

# ELDORA HIGH COUNTRY ©2011

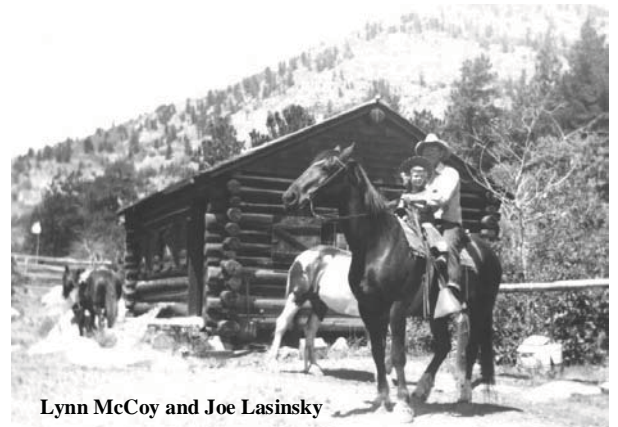
Newsletter of the Eldora Civic Association

October 2011



Eldora children thought the world of Joe Lasinsky.  
Photo by Gail Shickley

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.



Lynn McCoy and Joe Lasinsky

## ECA Board of Directors for 2011-12:

Joe McDonald, President  
[joedmcdonald@gmail.com](mailto:joedmcdonald@gmail.com) 303-886-7674  
Pete Birkeland, Vice-President  
[birkelap@colorado.edu](mailto:birkelap@colorado.edu) 303-442-0304  
Todd Buchanan, Secretary  
[tmbuchanan@juno.com](mailto:tmbuchanan@juno.com) 303-258-0334  
Lisa Lopez, Assistant Secretary (non-voting)  
[liloeldora@gmail.com](mailto:liloeldora@gmail.com) 303-258-0334  
Dale Johnson, Treasurer  
[djohn7000@yahoo.com](mailto:djohn7000@yahoo.com) 303-442-5903  
Randy Leever, Member at Large  
[rdblsg@comcast.net](mailto:rdblsg@comcast.net) 303-494-1243

## ECA Committees:

**EEPP** – Randy Leever & Dave Hallock  
**ELPF** – Diane Brown  
**Noxious Weeds** – Diane Brown  
**Newsletter Editor** – Diane Brown  
**USFS/Ski Area/County & State Liaison** –  
Pete Birkeland, Audrey Godell, Randy Leever  
**History** – Diane Brown, Earl & Barbara Bolton  
**Eldora Road Cleanup** – Earl & Barbara Bolton  
**Nominations** – ECA Board  
**Social** – ECA Board  
**Transportation** – Pete & Sue Birkeland, Audrey Godell,  
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)  
Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at 7:00 PM – Town Meeting about ski area expansion at Fishers – 1195 Eldorado  
Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 4:00 PM – ECA Board Meeting at Buchanan/Lopez cabin – 970 Klondyke  
Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 6:00 PM – Holiday Potluck at the Fishers – 1195 Eldorado Avenue  
Bring a generous dish to share & BYOB  
Sunday, January 15, 2012 – Deadline for submissions to the February issue of the Eldora High Country  
Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 6:00 PM – ECA Board Meeting (Leever) -7784 Baseline Road, Boulder  
Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 6:00 PM – ECA Board Meeting (Birkeland) – 3075 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Boulder  
Saturday, June 9, 2012 at 9:00 AM – Eldora Road Cleanup at Bolton cabin – 502 Eldorado Avenue



**ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes for Board Meeting**  
Saturday, July 9, 2011 at 2:00 PM  
Joe and Pam's Cabin, Eldora



The meeting was called to order at 2:10 PM.  
Present: Joe, Dale, Pete and Randy; Diane Brown and Bob Frick as visitors

The ECA Mission Statement was read by Joe:

“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.”

Dale presented the Financial Report (attached).

A motion to approve was made by Pete. Randy seconded it. All approved it

**Old Business:**

Traffic Mitigation: Great sign on east end of town, slowing not yet determined; no sign on west end yet.

ECA Website: Joe reported no new knowledge.

Spencer Avenue: Scott Bruntjen & Joe McDonald met to discuss transfer of development rights. There are none on Mark's lots so the issue is currently in limbo. It was an amenable meeting. Mark was cooperative and Joe is optimistic that Eldora will retain a portion of the Spencer at 6th Street right-of-way for public use.

Community Bulletin Board: Matt Phillips has set the two posts for the project in location just west of the Gold Miner Hotel. It's not known when it will be finished.

**New Business:**

Nominations for Director:

There are none. There was considerable discussion about appointment of a position of Secretary and a discussion of having a special meeting. No plan of action was arrived at. There was a discussion of straightening out the end dates of board positions and it was generally agreed that at least two board members would have to extend their service by one year.

There was a long discussion of the relevance of the ECA.

