

ELDORA HIGH COUNTRY ©2012

Newsletter of the Eldora Civic Association July 2012



View of Devil's Thumb with a good snow pack in June 2011



View of Devil's Thumb with deficit snow pack in June 2012

The glacially carved Devil's Thumb Valley is within the Indian Peaks Wilderness. The valley is lush with freshwater ponds, colorful wildflowers, spruce-fir krummholz tree islands, willows, herbs, and grasses attractive to ungulates in summer and early fall. The view of the Continental Divide is awe inspiring and the majestic Devil's Thumb spire can be seen from both sides of the Divide and is a reliable marker for pedestrian travelers.

High Altitude Revegetation Study by Joyce Greene Gellhorn, botanist and Jean Matthews Kindig, archaeologist

ECA Committees:

EEPP – Randy Leever & Dave Hallock
ELPF – Diane Brown
Noxious Weeds – Diane Brown
Newsletter Editor – Diane Brown
USFS/Ski Area/County/State Liaison –
Pete Birkeland and Randy Leever
History – Diane Brown, Earl & Barbara Bolton
Eldora Road Cleanup – Earl & Barbara Bolton
Nominations – ECA Board
Social – ECA Board
Transportation – Pete & Sue Birkeland,
Audrey Godell and Joe McDonald

ECA Board of Directors for 2011-12:

Joe McDonald, President
joemcdonald@gmail.com 303-886-7674
Peter Birkeland, Vice-President
birkelap@colorado.edu 303-442-0304
Todd Buchanan, Secretary-Treasurer
tmbuchanan@juno.com 303-258-0334
Lisa Lopez, Assistant Secretary (non-voting)
liloeldora@gmail.com 302-258-0334
Randy Leever
rdlbsg@comcast.net 303-494-1243

First Friday of each month at 5:00 PM – Eldora Night at the Pioneer Inn (Call Ted Warren at 303-258-7273)
Wednesday, July 4, 2012 - Deadline for determination of eligible ECA Voting Members
Saturday, July 14, 2012 at 3:00 PM – Annual Business Meeting (McDonald) 695 Bryan Avenue
Wednesday, July 18, 2012 from 5-8:00 PM – USFS Public Open House on Eldora Mt. Resort Expansion at Boulder Ranger District, 2140 Yarmouth Ave., Boulder
Thursday, July 19, 2012 from 5-8:00 PM – USFS Public Open House on Eldora Mt. Resort Expansion at Nederland Community Center, 750 Hwy 72 North. Nederland
Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at 7:00 PM – Eldora History Night (Gold Miner Hotel) 601 Klondyke Avenue
Saturday, August 18, 2012 at 2:00 PM – Annual Member Meeting (Gold Miner Hotel) 601 Klondyke
Sunday, August 26, 2012 from 12:00 to 2:00 – Eldora Community Picnic (Bolton) 502 Eldorado Avenue
Saturday, September 1, 2012 – ECA membership dues for 2012-13 are due and payable.
Saturday, September 15, 2012 – Deadline for submissions to the October Eldora High Country newsletter



Solstice and Dove's Nest cabins – Photos by Louise Rouse

ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Minutes for Board Meeting on May 10, 2012 at Pete and Sue Birkeland's home, Boulder
The meeting was called to order at 6:20. It was agreed to dispense with the reading of the mission statement.

Hessie Parking

The board agreed to support the County's plan for expansion of the road to the Hessie Fork to accommodate parking and two-way traffic, along with a shuttle service from Nederland High School, provided that existing parking in Hessie was preserved. The plan being a one-year pilot program, the board agreed to review the program after the tourist season.

Traffic Speed Mitigation

Pete presented a plan drafted by Ted Warren and the County Transportation Department. This included the speed limit painted on the asphalt in a few places as well as speed limit signs in the middle of the road accompanied by yellow dividers. Some members were concerned that the dividers had been controversial last year and were even regarded as dangerous by some residents. The board agreed to support the plan minus the road dividers. It recommended that the County and the Eldora Transportation Committee revisit the speed-bump option, in the style of the speed bumps on 55th Street between Baseline and Arapahoe in Boulder.

Phillips Property

The board considered a proposal from Matt Phillips in which he would agree to donate his creekside property to Boulder County Parks and Open Space if after their evaluation it is of significant and unique value for preservation. In exchange the County would grant an additional 2 Transferable Development Credits in addition to the 5 TDCs already granted on the property to Matt. The cost of the evaluation is \$100. The ECA Board agreed to share the cost of the evaluation with Matt and to support his application. It was agreed that Joe would speak with Matt to determine exactly what this meant. It was also agreed that the proposal was reasonable provided the unknown cost was reasonable.

Road Signs

The board considered a plan by the County to replace Eldora road signs with green signs with white lettering. Pete agreed to talk to the County to see if the size of the proposed signs might be reduced from approximately 8 or 9 inches tall to approximately 6 inches tall.



Board Candidates

There was a discussion of possible candidates for the ECA board, and the members agreed to approach these individuals to try to recruit them to run, and to get paid up in ECA dues on time. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20.



