtevant. The Vendome was the first hostelry in Eldorado Camp, owned by Mrs. L. B. DeLonde and located conveniently on the north side of Eldora's main street - Eldorado Avenue.



The Church Livery Stable



← Townspeople of Eldora pose in front of a heavily loaded freighter on Eldorado Avenue in 1897. The driver is Harve Robinson. Charles Parsons is standing at the far right in front of the team of horses.
Photo by J. B. Sturtevant

Church Livery was located a little west of the Rugg pasture.

Jay M. Church enters the picture as a stage line operator in Gilpin County during the early 1890s, at which time a brief flurry of mining excitement had sprung up in the Pine Creek District ten miles northwest of Central City. The region included several small camps, among which was Apex. Smaller settlements dotted the steep road southward from Apex toward James Peak. Not named in order, these were Pine Creek, American City, Nugget and Elk Park, and lastly Kingston. Of these, both Apex and American City exist as remnants today, their cabins still in use by summer residents.

Church ran daily stages from Central City to these camps transporting passengers and mail and light cargos for the grocery stores. Mining died down there in about 1896, and Church moved his establishment to Boulder County. In partnership with Charles Huggins they ran stages from Boulder to Nederland and Caribou – a short-lived venture devoid of profit, from which Church withdrew in the fall of 1897. Again he changed his base of operations, this time to the new camp of Eldora. Here he built a commodious stable on Eldorado Avenue next to the Carsrud and Davison saloon and once more placed his stagecoaches in operation. This stable was unique in that the upper floor, which fronted on Eldorado Avenue, was a ballroom. One might wonder how the tired horses, trying to get a much needed night's rest after a long, hard day pulling heavily loaded vehicles over rough, steep roads, felt about the stamp and shuffle of feet, the strident fiddles and horns of the orchestra, and the raucous shouts and shrill laughter of merrymakers overhead in the ballroom.

When Church realized that there were more stages than passengers to ride on them, he disposed of his coaches and turned to hauling freight and ore to and from the mines. This business so prospered that at its peak he employed forty-five men and owned a string of one hundred and fifteen horses. When the mines began to shut down, Jay moved to a farm near Broomfield, where he spent the remainder of his life.

“Silver, Gold and Black Iron” by Donald C. Kemp 1960

Jay Church started in the fall of 1897, when the camp was still Eldorado, hauling ore from the Enterprise Mine on top of Spencer Mountain. At this time he had only two six-horse teams. The road to the mine was narrow, steep and tortuous: dangerous at any time of year, and particularly in winter. It followed the face of Spencer Mountain eastward for nearly a mile, then turned south and plunged downward past Peterson's Lake, thence through the gulch to Mary City, and on to the main road to Boulder. “Happy Valley” by Kemp and Langley

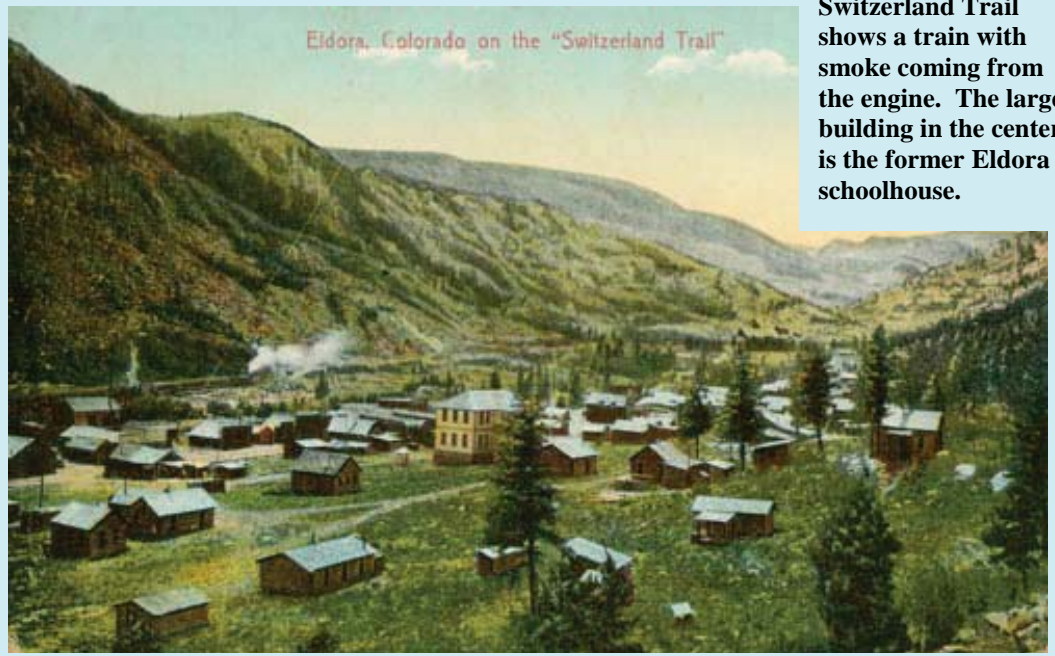
My grandfather, Jay Church, operated freight wagons and stagecoaches through Eldora, Nederland, Central City and all places in between. His wife, Minnie (Hiatt) worked at the Black Hawk Hotel in the late 1800s where they met. They set up housekeeping in Apex, a short distance from Central and then owned and operated a livery stable/dance hall in Eldora until the mines played out. The livestock was kept in the bottom and the dancing was in the loft, which actually was accessible from main street. The foundation is still there, at least as of 2002.

Ed Hutchinson

The Colorado and Northwestern Railway

Eldora had railroad service for 14 years from 1905 –1919. In 1919 the line was abandoned after a devastating July flood in Boulder Canyon.

Isabel Hansen (Cross) first arrived in Eldora in 1917 with her parents via the Switzerland Trail. In later years they rode the Moffat Road, alighting at Ladora and walking across country to Lake Eldora carrying their suitcases. They followed a few lumber roads, hailing the lumberjacks working the forest along the way.
- Alice Cross Anderson



A postcard of Eldora from the days of the Switzerland Trail shows a train with smoke coming from the engine. The large building in the center is the former Eldora schoolhouse.

