



Gilia by Louise Rouse

ELDORA HIGH COUNTRY ©2010-11

Newsletter of the Eldora Civic Association

October 2010

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



Looking East from Mineral Mountain over Eldora Photo by Diane Brown



Puffball Mushrooms by Diane Brown

ECA Board of Directors for 2010-11:

Joe McDonald, President
joedmcdonald@gmail.com 303-499-3271
Pete Birkeland, Vice-President
birkelap@colorado.edu 303-442-0304
Fran Sheets, Secretary
fran.sheets@colorado.edu 303-444-3037
Dale Johnson, Treasurer
djohn7000@yahoo.com 303-442-1243
Randy Leever, Member at Large
rdleever@yahoo.com 303-494-1243

ECA Committees:

EEPP – Randy Leever & Dave Hallock
ELPF – Diane Brown & Fran Sheets
Noxious Weeds – Diane Brown
Newsletter – Diane Brown
USFS/Ski Area/County & State Liaison –
Pete Birkeland, Audrey Godell & Randy Leever
History – Diane Brown, Fran Sheets, Earl & Barbara Bolton
Eldora Road Cleanup – Earl & Barbara Bolton
Nominations – All Board members
Social – Fran Sheets
Transportation – Pete & Sue Birkeland, Audrey Godell and
Joe McDonald
Member participation on these committees is welcomed!

Calendar of Events:

First Friday of each month at 5:00 PM – Eldora Night at the Pioneer Inn (Call Ted at 303-258-7273)
Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 7:00 PM – ECA Board Meeting at Sheets – 520 Marine St. in Boulder
Saturday, December 11, 2010 at 6:00 PM – Holiday Potluck hosted by the Fishers (1195 Eldorado)
Bring a generous dish to share and your own beverages.
Saturday, January 15, 2011 – Deadline for the February issue of the Eldora High Country newsletter
Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 7:00 PM – ECA Board Meeting (Call Fran Sheets for location 303-444-3937)



ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Sunset over Devil's Thumb
By Audrey Godell

Minutes for Board Meeting September 30, 2010

President Joe McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. and read the mission statement. All board members were present: Joe McDonald, Randy Leever, Dale Johnson, Pete Birkeland and Fran Sheets. ECA members Audrey Godell, Matt Phillips and Sue Birkeland were also present.

The following formal motion was passed unanimously by the Board: Based on 2010 membership survey results, it is moved that the ECA join the Middle Boulder Creek Coalition (MBCC).

Old Business:

There was a brief update on the Eldora Mountain Resort ski area's latest plans for expansion and Middle Boulder Creek Coalition's work.

Website discussion: We need a new webmaster, as Heidi Anderson resigned. Lara, Joe's daughter, has offered to temporarily work on it for us. Joe will try to help Lara get access to the website by contacting Heidi.

Mountain Transit Study: The County will hold one more meeting, Oct. 21 at 4PM before the consultant presents the report. There is discussion about extending shuttle services to Eldora and Hessie. There were 3 options discussed at the last meeting concerning Eldora: 1) to extend RTD services into the town of Eldora. RTD is willing to do this but they want a paved pad to turn around on. There are 3 potential places in town where this could happen: at the east end of Eldora where Eldorado, Klondyke and Huron come together, near the Gold Miner Hotel and at the west end of Eldora. 2) Another option for more transit to Eldora would be to extend the Nederland Circulator. The Nederland Chamber of Commerce would like to have a circulator in town and there is a possibility this service could be extended into Eldora as well. They need to apply for a grant by Oct. 2 to get the funds. 3) There might be a recreation circulator that might be between Boulder, Nederland and Eldora. Currently, Phil Carter of the Climb, which works weekdays between Gold Hill-Ward-Boulder, said he might be interested in talking about extending service into Eldora. The Climb needs to be contacted about possibly being a weekend shuttle service between the high school and Hessie, perhaps decreasing the illegally parked cars along the road. Fran and Audrey will contact Mr. Carter to see if he might be able to provide these services and what the cost might be.

New Business:

The Calendar dates for the remainder of 2010 were set. They will be published in the Oct. newsletter.

Committee changes/ assignments:

EEPP - Dave Hallock, Randy Leever

ELPF- Diane Brown

Newsletter- Diane Brown

USFS/Ski Area/County/State: Pete Birkeland, Randy Leever, Audrey Godell

History: Diane Brown, Fran Sheets

Eldora Road Clean Up - Boltons

Nominations - ECA Board

Social – Fran Sheets

Transportation – Audrey Godell, Pete and Sue Birkeland, Joe McDonald

There was discussion around forming a group focusing on “civic amenities.” Joe suggested the purpose might be for ECA members, as well non-members, to better meet the needs of Eldora citizens through community improvements.

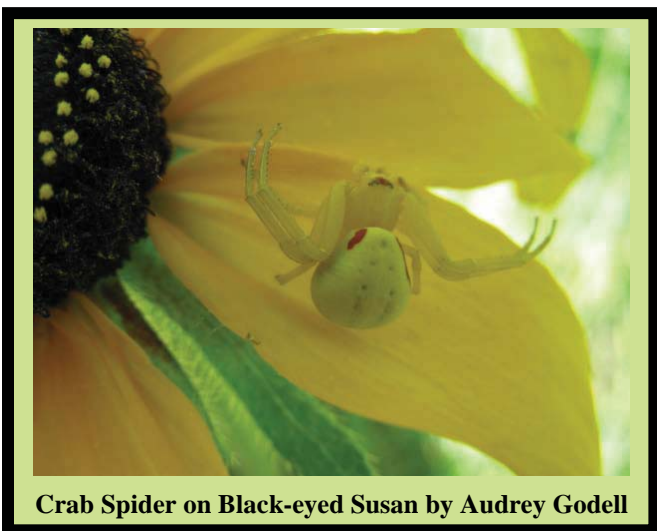
Question: Is Eldora interested in investigating natural gas lines into our homes and cabins? Xcel could extend the gas line into Eldora. They pay 1/2 the cost and the people tapping onto the line will pay the rest. Some Board members thought a free cost estimate and information made available to Eldora residents would be fine. Joe will try to get the information and report back to the Board.

The North Fork Council (NFC) and ECA have paid memberships fees to one another and have agreed to remain in communication throughout the year about issues of mutual concern. The NFC is working very hard to gain some law enforcement around illegal camping, fires and parking. They are very interested in working with ECA regarding vehicular traffic and illegal parking along the road. They would like to limit vehicles along the road and are interested in the idea of shuttling people from the high school to at least 4th of July campground.

Questions/other new business?

Joe will respond to Ted Warren’s request that the Board take up the issue of sidewalks along Eldorado. This issue was discussed at the annual meeting in August but Ted didn’t attend the meeting. Joe will explain the discussion and update Ted about the current effort to decrease traffic with shuttle buses. Ted is welcome to join us in this work and will be invited to participate in the Transit meeting on Oct. 21 in Boulder.

The meeting was adjourned at 8PM.



Crab Spider on Black-eyed Susan by Audrey Godell

Donations to the Eldora Land Preservation Fund:

Ernie & Marian Amaranto

Steve & Suellen Bryan

in memory of Edythe Gaines

Experimental Aircraft Association

Robert Goolsby – honey money

Bruce & Ann Marron

Betsy Munson

in memory of Tud & Pearl Barrett

Earl & Joan Naylor

Patti Vance

in memory of Philip Rouse

Michael & Susan Weissberg

Total balance in ELPF Savings Account: \$23,693.98

A complete list of all 2010-11 donations will appear in the July 2011 newsletter.



**ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION
2010 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS
ELDORA MOUNTAIN RESORT MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE
(First number is for full members; second number is for associate members.)
54 full members returned surveys; 18 associate members returned surveys.**

**STOP THE DROP!
NO
SKI AREA EXPANSION
DOWN TOWARD
HESSIE
AND MIDDLE
BOULDER CREEK**



It is important to recognize that each survey returned represents a household, not a single person. Thus each survey may represent anywhere from one to ten or more individuals.

| Agree | Disagree | No opinion | |
|-------|----------|------------|--|
| 48/15 | 4/2 | 2/1 | 1. There should be no further expansion of the ski area beyond its current USFS permit boundary on the Hessie side of the area. The current boundary runs between the base of the Corona and Indian Peaks lifts (9,200') and up the west side of West Ridge. |
| 49/16 | 3/1 | 2/1 | 2. There should be no new ski area infrastructure at Hessie, including, but not limited to roads, parking lots, bridges, water pump station, extended ski runs and lifts, snowmaking, helicopter pad and buildings of any kind. |
| 48/17 | 4/1 | 2/0 | 3. ECA should support keeping Hessie and the forest service lands around it much the way they are - as a scenic gateway to the Indian Peaks Wilderness and a quality experience for hikers, cross country skiers and snowshoers. |
| 47/15 | 4/1 | 3/2 | 4. There should be no new ski area development on the Hessie side of Bryan Mountain within the USFS permit boundary. |
| 49/17 | 1/0 | 4/1 | 5. ECA should encourage sampling for water quality (E. coli and carbaryl in particular) from Peterson Lake downstream through Marysville Gulch and into Middle Boulder Creek. (See July 2009 ECA newsletter for information on carbaryl.) |
| 38/11 | 7/1 | 9/6 | 6. ECA will be cooperating with a Boulder County stream quality project that will monitor Middle Boulder Creek west and east of Eldora and on the Marysville Creek. Testing for E. coli and carbaryl may cost extra. Should ECA help pay reasonable costs for these tests? |
| 46/16 | 3/1 | 5/1 | 7. Potential and actual degradation of riparian and wetland habitats and water quality in Middle Boulder Creek due to human activity and/or development is unacceptable, including ski area use or expansion. |
| 45/18 | 3/0 | 6/0 | 8. ECA should have equal standing with Eldora Mountain Resort in the decision making process when ski area development affects the Eldora townsite and the EEPP geographic area. |
| 47/18 | 4/0 | 3/0 | 9. ECA should come to the table with other stakeholders, including the US Forest Service, Boulder County, US Fish and Wildlife Service, North Fork Council, Boulder Creek Watershed Initiative, Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance and others in order to lay out terms for a management plan including design, development, operation and resolution of conflict, on public lands both within and outside Eldora Mountain Resort's current footprint. |

Eldora Mountain Resort's proposal came out on July 21, 2010. You can access it at www.eldora.com. Click on "U. S. Forest Service Policy," then on "Eldora is updating their master plan."

Many thanks to those who took the time to fill out the survey. It gives the ECA Board guidance in the decision making process.

Pete Birkeland has a hard copy of the new master plan if you want to see it.



Boreal Owl

CONSERVATION ALERT

ELDORA SKI AREA PROPOSES EXPANSION

(Article By The Middle Boulder Creek Coalition)

Eldora Mountain Resort (Eldora Ski Area) is proposing an update to their Master Development Plan that would expand the ski area outside their current permitted boundary. The vast majority of the expansion would occur on the north side of the ski area, also called the Corona bowl with Corona and Indian Peaks lifts. Seven new runs and two new lifts are proposed in the area between the bases of the existing lifts and Middle Boulder Creek and Hessie. Just west of the community of Eldora a construction and emergency access road is proposed to fork off of the Fourth of July road, bridge Middle Boulder Creek, and parallel the creek on its south side. A snowmaking pump station is planned near the creek.

The south side of Middle Boulder Creek from the west end of the community of Eldora up through Hessie is a densely forested area with no roads and virtually no trails. Middle Boulder Creek supports a healthy riparian ecosystem complete with extensive beaver pond wetlands. Moose reside there. Boreal owls have been documented. Black bear forage on the berry producing shrubs along the creek and under the north-facing forest, while mink has been seen along the creek. American marten has also been seen on the north-facing hillside above the creek. As lynx expand in Colorado, they could potentially use this area for migration and finding their favorite food, snowshoe hare.

The north side of Middle Boulder Creek west of the community of Eldora is one of the major portals into the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. Hessie is an important trailhead for summer hikers and backpackers. The Fourth of July road takes recreationists to Hessie as well as the Fourth of July trailhead further up the valley. During the winter, cross-country skiers and snowshoers park at the end of the community of Eldora and travel on the Fourth of July road as part of their trail experience, since the road is not plowed.