A river is the report card for its watershed.
Alan Levere
◀The Hessie Bridge over Middle Boulder Creek

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Buchanan, ECA Secretary



Eldora Mountain Resort Expansion

◀ **From the meadow at Hessie Townsite the current ski runs are clearly visible. How much more of the national forest on Bryan Mountain should be cleared for ski runs? How might it impact water quality and quantity in Middle Boulder Creek?**

ECA Ski Area Statement

Recognizing that Eldora Mountain Resort has operated since the mid-1960s, provides recreational and job opportunities to all of Boulder County and beyond, we, the ECA Board of 2011/2012, in our effort to be sensitive neighbors, support their efforts to be successful and prosper.

We feel they should have the right to pursue development within their current boundaries and within their own property. We do not object to their proposed SUP boundary adjustment to the south or their development plans for replacement and upgrade of lifts and lodges. We would encourage build out of ski runs (more intermediate) and glade skiing with current boundaries.

We do oppose any expansion to the north towards Middle Boulder Creek. High winds are an inherent fact of the entire valley. We feel that the expansion will not mitigate this fact. We oppose any development that would alter existing environment, including wildlife habitat and corridor, forest and understory, wetlands and small tributaries and water quality. We are interested in retaining the existing forest and boundary as it also provides a visual and sound barrier between village, valley and the ski area.

Letter to the Editor of the Daily Camera

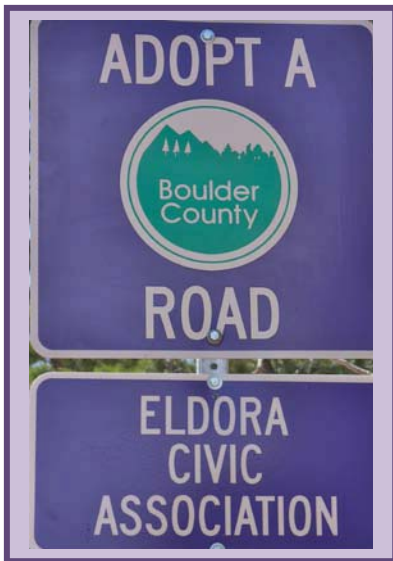
In an insightful piece that appeared May 13th in the Camera, David Wimert described how the US Forest Service has ignored its responsibility to the American public. Citing the situation at Brainard, he noted how the Forest Service is neglecting its mandate of "serving the people" (part of its motto) in favor of catering to private interests.

There is another troubling situation taking place in Boulder County that also involves the Forest Service. The Eldora Mountain Ski Resort has proposed a dramatic expansion of the Corona Bowl beyond the 1997 boundary that has been accepted (but not yet approved) by the Forest Service. The ski area and the USFS have been working on this plan for two years, without any opportunity for public input.

The ski area presently extends 81% of the way down Bryan Mountain toward Middle Boulder Creek. The remaining 19% is a healthy forest that supports wildlife and serves as a buffer to protect Boulder's drinking water. If the ski area is allowed to expand its operations all the way down to the creek - bulldozing new trails, building access roads and a bridge, increasing the spraying of Carbaryl for pine beetles, and expanding its snowmaking that includes the use of Snowmax, a complex chemical banned in many parts of Europe-what will be the impact on our drinking water? How much are we willing to risk, all for the profits of a private corporation?

I support the ski area making improvements within its legal boundaries. I do not support the Forest Service when it turns its back on "serving the people." First and foremost, its obligation is to the public. Not to the recreational industry. Public lands are not to be quietly handed over to serve the exclusive benefit of private interests motivated by profit.

Happy Valley Happenings



Eldora Adopt-a-Road Improves Scenery on County Road 130

◀ Thanks to Earl Bolton for calling the County to replace the twisted, mangled sign for the ECA Adopt-a-Road cleanup.

On June 9, 2012 Eldora Adopt-a-Road participants were Earl Bolton, Pete & Sue Birkeland, their granddaughter Natasha Jugl & her friend Anna Thorp, Diane Brown, Todd Buchanan & Lisa Lopez, Lynne Collins, John & Micki Chapin, Laura Fisher, Karen Mosteller, Jerry & Barbara Donahue, Kathleen Henningsen, Jeanne McCleery, Joe McDonald & friend.

After the cleanup volunteers gathered in the Bolton gazebo for coffee and pastries with Barbara Bolton as hostess. Afterwards Ron Leever picked up all the orange bags and hauled them to the green boxes.

Eldora History Night

Gold Miner Hotel

Wednesday, August 8 at 7:00 PM

Eldora's resident archaeologist Jean Kindig will give a presentation on prehistoric Native Americans and the corridors they used to and from the Continental Divide.