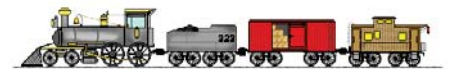
The Colorado and Northwestern Railway's trains rumbled into Eldora in early January 1905. This railroad practically eliminated the horse stages, which were replaced about 1914 by the famous Stanley Steamers. The C. & N. W. trains left Boulder immediately after the Denver morning train arrived. The route traversed Boulder Canyon to the mouth of Four Mile Creek and followed that stream to Sunset; thence, via Sugar Loaf and Glacier Lake, the route swung toward the southwest, and the train arrived in Eldora about noon. Understandably, the tourist preferred the more scenic and longer railway ride to the canyon trip.

“Silver, Gold and Black Iron” by Donald C. Kemp



The train took about four-and-a-half hours to get up from Boulder to Eldora. Lilly's stages, which were large touring cars, only took a little over an hour-and-a-half to get up to Eldora. Mother didn't think it was worth the extra time, although her first trip up to Eldora was by train, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

William F. Gross



↑ Proudly posing for a photograph around the locomotive engine Eldora - September 16, 1905



Colorado & Northwestern Railroad Station ⇨
Photo by W.C. (Jack) Spratt of Eldora in 1911
⇐ The depot still stands at 602 Bryan Avenue and is called “End-o-the-Line.” Photo-Diane Brown



Eldora Not Immune To The American Love Affair With The Automobile



Eldora circa 1920↑ Eldorado Avenue is already beginning to look congested!

Automobility's signature on the Colorado cultural landscape was ubiquitous. Cars, garages, trucks, new roads, bigger, more distracting billboards, and parking lots were everywhere.

"Creating Colorado – The Making of a Western Landscape"
by William Wyckoff



At a young age Bill Billingsley depicts an all-American devotion to the automobile in this picture with the family Cadillac. In his hand is a cloth for polishing the car.

Billingsley
Collection



Henry Ford's Model T was introduced on October 1, 1908 and production continued till 1927. The Model T was much less expensive than the Stanley Steamer due to Ford's innovative assembly line. Also the internal combustion engine delivered more power and improved fuel efficiency. The crank, notorious for injury to its operators, was replaced by the electric starter, a much needed improvement.

Invention of the wheel: Mesopotamia in 3500 BC – about 5500 years ago.



1928: Colorado ranks 8th in the nation in per capita vehicle ownership.

Nearly every day someone had to drive to Boulder to pick up groceries. I drove Guy Woodring's little 1931 Ford V-S pickup early every morning for several years to get canned goods and produce from the wholesaler near 10th and Walnut, fresh meat from a wholesaler at 25th and Pearl, and dairy products from the Alba Dairy Store on Broadway between Pearl and Spruce. And every day I consumed for breakfast one of their famous ten-cent milk shakes containing one quart of thick ice cream.
"From Happy Valley to the Mountain Top"
by Lee. S. Evans

The automobile refashioned basic relationships between people and place, and the result altered the identity and character of many Colorado communities. Although it increased individual flexibility and mobility, the mass consumer-oriented car culture also had the potential to weaken the coherence of traditional community ties.

"Creating Colorado" by William Wyckoff

The rebuilding of Boulder Canyon during the 1940s and 1950s was a major construction project undertaken by the Bureau of Public Lands. It began in 1941, but was halted due to World War II. Activity started again in 1946 and ended in 1953.

In the 1930s very few of us had cars. Most people would come out here on trains and take the stage up, and we would come up for the whole summer. My mother felt the lack of a car up here to travel around, so she would arrange with William Pond to rent his pickup truck. Then she would run up and down the town and get friends and there would be about six or eight of us. We'd go off in Bill Pond's pickup with him driving. It was a big old thing, about a vintage of 1925 or perhaps earlier. We'd have two wooden benches along each side in the back of the pickup, and off we'd go. We'd pack a picnic lunch. The old thing would go putting up and down the hills so slowly that we kids would be sitting on the back with our feet dangling. We'd hop off and run down the hillside and meet him as he came back from one of the switchbacks around the bend.

Roads in those days were only just as wide as your car. There were turnouts every so often when it was convenient. If you met a car, one or the other had to back up. Then later on they put in a wide gravel road, and we thought that was a super highway. When they put in the paved black-topped Peak-to-Peak Highway, that was just almost beyond belief to have a highway like that through the mountains. - William F. Gross



The Clara Nipher Story: Valley's End Cabin



From a letter written by John W. Pryor in 1944:
“You know what Eldora means – it is a retreat from the world, quiet and unspoiled. It is about the last haven of its kind; the others have died or have been exploited and commercialized. Shall we who look to Eldora as an ideal vacation retreat for ourselves and our children, risk having the essence of Eldora destroyed, never to be recovered; or shall we take steps while there is perhaps still time, to preserve those values which drew us here?”

In 1917 Earl and Henry Wilcox began buying up lots in Eldora from Boulder County for back taxes. The lots were relatively cheap and they saw an opportunity for speculation. After the war, through the depression and into World War II, from 1919 to 1943, Earl Wilcox sold his Eldora holdings to people whose names are familiar in Eldora history:

H. M. Durand, Andrew Kuhn, Guy Woodring, Clara Rugg, Frank Beach, W. T. Harpel, Mrs. Sophie Meyers, Roseberry Mining Company, Frank Anderson, Oran Markham, Jennie Lee Evans, J. G. Marron, Mary Mabel Billingsley, Elizabeth Penrose, Paul Woodward and Clara Nipher.

In this article the focus is on Clara Nipher, who purchased a sizeable number of lots between Second Street and the east end of Eldora in the years 1928-29. According to the Boulder County Architectural Survey, Clara Ellen Nipher was born on May 3, 1886 in St. Louis, Missouri, the daughter of renowned physicist and pioneering meteorologist Francis Eugene Nipher. He was a professor at Washington University in St. Louis, where he chaired the physics department. He established Missouri's volunteer weather service and was a founding member of the St. Louis Academy. Professor Nipher was a prodigious writer, thinker and tinkerer, inventing numerous meteorological instruments that still bear his name. He did much of his work, generally involving the role of physics in meteorology, at his sprawling suburban home in Kirkwood, Missouri, which he shared with Clara.