How could the ski area expansion impact wildlife? The creation of ski runs will open up a closed canopy forest and bring a human presence into an area that has had little. Species that favor a closed canopy forest, such as marten, will likely be displaced, as will those favoring seclusion, such as black bear, moose and mink. Since there are already heavy recreational impacts on the north side of the creek (Fourth of July Road) as well as ski runs higher up on the south side (Corona bowl), bringing ski runs down the remainder of the south side will likely shut off a migration corridor. We believe this impact is not worth the few hundred additional feet of vertical drop for the ski runs.

Bringing ski runs, lifts and snowmaking down to the bottom of the valley can also change the experience for cross-country skiers and snowshoers using the Fourth of July Road and Hessie. The acoustic and visual experience will be different as the sight and sounds (lifts and snowmaking) of downhill skiing will be within 150 feet. Is this appropriate for a major entry into the Indian Peaks Wilderness? The snowmaking noise already violates the maximum allowed, and this will make it worse.

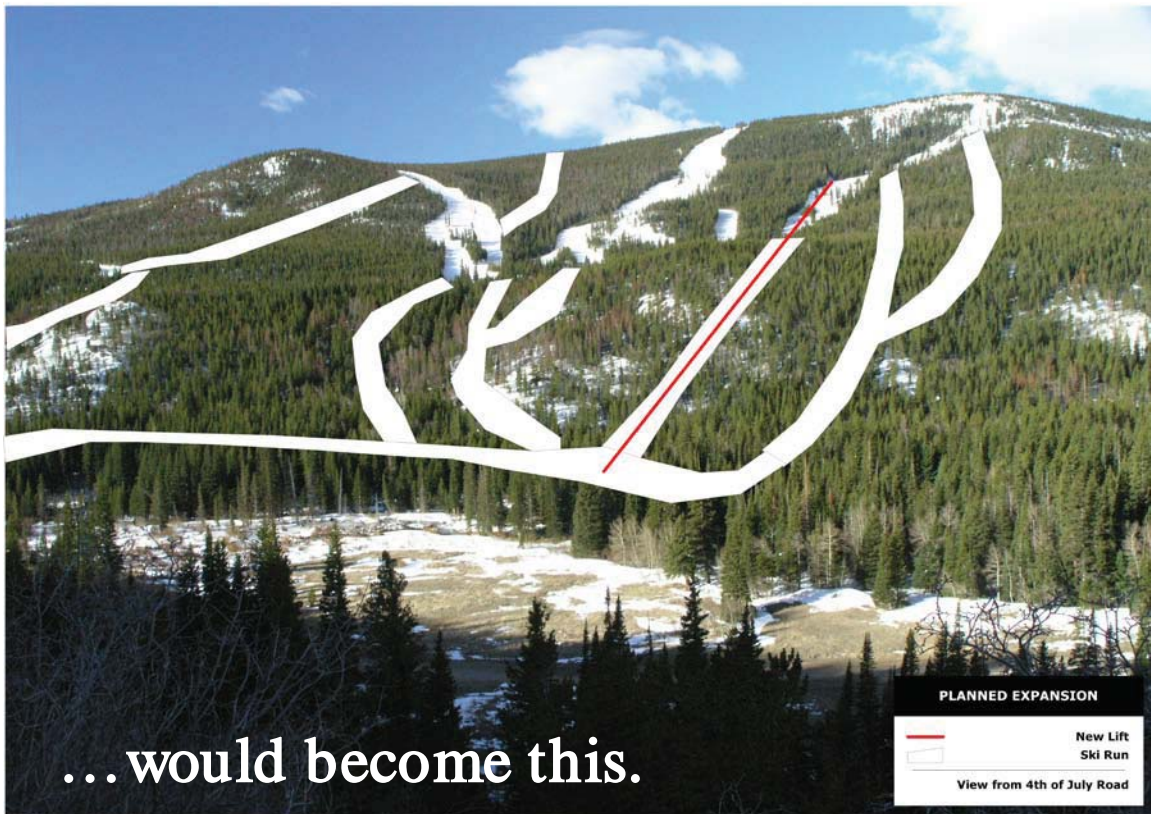
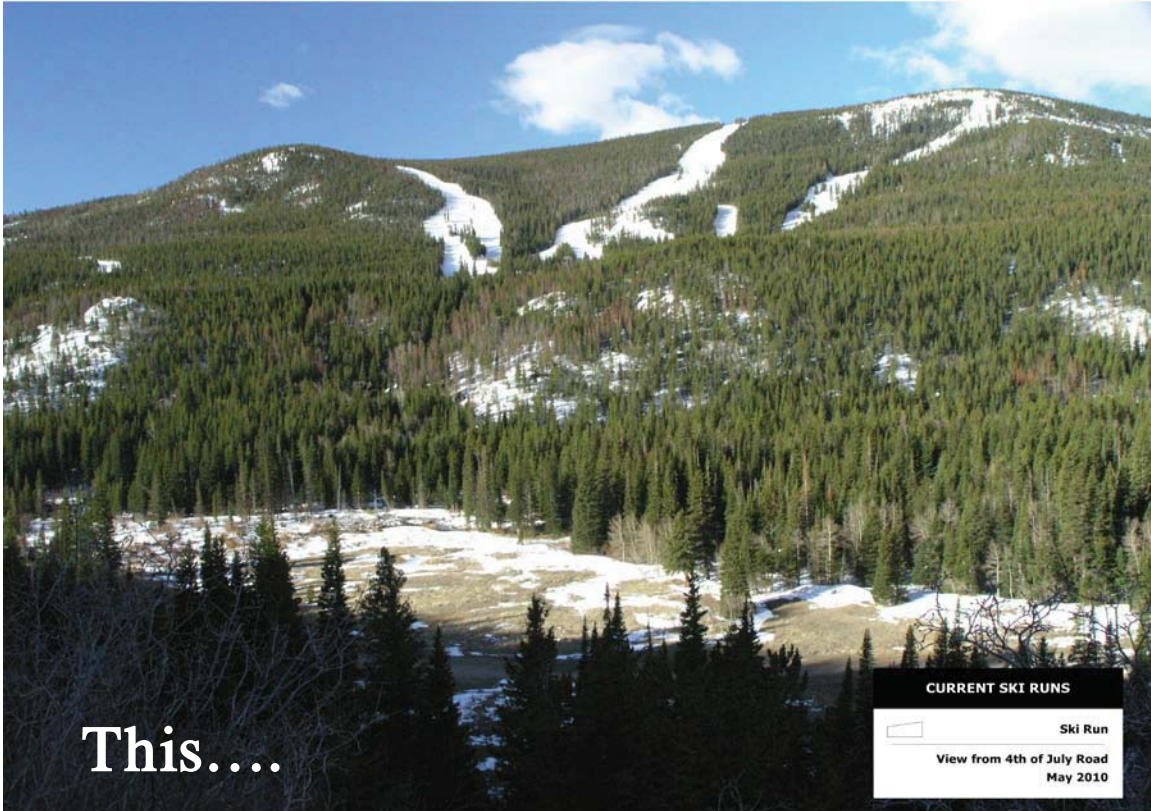
The ski area has submitted their updated Master Development Plan to the Forest Service for acceptance. When accepted, the ski area will then submit more detailed plans for a portion or all of the planned improvements and a more formal public process through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will begin. We are sending this letter to inform everyone about what could happen. The updated Master Development Plan can be downloaded from the ski area's website at:

[www.eldora.com/uploads/pdf/Eldora2010MasterPlan_July DRAFT.pdf](http://www.eldora.com/uploads/pdf/Eldora2010MasterPlan_July_DRAFT.pdf). The maps are on the last two pages.

The Middle Boulder Creek Coalition is a group of concerned citizens and organizations that feel that the ski area can better meet its objectives of increasing intermediate terrain, provide faster and more wind resistant lifts, and supply better skier services within the current permit boundary and not negatively impact the wildlife along Middle Boulder Creek or the experience of people accessing the Indian Peaks Wilderness. We invite other individuals and organizations to join us in opposing the northern expansion of the ski area boundary.

Middle Boulder Creek Coalition includes these organizations: ECA, North Fork Council, Colorado Wild, Sierra Club, Boulder County Nature Association and the Audubon Society. mbcc@rmi.org

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ELDORA SKI AREA: CORONA POD
(This is the west half of the proposed expansion down to Middle Boulder Creek)



One Unlucky-Lucky Elk



10:00 am: The elk is on the ground and can't get up.



If the tree looks this bad, how does the elk feel?

On August 16, 2010 Wildlife Officer Kristin Cannon was driving west on the Fourth of July Road outside of Eldora. Before she reached the Hesse trailhead she noticed a large bull elk in the trees. The elk was very difficult to see and had likely gone unnoticed by other drivers and walkers. Kristin happened to be looking in the right place at the right time. The bull elk appeared to be struggling. Upon further observation she saw that the elk's antlers were wrapped up in rope and flagging. That rope was trailing into Middle Boulder Creek and was also wrapped around a tree. Officer Cannon believes that the elk got the rope caught in his antlers and then the rope got caught on the tree. In his effort to get free the bull elk wrapped the rope tighter and tighter around the tree until his movement was almost completely limited. Wildlife Officer Claire Sechrist also responded and together they were able to tranquilize the bull elk and cut the rope to free him. Without their intervention they don't believe the elk could have freed itself. Per agency policy the elk was ear tagged with green ear tags #839.



The elk is entangled by ski area rope in an impossible situation.



3:00 pm: Elk ecstasy - great to be alive and free again!

Laura Fisher made contact with Officer Cannon to obtain this story. All photos are by Kristin Cannon.

Please consider removing from your property old barbed wire and other things that can adversely impact wildlife and domestic animals.



The Gold Miner Hotel from Huron Street by Kathy Gross Dugan

Eldora History Night – August 11, 2010

About 60 people attended Eldora History Night on a perfect summer evening. Local Eldora artists had decorated the newly renovated clubroom with watercolor and oil paintings set up on easels or set on the fireplace mantel and piano. A woodcarving display graced a table. There was one corner devoted to antique Eldora artwork from the 1930s.

Scott Bruntjen gave a most entertaining presentation on the extensive renovation that is ongoing at the Gold Miner Hotel. It was show and tell spiked with humorous wit that kept the audience smiling.

Afterwards the guests were treated to home-baked cookies, fresh brewed coffee and fruit juices provided by the ECA Board.

Event Photos by Payson Sheets



Scott Bruntjen explains how the log beams were hollowed out to fit over the steel I-beams that support the roof.

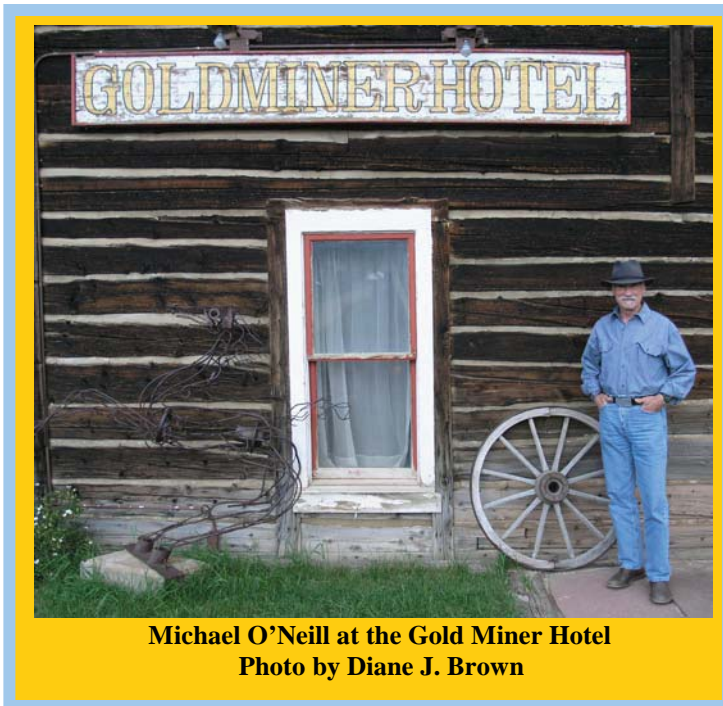


Frandee Dunnagan Johnson, whose family owned the Gold Miner when she was a teenager, helped organize the art show.