The major desire of property owners is “keep Eldora as it is.” Randy suggested that someone should state the advantages of the existence of the ECA – the reasons it is valuable to the homeowners. Randy volunteered to present the points of why ECA needs to exist at the Annual Member Meeting. Dale suggested that the above be made the focal point of the Annual Member Meeting and to ask if they (the members) think the ECA is valuable and should be supported.

Randy suggested that a handout about the value of the ECA be given at the picnic and a reminder that the Annual Member Meeting will be coming up a week after the picnic. Dale made the motion that the handout be given out at the picnic. Pete seconded the motion. All were in favor.

A discussion of the content of the handout ensued:

It is to be made up by Randy and submitted to the Board for changes.

It will have an area for comments/suggestions by ECA members

A discussion of the points to be covered at the Annual ECA Meeting included:

\*To state that the Board “couldn't find even one member” to serve on the Board

\*That year-round residents are in general not ECA members and are not on the ECA Board.

\*Therefore the question must be asked: “How could the ECA be more relevant to the community as a whole?”

A discussion of the role of the ECA should include:

\*Its interaction with greater Eldora community

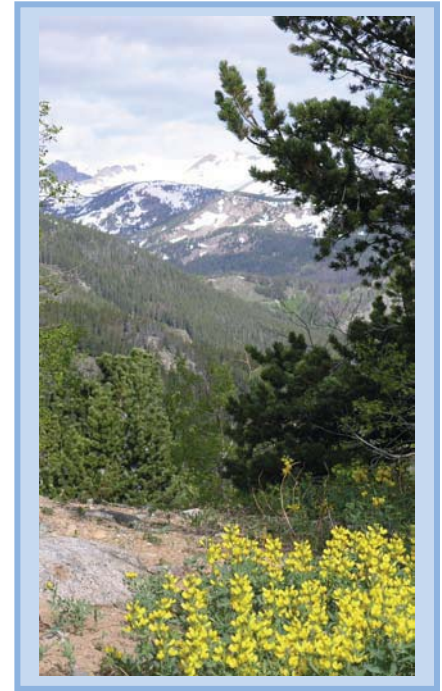
- \*Its liaison with Boulder County
  - \*The EEPP and its influence as guidelines with the County and developers.
  - \*Its liaison with the Forest Service
  - \*Its liaison with the ski area
  - \*The current committee responsibilities and how they benefit the community
- At the Annual Meeting Randy will head up the discussion of the above topics.

It was decided to try to find someone to appoint as secretary.

Joe made a motion to adjourn. Dale seconded it. All members approved.  
The meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dale Johnson, ECA Treasurer

**ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION**  
Minutes for Board Meeting  
Sunday, September 11, 2011  
Joe McDonald's cabin, Eldora



The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm.

Be like the flower, turn your face to the sun. - Kahlil Gibran

### Election of Officers

The current members accepted the same positions for the new year as the last, with Joe McDonald as President, Pete Birkeland as Vice President, and Dale Johnson as Treasurer. After consulting the by-laws for the appointment of officers, Todd Buchanan was appointed Secretary and Director and Lisa Lopez was appointed Assistant Secretary. Committee Chairs will remain the same except for Social Chair, to be determined.

### 2012 Calendar

Four more board meetings and the annual membership meeting were scheduled for the following dates, times and locations:

- December 10, 4:00 pm, Lisa's and Todd's house, 970 Klondyke, Eldora.
- March 8, 6:00 pm, Randy's house, 7784 Baseline Rd., Boulder.
- May 10, 6:00 pm, Pete's house, 3075 5<sup>th</sup> St., Boulder.
- Annual Business Meeting, July 14, 4:00 pm, Joe's cabin, 695 Bryan.
- Annual Member Meeting, August 18, 2:00 pm, Gold Miner Hotel.

In addition, the following annual events were scheduled:

- Holiday Potluck, December 10, 6:00 pm, Fisher's house
- Eldora Road Cleanup, June 9, 9 am.
- Eldora History Night, August 8, 7:00 pm, Gold Miner Hotel.
- Eldora Community Picnic, August 18 or 25, 12:00 to 2:00

**Eldora Town Meeting**  
Tuesday, October 18, 2011  
7:00 PM  
Home of Marc & Laura Fisher  
1195 Eldorado Avenue

Come learn about the  
proposed expansion at  
Eldora Mountain Resort.

### 2012 Annual Plan

The following subjects were deemed worthy of the ECA's time and energy, with the first the priority.

- 1) Eldora Mountain Resort proposed expansion. Todd agreed to arrange for a town educational meeting, which will be Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 pm at Fisher's. Dave Hallock has agreed to make a 20-minute opening presentation, to be followed by discussion.
- 2) Carbaryl spraying. Randy agreed to learn all there is to learn and report at the next meeting.