Clara not only inherited the Kirkwood estate, but also her father's love of learning. She spent her entire life as an educator, primarily teaching at Mary Institute and Smith Academy, private all-girls and all-boys schools, respectively, associated with Washington University. Clara never married. She appears to have spent many summers in Eldora, and was active in the community's social affairs. In 1943 Clara sold the Eldora property in three separate transactions to John W. and Helen Pryor, Leta Easterday and Ione Martha Wood. Clara died in 1970.



View to the West from Valley's End - 1937 Easterday Collection



Today the “Nipher Cabin” at 99 Eldorado is called “Valley’s End.” Long time Eldora residents Bill Gross, Earl and Barbara Bolton and Charlie Hornback agree that “Valley’s End” was referred to as the “Nipher Cabin” in their youth. Bill Gross’s mother Ora was good friends with Clara and they enjoyed birdwatching together. She invited Clara to come out from Missouri to Eldora. Though it rained for three weeks, once the sun came out, Clara fell in love with Eldora. In 1933-34 she had Guy Woodring and Andy Kuhn build her a cabin out of telephone poles. Bill Gross was 15-16 years old at the time the cabin was built. In a 1930 photo taken by Ora Gross, Bill’s mother, Clara Nipher is pictured leaning over young Eugene Gross, with other family members gathered around William Pond’s truck, ready to go on an excursion.



↑The Nipher Cabin as it appears on the Eldora Coverlet



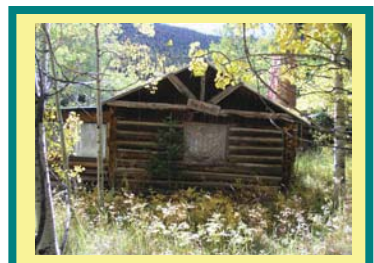
Charlie Hornback remembers a water tank on a tower at the northeast corner of the cabin. His father, Verne Hornback, used to have an old water-ram, which he said was once used to fill the Nipher water tank. (A water-ram is a device which uses intake water pressure to pump water to a higher level.) Apparently the ram was placed in the creek and a fairly large (6-inch) pipe was run up the creek until they had about a ten-foot water height. The ram had a valve system and a pressure tank. The output side of the ram was a ½ or ¾ inch pipe, which ran up the hill to the water tank at the cabin. The ram valve would first open and water rushed in via the big pipe and pressurized the water chamber, then the valve switched and the pressure in the chamber would push water out the smaller pipe. The valve would switch hydraulically and needed no motor or engine to make it work. Charlie believes the system was rather temperamental and marginally successful, so it was not used very much.

Boulder County assessor’s records show the Nipher cabin was acquired in November 1943 by John W. and Helen Pryor. John’s parents, Carl (John C.) and Bess Pryor owned the “Pumphouse” cabin at 225 Eldorado between 1943 and 1966. Bess Pryor first came to Eldora as Bess Smith in 1911. In 1914 the Smith family bought Inn-Dianola cabin at 920 Eldorado. John was an attorney in Moline, Illinois. He and Helen later moved to Denver and then to Boulder. Their son, John C. Pryor, is the current owner of Valley’s End and believes the cabin may have been a wedding present from his mother Helen’s parents.



⇐“Pumphouse” Cabin
225 Eldorado Avenue

“Inn-Dianola” Cabin⇒
920 Eldorado Avenue



Eldora Mining

By Charles E. Hornback

Introductory Comments

The books by Don Kemp and Jack Langley are probably the best sources for information on early (1890-1915) mining in Eldora. Both Kemp and Langley lived in Eldora when mining was at its peak and knew the main characters who developed mining in the area. My dad, Verne Hornback, also lived in Eldora during that period, but never wrote about it. I do remember his talking about some of the old characters. (Jack Gilfillan, Jay Rowley, William Harpel, Mr. Alnatt and Mr. Seeley were the only ones I actually remember seeing while I tagged along when Dad talked to them.) The following comments are what I remember hearing or observing as a boy.

History of Mining

In the early days of Eldora, mines were acquired by staking a "claim." The claim was a rectangular piece of land 500 feet by 1500 feet, which included the mine, its dump area and presumably covered the area where the tunnels or shafts would be. The individual staking the claim would have it surveyed and mark the corners of the claim. The location of the claim would be recorded at the county seat (Boulder) for tax and ownership purposes. Miners then had to work the mine for five years after which they could apply for a patent (title). Later in the 1920s the rules were modified so that to patent the claim one had to drive the tunnel or sink a shaft 10 feet per year for ten years. In the early 1940s the requirements were further changed such that the mine and ore vein had to be of "paying" quality. This requirement essentially ended the ability to patent claims in the Eldora area. Most claims were patented before 1920.

Early Eldora no doubt saw many miners coming in and staking claims, then working their mines and finding enough paying ore to make expenses. Miners are the most speculative and wishful-thinking people who ever existed. They always knew that if they drove their tunnel or shaft just ten more feet, they would hit the "big lode" and "strike it rich." So they were full of enthusiasm. Mines all over the hills were being worked.

The boom period of mining in Eldora was from about 1900 to 1912. During this time mines like the Mogul did produce enough gold and silver to convince speculators that a railroad would be profitable, and so a railroad was built from Boulder with one branch going to Ward and the second to Eldora. I suspect that the most profitable aspect of the railroad was the tourist traffic it carried to Ward and Eldora. So far as I know, there were no rich gold or silver "strikes" and mining essentially died by 1915.

When the end of the boom period came, most miners simply walked away from their mines, never to return. I know that Mr. Harpel (and I think Mr. Rowley also) acquired many mining properties and building lots in the town of Eldora by paying the back taxes on the properties, and after five years applying for titles to the properties. (The original property owner was allowed up to five years to reclaim his or her property by paying the back taxes.) Harpel and Rowley settled into a wait-and-see mode with the idea that eventually mining would once again boom.

