

Middle Boulder Creek
Photo by Diane J. Brown



February 2009 President's Letter

Eldora has long avoided the sprawl that afflicts the rest of the Front Range in part because it has not installed the plumbing that would open the door to development projects that are currently out of the question because septic systems can't support them. As one Eldora resident stated, a public sewer system would open Eldora to developers moving in faster than termites at a wood convention. On the other hand we do want to preserve the water quality of Middle Boulder Creek and the water aquifer for our own use and that of future generations as well as for the wild creatures that depend upon it.

Nederland, our neighbor to the east, has been more open to growth. Special tax districts centered on Nederland drew tax boundaries to approximately a five-mile radius around Nederland, enabling them to tap into Eldora financially so that we could help pay for the

desired services, like a library and fire station and, as recently as October 2008, Nederland approached Boulder County Health Department to see if Eldora might be interested in connecting to and helping to pay for Nederland's sewage treatment woes.

If your taxes seem high, take a look at the tax receipt you just received. The lion's share goes to Boulder Valley School District. Boulder County gets roughly a third of the tax levied, and local special tax districts (fire and library) take the rest. If Eldora were added to Nederland's sewage treatment district, expect a real sticker shock on your tax bill.

We do receive a lot of services for the portion of taxes that goes directly to Boulder County. The amount the County Transportation Department spends for 7 months of the year keeping roads passable in Eldora in the winter is astronomical. Summer residents tend to forget this service. Boulder County has served Eldora very well in buying up most of the mining claims on Spencer Mountain for open space. Last year the County hired a consulting firm to do an architectural survey of 50 more historic Eldora cabins. Staff time went into working on a Townsite Initiative, even though it did not get enough local support in Eldora to merit action. Boulder County is currently spending abundant staff time researching the road vacation issue in Eldora. It all costs money and that's what our taxes pay for.

If Eldora is to preserve its unique qualities of historic ambiance, the feeling of a cozy small town, the lack of commercialization, and its relatively pristine environmental surroundings, it will be necessary for us as a community to come together and come up with some creative solutions for dealing with our septic systems. Will we decide to limit growth? Will we opt to build smaller, more efficient homes? Can we work with County and State agencies to come up with solutions to sewage treatment that do not require ripping up large areas of land for leach fields? Is it possible to convince them to allow using gray water for outdoor use in gardens, rather than filling leach fields with usable water? Could we harvest rain water for personal use, rather than sucking the creek dry to water gardens? We need to think outside the box to generate solutions for the issues facing us. Europe is already far ahead of us in tackling the problem of too many people and finite resources. Can we learn from their experience and even improve upon it? Shouldn't we all act in small ways to avoid being part of the huge problem humanity is creating on Planet Earth?

Diane Brown
President, Eldora Civic Association

Courageous County Commissioners

The party's over and the taxpayers are left with the mess. Years of greed and deregulation created, among other things, an accumulation of wealth by a few to the detriment of the rest. Locally we are told by the development community that it is their right to build large, unsustainable houses. The wealthy, who want these mansions, tell us it is their "right" to live in large houses. It is their dream and they deserve them. It is their property to do with as they please and the rest of us should "mind our own business." Who are we, the little people, to question the impact and cost their personal desires might have on the rest of us?

Here's a thought: We have limited resources in a finite world. What we do as individuals impacts not only the environment, but everyone around us. When a few accumulate resources for themselves, it leaves less for everyone else. There is a cost to all of us when the people are allowed to build huge houses. Large houses demand more natural gas, more building materials, more water for more bathrooms, pools, grass and gardens. Development in Aspen, Miami and Hollywood has shown the cost to all of us for subsidizing the wealthy is huge. As land and housing costs soar, the service community, teachers, plumbers, carpenters, and small businesses can no longer afford to live in the community. They are forced to live in poorer communities many miles away, and then have to drive long distances to support themselves and their families. We all become byproducts of welfare for the wealthy.

Boulder County is indeed fortunate in presently having county commissioners who are trying to stand for the rights of the majority in protecting our environment, the use of natural resources and our ability to live here. It is reasonable to limit the size of house, particularly in sensitive environments. It is reasonable to demand sensitive, sustainable development in the county. The commissioners need to be commended for trying to maintain a livable environment for all of us, rich and poor.

Don't let the developers and vocal self-serving property rights advocates speak for us. Vote to preserve and maintain the livability of Boulder County. Reelect Commissioners Will Toor, Cindy Domenico and Ben Pearlman. They have been courageous in their leadership and strong in their protection of Boulder County. They deserve our thanks and reelection.

A Letter to the Editor of the Daily Camera

By Fran and Payson Sheets



"This winter they are cutting down our woods more seriously than ever.
Thank God they cannot cut down the clouds." Henry David Thoreau

The Boulder County Planning Commission considered an amendment to the Land Use Code at their meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 3:00 pm. Docket DC-08-003 **Community Biomass Sort Yards** will propose a text amendment to **add a new use classification to the Forestry Uses** section (Art. 4-504). These facilities would accept wood, slash, woody biomass, or other organic materials in order to mitigate wildfire risk, dispose of dead trees, and promote a healthy forest.

The Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department is currently looking for a site in the Boulder County mountains to set up such a facility in order to help property owners dispose of trees removed for fire mitigation purposes and beetle-killed trees. If you have questions regarding this initiative, I encourage you to contact Ryan Ludlow, Forestry Education and Outreach Coordinator, in our office. He can be reached at rludlow@bouldercounty.org or 720.564.2641. We are proposing a new use classification because the Land Use Code does not specifically allow this use. Staff will propose the following regulations to the Planning Commission:

4-504 Forestry Uses

Forest Health Management Facility

1. Definition: A facility designed to accept wood, slash, or other woody biomass material removed from another property in order to facilitate forest management and promote recycling of woody biomass material. Materials may be processed and recycled onsite and/or may be transferred to an offsite location for processing.
2. Districts Permitted: By limited impact special review in F, MI, A
3. Parking Requirements: To be determined through limited impact special review
4. Loading Requirement: To be determined through limited impact special review
5. Additional Provisions:
 - a. The minimum parcel size shall be 3 acres.
 - b. All activities, except driveways, shall be setback a minimum of 50 feet from any occupied building not associated with the facility or right-of-way.
 - c. This use is not required to be located on a building lot, or comply with the minimum lot size requirements for the district in which it is located.
 - d. Times and frequencies of operation shall be determined through limited impact special review.
 - e. All approved facilities shall be reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners every three years to ensure continued compliance with the special use criteria.
 - f. Access to the site shall be secured so that unauthorized persons may not use the facility when it is closed.
 - g. Upon permanent cessation of this use, the disturbed area must be reclaimed and revegetated.
 - h. These facilities shall not be the final disposal place for woody biomass materials and shall promote the recycling of all received materials to the maximum extent possible.

COMMUNITY ISSUE: Eldora Faces SepticSmart® Regulations

Eldora property owners are facing new regulations that have been created by Boulder County Government as a result of Colorado Department of Health and Environment guidelines pertaining to waste water treatment and holding tank/vault systems. The regulations fall within a program called SepticSmart®. Within the regulation tanks/vaults and treatment systems are called onsite wastewater systems (OWS).

An OWS is a physical structure typically on private property or shared (non municipal supplied). An onsite wastewater system can be referred to as a septic system. An OWS can be an absorption or dispersal system of any size or flow or a system or facility for collecting, storing, treating, neutralizing, stabilizing or disposing of domestic-type sewage which is not part of, or connected to, a sewage treatment works. An OWS accepts wastewater from your home, holds it in a storage tank/vault for recovery, or provides several levels of treatment, then releases the cleansed water back into the adjoining native ground (soil).

In a septic system (non-holding tank/vault system) the wastewater and solids are settled in the septic tank. The water is exposed to different layers of bacteria performing decomposition of the solids at the bottom and of suspended solids with other dissolved materials in the water solution. The partially cleansed water devoid of large solids will flow, by gravity or pump, to the leach field or other treatment scheme where additional bacterial decomposition and oxidation/treatment will take place. Finally the natural process will continue with filtration through the lower segment of the leach field sand and gravel (soil) or alternate treatment system, ending in reintroduction to the native adjoining soil and water table where other natural processes of filtration and cleansing continue. The size of an OWS septic system is determined, designed and built to meet or exceed the water consumption of your home. This consumption is determined by the number of bedrooms. Nationwide that amount is typically accepted as 250 gallons per day per bedroom added to the treatment system's base capacity (variable upon amount and type of system).

In many instances these OWS regulations may add an additional expense and burden of effort upon Eldora homeowners in order to bring their property into compliance. This is particularly important if you desire to retain the right to utilize, occupy, sell or transfer your property according to Boulder County Land Use and Health Department regulations. The most significant component of the regulation, which will affect all of us at some point in time in the future, is the property transfer certification. The next paragraph is the language from the Boulder County Health Department's SepticSmart® regulation.

PROPERTY TRANSFER CERTIFICATES

The purpose of a property transfer certificate is, at the time of property transfer (i.e. sale or transfer of property), to verify adequacy of the existing onsite wastewater system (OWS) if it was previously approved and permitted, or assure that an unapproved OWS will be permitted and approved within one year of the property transfer. At the time of property transfer, properties with an approved OWS (i.e. septic system) will need to pass another inspection to ensure that the OWS continues to operate properly. If the OWS does not pass this inspection, the property owner will be required to obtain a repair permit to correct deficiencies or obtain an agreement signed by the new owners acknowledging they have accepted responsibility for repairing the deficiencies.