This 1968 photo helped determine historically correct replacement of the clubhouse windows. ⇒





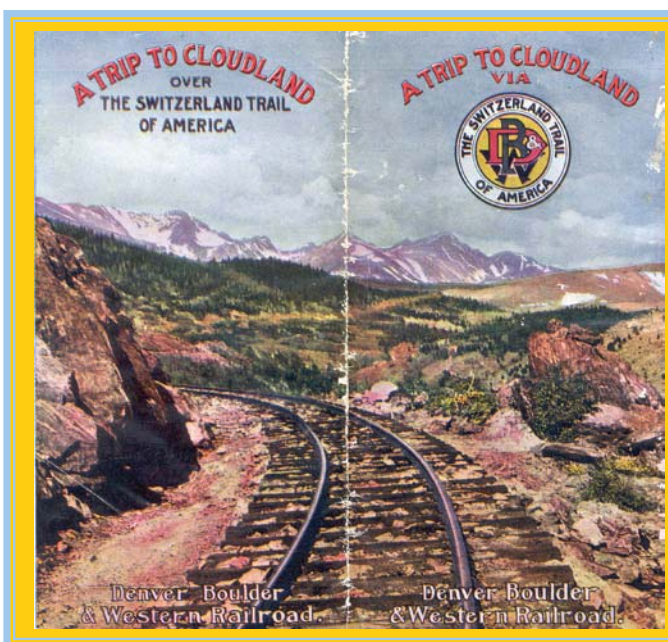
Michael O'Neill at the Gold Miner Hotel
Photo by Diane J. Brown

Tales of the Switzerland Trail

On August 27 Eldora community members were invited to the Gold Miner Hotel clubroom to be treated to a power point presentation on the Switzerland Trail of America by Michael O'Neill, whose passion is researching and preserving the history of this railroad. Michael's enthusiasm was contagious and soon it seemed as though he were the engineer and the audience of 63 souls were passengers on a nostalgic "Trip to Cloudland," gently swaying back and forth in the train carriage, smelling the locomotive's smoke and looking out the windows at the passing scenery. With historic photos of the rail route from Boulder to Salina, Sunset, Glacier Lake, Cardinal and on to Eldora, he compared what the sites look like today using photos he has taken in the course of retracing its tracks.

Part of Michael's purpose in coming to Eldora was to elicit stories and information from the community to add to his research on the Switzerland Trail. When he showed old photos of the railroad and town, the audience chimed in and made comments. Barbara Lilly Bolton identified her father Harold Lilly as a boy in one photo. When the audience was asked how long their families had been in Eldora, many came forward with early dates, but Barbara trumped all with her family's arrival in 1895. The group responded by singing "Happy Birthday" to her. In one old photo Michael misidentified the Eldora School as being the Gold Miner, to which the audience, almost in unison, corrected him by saying, "No, that's the school!" Cleo Billingsley brought a precious preserved original train brochure to share with the crowd. The cover and time table of this brochure are printed below.

Michael encourages all of us to learn about, share and cherish our local history. If you would like to share information or photos with him, he can be contacted at 303-516-1256, P. O. Box 298, Nederland, CO 80466 or moneill@switzerlandtrail.org.



| No. 35-5 | | No. 36-6 | |
|----------|----------|--|------------|
| Daily | Altitude | STATIONS | Daily |
| 8.40 | 5200 | Lv. Denver | Ar. Eldora |
| 8.47 | 5300 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 9.15 | 5400 | Ar. Boulder | Lv. Eldora |
| 9.25 | 5400 | Lv. Boulder | Ar. Eldora |
| 9.45 | 5900 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 10.05 | 6300 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 10.11 | 6600 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 10.21 | 7100 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 10.45 | 7900 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 11.12 | 8500 | Lv. Mt. Alto | Lv. Eldora |
| 11.20 | 8800 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 11.30 | 8950 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 11.52 | 9300 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 12.01 | 9453 | Ar. Ward | Lv. Eldora |
| 11.11 | 8410 | Lv. Sugar Loaf | Lv. Eldora |
| 11.13 | 9050 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 11.36 | 9000 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 11.37 | 9000 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 11.57 | 8535 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 12.14 | 8710 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 12.21 | 8530 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 12.27 | 8700 | " " " " " " | " " " " |
| 12.30 | 8730 | Ar. Eldora | Lv. Eldora |
| p. m. | | Note—Cardinal is the railroad station for Nederland. | |
| Daily | | | |

Happy Valley Happenings



Bottles on Cabin Window Sill in Autumn by Kathy Gross Dugan

Septic Solutions

A wide range of people have proposed a bill to be introduced into the Colorado State Legislature to separate graywater from blackwater systems. The technology exists to handle each separately and meet high water purity standards. But it will not be introduced this coming session because of the pending election this fall. It should be introduced in 2011, and they are optimistic about its chances. Anyone wishing to be informed by email of the process and progress should send Barbara Dallemand an email asking to be put on her list. She is the Onsite Wastewater Coordinator for the Colorado Department of Public Health. Her email is barbara.dallemand@state.co.us

A website with relevant information:
<http://www.cwqf.org>
Just click on Work Groups,
then on Onsite Waste Water Systems.
(Submitted by Payson Sheets)

May 16, 1898

The town trustees heard from the Sanitation Committee that there were several outhouses and manure piles around town which were a public nuisance. Silver, Gold & Black Iron by Don Kemp

The Boulder County sort yard for slash is up and running. The yard is at the west end of Ridge Road, a little east of the entrance to the transfer station but on the other side of the street. It is open Tuesday – Saturday from 9 – 5 into late October. There is no charge for dumping slash. If you have questions, contact Eric Philips at ephilips@bouldercounty.org or call 720-564-2625. The site will be staffed by volunteers and more are needed. Ask Wayne Harrington wharrington@bouldercounty.org or call 303-678-6368 if you want information about volunteering.
(Submitted by Lynne Collins)

Gold Miner Clubroom

Scott Bruntjen and Carol Rinderknecht are soliciting ideas for community use of the Gold Miner Clubroom. They would like to formulate a system of usage of the room and possible ways of financial reimbursement. To give your input, email Scott at admin@ensignscott.org, call him at 303-258-7770 or send a note to P. O. Box 679, Nederland, CO 80466.

New 2011 ECA Membership Directory

A new directory will be ready for spring 2011 and will be sold at the cost of printing + tax, with no profit for ECA or the ELPF. Postage for mailing will be extra. Only ECA members may purchase the directory. If you prefer not to be listed in the directory, let Jeanne McCleery know. Contact her at: 303-257-4890 or at jamccleery@gmail.com



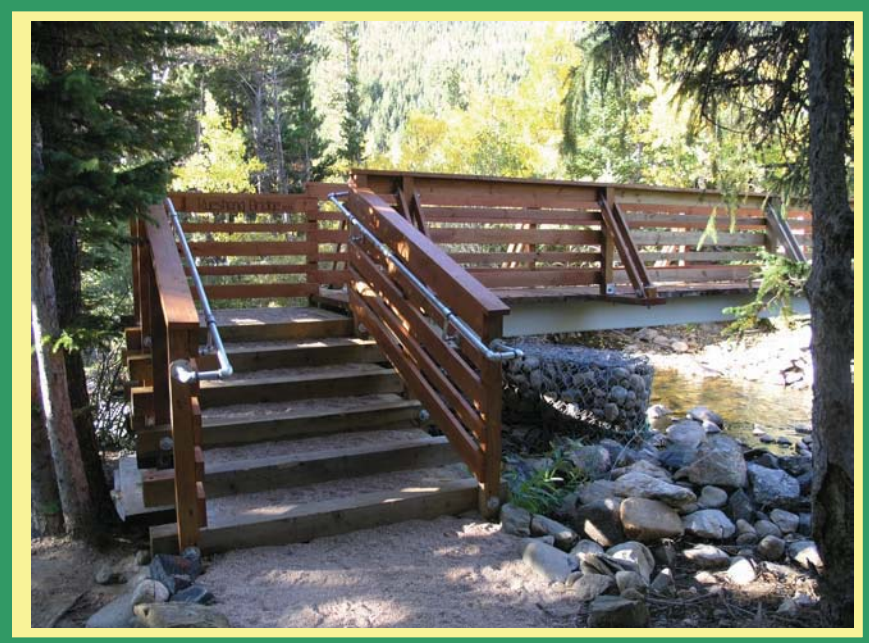
Bee on Jamesia by Diane Brown

Honey Money

Robert Goolsby has a ranch in Oklahoma. In the winter a beekeeper from South Dakota brings his bees and hives down to Robert's ranch for the milder climate. In return Robert receives payment in the form of many cases of honey. He donates some of the honey to the Eldora Land Preservation Fund. It is available at the Gold Miner Hotel, which collects tax on the sales and returns the profit to the ELPF. So far this year the honey has raised \$163.00, bringing the ELPF total to \$23,493.98

Call for ECA Committee & Board Notebooks:

If you served on the ECA Board or an ECA Committee and still have an ECA ring binder, please return it to any Board member.



Kyeshong Bridge Builders

Many people helped put the gabions in place, fill the gabions with rock, “sew gabions,” carry rocks to secure banks and quarry rocks and gravel for the steps. Skilled carpenters built the bridge, railings and steps to Boulder County code.

- Bob & Pat Anderson
- Heidi Anderson
- Bart Bartelma
- Pete & Sue Birkeland
- Mark Bradley – skilled
- Brock Brocklehurst
- Todd Buchanan – skilled
- Anthony Buchanan
- Donna Burbank
- John Chapin
- Brian & Lynne Collins
- Jerry & Barbara Donahue
- Deb Evans
- Laura Fisher
- Peter Freymuth
- Diane Fritz
- Audrey Godell
- Dan Graham
- Alex Hartsell
- Dale & Frandee Johnson
- Dave & Suz Kindig
- Jean Kindig
- Dave Lawrence
- Ginny Leever – cookies!
- Randy Leever
- Ron & Cindy Leever
- Lisa Lopez
- Nick & Mary Jane Newens
- Keith Ober - skilled
- Matt Phillips - skilled
- Bill Pierson, Jr. - skilled
- Walker Roberts
- Paul Rock
- Wes Rockett
- John & Sallie Ruhnka
- Jim Saunders
- Ken Sheldon – skilled
- Drew Slater
- Ted & Peggy Warren
- Michael & Susan Weissberg
- Aaron Wheeler

This is my simple religion. There is no need for temples; no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart is our temple; the philosophy is kindness. Dalai Lama

The Kyeshong Bridge – Finis!

By Jean Kindig

The Kyeshong Bridge is open for pedestrians, crossing Middle Boulder Creek on public land. The bridge was built by volunteers and funds were donated by individuals for materials. Laura Fisher suggests the name should be “Rome” because it wasn’t built in a day. The completion of the bridge only took 8 years. The first permit was ACE (Army Corps of Engineers) who have jurisdiction of creek sides above Barker Dam. The last permit was from Boulder County Land Use Department.

What is the meaning of the name? “Kyeshong” is a village in Tibet. When the Dalai Lama escaped from Tibet in 1959, he stayed overnight in several villages. A group of horsemen preceded him to secure his route and alert countrymen in small villages that he was coming and could they accommodate him overnight. One of the villages in western Tibet was Kyeshong. This translates to Happy Valley. The people lived in perfect peace and harmony in their beautiful valley.

Happy Valley was the name of the placer and the first name of the camp that eventually became Eldora. This bridge is dedicated to the community. My wish for Eldora is perfect peace and harmony in this beautiful valley in Colorado.



Many thanks for your help!

Brock's Weather Report for September 2010



Pioneer Monument with Poppies and Potentilla



Lynne's Petunias, Pansies and Violas

September 13, 2010 - Memories!

July 1989: 42 homes destroyed in Black Tiger Gulch.

St. Patrick's Day 2003: Eight feet of snow buried Eldora.

July 28, 2010: Twelve inches of hail blitzed Marysville blocking the road at the east end of Eldora.

Labor Day 2010: 50 mph. winds in the foothills, including Eldora, fed the fire flames in Fourmile Canyon and totally destroyed 169 homes. In Eldora a fire at 844 Klondyke the same day was quickly and efficiently brought under control, thanks to local volunteer fire fighters.