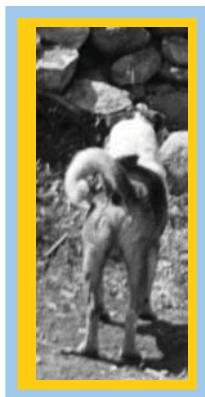
Many attempts were made to start up mines after 1914, but none lasted more than a few months or a couple of years. Probably the longest worked mine in the Eldora area during the 1930s was the Norway Mine at Lost Lake. It was mined by Emery Olsen. So far as I can remember, there were no mines which paid any significant amounts of money. After 1940 and World War II, mining around Eldora essentially stopped. US Government and Colorado State rules all but eliminated gold, silver and tungsten mining in Colorado by 1960.

During the 1920s and 1930s Eldora became a summer place for many tourists or seasonal visitors, and the permanent residents converted from mining to supporting the seasonal people. Eldora began to have more permanent residents after World War II, people who lived in Eldora, but worked in Boulder or Denver. Eldora has since become almost a suburb of Boulder with rules and regulations we never thought possible in the 1930s.

New York Mine – 1932 to 1934

The most successful attempt Dad was involved in was when he and Merle Rugg mined the New York Mine. The New York Mine is located about one mile west of Lost Lake and about half way up the mountainside. From its dump one can look down on Woodland Flats to the north. In the 1930s the mine was owned by Mr. Alnatt, who lived in Hesse in the summertime and Boulder during the winter. In 1932 my dad and Merle Rugg obtained a lease on the New York Mine from Mr. Alnatt. A lease is an agreement that the mine can be worked and the owner will receive a certain percentage of the money earned from the extracted ore. I would guess that the percentage was on the order of 10%. It was also typical that such an agreement was sealed by a handshake and possibly a handwritten note signed by all participants (no lawyers were likely involved). People in those days were very proud of their reputation for honesty and truthfulness.

The picture below shows the portal of the New York Mine tunnel in 1932 when Verne Hornback and Merle Rugg were starting to work the mine. Merle Rugg is on the left with the cigarette, an unknown man is in the middle, and Verne Hornback, with the cap, is on the right. This was during the summer before they had built the log building, which covered the portal and extended to the left. The building was a combination of blacksmith shop and living quarters. When my nephew and I visited the mine in 1999, the portal had caved in, but the mine-car rail tracks were still showing. A few logs from the building were scattered around, along with a 55-gallon drum stove and some stovepipe. The mine dump was still quite obvious and fairly large.



↑ Merle's dog "Dick" often accompanied him to work



The mine was a tunnel with a slight slope so the water would run out. When we visited, there was still a little stream of water that ran out along the mine-car tracks. The tunnel went back into the mountainside about 150 to 200 feet. As you went into the tunnel, it turned about five degrees left about 50 feet in and then made several more slight turns, as ore veins were followed to the end of the tunnel. Part way in the tunnel there was a short tunnel to the left where a shaft was dug – no doubt following an ore vein. The shaft was always full of water and as a little six-year-old that bothered me. Farther back in the mine there was a stope (the opposite of a shaft, i.e., a hole which had been dug upward from the roof of the tunnel). Dad and Merle built a log ore bin at the bottom of the stope where they could hold the mined material until they were ready to haul it out with the mine car. The stope is where they found their richest ore.

The stope was also an unhealthy place to work. There was no ventilation. The gases from the dynamite explosions were trapped and, along with the silica dust, made for a very poor health situation. Dad and Merle both suffered in later years from their experiences in the mine. They built a stove ventilator to help improve the air problem. The stove, made from a 55-gallon steel drum, was located at the portal building. It had a fairly large chimney pipe. The intake to the stove was made from boards and

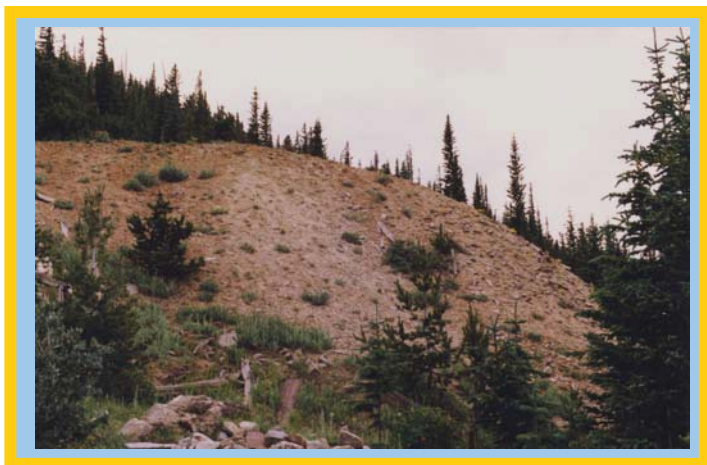


↑ In 1999 Charlie Hornback visited the New York Mine with his nephew Eric Hedegaard to look at some of the mine remnants. Eric took the mine photos.



↑ Remnants: 55-gallon steel drum ventilator stove, corrugated iron from roof; blower housing (center) for the forge where the drill was sharpened.

stovepipe forming a pipe that ran back into the mine and up the stope. The theory was that the fire in the stove would obtain its air for combustion from the bad air in the mine and fresh air would flow in from the outside via the tunnel to replenish the bad air. The system worked reasonably well, but was far from perfect. The best solution would have been to use a gas engine and a blower; however, everything had to be carried in by hand or pack horses over about a mile of rather rough terrain. As a result, only essential materials were packed in.



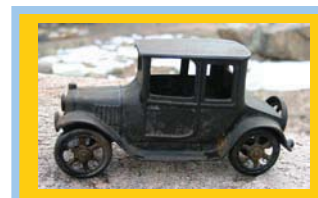
↑ Looking up from the bottom of the New York Mine dump. The road to Lost Lake starts here and goes east.



↑ The stovepipe for the ventilator stove. Note the portal is completely caved in, but the rails are still showing.