The language in the prior paragraph is copied from the Boulder County Government website at:

www.bouldercounty.org/health/environ/water/septicmart/protransfer/TransferRegulation.pdf

If you would like to know where the source of the regulation originates and/or obtain a printed pamphlet and hardcopy information, you can contact: Boulder County Public Health, 3450 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80304, telephone number 303.441.1564, or online at www.SepticSmart.org

What does this mean to property owners with inhabited structures or those intending to build or alter a structure here in Eldora? The regulation compels us to install or upgrade our wastewater handling systems if the systems are not in compliance with the regulation at or before the time of building permit application, sale or transfer of title. Additionally a 60-day per year maximum occupancy has been set for homes on a vault system.

The strategies that are employed by the Boulder County Government under jurisdiction of the Land Use Department and Health Department, which administer the SepticSmart® effort, are as follows (excerpted from the Boulder County Government website: www.SepticSmart.org):

Strategies have been identified to address the problem of unapproved septic systems in Boulder County.

Strategies

1. **Complaint investigations identifying failing systems:** Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) staff currently conducts site visits in response to complaints of failing septic systems. When investigations identify failure, BCPH begins enforcement procedures to ensure that the failure is corrected.
2. **Land Use referrals:** Boulder County Land Use regulations require that each occupied dwelling has an approved septic system before a building permit can be issued. BCPH receives referrals from the Boulder County Land Use Department in response to applications from homeowners who wish to make changes to their properties. If BCPH identifies an unapproved septic system through referrals, the property owner is required to upgrade the septic system before a building permit will be issued.

3. **Property transfer regulation:** After researching nationally how the issue of unapproved septic systems is being addressed, BCPH discovered one common strategy was to require inspection of a property's septic system at the time of property sale or transfer. This ensures that any issues with the septic system are disclosed to the new buyer, and that the existing owner or new buyer will make the repairs within one year of the closing date.
4. **Outreach to properties with permitted systems but without final approval:** Approximately 1,200 septic systems in Boulder County have a permit but have not received final approval (meaning a final check of the septic system was never conducted). By categorizing these 1,200 systems over the next couple of years, BCPH can contact the owners directly to let them know what they need to do to receive final approval.
5. **Direct outreach to high-risk areas:** BCPH has conducted a risk analysis of the septic systems in Boulder County and has prioritized areas of high risk where septic systems have a greater chance of negatively impacting our water. Staff will conduct targeted outreach over a 15-year period to these high-risk areas and provide property owners with information specific to their risk and options for bringing unapproved systems up to standard. This will include community discussion about next steps in addressing the unapproved septic systems within the specific area.
6. **General education and outreach:** This strategy will include using newspaper articles, flyer distribution, website marketing, placing posters in communities, mailing of postcards, and a multitude of other strategies aimed at informing the community about the concerns of unapproved and aging septic systems. Information will include how property owners can check the status of their own systems, as well as information on the permitting process.
7. **Community-identified solutions:** BCPH recognizes the vast knowledge and expertise that our community possesses. Using open houses, a website survey, and direct contact with the community, staff anticipates that additional strategies will be identified to address the issue of unapproved septic systems in Boulder County.
8. **Deadline:** As with many other issues, there is often a compliance deadline by which necessary corrections must be made (e.g. replacement of cedar shake roofs). The compliance deadline for approval of septic systems is December 31, 2023 (15 years). BCPH anticipates that most residents will have acted upon a strategy to help ensure protection of our waters before this deadline.”

The regulation is approved, in place and in effect as of September 1, 2008.

Eldora is not unique pertaining to the SepticSmart® program, but we do have a unique situation as with other communities of like historic period. Because of small lot sizes, Eldora bears a unique burden placed upon us in the compliance since our properties were configured before the day of significant government regulation (1959 for septic system permits being issued in Boulder County). This latest regulation creates potential limits of the use of our properties. Representatives from the Health Department reassure Eldora residents that the Health Department is ready and willing to help configure a best-case scenario to assist in implementation and to make appropriate accommodation within guidelines to allow for the required improvements within non-conforming and existing situations, which are the norm in Eldora. There are varying experiences offsetting this statement by those in Eldora who have been through the process.

The Boulder County Government SepticSmart® website has the most up-to-date information, applications, forms and resources to guide you through the daunting process. Financial assistance from the County is available through collaboration with Longs Peak Energy Conservation low interest loans and grant program for low to moderate-income households if the Eldora property is the primary residence. There are Federal Government organizations such as USDA rural development able to help by way of low-income loans and grants for health and safety improvements to residences.

As with any government organization and process, in Boulder County decisions are affected by those who show up for hearings or submit comments and are involved in the governmental process. Many Eldora property owners do not reside year round in Eldora or in Boulder County. Decisions are being made by government agencies that affect us physically, economically and in terms of our quality of life for seasonal and year round residents alike. The ECA Board of Directors urges you to contact your state and county governments through all channels of communication, attend County sponsored meetings in summer 2009, and be involved with the process of creating, modifying or accepting governmental regulations that affect all of us in Eldora and beyond.

This article was approved by the ECA Board of Directors on January 15, 2009.



New Leachfields in Eldora



Oct. 30, 2008

COMMISSIONERS APPROVE RULES REGARDING SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Regulations aim to ensure safety and health, minimize impacts on neighborhood

(Boulder County, Colo.) – The Boulder County Commissioners unanimously approved amendments to the County’s Land Use Code today to allow short-term rentals while safeguarding health, safety, and limits on neighborhood impact.

The Commissioners approved a plan that addresses short-term dwelling rentals, often referred to as “vacation rentals,” with requirements that vary according to the intensity of the rental property and its zoning district. The measures only apply to dwellings that are rented for short durations (less than 30 days each) and do not apply to long-term rentals or those being rented on a month-to-month basis.

According to the amendments approved, a property owner is allowed to rent out a property on a short-term basis by right and without any special restrictions for up to a total of 14 nights per year. After that, restrictions may apply depending upon the zoning of the property; for example, **if being rented for 15-45 nights per year:**

- Properties within forestry, agricultural, commercial and historic areas will be required to submit registration forms disclosing the number of bedrooms and certifying that the property complies with regulations set by the County – such as requirements for fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, approved onsite waste systems and carbon monoxide detectors. They will also be limited to a maximum of two adults per bedroom.
There will be no required Land Use staff review in these instances – it is the responsibility of the owner to comply with the regulations.
- Properties within Rural Residential, Suburban Residential and Estate Residential zone districts must apply for Limited Impact Special Review, which entails a review by Land Use Staff and partnering referral agencies such as Public Health; they must also complete a neighbor notification.

If being rented for 46 or more nights per year, all properties will have to go through staff review, neighbor notification and Limited Impact Special Review.

“I think these regulations strike a fair balance between giving property owners the ability to use their property for short-term rental, and protecting neighbors, renters and the public from potential impacts to their health, safety and quality of life,” Commissioner Ben Pearlman said. “We want to ensure that these properties are safe and that their waste systems aren’t contaminating our waterways.”

Requirements for the short-term dwelling rentals include:

- At least one parking space allotted per bedroom
- Approved onsite wastewater system
- Operable fire extinguishers in each bedroom and the kitchen
- Operable smoke detectors in each bedroom
- Operable carbon monoxide detector
- Must meet existing noise ordinances
- Must have met building codes when they were constructed or, if constructed prior to building code requirements, be structurally sound, with all plumbing, electrical, heating and cooling systems in a good state of repair.





djb

Study of the Platted Roads, Alleys and Rights-of-Way Update

Boulder County Land Use, Transportation, and Public Health have been compiling data and developing maps to provide an accurate picture of the existing conditions in Eldora. Some examples of the data points include properties that have been vacated, structural trespass into platted roads, alleys, rights-of-way and adjacent private parcels, Onsite Wastewater Systems (OWS) permit status, access (pedestrian and vehicle), and natural resources. If there is additional information you feel we should collect to help capture an accurate picture of existing conditions please don't hesitate to make suggestions.

This data will be made available to the Eldora community for review so people can do some "ground-truthing" and identify errors and omissions. Once this information has been reviewed by the community, the County will develop draft alternatives.

During the summer of 2009, when there is the highest number of Eldorans in the community, the County will convene a meeting (or multiple meetings if necessary) to provide an opportunity for community members to give input on the draft alternatives. Staff will then prepare policy recommendations and present them to the Planning Commission and County Commissioners for review and approval.

In addition, the County plans to offer educational workshops on a number of pertinent topics such as SepticSmart, Site Plan Review, BuildSmart, and the Transfer Development Credits Program. Other ideas for topics are welcome.

A number of approaches will be employed so community members can participate in all phases of this process including: community meetings, the County website, newsletters, email, and mailings.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at 720-564-2642 or gsanfacon@bouldercounty.org or visit the Boulder County Land Use website at http://www.bouldercounty.org/lu/townsite_planning.

Garry Sanfaçon
Boulder County Land Use Department

Minutes of the ECA Board Meeting
January 15, 2009
Submitted by Audrey Godell

Diane Brown, president, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and read mission statement. All Board members were present with Audrey Godell and Matt Phillips at Audrey's, Diane Brown, Everett Colburn and Mike McCoy by phone.

Minutes for the 11/20/08 Board Meeting had been approved via email prior to the meeting and Financial Report for 1/15 was presented to Board Members by Audrey (Treasurer): 2 CDs rolled over in 2008 with current balances of \$2134.66 and \$4099.47, and the ECA checking account balance is \$3342.50.