Fourth of July Valley from Arapaho Pass Trail - Photo by Dave Hallock

A Celebration of Dale Johnson's Life

Gold Miner Hotel

Saturday, July 28th from 2:00 to 5:00 PM

In a video interview from Carnegie Library, Dale reads the letter he sent to his mother in 1949 recounting the painting of the "C" on the Third Flatiron. After listening to daily accounts on the radio and reading serial installments in the newspaper, his mother Charlotte wrote to Dale demanding to know what kind of trouble he was into this time! Since he couldn't afford a phone call, Dale wrote a ten-page reply recounting the whole convoluted saga. Watching him read the narrative of a naive college freshman of 61 years ago, with droll asides, is almost like having Dale there. And meet Phil Robertson, the other half of the dubious duo who, with Dale, tormented "The Third" yet again, this time on roller skates. From a hardscrabble childhood without a father, in the vastness of Colorado's Rocky Mountains, Dale gleaned life's potential: climbing, flying, Frostline, environmentalism, flying, inventions, SCUBA, Water Wolf, flying, writing, world travel, awards . . . And did I mention flying?

Thanks to the tribute from Senator Mark Udall read on the Senate floor on April 17, "Remembering Dale Johnson" is in the Congressional Record of the 112th Congress, United States of America. Learn things you never knew about Dale. See stuff. Hear stories. Share your own Dale tale.

Happy Valley Happenings of Yesteryear

From Lee and Virginia Evans' *Eldora Echo* Collection

Eldora Echo – July 12, 1934

COUNTRY GOING TO THE LIONS: We understand that on the first night out of the sheep at Yankee Doodle Lake 50 were killed by lions. The sheep are stationed at the lake for summer grazing. In one of the later flocks of about 1,000 sheep that passed through Eldora, every ewe had twins!

Eldora Echo – August 25, 1934

LIONS SEEN AT ELDORA LAKE: It was reported Wednesday that a pair of lions have a den at Eldora Lake. They have been seen on many occasions.

Eldora Echo – August 18, 1934

The editor (Phil Rouse) and staff scaled both peaks of Arapaho last Sunday. An electrical storm raised our hair while snow fell. A falling stone dented one.

Eldora Echo – July 12, 1935

Ideal Café – Continuous Service

Our 50¢ Regular Dinners –

Choice of Swift Premium Meats – Steaks, Roasts, Pork Chops, Leg of Lamb, Link Sausage. Vegetables. Dessert – Choice of Homemade Pie, Cake & Peaches, Cantaloupe, Watermelon, Ice Cream. Coffee, Iced Tea or Milk

Our 75¢ Dinner –

Choice of Young Fried Chicken, Mountain Trout, Large T-Bone Steak. Three Vegetables. Choice of Desserts. Coffee, Iced Tea or Milk.

Breakfasts, Short Orders and Sandwiches.

Eldora Echo – July 19, 1935

A steak fry at Eldora Lake July 15 was attended by the following people: Ruth Postlewait, Irene Walker, Winifred Zimmer, Sue Eckdall, Allen Johnson, Louis Kelso, Bob Postlewait, Ralph Delmare, Bill Fisher and Bob Hyson.

Eldora Echo – August 2, 1935

Mr. Ben H. O'Connor, Mr. T. Worsley, Mr. Harry King and son, Harry, Jr. and Joe Lasinsky camped at Devil's Thumb Lake last week on a two day fishing trip.

WARNING

The party is known who stole the canvas from Harpel's ice house and if returned, there will be no trouble.

Eldora Echo – July 31, 1936

SMOKE AT CORONA CAUSED BY MEN BURNING SNOW SHEDS

Joe Linsky, fire warden, Bill Fisher and George Brownell hiked to Corona last Friday to investigate a reported forest fire. The smoke that was seen was caused by men burning the snow sheds at Corona to secure the railroad ties.



Reavis Family Cookout at Eldora circa 1920
Reavis- McCleery Collection



Center of Eldora circa 1930

Hessie Shuttle and Parking Solution



The Hessie Fork in the good old days circa 1920 was much more rugged than it is today. The deep ruts and plentiful rocks would have challenged even the most adventurous travelers. (Gross Collection)



The biggest problems with illegally parked cars (and where the ranger has written the most tickets) has been the area west of the junction. I will be placing a work order to remove these permitted parking signs that are west of the junction. There are two bays of these. After measuring it, there just isn't enough space to have cars parked there. Also we will be erecting another large sign just past the junction stating "No parking next 1.2 miles." Scott McCarey

Nowadays at the Hessie Fork visitors will find a clean porta-potty and a convenient bear-proof trash container. We hope the people who leave behind dog poop bags and other trash will use the receptacle!



Parking before and near the Hessie Fork is only allowed between signs that designate appropriate parking. On weekends and holidays the parking is very limited. Therefore visitors are encouraged to use the shuttle that leaves from Nederland High School. It will stop and pick you up in Eldora if you wave it down where it can pull over and stop.

Hessie Shuttle

I rode the shuttle from the south of my house (just waved him down) and up to the Hessie turn around and back.

It was great! Lynne Collins rode it earlier in the day.

Barbara and Jerry Donahue thought that it was very quiet and no smell was a plus. The shuttle buses go around their corner every 15 minutes each way. They did not have a problem with it, and if anyone was exposed to it with noticeable frequency, it would be the Donahues and the Fishers. Marc and Laura thought it was fine.

