

ELDORA HIGH COUNTRY©

Newsletter of the Eldora Civic Association

July 2009

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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 a reasonable balance between preservation and the use of the natural environment in the Eldora area.

Wildflowers are the earth's version of the stars in heaven.

Wild Iris in a Wet Meadow on Arapaho Ranch⇒ and at 8th Street Eldora, Colorado⇩



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Photos by
Diane J. Brown

Calendar of Events for Summer 2009:

Wednesday, July 8 at 6:30 PM – Community Meeting #2 at the Eldora Fire Station
Thursday, July 9 – Last day to join ECA for August voting privileges
Saturday, July 11 at 2:00 PM – Annual ECA Business Meeting at the Eldora Fire Station
(Deadline for nominations to the ECA Board)
Wednesday, July 22, 2009 from 7 to 9:00 – Dark Skies Presentation at Fishers (1195 Eldorado)
Saturday, July 25 from 9 to 3 – Eldora Community Yard Sale at the Eldora Fire Station
Thursday, July 30 at 6:30 PM – Community Meeting #3 at Nederland Community Center
Friday, August 7 at 5:00 PM – Eldora Night at the Pioneer Inn (Call Ted at 303-258-7273)
Wednesday, August 12 at 7:00 PM – Eldora History Night at the Eldora Fire Station
Saturday, August 15 from 12 to 2 PM – Eldora Town Picnic at the Boltons (502 Eldorado)
Wednesday, August 19 – Planning Commission Hearing
Saturday, August 22 at 2:00 PM – Annual ECA Members Meeting at Donahues (1075 Eldorado)
Friday, September 4 at 5:00 PM – Eldora Night at the Pioneer Inn (Call Ted at 303-258-7273)

Please bring your own lawn chairs to all meetings at the Eldora Fire Station and to the Eldora picnic! 😊



The center of Eldora near 6th Street and Eldorado Avenue showing the Goldminer Hotel on the left and the Fire Station on the right.

Photo by Diane Brown

July 2009 President's Letter: The Greening of Eldora
By Diane J. Brown

Eldora has its share of green in its natural surroundings, but the green we need to improve upon is in our older buildings that were constructed long before the idea of green building concepts came into vogue. Boulder County is requiring newly constructed homes to conform to green building codes, but many, if not most, of the old historic cabins in Eldora are woefully lacking in energy efficiency. They were crafted in an era when insulation was perhaps a layer of newspaper in the walls and the attics were mere wooden rafters. This may have worked for seasonal cabins, but for year round occupancy, it meant a lot of lost heat in the cold, windy winters, and now with warmer climatic conditions, these uninsulated cabins may get uncomfortably warm in the summertime.

Electrical wiring was often the work of a handyman not well trained in the electrical trade. Put that together with poorly sealed foundations and you have a recipe for rodent damage to wiring that can cause a dangerous house fire. Outdoor electrical lighting was usually a socket with a bare bulb glaring into the night, instead of the downlit fixtures that are now required.

Windows in older cabins are typically single pane glass, so antique that you can see bubbles in the glass. When the winter winds blows hard, they whistle and groan, letting in cold air. One can only wonder how old timers kept a candle lit with the gusts that hit the west side of their cabins.

Water is one of our most precious resources in Eldora. It is sweet, pure and a pleasure to drink. It makes our hair shine and our skin glow. As a community we need to protect our stream, its tributaries and the snow pack from depletion and pollution. We can conserve water by using it wisely. Low flow showerheads and toilets save lots of water. Native and xeriscape vegetation reduce outdoor use of water. Trees and shrubs shade the stream and ground so the water does not warm and evaporate so quickly. We need to be diligent in keeping our wastewater systems functioning properly.

Most Eldora cabins are heated with propane or wood stoves or a combination of the two. Newer stoves are much more energy efficient and safer than the antique stoves of yesteryear.

On the south facing side of our valley the potential for solar panels is particularly promising as a renewable source of energy. Wind turbines could also be a reliable source of energy, especially in the winter; however the turbines need to be 70 feet tall or 30 feet above trees and buildings in order to reach strong, steady streams of air, and they can be noisy.

Why is there growing pressure for us to conserve and be "green thinking?" One question we homo sapiens seem reluctant to face is the sheer size of our population. One hundred years ago Planet Earth supported 1.5 billion human beings; today it supports 6 billion and in many parts of the world the situation is dire. In 1909 the U. S. population was 90,490,000; one hundred years later it is 306,000,000. Human population growth seems to show no signs of slowing and this is a problem for every form of life on the planet, including ourselves, our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We all need to be thinking of ways we can reduce our use of energy and resources as our population continues to grow and resources dwindle. By not acting now we are borrowing from the next generation's future and shifting the burden of problems we are creating to them.

ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Minutes for Board Meeting

May 14, 2009

President Diane Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and read mission statement. Four Board members participated which qualified for a quorum: Diane, Audrey, and Matt were present at Diane's house, and Mike by phone. Everett was absent.

Minutes for the 3/12/09 Board Meeting had been approved via email prior to the meeting.

Financial Report as of 5/14 (Audrey, Treasurer): ECA checking account balance is \$2029.36. Expenses since 3/12 amounted to \$975 including \$825.50 for newsletter reimbursements to Jeanne McCleery, and \$124.70 for 3/12 Board Meeting conference call expenses. Dues paid since 3/12 totaled \$60.

Formal Motions: The following motions were passed unanimously by the Board:

- 1) The July membership survey will be sent to ECA members only, including full and associate members.
- 2) In order to keep the ECA member database secure, the ECA Secretary/Treasurer and the President should be the only ECA members that have possession of the database. Any Board member sending a communication to ECA members shall send it through the Secretary/Treasurer.
- 3) There will be a 5-minute limit per person for reports and presentations at meetings in order to keep meetings to no more than 2 hours in duration. Group can vote for an extension on 5-minute limit.
- 4) The following annual rates for 2009/2010 membership dues were approved by a unanimous vote of Board members present. These rates are based upon the type of newsletter format the member wants to receive:
 - a. Electronic newsletter: Full Members \$30, Associate Members \$15
 - b. Black and White Hard Copy: Full Members \$45, Associate Members \$30
 - c. Color Hard Copy: Full Members \$75, Associate Members \$60

Committee Reports:

- EEPP – A Membership Survey must be conducted to ascertain whether EEPP will be updated. In 2008 Boulder County had communicated to Dave Hallock that \$4000 would be available. At this time there needs to be a commitment from ECA. The EEPP is a technical document. One goal of the update would be to achieve more current recommendations. The updated document would be voted on by the membership and if approved the ECA would take the updated recommendations to Boulder County. The topics that need updating include: 1) **Social/Economic Setting** based on 2009 membership survey results, 2) **Minerals** now that the mine has been closed, 3) **Hydrology** including incorporating new data supplied by Boulder Watershed Project and Boulder County test sites, 4) **Plants and Plant Communities** to include Pine Beetle infestation and effects of spraying, and a baseline assessment of riparian habitat along Middle Boulder Creek, 5) **Wildlife** to include presence of moose and updated abundance data for other plants and animals, 6) **Cultural** to include results from Landmark program and County architectural survey, 7) **Recreational Land Use** to include impacts of ski area, Indian Peaks Wilderness, Nederland/Eldora trail, land newly acquired by the County on Spencer Mountain. Also included would be information about new Boulder County Land Use regulations. Dave will be doing fieldwork on the County's newly acquired properties on Spencer Mountain this summer, which would be included in the EEPP update. However, most of the EEPP update would involve information gathering from completed studies as opposed to original fieldwork.
- Eldora Land Preservation Fund – Current balance is \$15,011.21. Costs for fundraising products include: new vests at \$647.31 (six vests have already been sold), new note cards based on a series of Ted Warren's paintings at \$500, and coverlets at \$1350. Matt will be building birdhouses from untreated scrap lumber, proceeds of which will go to the ELPF.
- Eldora High Country Newsletter – July 1 deadline for next newsletter. Matt will write an article on BuildSmart and the new green building code.
- Social Committee - The social committee will be posting signs in town for upcoming events. One of these upcoming events is the Annual Business Meeting July 11 at Fire Station - Everett/Matt will open Fire Station and obtain a long table for Board members. Attendees should bring lawn chairs to sit on. Primary purpose for meeting:
 - Set the agenda for the August 22, 2009 Annual Meeting
 - Determine voting members entitled to notice of, and to vote at, Annual Meeting
 - Nominate directors for election to the Board of 2009-10 (replacing Mike & Matt)
 - Set Annual Dues for fiscal year 2009-10
- Public Lands Committee – Matt reported on the 747 townsites planning meeting that he recently attended in Allenspark. These meetings occur every other week at the Allenspark fire station. The 747 group is a coalition of the townsites of Riverside/Raymond, Allenspark, and the Peak to Peak Corridor. Their Survey Committee wrote and sent out their survey to residents in these townsites. They are using survey results software that enables tracking demographics along with opinions. There has been a 33% response rate to the survey.

- Transportation – Hessie Parking lot seems to be on hold for now.

Unfinished Business:

- Membership Survey: To be sent out at beginning of July in separate mailing, due back August 1. The Board will meet June 5 at 6:00 pm at Diane’s house to discuss and write survey.
- Audrey has found the embosser, which is needed for the Board election.
- Audrey downloaded IRS form 990 EZ. She will call the IRS to get details on what is needed to file this non-profit income tax form, which should have been filed in September 2008. ECA does not owe money, however, since we did not make over \$25,000.

New Business:

- Members are welcome to attend Board meetings but if they attend by teleconference we may have to request that they contribute to the teleconference expense if the cost becomes prohibitive.
- Board members need to call ahead of time if they cannot attend a Board meeting.
- The Board concluded that we have a mandate from the membership to persuade the ski area not to spray carbaryl.
- The Board discussed meeting with the ski area as a Board to introduce ourselves and show interest in what they are doing including the issue of trash blowing east from the ski area and to voice our concerns about the ski area spraying carbaryl.
- Audrey to find informational papers on carbaryl and send to the Board members for approval to include in the next newsletter.
- All motions, especially lengthy ones, will be written down and handed to Diane for reading to the Board prior to voting. Audrey will use this text for recording in the minutes. This will insure accuracy of intent.
- Audrey and Matt will organize a Board “tour” of streets/alleys that would logically be protected from being vacated. The intent is to look at the approximate location of these ROWs from legal public roadways such as Eldorado and Bryan Avenues.
- Diane will compare our liability insurance policy for better rates.

The Board will hold a special meeting on June 5 at 6:00 pm at Diane’s house to discuss and write a Membership Survey.

The next regular Board meeting will take place at the Fire Station on July 11 at 2:00 pm for the Annual Business Meeting.



Shooting Stars



Wood’s Rose



Rock Solid Comfort

Nature is satisfied with little, and if she is, so am I. Spinoza



Mountain Ball Cactus



Elephantella

Photos by Diane J. Brown



Photo by Diane Brown



Photo by Audrey Godell



Photo by Diane Brown

“So what part of SLOW DOWN don’t you understand?”

Boulder County Comprehensive Plan: Transportation Element Update

Boulder County has started the process of updating the Transportation Element of the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan, which establishes countywide goals for our transportation system and provides overall policy direction for system design, operations, and maintenance.

The goals and policies in the Transportation Element apply to all transportation facilities within unincorporated Boulder County. This includes roads, transit, trails and pedestrian facilities as well as Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs such as the popular Eco Pass program. The update will have a strong emphasis on increasing the ease and efficiency of moving people and connecting communities in and around the County.

Since the last Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element update in 1995, Boulder County’s population has grown, climate change has risen to the forefront of the environmental movement, global petroleum production has peaked, active living has decreased among adults and children and the cost of new construction has skyrocketed.

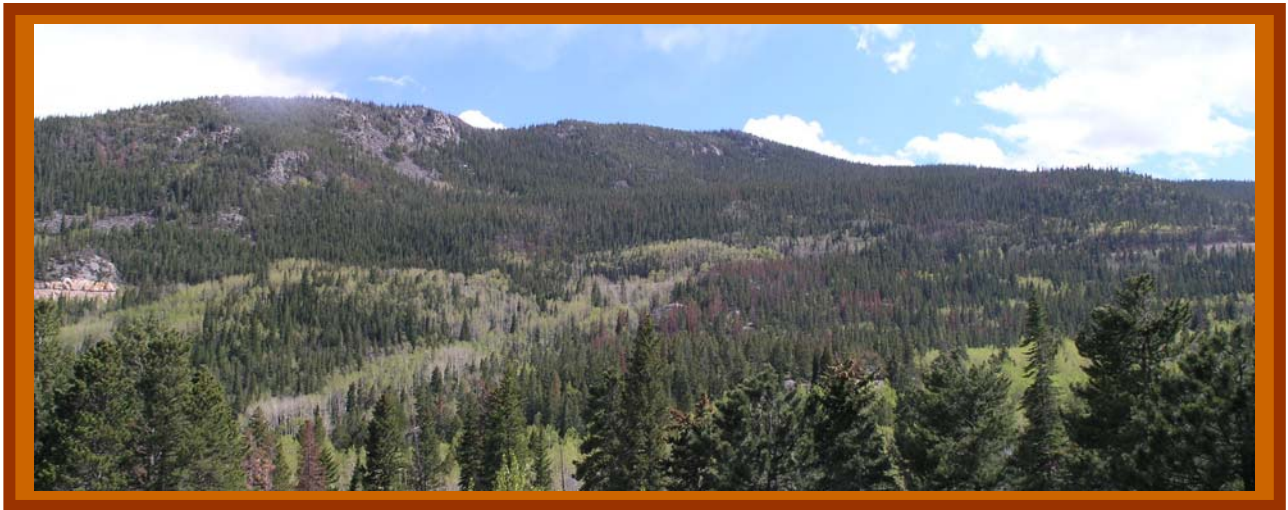
The 2009 update of the Transportation Element aims to address these issues and to examine how transportation can help us achieve the goals set forth in Boulder County’s sustainability initiative and the countywide Sustainable Energy Plan.

For example, vehicle transportation is the third-largest sector contributing to Boulder County’s Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. In order to help the County achieve its overall GHG reduction goal, the update will consider how to reduce the number of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) each day in the County. In 2005, Boulder County had over five and one half million VMT per day, according to the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG).

The public plays a key role and is invited to participate throughout the update process through opportunities such as open houses, outreach by Transportation staff, stakeholder groups and Planning Commission meetings.

For more information, visit www.bouldercounty.org/transportation and click on the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan links.

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE (MPB) TREATMENT OPTIONS: Problems and Alternatives



Tennessee Mountain with evidence of beetle kill

Photo by Diane J. Brown

You will never get the honest truth about any pesticide because government and industry work to cloud reality when sales are in the billions of dollars. It has been miraculous that we ever got the truth on the table about smoking. Michael McCoy

Pesticide Risks

According to the World Health Organization, more than 3 million people get sick and 220,000 die worldwide from pesticides each year. In the U.S. alone, pesticides poison 110,000 people each year. Experts believe that such incidents are greatly underreported, often being misdiagnosed.

High Risk Groups

Those at greatest risk of being adversely affected by pesticides include pregnant women and their fetuses, young children, the elderly, the chemically-sensitive, and those with other chronic health problems such as asthma, heart disease, liver and kidney problems, or compromised immune systems. Other factors such as small body size and genetics can increase ones vulnerability as well.

Safety Testing

- The very small amount of safety testing conducted on humans is done primarily on healthy young male adults, not on those who are most likely to show adverse effects from pesticide exposure. Moreover, these tests are typically done to assess acute effects, not the effects of low dose, chronic long-term exposure, which is much more widespread.
- The issue of synergism is likewise largely ignored in safety testing. Synergism is the process whereby the effects of exposure to 2 or more chemicals close to the same time can combine to greatly increase the toxic effect of either one (for example the combined exposure of a common ulcer medication and a common herbicide). Synergism can increase the toxicity of a pesticide by up to 4,000%.
- The small amount of safety testing that is required for a pesticide to be registered with the EPA primarily is done either by the manufacturers themselves or laboratories contracted by the manufacturers, not the EPA. This is clearly a case of the fox guarding the chicken coop! In fact, several large pesticide manufacturers have been indicted for falsifying safety data.
- The inadequacy of the present system for safety testing, registering, and regulating a pesticide has created a situation in which the public, in effect, is used as the final group of research subjects. We have seen, time and time again, commonly used pesticides previously claimed to be "safe" finally pulled off the market after decades of irrevocable harm having been done to people and the environment.

Chronic Low-dose exposure

- Low-dose, long-term exposure to pesticides has been linked to various forms of cancer (breast, prostate, childhood leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and more) as well as to asthma, learning disorders, sleep problems, hyperactivity, mood disorders, and sensitization to chemicals and allergens.

Drift

- In a 2002 study, nearly half of the reported pesticide illness cases in California were the result of pesticide drift. **Every spray application of pesticides involves some degree of drift.** Drift from tree spraying can be significant and, once airborne, small droplets and vapor can travel for many miles.
- Studies done by the state of California found that air concentrations of pesticides peaked between 8 and 24 hours after pesticides were applied, with concentrations declining over several days to several weeks. As a result, for 45% of applications that were monitored, most drift occurred long after application. Clearly, unless there is a guarantee of no wind both during and for an extended period after application, there can be no guarantee of preventing off-site drift.
- Once a pesticide enters a home, either through open windows or various cracks and gaps, it then takes much longer to break down. For example, the half-life of carbaryl outdoors is an estimated 1-75 days, while indoors it is estimated at 120 days or more (at PH5 at 75⁰F it can persist for up to 1500 days). At 120 days it would take 22 months for the carbaryl to degrade to 3% of its original toxicity.

Effect on non-target species

- Most pesticides are broad-spectrum in nature and simply cannot tell the difference between an unwanted pest and a beneficial insect, an endangered species, a beloved pet, or a human being. It is estimated that over 90% of applied pesticides never reach their target pests, but land, drift, leach, and runoff elsewhere risking harm to other species. Their use is, at best, only minimally effective in the overall control of pests, but can significantly reduce biodiversity in sensitive ecosystems, creating unintended and sometimes long-term imbalances. This is of particular concern regarding honeybees, which are highly sensitive to both carbaryl and permethrin. The bee population, upon which both our food supply and our native flora depend, is already in a state of alarming decline.

Water contamination

- Since the escalation of the mountain pine beetle infestation in Colorado and the subsequent increase in tree spraying, carbaryl has been found contaminating municipal water supplies in Grand County as well as other areas. This not only poses a potential threat to human health, but one to fish as well. One study found low levels of carbaryl to be lethal to 100% of a sample population of aquatic stoneflies, a primary food source for trout.

Safer Alternative

1. Pheromone packets (Beetle Blocktm)

These contain verbenone, a synthetic pheromone. Hung in trees, they signal approaching beetles that these trees are already infested, and they go elsewhere. It is considered safe for people, pets, and the environment. It is applied in a grid pattern (not on every tree) of 20-50 packets per forested acre. The packets need to be placed on trees before the beetles fly in early summer. Beetle Block has been most successful when used as part of an overall plan to thin forests and remove infested trees, and when used in forests that are less than 20 percent infested (synthetic pesticides also begin to drop in efficacy as infestation levels increase). In 3-year tests in Montana, the packets successfully protected trees from MPB. In another study, mass attack was reduced to an average of 3.6 percent; in untreated areas, 48.3 percent of trees were mass attacked. In 2005 the Bark Beetle Technical Working Group, which consists of U.S. and Canadian entomologists, many of whom work for the U.S. Forest Service, state agencies, and various universities, stated that verbenone was effective in protecting trees in many instances from MPB.

Banff National Park (Canada) has an integrated MPB plan that uses no pesticides. Their policy;

1. Native insects and diseases are natural ecological processes that should be allowed to proceed without interference if possible.

2. Where insects or disease pose a serious threat to provincial lands, intervention may occur, provided that it is effective and **does not damage the park ecosystem**.

They successfully limit MPB damage by a combination of cutting, prescribed burning, and pheromones.

2. Preventive Land Management

- Minimize damage through thinning, promptly cutting and removing infected trees, and proactively replanting a diverse selection of disease-resistant, drought tolerant tree species.
- Water trees three to four times a month during the warmer months of spring and summer. Use a drip irrigation system or soaker hose (if legal where you live) to avoid wasting water. Place drip emitters away from the trunk of the tree, to better reach roots. Water at least once a month during the winter.
- Place a layer of mulch around the tree to cool the soil and conserve water, but keep mulch away from the trunk of the tree.
- Remove weeds and other competitive vegetation around trees to ensure efficient water usage.. To further conserve water, only apply during evening or early morning hours to avoid the heat of the day.
- Do not use nitrogen fertilizer; nitrogen fertilizer can increase tree stress; add a bit of calcium and manganese instead

3. Injectable, I.V. - delivered pesticide (Arborjet™)

A company is seeking approval in Colorado for a system that already has been approved and successfully used in other states. Although it does use toxic pesticides, its delivery system greatly reduces risk to the environment, kills both insect and larvae (sprays do not), is effective for up to 5 years from a single application, and eliminates the threat of drift altogether. It might be available in CO for next year.

4. Acceptance:

The consensus among experts, including U.S. and state forestry officials, Canadian forestry officials, and university researchers, is that the current MPB infestation is both a natural, recurring phenomenon and one that is unstoppable regardless of how much pesticide spraying is done. It is also generally agreed that the current heavy losses are due partly to decades of fire suppression resulting in overcrowded, weakened trees. Once the MPB problem has run its course our new forests eventually will be more diverse, healthier, and more beautiful than ever.

Carbaryl, commonly used for MPB control, has already been banned in Austria, Angola, Germany, and Sweden, and increasingly restricted in many others due to concerns regarding excessive risk to human health and the environment. With the present system of pesticide use being described as a "Faustian bargain"---short-term gain at the expense of long-term tragedy, should we be risking the health of our families and our neighbors to fight an unwinnable battle against a natural process?

The answer to the problems associated with carbaryl use is not simply to choose different synthetic chemical pesticides. Permethrin, which is also commonly used to control the pine beetle, carries risks very similar to those of carbaryl. The toxicity of permethrin often is misrepresented by being described as merely a synthetic version of pyrethrum, a natural substance found in the chrysanthemum flower. In truth permethrin is a potent neurotoxin that, in chemical structure, bears a closer resemblance to DDT than it does to its natural precursor, pyrethrum.

Human health effects

(some of these are seen at very low doses)

	<u>carbaryl</u>	<u>permethrin</u>		
neurotoxic	x	x	Carbaryl causes tumors in mice.	
carcinogenic	x	x		
mutagenic & teratogenic	x			
acetylcholinesterase inhibition	x	x		
endocrine disruption	x			suspected
immune system damage	x	x		
kidney damage	x	x		

liver damage		x	x
reproductive system damage		x	x
behavioral disturbances	x		x
harmful respiratory effects	x		
increased risk of heart attack		x	
sensitization		x	x
impairs thyroid gland		x	
impairs pituitary gland	x		
<u>Environmental effects</u>			
toxic to honeybees		x (highly!)	x
toxic to aquatic insects	x		x
toxic to fish		x	x
toxic to birds			x
found in groundwater		x	x
found in surface water	x		x
found in rain water		x	



↑ Pitch tubes on lodgepole pine

Note on bifenthrin:

This is another pesticide that commonly is used on mountain pine beetles. There is far less safety data available for this chemical than for carbaryl or permethrin, particularly on human health effects. However, it is a synthetic pyrethroid, as is permethrin, and appears to have similar characteristics both in terms of its environmental fate and its health effects on wildlife and research animals.

Links to more information

From Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP:

1. Letter to cancel carbaryl and revoke all tolerances for it, from the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC). See links to the right of the listing for the active ingredient carbaryl.

2. Factsheets on carbaryl and permethrin

3. Well researched article on the issue of pesticide drift

- <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/gateway/>

EPA Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) for carbaryl (2007), which the EPA finally completed after having been sued by the NRDC (see www.nrdc.org/media/2007/070228.asp):

- www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/carbaryl_red.pdf
- <http://www.nrdc.org/media/2007/070228.asp>

Factsheets on carbaryl and permethrin from the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides/NCAP:

- <http://www.pesticide.org/carbaryl.pdf>

Health Canada's fact sheet on carbaryl (1991)L which Health Canada says can last up to 1500 days:

- <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/carbaryl/index/e.html>

Banff National Park of Canada: They are ONLY burning, thinning, taking out infested trees, and using pheromones:

- http://parcsCanada.pch.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/banff/plan/plan14_E.asp

EPA Fact sheet on verbenone:

http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/biopesticides/ingredients/factsheets/factsheet_128986.htm

2005 Bark Beetle Technical Working Group:

- <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/f1d/pubsweb/bbtwg/bbtwg2005.pdf>
- <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/f1d/pubsweb/bbtwg.shtml>

Article by Chris Weeber on Mountain Pine Beetles

- www.rmeha.org

Sources for this information

Primary sources for this information include the World Health Organization, EPA documents, manufacturer's materials safety data sheets (MSDS), various state and federal agencies, Canadian agencies, university studies, the National Cancer Institute and other non-profit foundations, scientific journals, agricultural trade journals, and an article by Chris Weeber.

The public's aggregate exposure to carbaryl from foods, drinking water and direct contact "fills the risk cup" according to a 2004 EPA fact sheet.

A Look at Nature
“A Fungus Among Us”
by David H. Hallock

Amphibians (toads, frogs and salamanders) are some of the more secretive animals of our area. Often, they are more easily heard than seen. Many amphibian species are unique to the animal kingdom because they metamorphose from a water-breathing tadpole to an air-breathing adult. Hence, the presence of freshwater ponds and wetlands is vital for their breeding and feeding functions. And they appear to be important indicators of biological change: of the over 3,000 New World amphibian species, 39% are threatened with extinction. Our local amphibians have not escaped this trend.



Western Chorus Frog by Lauren J. Livo

Probably our most common amphibian is the Western chorus frog. They are best known not by sight but by sound, as their name implies. A stuttering “preep” call, similar to the sound made by running your thumb over the teeth of a comb, can be heard around ponds and wetlands starting in spring. But if you make your presence too obvious, the chorus will come to a halt. They certainly are shy for being so loud! Their populations often consist of colonies that range in size from a few dozen to over 36,000. If you take the time to try and observe them, note that their coloration is highly variable, from green, brown or reddish and having either stripes or spots.

Tiger salamanders breed in ponds and lakes. They tend to resemble a slimy lizard, having four feet and a tail. Their name comes from one of their color patterns, black with yellowish bars or spots, but color patterns can be highly variable, even for salamanders from the same pond. While they are occasionally observed today, historic accounts seem to imply more encounters in earlier times in the valley. Throughout Colorado they remain easy to find. But there have been local declines thought to be caused by the introduction of trout, which readily consume salamander larvae. One study in Rocky Mountain National Park found that trout and tiger salamanders rarely occur together.



Tiger Salamander
by Lauren J. Livo and Steve Wilcox

Northern leopard frogs are considered a species of concern in Colorado due to population declines. They are colored green or brown with large rounded or oval spots, which are darker in color, and they make a prolonged snore followed by several series of stuttering croaks during breeding season. They were once considered common in Colorado, and there was an historic population at Lake Eldora, but their numbers have declined and have not been found locally in awhile.



Boreal Toad by Lauren J. Livo



Northern Leopard Frog by Lauren J. Livo

Boreal toads are considered an endangered species in Colorado, also due to declining populations. They appear very warty, with large oval glands behind the eyes and often a light stripe along the middle of the back. They are the least vocal of our local frogs and toads, only occasionally making a chirping sound if handled. Historically, local populations were known from Buckeye Basin (up by the ski area) and Lost Lake. An effort to reintroduce them into Lost Lake began in the mid-1990s with the release of thousands of metamorphs and tadpoles over a two-year period. While some overwintered the initial release, there has been no evidence of breeding. Currently, none have been seen in Lost Lake, but they could be present in other wetlands and lakes nearby. If you happen to see a boreal toad or northern leopard frog in the mountains of Boulder County, consider reporting the observation to the Division of Wildlife's Herpetofaunal Atlas (<http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/herpatlas/coherpatlas/>).

The decline of boreal toads likely began in the early 1970s. They were widespread and common in western Boulder County in the 1960s but scarce by the end of the 70s. While theories as to the cause of the decline abounded, the likely culprit was only discovered about ten years ago. The chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (commonly called Bd) causes the disease chytridiomycosis, which has devastated amphibian populations on several continents, including ours. The fungus has provisionally been traced to Africa, where it was found in specimens of clawed frogs dating from the late 1930s. For a period of time these frogs were used in international trade for pregnancy testing, and some were inadvertently released into the wild. This provided a possible opportunity to establish the disease in our native amphibians. The fungus, which infects the skin, is not fatal to all amphibians, but is having an adverse impact on boreal toads.

Two other factors may be helping the fungus. The first is climate change. Mountain temperatures are warming and shifting toward the growth optimum for the fungus, thus encouraging outbreaks. The second is the use of pesticides. One study showed that the pesticide carbaryl (currently being used locally to combat mountain pine beetles) increased the susceptibility of frogs to chytridiomycosis by weakening their immune system.

If you have more interest in amphibians, a great reference book is *Amphibians and Reptiles in Colorado* by Geoffrey A. Hammerson (University Press of Colorado and Colorado Division of Wildlife).

(Special thanks to Lauren Livo for help with this article. Lauren has been studying amphibians for over 30 years and is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Colorado. Her family has a cabin up the North Fork.)

The Forces of Change

By Diane J. Brown

View of the Continental Divide



djb

If there is a climatic shift, then a new ecological community may replace the existing forest. Plants adapted to a hotter, drier environment may replace those adapted to the current climatic conditions. The north exposed slopes today may look more like those with a southern exposure. Or Spencer Mountain may look more like Eldorado Mountain. No one really knows, but there are changes like this taking place in southwestern Colorado. Mike McCoy

We are currently experiencing a time of dynamic change in the forest ecology around us. The palette of the forest we have known for the past few decades is transitioning from coniferous green to rusty brown. As humans we tend to want to keep our surroundings constant, but nature is a force of her own, ever creating and recreating.

The four B's of forest ecology are actively transforming and renewing the forest: beetles, beaver, blister rust and blow down. The beetles are taking advantage of a drought cycle when the trees in marginal areas are unable to defend themselves by pitching the beetles out with pinesap. The trees being attacked are medium to large sized and have thick bark for beetle larvae to live under. Pine trees (limber, ponderosa and lodgepole) are primary targets. This is a natural process that occurs in regular cycles. The species are not in danger of disappearing as a whole; if you look, you can see the new forest to come emerging as tiny pine trees. One day after we are long gone, the forest will once again look the same way we remember it.

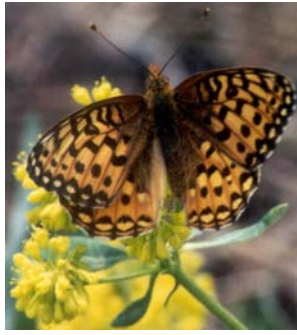
Beaver have been very active in Happy Valley in the past few years. As you drive along the main road into Eldora, there is evidence of beaver activity everywhere along Middle Boulder Creek. Their favorite food and lodge building material is aspen. They cannot go too far from water because of predators, so the aspen that grow higher up and away from the stream are safe. The beaver have been quite successful in damming the creek in several places, which raises the water level enough to submerge the root systems of spruce trees, thus killing them. However, the significant wetlands that beavers create are more than an equal trade of resources. Moose, ducks, fish and frogs benefit from beaver work.



Eldora's proximity to the Continental Divide makes it a wind vortex in the winter. The powerful winds cause trees to lean eastward and loose the branches on their west side in some locations. The wind can set a coniferous tree's branches to twisting violently, ripping them off. Conifer trees with low branches anchor them in the deep snow for protection from the wind. Trees with no branches on the lower part of the tree are much more vulnerable to wind twisting. An older tree with a weak spot from trunk rot may snap from the gale force of the wind. Thinned forests are quite vulnerable to windfall.

As one type of forest subsides due to natural causes, another type comes to the fore. The mountain slopes we remember as being solid green with conifers may be replaced with a new forest of aspen and shrub understory. Unfortunately we do not get instant gratification in this process, for it may take many years for the emerging forest to mature. Nature has her ways and we can only be patient, sit back and marvel at the evolution of a fresh new forest.

Happy Valley Happenings



Photos by Diane J. Brown

Eldora Endemics: The Buckwheats

The buckwheats belong to the family *Polygonaceae* and the genus *Eriogonum*. They are North American endemics, most of which occur in the West. It is surmised that they originated 5 to 20 million years ago when climates were drying out and grasslands were expanding. They diversified rapidly during the time period 5 million to 10,000 years ago.

Most of the buckwheat species are drought tolerant, which has contributed to their success in the arid and semi-arid West. Most buckwheats are local endemics, meaning that individual species have very small ranges.

In Eldora we have only two species of buckwheat:

Eriogonum umbellatum – Sulphurflower (photo)

Eriogonum subalpinum – Subalpine Buckwheat

The flowers of sulphurflower are, as the name implies, a bright showy yellow. This plant is very common on dry, rocky hillsides from the foothills to the subalpine zone.

The flowers of subalpine buckwheat are cream-colored, becoming rose-colored with age. Subalpine buckwheat is found on dry hillsides and rocky meadows of the subalpine zone.

The small ranges of many buckwheats have led to some interesting interactions with the butterflies associated with them. The blue or buckwheat blues butterflies that lay their eggs in buckwheat flowers must time their reproduction, egg laying and larval feeding to coincide with the blooming of buckwheats, a process that may last for only 4 – 6 weeks. Because different buckwheat species bloom at different times during the summer, it is thought that many of the blues that occur on just one buckwheat species have become isolated from other species because of their host plant's unique flowering time.

Eldora Land Preservation Fund

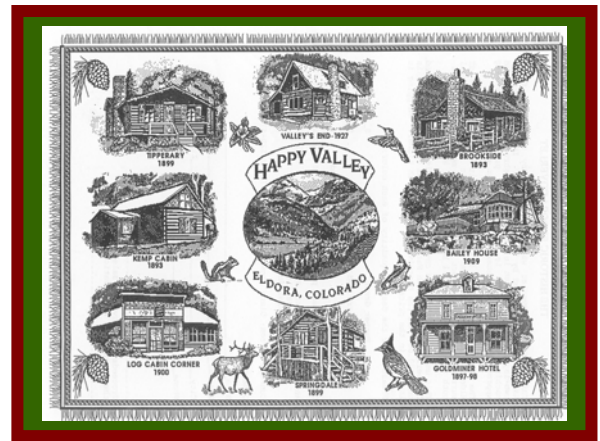
The current balance in the Fund is \$13,114.89. It is down from the last report because we have spent a total of \$2,643.63 ordering new merchandise for summer 2009.

Eldora fleece vests were reordered and two new colors were added to the inventory: white and navy. They are available for \$40.

Ted Warren's watercolors of Eldora scenes will be available as notecards in sets of 10 different images for \$10.

The wonderful woven cotton Eldora coverlets are once again in stock in either forest green or cranberry. They are priced at \$50.

Contact Diane Brown at 303-258-3672 or eldoradh1@rmi.net to place an order.



The Happy Valley - Eldora Coverlet ↑



↑ After skiing through tire ruts and past stuck vehicles this winter on the first part of the 4th of July Road, Pete Birkeland painted and put up this sign. He thought it was a polite way of encouraging people to park vehicles along the asphalt road. Well, the sign only lasted about 2-3 weeks. Any thoughts on how we can keep vehicles off the road used by skiers, snowshoers and hikers? It seems senseless to allow them to get through only to get stuck in the next 200-300 yards. This past year the berm was driven through much of the time.



Happy Valley Happenings



With cities polluting the skies with extraneous light, it has become increasingly difficult for those of us who look to the skies with binoculars and telescopes to make simple observations. Even Eldora is polluted; we are affected by Boulder and the "dome" from Denver. Come to a "dark sky" event at the home of Marc & Laura Fisher on July 22 from 7 to 9. Jeanne McCleery will discuss some of the ways that cities like Tucson and Flagstaff, Arizona have solved some of the issues that affect the skies. Both of these cities have diminished the light pollution by making simple changes in how light is projected at night. After the discussion and demonstration Jeanne will have her telescope available for viewing on the Fisher's driveway. If you have binoculars, bring those too. You'd be surprised how much you can see with binocs! Be sure to dress warmly ... astronomy is a "cold" hobby!

CELEBRATE AT COTTAGE DAISY*

OCCASION: The 90TH birthday celebration of VIRGINIA B. LEEVER

DATE: Sunday, August 23, 2009

TIME: 1:30 - 4:30 PM

WHERE: 881 Klondyke

NOTE: Birthday cake to be cut at 3:00 PM

All are welcome to join the family as we honor GINNY on this special day.

PLEASE: Cards and well wishes only

*Incidentally – Cottage Daisy is celebrating its 100th year in Eldora.

Eldora Road Cleanup on June 13, 2009

The road into Eldora and the streets of town are very clean thanks to the hardy volunteers who walked, climbed up and down steep banks, bent over to pick up other people's mess and carried heavy orange bags filled with roadside trash. Thank these volunteers for their efforts if you see them: Pat Anderson, Pete & Sue Birkeland, Earl Bolton, John Brocklehurst, Diane Brown, Todd Buchanan, Jerry & Barb Donahue, Andy Elgerd, Kathleen Henningsen, Lisa Lopez, Ann Marron, Matt Phillips and Lee Tillotson. Special thanks go to Earl and Barbara Bolton for hosting the cleanup and to Fred Stites for taking all the orange bags to the dump.

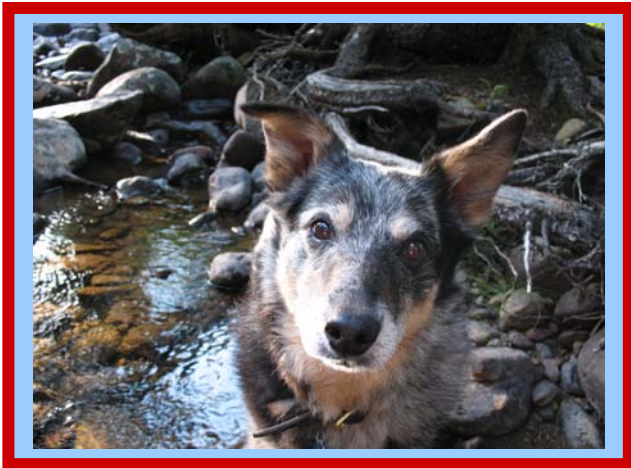


↑ Left to right: Brock, Pete, Jerry, Sue, Matt and Barbara
↔ Bluebells and Western Wallflower



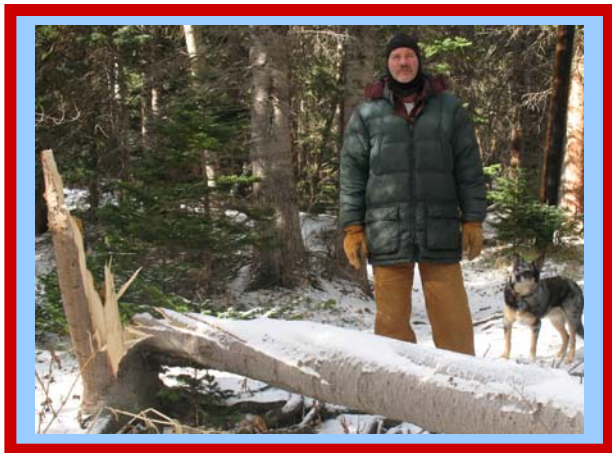
Cottage Daisy comes of age: 100 years in 2009 ↑

RUBY
(Rubus, Ruby Sue, Ruby Dooby, Ruby Doo)
Tribute to an Eldora Gem



I look at you with eyes of love.
 I never hold a grudge.
 I think you're far too wonderful
 To criticize and judge

Ruby, a blue heeler, died March 30, 2009 after being an Eldora resident dog for thirteen years. She went quickly and on her own. All of us who knew her will miss the intelligent, responsive, wiggly sweetheart that she was. Ruby will always be the only dog in Tim's heart.



Tim Hannon and Ruby

The best thing about a man is his dog.
 French Proverb

Update: Eldora Study of Unimproved Roads, Alleys, and Rights-of-Way

By Garry Sanfacon, Boulder County Land Use

Over 35 people attended the first community meeting on June 3, 2009. You can access the meeting notes on the website: http://www.bouldercounty.org/lu/townsite_planning/eldora.htm. The next meeting is Wednesday, July 8, 6:30 PM at the Eldora Fire Station. Please bring a chair. The County will again answer questions as well as begin to focus the discussion on the main issues related to possible future vacations of the unimproved roads, alleys, and rights-of-way. On July 30, 6:30 PM at the Nederland Community Center, I will be presenting draft policy language for your review. I will take your input and write a staff report and recommendation to the Boulder County Planning Commission on August 19 (time to be determined).

If you cannot attend any of these meetings, please feel free to send me comments via email: gsanfacon@bouldercounty.org or snail mail: Boulder County Land Use, PO Box 471, Boulder, CO 80306. In addition, don't hesitate to give me a call at 720-564-2642 with any questions, concerns or input.



Have a fabulous Fourth of July!
 Enjoy the fireworks in Nederland.
 Be very careful with fire.



Arnica is such a happy flower!

Arnica cordifolia = Heart-leaf Arnica



BROCK'S WEATHER REPORT - JUNE 21, 2009

Since my weather report written on March 20, Eldora received another six feet of wet snow and 41 days of measurable rain. Much of the early snow, which blankets our town, lacks appreciable moisture content and simply evaporates. Another typically windy winter was followed by wind gusts of between 67 mph and 45 mph during the months of April, May and even June.

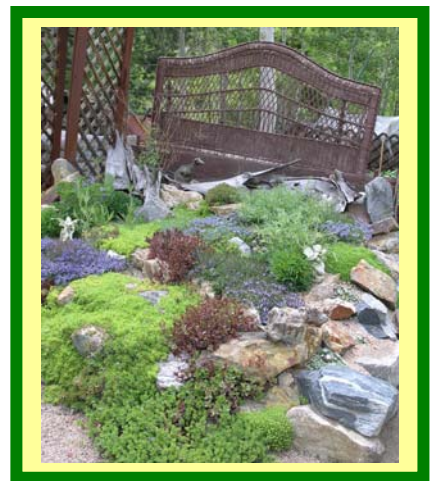
The benefits of all this moisture were seen the latter part of April with thousands of pasqueflowers in the meadow on the south side of Arapaho Ranch together with sightings of the mountain bluebird and the first tree swallows.