Formal Motions: The following motion was unanimously approved by the Board:

That the Board accept Everett's Septic article with Board revisions for the Septic Smart Community issue article and publish it in the newsletter.

Committee Reports

EEPP (Mike McCoy): Discussed the latest draft of the EEPP proposal. Mike and Audrey will continue to work on it to make it more "user friendly."

Newsletter (NL) (Diane Brown):

Database updates: Diane has been cross-checking the ECA database with the County Assessor's list and the "McGuffee" Townsite Planning Initiative list to ensure that the ECA database has current member contact information. She has been sending new information to Audrey, keeper of the reference ECA database. We now have email addresses for 141 out of 186 current ECA members. Board minutes will be sent by email or USPS to all members. The initial email attempt will undoubtedly reveal any obsolete email addresses.

Deadline for February Newsletter is January 15. The community issue article for February NL – Septic Systems (Everett). The Board did a final review of Diane's edited version of the Septic Smart article and approved it as noted under "Formal Motions" above.

Deadline for mid-April /early May NL – April 1. Community Issue for April – House size, setbacks, TDRs (Diane)

Mike's EEPP article will be the community issue article for the July NL.

ELPF (Diane Brown): ELPF savings account balance is currently \$15272.67

Social (Everett Colburn): Everett is going to wait to send out the email regarding history night until closer to the event. In the future Diane will send any member contact information updates to Everett. Audrey to send member email list to him.

Public Lands (Matt, Mike, Audrey):

Due to renewed urgency on the part of certain Eldora residents, the letter requesting a limitation on carbaryl spraying by Eldora Mountain Resort was sent out in December instead of waiting for the new Administration officials to be put in place (February). It was sent to Eldora Mt. Resort, Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment, Senator Mark Udall, USFS, Boulder County Public Health and Boulder County Commissioners. A response was promptly received from Boulder County Public Health with an offer from them to contact USFS. A copy of the response will be circulated among ECA Board members and next steps will be discussed over email.

New Business

Boulder County: Staff is currently conducting an analysis of existing conditions in Eldora including road vacations, buildable lots, legal surveys, OWS, structural trespass, dockets approved or applied for, and natural resources. Diane Brown was solicited for her opinion regarding the best way to communicate the results to the Eldora community, i.e. email, website (but one would need high speed internet), or sending individual packets to residents. The Board will recommend sending individual packets to residents. The County is planning to hold workshops in Eldora to explain county regulations for health, green building, etc., but when is a good time to hold these? Most Board members thought summer to be the best time, although one member felt that off-season would be a good time to begin – the sooner the better.

Old Business

Bylaw revisions: Volunteers for a bylaw revision committee that will work with the ECA Board will be solicited through the newsletter.

Survey for Summer 2009: Board members to start thinking of questions for the survey. It was suggested that the final draft be reviewed by a professional survey expert, possibly someone from CU (pro-bono). Audrey to look into this.

HAPPY VALLEY HAPPENINGS

BOUNCING BOULDER!



Apparently the heavy rains of summer 2008 triggered a rockslide further up the slope of Eldorado Mountain. One huge boulder came to rest just above the Springer cabins on Eaton Place. Brian Collins heard the rockslide and went up the next morning to investigate. He was kind enough to call Kent and Kay Miller to let them know how close it landed to their cabins. Kent is pictured with the newly arrived boulder.

FOUND on 11-23-08:

Small ring on steep trail just south of 6th Street Bridge, the short way up Spencer Mountain. To reclaim, call or email Payson Sheets at 303-444-3037 or sheetsp@colorado.edu.

Special thanks goes to Dave Hallock for technical help with the computer and scanning of photographs for the Eldora High Country.

The April issue of the Eldora High Country will focus on volunteerism in Eldora. If you have someone you would like to nominate as a contributor to the community good, please contact the editor, Diane Brown, by April 1.



Don and Dorothy Johnson had a wonderful time in November in Taipei, Taiwan where Don gave a couple of lectures in connection with Pearl Harbor. Don was invited to return to Taipei December 4th as a guest speaker at an international archaeological conference.



Lake Dorothy by Tom Rouse

ELDORA LAND PRESERVATION FUND \$ DONATIONS \$

Nancy and Susan Merrill
Bill and Mary Gross
Esther Campbell
Pat Springer Overlees
Experimental Aircraft Assn.
Steve and Suellen Bryan
Willard and Marky Flowers

A full page of 2008-09 donations will appear in the summer newsletter.

Brian and Lynne Collins (in memory of Hank, Elvira and Duchess)
George and Ruth Sheldon (in memory of R. C. and Hope Guy)

Current balance for ELPF: \$15, 340.62

ECA BUDGET CRUNCH

In order to economize we are sending out the ECA Board Meeting minutes via email. We are also looking into the possibility of delivering the Eldora High Country newsletter via email to those who have high speed Internet. The advantage to this method is speed and lower cost of delivery, plus the opportunity for recipients to print out full color copies of their newsletters.

◀ Yellow Pond Lily by Diane J. Brown

ELDORA SWEETHEARTS: Don and Dorothy Johnson of “Evensong” 645 Bryan Avenue



Whiting Cabin on Eldorado Avenue circa 1936



Little sister Dorothy at Caribou circa 1938



Dorothy's dad, Tim Evenson, the son of Norwegian immigrants, lived on a family farm in Wisconsin. One warm spring day he boarded a train and came to Colorado to be with his brother in Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver. He was suffering from tuberculosis contracted in the trenches of France in WWI. Tim took a job shoveling coal in the boiler room of the hospital. After a few months his brother died, but Tim had fallen in love with Colorado. He vowed to seek work outside where the air was fresh and there was always a view of the mountains. His dreams were realized when he brought his bride Ann from Wisconsin and established a delivery service in Denver. Eventually his parents and siblings all moved to Colorado. In the early 1950s Tim asked Don if he had suggestions for buying a mountain cabin for weekend fishing. Of course, Don said Eldora! Tim and Ann bought the cabin at 645 Bryan Avenue from Mrs. Woodring in 1954. She was postmistress when the post office was located on the northeast corner of 6th Street and Eldorado Avenue.

ELDORA SWEETHEARTS: Jerry and Barbara Donahue of 1075 Eldorado Avenue
Oh, What a Night!



Barbara and Jerry – April 4, 1970

“Fluid rounds will commence promptly at 5:00 PM,” droned the P. A. system. This message was repeated numerous times in the next half hour at the Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) in Minneapolis as the 5:00 hour approached. As the sales trainer for Medtropic, a heart pacemaker company, I was engaged in sales rounds at the hospital with a new sales rep for our company, a normal part of on-the-job training (OJT), as we visited key personnel at HCMC. This was a very familiar routine for me, and I thought I knew all of the hospital jargon, but I was embarrassed to tell my trainee that I was unfamiliar with the “fluid rounds” code.

We approached a friendly medical staffer to query, “What are fluid rounds?” She laughed hilariously as she related it was payday and “fluid rounds” was the cryptic way to announce, “Let’s all meet at the Front Page Bar just a few blocks away for libations.” She graciously invited us to join the party, and we enthusiastically agreed!



As fate would have it, we met several of our colleagues at the Front Page; a raucous Friday night celebration was already in process. Forty years ago, I was still single as were most of my friends. One of them introduced me to three nurses from the hospital, warning me under his breath that one of these ladies was "off-limits," because of interest on his part. We found a table for six, and invited the 3 nurses to join us for a beverage. They agreed to join us with no hesitation - anything for a free drink!

Possibly I was preoccupied at the time with my attraction to one of these lovely ladies, but I honestly was not paying attention to my friend’s admonition "hands-off" with one of these nurses. As fate would have it, of course, I zeroed in on the "hands-off" one, just as my friend was called to an event away from the bar.

By now, you have probably guessed that the nurse’s name might be Barbara. We had dinner that night, followed by an invite to join her at a friend’s house party. Things started downhill for the rest of the evening. While dancing, I clumsily stepped on her toe, which we later learned was broken. As if that weren’t bad enough, my friend showed up at the same party and proceeded to read the riot act to me for trespassing on his claimed nurse property. That friend relationship deteriorated, as you might suspect, but I prodded on – taking nurse Barbara to a college football game the next day. Barbara eventually became my wife. (My friend never forgave me.) However there were many obstacles during the next year before we hitched up, but that’s another story!



Barbara and Jerry – Summer 2008



ELDORA SWEETHEARTS: Marc & Laura Fisher of 1195 Eldorado Avenue

Their meeting was an act of fate. Once upon a time there was a funky little house with an apartment at one end tucked up against the mountain just below Fourmile in Boulder Canyon. It was on the south side and was in a shadow from October to April, hence the name Winter Palace. It was January 1981 and Laura had just returned to CU after an adventure study abroad trip around the world called "Semester at Sea." She was looking for a place to live and found an ad for this apartment close to Boulder in the canyon. Marc was living in the main part of the house with a few other folks and remembers Laura walking up to the house for the first time. She was wearing her favorite Calvin Kleins and a preppy looking tweed blazer. "She's cute! Let her move in, maybe I'll marry her," he said to his friends!