As if that weren't enough excitement, two days later a potentially disastrous fire for our mountain village was quietly extinguished before it ever got underway. At 7 a.m. on Wednesday, September 8, Marc Fisher stood outside his house at Eldora's west end and saw a white puff across the valley on Spencer Mountain. He called his wife Laura, who confirmed the observation. Marc dialed Brian Collins, a former Nederland Fire Department volunteer, and dialed 911. The Nederland Fire Department responded, but not before Brian had himself extinguished the flames. Fire Chief Rick Dirr suspects that the fire was first caused by a lightning strike. How lucky Eldora is!

The summer of 2010 was blessed with the finest display of both cultivated and wild flowers because of the 23 inches of snow in May followed by 25 days when I recorded rain between June 1 and today. Two dozen hummingbirds entertained us in July consuming more than 100 pounds of sugar and left Eldora as usual the first week of September.

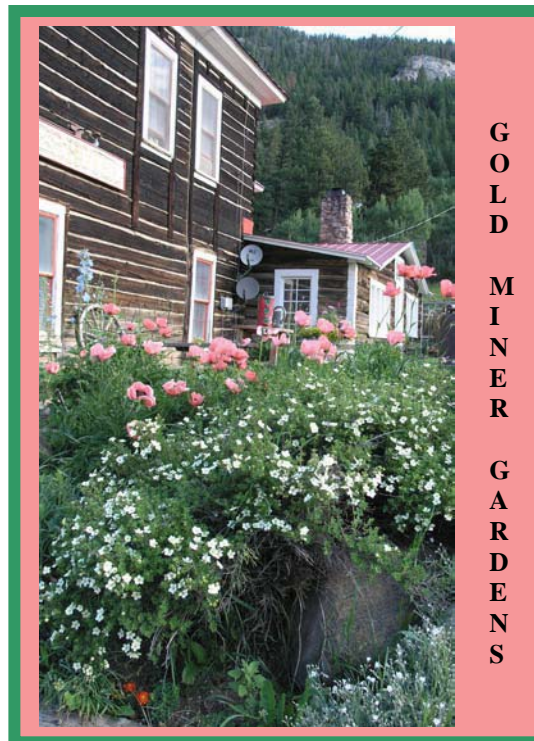
Eldora enjoyed superb dry, sunny weather for our annual picnic and 2 weeks later when we all helped celebrate Barbara Bolton's 90th birthday. On Sunday, August 7th many of us helped celebrate the long awaited opening of Jean Kindig's replacement bridge. (Donations would be greatly appreciated.)

As I write this weather report, we have had 3 mornings of 30° temperatures, which accounts for the few patches of golden aspen leaves.



A
R
A
P
A
H
O

R
A
N
C
H



G
O
L
D

M
I
N
E
R

G
A
R
D
E
N
S

Images of the Epic Hailstorm of July 28, 2010

Photos by
Tanner
Billingsley



Mayberry Cabin on Eldorado Avenue



Egaas-Bersentes Cabin on the Rugg Pasture

The hail storm's epicenter was from the west end of the Arapaho Ranch to 6th Street in Eldora with Marysville hardest hit of all.



Shelby Billingsley in Jeep on Eldorado



Parrish Cabin - Mogul Dump in background



Boulder County Sheriff's truck on Klondyke



There were no longer red needles on the dead pines.



Steam rising from hail on the east end of Klondyke



A strong scent of pine was in the air.

Pedestrians struggled through deep hail on the road.



Storm Chasers arrived the next day after the storm.

Hail stripped vegetation of leaves, pine needles, berries and blossoms. Lichen was pummeled from the rocks.

Sweet Days of Summer Past in Happy Valley



Kay and Bill Pierson on the 4th of July



Diane Brown and Callie in Wildflower Heaven



Laura with a bouquet from the Fisher and Brocklehurst gardens



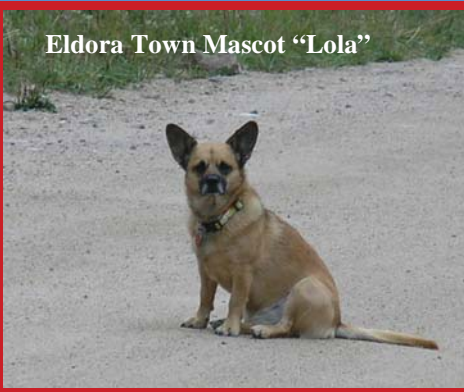
**Hail Mary McHenry!
Stranded in Marysville**



The Burton Family about to be gone fishin'



Flip Rouse and his famous smoked ribs



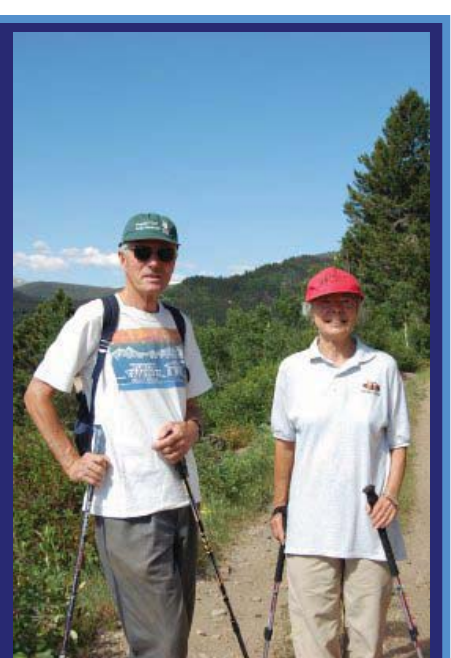
Eldora Town Mascot "Lola"



The July 28 hailstorm brought Lisa Lopez to a halt.



⇐Barbara Bolton got a surprise visit from her brother John Lilly at her 90th birthday celebration.



**Not all who wander are lost!
Pete and Sue Birkeland on the Caribou Trail**

The Eldora Town Picnic – August 15, 2010 – Fun, Food, Family and Friends



Photos by Ramona Goolsby

Fire on the Mountain Means Cash in the Valley

On Wednesday, September 8, 2010 at 7:00 AM, Marc Fisher called Brian Collins to report he could see smoke on Spencer Mountain across the road from his driveway. Brian and Lynne, along with Brian's sister, Alexis Collins, grabbed shovels and buckets and went to Fishers. Marc pointed to where he saw smoke. Laura called 911 and the Collinses drove to 10th and Eldorado, then ran and walked half way up the Enterprise Mine road till they found flames burning one foot high with lots of smoke. Each time the wind gusted, more smoke rose up. The fire was in forest duff near standing dead trees and had burned an area of roughly 6' x 15' off the side of the road. The threesome stamped on the fire and used shovels to try to contain it, throwing mineral soil on top. The flames were going up a hollow tree like a chimney. They were able to minimize the fire and then Eliot Snyder, Todd Buchanan, Tim Hannon and Ryan Woodward came up to help. Beth Davis radioed dispatch with more precise information. Lynne went back down to direct the firefighters to the fire. By the time 5 or 6 Nederland firemen showed up with an ATV, water packs and chain saws, the fire was already subdued. They doused the fire thoroughly with water. The cause of the fire is unknown. A previous lightning strike was suspected, but the tree was not scarred, so it could have been a careless cigarette smoker.

(From an interview with Brian Collins by Diane Brown)



The entire month of August was very dry. September continued hot, dry and windy. Finally six days after the devastating Fourmile Canyon fire started, Boulder County declared a countywide ban on open fires.

Price tag for fighting Fourmile Fire: \$10.1 million

My Grandfather Drennon helped my dad build the two cabins - ours and Armie's - between 1929 and 1935, when my folks were married. Their handprints are all over both places, as are George's. He and Dad remodeled Cheerio the summer of 1975, when I was pregnant with Jeff (born December 1975). George was working on the high school down the road and came home for lunch when he and Dad would go over plans, do some work, then hit it again in the evening after George got off work. Weekends were spent working on the addition. I handed hammers, nails and material up to both of them, trying to keep Sam (dog) and Terri (child) out of mischief. Ter was a year old. We took our trailer up there and lived in it for the summer. When the lightning storms came, Sam would cower under the trailer (parked out by the outhouse). One time we heard the most ferocious howling. Sam was somehow being electrocuted! Every time he tried to climb up the stairs to the trailer, he'd get zapped by the current being created in the shell of the trailer. I remember George jumping outside, grabbing Sam and somehow getting both of them back inside the trailer without getting zapped!

Norma Hockett Figgs



Cheerio Cabin at 844 Klondyke suffered extensive fire, smoke and water damage Labor Day, September 6, 2010.

Fire Drill – Friday, September 17, 2010

A reverse 911 call requesting immediate evacuation mistakenly went out to all Nederland and Eldora residents (zip code 80466) around 6:30 PM because of a fire on Peewink Mountain in the Sugarloaf area. In addition the west end of Eldora was smoky because of a hunter's campfire near Hessie. Meanwhile people frantically scrambled to gather valuables and pets and loaded their cars for evacuation, only to find out it had been called off.

The Mushroom Bloom of Summer/Fall 2010

Photos by Diane J. Brown



The ethical mushroom collector understands that constant overpicking of an area can harm the mycelium and interrupt spore production for next year's mushroom production. Just as one should not pick all the wildflowers in one area, one should be conservative in the amount of mushrooms one harvests, protecting the resource and leaving some for wildlife or for others to enjoy looking at.



Mycelium (plural **mycelia**) is the vegetative part of a fungus, consisting of a mass of branching, thread-like hyphae. Mycelium is vital in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems for its role in the decomposition of plant material. It contributes to the organic fraction of soil, and its growth releases carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere. The mycelium of mycorrhizal fungi increases the efficiency of water and nutrient absorption of most plants and confers resistance to some plant pathogens. Mycelium is an important food source for many soil invertebrates. (From Wikipedia)



What a bonanza of mushrooms there was this past summer! All the June and July rain really brought them out – every kind in the book. We found more of our favorites – chanterelles – than were found in several years. Those places are a family secret. Another edible one, of which there were bushels, was the *Boletus edulis*. What we didn't sauté or use in spaghetti, we dried to take home to use in the winter. My sister's favorite is the coral mushroom. Most books say not to eat them, but we have for years with no ill effects. We know many more edible mushrooms, but why collect less desirable kinds?

Robert Goolsby





She loved water and swimming. In the summer wading in the creek or swimming in a lake were her idea of a very good thing. She'd swim as far out as we could throw a stick. Being wet was great if it wasn't from the rain or a bath!



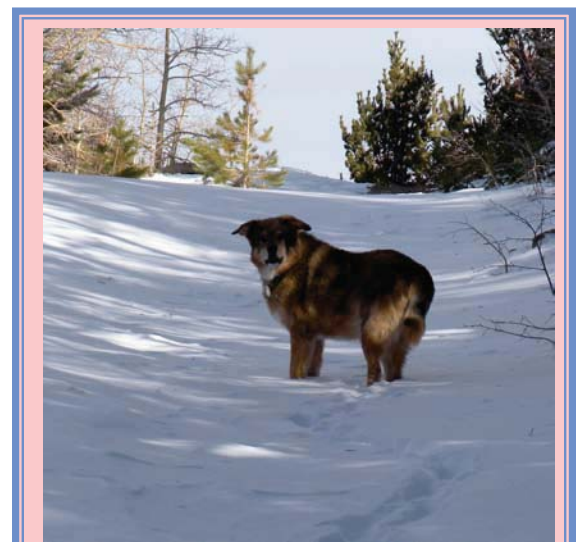
Memories of Emmy

Almost fourteen years ago the four of us (Fran, Payson, Kayla, and Gabi) spotted the cutest little four-legged pup at the Humane Society, and we adopted her. And she adopted us, and wormed her way into our lives and our hearts. She did not mind being held high in the air, unlike every other dog on earth, so we named her Emmy in honor of Amelia Earhart.

She began as a wild one, so we took her to Puppy Kindergarten. She was far more interested in playing with the other dogs in class and was the second worst student, a horror to a professor. But assiduous homework (i.e. training) every afternoon took hold, and by the end of the class she was second from the top of her class.