A typical workday involved drilling eight two-foot holes in the face (the end) of the tunnel – or drilling upward if you were driving a stope; downward if driving a shaft. The workday also involved “shooting” (loading the holes with dynamite and exploding it), “mucking out” the mined material (using pick, shovel and mine car to remove the rock and ore rubble resulting from the dynamite explosion), sharpening the drill steel, and “cobbing” the ore. During the summertime Dad and Merle could drive up to Lost Lake and hike into the mine. After working all day, they would hike back to Lost Lake, then drive down to Eldora. Dad had a Model T Ford with a Ruxtel differential, which provided a low gear giving the old

Ford the ability to drive up the steep slopes west of Hessie. He also put a tire valve-system in the gas tank of the Ford so that they could pressurize the gas tank using a tire pump. This allowed them to drive forward up the hill instead of having to back up the hill (as was typical in those days with the old Model T’s).



↔ Antique toy Model T AKA “Flivver” or “Tin Lizzy.”



During the wintertime they hiked from Eldora to the mine, usually on Sunday afternoon, stayed at the mine all week, and came back down Saturday afternoon. Dad had snowshoes; Merle had a set of homemade skis. They both had packs for hauling in the food and materials for their work and hauling ore back. They were in good shape. I doubt there are many around now who could do what they did. When they would come home on Saturday, Merle, on his skis, would arrive home well ahead of Dad, on his snowshoes. Going to the mine, it was the other way around. Nights at the mine were spent cobbing ore and keeping the fire going for the ventilator stove.

When they were mucking, they would separate the obvious pure rock waste from the ore rock. The rock waste was immediately dumped over the mine dump and the ore rock was saved at the portal building. Cobbing (separating by breaking the waste rock from the ore) required a big metal block to pound the rock and ore on, and a hammer. There was skill in recognizing the ore from the waste rock and separating it into piles of ore and waste. The waste was thrown over the dump and the ore concentrate was put in a sack and carried down to Eldora. They eventually collected about 500 pounds of concentrate, which they took to the Golden Cycle Smelter in Colorado Springs to be processed. They received about \$1400. Dad and Merle each received about \$550, enough that Dad could pay off all his debts. It was the only time that I remember Dad making any money in the mines he leased.

Both Dad and Merle decided that there was more money to be made and that a road should be built into the New York Mine. So the following summer they built a road from Lost Lake to the mine and toward the end of the summer, they hired a trucker from Boulder, Herb Rino (Earl Bolton's uncle), to haul a load of lower grade ore from the mine. Rino made one trip and would not make a second. The new road was a little rough! The ore was sent to the Golden Cycle and processed. The results were poor. They hardly received enough money to pay the expenses of the hauling and processing. They decided in 1934 that the mine was not worth the effort and that they should move on to other things.

Post New York Mine

Merle Rugg spent most of the 1930s and 1940s working the tungsten mines around Nederland. He was one of the best pneumatic drillers in the area and was known as one who could "read the ground" and drill powder holes so as to "pull" the most ground. "Pull ground" means how much material you can remove with a set of holes and dynamite. A good set of four-foot holes properly loaded with dynamite should remove about eight feet of material, i.e., extend the tunnel eight feet.

Verne Hornback spent the 1930s leasing mines around Eldora and Nederland and working for others in mines or mills in the area. He finally quit mining and worked with Jack Langley building and fixing houses in Eldora. His health failed and he had to move to Boulder where he died of silica tuberculosis in 1947. The following are three of his mining experiences, which may be of interest:

1. Around 1934 there was a mining engineer by the name of W. R. Hamilton who wanted to do some exploratory work at the Terror Mine. He hired Dad to do the work. The result as usual was "no promising ore found." Hamilton was of interest because he was educated at Stanford University and was a classmate of Herbert Hoover. He eventually became involved in mines in the Cripple Creek and Victor area.
2. Around 1936-37 Abe McCoy took a lease from Mr. Harpel for the Enterprise Mine. He hired Dad and Rad Fulbright to work the mine. This venture eventually proved to have no future. Abe eventually did some mining in the Ward area and had a mining equipment business in Boulder.
3. In 1938 Dad and Al Bolton obtained a lease on the Shirley Mine from Mr. Jay Rawley. The mine was similar to the New York Mine, but located closer to Eldora, southwest of Hessie. In a similar manner to the New York Mine, Al and Dad hiked into the mine on Sunday, worked all week and came back on Saturday with a pack of ore. Eventually they had several hundred pounds of ore concentrate, which they took to the Golden Cycle for processing. The result was devastating: they received a bit over \$14 for their winter's work. (Earl Bolton has the pay slip from the Golden Cycle. Needless to say, that was the end of working the Shirley Mine.

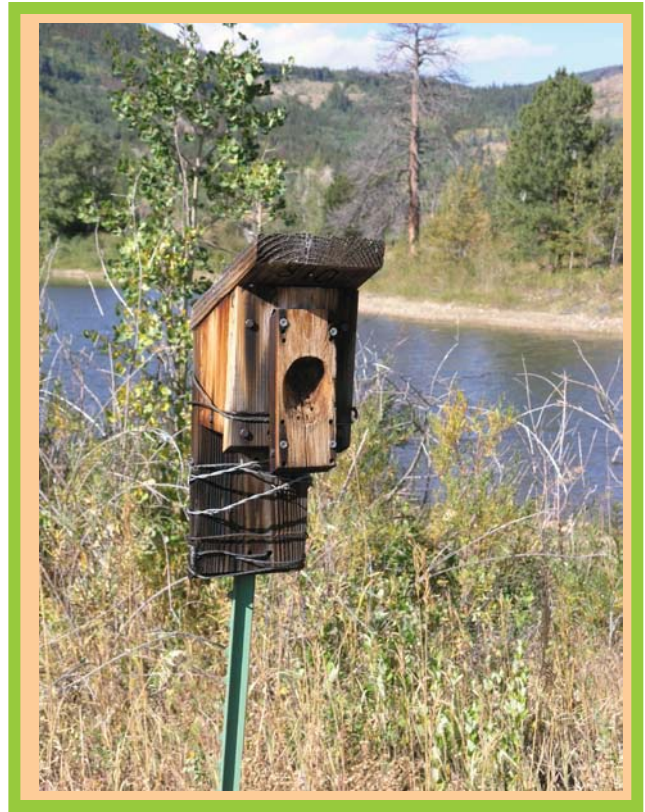


A Look at Nature: “Silent Spring”

By David H. Hallock

Two winters ago Lee Evans of the Arapaho Ranch gave me a call. He was concerned because that previous summer the fishing was lousy and the birds had a hard time raising young. He felt something had caused most of the insects to disappear from the stream. We speculated about possible causes, including what was being spread on the roads during winter. But cause and effect are often hard to pinpoint.