Laura and Marc
1981

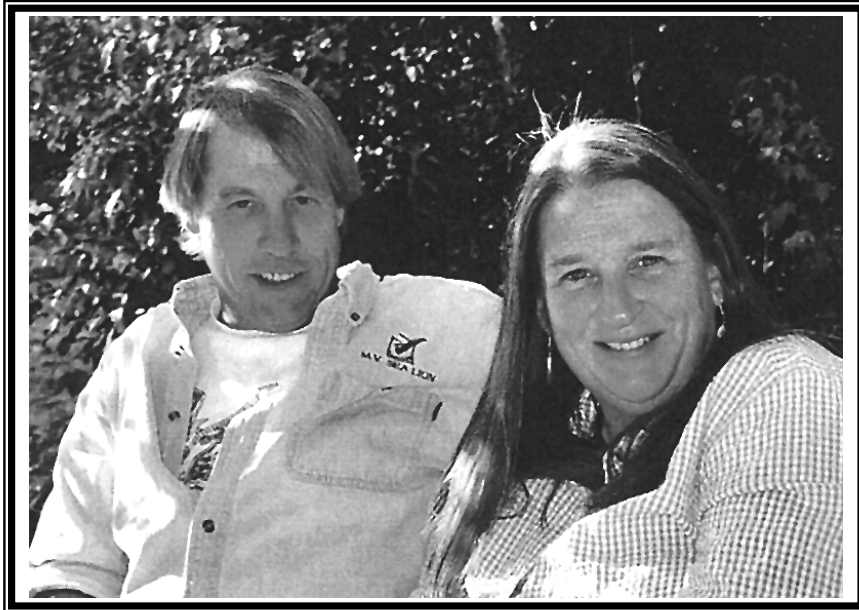


Well, she did move in, and soon after Marc's other roommates in the main house moved out. There was a door between the main house and the apartment where Marc would slip notes when the power bill was due or there were other house related communications. Laura would send them back corrected as Marc was a terrible speller!

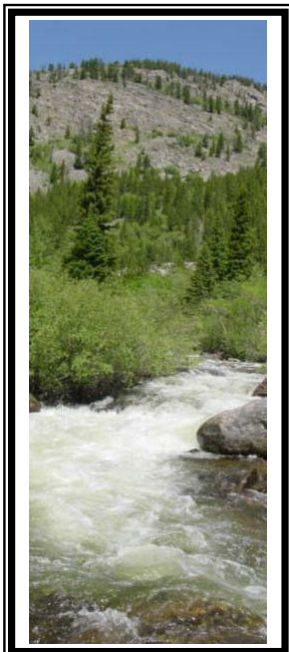
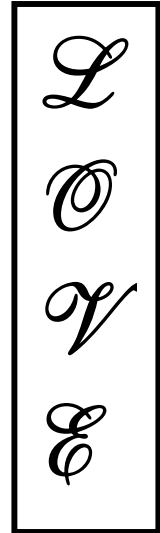
Layla, an amazing Australian Shepherd was rescued by Marc, and Laura adopted a cat named Kuta (for Kuta Beach in Bali where she'd recently been) and the two critters were best buds, so Laura would leave the door open between the house and the apartment so they could wrestle and play whenever they wanted. Soon, however, not only Layla came over to play, but Marc, too. Laura shared stories and pictures of her recent travels and Marc impressed Laura with his goals of building his little fabrication business into a plastics factory. He grew up in his dad's machine shop and his vision and goals were so different than any of Laura's other college friends (and herself) who really didn't know what they were going to be when and if they grew up.

Their first official date was to the movie "Sound of Music" that was playing at the cheap movies on campus. Marc couldn't afford to pay and didn't even hold her hand. That shocked Laura, but didn't offend her too much. Soon it was Laura's 21st birthday and she spent the day skiing with her friends, came home for a quick change, and then was off to celebrate on Pearl Street. In her hurry to go party, what she didn't notice until the next day, was the bouquet of 21 multi-colored roses that Marc had put in her apartment. When she finally did notice, she was so impressed! This guy couldn't afford a movie, but he bought her 21 roses?!? Later she learned that he had worked at a rose farm as a teenager and these were seconds that they had given him to give her! Not long after they were inseparable and Laura dropped out of school and spent all her time with Marc.

They were married on June 4, 1983 at Laura's parents' home in Massachusetts. It was many years later that Marc's original roommates from Winter Palace told Laura the story about what Marc had said as she walked up to the house in the canyon for the first time. Although Winter Palace was torn down to make way for the bike path that comes up from Boulder to Fourmile Canyon, you can still see the slightly excavated place at the foot of the mountain where the house was nestled. The lure of fate was certainly strong in that place for these two people whose paths it was unlikely would have ever crossed.



Marc and Laura
2008



Sonnet 116

William Shakespeare 1564 –1616

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
 Admit impediments. Love is not love
 Which alters when it alteration finds,
 Or bends with the remover to remove.
 O no! It is an ever-fixed mark
 That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
 It is the star to every wandering bark*
 Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
 Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
 Within his bending sickle's compass come;
 Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
 But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
 If this be error and upon me proved,
 I never writ, nor no man ever loved.



*This is not a dog bark; it is a sailing vessel; also spelled barque.

Submitted by Louise Lavender Rouse

Finding Love in All the Wrong Places: The Monte Carlo District of Eldora

From "Silver, Gold and Black Iron"

By Donald C. Kemp



The segregated district, a subject of hullabaloo by the Business Mens' club in the period preceding the town incorporation, was also a controversial topic in the deliberation of the trustees on May 16, 1898. This was evidenced by the tenor of several ordinances and by instructions issued to Town Marshal L. W. Payne, directing the levy of a \$5.00 a month assessment against each "lewd woman" and a \$10.00 per month payment by each dance hall in advance. The gambling halls dug up a \$5.00 ante for each gaming table, and a later amendatory order hiked this fine to a flat \$50.00 per house. The gamblers set up a howl and the council mercifully cut the levy in half. With like generosity they enlarged the operating limits of the dance halls to include "any place on and along Eldorado Avenue east of Seventh Street and west of Fourth Street," as well as in the originally designated area, now known as Monte Carlo Addition. This section was reached by way of Seventh Street over a log bridge spanning the creek. The long one-story Monte Carlo casino and dance hall built of logs faced Seventh Street a few yards south of the bridge.

Ed Cook, a reactionary, fomented a scheme to make Eldora "a wide open town" and to permit denizens of the Monte Carlo Addition free access day or night to all sections, including restaurants, stores, barrooms, and other public places. The ingenious idea, which prompted this suggestion, was that a similar policy was "what made Cripple Creek" and in like manner must surely benefit Eldora. During the heated debate which followed, one of the board suggested that if the system really was the making of Cripple Creek, it would be a fine plan to round up twenty or more of Eldora's scarlet damsels and "swap them off for just one good-paying mine." The formal resolution embodying this plan passed without a dissenting vote. But Mayor Webb said "NO"; so the girls stayed put on their Monte Carlo reservation across the creek.

In the dim half-light of early morning, a short time later, two men were seen to cross Eldorado Avenue and enter one of the saloons, each one carrying pickaback a scantily clad female. The night marshal, ever alert, quietly entered the saloon through the back entrance and surprised not only the two couples he had seen crossing the street, but a third couple which he had missed. One of the boyfriends, on seeing the marshal, beat a hasty retreat, but the remaining five fell to the merciless clutches of The Law and were ordered to appear on the following afternoon before Police Magistrate Rowe. Marshal Payne lined up the defendants before the judge promptly at two o'clock. The men pleaded guilty, and each paid a fine. The girls denied any guilt, and each was sworn and questioned by His Honor. The first defendant stated her occupation as "dressmaker." The second was also a dressmaker. The third defendant, after a moment's hesitation said, "Judge, I'm a chippie!" There was much laughter by the audience and banging of the judicial gavel to restore order. Solemnly came the next query from the learned justice, "Well, Chippie, how's business?" "Poor, your Honor. Very poor. There's too damn many dressmakers in this town!" Even the judge smiled. Each defendant was pronounced guilty and fined. The three then returned to the humdrum life in the Monte Carlo Addition across the creek, and the episode was soon forgotten.

The townspeople – especially parents of teenage sons – wakened to an unofficial headache when they learned to their horror that several adventurous lads, during stolen visits to off-limits Monte Carlo

houses, were learning the intricacies of ballroom dance steps (and mayhap more intimate social diversions) under the expert tutelage of the Cyprian residents. Intelligence of this matter was duly imparted with lurid details by smaller youngsters who “peeked through the window and seen ‘em!” A serious-minded and incorruptible youth indirectly confirmed the scandalous doings: While delivering groceries ordered from his father’s store, he often refused cordial invitations from Madams to enter the Halls of Sin; and as sternly he refused requests to “just leave the groceries, and I’ll be in tomorrow to pay for them.”

As if these happenings were not enough, one bright morning alongside Seventh Street near the Monte Carlo Casino, a large signboard embellished with a beautiful Gibsonesque female figure, painted in flamboyant colors, proclaimed:

THIS IS MONTE CARLO
Fourteen Beautiful Girls to Serve You
♥♣♦♠
Red Light District - Eldora’s Shady Ladies
By Jack Langley

In addition to the eleven saloons, the town supported at least three hotels, several rooming houses, grocery, hardware, clothing stores, a bank, blacksmith shop, shoe shop, restaurants, and a two story gambling hall. Also, Monte Carlo, a red light district. The town bridge was on 8th Street between the gambling hall and the red light district. The bridge was made of logs and poles.