Lisa Lopez



The Hessie Shuttle returning from its maiden voyage on June 9, 2012

Photo by Diane Brown

June 11: The County started on boulder removal today. They did not get very far – about 10 minutes into it the hydraulic cable gave out and they lost fluid/pressure. I find it hard to believe that they are giving up on it – but frankly I am happy if this is true as it does slow the cars down as they drive by my property. Too bad they beat it up so badly before giving up on it. Henry Tiberi

I did manage to see the rock, and it is now literally in the middle of the road because of the widening of the road. It has cones on it. I'm calling it Cone Head Rock and wondering why they didn't just leave the original rock in place and give it a median sort of purpose. Now it doesn't look so attractive. Lisa Lopez



County equipment fails to defeat the noble Rock.

Photo by Henry Tiberi

June 13: Looks like this is a pretty stubborn rock. It's not my artwork but I think it is pretty funny. Does the county plan on leaving it? I don't mind it there and it actually gets the traffic to slow down a bit.... Henry Tiberi

June 13: The director told me this morning he requested Road Maintenance to keep the rock as a traffic calming device. Your picture probably saved the rock! Scott McCarey

Three cheers for the Boulder County Transportation Department! They listened carefully to citizen concerns and came up with an intelligent pilot program for Hessie parking. Not only that, but the road to Eldora has been swept clean and is now all freshly striped. Diane Brown



Save the Cone Head Rock! Photo by Henry Tiberi

Eldora Weather Report

The total snowfall for the winter of 2011-12 was 165 inches. January had 22 inches, February 59 inches, March just 1 inch, and April 10 inches. Also noteworthy was the unusual warm weather: March had twenty-one days of temperatures between 50 to 69° Fahrenheit. April had high temperatures in the 70s with ten days above 60°. May was blessed with 7 inches of beneficial wet snow and the annual return of hummingbirds.

May is quite definitely the most spectacular month and spiritually uplifting after our long seven month winter. The following is a list of flora and fauna in order of appearance as noted in my diary: Aspen leaves, daffodils, Canada geese, mallard ducks and a beaver swimming on the Ellwood pond. Dandelions by the hundreds along the roadside, larkspur and shooting star. Fox cubs on 10th Street and golden banner.

The belt of aspens at the east end of Eldora which lost all their leaves in the July 2010 hailstorm are making a valiant return with sprouts pushing up from their roots. Spinach, which I sowed in August of last year was ready to eat by mid-May accompanied with a show of bluebells (mertensia), wallflowers and thousands of spring beauty on the road to Hessie. Another herald of the promise of spring was the sound of Chorus frogs peeping in the pond just east of Marysville.

Today, as mid-summer approaches, flag iris, wild rose, Dame's rocket, blue flax and Indian paintbrush decorate Eldora and the road to Hessie. This year's warm, dry June brought out abundant butterflies including mourning cloak, swallowtail, Parnassian, comma, orange tip and tortoiseshell. What a blessing it is to live here!

John "Brock" Brocklehurst
June 12, 2012



A hummingbird managed to get into Laura Fisher's house. As she held it in her hand, Brian Collins took this picture.



Western Swallowtail on Lilac by Laura Fisher



Parnassian Butterfly in grasses by Diane Brown

Water Deficit + High Temperatures + Wind = Weather Worries

Low Tide on the Creek

By Dave Hallock

Middle Boulder Creek, which runs through Eldora on its way to Nederland and Boulder Canyon, generally peaks in flow in late May or early June. The highest flows of the year generally coincide with hot temperatures, though thunderstorms can provide short-term high flows. The amount of snowpack will determine the volume of the peak flow; the greater the snowpack the higher the spring flow.

Stream flows are measured at the gauging station where the creek flows into Barker Reservoir. Flow measurements have been taken since 1907. You can see real-time flows on-line at

http://www.dwr.state.co.us/SurfaceWater/data/detail_graph.aspx?ID=BOCMIDCO.

Since the gauge is downstream from us in Eldora, our flows will be slightly lower. The highest recorded spring flow was 811 cubic feet per second (cfs) in 1914. Most peak flows range between 300 and 550 cfs. Recent peaks were: 2011 – 560 cfs; 2010 – 520 cfs; 2009 – 518 cfs; and 2008 – 375 cfs. The lowest peak flow occurred in 1966 at 158 cfs; only a handful of times since 1907 has the peak been below 200 cfs.

So how did this year's peak flow stack up? Well, if you were thinking it was low, you are right. The creek peaked on June 6 near 170 cfs. This is the lowest since 2002. In mid-June the creek was flowing at 1/3 to 1/4 its normal flow.



Low Flow at Sixth Street Bridge – May 29, 2012

With the extreme heat, drought and wind so far this summer we are all worried about forest fires that could potentially destroy our homes and the entire town of Eldora. It is imperative that we all adhere to the fire restrictions that have been put into place by the Boulder County Sheriff's Department and the State of Colorado, and that we keep a watchful eye out to make sure others, whether residents or visitors do not disregard the fire ban, which includes all outdoor burning, fireworks and charcoal grills. If you notice someone carelessly putting us all at risk, please call 911.