As I write this report on June 21, blue flag iris bloom in the 8th Street meadow in the heart of Eldora and our roadsides are festooned with golden banner and purple larkspur. Shooting star can be seen in damp locations and arnica blooms amongst the trees. Lilac is just showing signs of color, two weeks later than in Nederland and one month later than down in Boulder.

If your annual visit to Eldora is a brief one, you may be shocked by the increase in the number of pine beetle killed lodgepole pine on both sides of the valley.

Our thanks go to Marc and Laura Fisher for the computerized weather data.

Scenes from Brock's Garden at 1120 Eldorado



One who plants a garden plants happiness.



DONATIONS 2008 – 2009

Eldora Land Preservation Fund

(not tax deductible):

Spencer Mountain \$1 - \$49

Steve & Suellen Bryan
Esther Campbell
Mary Commers
Experimental Aviation Association
Willard & Marky Flowers
Bill & Mary Gross
Margaret Martin -
In memory of Virginia Menke
Nancy Merrill
Pat Springer Overlees
Michael & Sharon Postlewait
Carl & Donna Roberts -
In memory of Virginia Menke
Carol Rockett -
In memory of Tom Andersen
George & Ruth Sheldon -
In memory of R.C. and Hope Guy
John & Rita Wallace

Eldorado Mountain \$50 - \$99

Robert & Janice Bartelma
Gretchen Beatty
Sara Goolsby
Jeanne McCleery -
In memory of Tom Andersen

Tennessee Mountain \$100 - \$249

Earl & Barbara Bolton -
In memory of Tom Andersen
O. H. & Rachel Frazier
Gene & Gail Gitin
Robert Goolsby (honey sales)
Joe Gordon (books)
Pat Springer Overlees
Payson Sheets -
To honor Fran on Mother's Day

Guinn Mountain \$250 - \$499

Bruce & Ann Marron

Mineral Mountain \$500 - \$999

Brian & Lynne Collins for Hank, Elvira and Duchess

Bryan Mountain \$1000 - \$2,499

The Eldora Land Preservation Fund account at Mutual of Omaha Bank in Nederland, Colorado, was established in 1996. It receives donations without the benefit of tax deductions. It is the resource from which fundraising items such as Eldora note cards, coverlets, vests, calendars, cookbooks and T-shirts are purchased. Profits from sales are deposited into this account. When the account reaches above operating expenses, it contributes to the purchase of Eldora open space lands.

Boulder County Parks and Open Space Foundation

c/o Eldora Land Preservation Fund (tax deductible):

Spencer Mountain \$1 - \$49

Eldorado Mountain \$50 - \$99

Kladstrup Family
Paul and Phyllis Rock

Tennessee Mountain \$100 - \$249

Joan L. Brownell
Nancy Conklin -
In memory of Ray Conklin
Jerome & Barbara Donahue
Audrey Godell for Dinky and Hank

Guinn Mountain \$250 - \$499

Audrey Godell for Elvira
James and Kathryn Rolfes

Mineral Mountain \$500 - \$999

Bryan Mountain \$1000 - \$2,499

Chittenden Mountain \$2,500 - \$4,999

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.

Indian Paintbrush
on Eldorado
Mountain ⇔



Farewell to a Long Time Friend Gary Lee Hockett

By Mike McCoy



↑ The Hockett Cabin “Cheerio” at 844 Klondyke is where Gary lived in recent years. Photo by Audrey Godell



“Still my guitar gently weeps.”
George Harrison

Over the years I have always stopped by to see Gary when we come to Eldora each fall. We always talk about old times and the fun we used to have growing up in the community. There are lots of stories, but one always comes to mind when I think of him.

During the summer of 1957 there were a lot of teenagers in Eldora but two pop to the top of the list: Kenny and Gary Hockett. They captivated this young group with their musical talent. In the evenings first Mrs. Olsen and then Mrs. Cross used to let us use the Log Cabin Corner as a place to come and meet as a group. Kenny and Gary riveted the teens with their electric guitars. We usually stayed in the store until 9:00 or 9:30 PM, then went home.

One evening after a get-together several of us decided we needed a little adventure and things done on the spur of the moment add even more adventure as there was little or no planning or thought that went into the process.

Kenny and Gary decided that we ought wait until their grandmother* went to bed and take her car and go for a drive. It seemed like a good idea at the moment, so several of us decided to carry through with the unplanned plan. They were to pick us up after all the parents were asleep and we would move to launch our escape.

I went home and took the screen off my bedroom window in preparation so no commotion would be created. My parents went to bed and I was ready for action. A little after midnight Gary came to my window as planned and I was up and ready to go. The hair on the back of my neck stood up a little and I quietly crawled out the window. The night was still and summer cold. The outlines of Spencer and Eldorado Mountains stood out below a star-studded sky. The only sound was the rushing creek and the idle of the car. Kenny was driving. Gary and I got in holding the doors ajar until we were well down the road. Then Kenny turned the lights on and we slammed the doors shut and headed down the canyon. We thought about going to Denver or just driving around Boulder.

We drove around and Kenny checked the time. It was about 3:00 AM when he checked one other essential, the gas gauge. We would soon be running on fumes and there were no gas stations open at this hour. There was no way we could make it back to Eldora and that meant that we would have to wait until day break to get gas. We all knew that we would be in deep trouble if e could not find an instant remedy. I

could already imagine my dad coming in to get me up for breakfast and finding an empty room with the window open and screen off. The same went through everyone else's mind at the same time.

I remembered there was a 24-hour station at 17th and Arapahoe across from Boulder High School. We just made it into the station and that was about it. The attendant came out and we told him we needed some gas. Then the next dilemma arose. The attendant announced that he needed the key for the gas cap. Kenny and Gary had been in such a hurry to get going and had only grabbed the key for the ignition and left the one for the gas cap behind. The attendant said we were out of luck. We stressed we HAD to find a solution and leveled with him. He looked at us with that sense of understanding that said, "Been there, done that when I was a kid." He went back into the station and fumbled around and came back out and said, "I think I can get the cap off." He was successful.

But there was one minor problem left to solve. Who had bothered to bring any money to pay for the gas? We leveled with the attendant again and he shook his head and had to laugh. He said we could pay him back. We gave him our names. He said, "Are you Abe McCoy's kid?" I said, "Yes" and he said, "You damn well better pay me back or Abe will hear about it." We assured him he would be paid for all the trouble and the gas. The tank was filled with only enough to get us home but with a little extra so that Grandma would not notice. We hoped she would not count the miles on the odometer.

Kenny checked his watch and it was about 4:40 AM, so if everything went well we would be home about sunrise. We headed back up the Canyon, through the Narrows, and finally to the last turn by Barker Dam. The lights of Nederland were now in view and the eastern sky was just starting to get a red glow. We went on into Eldora and I slipped through the window and into bed. Shortly after my dad came in and announced that it was time to get up for breakfast.

No one ever knew much about that night, but none of us ever forgot it. By the way, we did pay the attendant what we owed. We were grateful for all his help and his tight lip. We had a long day to get through pretending we were not tired. I walked down to Nederland and slept under a tree until I was partially recovered. I decided then and there that nightlife was not for me and that has been true ever since.

I always brought this event up when Gary and I got together and we always had a good laugh out of it. I shall miss seeing him and talking over those golden years, reminiscing about all the fun we had as kids in the Happy Valley.

*Footnote: Gary and Kenny's grandmother was Julia Cadwell Hockett, affectionately called "JuJu." As a child JuJu, in an all day trip, would come up the canyon from Denver in a buckboard with her parents, Esbon Eugene Cadwell and Myra Eastman Cadwell. They rented several cabins over the years. One was Rocky Ledge behind the Gold Miner Hotel. – Norma Hockett Figgs



⇨ This picture of a "snowbow" over Mineral Mountain was taken by Laura Fisher the afternoon that Gary Hockett died in November 2008. It seemed as though Gary's spirit was gracing Happy Valley one last time.

I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.

ELDORA SUMMER FUN

Sports



“Eldora sported a baseball team for several years. I was the big shot pitcher when 15 years old. We’ll never forget those red suits we wore. I wasn’t big enough to fill one, so would don a suit of heavy winter underwear for padding, then suffer from the heat. We played teams from Denver, Boulder and towns around. The ball field was the flat ground that Reg Platts has fenced in at his summer cabin (1010 Eldorado – now Cohagen). The first ball field was where the Beach cabins are and on west (8th Street between Eldorado and Klondyke).” Jack Langley

Ticks



“When we were kids 85 or so years ago, ticks were really plentiful. I remember shaking aspen trees and watching them fall like rain. To be sure we looked for ticks before going to bed, my mother offered a milk shake from the Nederland Drug Store each week to the one of us three who had the most ticks on us any one night that week. This was in the middle of the depression and a 10-cent milk shake was like nectar from the gods, so you can bet we all looked carefully.

I won one week with 20 ticks on or in me. Ticks on the clothes didn’t count. They were hard to kill – you almost had to hit them with a hammer. We found the simplest way was to put them on a hot kitchen stove lid, and watch them dance. A little pine pitch covered with a Band-Aid took care of the ticks dug in. The next morning the tick would be in the pitch when we removed the Band-Aid.” William F. Gross



“At midnight we awakened to find ourselves covered with wood ticks that were crawling out of the rotten wood. Ugh! I can still feel them now. We removed the ticks as best we could and moved back across the road to our regular spot by the stream. We do not see many wood ticks now, but in the 1920s and 1930s when we had more rainfall, they were extremely common.” Lee S. Evans

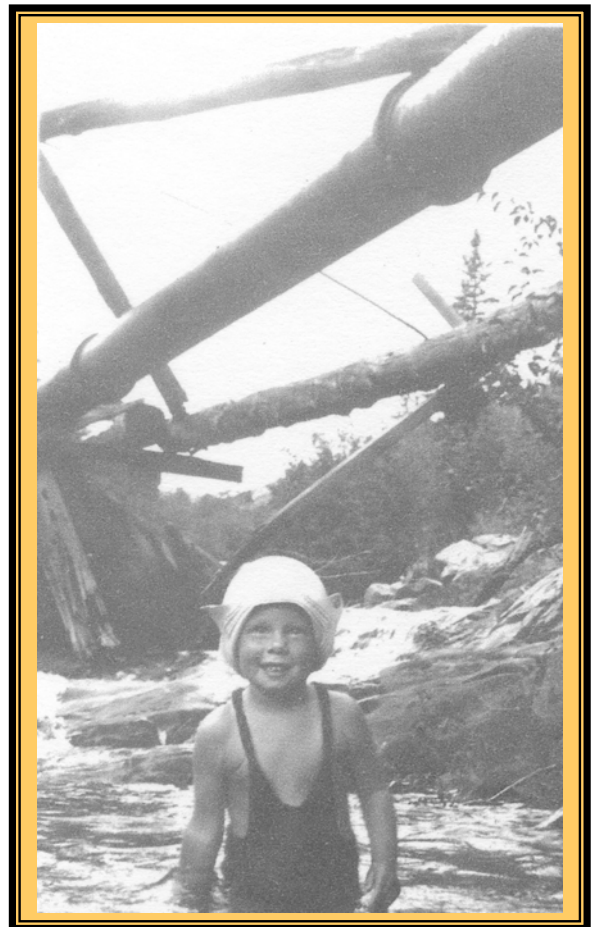
Eldora’s Swimming Holes and Rafting Ponds

“On rare occasions we would go swimming in the beaver dam across the creek from our house. The beaver dam was near the old Bailey Mill, and we crossed the creek on the steel pipeline that had supplied water to the mill near the old Kohinoor cabin (now Fishers) on the north side of the stream. The water was brutally cold, but I stayed in long enough to learn to dog paddle. Swimming in Sulphide Lake was not much better. The water was a little warmer, but the lake was full of water dogs (tiger salamanders), and they constantly slithered by and against you as you swam. Several times we tried the pond (near where my son’s house is now) on the south side of the road just west of the high school. It, too, was cold, full of moss, and a lot of trash which had been thrown in by passing motorists.” Lee S. Evans

Tiger Salamander



Ann Goolsby in 1937 enjoying a dip in Middle Boulder Creek below the pipe from the Lower Dam near Kohinoor cabin (1195 Eldorado) ⇨



“We used to sort of swim in a little hole by Brookside cabin, but most of us walked down to Sulphide Lake (Arapaho Ranch). There was another pond that now belongs to John Cohagen at the west end of Eldora where we used to ice skate. I suppose it belonged to the Platts at the time, but no one cared.” Earl C. Bolton

“We used to take the Moodys’ horses to the beaver pond on the west end of Bryan Avenue to swim them and then we’d take a swim, too.” Jeanne McCleery



“The closest thing I can remember to a swimming hole was our rafting ponds and lakes. We had rafts at Jasper Lake, Peterson Lake, Raft Lake and the beaver ponds at the east end of Bryan Avenue. (Raft Lake is the pond in front of Joe Evans’ house.) One time we cut down some of the aspens in the Sheets’ yard to build a raft and Payson’s parents were very unhappy about the whole process. Robert Goolsby and I went rafting on Jasper Lake and spent the night out on the islands in the middle of the lake. Robert probably remembers that trip better than I because he lost his favorite hat, watched it sink to the bottom of the lake. We used to have great times rafting and harassing our little sisters.” Mike McCoy



Reflections from Lake Eldora: the old lodge fireplace and cabin remnants. With age comes a certain beauty.

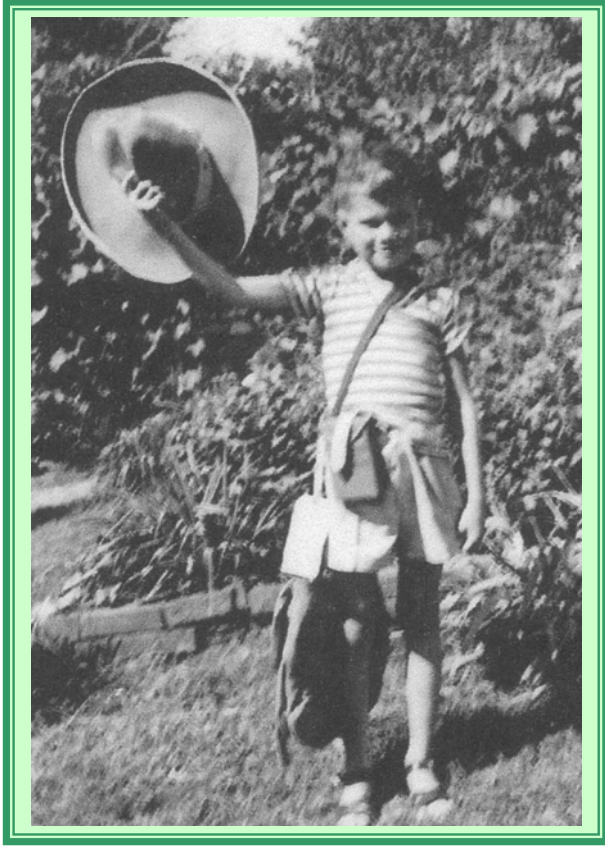


“Aaaah, that brings back some wonderful memories. Over the past few decades I have been rather successful in forgetting about this. Thanks, Mike. Mike McCoy and I, when we were in single digits (ages under 10), used to hike up the steep trail on the north side of Spencer Mountain and over the top and then south to Lake Eldora every summer. We built a raft every summer, of logs we found floating in the lake, tied with rope or occasionally nailed with some boards. We poled our way around the lake almost as elegantly as those dudes in Venice. We made fishing poles up there and even occasionally caught some fish which we brought back to Eldora for our dads to clean and our moms to cook for dinner. It was so beautiful and peaceful up there; we hardly ever saw anyone else. And I bet Mike remembers when the two of us were poling around on our raft on a very hot day, informally "dressed," when a bevy of girl scouts came hiking by and we had to jump in and stay in the cold water for what seemed like an eternity until they had completely passed by.

That was way before the ski area was developed and the road put in, so the only way in was by hiking, and few did that. Molly Brown's lodge was still there; the main one was huge, two stories tall, with beautiful wooden decoration inside, and one could easily imagine what it was like as she tried to impress Denver society. The little log cabins were also well preserved, scattered in the woods around the lodge and lake. The cabins even still had beds, actually just iron bed frames and springs, along with an occasional table and chairs. It was a preserved piece of history, of which so little remains. One can still see the tall stone and concrete chimney of the main lodge, still standing, but very little else remains. Historical archaeology could be done on the property, and be very successful, even though there is not much remaining on the present day surface.” Payson Sheets

“Mike (Mickey) and I had some good times hiking around. When we went to the higher lakes, we considered it crowded if there was anyone else at the lake. In the late 1940s and through the 50s we had the lakes pretty much to ourselves mostly. That one trip to Jasper was pretty good. There was already a raft on the lake near the outlet, so we took it out. Must have used boards to paddle it, since Jasper was too deep to pole. I think we were mostly at the mercy of the wind. Nice on the island, though. I don’t think many, if any, had camped there before. Good fishing from the raft. I had had that hat for about 10 years. Good 10-gallon felt one. Sure sunk fast.

We hiked and fished nearly everywhere. Mick was more the hiker and I was more of a fisherman. He’d go on climbing higher while I stopped to fish. Once we caught a lot of little trout at Woodland Flats and put them in a bucket that we carried up to the top of Woodland Mountain and stocked a tiny barren pond. We used a bicycle tire pump about every 5 minutes, I think, to put air in the water. I don’t think we ever went back to the pond.



↑ Robert & his favorite hat in 1946



Many go fishing all their lives without knowing it is not fish they are after. - Henry David Thoreau

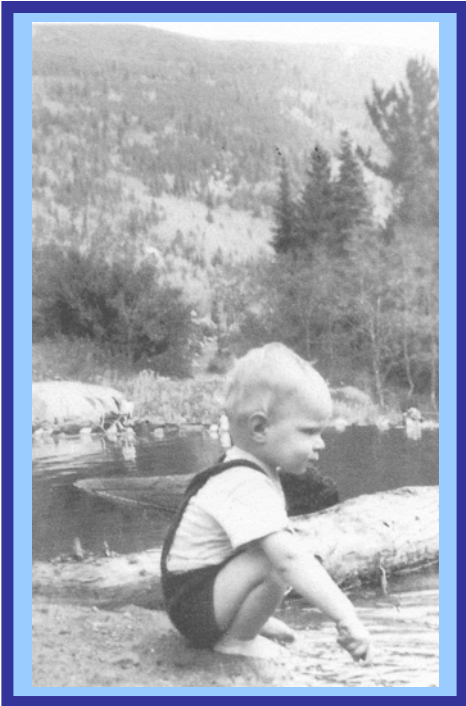
Jeannie McCleery and Joan VanArk saw me fall off the tree that we used to get over to Monkey Island before Binx demolished it as an island and sold lots to the Marrons and Bromleys. They were the ones that gave me that name “Splash.” Mick never called me that.

We went swimming (actually wading) at various places in the creek. When my mother drove we went to the Upper Dam where the flume to the Bailey Mill began. It had a good sandy beach and slow water, though deep. There was also a lower dam a little above the Fisher's place, which also had a sandy beach. We could walk to that place from wherever we lived in Eldora.



Margaret Goolsby’s maid Mildred watches over Robert, Ann and Sara Goolsby and their Irish Terrier Bitsy as they enjoy cooling off in the stream in 1941.

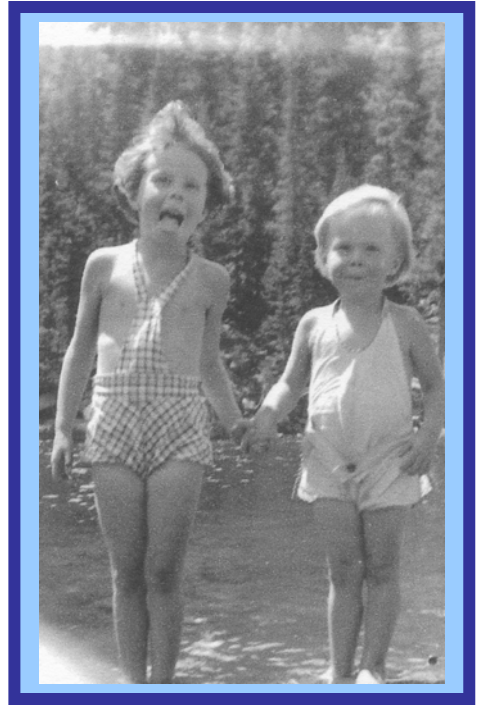
How much would be subtracted from the day if the water was taken away.
Henry David Thoreau



Robert Goolsby at the
⇐ Upper Dam in 1941



Cold Water!
Ann & Sara Goolsby
at the Upper Dam
in 1940 ⇨



We also swam in Sulfide Lake as well as took baths there. My mother knitted me a blue wool bathing suit, which I hated and to this day I cannot stand to have wool against my skin!! That's what I had to wear always when we went swimming in the creek.

Somewhere I have a picture of my Mother and cousin on a raft on Lake Peterson. I guess it must be in my pictures in the cabin. Before the ski area came and raised the lake level, there was a sandy beach near the east end with a couple of rafts. We would hike up and pole around on the lake. Of course, we never went to the west end because everyone knew that the lake was bottomless at that end!"

Robert Goolsby



⇧ Sandy beach at Sulphide Lake, now called Jennie Lee Lake in honor of Lee Evans' mother. Sulphide was so named because of the prevailing ores mined in the vicinity. A townsite was platted here and the now long gone two-story 40-room frame St. Julian Hotel overlooked the lake. The dead ponderosa on the right was alive at the time the St. Julian Hotel was built.

Peterson Lake and Eldora Mt. Resort ⇩
Peterson Lake has become a reservoir for snowmaking for the ski area. Water is pumped through large pipes to snowmaking equipment. Low water levels in winter have made it difficult for beaver, Rocky Mt. capshell snails, fish and amphibians to survive. Additionally, the lake receives effluent from the ski area's nearby sewage treatment facility. Swimming not recommended!



Photos by Diane J. Brown

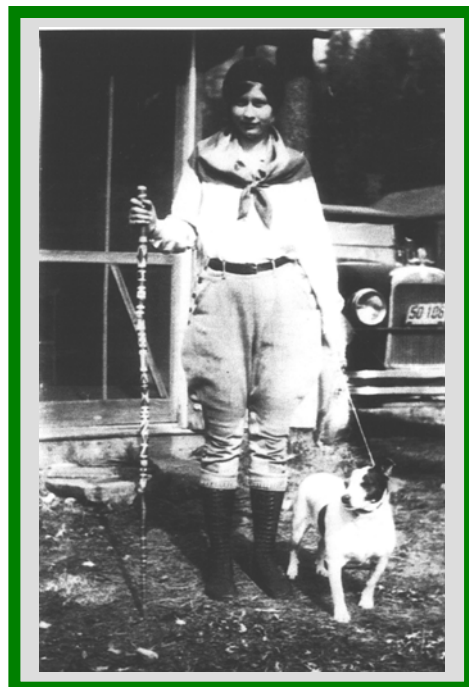
LOG CABIN CORNER STORE

By Alice J. Anderson

In Eldora, Colorado, at the corner of Eldorado Avenue and 6th Street, stands a log structure that in the 1890s was originally a saloon known as “Log Cabin Saloon.” Through the years it had several owners. In 1912 this saloon was run by Bill Lee of Louisville, Colorado. The sign outside proclaimed that it was also a Pool Hall, as shown in an early photo dated 1916. Later it became a grocery store that was owned by Guy Woodring and Andy Kuhn.

When my mother, Isabel, was about 15 years old, she and my grandfather, Carl Hansen, spent the summer in Eldora while he worked in the Log Cabin Corner Store. During that time it was owned by the Woodrings and Andy Kuhn. He walked to the store every day, and Mother was there to cook for him. He and Mother stayed in the cabin then known as “Avalon” on Klondyke Avenue. Grammy stayed in Denver. That may have been the summer that Mother was a fishing guide: Some gentlemen that my grandfather knew had come into the store, wanting to go up to the high lakes for fishing, and asked him who knew how to get to a good fishing lake. Mother got to guide them to Devil’s Thumb Lake, and she fished, too. Probably they cooked the fish that she caught for supper.

My grandfather spoke of Joe Lasinsky, Merle Rugg and other long-time Eldora residents coming into the store every day – usually at mail time or late afternoons –and sitting around the old store stove reminiscing and telling stories.



Isabel Hansen with Tag
in Hessie - 1928

The Eldora Post Office was in the store; the back wall (in addition to holding up the roof) still holds the square mail boxes, each with a small round glass window for the box owners to see if there was any mail for them without having to wait in line. Mrs. Margaret Woodring was the Postmistress. The mail truck arrived in Eldora around noon, and the population of the Valley came in about that time of day and waited for her to sort the mail. The time the sorting would take depended on the volume delivered to Mrs. Woodring. This was like the “mail-social and get-acquainted-hour.” There were two wooden benches out in front of the store to accommodate those attending.

In 1942, after about 20 years of renting cabins, my grandparents bought two Eldora cabins known as “Sunkist” and “Laf-A-Lot,” which were the last two cabins in the estate of Mr. Kuhn. Sunkist, the former Eldora Bank, is at 701 Eldorado one block west of Log Cabin Corner Store. Laf-A-Lot is about a block further west on the hillside at 815 Eaton Place.

My first memory of the store is when it belonged to Mrs. Woodring, then a widow. She had people come in to run the store for her and she took care of the Post Office. (I often accompanied my grandparents and my mother on visits with their long-time friend Margaret Woodring in her cabin across the creek. Of course, these visits usually took place in the morning before the mail came in.) Everyone came to the Store/Post Office at mail time. Allan, Arnold and I walked a total of many miles per summer traveling to and from the grocery store. We ran errands there for Mother and Grammy, and looked forward to spending our allowances on candy from the big round glass jars at the store candy counter. We also bought comic books – Superman, Batman, Captain Marvel, Roy Rogers, Archie, etc., which we read in the cabin on the often rainy afternoons. I still remember hearing the rain on the cabin roof while my grandfather built a roaring fire in the fireplace if it was particularly chilly. In my imagination I can still hear the crackle and pop of the aspen kindling and pine logs, which he had chopped with his huge axe at his chopping stump. Both my grandfather and my father spent many hours chopping wood there, just outside the kitchen door. I think they enjoyed it – I hope so, for we needed it in the old kitchen stove and in the fireplace, which were our only sources of heat in our drafty summer cabin. We never stayed there

in the winter. I cannot imagine how cold it would have been in the winters with the 90 mph winds whistling in the walls.

Mrs. Hennessy ran the store for a couple of years, and then the Olsen family owned it for a time in the early 1950s. In 1958, the year that Stuart was born, my parents and my grandparents bought the Log Cabin Corner Store from the Olsen family. Ironically, at this time my grandfather, at age 74, became an investor in the store in which he had worked some 30 years earlier in the 1920s – it was dear to him. He did light handiwork as necessary and was able to enjoy the store and Eldora for the next couple of summers. It was a learning experience for my brothers, and it became a labor of love especially for Mother. Daddy, Allan and Arnold got to know every curve, rock and tree on the Boulder Canyon Highway as they drove to Denver, Boulder and back with merchandise supplies from the wholesale houses: Surguines and Criegers in Denver, Gordon's Books in Boulder, etc.

Milk, bread and soda pop were delivered once a week by various deliverymen. There were two bread companies that came to our Eldora store, and two soda pop companies: Duffy and Coca Cola. Lowell delivered milk, ice cream, etc. from Watts Hardy Dairy. He was a very nice man and a good friend to Mother. He continued to deliver dairy products on his mountain route (which, as I recall, stretched at least between Black Hawk and Ward) for many more years after our store closed. (Mother told me that she heard many years later that Lowell had died in his truck.)

Log Cabin Corner carried many specialty food items such as imported candies, and specialized in books about Colorado, railroading and the West. Eldora people often requested specific food items not usually among the supplies of mountain stores and they tried to obtain them, even sending away to other states for them.

Arnold was 15 when we first got the store and Allan was 19. That first summer Allan and Daddy drove to Denver 2 or 3 times a week for supplies. As Allan's time became more and more filled with studies at the University of Denver, Arnold and Mother took over most of the behind-the-counter work in the store, with Allan doing the books of the Log Cabin Corner Corporation, and Daddy continuing to drive for supplies with some help from grandsons Stuart and Scott. The first several years the store was open 7 days a week. On Wednesdays, which were their slow days, Mother and Arnold went jeeping up to Caribou and points west of Caribou toward Mt. Baldy and the Caribou Peat Bog Road. They also jeeped to the Enterprise Mine, Lake Eldora, Phoenix Mill, Tolland, up Jenny Creek, the Boulder Wagon Road to the top of Corona, over Corona and down the west side towards Winter Park as far as the jeep road would allow; Woodland Flats to as far as Jasper Falls, and over the old former Switzerland Trail portions where a car could not travel.

During those years there was a large population of teenagers and other young people. Several of them often gathered around the table in the store, especially during the frequent afternoon rain/hail storms, visiting, playing cribbage and planning their next Saturday night dance. A group of them decided to climb Arapaho Peak, arriving at the top at sunrise.

When Arnold was no longer able to be working in the store all summer, Mother ran it 6 days a week, closed on Wednesdays. I often came to Eldora on Tuesdays to spend those couple of days with Mother on her Wednesdays off. She, Stuart, Scott and I went on outings – picnics in Fourth of July Valley, Black Hawk and Central City's unique stores, or visits to Estes Park or Charlie Eagle Plume's Indian Store in Allenspark.

The first year there was just the store, but later they rented out the apartment rooms in the restaurant building. There were three: the "fireplace apartment," the "garden apartment," and the "sunrise apartment."

Next to the Log Cabin Corner and included in the Log Cabin Corner Corporation, stood another store which had in the past been run as a restaurant. (I believe that building had been built in the 1940s.) It had a soda fountain, which was quite popular with the young people.) Sue Cross expressed an interest in running the restaurant, which she did for a couple of summers. Their restaurant was known for her pot roasts and some of the summer people came to depend on it for their dinners.

Later the garden apartment, plus the bedrooms and the main room of the former restaurant, were taken over for the hired help to stay in. Mother needed some help for cooking, running the store, and

maintaining the rooms in the “motel.” Each spring an advertisement was run in a Denver newspaper for a young person to work for the summer in a mountain store: applicants could write a letter to the post office box. Mother and Daddy felt they could tell a lot about a person from these mostly handwritten letters. Mother had studied handwriting analysis and so she preferred handwritten applications.

Some really nice and unique young people worked in Log Cabin Corner at various times. We have been trying to remember the names of the boys and girls that spent summers working for Mother and Daddy. So far we have come up with: Jane from Arvada; John, a high school football player, who ate only breakfast cereal and hated spiders; David; Candy, a redhead who loved to bake, especially banana bread; Tom; Janet, who became a special friend and kept in touch with Mother for many years; Cathy; and a pretty Italian girl who was a great cook.

For years the only pay telephone in town was our telephone booth in the store. Very few families had telephones in their cabins. All were party lines with at least 4 parties sharing the line, and each had different ring patterns. Many times someone from the store had to deliver telephone messages. Grandsons Stuart and Scott Anderson stayed with our mother Isabel when they were small boys. At various times they helped out in the store and were delighted to get to deliver telephone messages, for which they usually received tips. When they were older, they rode in to Denver with Daddy for supplies, helping him load and unload and then marking prices.

The store had living space in the rear: a good-sized kitchen with running water from our well, a very large wood stove for warmth and cooking, and a bedroom into which were moved bunk beds, where Allan or Arnold often stayed, sleeping on the upper bunk. They reserved the lower bunk for Alvin the Bassett hound and visiting dogs such as Cinder, our Scottie. Many summers, though, a couple of teenagers were hired to help with the shelf stocking, cleaning and cooking. Mother always prepared the breakfasts of crisp bacon and her specialty – buttermilk pancakes. The room was rather glowingly illuminated by the daylight from a huge north picture window, which looked uphill at the historic old Gold Miner Hotel and Eldorado Mountain with its craggy granite rock faces and mostly pine forest. It was a pleasant place for family visits and meals.

Our family ran the store for twenty-two summers, from 1958 to 1980. Mother truly enjoyed her visits with those who came into the store and she met many interesting people from all over the world. Sometimes people came in the store with whom she found mutual connections from the past in her old home town of Peru, Nebraska and in Iowa and Kansas. She seemed always to be able to find some common interest to discuss with those she met. She was the dependable source of area information for casual hikers, campers and deliverymen, as well as the many summer people with whom she became friends. With many of these she stayed in touch and she continued to correspond with them until the end of her life.



⇐ Inside the Log Cabin Corner Store: In center is Isabel Cross with her cousins Beulah and Muriel on each side. Summer 1980



Isabel Hansen Cross in the 1970s ↑
Cross Collection

TEENAGE STORE:

The owners are young, but doing great!

Reprinted with permission from The Denver Post Empire Magazine dated August 17, 1958

Submitted by Michael McCoy



⇐Allan and Arnold Cross in front of the Log Cabin Corner Store in 1959
Cross Collection

There's nothing particularly unusual about the Log Cabin general store up in Eldora, Colorado, except that the 16-year old boy who waits on you is co-owner of the place. His name is Arnold Cross, and during the winter he attends East Denver High School.

Arnold and his brother, Allan, 20, bought the Log Cabin grocery-market, one of the three "businesses" in the mountain community near Nederland, last spring with \$3,500 borrowed from their grandfather. By the end of the "season" this September, they figure their gross will be \$10,000. Arnold, who wants to be an architectural engineer, is the store's "maintenance engineer." Allan, studying business administration at the University of Denver, does all the buying and pricing. "I also handle all the money," Allan points out. The store has about everything a general store should have and, Allan says, "If we don't have what you want, we'll get it." It is also a meeting place for kids vacationing in the mountain town. They wander in to play the jukebox, yak with each other, or play cards. "We had 25 in here the other night," Allan says.

The Cross brothers have spent their summers in Eldora for 13 years, living in a cabin owned by their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Cross, 2845 Cherry Street, Denver. But this is the first year they've "been in business." So far, the brothers haven't paid each other any wages. "We'll wait till we close up for the winter, then split the profits," Allan explains, smiling at Arnold. – J. S.



↑1957 Back: Pat Ritter, unknown, Robert Goolsby, Carolyn Olsen, unknown; Front: Bill McCleery
Springer, Carol VanArk, Kathy & Jeanne McCleery and Joan VanArk; Kneeling: Kate Olsen Collection



↑Grocery Counter Summer 1964: Dave Heim, Isabel & Arnold Cross, Candy Dowdy
Cross Collection

Full Members 2008-09

Andersen, Ellen
Anderson, Bob & Pat
Anderson, Chris Alber & Heidi
Bailey, John
Baker, Charles & Lois
Barrett, Phillip
Bartelma, Robert & Janice
Baugh, Bill & Kim
Beal, Barry & Jane
Beckwith, Tom & Julie
Billingsley, Cleo
Billingsley John
Birkeland, Pete & Sue
Bolton, Dave & Sue
Bolton, Earl & Barbara
Brocklehurst, John and Willi
Brown, Dave Hallock & Diane
Brownell, Joan
Bryan, Steve & Suellen
Buchan, Jim & Sue
Buhse, Howard & Moira
Burns, Sheila Schroeder & Kate
Burton, Christopher & Anne
Burton, Tom & Mary
Busch, Ed & Eleanor
Callier, Douglas
Campbell, Doug & Carol
Carson, Edgar & Julie
Chapin, John & Micki
Cohagen, John & Mary
Cohen, Ken & Family
Colburn, Everett & Deborah
Collins, Brian & Lynne
Condron, Theodore & Deborah
Conklin, Nancy
Cross, Arnold
Cunningham, James & Edwina & Ron
Dibb, Leigh
Donahue, Jerry and Barbara
Dugan, Tom and Kathy
Duvall, Mary McHenry & Jeffrey
Egaas, Korina Bersentes & Brian
Elgerd, Anders & Anne
Evans, Lee & Virginia
Eyster, Brad & Tamara
Fencl, Greg
Figs, Norma
Fisher, Marc & Laura
Flowers, Clifton & Mary
Frazier, O. H. & Rachel
Freymuth, Peter & Karin
Geer, Richard & Nan
Gitin, Gene & Gail
Godell, Audrey
Goolsby, Robert
Hale, Carolyn
Hansen, Harriett & Christian
Hartsell, Rich & Marilyn
Hawkins, James & Nancy
Hill, Jim & Sharon
Hoffman, Mary Commers & Amy
Hollis, Edna
Hornback, Charlie & Rachael
Hunziker, Bud & Joyce
Ivey, Lex & Liz
Jensen, Jeff & Kathy
Johnson, Don & Dorothy
Kent, Virginia
Kindig, Jean
Kladstrup, Barbara
Kubitschek, Michael
Kready, JoAnne
Leever, Virginia
Lopez, Todd Buchanan & Lisa
Lovelace, Stuart
Marron, Bruce & Ann

Martin, Margaret
McCleery, Jeanne
McCoy, Mike & Patricia
McDonald, Joe & Pam
McGuffee, Cris & Liz
Merrill, Theresa Hannon & Dennis
Merrill, Nancy
Miller, Kent & Kay
Miner, David & Sarah
Mount, Robert & Virginia
Naredo, Daniel & Janice
Neu, Art & Naomi
Newens, Nick & Mary Jane
Nichols, Ron & Barbara
Phillips, Matt
Pierce, Lowel & Annie
Pierson, Bill & Kathleen
Pierson, Bill & Kay
Piper, Bruce & Peaches
Postlewait, Mike & Sharon
Postlewait, Lindy Miller & Tim
Reynolds, Matt & Jeannie
Roberts, Carl & Donna
Roberts, Walker & Leah
Rock, Paul & Phyllis
Rockett, Carol
Rolfes, Jim & Kathy
Rountree, Robert
Rouse, Philip & Louise
Rouse, Romaine
Ruhnka, John & Sallie
Sandquist, Rick and Katrina
Schneider, Harold & Jan
Schuchard, Carol Crouppen & Pat
Shaw, Marilyn
Sheets, Payson & Fran
Sheldon, George & Ruth
Slusher, Tarry & Loretta
Simpson, Robert
Smith, Jared & Deborah
Snyder, Eliot & Melisa
Starkey, John Ooyen & Gunda
Stepperud, Rolf & Betty
Sturm, Ron & Judy
Swope, James & Beverly
Tafoya, Audrey Windolph & Jan
Tillotson Family
Tower, Dan Vardamis & Susan
Vahling, Arnie & Donna
Wallace, John & Rita
Warren, Ted & Peggy
Weber, Gerhard & Deborah
Weissberg, Michael, Susan & Nico
Wheeler, Jeff & Signe
Whitworth, Sam
Williams, David J
Young, Russel & Marion
Zemanek, Phyllis

Associate Members

2008-2009

Amaranto, Ernesto & Marian
Amme, Robert
Anderson, Anne
Barrett-Smith, Allison
Bauder, Jane
Beatty, M. Gretchen
Billingsley, Jim & Kris
Billingsley, Joe & Shelli
Bryant, Marian
Buhse, Andrew
Callier, Marc
Campbell, Esther
Cole, David & Jennifer
Dewey, Tom & Susan
Evans, Deb
Flowers, Willard

Forstner, Rolland
Gold, Dan & Patty
Goolsby, Ann
Goolsby, Mark & Ramona
Goolsby, Sara
Gross, Bill & Mary
Gross, Richard & Regina
Guthrie, Bill
Harnden, Alec & Kendra
Harris, Tom & Lois
Heitman, Duncan & Christina
Helmberger, Skip & Jane
Henningsen, Kathleen
Hill, Tom & Sherry
Hollis, George
Huffman, Vonne
Johnson, Irene
Kent, Chris
The Kesters
Kinney, Kris
Kladstrup, Susan
Klenk, Anne
Leever, Diana Slough & Randy
Leever, Ron & Cindy
Leise, Donna
Malmquist, Barbara
Massey, Greg
McCaffree, Inez
McCleery, Kathy
Merrill, Susan
Mount, Carl & Marty
Mount, Robert & Laurie
Naylor, Earl & Joan
Olsen, Nancy
Overlees, Frances
Overlees, Pat
Postlewait, John
Quarterman, Linda
Ricke, Matt & Tana
Roberts, Kathryn
Roossinck, Marilyn
Sheldon, Betsy
Sheldon, Julie
Slaven, Pamela
Soyka, Jim & Faye
Smith, Jay Stocker & Russell
Vance, Patti
Whitworth, Gretchen
Wiepking, Robert & Jodie
Woodward, Edgar
Young, Al & Cindy
Young, Donald

These organizations receive a complimentary copy of our newsletter:
Nederland Area Historical Society
Nederland Community Library
Carnegie Library
Boulder County Commissioners
Natural Resources Planner, BCPOS
Director, Boulder County Land Use

Please – only one full voting membership per property! All others are non-voting associates.



ECA dues for 2009-2010 are now payable. Please use the membership form in this newsletter with payment.

ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

2009-2010

ECA membership dues for fiscal year 2009-2010 are due on September 1, 2009. 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: _____

- \$30 Full Membership (electronic newsletter) Please include your email address!
- \$45 Full Membership (hard copy – black & white) also send electronic at no extra charge
- \$75 Full Membership (hard copy – full color) also send electronic at no extra charge
- \$15 Associate membership (electronic newsletter) Please include your email address!
- \$30 Associate membership (hard copy – black & white) also send electronic at no extra charge
- \$60 Associate membership (hard copy – full color) also send electronic at no extra charge

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

If you are a summer-only resident of Eldora and would like your newsletter mailed to your Eldora address during the summer months, please indicate your approximate arrival and departure dates. Any other mailing instructions should also be included with this form.

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

If you would like to make an extra donation to the Eldora Land Preservation Fund at the same time you pay your dues, please write a separate check to the ELPF. All donations are welcome and encouraged.



Augie Eyster

Here's a formal request for your 2009-10 dues payment. Woof! Woof!

The new membership rates reflect increased costs for printing, postage and envelopes for mailing.