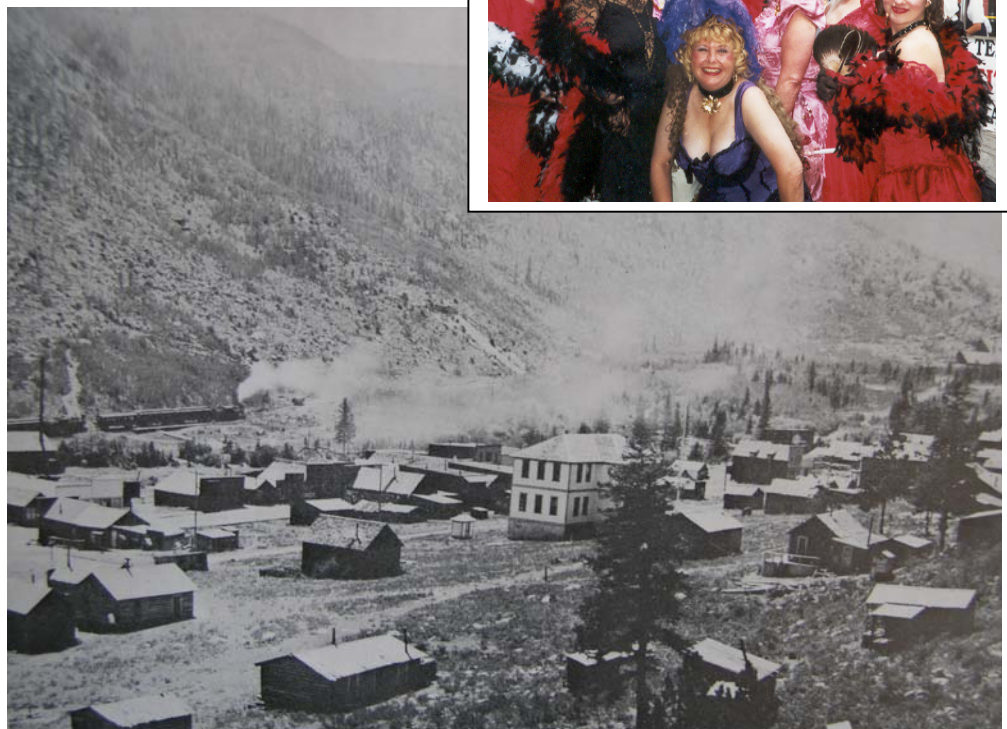
We boys had to go by the sporting houses on our way to pick wild berries and were often called on to deliver a pail of berries to the gals. We would pitch in and hurry to get a pail full and deliver it. This was always cash money and about all the spending money we had and something our folks knew nothing about. Then we would have to hurry like the devil to get berries to take home.

At times when the weather was good, these gals would parade around town in a tallyho. (Webster’s dictionary defines a tallyho as a coach drawn by four horses.) The Monte Carlo faded out with the boom. John Kemp tore down the buildings in 1907. I picked up work for a week or so after school hours. He left my pay at one of the stores – all of 50 cents. One evening I collected and passed his house on the way home. He was at his desk and I threw the 50-cent piece through the window at him. He raised hell about it to my dad and I don’t know who got the 50 cents.

Contemporary Shady Ladies & Gent
Willi and Brock 2nd & 3rd from left ▶



Photo by T. C. Black ▶
Train & red light district
“The Switzerland Trail”
by Forest Crossen:
Two trains at Eldora
on a summer afternoon.
Photo taken before
erection of station,
probably in 1905.
Near lead locomotive
is site of the Monte Carlo
Dance Hall, a lively spot
during the boom of
1898 – 1900. Many
business and professional
men flocked here, far
from home, for a wild
fling with the wine,
the girls and the song.





A Look at Nature
“Only the Strong Survive”
by Dave Hallock

Winter can be downright brutal in Eldora! Snow, persistent wind and cold, and short days and long nights make it an environment not overly conducive for the weak at heart. But humans have found ways to make it more hospitable: heated dwellings, food from all over the world, and books, movies and TV to get through the dark nights.

What about all the other animals that don't have the benefits we use to get through these six months? Well, like a lot of humans, many of the animals leave for warmer places. Over 70% of the bird species that breed here in the

summer migrate to South America, Central America, Arizona, or just down to the foothills of Boulder for winter. Elk, deer and mountain lions also head down to lower elevations. Come to think of it, humans (and only beginning around 1860) are the only large mammals (say, those over 100 lbs.) to try and live year round in the high mountains (except now for moose) without hibernating (such as black bears). The evidence suggests that the previous 13,000+ years of human occupation of our area was primarily seasonal. Gee, and we call them “primitive.”

Moose Mamma
With Two Calves

Photo by
Virginia Evans



So how do the animals that remain survive? Well, a lot of them don't. The evidence suggests there is high mortality of animals during the winter, particularly those in their first year. Local bird counts indicate that the numbers of mountain chickadees drop in half between early winter and spring.

Our resident birds, such as chickadees, nuthatches, creepers and woodpeckers, have learned to do the best they can. For food, many are insectivores and like to search for insects under the bark on trees; they have beaks specialized for this. They also use holes in trees for winter shelter. Large, dead trees generally have the greatest number of cavities for winter shelter. One researcher found 50 nuthatches snuggled together in one tree-cavity; instead of a 3-dog night, we now have the 50-nuthatch night! Of course, many resident birds are now taking advantage of the food we put out in feeders.

The mammals that do not leave the area use a variety of methods to survive. Black bears, marmots and ground squirrels hibernate underground or in burrows under rocks or downed trees.

Chipmunks are dormant for most of winter, but periodically break the sleep to eat food in the den. Pine squirrels have nests in trees and well-stocked food caches on the nearby ground. Other species follow a similar pattern of dens or lodges with food caches, including pika and beaver. Raccoons are active all winter, but may sleep during bad weather for extended periods. Pocket gophers, voles, mice and shrews live under the shelter of the snowpack, either underground or just on top, and often have dens with food caches. Montane voles actually breed during winter; their round nests made of grass are evident as the snow melts in the spring. Cottontails and snowshoe hares stay on top of the snow, though often use the shelter of a shrub or downed tree; they feed on the needles, twigs and bark of trees and shrubs. Coyotes, foxes and bobcats feed on the shrews, mice, voles and gophers under the snow, or the rabbits on top.

Several of our winter residents change color to white in order to blend in with their surroundings. White-tailed ptarmigan and snowshoe hares both turn white and stay still to avoid predators, thus reducing the expenditure of energy. Ermine and long-tailed weasels also turn white in winter so they can easily sneak up on their prey.



Ptarmigan

Photo by

Tom Rouse

Butterflies have yet another strategy for making it through the winter. While a few species, such as monarchs, migrate south, the vast majority overwinter in some developmental stage, and eventually evolve into a butterfly the next spring or summer. A few species, such as mourning cloaks and commas, overwinter as adults. They are some of the first butterflies seen in early spring, and may even emerge during a mild period in winter.

Last, but not least, is a new strategy for winter survival: taking up residence in our homes. And who can blame them? Warmth, shelter, maybe even some food. Mice are probably the most common. Packrats are probably the most notorious. Weasels, raccoons and foxes have also benefited. You can learn fascinating tidbits about their ecology. For instance, did you know that some animals snore? We once had something in our wall (we guessed a raccoon) that periodically snored. How would we ever know such exciting things if we did not share our places with them?

So as you are sitting there in your semi-insulated cabin, eating ice cream and watching a movie on a cold winter's night, take a moment to ponder how it would be to survive without any of that.

February Flashbacks

By Diane J. Brown

When the clouds hung low in the Eldora Valley, you could hear the plaintive train whistle all the way from the Moffat Tunnel near Rollinsville.

Swirling clouds of brown-capped rosy finches descended from the high country into Eldora, avoiding the bitter cold of the tundra to frequent the feeder pubs. Often the power lines were lined with two to three hundred of these tame, softly chirping birds.

Walking west on Klondyke with our dog, bent into strong winds, the coyotes followed us higher up on Eldorado Mountain yipping and vocalizing to let us know they knew we were there.

Driving towards Eldora from Nederland there was invariably a wind burst where the ski area road begins. Sand and gravel frequently blasted my truck, and its windshield had a myriad of pit marks.

With no garage, on the bitterest and windiest of nights we ran long extension cords down to our cars to make sure they would start the next morning.

The place opposite the Goldminer Hotel used to be a rental unit. The tenants always had a menagerie of pets, which they left outdoors when they left for the day. When they moved on, they sometimes left the pets behind to fend for themselves. One long-haired black-and-white cat I fed for awhile, until the bowl of milk I brought her was blown out of my hands by a hard gust of wind. In exasperation I picked up the cat and brought her home to Rocky Ledge where she spent the rest of her life. We named her Sissy.

On one of our night walks a black kitten came out from under the above mentioned rental unit meowing loudly. I picked it up, stuck it into my down jacket and it purred contentedly the duration of the walk. On the way back we put it back down at its residence. The next day Dwight Souder at the Goldminer reported the kitten had been run over by a car in front of the hotel.

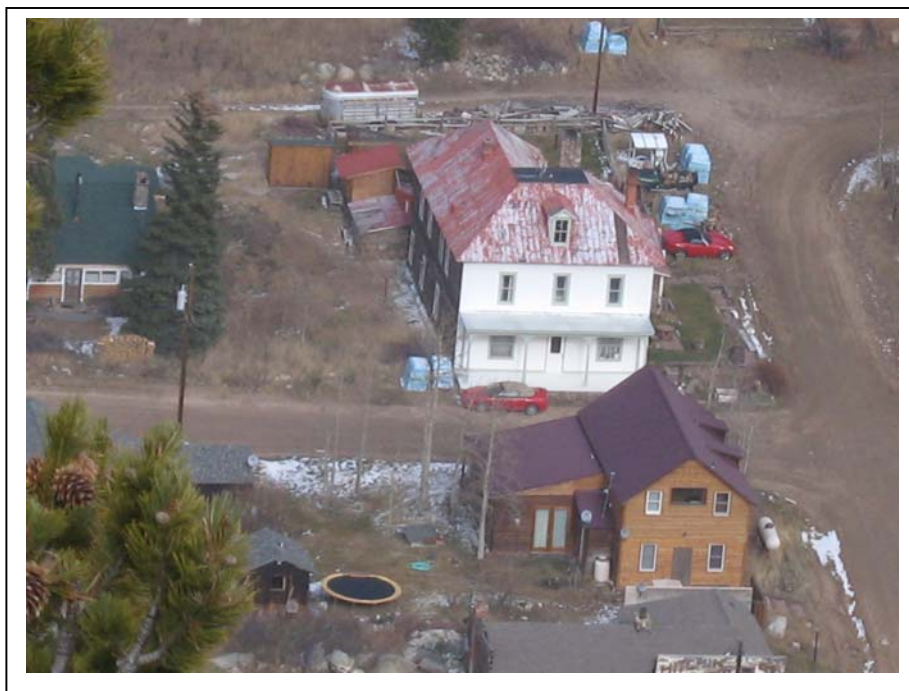
Benny, a short-haired black mutt, lived in the same tenant house. He was a wonderful dog that loved to chase rocks. One bitterly cold windy winter day he saw me coming out of the house and came up to see me. He was shivering uncontrollably and could not stop. I put him in my truck, turned the heater on high, and went to town to do my errands. After that I kept an eye out for him and let him in if he seemed cold.

One good tenant who had a beautiful long-haired yellow tabby took him with him when he moved to a cabin in Marysville, but the cat kept returning to his old digs and came to our house because we had lots of bird feeders. We talked about the situation with the young man and we agreed to keep the cat. We named him Colonel Mustard.



Colonel Mustard and Friend
Photo by Diane Brown

Goldminer Hotel and
Former Tenant House
Photo by Audrey Godell



Skiing was our entertainment in the early 1980s. We came home from work, donned our skis and took off. We loved skiing up the Enterprise Road to the top of Spencer Mountain in the deep powder of a north-facing slope. In those days Bryan Avenue was not plowed and it was a wonderful place to ski flat terrain. The ride back down from the Enterprise in the dark was steep and wild, especially when you hit the corner near the Bailey Mill!

On clear, calm moonlit nights our favorite place to ski was the Fourth of July Road, particularly if the snow was fresh and deep. We never had any fear about mountain lions and such. Once our eyes adjusted to the moonlight, we could see clearly except in dense stands of spruce. One night a strange voice called out, "Ahoy there!" It was a young man who had been living in a campsite near Hessie. He had become ill and was trying to get out of there, but had no strength left. We told him we would call 911 for help and they came to rescue him.

We had just gotten out of our car, clamped on our cross country skis, and set off down a trail off West Magnolia Road, when a great horned owl, apparently surprised by our intrusion, flew in our direction and dropped a large white snowshoe hare almost at our feet, then abruptly flew off into the dense lodgepole forest.

Often we went to the same place on West Magnolia at night for a walk with our dog. You could see pretty well because the snow was so white. The night sky was spectacular, filled with star constellations like Orion and the Big and Little Dipper. Once Nederland Elementary School was built, the glare of orange lighting around the school lit up the sky and diminished the visibility of the stars.

One of the most memorable ski tours I remember was a long trek up the Caribou Road from Eldora to Caribou Flats. When we reached the flats, we were amazed at the wind sculpted sastrugi snow formations. It was very difficult to ski on because of the undulating waves of hard packed snow and a lack of depth perception. Suddenly we heard the dry, rattling chorus of a large flock of red crossbills. Using their highly specialized beaks, they were clambering over the limber pinecones to extract seeds. It was like a scene from a Christmas card.



The Dogs in Our Lives

Maggie of Lanshire

Born 9-1-1994 Died 10-5-2007

Australian Shepherd of Russel and Marion Young
"Westward Ho" Cabin – 145 Eldorado Avenue

Maggie was in the height of her glory when we arrived at the gate in Eldora. It was one of those areas she felt some freedom that she didn't have living in the big city of Dallas. We brought her up last year right before she died. It seemed to be the last time that she really felt good, as she went downhill very fast after she came home. A new Aussie pup named Abigail is working hard to fill Maggie's paws.

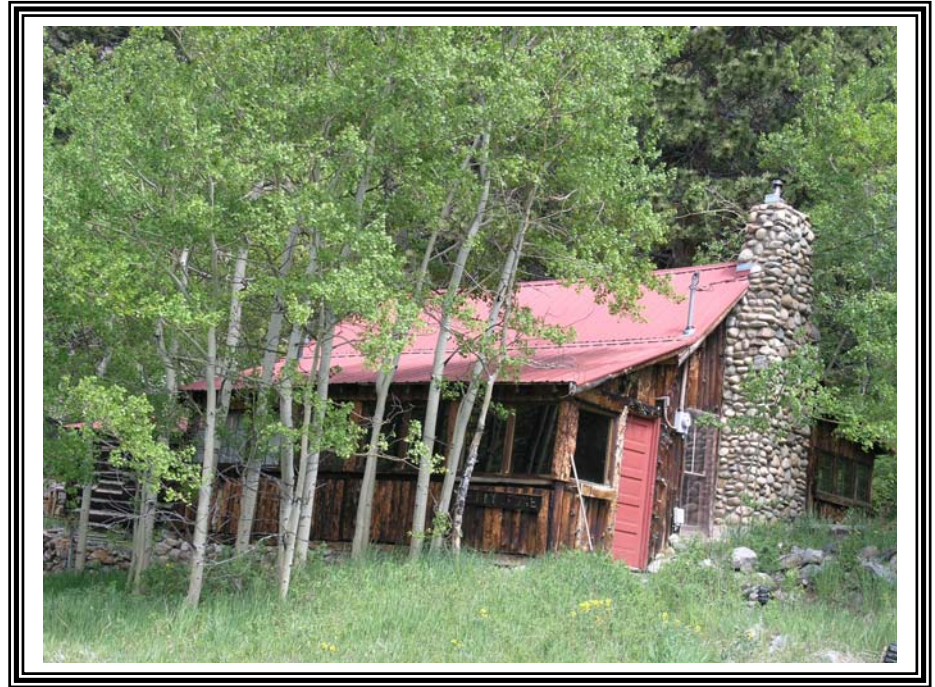


Russel & Maggie about to embark on a hike up at Buckingham Campground

Rocky Ledge Cabin
601 Huron Street

A Boulder County
Historic Landmark

Photo by
Diane J. Brown



In two Sturtevant photos taken in September 1897 the building, which later became the Rocky Ledge cabin, can be seen as a pile of locally cut logs. By the following spring the one room structure behind the newly constructed Gold Miner Hotel is clearly visible, as is the “Twin Spruce,” a single tree with two trunks noted in several of the survey documents. On July 13, 1899 the Happy Valley Placer Company sold the two lots (lots 12 and 13, Block 22) to the Town of Eldora for \$100. In the book “Happy Valley” the beginnings of the Rocky Ledge are clearly visible in an 1899 photo taken by Harry Lake of Central City.

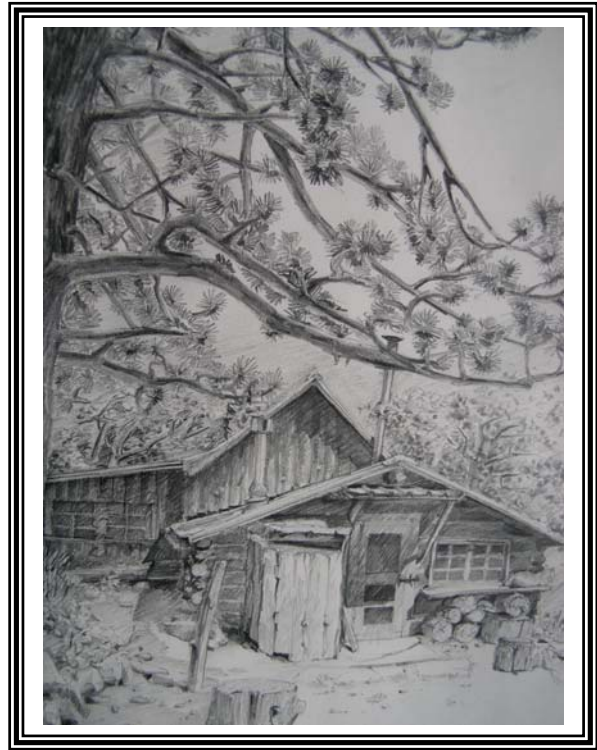
By 1925 what has been described in the Eldora National Historic District nomination as the “Tourist Era” had begun and on August 24th of that year, the Town of Eldora sold the Rocky Ledge to Jonas E. Eckdall of Emporia, Kansas. By 1925 the Rocky Ledge had been expanded to two rooms. The Eckdalls, like so many Midwestern families, vacationed in Eldora. Mrs. Eckdall loved chipmunks and had half a dozen or so running around the kitchen where she fed them. The Eckdalls added the upper level bedroom area soon after they bought the property. They also added the original stone fireplace, which was built by Henry Rouse, whose family owned the cabin to the east of Rocky Ledge. In a 1934 photo Virginia Sue Eckdall is shown as a young woman with another prominent Eldoran, Margaret Frazier. During this time Mrs. Eckdall’s sister, Dove Mitchell, built the cabin above the Rocky Ledge at 620 Washington Street which was named the “Dove’s Nest.”