3) Eldora Land Preservation Fund. Diane Brown oversees this and is open to suggestions for affordable land purchases.

4) Noxious weeds. Diane Brown has been working on disseminating information and eradication of noxious weeds in the Eldora area for about 15 years. She is available to help property owners identify problem weeds and suggest non-toxic methods of weed suppression.

5) Hessie Parking. The likely outcome is a parking area above Hessie on the lower section of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Road, but another option, favored by Pete, is to widen the road below the fork to accommodate parking and allow for easier flow of traffic. Board members felt this is a sticky problem because the area is likely to attract steadily increasing numbers of visitors.

6) Closer collaboration with North Fork Council. Two items, numbers 1 and 5 above, are areas where more coordination with property owners up the road might be fruitful.

7) Better outreach in Eldora. It was agreed that an information packet or brochure of some sort, explaining the ECA and highlighting its many accomplishments to date would be helpful in generating interest among new Eldorans. Keeping the website current would also help, and Todd said he would speak with a couple of web designers in Eldora.

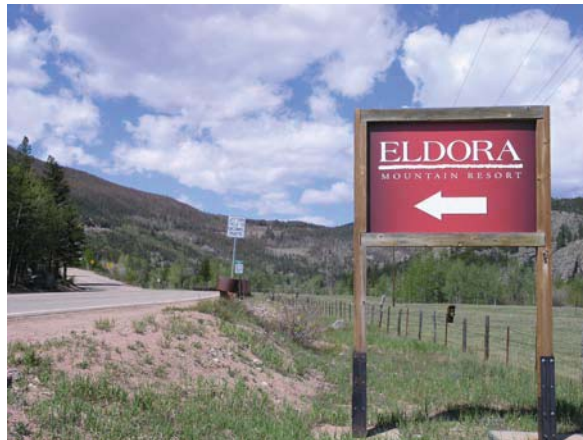
8) Standard street signs. Apparently, some street signs in Eldora are missing or not very visible, and it was felt that attractive, consistent signs would be helpful for emergency vehicles, etc.

9) Staggered board member terms. Since all board member terms are up this coming year, for continuity it was felt that a couple should remain on the board for 2013.

## Reports and Updates

Dale provided a fiscal year 2010-11 financial report.  
The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Buchanan  
ECA Secretary



## Eldora Land Preservation Fund Donations:

Brian & Lynne Collins  
Brian Egaas & Korina Bersentes  
Willard Flowers  
Peter & Karin Freymuth  
Robert Goolsby (honey)  
Nancy Merrill  
Robert Simpson  
Kay Turnbaugh (book sales)

Total in Savings: \$24,936.79

A full page of the year's total donations will appear in the July 2012 Eldora High Country newsletter.

## Ski Area Update

We are still waiting on the ski area to make a formal submittal to the Forest Service to expand their services. It appears part of their initial submittal will include an expansion on the backside down to Middle Boulder Creek below the Indian Peaks lift (the new run is being called Placer Express). There will also be a bridge across the creek for emergency access and lift terminal construction. Stay tuned.

Eldora residents have been involved with helping to fight the expansion on the backside. John Brocklehurst, Laura Fisher, Kathleen Henningsen, Jim McVey, and Audrey Godell have been placing flyers on vehicles parked at Hessie with information about the expansion and who to contact. Marc and Laura Fisher and Brock constructed a sign board with more information about the proposed expansion. Randy Leever and Pete Birkeland met with ski area manager Jim Spenst to learn more details about the planned expansion. And there have been numerous meetings with the Forest Service, Boulder County and the press.

To find out more, go to [www.middleboulder creekcoalition.org](http://www.middleboulder creekcoalition.org) and to sign up for receiving action alerts.

Dave Hallock

## Happy Valley Happenings



Kay Turnbaugh at the Gold Miner Hotel ▲  
Photo by Diane J. Brown

### Eldora History Night – August 10, 2011

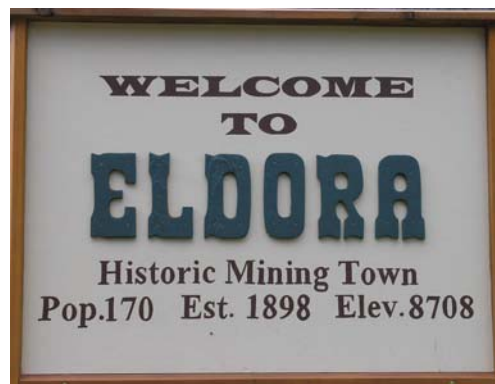
Jean Kindig paid tribute to Indian Peaks archaeologist extraordinaire James Benedict. Jim had a PhD in geology, and his knowledge of soils and rock strata helped him immensely with the archaeological digs he conducted. He developed a system called lichenometry to date moraines and rock glaciers. He was particularly interested in how Native American people responded to warming climate by making use of Front Range valleys, and studied the stone game drive structures, campsites and artifacts they left behind. One of Jim's sons and several Eldora people who assisted him in his endeavors were in attendance, including Pete Birkeland, Lee Tillotson and Jean Kindig.