We became extraordinarily close companions. Em had amazing communication skills, verbal and nonverbal. She had definite ideas, likes and dislikes, but, being one in a pack, she could, without a grudge, compromise. Walking in Boulder sometimes we'd tell her the route was hers to choose. She loved this and would take us all over the hill. But she always knew the way home. She understood our moods and desires. Sometimes we worked hard at figuring out hers. She had an amazing English vocabulary. While overhearing human conversations, she would pick out words (out of context, of course!). If she heard the word **walk** in a sentence, she'd move to the door to take a walk, right now! We took to whispering, spelling and motioning when she wasn't looking. Emmy thought she could talk, too. Like a baby learning language, she had a low voice and she rolled it around to get our attention or explain herself. Too bad for us when we didn't understand what she was saying!

Emmy seemed to like our lives in Boulder, but she loved being in Eldora the most. She never could figure out why we left Eldora for Boulder. She was a mountain dog at heart. On the ride up to Eldora, even at the end of her life when things were not so fun and she needed support to walk, Emmy would jump out of the car with joy and excitement at being here. For sure her most favorite times were hiking and skiing with us. The colder the temperature, the deeper the snow, the happier Emmy was. Her favorite hike, even in the dead of winter, was to go up the old mining road to the Enterprise Mine atop Spencer Mountain, traverse eastward to intersect with the steep winding "6th Street shuffle" path down into Eldora. Covered with 3-5 feet of snow, many times we wouldn't know where the path was but Emmy always did!! We do not understand how she could do that, but she did, and when we strayed, she would gently herd us back.



An Enterprising Emmy

When she did have to stay behind (sometimes she couldn't go to work with us!), Emmy let us know how unhappy she was by taking a tissue out of the trash and leaving it on the floor. If we were gone waaay too long, we got two tissues

Emmy was a supreme actor, too. One time when she was young, we were on our way to hike with her in Southern Utah. But because we'd left her 6 months before with some friends and took a trip without her, Emmy was convinced we were going to leave her again. Nothing we did would convince her she was part of this trip. The morning we left Boulder she looked sick. She didn't want to eat, her eyes were downcast and she seemed listless. She was the definition of a "down dog". We thought, before we looked for a vet in Vail, we'd see if she would walk around at the top of the pass. She got out of the car, and she must have realized we were out of Boulder and she wasn't getting dropped off after all and she suddenly became a very healthy, excited pup again!

Emmy was a major personality and spirit in our family for over 13 years when she died 15 June. We miss her more than we can say. How did the time pass so quickly? She will be in our hearts, thoughts and dreams forever.



Fran Sheets and Emmy at the Terror Mine



In moments of great joy, all of us wish we possessed a tail we could wag!

If I have any beliefs about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons. - James Thurber



If my dreams would come true, bones would rain from the sky.

All dogs go to heaven.





WOLF AT MARYSVILLE by Jared Smith

I believe I witnessed a wolf or a large wolf/dog hybrid preying on an elk herd about 100 feet west of my cabin on Spencer Mountain, at 79 Marysville Road. Around noon on Saturday the 17th of July, I was walking from my cabin to the car to deposit some papers in the glove compartment. I was startled to hear a sudden eruption of sounds I can only describe as animal screams in combination with numerous breaking tree limbs and deep thudding sounds along the rock terrace just to the north and beyond a short stretch of trees from where I was standing. I immediately began walking in that direction to see what was going on, and angled sharply downhill to my right as I heard a heavy thud in that direction, followed by particularly alarmed screaming. As I came around an outcropping, I saw below me a large female elk trying desperately to keep a wide thicket of brush between itself and what appeared to be a lone wolf. I could see only the hindquarters and tail of the wolf, so it may have been a hybrid, but it certainly appeared bigger than any coyote I have seen. Its front half, including its head, was deep-thrust into the thicket that it was trying to penetrate.



Filled with astonishment, I perhaps foolishly continued to walk toward the thicket myself, catching the attention of both the elk and the wolf, which pulled itself into the thicket and turned toward me but without allowing me to see its head or forequarters which were then concealed within the undergrowth. At that point, the elk bolted on down the mountain. The wolf or wolf-like animal did not move until I proceeded another fifteen feet or so toward the thicket. At that point, it swirled around within the thicket and ran undercover up the mountain to the small meadow above our cabin. As it did so, there was again a volley of elk screams from the meadow and again the sound of thudding heavy animals trying to get away, along with the sound of tree limbs being smashed.

The wolf or hybrid or whatever did not make any sound at all throughout the whole experience. I did not get a clear look at it, and was standing at a higher elevation looking down on it and the elk, but I estimate that it stood about thigh high, its long-haired fur a combination of gray and brown. As I say, I've never seen a coyote that large, and I would expect a dog to bark or make other sounds. And I've never heard of a single coyote trying to prey upon a herd of elk, let alone singling out an adult one and trapping it. Nor have I ever known a herd of elk to panic at the sight of a dog or coyote. I therefore hypothesized that it was indeed perhaps a wolf, perhaps one of those that has been known to wander into Colorado from the Yellowstone region of Wyoming.

I'm in favor of having wolves on the Front Range, and believe that they would probably do a good job of balancing the cougar population naturally and making the mountains safer for people. But the idea of a single wolf having to try to survive without its supporting pack, and being forced to hunt during the heat of the day on a day when the temperature on Spencer was in the mid to upper 80s, is somewhat alarming. It suggests that the animal was very badly in need of food and might be prone to attack other animals that it normally would not. (I was also surprised that the herd of elk was gathered at such a low altitude on that day--usually they are considerably higher in the hot months. But that is probably another whole issue to wonder about.)

Wildlife has indeed increased...in size, variety, and potential danger levels if one is not prepared. There are several moose in the area. One or more winter around my cabin, and when I've snowshoed in over the past year I've found large collections of their droppings as well as a number of areas where they have lain in the snow. The elk, likewise, have increased and I find their droppings throughout the year, as

well as being able to see elk from time to time even during the summer weather from my back windows. A young black bear raided our hummingbird feeder about two years ago, and after the second episode of that we decided that we had to take the feeder down for a couple years so that the bear would not keep coming back. My family and I have also seen ptarmigan, wild turkey, and pine marten over the past couple years.

And there are large animal bones along the trail leading up the Marysville brook, starting maybe one hundred feet above the turn-off to our cabin. The first large bones, which I believe to be from elk, began to appear there somewhat over a year ago and I attributed them to cougar kills going on in the winter, since several hikers have reported seeing cougars along the upper end of the trail. The number of bone collections or scatterings has increased, though, and I know of at least four places along the trail where I have found large bones since this spring. (I took my new puppy out for his first climb up Spencer this spring, and he dove into a bush and came out with a thighbone that was longer than he is.) I was surprised that the number of bones did not decrease, because of the presence of the moose--since cougars are afraid of moose because of their size and temperament. Perhaps, though, some of the killings have been done by the wolf.

In any case, although members of my family smiled and shook their heads sadly at me until last weekend, I have been carrying a very concentrated pepper spray cartridge gun in my pocket for the past year whenever I go walking or hiking in the early morning, the evening, or when I have my young dog along. I came up with that strategy by asking a ranger I came across who was leading a group of hikers in another part of the park. She had just warned them that they were in lion country, and when I asked her what she would do to protect the visitors if a lion were to stalk them, she pulled out the pepper spray gun, and told me that it would stop a mountain lion or bear. It has a range of about 20 feet. So I picked up one of those at McGuckin's and keep it right inside the cabin door.



Gray Wolf by Michael Sanders

Historically, wolves occupied every county in Colorado, but the advent of the livestock industry and inherent fear of the animals by the general public led to their extirpation. During their long tenure in Colorado, wolves undoubtedly dined on beaver, elk, mule deer, bison and mountain sheep. Unfortunately their tendency to harvest domestic livestock led to their demise. No authentic records of wolves in Colorado exist past 1935, although occasionally hunters, trappers, and others report seeing them.

Mammals of Colorado 1994 by Fitzgerald, Meaney & Armstrong: Gray Wolf - *Canis lupus*

Michael Adams (in a communication with Jared Smith):

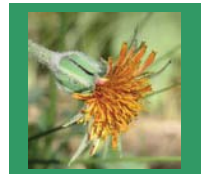
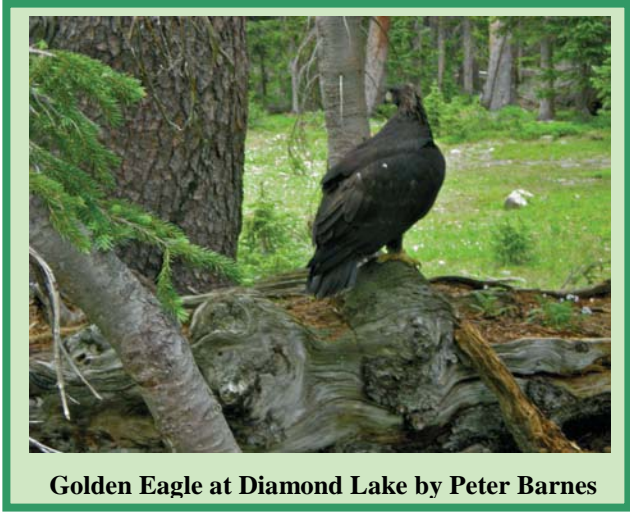
There have been a number of credible reports of wolf and wolf tracks in Rocky Mountain National Park and other areas of northern Colorado over the past few years, so the presence of a wolf in the Eldora area would be unusual but not unbelievable, so I'd be surprised if the Division of Wildlife simply dismissed it. I know it must have been frightening but it also must have been quite exciting. Unfortunately, there are people who breed wolf/dog hybrids that are so close to purebred wolves as to be physically & behaviorally almost indistinguishable without DNA testing. I've seen hybrids at Mission Wolf that looked and acted exactly (to my untrained eye) like a wild purebred wolf. Six or seven years ago, before I retired, one of our rangers got a report of a dead wolf on City of Boulder Open Space and returned with a huge dead canid in the back of his pickup. It looked exactly like a wolf to both of us and had an old gunshot wound in its shoulder. It was sent to the DOW for testing and the tests came back as inconclusive, so it may well have been a wolf. And, of course, there was the radio-collared wolf from

Yellowstone killed on I-70 near Idaho Springs in 2004. So it's only a matter of time until a viable population of wolves establish themselves in Colorado.

Any wolves that wander into Colorado are fully protected under the Endangered Species Act and I don't know that the DOW would take any action other than to make the public aware of wolf sightings in an area and urge people to use caution. One of the dangers of the mountains and less of a danger than mountain lions, which have killed 2 or 3 lone hikers and runners in Colorado over the past 30 years or so, or black bears which have killed a similar number over the same time. I don't know of any wolf attacks on humans in North America since records have been kept, though historically they've been common in Europe and the European timber wolf is considered far more aggressive than its North American cousin. Coyote attacks are not unheard of and a solo coyote killed a healthy young woman hiker in eastern Canada a couple of years ago. However, eastern coyotes are quite a bit larger than western coyotes, approaching wolf size.

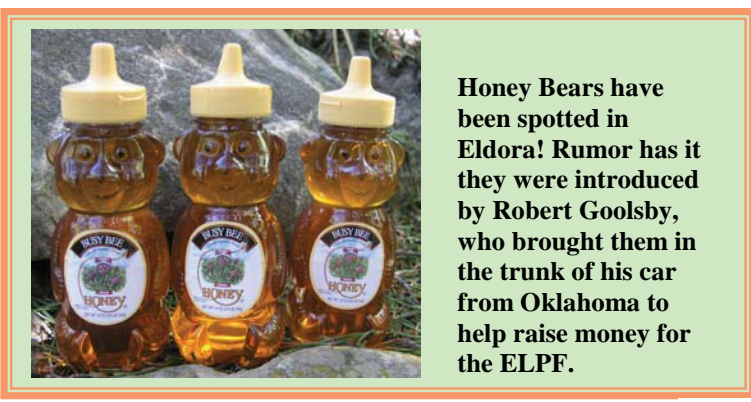
Other recent sightings of a single wolf in the Eldora area:
Matt Phillips saw a possible wolf on Guinn Mountain.
In July 2010 Doug and Pat Gibney saw what appeared to be a wolf on two separate occasions on the Arapaho Ranch.