The 1939 Boulder County Assessor records show the Rocky Ledge with the upper sleeping area, a front porch and a stone fireplace. Virginia Sue as an only child was deeded the cabin as well as a prosperous bookstore business in Emporia. Virginia Sue married a man who ran the bookstore into the red. They put the Rocky Ledge under mortgage to get money, but in the early 1950s the bank foreclosed on the cabin because they failed to make payments.

The Rocky Ledge was little changed though the 1960s. In the 1970s when the cabin was owned by Harold Martin, also owner of the Gold Miner Hotel, modern plumbing was added. The well and septic system served both properties and the outhouse was abandoned. The outhouse remains on the property today. A previous owner had painted the stone fireplace. In the 1980s after a chimney fire, the old stone fireplace was torn down and a new one was built by stonemason Roger Cichetti. The river rock came from South Boulder Creek near Pinecliffe. In 1985 a new red metal roof was added. In 1987 the Rocky Ledge cabin was purchased by Carol R. Rinderknecht, co-owner of the neighboring Gold Miner Hotel.

Today the Rocky Ledge appears much as it did when the Eckdalls owned it eighty years ago and the original single room of 1897 is clearly visible. The tree called the “Twin Spruce” is still standing. Although the origin of the name is not know, the Rocky Ledge cabin mirrors the entire history of its community from mining, to escaping the heat of the Midwest, to extended families, to hard times and good times. The cabin was built of local materials, repaired and remodeled by local residents and it spanned both periods of significance of the Eldora National Historic District. The Rocky Ledge cabin has earned County Landmark status as an outstanding example of the complete social history of Eldora.

Much of the information and photographic evidence was supplied by Dave Hallock and Diane Brown and substantiated in Diane’s interview of long time Eldora resident Bill Gross on June 17, 2005. Without this assistance this narrative could not have been written.



The Rocky Ledge Cabin
Sketch by Andreas Sizmann

LEADING CAUSES OF FIRES IN THE HOME

Courtesy of the National Fire Prevention Association

ELECTRICAL

20,800 home structure fires
330 fire deaths
per year

Best solutions:

Rewire your home to meet code.
Avoid overloading receptacles
Replace frayed cords.
No extension cords across doorways or
under rugs.

HEATING

44% of home heating equipment fires were
reported in the months of December,
January and February

Best solutions:

Have heating equipment inspected yearly.
Clean your chimney.
Store ashes in a metal container with a lid.
Use space heaters with care.
Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

COOKING

38% of home fires and fire injuries
each year

Best solutions:

Stay in the kitchen when you are
using the stove.
Keep children and pets at least 3
feet away from stove.
Keep matches and lighters where
children cannot reach them.

SMOKING

700 – 900 deaths in U. S.

Best solutions:

Smoking area outside the home
Deep, sturdy ashtrays
Never smoke in bed or in
upholstered furniture.
Do not use candles in the bedroom.

WILDLIFE IN ELDORA

By John Brocklehurst



I have lived for more than twenty years at 8,700 feet in the central Colorado Rockies without ever seeing a mountain lion in the wild. However, I did have a vivid and memorable encounter with a mountain lion in the national zoo in Washington, D. C. in 1986. While observing the lion as she paced back and forth in her open air enclosure, she must have sensed that I was from her home state of Colorado, because she let forth her frustration by sending a 10-foot stream of urine in my direction. She was definitely “pissed off!”

Since I returned to Colorado after three years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, I have read numerous reports of lions seen roaming in the residential areas of

Boulder, occasionally attacking household pets and even children and adults. Opinions and feelings about the presence of mountain lions in a built up area are mixed. A minority, I believe, out of a natural and reasonable fear, believe that mountain lions should be driven out and away from civilized communities. The rest of us accept the fact that we are the intruders and regard it as a privilege to share the same environment.

In Eldora during the past twenty years I have been fortunate to see porcupine, ground squirrel, chipmunk, garter snake, beaver, marten, red fox, coyote, deer, elk, moose, black bear, three wild turkeys, and now, at last, a mountain lion. In addition I could list a variety of other birds, including the dipper, blue bird and hummingbird.

The evening before my recent encounter with a mountain lion, my wife and I were playing dominoes with our neighbors in their cabin. They only use their cabin occasionally during the winter months, but always hang sunflower seed bird feeders, which also attract raccoons. We are usually entertained by a raccoon at a feeder while we play dominoes.

Well, the following day I was walking our Havanese Bichon (a small poodle-like dog) past our neighbors' cabin on an aspen leaf covered trail towards a footbridge which crosses Middle Boulder Creek at the west end of Eldora. The weather was sunny, calm and not a sound could be heard as our dog “Maggie” (on a leash) and I enjoyed the tranquil scene.

I have always envied those lucky people who relate stories of spotting our more remote and secretive creatures and have myself kept a wary eye and been alert for the unusual when hiking in the nearby mountains. So it was, at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19th that I saw -- on my left, just twenty five feet off the path, lying stretched out like an Egyptian sphinx under a group of Engelmann spruce and aspens -- the mountain lion -- with the body of a dead raccoon between its front paws.

The lion and I looked directly at each other without alarm and my dog did not appear to see the lion. The lion wore a tracking collar around its neck. I surmise that the reason the lion showed little or no interest in me or my dog was because it was not hungry and was in fact simply resting between meals! I walked very slowly another ten feet, picked up Maggie and again slowly retreated to my own cabin. There I left Maggie safely between four walls, collected my camera and returned quietly to the scene.

The lion was exactly where I had left her. Before I could raise my camera, the lion got up slowly and retreated a few feet into some tall brush, then turned and stared at me. After two or three minutes, the lion moved further back and lay down.

I returned to the scene the next morning and watched as four magpies enjoyed a pre-Thanksgiving meal. The following day there was no sign of raccoon or mountain lion.



Brock reports that January has been a very windy month with sustained winds of 50-60 mph and gusts of 70-85 mph. The wind has blown all the brown needles off of dead pine trees, which will help reduce fire danger. Aspen should do well when the snow melts and provides them moisture.

The Water Ouzel

Cinclus mexicanus

Text from "The Water Ouzel" by John Muir

Photo by Audrey Godell

He is the mountain streams' own darling, the hummingbird of blooming waters, loving rocky ripple-slopes and sheets of foam as a bee loves flowers, as a lark loves sunshine and meadows. Both in summer and winter he sings, sweetly, cheerily, independent alike of sunshine and of love, requiring no other inspiration than the stream on which he dwells.



He is a singularly joyous and lovable little fellow, about the size of a robin, clad in a plain waterproof suit of bluish gray, with a tinge of chocolate on the head and shoulders. In form he is about as smoothly plump and compact as a pebble that has been whirled in a pothole, the flowing contour of his body being interrupted only by his strong feet and bill, the crisp wingtips, and the upslanted wren-like tail.



The Ouzel never sings in chorus with other birds, nor with his kind, but only with the streams. And like flowers that bloom beneath the surface of the ground, some of our favorite's best song blossoms never rise above the surface of the heavier music of the water.

His food consists of all kinds of water insects, which in summer are chiefly procured along shallow water margins. Here he wades about ducking his head under water and deftly turning over pebbles and fallen leaves with his bill, seldom choosing to go into deep water where he has to use his wings in diving. He seems to be especially fond of the larvae of mosquitoes, found in abundance attached to the bottom of smooth rock channels where the current is shallow.

The voices of most songbirds suffer a long winter eclipse; but the Ouzel sings on through all the seasons and every kind of storm. Indeed no storm can be more violent than those of the waterfalls in the midst of which he delights to dwell. However dark and boisterous the weather, snowing, blowing, or cloudy, all the same he sings, and with never a note of sadness. No need of spring sunshine to thaw *his* song, for it never freezes. His mellow, fluty voice is ever tuned to downright gladness.

Hank of Happy Valley
By Lynne Collins

Hank found us at the Boulder Humane Society in August 1999. He looked kind of skinny and pathetic, like he needed a home. And his beard and eyebrows were long and furry like Brian's. We took him out to an exercise yard and after a few minutes of playing with us, he jumped the fence to play with everyone else. That became his habit, and Eldora folks named him



“Happy Dog” before they knew he was really Hank Collins. He later flunked obedience school because he just wanted to play with the other owners and dogs; he wasn't motivated by treats.

Hank loved being outside. He went hiking and camping with us and learned to jump mountain streams, to swim across the San Raphael River (after Brian carried him across a couple of times), to rock climb (after Brian shoved him up the difficult part of Mount Neva), to sleep on the tailgate of the truck and to sneak into the sleeping bag with us when the weather got cold. He learned to stay behind our skis to avoid being run over and to jump into the truck through the window to avoid thunder. He slept on Brian's side of the bed, head on the pillow, unless Brian was there; then he slept under the bed.