Several months later I talked with Dr. Bob Cohen, “the tree swallow guy.” Bob has been studying the nesting ecology of tree swallows for over 35 years. He is the one that has all those nest boxes on the Arapaho Ranch, Tolland Park and other places in Boulder and Gilpin Counties. He told me an interesting story. During the summer of 2008, starting around mid-July, the young in the nest boxes on the Arapaho Ranch started to lose weight. On a weekly basis he visits each nest box and weighs and examines the young. Tree swallows are insectivores, and the adults spend a lot of time flying over water to collect insects and bring them back to the nest.



↑ A tree swallow nest box on Arapaho Ranch near Sulphide Lake where the swallows catch aquatic insects, a staple of their diet

Streams can have major hatches of aquatic insects and are major source of food for the swallows. The weight loss of the young was probably a result of them not getting enough food. Dr. Cohen speculates and casually observed that there were few insects over the stream, and the swallows were not spending much time there. The adults were having trouble finding enough food in close proximity for the young. During the breeding season of 2008 many of the young perished on the Arapaho Ranch. Interestingly, the nest box locations in Tolland Valley and other sites did not see this die off that summer, but had more normal nesting success.

This past summer the spraying of carbaryl, used to try and protect trees from mountain pine beetles, was an issue for some of us in the valley. Besides impacting people who are sensitive to chemicals, it can be harmful to aquatic life if it gets into streams. Research has shown it can have harmful impacts on aquatic insects, amphibians and fish. Could carbaryl have played a role in the demise of nestling birds on the Arapaho Ranch? The weight loss of nestling birds began around the same time that spraying was occurring. But again, cause and effect are hard to prove.

A few of us decided to try and set up some form of testing to see if carbaryl could be detected in the local waters. I worked with the Boulder County Health Department, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and public agencies in Grand County (where they have been dealing with mountain pine beetle and spraying for a longer time than we have) in formulating a plan of water testing. All concluded that it is pretty hit-and-miss, with a lot more misses than hits. Testing during a rainy period may increase the chance of finding carbaryl, as this may start moving it through the water system. It was not cheap: \$60 per test (they would test just for carbaryl), and then it had to be either driven to Denver or shipped overnight (another \$50).

We decided to focus on the ski area, since that is where the greatest volume of spraying in our area was to occur, and on Marysville Gulch, since that is the direction taken by most of the runoff on the lands

to be sprayed. There would be six tests over several weeks. I would take the samples, the Colorado Department of Public Health would provide the bottles and conduct the analysis, and the County Health Department would help with costs.

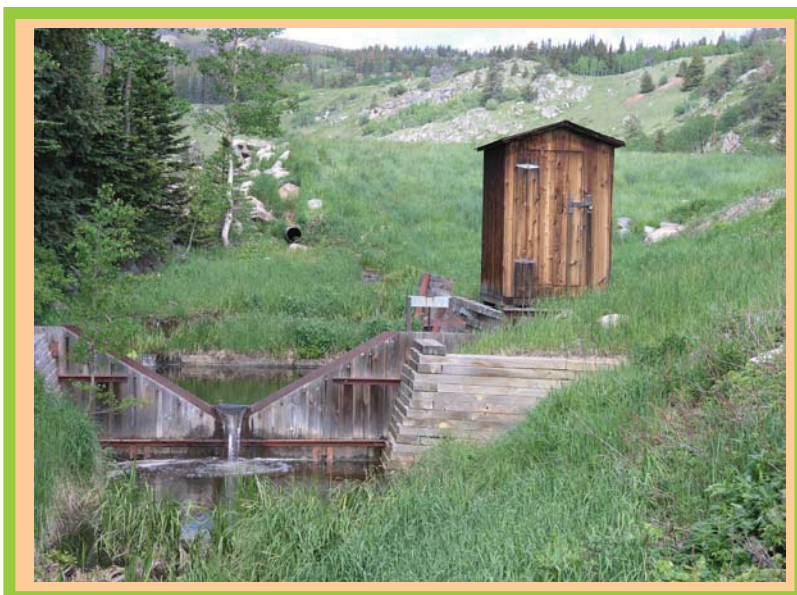
The first two tests were done during the first full week of July on nearby ponds (on Spencer Mountain and at the Arapaho Ranch), as we were trying to see if any of the air drift could be caught by the ponds. The tests came back negative. The third and fourth tests were taken on July 14th and 15th in the stream in Marysville Gulch. Both tests found carbaryl in the water. A fifth and sixth test were taken the following week when there was a rainy period, and they were negative. So carbaryl was detected in the waters of Marysville Gulch.

Following are some other observations while in the vicinity of the ski area while spraying was occurring. On July 6 there was spraying taking place on the Forest Service lands at the ski area and I was on the upper portion of Spencer Mountain. I started feeling a tingling of the tongue, a slight numbing of the lips and a slight sore throat. I didn't know if this was related to anything immediately around me or just something else, but made a note. On July 15th I drove up to the front gate of the ski area. As the vehicle door was opened, there was a smell in the air. Then the same feelings, though much stronger, the tingling tongue, numb lips and sore throat, appeared in quick time. Two individuals in white hazmat suits were observed up the hillside above the upper parking lot. Soon there was a strong headache. I was there for about 5 minutes, and then took off. The symptoms lasted for about an hour and a half. Another note, winds were gusting when there on the morning of the 15th.

Conclusions:

- Carbaryl was found in the waters of Marysville Gulch. Based on expectations of the applying property owners as well as regulating agencies, it should not have appeared. There is a problem someplace.
- It is extremely difficult to show cause and effect in matters like this. We will never know why the young birds died off on the Arapaho Ranch in the summer of 2008. But the spraying of carbaryl increases the possibility of adverse impacts to aquatic organisms.