Global warming has provided a temporary benefit to yellow-bellied marmots. Their population has been exploding over the past decade. Scientists who have studied the marmots at Crested Butte since 1962 believe that with spring arriving about one day earlier each year, the marmots can emerge from hibernation earlier, find more to eat and produce more little marmots. Not only that – marmots are growing plumper and healthier. This phenomenon may also implicate other creatures that hibernate. The bad news for marmots is, if their habitat in rocky meadows bordered by aspen, pine and spruce trees continues to heat up, their summer food may dry up, thus reversing their good fortune.

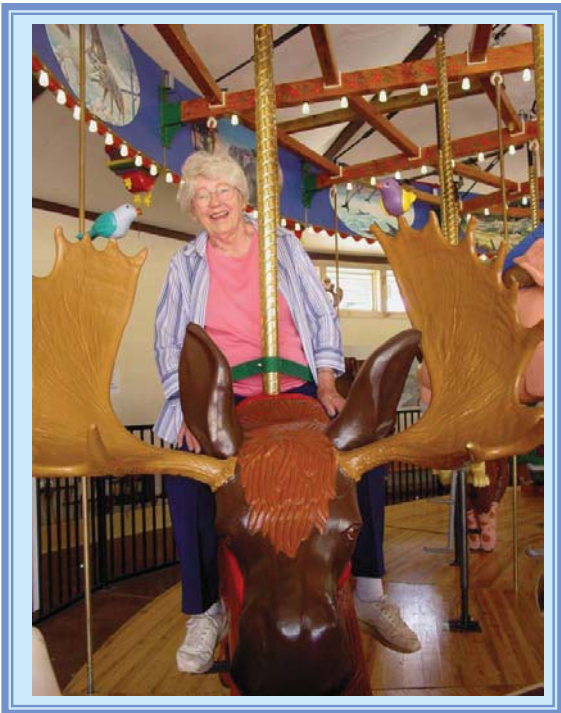


In late July an immature golden eagle was seen near Diamond Lake. Several campers and hikers saw the eaglet hopping on the ground and it let them get quite close for pictures. It is possible that the eaglet was just out of the nest. Several people went up the following day to see if it was injured, but it was not found.

There is a good history of golden eagles up the North Fork. Years ago there was an active nest on the large rock outcrop just northwest of Hessie. This was documented by the late Gail Shickley, the matriarch of birding in the Eldora area, and Mike Figs. Since abandonment of Hessie rock, the actual nest site has been a mystery, but the many sightings during the breeding season have led to the conclusion that the area is still occupied by nesting eagles. Steve Jones works the North Fork on the Indian Peaks Bird Counts and has many observations of the eagles, including a pair in their courtship flight. – Dave Hallock



ELDORA'S WILD SIDE

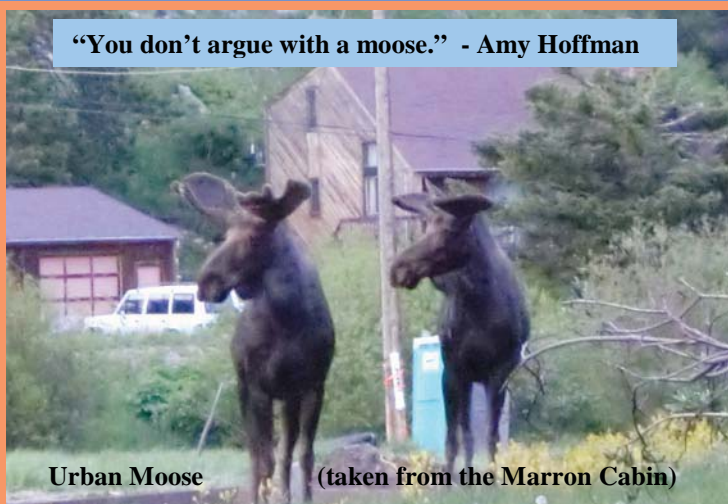


Elk recovering from tranq trauma Photo by Jean Matthews Kindig



Last summer Abby Reynolds, who was working at the Carousel of Happiness in Nederland, invited Barbara Bolton to ride the carousel, and Barb accepted with enthusiasm. Earl and Barbara purchased a ticket and Barb rode the panda. Abby already had a ticket for Barb, so she also got to ride the moose. Earl noticed a TV camera was being set up and told the cameraman that his 90-year old wife was on the ride, and he interviewed her. The interview appeared on Channel 4 on July 17.

Barbara celebrated her 90th birthday at their Eldora cabin with friends and family on August 29, though her actual birthday is Sept. 18.



“You don’t argue with a moose.” - Amy Hoffman

Urban Moose (taken from the Marron Cabin)

Eldora Heroes:

On August 16, 2010 a Division of Wildlife Officer spotted an elk hopelessly entangled in ski area boundary rope, caught on a tree on the far side of the creek between Eldora and Hessie, struggling to get free. She skillfully tranquilized the animal, removed the rope, waited hours for the animal to regain its senses and then set it free. That’s one lucky elk.

Many firefighters responded quickly to contain a cabin fire at 844 Klondyke on Labor Day, despite the fact that the most damaging wildfire in Boulder County history was going on at the same time in Fourmile, Sunshine and Sugarloaf Canyons. With the high winds that day, it is a miracle the flames shooting from the roof were not carried through Eldora to other cabins and the forest around us.

Early September 8 Marc Fisher spotted a puff of smoke coming from the Enterprise Road area on Spencer Mountain. Laura Fisher immediately called 911. Quick response by Brian & Lynne Collins, Todd Buchanan, Tim Hannon and Eliot Snyder helped firefighters who drove up the mountain with an ATV and doused the fire.

♥Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!!♥

In late July Chris and Anne Burton found a mountain lion leisurely stretched out on their deck on Bryan Avenue. When it saw them, it took off up Spencer Mountain.

Contemporary with the Eldora Miner among the town's institutions was the photographic studio of Mrs. Zora C. Thompson (1899). From where she hailed and when is not known. She was doubtless among those present when the boom started. The high quality of the few photographs still extant bearing her by-line and the fact that under severe handicaps, including lack of electricity and running water in her studio (water was brought in pails from the creek), she was able to make outstanding photographs testifying to her ability as a photographer. She recorded many newsworthy events as well as photographing many of the Eldora citizens during her tenure. "Silver, Gold and Black Iron" by Donald C. Kemp

Early Eldora Photographers: Mrs. Zora C. Thompson

Z



Eldorado Avenue June 8, 1899 –Looking west at crest cloud



The Great Snowstorm of February 5, 1899
Stapp Residence is entombed like an igloo!



This picture is entitled "Our Happy Home."
It is unknown if this was the Thompson cabin.

Bob and Peggy Hegel inherited the Greystone cabin from her mother Ruth Piper. One day an older gentlemen knocked on the door and told them his family had owned the cabin around 1898. He had some old photos of that time period. Unfortunately the Hegels did not take down his name and contact information. Diane Brown wanted to write a cabin history of the Greystone cabin and contacted the Hegels, who told her that the man who visited them played football on the CU team with the famous "Whizzer" White. They only remembered that his first name was Elmer. Diane contacted CU and found a picture of the football team with all the players' names listed. There were two players with the first name Elmer. Upon checking the Boulder telephone directory, only one was listed, so she called him. Lo and behold, it was Elmer Holmes, the man who had the old photos of Eldora. A meeting was arranged to see and make copies of the photos, which as it turned out, were all taken by Mrs. Zora Thompson.



The Gold Miner Hotel in the Winter of 1899



School Days in Eldora



The first schoolmistress, Mrs. Asa Campbell, taught pupils in her house. In 1896 a schoolhouse was built in the eastern section of town, and Mrs. Lucia Chapman was the first teacher to provide instruction within its modest walls. By 1898 approximately a hundred students attended. Evidence suggested that expansion was necessary.

Eldora Historical and Architectural Survey
2007-08



First Eldora Schoolhouse 1893 Photo by J. B. Sturtevant
School District 56

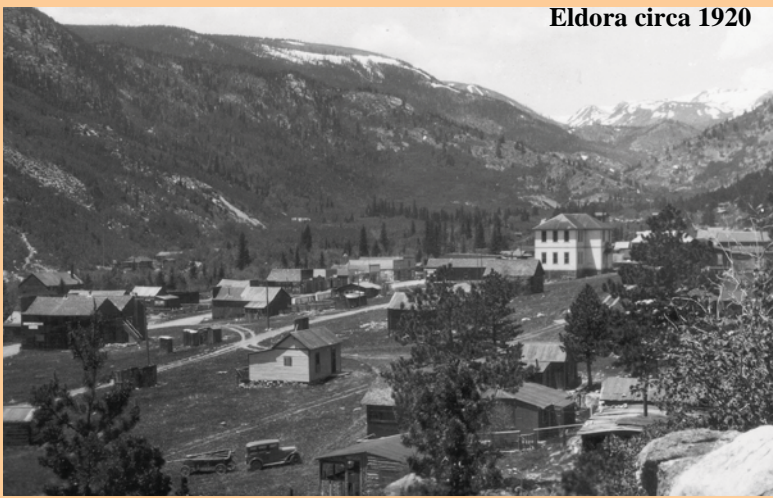
The Eldora Schoolhouse was a log structure built early in 1898. The principal, Mr. Dutro, took great pride in his fine Spencerian handwriting and made every effort to perfect the pupils in the art. In teaching he had the youngsters practice forming letters to the cadence of a melody played by him on his guitar.



“Silver, Gold & Black Iron” by Don Kemp

Perhaps the Eldorans’ civic pride and grand ambitions were best exhibited in the 1901 erection of a large, white-painted, two-story, four-room schoolhouse. Not only did the school accommodate swelling numbers of students, it also hosted weddings and other important social functions. Box socials – in which bidders competed for prepared lunches and the company of the preparer – were always popular. In the summer, the second story reputedly made an excellent dance floor. Eldora Historical and Architectural Survey 2007-08

Eldora circa 1920



All of the early pictures show the white schoolhouse and it looks quite large compared to surrounding structures. Actually, it had two fairly large rooms on the first floor and two rooms the same size on the second floor. What appears to be a ground floor was simply some open space under the first floor – fairly high on the downhill south side and very low headroom on the north or uphill side. There were two outhouses on the south side of the building.

“From Happy Valley to the Mountaintop” by Lee S. Evans

I can say I attended the Eldora School. When I was starting second grade – I would have been about seven years old – my mother felt that she wanted to stay here through September and see the fall coloring for once, instead of having to leave in early September to get us back into school. So, she enrolled me in the Eldora School around 1924. - William F. Gross

Rugg cabin #2, built in a hurry by Verne Hornback after #1 burned down, was directly across from the Eldora schoolhouse. The Rugg kids could get out of the house and into the school before the bell stopped ringing. - Lee Evans

**Eldora Echo August 30, 1935
The Town Improvement: The repair work on the school and the conducting of school this fall.**

In a 1938 election Eldorans voted by a close margin to abandon School District 56.

Built 1901 Two-story white frame with green trim & with belfry; torn down for lumber in 1939 “Back to the Basics” by Anne Dyni

From Timber to Lumber



Lumber being transported from Felch & Jones Sawmill at Woodland Flats
Mrs. John H. Kemp and son Don are seated on the logs. 1899

There was a railroad in operation long before the DR & W built into Eldora. It was up on the Woodland Flats and used to haul logs to the Felch and Jones Sawmill, which was located on east of the flats. It was operated by horse power. Had wooden rails and reached plum to the west end where the trail to Jasper Lake gets steep. It really was a sight when eight head of horses with two wagons piled with lumber came down that steep, crooked road from the mill. How the skinner bent a string like this around the curves makes me wonder.

In winter some lumber was hauled along the side of Bryan Mountain past Peterson's Lake and on to Central City. At times there were great stacks of lumber piled west of the old Kemp cabin, also in what is now Rugg pasture.

Jack Langley



Several saw mills within a radius of three to five miles from Eldora formed an important adjunct to the mining industry. One was located at the west end of town and was owned by Mr. Randall. Up the creek a quarter of a mile on a small flat, maybe half a mile from Hessie, was another, owner unknown. And some five miles up the North Fork was still another, also nameless to us. But best known and most important at that time was the Felch and Jones mill at the junction of Jasper and Corona Creeks in Woodland Flats, nearly four miles west of Eldora.