In 2007 we visited Comanche Grasslands and Picketwire Canyon, where Hank was bitten by a rattlesnake. He couldn't walk and Brian carried him uphill for three miles. He recovered with Doc Joe's help. Then in 2008 he probably got a cactus thorn that didn't come out and got horribly infected. We made the difficult decision to have his rear leg amputated and he became part of the Eldora trio of tripods. But then he stopped eating, lost weight (40 pounds down to 28 pounds) and blood tests indicated he probably had cancer. Laura cooked him delicious chicken, Lisa brought him pork roast, Harold brought him lamb and rice, all of which he loved but didn't really digest. We took him on his last walk August 4th to the creek near the Hessie Fork.

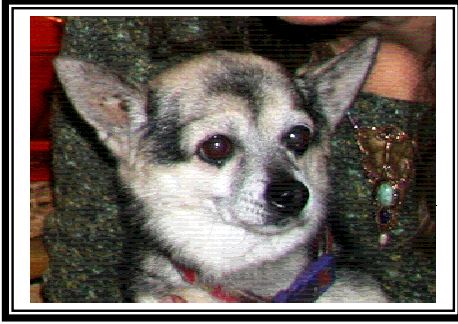
Hank said to send special thanks to Brock and Mike for the dog biscuits, to Marc for the daily pats and water and biscuits, to Frank and Nancy and Vivian for great leftovers, to Todd and MamaLisa for babysitting, to Tom and Ellen and Earl and Barbara and Bob and Pat for letting Hank hang out in their houses and to everyone for being so friendly and tolerant of dog kisses. And he sends (or is currently giving) dog kisses to Inca, Nook, Elvira, Zach, Onyx, Maggie, Spirit, Maisy, Duchess, Theo, Dakota and a bunch of other dogs. And thanks from Lynne and Brian to Audrey for her donation to the Eldora Land Preservation Fund in memory of Elvira and Hank. Hank loved Eldora and wanted to preserve it.



Hank: A Sweetheart of a Dog

A Farewell to Best Friends

Eldora has lost too many well-loved canine characters in the past year or two. In their memory we dedicate this page.



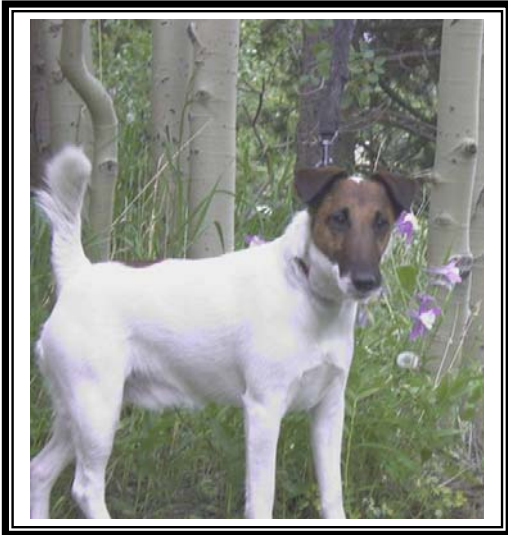
Dinky May (Mike & Pat McCoy)
16 years old



Maddie (Ted & Peggy Warren)
6-1995 to 1-15-2009



Hank (Brian & Lynne Collins)



Keats (Philip & Louise Rouse)
10-27-1996 to 11-26-2007

If there are no dogs in heaven, then when I die, I want to go where they went.
Will Rogers.

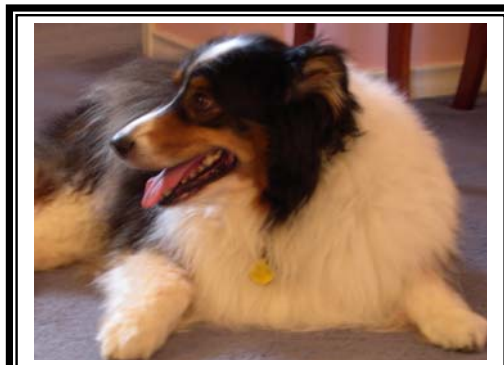
The journey humans and animals take together is a journey worth taking.
John Grogan



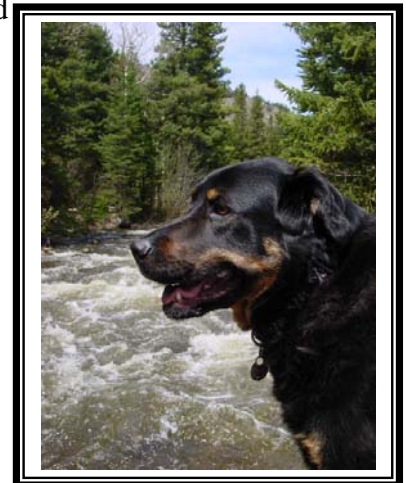
Elvira covered with snow (Audrey Godell)
12 years old



Duchess (Marc & Laura Fisher)
11 years old



Maggie (Russ & Marian Young)
9-1-2007 to 10-5-2007



Isabelle (Rich & Nicky Frank)
4 years old

Dogs don't live as long as humans because they are born with compassion, empathy and limitless love. It takes humans a lifetime to learn these things.
Dave Pine

The average dog is a nicer person than the average person.
Andrew A. Rooney

There is honor in being a dog. Aristotle

Road is Public High Court Rules
From The Nederland Bugle of July 1965
Submitted by Glenna Carline

The Colorado Supreme Court ruled August 6 that Washington Street in Eldora is a public road. The opinion was delivered by Justice O. Otto Moore. The street is part of the old Eldora-Caribou wagon road. It is used by some Eldora property owners to reach their cabins on the north slope of the town. After members of the Rugg family barricaded the road in 1963, the matter was taken to court.

Judge Horace B. Holmes related in Boulder District Court last year that the road is a public thoroughfare and must be kept open. The court action was brought by John M. Jones, Sr., John M. Jones, Jr., Virginia Jones Kent and Emery Olsen, who had homes along the street.

The case was appealed to the Supreme Court. Pending a decision the road was again barricaded for a time this spring. The court found that the road was first opened as a toll road, but had been used as a public highway for some 60 years.

The Blockade of Washington Street
By Carolyn Olsen Hale

I thought the road case went on until 1966, but the article says 1965. Skip and I were married in May of 1965 and were going up to the cabin every weekend. One day in late May or early June when we got to Eldora, Binx had a chain across the road. I called my dad and he said to hire a lawyer in Boulder. Can't remember his name but he said if it were up to him, he would cut the chain down. So we went up the next weekend and cut the chain. Binx came out with a gun and was going to shoot us for trespassing on his property. We called the Boulder County Sheriff's office and they sent an officer up and he took Binx's gun and told him not to pull a stunt like that again. So for the rest of the summer we had to walk up the mountain.

My dad, Emery Olsen, got the Kents and Jones to join in the lawsuit. When the court ordered the road to be reopened, Jinny's brother came over and wanted my dad to ride in his convertible up and down the road. My dad didn't want to because he said there was no joy in beating the son his old friend Merle Rugg. Merle had already passed away when all this happened. Merle worked at the Norway Mine in the early 1930s with my dad. During those hard economic times the Rugg family would have suffered greatly if my dad had not given him a job. My parents bought them food and helped them in many other ways. It was all very sad.

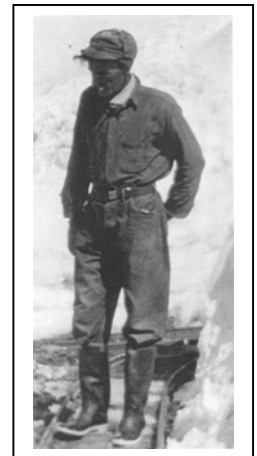
Editor's Note: The Olsen sisters, Lorraine (Vonne), Katherine (Faye), Nancy and Carolyn, continue to hold title to the Norway Lode, which is located above Lost Lake. It belonged to their grandfather, Olaf Olsen, who came here from Norway.



The Norway Mine



Emery Olsen and his friend Merle Rugg



Full Members 2008-09

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

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

Associate Members

2008-2009

Amaranto, Marian & Ernesto
Amme, Robert
Anderson, Anne
Barrett-Smith, Allison
Bauder, Jane
Beatty, M. Gretchen
Billingsley, Jim & Kris
Billingsley, Joe & Shelli
Bryant, Marian
Buhse, Andrew
Callier, Marc
Campbell, Esther
Cole, David & Jennifer
Evans, Deb
Flowers, Willard
Forstner, Rolland
Gold, Dan & Patty
Goolsby, Ann
Goolsby, Mark & Ramona
Goolsby, Sara
Gross, Bill & Mary
Gross, Richard & Regina
Guthrie, Bill

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

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

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



If you don't see your name on this page, then perhaps you haven't paid your dues!!

Please fill out the form on the back of this page and mail to:

Eldora Civic Association
P.O. Box 988
Nederland, CO 80466

ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM 2008-2009

ECA membership dues for fiscal year 2008-2009 are due on September 1, 2008. Dues are \$30.00 for Eldora area property owners and \$15.00 for non-property owners. Please note that there is only one \$30 voting membership per property. Extra copies of the newsletter for extended family members cost only \$15.00.

Name: _____

Eldora Address: _____

Eldora Telephone: _____

Other Address: _____

Other Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

- Enclosed please find my \$30.00 full membership fee for 2008/2009
- Enclosed please find my \$15.00 associate membership fee for 2008/2009
- Enclosed please find \$15.00 per additional copy of the newsletter to be sent to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

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

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

If you would like to make an extra donation to the Eldora Land Preservation Fund, you may do so when you pay your dues. Please write a separate check to the ELPF. All donations are welcome and encouraged.



Please don't
make us beg for
your email!