It is likely that the spraying of carbaryl will be occurring in the area for another decade, if current conditions, both ecologically and politically, proceed. This includes spraying in our own community, though there has been success in getting some property owners to stop. My own experiences, both through water testing and from being in the field, suggest that carbaryl can migrate from where it has been sprayed through the water and the air to distant locations. We are down wind and down drainage from the ski area, while spraying in Eldora has a more direct geographic flow.



Water flows through a sluice at east end of Peterson Lake and continues on down Marysville Gulch in rivulets till it enters Middle Boulder Creek via Bertha Creek at Marysville. Water samples downstream of where the picture was taken tested positive for carbaryl contamination.

Photo by Diane J. Brown

Eldora's Merry Month of May: Springtime in the Rockies



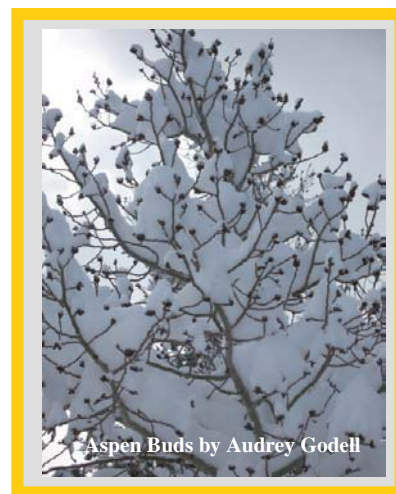
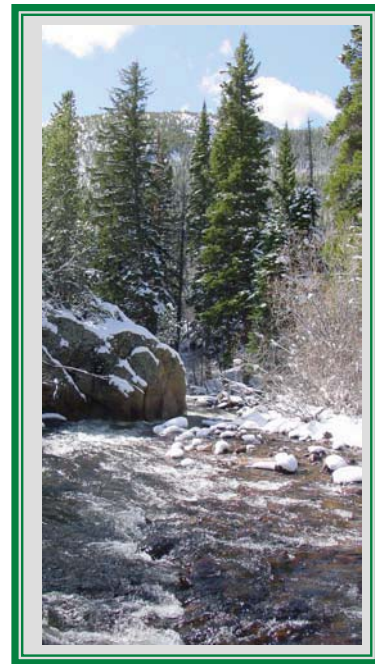
All photos by Diane Brown except as noted



Snow Drift by Audrey Godell

Throughout the higher elevations of the Southern Rockies, the snowpack generally reaches its maximum in April, then steadily declines, disappearing almost entirely from lower and mid-elevation areas by mid-June.

“The Southern Rockies” Audrey DeLella Benedict



Aspen Buds by Audrey Godell

Eldora Weather Report

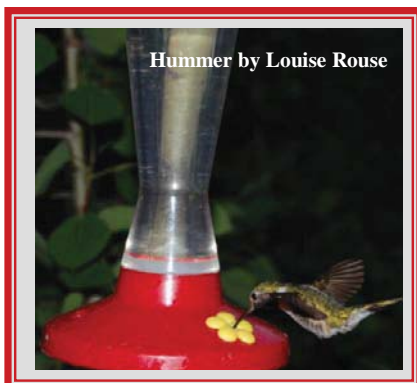
By John “Brock” Brocklehurst



Oh, Spring where art thou?! It is April 8th. Daffodils have been blooming down in Boulder for two weeks and my garden at the west end of Eldora has been under a blanket of snow since last October. This week we received another five inches of snow. The creek remains frozen; however, robins have returned to Eldora and chickadees and woodpeckers are making overtures to their mates

For the record Eldora received 4 inches of snow in September, 31 inches in October, twelve in November and twenty in December. Wind chill of minus 50 and a wind gust of 65mph were recorded on December 9 and Christmas Day was a shocker with blizzard conditions and minus 35 degrees wind chill. We received twelve inches of snow in January, twenty-one in February, forty-five in March and another eight so far in April.

Two shallow ten-foot wells in Eldora ran dry this winter: one at each end of Eldora. So, summer residents -- be warned. Perhaps we should invite some Arapaho and Ute Indians to come and perform a rain dance ceremony?



Hummer by Louise Rouse



Full Members 2009-10

Andersen, Ellen
 Anderson, Bob/Pat
 Bailey, John
 Baker, Charles/Lois
 Barrett, Phillip/Marilyn
 Bartelma, Bob/Jan
 Billingsley, Cleo
 Billingsley, John/Jim/Joe
 Birkeland, Pete/Suzanne
 Bolton, Dave/Sue
 Bolton, Earl/Barbara
 Brocklehurst, John/Willi
 Brown, Diane/Hallock, Dave
 Bruntjen, Scott/Rinderknecht, Carol
 Bryan, Steve/Suellen
 Buchan, James/Susan
 Buhse, Howard/Moira
 Burns, Kate/Schroeder, Sheila
 Burton, Tom/Mary
 Busch, Edwin/Eleanor
 Campbell, Doug/Carol
 Carson, R. Edgar/Julia
 Chapin, John/Micki
 Cohen, Ken & Family
 Colburn, Everett/Deborah
 Collins, Brian/Lynne
 Commers, M./Hoffman, Amy
 Cunningham, John
 Dibb, Leigh
 Donahue, Jerry/Barbara
 Dugan, Tom/Kathy
 Egaas, Brian/Bersentes, K.
 Evans, Virginia
 Figgs, Norma Hockett
 Fisher, Marc/Laura
 Flowers, Clifton/Mary
 Frazier, O.H./Rachel
 Freymuth, Peter/Karin
 Geer, Richard/Nan
 Gitin, Gene/Gail
 Godell, Audrey
 Goolsby, Robert
 Hartsell, Rich/Marilyn
 Hawkins, James/Nancy
 Hill, Jim/Sharon
 Hollis, Edna
 Hunziker, Bud/Joyce
 Jensen, Jeff/Kathy
 Johnson, Dale/Frandee
 Johnson, Don/Dorothy
 Kent, Jinny
 Kindig, Jean
 Kladstrup, Barbara
 Kready, JoAnne
 Kubitschek, Michael
 Leever, Virginia/Randy/Ron
 Lovelace, Stuart
 Marron, Bruce/Ann
 Martin, Jim/Anne
 Martin, Margaret
 McCleery, Jeanne