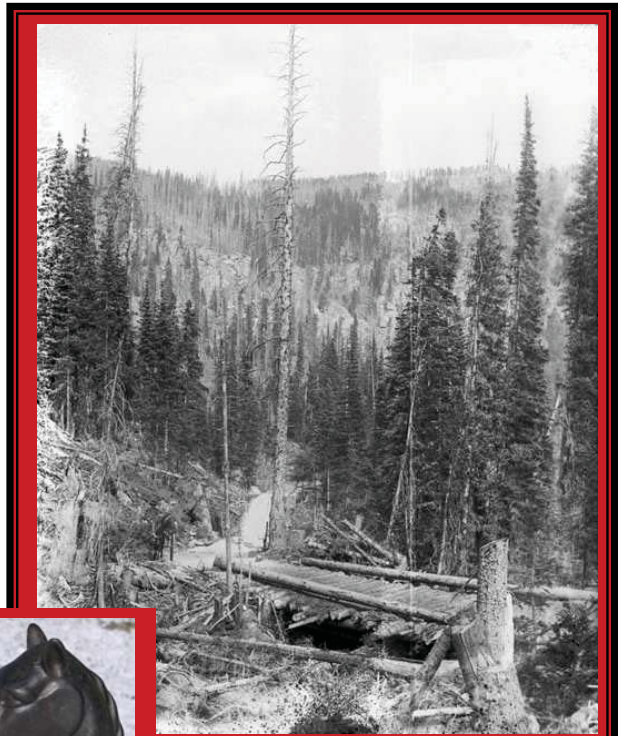
Fred Felch had previously operated a mill in Boulder Park (Tolland), from which he hauled lumber up Jenny Creek through Deadman's Gulch, thence through the timber to Peterson's Lake. From here, loading his wagon again, he hauled it down the steep and rocky road from the lake via Mary City (Marysville) to Eldorado Camp. This undertaking obviously was expensive for both producer and consumer. Lumber prices were much too high as a result. The mill at Woodland solved this problem as far as Eldora was concerned, and provided cheap lumber during the Boom.

The Woodland Flats establishment was elaborate. And during the peak of the Boom operated on a twenty-four hour basis. Logging crews in the woods cut and snaked logs to loading docks where they were loaded onto the cars of a horse-drawn tramway, many miles of which had been constructed into the timber for this purpose. Thence they were hauled to the mill and sawed into lumber. The crew lived and boarded at the mill. Mr. Felch was the general charge of operations there, and his partner, Mr. Jones, operated the storage and sales yard in Eldora. Among the numerous personnel at the mill were Cal McKay of Central City, an old hand at the game, in general charge of logging, and Gene White, now living in Nederland, one of the sawyers.

Eldora could use only a small part of the lumber cut. The main distribution point for the product was Central City. Hauling from mill to yard, whether in Eldora or Central, was ever an exciting and dangerous undertaking. In the summer season heavy wagon-gears and trailers of the same size were loaded with about 10,000 feet of lumber, and this tandem drawn by eight horses. A caravan thus loaded, winding its way down the narrow, rocky road, was a thrilling sight to one seeing it for the first time. But to those accustomed to it, the occurrence was all a part of the day's doings. The fact that such huge strung-out outfits were able, day after day, to negotiate without accident, the steep grades and sharp curves of the route, was due as much to the literal horse sense of the powerful animals hitched to the wagons, as to the skill of the men handling them.

In winter bobsleds replaced the wagons. And the haul to Central City was much shortened by using a route impracticable except in the deep-drifted snows. This winter road led along the side of Bryan Mountain, just below the Revenge Mine, eastward to the gap between Bryan and Ute Mountains; thence through the gap southward (west of Peterson's Lake) down into Deadman's Gulch, Jenny Creek and Boulder Park; up Jenny Lind Gulch to Apex; along Pine Creek, and finally into Central. Traces of the old road can be found today, if one knows the country and where to look. A long hard haul in spite of the decreased distance. But then, men in those times thought nothing of doing things the hard way.

Drivers of those outfits, like the stage drivers and the freighters, were a product of long and arduous training in just that line of work. They were men of accurate judgment, fearless. Horsemen in the strictest sense. Each driver usually owned the team he drove. Great was his pride in, and love for each animal. Horses were the best that money could buy. Harness and trappings were always spick and span; decorated with bells and fancy rings and plumes. The horses arched their necks, and minced along the road as if proud of being in such a turnout.



Sawmill Bridge at Woodland Flats
Photo by Harry H. Lake

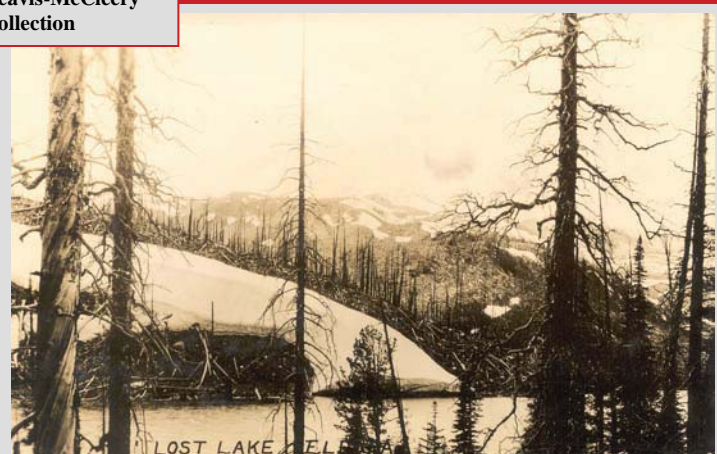


Speaking of the "skinner," none were any better than Fred Felch himself. John White, one of the stage drivers of those days, says that Fred was one of the best he ever saw: that in winter, with tandem bobsleds piled high with lumber, Fred would climb on the load, gather up the lines and start the team. As they got under way, he would stand up, "pour the silk" into them, and down the steep icy road they would go at a gallop! As we read of this, it sounds foolhardy, but the logic is nevertheless plain: had the team slowed up or attempted the descent at a walk, the heavy load would have overrun the horses.

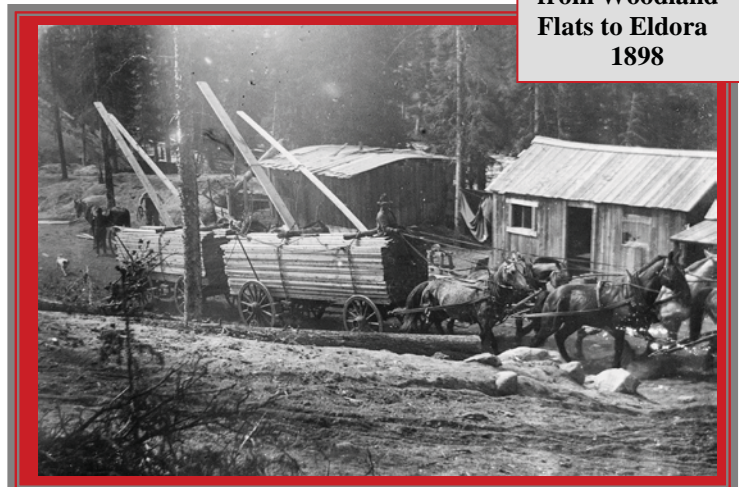
The lumber industry, however, met a sudden and tragic setback. A tremendous forest fire swept the region in 1899. Parts of Bryan and Guinn Mountains, the Corona Creek Valley, Woodland Mountain, Jasper Creek Valley, Chittenden Mountain, thence into the North Fork, were all denuded. The fire also destroyed the timber on Mineral and Klondyke Mountains. Reaching the crests of the two last named, the fire died down, due to the fact that Caribou Flats, a continuation to the east from these summits, had already been stripped of its timber by wood cutters during the Caribou boom days in the 1870s.

"Happy Valley: A Promoter's Paradise" by Donald C. Kemp and John R. Langley

Lost Lake 1916
Reavis-McCleery
Collection



Hauling lumber
from Woodland
Flats to Eldora
1898



LETA'S DREAM: The Story of Westward Ho

The lure of Happy Valley captured Leta and Phil Easterday as they traveled the area between Estes Park and Central City in the late 1930s. It is no wonder that they were mesmerized by what they saw. A short time spent under the blue sky covering the glorious spruce and pine-covered mountains and the majestic view of the snow covered Divide was breathtaking. All of this beauty was further accented with a rushing creek and open spaces with their embellishment of high grasses and vibrant wild flowers.



Leta and Phil Easterday in 1959

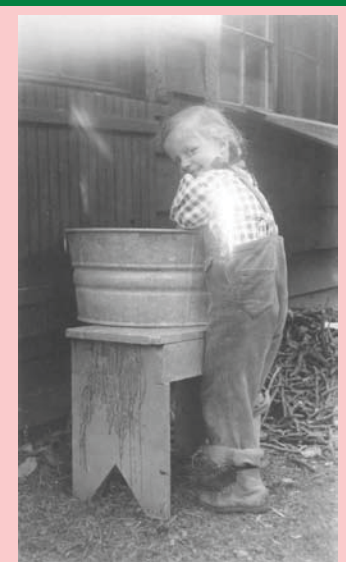


This wrought iron sign greets guests at the cabin entrance.

Leta Easterday had a dream and she and Phil had shared it for some time. Her dream was to find an area in the Rockies where they might eventually construct a summer home. They loved Colorado and Happy Valley was within a reasonable driving distance from their home in Lincoln, Nebraska. Leta's dream also included her family. She and Phil often discussed the great joy they would have if they had a place where the family could gather and they could all enjoy this dream as it unfolded into absolute reality. To begin the process, Leta and Phil rented the Nipher cabin east of the present site of Westward Ho. They did this for several summers to be sure that this was the right spot and that the family enjoyed the area. It didn't take long before they were thoroughly convinced that they had found the hallowed spot.

The search for a desirable building site came to fruition in the summer of 1937. The lovely grassy hillside west of the Nipher cabin consisted of 22 lots and it was owned by August Barkeen. An agreement was reached between the Easterdays and August Barkeen to purchase these lots in September of 1937. Leta and Phil Easterday returned to Lincoln, Nebraska that fall knowing that Leta's dream had just taken a giant stride forward.

Now the fun could begin. It was time to come up with a design for the cabin and find a builder in the area. It is a given fact that Leta's dream included the design of a cabin that would be functional as a summer home for them and also could accommodate family gatherings from time to time. They also knew that they could have many visitors from Lincoln and other parts of the country. The design began to unfold very quickly and eventually in February of 1938 an inquiry was made to Fred McEntire in Boulder about the possibility of constructing the cabin for them. During the next several months there was correspondence back and forth between Fred McEntire and Phil Easterday concerning the design, construction and the time frame for completion. They agreed that construction would begin as soon as weather permitted in June of 1938 and that the structure would be completed one month later.



Marion Whitworth (Young), granddaughter of Phil and Leta, washing doll clothes in a washtub at the Nipher cabin in 1937

Abstract: August Barkeen sells Block 9 Lots 7-17 & 32-42 in Block 9 to Leta Easterday on 9-9-1937 for \$340.00.
Deed: Clara Nipher sells lots 7-10 in Block 8 to Leta Easterday on April 3, 1943.



Fred McEntire of Boulder built Westward Ho in May - June 1938 for \$1012.



**Westward Ho in early May before it is hidden by aspens
Photo by Diane J. Brown**

The design was essentially a two-story structure with a living area, kitchen and back porch on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second floor. A second structure was located within the proper distance from the main house to accommodate the necessary functions that we all face on a daily basis. The cabin was painted white and sported green shutters that made it unique within the area as most of the other cabins were of a more rustic design. Westward Ho was born! Completion of the basic structure took place within the time frame that Phil designated. This left the balance of the summer to acquire furnishings and to make the big move from the Nipher cabin to Westward Ho.

Leta Easterday was a unique woman. She was probably one of the most accomplished gardeners in Lincoln, Nebraska, growing iris, peonies and lilacs of show quality. She also was on top of the technology of that era and possessed a movie camera with which she took black and white movies of the moving day from the Nipher cabin to the bright and gleaming Westward Ho, which was just a short distance away. This movie has been preserved and it has provided great family entertainment over the years, as not only were Leta and Phil there, but many family members from Boulder and Lincoln.