On our own properties we can reduce the hazards by cleaning up old debris piles, stacking wood away from the house, and generally cleaning up the area directly around the house and any outbuildings.



◀ Sign seen in Boulder along the creek. Could Eldora use such a sign? Photo by Karen Mosteller



The connection between forests and rivers is like that between father and son. No forests, no rivers. Gifford Pinchot Forest Service Chief 1905-1910 9

Indian Peaks Wilderness – Eldora’s Back Yard Paradise



Satanta Peak near Caribou Pass by Dave Hallock



◀ Marmot
by Debra
Mues

Arctic
Gentian
by Linell
Wohlers
▼



Indian Peaks Wilderness became part of the National Wilderness Preservation system in 1978. It now has a total of 76,711 acres. Many of the peaks were named for American Indian tribes of the West. Elevations range from 8,300 to just over 13,500 feet. Seven peaks are over 13,000 feet and approximately 35% of the land area is above tree line. Indian Peaks is one of the most heavily used wilderness areas in the country.

The highest point is North Arapaho Peak at 13,502 feet. By 1914 few of the peaks between Longs Peak and the Arapaho Peaks had names. In the spring of that year a botany teacher, Ellsworth Bethel, had the idea to name the peaks with tribal names: Apache, Arikaree, Kiowa, Navajo, Ogalalla and Pawnee. Later the names Paiute, Shoshoni, Hiamovi, Satanta and Watanga were added.



◀ Old Man of
the Mountain

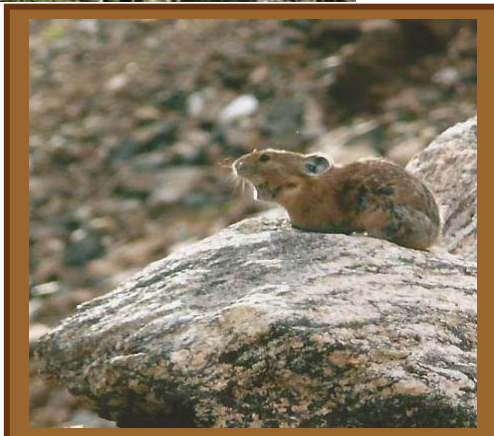
Photo by
Dave Hallock



Mount Neva by Dave Hallock

Pika ▶

Photo by
Debra
Mues



All life depends on water. In Colorado, our National Forests are the headwaters for the major rivers of the state, flowing to the prairies of the National Grasslands. Millions of Americans – here and thousands of miles away – depend on the water that originates in Colorado’s high alpine mountains. United States Forest Service

Lake Dorothy

At the top of Arapaho Pass is that breathtaking view to the north of the jagged Indian Peaks surrounding the little blue gem of a lake at the bottom of the valley we called "Hell's Hole." Lake Dorothy at an elevation of about 12,000 feet is obviously in an old volcanic crater. Vertical granite walls rise nearly a thousand feet around the west end of the lake. Snow and ice cover the water until late July. Nowhere can the lake be waded, but in many places it is possible to stand on high rocks to fish. Then one could see the huge fish swimming by deep in the water. Frequently they would rise slowly and for an exciting moment almost hit the fly. But most of the time they would just roll a little and continue their leisurely swim around the lake.

Lee S. Evans



Lake Dorothy on July 21, 2011 by David H. Hallock



Old Man of the Mountain
by Audrey Godell

Lake Dorothy (3676m) is one of the deepest, coldest, and most unusual high lakes in the region. Dammed by a moraine on the Continental Divide, the lake remains ice covered until midsummer. It has no surface outlet, but drains through glacial till and bedrock crevices. James B. Benedict



Lake Dorothy early summer 2011 by Audrey Godell

We stocked Dorothy in 1927, and I took the first fishermen to the lake about July 10, 1933 – just after the ice had opened up on half of the lake. The fish were four to five pounds each by 1933, and in a few hours we caught and released great numbers of fish. Lee S. Evans



▲ An old wooden U. S. Forest Service sign points to Lake Dorothy. A tired hiker scratched two zeros after the one!



▲ Crystal Ice at Lake Dorothy by Audrey Godell

A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye, looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature. Henry David Thoreau

The Log Cabin Saloon

Mail time in Eldora was a big event! Many of the townspeople came to town to visit and to pick up their mail after Mrs. Woodring opened the mailroom at 1 p.m. Joe Lasinsky or I tried to be there at mail time. We did not get much mail, but it was our opportunity to meet people to arrange fishing trips or scenic rides.

The post office was at the back of the Woodring and Kuhn grocery store, so we also tried to be around in the evening when people came for groceries. Guy Woodring, his wife Margaret, and Andy Kuhn were good friends and helped greatly in promoting business for us.

The store was on the northeast corner of Sixth and Eldorado, cattycorner from Brookside cabin. It was in the same building in which my grandfather had operated his Log Cabin Saloon many years before. Even after some seventy intervening years I can still vividly recall how the store looked.

From Happy Valley to the Mountaintop
by Lee S. Evans

The retail liquor license issued to W. J. Lee for one year from July 10, 1913 to July 10, 1914 cost him \$750, which seems like a mighty steep price for those days.

RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE.

No. 60

Date of Issue July, - - 1913

Date July, - - 1913

Name W. J. Lee, & Co.

Street.

Lot W. 1/2 - 19 - Block 21

From July, - 10th - 1913

To July, - 10th - 1914

One Year,

Log Cabin,

Amount, \$ 750.⁰⁰
1,100

Received above License: \$ 250.⁰⁰ of above License.

From a conversation Lee Evans had with Don Kemp in Prescott, AZ on April 7, 1972:
William Lee and Lysh Little ran a saloon in Eldora. William Lee sold Don Kemp liquor for his “first drink” – wine and whiskey. Lee told Don it would make him sick and didn’t want to sell it to him, but Don said he insisted – and it did!



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The Woodring Store

In a photo taken in winter of 1935 the store is called "Home Owned Stores." The name Guy M. Woodring also appears on the sign. Coca Cola was the drink of the year. Goolsby Collection

Guy M. Woodring

Reasonable prices
on
Fruits Vegetables
Meats Groceries
Gas & Oil
Fishing Tackle
Summer Cottages



◀ An advertisement from the *Eldora Echo* of Friday, August 30, 1935

Guy Woodring had built a fair-sized addition on the front and east side of the old store. This area provided space for a checkout counter, iceboxes, a screened-in meat storage and cutting room, a glass case for fishing tackle, a few magazines, and racks of postcards. There was space for a few chairs around the table near the windows. People could write postcards or letters there or simply visit while waiting for the mail.

Guy Woodring ran the store with the help of his wife, Margaret. The store opened fairly early in the morning and stayed open until about 9 p.m. Guy had a small gasoline-powered generator for lights in the store and one light outside on the front of the building. This furnished enough light for us kids to play kick-the-can out in the street, but there was not enough power for electric meat and produce coolers. Iceboxes had to suffice. Mrs. Woodring was also the postmistress, so she worked in the store only when not involved in postal duties. The post office was a small cubicle room at the back of the store. A window into the office was flanked by rows of official postal boxes five or six inches square with a combination-locking device.

From Happy Valley to the Mountaintop by Lee S. Evans



◀ Anne & Aaron, whose parents ran the motel & restaurant in the late 1940s, stand in front of the store. Notice the drink of choice has changed to Pepsi Cola. The photo was taken in about 1949 by the then 7 year old Mick McCoy with his mother's camera.

Eldora Echo August 30, 1935:

Mrs. Guy Woodring of Eldora has been ill at the Sanitarium in Boulder for about a week. Her condition was reported better. 13

The Woodring Store



The Log Cabin Corner Store and the Bunny Hutch circa 1946 (O'Connor – Pierson Collection)

In the early days it was called “Log Cabin Saloon.” Woodring and Kuhn owned the store on the northeast corner of Eldorado Avenue and 6th Street in the 1920s. When Kuhn died, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Woodring (she was Margaret) ran the store and Mrs. Woodring was the postmistress. After Mr. Woodring’s death Margaret had Mr. and Mrs. Hennessy run the store part for her and she continued to run the post office. (Clara Worthington became the postmistress when the post office moved across 6th Street to the “Hitchin’ Post” building and continued in that capacity for about 13 years.) Later the Olsens bought the store and they ran it for 8 years.

In 1958 the Cross family bought Log Cabin Corner from the Olsens. It was run by Allan and Arnold Cross and their parents, Isabel and Merrill Cross. They continued to run the store for the next 23 years until 1981. The Cross family was running the store before there was a supermarket in Nederland, and in those days most Eldora people drove to Boulder for supplies. The intent was to furnish a good enough line of merchandise so that fewer trips to Boulder were necessary.

The white building east of the store was once a restaurant called the “Bunny Hutch” and was owned by a lady famous for her baked goods. The Cross family bought it from the Ruggs and for a time rented apartments in this former restaurant.

Isabel Hansen Cross



Mrs. Margaret Woodring circa 1946
(O'Connor – Pierson Collection)

We went to pick up the mail inside the store (Log Cabin Corner) each day. Mrs. Woodring had a little room with a window she sat behind in the northwest corner of the store. Mike McCoy

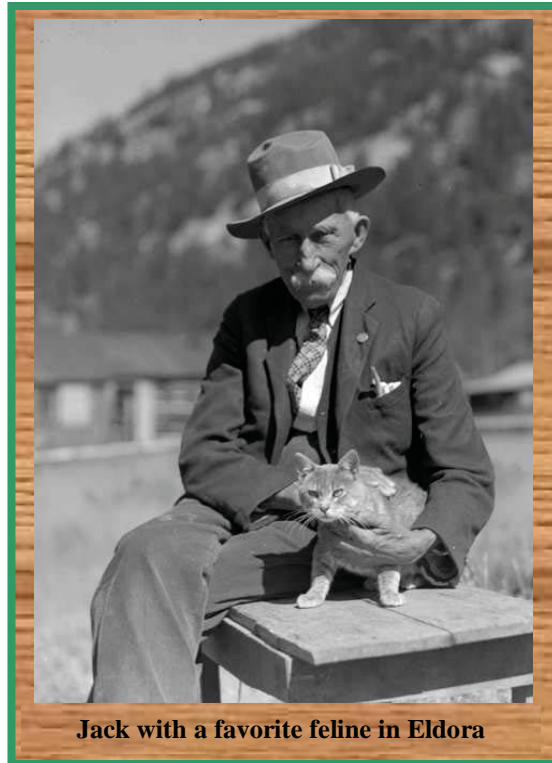
Memorable Eldora Characters: John A. Gilfillan

John A. Gilfillan arrived in the Valley late in the eighties. He was a member of a prominent St. Louis family; an educated man, a mining engineer of wide experience. He had prospected and engineered mining properties in many parts of the United States before coming to this section of the country.

Jack was a well-built six-footer; swarthy and raw-boned; slightly deaf and talked in a drawly low-modulated tone of voice. He was taciturn, almost unfriendly toward strangers, but with his friends he manifested a dry, sarcastic type of humor which brought many a laugh. He had built a cabin at the Clara Mine on Spencer Mountain, which mine he had located in 1889. In this cabin he and his partner lived while developing the mine. Besides the cabin at the Clara he had built another in Eldorado Camp near the center of the village. However, as the village developed into a town, incident to the Boom, Jack began to feel hemmed in and unhappy. Seemed as if the encroachments of civilization cramped his style. But he had a sentimental feeling toward the cozy little log cabin, in which he had spent many peaceful years. He would not abandon it to profane hands. So, carefully numbering each log, he had the structure dismantled and moved to a location on Eldorado Mountain where he could see his Clara Mine, his Mogul Tunnel (which he had helped promote and now managed), and rapidly growing Eldora. Here he stayed until about 1910, when he left the valley, married and engaged in farming near Platteville, Colorado.

Happy Valley: A Promoter's Paradise

By John Langley and Donald C. Kemp



Jack with a favorite feline in Eldora



An old anvil says "Peter Wright Patent."
A good anvil makes a clear ring when struck.

In the summer of 1889 a mining engineer, John A. (Jack) Gilfillan, who hailed from St. Louis, Missouri, came over from Caribou to examine the region for possible gold claims for interested friends. The mineral indications seemed impressive, to say nothing of the scenic beauty of the region, and Jack at once decided to make this his home. In a little hollow, high on Spencer Mountain, he and a partner named Dwinell staked the Clara Lode on June 7. Near the claim they built a log cabin to live in, set a log shafthouse over the mine, and fashioned a windlass to hoist ore and waste from the deepening shaft. Inside the structure, at one end, were a forge and anvil to sharpen drills, picks, and other mine tools.

At the foot of the mountain, across the creek from the Huron, Jack built another cabin. Its spacious single room was at once kitchen, dining room, and living room. The interior décor included pictures clipped from magazines, photographs of friends, and scenic views stuck in the meshes of a tennis court netting festooned from the ceiling logs. This cabin was his headquarters until building operations brought about by the boom began to crowd him; whereupon he carefully numbered each log, dismantled the cabin, and moved it to a few hundred yards north to a site on Eldorado Mountain. From here, seated on the tiny veranda, he could look down at Eldora, which he had helped create, and could see each shafthouse and tunnel on Spencer Mountain. On its rocky slope among the stark burned logs matted like a jumble of giant toothpicks – a monument to a long ago forest fire – the Clara shafthouse loomed more important to him than all of the others. At the foot of the mountain was his latest and most important enterprise, the great Mogul Tunnel. Its long white dump, daily increasing in size as it fanned outward from the portal, formed the center of interest in the sprawling, formless pattern of Eldora town.

Silver, Gold and Black Iron by Donald C. Kemp

Crowley Lode Cabin – 490 Fourth of July Road

By Henry C. Tiberi



The cabin is perched above the road near the Hessian Y.

The cabin was designated a historic landmark by Boulder County on April 28, 2011 and I am working on restoring it – more like rebuilding it. I've restored a few houses in the past. This is particularly challenging trying to balance what is left of the cabin from the late 1800s with making it functional and being sensitive to the historic aspects. Like all projects of this nature, I am at the point where I am wondering why I did not just scrape it – but, when it is done I am sure I will be glad I stuck it out.

I don't have much history on the cabin itself. I found an 1898 Plat that appears to be the first survey – completed for the eventual patent. Other information I gleaned from the chain of title:

The Crowley lode was discovered and registered in the winter of 1898. [Location Certificate No. 13087, dated March 25, 1898]. The property was later surveyed in 1901 and patented by the United States of America under Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 [Mineral Survey 15189]. The original patent holders were Tim Crowley and W.J. Meikleham. Crowley seems to be lost to history. Meikleham was a Denver businessman, the owner of the Homestead Bread and Investment Company where he had more than 50 people employed in his Denver bakery. He was known to embark in mining in Cripple Creek as well as Eldora.

Given the condition of the logs, it appears that the cabin is sitting on its original footprint. The bottom row of logs was completely rotted as was much of the second row and in some places even the third course.

By the way, I intend to keep the property and someday pass it down to my kids. I've named it "Hi-View Hideout." Hi-View is the name of the street I grew up on in an idyllic small town in Western New York. However, the historic Crowley Lode name is fine with me. Does anybody know who Crowley was?

The major work to date has been to excavate the foundation, which involved moving a lot of dirt. Once that was complete the rotten logs were dug out, replaced with cribbing, and new logs then installed around the perimeter. Marion Reynolds of Nederland helped me with lifting the cabin and the technical aspects related to replacing the logs. Marion was great to get to know and work with.

Next, I need to repair/replace the floor and the roof. After that will be chinking - I am looking for help. It is hard work. It is now easy for me to imagine how hard life was as a miner/settler...and I have better machinery and a hot shower and comfortable bed in Golden.

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The Eldora Land Preservation Fund savings account at Mutual of Omaha Bank in Nederland, Colorado was established in 1996. It receives donations without the benefit of tax deductions.

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The BCPOS Foundation/Eldora Land Preservation Fund is managed by Boulder County Parks and Open Space Foundation as a 501c3 organization, which means that donations to the Foundation are tax deductible. The ELPF account within the Foundation is solely for the purpose of land purchases in the Eldora area. It offers Eldora residents who want to deduct donations from their taxes a way of doing that. The BCPOS Foundation/ ELPF account was formed as a way to encourage larger tax-deductible donations.



▲ On the left is the promontory ECA helped purchase for open space.



**Bull Moose in Marysville Gulch
Photo by Skip Dugan**

Editor Farewell



Dear Eldora Friends,

After serving the past four years as Eldora High Country newsletter editor, I will be stepping down after this issue. It has taken a lot of work and time to publish the newsletter, and I have enjoyed doing it. But now I need a break and hope a fresh new face will come forward to carry on the work and add a new perspective to Eldora news.

To those of you who have been so very helpful in contributing articles, photographs and information I am very grateful. The names are many and I will not list them in case I leave someone out. I could not have done the job without you, and you know who you are.

This issue of the Eldora High Country is dedicated to someone who loved Eldora and had a long family history in the valley. Virginia (Jinny) Jones Kent left us in May 2012. She was a wonderful, nurturing neighbor. She served on the ECA Board and was Eldora historian for a number of years. Her sons Chris and Michael will care for the family cabin she dearly loved. Her spirit will dwell in these mountains where she so often hiked.

I hope to see many of you at Eldora gatherings and doing whatever you love to do in our beautiful Happy Valley.

Diane Brown

Plant Growing on Sulphide Flats
Attracts Attention of Professor;
Named ELDORA
Article from the *Nederland Bugle*
July 1967



Dianthus deltooides by Audrey Godell

An escapee from some pioneer garden has been planted across the entire northern Great Plains. Preliminary trials have indicated that this plant has much value as a ground cover plant and that it may have use as a highway beautification plant.

On the basis of the preliminary trials this little occupant of Sulphide Flats, located about 1½ miles east of Eldora, is now becoming an addition to the list of ground cover plants for the northern plains.

This rediscovered “pink” appears to be *Dianthus deltooides*, a native of Northern Eurasia. There are differences in appearance that may be the result of many years of natural selection on Sulphide Flats. The plant hugs the ground a little closer than the strains in the nursery catalogs. Its years in the Colorado Rockies appear to have resulted in a hardier strain. This is the “Maiden Pink” of grandmother’s garden.

It would be nice to know who brought the original plants to Eldora. It almost certainly was one of the early settlers of this community, someone who wanted something of the eastern garden in her new home in the hills.

The *Dianthus*, which has now been named ELDORA by the University of Nebraska and the USDA Office of Plant Introduction, was found by Mrs. M. F. (Gail) Shickley of Marysville and North Platte, Nebraska.

Mrs. Shickley brought the plant to the attention of Professor Glenn Viehmeyer, horticulturalist at the North Platte Experimentation Station of the University of Nebraska. In late summer 1962 Professor Viehmeyer collected a small lot of seed from plants on Sulphide Flats. This seed was planted at North Platte to become the basis of the new strain.

Thus another native of the Rockies has moved into a place in horticulture. By its name it commemorates the little town and the unknown pioneer woman who loved plants enough to bring this one to the hills.

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The following organizations receive a complimentary copy of our newsletter:
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Boulder County Parks & Open Space
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Moss Campion by Dave Hallock

Please pay 2012-13 dues by September 1, 2012! (ECA fiscal year runs from 9-1 to 8-31.)

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