McCoy, Michael/Patricia
 McDonald, Joe/Pam
 McHenry-Duvall Family
 McGuffee, Cris/Liz
 Merrill, Dennis/Hannon, Theresa
 Merrill, Nancy
 Miller, Kent/Kay
 Mount, Robert/Virginia
 Newens, Nick/Mary Jane
 Nichols, Ron/Barbara
 Pierce, Lowel/Annie May
 Pierson, Bill/Kathleen
 Pierson, Bill/Kay
 Piper, Bruce/Peaches
 Postlewait, Michael/Sharon
 Postlewait, Tim/Miller, Lindy
 Reynolds, Matt/Jeanne
 Rivers, Richard/Fletcher, Charles
 Roberts, Carl/Donna
 Rock, Paul/Phyllis
 Rockett, Carol Ann
 Rottman, Gary/Stringfellow, Ann
 Rountree, Robert
 Rouse, Philip/Louise
 Rouse, Romaine
 Ruhnka, John/Sallie
 Sandquist, Rick/Katrina
 Schneider, Harold/Jan
 Shaw, Marilyn
 Sheets, Payson/Fran
 Sheldon, George/Ruth
 Simpson, Robert
 Smith, Jared R.W./Deborah
 Sturm, Ron/Judy
 Swope, James/Beverly
 Tafoya, Jan/Windolph, Audrey
 Tillotson, Rich/Lee
 Vahling, Arnie
 Wallace, John/Rita
 Waltrip, Dave/Susan
 Warren, Ted/Peggy
 Weber, Gerhard/Deborah
 Weissberg, Michael/Susan
 Wheeler, Jeff/Signe
 Whitworth, Sam
 Williams, David J.
 Wohlers, Linell
 Young, Russ/Marion
 Zemanek, Phyllis

Associate Members 2009-10

Amaranto, Ernie/Marian
 Amme, Robert
 Anderson, Anne
 Barrett-Smith, Allison
 Bauder, Jane
 Beaman, Vance/Dot
 Beatty, Gretchen
 Carline, Glenna
 Cole, David/Jennifer
 Evans, Deb
 Flowers, Willard

Forstner, Roland
 Goolsby, Ann
 Goolsby, Mark/Ramona
 Goolsby, Sara
 Gross, Richard/Regina
 Gross, William/Mary Nell
 Guthrie, Bill
 Harnden, Alec/Kendra
 Heitman, Duncan/Christine
 Helmberger, Skip/Jane
 Hill, Tom/Sherry
 Hornback, Charlie/Rachael
 Huffman, Vonne
 Hutchinson, Ed
 Johnson, Irene Courtney
 Kent, Chris
 Kent, Michael
 Klenk, Anne
 Leise, Donna
 McCaffree, Inez
 McCleery, Kathy
 Merrill, Susan
 Mount, Carl/Dawley, Marty
 Mount, Robert/Laurie
 Naylor, Earl/Joan
 Olsen, Nancy
 Overlees, Pat Springer
 Quarterman, Linda
 Roberts, Kathryn
 Roossinck, Marilyn
 Shaw, Ben
 Sheldon, Betsy
 Sheldon, Julie
 Soyka, James/Faye
 Vance, Patti
 Wiepking, Robert/Jodie
 Whitworth, Gretchen
 Woodward, Edgar
 Young, Al/Cindy
 Young, Donald



← American Robin
Turdus migratorius

This list shows ECA dues paid for 2009-10. Dues for 2010-2011 will be payable on or before September 1, 2010.

The following organizations receive a complimentary copy of our newsletter:
 Nederland Area Historical Society
 Nederland Community Library
 Carnegie Library (Boulder)
 Boulder County Commissioners
 Boulder County Parks & Open Space
 Boulder County Land Use Department

ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM 2010-2011

ECA membership dues for fiscal year 2010-2011 are due on September 1, 2010. Full membership dues are for Eldora area property owners and associate dues are for non-property owners or extended family. Please note that there is only one full/voting membership per property. Extra copies of the newsletter for extended family members can be purchased as associate memberships.

Name _____
 Eldora Address _____
 Eldora Telephone _____
 Other Address _____

 Other Telephone _____
 E-Mail Address _____

Subscription Rates:

- Full Member – Paper Copy in Black and White.....\$45
- Full Member – Paper Copy in Full Color.....\$75
- Full Member – Electronic Newsletter (This requires a computer & email address!).....\$30
- Associate Member – Paper Copy in Black and White\$30
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- Associate Member – Electronic Newsletter (This requires a computer & email address!).....\$15

Additional copy of newsletter(s) to be sent to:

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 E-Mail Address _____

Please send your check to: Eldora Civic Association, P. O. Box 988, Nederland, CO 80466-0988



Eldora Land Preservation Fund
 P. O. Box 988
 Nederland, CO 80466-0988

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
 to support the preservation of natural areas in
 and around Eldora. (Write a check to ELPF
 and mail to address above.)

Please note that donations to ELPF are *not*
 tax deductible.

Please send an acknowledgement of this
 donation to:

This donation is in memory of:



Boulder County
 Parks and Open Space Foundation
 P. O. Box 227
 Hygiene, CO 80533-0227

Please find enclosed my *tax deductible*
 Donation of \$ _____
 to support the purchase of open space in
 and around Eldora. (Write check to
 BCPOS Foundation and mail to above
 address.)

**This donation is to be applied to the
 Eldora Land Preservation Fund within
 the BCPOS Foundation.**

Please send an acknowledgement for tax
 purposes to:

This donation is in memory of:

The ELPF currently
 has \$22,172,86 in
 savings at Mutual
 Bank of Omaha.
 BCPOS Foundation
 has accumulated
 \$7,860 in donations to
 its ELPF account.
 There is now a total of
 \$30,031.86 available
 for partnering with
 Boulder County to
 preserve open space in
 the Eldora area.
 Thank you for your
 generosity and for
 caring about Eldora!