Leta's dream came true. Furnishing the cabin was in progress and continued during the season in the summer of 1938. Phil Easterday kept meticulous records of the cost of the furnishings, together with all of the construction expenses that had occurred so far.

Life at Westward Ho lacked a few conveniences that are now taken for granted. There was no running water, so water had to be carried from the creek. Heat was supplied by a fireplace and a wood burning stove in the kitchen. Not only could the stove heat a good share of the house, it also provided mouth watering baked goods from time to time. It also served as the main source of hot water for kitchen use and for bathing. Baths were taken in a yellow rubber bathtub that was suspended on a frame like a camp cot. There was no electricity, so light came from a series of kerosene lamps that were lit and carried from room to room as light was needed.

Leta's love for flowers followed her to Colorado. The cabin always had several bouquets of wild flowers that she had sparingly picked in order to preserve the plants so that they would reseed for the following year. It was her hope that the aspen trees would spread so that the cabin would be located in an aspen grove.

Installation of electricity and electrical fixtures \$155.87 on July 7, 1947.
Septic system installed in August 1953. Well drilled in March 1954

From Phil's inventory of cabin purchases in 1938:
1 double bed mattress \$9.00 from Blackmarr's in Boulder
From H. R. Lilly: 1 chest \$3.00, rocking chair 50¢;
From A. Bolton: 1 oil can \$1.00; from Mrs. Woodring:
1 King card table \$1.79 & 1 walnut chest \$5.00

**The native plant
Pink Plumes or
Prairie Smoke⇒
grows near the
entry gate of
Westward Ho.**



Soon after the completion and furnishing of Westward Ho, World War II began. This lessened the usage of the cabin somewhat as leisure travel was restricted due to the rationing of war sensitive items, the most important being gasoline. Also, some improvements to the property had to be delayed for the same reason. Several additional lots were purchased from Clara Nipher in 1943 and incorporated into the total parcel. As soon as victory was declared on both fronts, activity at Westward Ho began to increase. It was soon being used as originally intended: a summer home for fun and relaxation and gathering spot for family members to enjoy the many wonders of Happy Valley and the surrounding area.

The first big project was the installation of electricity in 1947, soon followed by the drilling and encasement of the water well. This enhancement took away one of Earl Bolton's customers. Earl had been contracted by Leta and Phil to deliver two buckets of water in the morning and two in the evening, seven days a week. He started his water delivery business at the ripe old age of 14. Earl had many customers in Eldora and he made enough to handle school expenses and incidentals. This was a great service for the Easterdays and any visiting family. However, if additional water was needed, it was carried by family members.

Jack Langley, another local citizen, looked after Westward Ho during the time that it was vacant and also served as handyman if any minor repair work had to be done. It was a great treat to have Jack come and do some repair work as he arrived in a Model A Ford with a ladder strapped on the running board. During the repair process, he usually had a local yarn to tell or he gave you simple instructions on how to handle a particular problem in the future. ("Just kick it right here!")

"I don't see how any roof in Eldora can stay put with this wind at a zillion miles per hour. It's screaming again today."

J. R. Langley - January 5, 1969

The front porch was enclosed providing more living space, as the family was getting larger and the frequency of visitors from the "flatlands" was beginning to increase. This is all recorded in the various guest books that have been kept at Westward Ho over the years. It is still a tradition that before you close the door with your last bag, you record your stay at Westward Ho and whatever exciting adventure you might have pursued. 1952 was a banner year as a bathroom was added at the back of the cabin next to the back porch. Thus the end of the famous yellow rubber bathtub, heating water on the stove and shivering in front of the fireplace. A telephone was added much later.

As time passed, Westward Ho was visited by children, grandchildren and eventually great-grandchildren as they came along. It was great for Leta and Phil to experience the growing numbers of family in a place that they truly loved.

Westward Ho looks very much the same today as it has in the past. The biggest difference is that it is surrounded by aspen trees, which make it difficult to see from the road. This comprises a small part of Leta's dream; the major part being the cabin itself, the many family members and friends that have passed through its front door and all of the joy and fun that it has provided for so many during the past seventy years. A very simple dream has turned into a far-reaching legacy enjoyed by five generations and perhaps it will serve as the beginning of another dream. Only time will tell.



Thanks to Marion and Russel Young who were nudged by their Australian Shepherd Abby to compile this family cabin history to share with us.

Instructions for closing the house:
Rain barrels to come in. Empty ink bottles and toilet bottles. Leave no cans of fruit or vegetables. Leave no food or anything to attract mice.



Eldora!



The transition of a mining community
in the Colorado Rockies

Jean Matthews Kindig

Local Authors – Local Color

ELDORA! is an historic view of this former mining town illustrated with historic photographs, original plat maps and area maps. The book discusses the mining boom to incorporation in 1898, then disincorporation and brings the reader up to date on current issues concerning Eldora. When the gold was mined out, the village transitioned into a tourist destination, then a seasonal resort. Eldora, unlike Hessie or Caribou, never became a ghost town. Now the town is a disincorporated townsite with many full-time residents and seasonal cabins.

Available for \$15:

In Eldora at the Gold Miner Hotel

In Nederland at the Visitor Center

Or by email jkindig@gmail.com

(if you would like a signed copy)



Jared Smith lives in the foothills of Colorado's Rocky Mountains with his wife Deborah and a lively black standard poodle named Spencer. They regularly retreat to the family's rustic log cabin in Marysville without television, radio or cell phone coverage.



Grassroots

poems by Jared Smith



"Grassroots" is available at:
select Barnes & Noble stores
or www.amazon.com

From **"The Enterprise Mine"** by Jared Smith
The lady's high lace-up boot covered with mouse dirt
centered on the chessboard dining table was what got me, facing
west under the cracked window highlighted by a hot sun while all
the rest of that room was bleak as a working man
could be at the end of a long life looking out over the hills...
standard refrigerator next to a small box stove next to power
wheels and gears reaching down to a shaft below the cabin maybe
two feet and a one inch thick wall of board separating the space
where two men's heads must have slept the last night some forty
years ago I'd say by the buried cars outside,
had laid long looking into the night hearing machinery wheeze
from their fingers that last night on their blue-striped mattresses
and then gone away.

Eldora Civic Association 2010-11

Full Members (Property Owners):

Anderson, Bob/Pat
Bailey, John
Barrett, Phillip/Marilyn
Bartelma, Bob/Jan
Beatty, M. Gretchen
Billingsley, Cleo
Billingsley, John/Jim/Joe
Birkeland, Pete/Sue
Bolton, Dave/Sue
Bolton, Earl/Barbara
Brocklehurst, John/Willi
Brown, Diane/Hallock, Dave
Bruntjen, Scott/Rinderknecht, Carol
Bryan, Steve/Suellen
Buhse, Howard/Moira
Burns, Kate/Schroeder, Sheila
Burton, Chris/Anne
Busch, Edwin/Eleanor
Carson, R. Edgar/Julia
Chapin, John/Micki
Cohen, Ken & Family
Conklin, Nancy
Cross, Arnold
Donahue, Jerry/Barbara
Dugan, Skip/Kathy
Egaas, Brian/Bersentes, Korina
Evans, Virginia
Fisher, Marc/Laura
Frazier, Bud/Rachel
Freymuth, Peter/Karin
Fry, Jena
Geer, Richard/Nan
Gitin, Gene/Gail
Godell, Audrey
Goolsby, Robert
Hartsell, Rich/Marilyn
Hawkins, James/Nancy
Hill, Jim/Sharon
Hoffman, Amy/Commers, Mary
Hollis, Edna
Howe, Ray/Hronkin, Jennifer
Hunziker, Bud/Joyce
Jensen, Jeff/Kathy
Johnson, Dale/Frandee
Johnson, Don/Dorothy
Kent, Jinny
Kindig, Jean
Kladstrup, Barbara
Kready, JoAnne
Leever, Virginia/Randy
Lovelace, Stuart
Marron, Bruce/Ann
Martin, Margaret
McCleery, Jeanne
McDonald, Joe/Pam
McGuffee, Cris/Liz
McHenry/Duvall Family
Merrill, Nancy
Miller, Kent/Kay
Neu, Art/Naomi

Newens, Nick/Mary Jane
Pierce, Lowel/Annie May
Pierson, Bill/Kathleen
Postlewait, Michael/Sharon
Postlewait, Timothy/Miller, Lindy
Reynolds, Matt/Jeanie
Roberts, Carl/Donna
Rock, Paul/Phyllis
Rockett, Carol Ann
Rottman, Gary/Stringfellow, Ann
Rouse, Philip/Louise
Rouse, Romaine
Ruhnka, John/Sallie
Sandquist, Rick/Katrina
Schneider, Harold/Jan
Shaw, Marilyn
Sheets, Payson/Fran
Sheldon, Elizabeth
Simpson, Robert
Smith, Jared/Deborah
Soyka, James/Faye
Sturm, Ron/Judy
Swope, James/Beverly
Tafoya, Jan/Windolph, Audrey
Tiberi, Henry C.
Tillotson, Rich/Lee
Vahling Arnie
Wallace, John/Rita
Weber, Gerhard/Deborah
Weissberg, Michael/Susan
Wheeler, Jeff/Signe
Whitworth, Sam
Wohlers, Duane/Linell
Young, Russel/Marion
Zemanek, Phyllis

Associate Members (Non-Voting):

Amaranto, Ernie/Marion
Anderson, Anne
Barrett-Smith, Allison
Bauder, Jane
Buhse, Andrew
Campbell, Esther
Carline, Glenna
Cole, David/Jennifer
Dewey, Tom/Susan
Evans, Deb
Flowers, Willard
Forstner, E. S.
Goolsby, Ann
Goolsby, Mark/Ramona
Goolsby, Sara
Gross, Richard/Regina
Gross, William/Mary Nell
Guthrie, Bill
Harnden, Alec/Kendra
Helmberger, Skip/Jane
Henningsen, Kathleen
Hill, Tom/Sherry
Huffman, Vonne
Kent, Chris
Kent, Michael

Kladstrup, Susan
Klenk, Anne
Malmquist, Barbara
McCaffree, Inez
McCleery, Kathy
Merrill, Susan
Mues, Willa
Munson, Betsy
Munson, Peter
Naylor, Earl/Joan
Olsen, Nancy
Price, Denis/Satah
Quarterman, Linda
Roberts, John Walker
Roberts, Kathryn
Roossinck, Marilyn
Shaw, Ben
Sheldon, George/Ruth
Sheldon, Julie
Slaven, Pam
Vance, Patti
Whitworth, Gretchen
Wiepking, Robert/Jodie
Woodward, Edgar
Young, Donald
Zerzan, Judy



This beautiful arrowhead was found this summer under the old Entwistle cabin at 498 Eldorado when new owner Frank Parrish was renovating the floorboards.

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

ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM 2010-2011

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

Name _____
 Eldora Address _____
 Eldora Telephone _____
 Other Address _____

 Other Telephone _____
 E-Mail Address _____

Subscription Rates:

- Full Member – Paper Copy in Black and White.....\$45
- Full Member – Paper Copy in Full Color.....\$75
- Full Member – Electronic Newsletter (This requires a computer & email address!).....\$30
- Associate Member – Paper Copy in Black and White\$30
- Associate Member – Paper Copy in Full Color.....\$60
- Associate Member – Electronic Newsletter (This requires a computer & email address!).....\$15

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

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 E-Mail Address _____

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



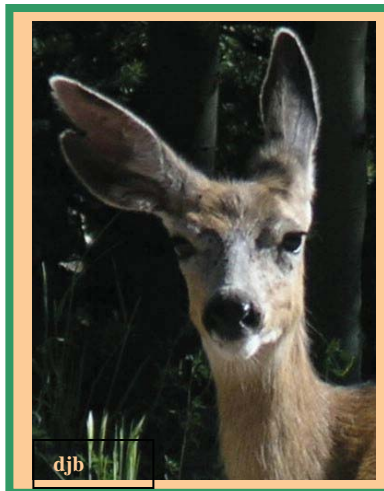
Eldora Land Preservation Fund
 P. O. Box 988
 Nederland, CO 80466-0988

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

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

Please send an acknowledgement of this
 donation to:

This donation is in memory of:



**Have you herd?
 It's time to pay your
 2010-11 member dues!**



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

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

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

Please send an acknowledgement for tax
 purposes to:

This donation is in memory of:

