ELDORA HIGH COUNTRY©2012

Newsletter of the Eldora Civic Association May 2012

This old stone building at Caribou is one of the few left standing.

◄Sign on the Caribou Trail, Eldora's rustic path to Caribou via foot, bike or 4WD

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
Member participation on committees is welcomed.

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
Currently seeking board members for 2012-13

Calendar of Events:
First Friday of each month at 5:00 PM – Eldora Night at the Pioneer Inn (Call Ted Warren at 303-258-7273)
Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at 2:00 PM – Boulder County Commissioners Meeting on Hessie Trailhead Parking
Boulder County Courthouse – 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, Colorado
Friday, June 15, 2012 – Deadline for submissions to the July issue of Eldora High Country
Saturday, June 9, 2012 at 9:00 AM – Eldora Adopt-A-Road Cleanup (Bolton) 502 Eldorado Avenue
Wednesday, July 4, 2012 - Deadline for determination of eligible ECA Voting Members
Saturday, July 14, 2012 at 4:00 PM – Annual Business Meeting (McDonald) 695 Bryan Avenue
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 Avenue
Sunday, August 26, 2012 from 12:00 to 2:00 – Eldora Community Picnic (Bolton) 502 Eldorado Avenue

ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Minutes for Board Meeting
March 8, 2012
Randy Leever's and Diane Slough's home, Boulder

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

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm sharp. Randy Leever, Pete Birkeland, Todd Buchanan, Assistant Secretary Lopez (non-voting) and Joe McDonald were present. President McDonald read the mission statement of the ECA.

Treasurer Report

Todd reported on the ECA finances. Since the December meeting, ECA had received $135 in membership fees, and a $100 contribution to the Eldora Land Preservation Fund. It was proposed and approved that after April 15, 2012, a tax accountant should review ECA financial records, as is customary.

Carbaryl

Randy reported on carbaryl, the insecticide used in spraying for the pine beetle. The report was very detailed. Randy noted that carbaryl is the third most commonly used insecticide in the U.S. and is toxic to earthworms and honey bees. Randy and his wife, Diane Slough, will provide an information piece for this newsletter. They will also talk with the Eldora Mountain Resort manager to request that the town be notified as to when the resort intends to spray.

The board decided it would be appropriate to ask all residents who decide to spray with carbaryl to notify Lisa Lopez at (303) 258-0334, who said she would be willing to help notify neighbors.

Town Website

Todd reported that Lara Smith had offered to train any person willing to take over management of the Eldora town website. The board agreed to advertise for such a person, and offer a modest stipend for the work, of an amount to be determined.

Johnson Vacation

A letter written by Joe McDonald to the County Commissioners stating the ECA's conditional support for the Johnson vacation application (V-11-0004) was approved.

Ski Area Expansion

It was reported that the public input process on the proposed ski area expansion might begin this summer. It was noted that Payson and Fran Sheets had written a very fine letter to the Boulder City Council on February 29, 2012 addressing the possible impact of the proposed expansion on the quality of water in the Boulder watershed. Pete Birkeland and Randy Leever will draft a proposed position for the ECA, consulting knowledgeable individuals first, to be available for review at the next meeting. All readers are invited to send Birkeland and Leever their two cents.

ECA Priorities

Joe read the list of ECA priorities as decided in the September meeting. There followed a brief discussion of progress on them. They are:

Ski area expansion
Carbaryl spraying
Land Preservation Fund
Noxious weeds
Hessie parking
Closer collaboration w/ North Fork Council
Better outreach in Eldora
Street signs
Staggered board member terms

Eldora Street Signs

Lopez and Buchanan agreed to take an inventory of missing road signs and report at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. All rushed to their vehicles to get them out of harm's way before Assistant Secretary Lopez got in hers.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Buchanan, Secretary-Treasurer


Petersen Lake May, 12 2012

Transportation Committee: Lesley Swirhun of Boulder County Transportation Dept. has been working with Ted Warren and Pete Birkeland on ideas for traffic calming along the road through Eldora for this summer season. Last year vertical markers were placed along the centerline of Eldorado Avenue in several locations in an effort to discourage speeding for which they showed some success. Ideas discussed recently for this season include the markers more closely spaced within each group and placed in short double rows along the centerline. Also white "25 MPH" symbols would be painted on the road. These ideas are an evolving process as they try to come up with the best solution for the town of Eldora. To date they have not decided on the measures to implement and Lesley is still working with Ted and Pete on some options.

Ski Area Committee Report

ECA Board Members Randy Leever and Pete Birkeland skied a day with Dave Hunter, Mountain Manager of Eldora Mountain Resort. Here are notes on the meeting:

1. The ski area's plan is on a 3-5 year time frame.
2. Lifts: Replace Cannonball and Challenge with a single 6-passenger detachable lift. Replace Indian Peaks and Corona with 6-passenger detachable lifts. These lifts are heavy and should withstand the winds.
3. New lifts: Build #15 down to the eastern part of the Hessie area. Lifts #14 (within present area) and #16 (down to western Hessie area) are lower priority and will be addressed in the future. It is planned to run #15 on non-windy days.
4. Old trails: The narrow area near the bottom of Corona will be fixed, and a few trees on the windward side removed. Part of Cascade will be widened, and the hope was to do much of it while snow was on the ground as it is easier to move the cut trees around and less environmental disturbance.
5. New trails: Trails going down to #15 will be 90-120 feet wide, about the width of Lower Ambush.
6. Snowmaking: They are getting 50 new snowmaking towers. These are quieter than the snowmaking hose system. They don't know yet where the new towers will go. He mentioned that the snowmaking system acts as a fire fighting tool (about 2000 gal/min), and they also have fire-fighting boxes of tools spread around in the area.
7. A new restaurant will be built near the top of Muleshoe, with easy access to all trails. This will be done early.
8. No summer boundary ropes are to be left up.
9. They have not recorded a wind velocity difference over the length of the Corona lift.
10. Carbaryl spraying will continue in key areas. We can probably find out the areas by contacting Dave Hunter. Certified letters will be sent out to interested people, and a time frame for the spraying will be given. The USFS has to be contacted as to the specific days. A contractor does the work.
11. For the new work beyond the present boundary EMR has to get an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement (EIS), and this involves the USFS and NEPA. SE-Group hires the specialists to do the work, paid for by EMR. We do not believe the new boundary has been accepted yet. The public will have a chance to comment on any part of this.

Fourth of July Road/Hessie Trailhead Parking

Many area residents attended meetings held by Boulder County in order to comment on the proposed solutions to parking congestion from Eldora west to Hessie and up the North Fork of Middle Boulder Creek. Pictured is a group who walked the road on May 5 for a closer look: Gretchen Beatty & Poppy, John Brocklehurst, Bill Ikler, Alan Apt, Barbara Donahue, Laura Fisher & Spirit and Jerry Donahue. Diane Brown & Callie are not pictured as Diane was the photographer.

On May 9 at the Nederland Library Scott McCarey of Boulder County Transportation made a presentation on the fine tuning of the project, which included significant input from local residents. Parallel parking will be allowed along the south side of the road. Cars may only park between signs that say "parking permitted." Otherwise they will get a $50 fine. A Boulder County park ranger has been hired for the season to oversee the Fourth of July Road on weekends and holidays. Gravel will be laid down for parking and also the beginning of the rough dirt road at the west end of Eldora will get gravel. At least 50 spaces are planned as close to the wye as possible where it is further from the stream. Although the Forest Service would like to eventually close the Hessie meadow to parking, for now it will continue to be open to parking for those with high clearance vehicles. No parking will be allowed at the Hessie Fork and it will be signed as a tow-away zone. A porta-potty and boulders to sit on will be placed at the fork where passengers can wait for the shuttle. Boulder Valley School District will be signing an intergovernmental agreement with Boulder County to permit use of the Nederland High School parking lot for the shuttle. The shuttle, which will run on weekends and holidays, is a 14-passenger gasoline powered vehicle. Well-behaved dogs may ride the shuttle. Naughty dogs have to run alongside it. This is considered to be a pilot program, which may need tweaking, and is just a beginning in the process of figuring out how to provide access, order and safety for the public.

On May 22 Boulder County Commissioners will meet at 2:00 PM to approve funding for this project. This is the last opportunity for public comment. If approved, road work will begin on May 23. On Memorial Day weekend a Boulder County park ranger will be on duty and informational flyers will be distributed. The shuttle will be in service beginning June 2-3 with no parking that weekend. The road work is scheduled to be completed by June 8. Till then expect flaggers and 5-10 minute delays on weekdays.

Preliminary Revisions to Colorado Onsite Wastewater Treatment Regulations

(Condensed from a detailed 83-page document dated March 9, 2012)

The State of Colorado is working on revisions to its Onsite Wastewater Treatment (OWT) regulations. The purpose of these regulations is to preserve the environment, protect public health, eliminate and control causes of disease, infection and aerosol contamination; and to reduce and control pollution of the air, land and especially water.

These minimum standards will apply to individual sewage disposal systems like those we have in Eldora. They will provide guidance and standards for the location, construction, performance, installation, alteration and use of OWTs within the State of Colorado. The Boulder County Health Department will have jurisdiction over unincorporated areas of the county. County regulations may be no less stringent than State regulations.

Prior to commencement of installation, alteration or repair of a system, a written application must be submitted to the health department in order to apply for a permit. If a permit is issued, a permit fee is charged. If a system is malfunctioning, a reasonable amount of time shall be allowed to correct the problem. A registered professional engineer or geologist may be required to evaluate factors such as soil type, depth to limiting layers, unsuitable soil or groundwater.

In Eldora the location of an OWT can be tricky because of topography, vegetation, natural features and proximity to other homes. Some physical features both on and off the property require setbacks. Among these are streams, lakes, springs, wetlands, gulches, wells, water lines, dwellings and property lines.

Depending on what the Boulder County Health Department sets for its standards, there may be alternative solutions to an OWT in situations where there is simply no space for a fully complying one. Vaults, incinerating or composting toilets, and portable chemical toilets may be allowed on a limited time occupancy basis. It shall, however, be illegal to construct a new pit privy or to continue the use of an existing one.

Clearly both the State and the County want us to come into compliance with our wastewater treatment and the time is coming when we will no longer be able to avoid the reality. This may cause varying degrees of anguish and expense for many Eldora property owners. One thing that will trigger immediate compliance is the sale (transfer of title) of a property, at which time an inspection of the system shall be required in order to demonstrate that it is functioning and in full compliance.

Nederland Bugle July 7, 1961: 'Twas Ever Thus For Towns Downstream

About the time it was announced that Boulder would use water from the Nederland Lake (Barker Reservoir), several letters appeared in the Boulder Camera with caustic comments to the effect that residents of the university city would be drinking Nederland sewage. Some area residents wonder why, if it is a threat (which is doubtful), the city of Boulder and the various health agencies don't cooperate in installing a sewage plant and lines not only for Nederland, but also for Eldora, Hessie and Fourth of July Flats (or whatever that subdivision is to be called).

Eldora Weather Report

Boulder ► Thimbleberry

January 2012

❁Fran and I did a snowshoe hike up and over Spencer Mountain and were astounded at the number of huge conifers blown over by the mid-November windstorm. I will photo it next time we are up there, in a couple weeks. I have never seen anything like it in my 60 + years of hiking there.

Payson Sheets 1-22-12

❁The winds have been merciless for most of the past two weeks and definitely keep the population under control. Couples go to bed early and procreate (if fertile and young) or they move out of town. Either way, our little valley seems to stay balanced in that regard and I believe we have the winds to thank for this. Lisa Lopez 1-22-12

❁Greetings from the wind tunnel! Gusts feel like 80+ on top of 40 steadily today....Wild!

Kathleen Henningsen 1-22-12

February 2012

❁The temperature was 3˚ this morning. We got 30" of snow from the storm. No wind today and there are 50-60 cars parked from the Fishers to the Cohagens, mostly snowshoers going up the 4th of July Road. John Brocklehurst 2-4-12

❁We received close to 3 feet. I'm taking responsibility for the 3 footer because I asked for it. Actually, I asked for a 4-footer, but this will do. I love it when we get SNOW that really matters, like schools shutting down, the canyon being closed (three RTD buses stranded in Boulder Canyon, but not my wish), and the power goes out here and there. That's what happened today! I shoveled a path out to my car, brought in a great deal of wood and Marc Fisher plowed our driveway. Todd couldn't make it home with the canyon closed. Lisa Lopez 2-3-12

❁Doug and Pat Gibney reported receiving 4 feet of hip deep snow on the Arapaho Ranch. This is very good news for the wetlands and stream. For the first time in about 25 years it has been possible to get around on the ranch by snowmobile.

Virginia Evans 2-3-12

March 2012

❁There is not much snow... I think there had been a good storm a few weeks ago, but these last few weeks of heat have melted everything down to a couple feet. Snow was icing, crusty and ugly. But it was beautiful and warm while we were there, so that was the upside.

Don & Jillian Altman (North Fork) 3-23-12

❁Bill and I went up to check on the cabins on Sunday. There was almost no snow in the yard. We went up about the same time last year and had to park on the road. Bill had to trudge through several feet to get to the front door and, of course, the drift was up to the roof. This year he drove into the yard and there is almost no drift left. The creek has very little snow surrounding it either. There are a few drifts on the other side in the shaded areas.

Kathleen Pierson 3-29-12

April 2012

This report is written on Easter Monday, after four days of sublime sunny, calm days with temperatures in the fifties, and with aspen catkins dangling and hundreds of pasqueflowers in the Arapaho Ranch meadow.

This was preceded on April 2 and 3 by five inches of useful wet sleet and snow which alleviated the threat of forest fires after a very dry March. It only brought one and a half inches of snow accompanied by drying winds.

February brought 59 inches of snow and lots of wind. By a welcome contrast, Boulder -- three thousand feet lower down the canyon -- is a veritable Garden of Eden with lots of greenery, daffodils, tulips, red bud and crabapple trees, and forsythia.

John "Brock" Brocklehurst 4-9-12

High water info: water.weather.gov
Stream flow data: waterwatch.usgs.gov

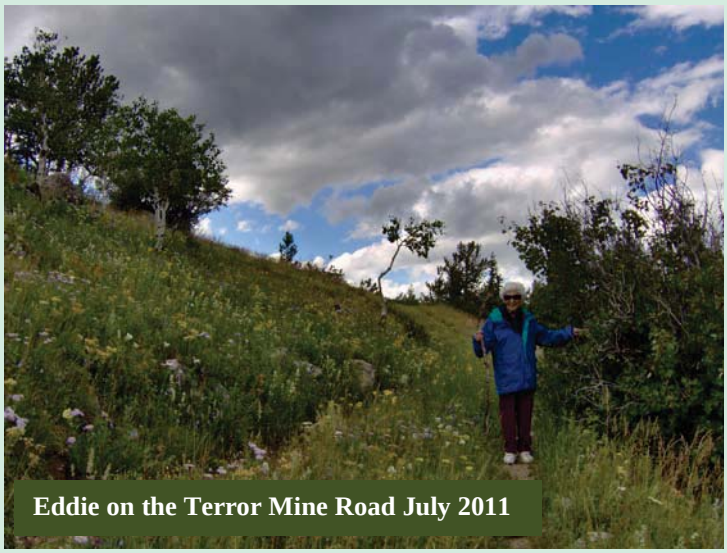
I really enjoy storms. There is something about them that brings out a sense of oneness with the natural world, as well as a sense of interdependence with our fellow humans.

Dixon Smith

Happy Valley Happenings

Moose and elk mated last fall and soon the calving season will begin. The solitary moose (pictured on the left) was seen recently in Marysville and numerous elk (pictured on the right) have been congregating on the Arapaho Ranch, a favorite calving area. Caribou Ranch Open Space is closed until elk calving season ends.
Photos by Diane J. Brown

Collected Poems: 1971-2011 by Marysville author **Jared Smith** has just been released by *NYQ Books* in New York. The editor approached him with the idea of doing this collection a couple years ago, but it took a great deal of time and effort to go back over the years and pull it all together. It is a magnificent volume, however, at 600 pages, issued in both hard- and soft-cover. Covering his publications from over 40 years in this country and overseas, it contains a lifetime of visions and understandings from academia, technology research, Washington policy-making, and building a life for himself and the family. It is available through both U.S. and overseas distributors, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Ingram, Espresso Machines (overseas), and the usual suspects. Amazon link, if you're interested is: **www.amazon.com/Collected-Poems-Jared-Smith-1971-2011/dp/1935520709**


Eddie on the Terror Mine Road July 2011

Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old. - Franz Kafka

◄**Edna Hollis** is celebrating her 100th birthday on May 21. Eddie's recipe for a long, healthy and happy life:

Believe in yourself.
Accent the positive.
Look for the good.
Count your blessings.

Happy Birthday, Eddie! May you spend it at your beloved cabin on Peterson Lake.

Happy Valley Happenings

Fire Safety Tips from Senator Mark Udall's Website:

●**Recreate responsibly**: Err on the side of caution. Don't leave campfires unattended, think before doing anything that could cause a spark in the backcountry and avoid outdoor burning. Be aware of fire risk by watching for posted warnings, and take responsibility for obeying restrictions in your area.

●**Prepare Your Property for Fire**: If you live in a high-risk area, you can take precautionary steps to protect your home from fire, such as installing fire-resistant roofing and creating a safety zone around your home, including carefully storing firewood and other flammable objects. But one of the most important steps is removing leaves, pine needles and other flammable material from your home's foundation. If you live in a wildfire-prone area, the most important yard tool is not necessarily a chainsaw; it's a rake and a weed-whacker.

●**Prepare in Advance for Evacuation**: Hundreds of homes have already been evacuated early in this season, and it can be a harrowing process. Families can cut down on stress by building an emergency kit and making a family communications plan that ensures the safety of people and essential belongings. If you have neighbors who are elderly or have special needs, consider them in your plans.

According to the US Forest Service 9 out of 10 forest fires are ignited by humans.

Eldora Land Preservation Fund Donations since February 2012:

●Earl and Barbara Bolton
In memory of Bill Gross

●Diane Brown and Dave Hallock
In memory of Bill Gross

●Michael and Susan Weissberg

Balance in ELPF Savings: **$25,945.59**

Boulder County Parks & Open Space Foundation/ Eldora Land Preservation Fund Donations since October 2011:

●Marie Bush

●Tom and Susan Dewey

●William Hellerling

Balance in BCPOS Foundation/ELPF: **$8,211**

Ski Area Update by Dave Hallock

The ski area has made a formal submittal to the Forest Service to expand their services, including expansion on the backside down to Middle Boulder Creek and a bridge across the creek. The Forest Service has indicated that a public process to review the ski area proposal will begin this summer.

Eldora residents have been involved with helping to fight the expansion on the backside. Marc and Laura Fisher have been measuring wind speed and noise from snowmaking. Fran and Payson Sheets have been meeting with the Forest Service and the City of Boulder Water Quality Board. Fran Sheets, Audrey Godell and Jim McVey have been coordinating letter writing. John Brocklehurst distributed over 200 "ski flyers" on vehicles at the west end of town between September and March. Randy Leever and Pete Birkeland met with Dave Hunter of the ski area.

To find out more, go to www.middleboulderercreekcoalition.org and to sign up for receiving action alerts.

The ski area now occupies approximately 81% of the north side of Bryan Mountain. I am opposed to their taking over the remaining 19% with bulldozed ski runs, access roads, lift towers, pipes and other snowmaking gear. Payson Sheets

The Community Bulletin Board ▲ just west of the Gold Miner Hotel is lonesome. It would love to have people come by and post information, ads, etc. or check it out from time to time.

Happy Valley Happenings of Yesteryear

Gold Miner Hotel circa 1940

Gold Miner Hotel in 2012 – Photo by Scott Bruntjen

▲This photo was taken for the county assessor. That collection was rescued from the dumpster and is now at the Carnegie Library for Local History in Boulder. People wanting photos of their property may well find them there. - Scott Bruntjen

Nederland Bugle – June 1963

Missing Plane found May 20 near Caribou

●A Cessna 172 plane missing since January 4 was found Memorial Day by two fishermen near Caribou. Both occupants of the plane, Lyle B. Cook and Earl K. Smith Jr., apparently had been killed in the crash. They were Craig businessmen. The badly decomposed bodies were brought down from the crash scene June 2 by members of the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group under the direction of Deputy Sheriff Dale Goetz.

●The "Binx" Rugg family has moved back to Eldora from Boulder.

Nederland Bugle – July 1963

●The Robert Roney Quarter Horse riders took a trip to Corona Pass on July 7 and one to Devil's Thumb Lake on July 14. This group makes high country riding trips from Nederland each Sunday during the summer.

●Mrs. John Langley, Mrs. Don Kemp, Hester Hulse and Miss Genevieve McCandless attended the opera at Central City on July 11.

●Carolyn Olsen and Kathy and Jeanne McCleery, who are living in Eldora for the summer, are attending summer school at the University of Colorado.

●Many wells have been dug in Eldora this summer. They were dug at the homes of Philip Rouse, Russell Rouse, William Trevithick and George Menke.

●Mrs. Don C. Kemp had her annual tea near the beginning of July to which all Eldora ladies were invited. Following the tea Mrs. Kemp's gift shop was opened for the ladies to view the new summer merchandise.

●Dr. and Mrs. Daniel McCleery have arrived at their cabin in Eldora. Dr. McCleery will return to Beatrice, Nebraska and come back to his wife and daughters in August.

Nederland Bugle – August 1963

●Several teachers at the Nederland School are Eldora residents:

2nd grade – Miss Mary Nolan

Art (elementary, junior and senior high) – Miss Irene Eaton

Spanish (elementary, junior and senior high) – Mrs. Helen Langley

●F. A. Dunnagan from St. Louis, Missouri has joined his wife at their summer home in Eldora.

●Leonard Mues will visit his mother-in-law, Mrs. Virginia Hale of Eldora, in August.

●The famed Eldora foxes are still making news. Presently they have split up and have been seen in pairs or singles in various places around town. Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Billingsley, Katherine Olsen, the Arbor Egermeiers, Miss Blanche Smith and Mrs. Edith Stubbs each have seen a young fox near their home.

●Bob Postlewaite and his family have been visiting his mother in Eldora.

Eldora Mountain Resort: Reasons to Just Say NO to Expansion

March 2012

◀Pete Birkeland (right), Vice President of ECA, guides ECA member Gary Weber (left) down some Eldora runs. Gary lives in South Dakota, has a cabin east of the Gold Miner, and, by the way, skis well. Pete and Gary recently spent a morning on the slopes talking about the issue of Eldora Mountain Resort expansion as it affects the Town of Eldora.

Following text from Ski Area Citizens' Coalition:

"A principal rule in wildlife protection is that impacts should be concentrated rather than dispersed." **Colorado Dept. of Natural Resources**

Ski runs are essentially permanent clear cuts; development paves over land making it completely unavailable for most species. Studies indicate that logging ski runs enhances the extirpation of declining interior forest species, such as the golden-crowned kinglet and the three-toed woodpecker. Logging for additional ski runs in undisturbed forests, building roads, grading slopes with bulldozers or blasting to moderate slope inconsistencies, or covering over wetlands entails significant long-term environmental impacts. They sever the habitat and migration corridors of forest interior species such as lynx, and often result in the loss of old growth forest and wetlands.

Creating and maintaining developed ski areas is an intensive use of land that has significant environmental impacts. These impacts include logging, erosion from disturbances on steep slopes, damage to wetlands from construction and maintenance, etc. These actions can compromise values such as the peace, solitude and the feeling of being in touch with the natural environment which many mountain visitors seek. Unfortunately, some ski companies choose to engage in practices that degrade the environmental integrity that brings business and visitors in the first place. There are some ski companies that are obviously putting more emphasis into their bottom line than the mountain environment, when the mountain environment is the reason they have a business at all.

Construction activities create large areas of exposed soil in the mountain environment, which create the potential for large sediment movements during spring run-off and rain events; in addition on-site storage of gas, oil, anti-freeze, solvents, etc. can leak and can contaminate surface and ground water. These activities can lead to water quality violations as cited by a state water board, the EPA or Army Corps of Engineers.

Artificial snowmaking requires vast amounts of energy that to some degree exacerbate global warming. It often depletes streams when fish and other wildlife need it the most – in the fall and winter when flows are at their lowest. Depleting streams to minimum required stream flows, if they exist at all, could destroy a stream's ability to support fish populations, which in turn adversely impacts larger wildlife such as bald eagles, herons, and osprey.

Snowmaking that utilizes water of lower quality than the ambient downstream receiving waters, including that from treated sewer systems, can have a negative effect on the watershed, its aquatic habitats and downstream users. Polluted snow melting into drainages disturbed from mining can spread heavy metals pollution to clean creeks. In other cases, drawing water from clean streams that serve as a dilution source for other joining streams with mining pollution can worsen water pollution problems downstream.

Memorials

Dale was a great adventurer. He was a pioneering rock climber with many first ascents, including roller-skating up the Third Flatiron above Boulder.

In Memory of Dale Lloyd Johnson

Dale L. Johnson, well-known local businessman, mountaineer, and environmentalist died at his Boulder home on February 23, 2012. He was born in Rifle, CO on April 18, 1931. Founder of Frostline Kits, he received numerous awards for his business acumen as well as for accomplishments as volunteer pilot for LightHawk and Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and for his work with other environmental organizations, Boulder County Open Space and most recently the Colorado Mountain Club.

Surviving family members are his wife Frandee, son Brad, Frandee's three daughters, and their six children. His family wishes to express their deepest thanks to Hospice of Boulder and Broomfield Counties for their compassion and superb care during the last weeks of Dale's life. Gratitude to Science Care, to whom Dale donated his body for medical research, for their utmost respect and sensitivity toward the family and donor.

Eldora has lost a good friend and neighbor. Dale served the past two years on the ECA Board as treasurer. He and his wife Frandee were married in Eldora at the Dunnagan cabin. He will be missed by many.

In Memory of Roderick V. Reid

October 17, 1932 - December 25, 2011

Roderick V. Reid, emeritus professor of Physics at the University of California, Davis, died at his home in Davis, California, December 25, 2011. Reid was born in Charlotte, NC, where he graduated from Central High. He received a BS and MS from the University of Denver and studied at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. He earned his Ph.D. in Physics from Cornell University, working under distinguished physicist and Nobel laureate Hans Bethe. After a postdoctoral fellowship at MIT, he became a member of the Physics Department at UC Davis. In his research he was best known for his development of the Reid Potential, one of the first and best known descriptions of the forces between nucleons. He was also considered an outstanding teacher by both students and faculty. His meticulous and enthusiastic lectures impacted deeply undergraduate and graduate students. An avid mountaineer, he hiked for many years in Colorado, Yosemite National Park, Death Valley and in remote, windswept mountains wherever the bristlecone pine flourished. The Haffner-Reid cabin on Peterson Lake above Eldora provides many happy memories of time spent together as a family. Reid is survived by his wife Virginia; daughter Katherine Reid, Alexandria, VA; daughter Valerie Jordan, her husband John and grandson Henry, Lakewood, CO; son Rod Reid Klamath Falls, OR; brother Charles M. Reid and wife Nancy of Greensboro, NC; nieces Allison Grigg, New York City and Suzanne Phillips, Charlotte, NC.

Rod scrambling the Flatirons at age 25

A Report on the Insecticide *Carbaryl*

By Randall D. Leever

The ECA Board, because of concern for the detrimental and environmental effect of Carbaryl, based on the overwhelming information on toxicity, asks residents to consider alternatives to the use of Carbaryl or any pesticide to control bark beetles. Residents that feel they must use pesticides are asked to please inform neighbors of their intent. Please follow application and disposal directions exactly, or hire professionals for application.

Over the past 15 years in excess of 59 million acres of mature forests nationally have been killed by native bark beetles. Mountain pine beetles (*Dendroctonus ponderosae)* kill trees to reproduce, attacking in mass to overcome a tree's defenses. Beetles bore into a tree, lay eggs, eggs hatch, new beetles exit a now dead tree to attack another. This cycle generally takes a year, however new research claims perhaps two flights a year, late May through July and again August into September. A healthy tree can defend itself by oozing a toxic sap, retarding insect entrance. Drought, as we have experienced recently, stresses a tree allowing it to become vulnerable to attack. Acreages of trees that are too dense also contribute to weaker growth and susceptibility. These beetles have arrived in the Front Range and in the Eldora Valley. Some residents have resorted to spraying to protect their property. A condensed version of reams of information on the most commonly used pesticide for this purpose follows.

Carbaryl is a popular broad spectrum insecticide manufactured under the brand name Sevin. The primary manufacturer is Bayer Cropscience. Scientifically Carbaryl is 1-Naphthyl N-Methylcarbamate.

Designed Uses: Carbaryl is one of the most widely used insecticides in agricultural, professional turf management and ornamental production, residential lawn, garden and pet markets. A total of 3.9 million pounds of Carbaryl active ingredients are sold annually in the U. S. Agriculturally it is used in fruit and nut tree production, for vegetable and grain crops, including apples, grapes, oranges, corn, asparagus, cranberries, strawberries among others. In addition it is used on nursery and golf course turf, annuals, perennials and shrubs. In pet use Carbaryl is found in collars to control fleas and ticks, powders, dips in kennels and on sleeping quarters.

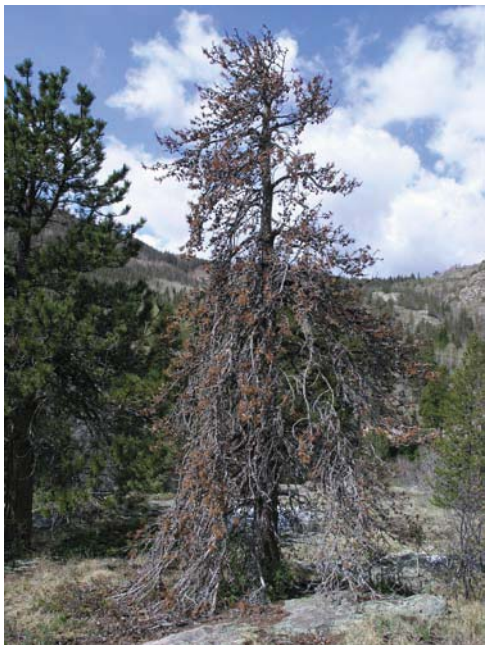
Detrimental Effects: Carbaryl is classified as moderately to very toxic, and as a likely carcinogen by the Environmental Protection Agency. It is of a family of chemicals called carbamates. Carbamates work by interfering with the transmission of nerve signals, that is, it can overstimulate the nervous system causing nausea, dizziness, confusion, and, at high exposure, respirator paralysis and death. The chemical process carbamates attack is common to insects, humans, dogs and cats. Carbaryl also inhibits enzymes required for detoxification, which are important to the functioning of the immune system. Thousands of acute poisonings by Carbaryl have been logged at poison control centers across the U. S. Because Carbaryl is extremely toxic to aquatic and estuarine invertebrates, its use close to water is legally prohibited. It is also lethal to many non-target beneficial insects, especially honey bees, ladybugs and parasitic wasps. It has adverse impacts on populations of bark beetle predators (birds and other insects). Given the critically important role that honey bees play through plant fertilization and pollen dispersal, it would seem morally and economically suicidal to apply toxic chemicals that would contribute to their mortality. Carbaryl is likely to harm local and native bird species. It may affect bird offspring, juveniles, and the reproductive process. Many bird diets consist of insects

that Carbaryl kills, which is estimated to be upwards of 100 non-target insects. Therefore the diet of many birds is reduced or eliminated. Carbaryl poses danger to firefighters near burning trees which have been sprayed. Fumes are highly toxic and may form toxic and corrosive mixtures such as nitrogen oxides, methylamine and carbon monoxide. Carbaryl is banned for many uses in Germany, Austria, Sweden and Angola. Since 2004 it is banned for use along salmon streams in California, Washington and Oregon.

Application: On trees Carbaryl is applied by spray from the ground up to about 30 feet using a high pressure wand. The applicator must drench the main trunk to be effective. This inevitably results in unintended contact with non-target species (plant and insect) through drift, miss-spray and runoff. Some tests have shown drift up to 150 yards under temperature inversion conditions, but one can generally count on 50 yards with no wind and no temperature inversion. By comparison aerial application of fields of crops has shown drift up to 2 miles.

Alternatives: What can we do about bark beetles? These insects reproduce rapidly and they live in terrain that makes control difficult. Insecticides have unintended consequences and are typically ineffective against an insect that spends 95% of its life hidden under tree bark. Thinner, well balanced forests are generally healthy. We are living in a time when nature is thinning the forests. We humans have suppressed fire for so long that many forests have become overly dense and unhealthy. They are ripe for change. The forests will remain, but will take on a different look than that to which we have become accustomed. There are some options to protecting some key trees on your property. Remove dead or unhealthy trees, which thins an area providing opportunity for healthier surviving trees. This results in less competition for water and soil nutrients. Do not prune healthy trees during beetle flight season, as it may serve as an attractant. As a general rule mature healthy trees have a spacing of 25 – 30 feet. Watering trees during hot, dry spells is beneficial, watering thoroughly, but not too often. Beetles and other insects communicate using pheromones. Verbenone replicates pheromone, sending a message that a tree is full and the food supply is insufficient for additional beetles. Verbenone packets can be applied to the north side of valued trees prior to flight season. It is non-toxic and environmentally safe. Verbenone pouches can be purchased at McGuckin Hardware in Boulder or at Horizon Forestry in the Alps Lodge in Boulder Canyon. Telephone number is 303-747-6269. Another option may be a new trunk injectable insecticide developed by Arborjet. Research results from 2004 to present have shown high efficacy of this new insecticide against pine beetle. For more information call 1-866-272-6758. Bark beetles have a limited amount of "fuel" called lipids. The longer they fly around looking for a suitable host tree, the weaker they become. Ultimately they disperse, die or other critters devour them. Maintaining healthy trees, removal and disposal of dead or attacked trees, combined with one of the above, should serve as an effective alternative to Carbaryl.

Sources: Environmental Protection Agency, World Health Organization, National Academy of Sciences, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, United Nations Environmental Program



Anyone who wants to be personally notified of Eldora ski area Carbaryl spraying dates can contact: Dave Hunter at 303-440-8700 or Dave.Hunter@Eldora.com

Beetle outbreaks and wildfire have always been part of the ecology of western forests. Warming climate is amplifying this phenomenon. Mature lodgepole, limber and ponderosa pines are being affected.

Mountain Pine Beetle

By Dave Leatherman, Entomologist
Colorado State Forest Service
From 1974-2005

Twenty years from now, at a woodpecker reunion somewhere within 150 miles of Granby, an old Three-toed or Hairy with worn-down mandibles and white bristles around its bill base will take aside a hatch-year newbie. "You should have been there, Woodrow! During the pine and spruce beetle outbreaks of the late 1990s and early 2000s, every one of us had our pick of a thousand nest trees and all the food we could eat. It was Paradise on Earth!"

Three-toed Woodpecker with longhorned wood borer beetle larva
By Dave Leatherman

As I write this, the "good old days" for woodpeckers are winding down in the high country of Grand, Jackson, Routt, Summit, Eagle, Larimer, Boulder, Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties, and perhaps just getting started in the lower mountains of the Front Range. Even trees planted in towns and in flatland, low-elevation windbreaks are experiencing the phenomenon.

While any number of bark and wood-boring beetles may be capable of huge outbreaks in the conifer forests of the West, the subject of this column is one in particular, *Dendroctonus ponderosae*, the mountain pine beetle. At present an estimated 800,000 of Colorado's 22 million forested acres are infested by MPB. This is down from over 1,000,000 acres in 2009 and nearly 900,000 in 2010. These somewhat declining numbers reflect the current epidemic "running its course" in the lodgepole pine forests of north-central Colorado, where it has raged since the mid-1990s, but the infestation maintains a significant presence in those lodgepole forests still harboring live trees. Even more importantly, it has begun shifting its host to ponderosa pine in at least some parts of Larimer County. The consequences of this last trend have yet to play out.

Due to the cyclic nature of bark beetle outbreaks – which usually occur 50-300 years apart on average in any one spot and last about 10 years locally once they start – and also due to their dramatic effect on woodpeckers, this system has been a frequent subject of study. Considerable literature documents the cause-and-effect interplay of bark beetles and woodpeckers along with the inseparable fear of wildfire.

Bark beetles like MPB thrive on pine forests under stress. Stress in pines can accrue from many sources, but the most important are adverse weather (especially drought and excessive heat), old age, excessive forest density, and fire. Bark beetles are one natural way that old forests renew themselves. By transforming pines from pitch-laden living plants to giant pieces of dead wood, bark beetles allow the addition of scavengers to the many phytophagous (wood-eating) and carnivorous organisms already in the ecosystem.

Pine Beetle Biology

Mountain pine beetles and the other bark beetles are newly classified as weevils. That is, they fall within the subfamily Scolytinae in the family Curculionidae. There are some 6000 species of bark beetles worldwide, about 500 in the United States, and about 100 in Colorado. Insects account for roughly 90% of tree mortality in the U. S., with bark beetles responsible for about 60% of this, killing an average of about 10 million trees per year since 1865 [Wood 1982] MPB is perhaps the most important of our bark beetles, both ecologically and economically, on account of its effect on human endeavors.

Bark beetles spend a lot of time in the dark. This is because they develop under the bark of their host tree. Eggs are deposited by the female beetles in a matrix of food (the relatively thin layer of phloem tissue between the bark and wood), in which their young will feed and mature. In MPB the developmental time from egg to larva to pupa to adult has historically been exactly one year.

The MPB calendar begins on about the first of August, give or take a few weeks, at least according to "the book." But due to the influence of climate change, "the book" is undergoing significant revision in some locales. Homeowners, forest managers, and interested readers should go outside and personally observe the version of "the book" describing the forest at hand.

Only during dispersal – that is, when newly formed adults emerge from recently-killed trees – are MPBs found outside the recesses of the inner bark. On that grand and glorious day in midsummer when the first MPB chews through the thick trunk bark of the large-diameter pine in which it developed, sunlight bathes its frons (forehead). A kaleidoscopic image of mountains and trees appears for the first time. The scent of coniferous resins must be overwhelming to its antennal senses. The time has come to test its flying wings. Lifting its hard wings, the elytra which form the hard covering of the abdomen, the beetle unfolds its transparent flying wings and sets itself aloft.

In MPB, a monogamous species, the females emerge first. It is their job to find suitable pine hosts for the next generation of beetles. Once they find a suitable tree, they attract males with an aggregating pheromone, a species-specific "perfume" produced by modifying terpenes and other materials found in pine resin. This volatile substance attracts a critical mass of beetles for the purpose of overwhelming the pitch defense systems of the host trees under siege. If there is a robust population of MPBs within the influence zone of the initial pioneering females, the result is often referred to as a "mass attack." Several hundred beetles arrive at the same big pine, pair up, and bore into its bark within a period of a few days.

The house-hunting females chew out little cavities called "nuptial chambers" just beneath the bark. After "pick-up lines" – chirps actually – the male enters the female's domain. Each couple first fights as a test of fitness, and then, assuming the test is passed, they mate repeatedly. Usually a glob of irregular resin, a "pitch tube," forms over the entry point of each pair. For humans, this is usually the first outward sign that a tree is under attack.

Once the female is fertilized, she soon leaves the male literally in the dust (or "frass") and begins an arduous vertical tunnel excavation of several inches through the tree's phloem layer, laying dozens of eggs as she goes. (At this point, from the male's point of view, Peggy Lee's 1969 song "Is That All There Is?" would be appropriate.) The larvae hatch, usually in a matter of weeks, and for the next several months excavate feeding tunnels of their own roughly perpendicular to the vertical tunnel of their mother. The resultant system of trails is referred to as a "gallery pattern." The gallery pattern of each bark beetle species is fairly distinctive, and MPB's is particularly unique. Central to the process is the introduction of a precise suite of fungi, collectively known as "bluestain," that function in a myriad of roles, many not yet understood. Their most important role is to enhance the nutritional content of the phloem for the beetles, which is key to beetle survival and success.

Also involved in the beetle/tree battle are yeasts, bacteria, hitchhiking mites, parasitic wasps, predaceous flies and beetles, secondary wood-boring beetles and wasps with ovipositors thick enough to penetrate half an inch into the outer wood rings. These and many, many more players are all interwoven in the fascinating world of the MPB. And, yes, there are hungry birds.

Hairy Woodpecker by Diane J. Brown

A Feast for Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers are the primary benefactors of population surges by MPB. Picid bills are designed to whack away the thick bark that protects bark beetles and other wood-inhabiting insects from most other would-be enemies. Since the bulk of MPBs occur in lodgepole and ponderosa pine forests at elevations from 5000 to 9500 feet, it follows that Three-toed and Hairy are the woodpeckers most closely associated with them. Apparently they find their prey not by random "test-drilling," but rather by both hearing and sensing vibrations that result from the tunneling activities of bark beetles beneath the bark. They can hear and feel exactly where the insects are.

In my 37+ years in the field looking at MPB, Hairy Woodpecker has seemed the big winner during pine beetle epidemics. I cannot recount how many times I have chopped at

the base of an infested tree trying to investigate MPBs and associates while a Hairy Woodpecker did the same 20 or more feet above me. Parallels abound. My specimens went to the collection at CSU; theirs went to their stomachs. I often wished I had a tool with both the strength and precision of a woodpecker bill; maybe at some level they wondered if they could hold a hatchet with four toes, and if so, whether this would perhaps give them a competitive advantage over those "other" woodpeckers with only three. (A formal analysis of these anatomical differences gives the higher impact advantage to Three-toed and the climbing advantage to Hairy [Spring 1965].

Various accounts put the amount of animal food in the annual diet of Hairy Woodpecker at about 75%, with bark beetles accounting for about 31% of that – that is, 23% of the total food intake [Beal 1911, McAtee 1911, Neff 1928]. For certain populations and individuals, in certain seasons (particularly winter), and during bark beetle outbreak years, the utilization of bark beetles is probably much higher [Hutchison 1951]. A single large-diameter tree may be an individual of Hairy's focus for weeks during winter. Targets in the lower two-thirds of the trunk are mostly bark beetles, (particularly from the genus *Dendroctonus*) and secondary wood-borer larvae (in the beetle families Cerambycidae and Buprestidae and the wasp family Siricidae), while targets in the upper trunk and limbs are usually secondary bark beetles (primarily engraver beetles in the genus *Ips* and twig beetles in the genera *Pityopthorus* and *Pityogenes*).

Three-toed Woodpeckers specialize more in bark beetles than do Hairy Woodpeckers [Yeager 1955, Baldwin 1960, Stallcup 1962, Goggens 1988, Steeger 1997, Fayt 1999]. Further, the considerable sexual dimorphism in this species apparently allows them to partition bark beetle resources within infested trees and, thus reduce intra-pair competition [Hogstad 1993]. The smaller females exploit smaller diameter trees and the more distal parts of bigger trees (tops and limbs) than do males.

The Three-toed Woodpecker response to MPB can bring them to lower elevations than we associate with this typically high-elevation species. During summer 2011, the author discovered a nest in Rist Canyon west of Fort Collins, Larimer County, Colorado in an aspen cavity at an elevation of just over 7300 feet. This location is at the lower elevational limit of their breeding range and appeared to be strongly influenced by the epidemic of MPB in both lodgepole and ponderosa throughout the nest area.

Much less documented is predation on MPB by birds other than these two woodpeckers. However, this is presumably due to the difficulty of documenting such predation rather than its rarity. During their brief weeks of flight (perhaps stretching into months in the new climate change scenario), undoubtedly they are opportunistically eaten by many forest bird species. No doubt Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes, American Robins, Townsend's Solitaires, nuthatches, chickadees, Western Tanagers, towhees, grosbeaks, sparrows and many other birds would not pass up a flying pine beetle or one crawling past on a trunk. Swallow, "flycatching" sapsuckers, and genuine flycatchers like Olive-sided very likely take bark beetles on the wing during those mass-attack afternoons.

Three-toed Woodpecker by Dave Leatherman

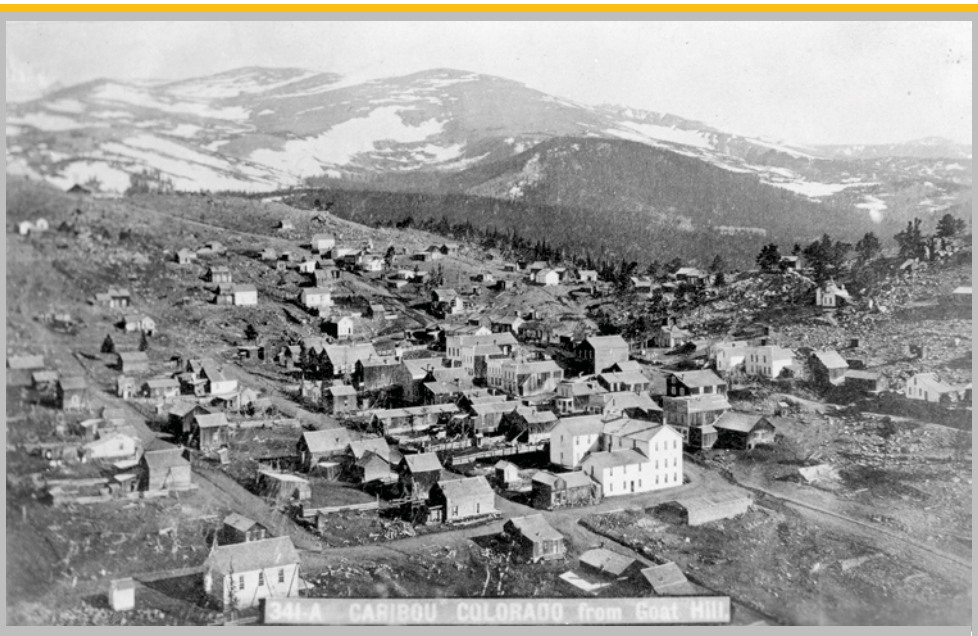
Conclusion

Mountain pine beetle and other bark beetle epidemics are major ecological disturbances to vast forest areas, and they can often be downright frightening from a human perspective. But to woodpeckers and other birds that exploit them, they represent the "best of times." For birders, they can be a great source of wonderment. And who knows? Maybe the beetles will someday attract Colorado's first Black-backed Woodpecker.

This article was reprinted with permission from the author and from Nathan Pieplow, Editor of *Colorado Birds*, the Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly in which it appeared in January 2012.

The History of Caribou

**"The Gold Miner"
by L. C. McClure**



Caribou in its Heyday taken from Goat Hill (Bolton Collection)

In 1858 a gold discovery near what is now Denver sparked the Pike's Peak Gold Rush. In June 1859 John Gregory discovered a rich lode below Central City in what is now called Gregory Gulch. Times were hard due to a depression that caused tens of thousands of emigrants to stream into the Rocky Mountain region in hopes of finding a better life. Many of these new settlers were miners, farmers and businessmen. Among them was one man who would help put Caribou on the map.

Sam Conger arrived in Colorado in the early 1860s. While hunting he noticed that some of the Arapaho Indians who camped on Middle Boulder Creek near Nederland wore silver ornaments. The silver ore at Caribou was so rich the Indians were able to melt it in their campfires. Conger questioned Bird Chief, their leader, but the chief was not giving away secrets to a white man. However, his lovely daughter Moaning Dove was more cooperative because Conger befriended her. By word of mouth she revealed the approximate location where the tribe had found silver, but her father found out and discouraged Conger from pursuing his ambitions. Only years later did he return with a prospector friend, William Martin, who confirmed that the outcrops were potential ore producers.

The discovery of rich silver deposits on Labor Day 1869 lured many miners to Caribou. At its high point 3,500 people lived and worked in the town of Caribou. Bustling streets with names like Potosi, Main, Sherman, Quigley, Brewery and Jones were lined with storefronts that housed grocery and meat markets, bakeries, blacksmiths, liveries, hotels, boarding houses, saloons and dry goods. Of course, there were many outlying mine buildings, log cabins, frame homes and even a schoolhouse. To brace the buildings from the powerful winds that blew almost constantly in the winter, sturdy poles were propped against the leeward side.

In 1873 free coinage of silver was abolished; the price of silver slid downward. That same year a fire struck the town. In September 1879 another fire burned through Caribou; that winter an epidemic took many to the grave. A financial downturn in 1893 dealt silver mining a heavy blow. In December 1899 another fire ravaged the downtown district. Mines closed; disheartened people moved away and slowly the town of Caribou faded into obscurity. The invincible winds of Caribou had prevailed and over time would erase all but the stone and metal left behind.

The circumstances leading to the discovery of the Caribou Mine vary, depending on which history one happens to read. Samuel P. Conger is recorded as having made the first gold lode discovery in the Grand Island Mining District in mid-July 1864. It was located on the south flank of what later became Caribou Hill, and he named it the Conger.

On his claim Conger sunk a twenty-foot discovery hole and piled considerable ore on the surface beside the hole. He was unable to move the ore because there were no roads into the region and the nearest reduction works was at Black Hawk in Gilpin County twenty miles south. Five years later in August of 1869, according to another story, Conger brought with him William J. Martin, George Lytle, and others to help carry out the ore he had dug. While climbing the mountain toward the claim, Martin discovered blossom rock showing the proximity of a mineral deposit. Thereupon the whole party commenced digging and soon struck a strong vein "giving every evidence of silver ores in large quantities."

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

Life at Caribou

In 1864 when Sam Conger staked his claim at Caribou, there were no roads into the remote region. A wagon road was soon built into the area from Dayton (Nederland). From Dayton the ore went to Blackhawk. In 1870 Caribou City was platted. By 1872 a wagon road was built up Boulder Canyon connecting Dayton and Boulder City. Winter travel to Caribou was challenging and not without serious risks.

"Caribou or Bust" by Mrs. Zora Thompson (Elmer Holmes Collection) circa 1898
Horses were worked hard and they were expendible. The ribs on these show clearly.

Old Caribou Building still standing circa 1915
Photo by Harry H. Lake

In order to withstand the fierce winds which swept down from Arapaho Peak's bleak slopes to buffet the town through fall, winter and spring, the school building, together with many others, was reinforced with one or more heavy log props. The winter's supply of stove wood, cut to the required length and stacked against the east end of the building, augmented the support supplied by the pole props and reduced the labor of carrying the wood indoors during stormy weather

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

The primeval forest at Caribou was turned into mine props, fuel for mine boilers, and all kinds of buildings which were in turn heated by wood.

Caribou Flats recovering from logging
Photo by Donald C. Kemp

Shaft House and Loading Chute at Caribou Mine

The Hardships of Caribou: Weather

Caribou Flats in 1945 by Donald C. Kemp

Buckwheat and Paintbrush at Caribou Summer 2011

The weather was ever a grim and serious facet of Caribou life. With the bitter cold and heavy snows of winter there was always wind. In 1871 winter set in in November. Continuous snowfall made great drifts in ravines and on timbered slopes; but mining continued, notwithstanding, where there were suitable shaft houses.

Old timers, speaking about the terrific blizzards, told of a guide line of thick hempen rope fastened at one end near the center of town and anchored at the other end at the Caribou shaft house. A man was safe as long as he could hold the rope, but some who let go lost their way and were never seen again.

The Cousin Jack miner in Werley's saloon who said he didn't know how long winter lasts because he had "only been here three years" may have been the same one who exclaimed plaintively, "Gawd, I hope when summer does come, both days is nice!" Donald C. Kemp in "Silver, Gold and Black

Every morning during the winter the miners had to first shovel the snow that drifted in front of their cabin doors into the cabin, then clear a tunnel out, finally shoveling the snow from the cabin to the outside. If keyholes were not plugged at night, a bushel basket full of snow would have drifted in by morning. Wind blew constantly and hard in that timberline region. H. S. Andrew
(The Boulder Daily Camera – January 15, 1944)

Caribou had an earthquake in 1903, which shook the dishes out of some people's cupboards, and disjointed the stovepipe in my grandfather's cabin.

Lightning is very bad in Caribou owing to the iron dyke on which the town was built. The magnetic iron ore can be picked apart with a pin, and still the particles will stick together like beads. The loss of livestock there was always very high. Wind beaten gnarled old trees, with their long, slithering gashes bear witness to the frequency with which lightning strikes on Caribou Hill.

We children could not write on the blackboard during a storm, for the heavy slate of which the board was made, was also an insulator for static electricity and the stored charge would jump out at us so that we would get a slight shock.

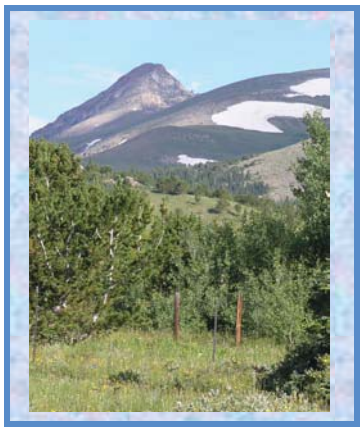
The wind blows all the time except a short time in the summer. The snow gets so fine it sifts through the smallest crack. The velocity of the wind causes the blizzards to be of a blinding white of such fine particles of ice and snow that you cannot breathe without a cloth tied over your face.

I remember losing part of one school term when one of Tucker's range bulls rubbed his neck on the pole props on the east side of the schoolhouse and knocked them down. Then the wind turned the schoolhouse around on its foundation, so we were out of school until it was put back.

The rainfall was much heavier in the early days than it has been for many a year. Raspberries, strawberries, black currants, red currants, thimbleberries and huckleberries grew everywhere around Caribou. The women of the town picked and canned large quantities of these berries so their cellars were full of jams, jellies and berries every winter. J. C. Smith – The Boulder Daily Camera 1944

Conflagration at Caribou

Caribou's first disastrous fire occurred on Sunday morning, July 27, 1873. The fire started seven days before in the prairie grass near Arapaho Peak and slowly crept eastward toward the town. Apparently little attention was paid to it, and no effort made to put it out. The advancing flames, fanned by wind, attacked the shaft house of the Caribou Mine, and it was completely destroyed, as were the shaft houses of the Monitor and Idaho mines on Idaho Hill. Although Caribou's business section escaped, all of the buildings east of the Sherman House were reduced to ashes.
"Silver, Gold and Black Iron" by Donald C. Kemp



The final destruction came in the winter of 1905 and 1906, when fire destroyed the most memorable structure of all, the Sherman House, and along with it the few remaining business structures.
"The Story of Ghost Town Caribou" by John W. and Doris G. Buchanan

These buildings on Caribou's Main Street survived the fires – Photo circa 1920

Caribou Fires

●A story in the Daily Central City *Register*, Saturday, September 16, 1879, stated that for two weeks fire had been gnawing away the forest growth several miles west of Caribou town. Reports blamed the start of it on careless campers; but, as was the case with the bad fire in July of '73, no one paid much attention until too late. And, as happened in the first instance, a stiff wind sprang up and the flames raced toward town. Fifty or sixty frame dwellings of miners were lost, whose inmates barely escaped with their lives, leaving all they owned to the flames.

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

●I was 12 years old at the time of the Caribou fire. That September day I was playing with my friends near the business district of Nederland. We could see the heavy smoke up Caribou way and pretty soon Caribou residents began streaming into town on the stages.

There was a terribly strong wind and suddenly we saw some flaming object hurtling through the sky. It crashed onto the street a short distance from us. We found it was a one-inch thick, six-inch wide board that had been slabbing on some mine or house at Caribou. The wind had evidently picked it up and shot it like an arrow from Caribou – a distance of four miles.

Wesley Hetzer (The Boulder Daily Camera – January 20, 1944)

●Fall of 1899: The weather, beginning to get snappy in the early mornings, a merchant built a gleaming fire in his big stove and decided to go to Boulder to obtain supplies. The fire, not caring to be left alone, decided to start something and she puffed out so red and hot until the intense heat set fire to the building. The wind was high and strong and to extinguish the flames with the "water bucket brigade" was impossible. As before, the flames spread rapidly, taking a toll this time of 25 homes and business houses.

The colorful autumn of 1904: Caribou seemed doomed to fate, for the third and last disaster caught her unprepared to fight, destroying this time the entire south side of the city, taking the big Donald Hotel, church and all business houses and homes. The school house was spared, also the big Lee home which now stands weather beaten, crumbling and yellow with age, yet holding within its silent walls happy memories of over a half century ago.

Mrs. Guy Tanner (The Boulder Daily Camera – 1938)

Caribou Cemetery

High on a saddle to the north of Caribou where one can look to the setting sun of the west, across a sweeping valley that is the lap of Old Baldy Mountain, and high where the wind never ceases to blow and where the snow piles high in the wintertime, Caribou buried its dead.

The casket was carried up the hill to the cemetery, sometimes not to be buried until the frost left the ground in the spring. A rumble of a dynamite blast now meant something else – it could be a mining operation or it could be efforts to excavate a grave in the granite hillside.

"The Story of Ghost Town Caribou"
by John W. and Doris G. Buchanan

Caribou Cemetery in the 1940s

Caribou people were very sick with the grippe (influenza) and there was no doctor there. Sage tea, mustard plasters, onion poultices, kerosene and whiskey were the remedies.
J. C. Smith – Boulder Daily Camera 1944

Tragedy struck Caribou twice during 1879. In addition to the great fire, there were grim epidemics of scarlet fever and diphtheria. Three children of one family died within four days and neither medical skill nor home remedy was able to check the epidemics. The few stone markers among the many broken and scattered about the little cemetery on Idaho Hill bear mute testimony to those grief stricken days.

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

◄Wrought iron fence around grave in summer 2011

Grave marker with broken headstone and native purple lupine flowers►

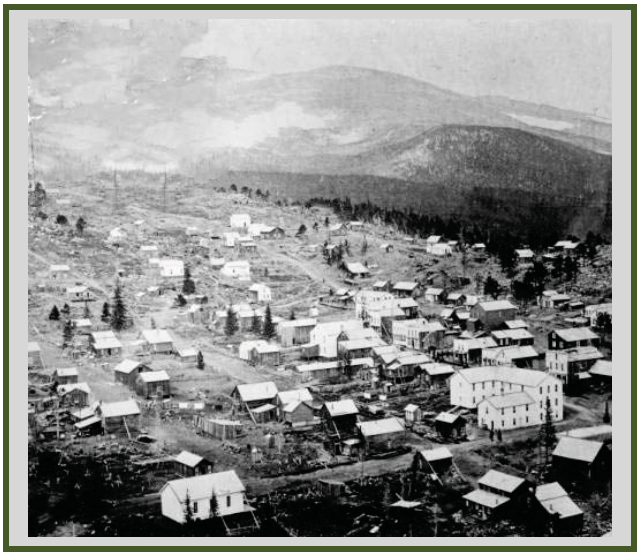
Photos by Diane Brown

Many thanks go to Lee & Virginia Evans , who generously shared their collection of news articles on Caribou with us for this newsletter.

The cemetery was always a cold and bleak place to put one's loved ones to rest. The rock was blasted to make a grave from grass roots. A few headstones still remain, but the greater part of the ones once there are in pieces. Mr. Fred Albright, who resided near the Todd residence on the edge of Caribou Park, used to make white head boards and print the names of those of the dead he knew, and place them on graves, but as he grew too old to continue that act of kindness, the boards rotted or were blown down, and many graves cannot be located. The trees have grown up through graves in several instances.

Mrs. John S. Pughe - Boulder Daily Camera 1944

Caribou Now and Then



▲Ghost Town of Caribou by Donald C. Kemp 1945
◄Caribou Townsite circa 1880s

◄From a bustling mining town in the 1870s to 1880s to a ghost town by the 1930s, Caribou is now being reclaimed by nature. Signs of human settlement on this meadow are only obvious to the experienced botanist who recognizes the numerous white flower umbels of non-native caraway, cultivated by early occupants 140 years ago, still surviving today in moist areas.

Boulder County Parks and Open Space purchased an entire section of land at Caribou from Tom Hendricks, which will most likely be traded to the U. S. Forest Service to connect with adjacent U. S. Forest Service lands.

Photo by Diane J. Brown

◄View toward Caribou from Idaho Hill 2011

Pasqueflowers thriving at Caribou

Eldora Civic Association 2011-12

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Billingsley, John E./Jim/Joe
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Zemanek, Phyllis

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

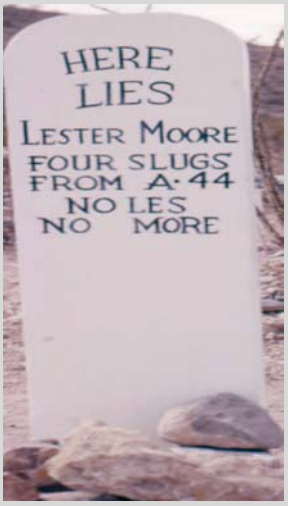

Photo by Gail Shickley

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

ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM 2012-2013

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Additional copy of newsletter to be sent to:

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Address_____
Telephone_____
E-Mail Address_____

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

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

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

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

Please send an acknowledgement of this donation to:
_____
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_____

This donation is in memory of:
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Thank you!

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

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

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

Please send an acknowledgement for tax purposes to:
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This donation is in memory of:
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