Kay Turnbaugh of Nederland gave a slide presentation with newly discovered photos of the Nederland and Rollinsville area. The audience especially liked the pictures and story of a train that got out of control after it exited the Moffat Tunnel and crashed in Rollinsville. She had two of her recently published books on hand for people to look at: "Around Nederland," which has a chapter on Eldora, and "The Mountain Pine Beetle," a children's book that adults also love reading. Two dollars of every book sold was donated to the Eldora Land Preservation Fund.

Early in the summer of 2011 at a time when the creek was raging, about 20 people were observed building a new bridge across Middle Boulder Creek approximately 2/3 of a mile west of Eldora on U.S. Forest Service land. A USFS enforcement officer checked on the situation and was told that one of the bridge builders had a placer claim at the site. The group had camped on the other side of the creek and left behind a large fire ring. After checking the regulations, it was determined that access to the other side of the creek was not needed for placer mining and on August 12 the bridge was removed by a Forest Service crew.



Pete Birkeland is doing the geology/hydrology section of the EEPP and is looking for data on the variable thickness of sand and gravel in Eldora. The data can be found in well records. At the bottom of the sand and gravel could be bedrock, which would be described as granite or some metamorphic rock. If anyone can supply him with this information, please include your Eldora address and send it to: Peter Birkeland [birkelap@colorado.edu](mailto:birkelap@colorado.edu)  
3075 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Boulder, CO 80304



▲ This new welcome sign was created by Todd Buchanan and Kim Stefane. ECA paid \$350 for the materials. 5

## Happy Valley Happenings

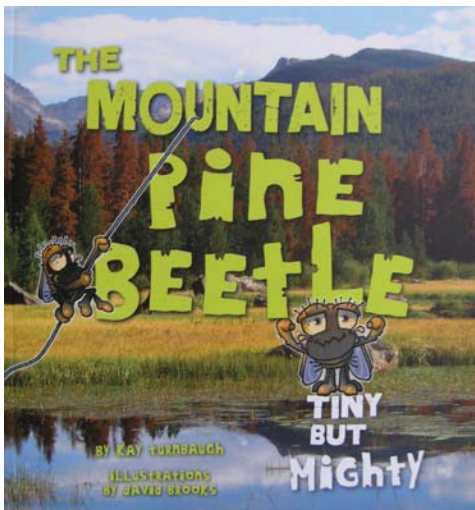
The Eldora Community Picnic came off smoothly thanks to Marc and Laura Fisher, who set up the tents, tables, etc. Marc mows the Bolton meadow 3-4 times over the summer to make it nice for the picnic. Carol Rinderknecht of the Gold Miner Hotel set up a table with Eldora coverlets, T-shirts, vests and notecards for sale. Robert Goolsby once again brought honey to sell for the benefit of the Eldora Land Preservation Fund. He raised a total of \$225. Hats off to Earl and Barbara Bolton for sharing their special creek side property with the community.



**Movie Time:** “Queen of the Sun: What are the bees telling us?” A documentary journey through the catastrophic disappearance of bees and the mysterious world of the beehive – ultimately uplifting and relevant.

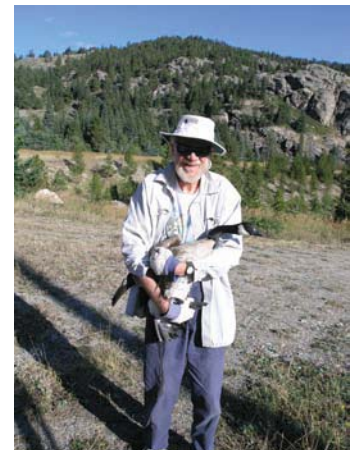


◀Meet Saberachi, a very friendly 1 ½ year old Akita/wolf mix, who is subject to bouts of kleptomania. He has been known to appropriate many a doormat, other dogs’ toys and even has taken an occasional package left atop Eldora mailboxes. 😊



▲ Kay Turnbaugh’s delightful book on the mountain pine beetle gives an excellent insight into the function of the mountain pine beetle in forest ecology.

While walking on the Arapaho Ranch veterinarian Mike McCoy came across a Canada goose that appeared to be “out of gas” and was having trouble getting lift off. So he scooped the goose up in his arms and took it by car to Dr. Joe Evans’ animal clinic. The two vets decided to keep the goose at the clinic where it would be fed grain till it recovered. The goose was released a day later and swam happily off toward 10 other geese. ▶



A community bulletin board was built by Matt Phillips just west of the Gold Miner Hotel. Matt donated his skills; an anonymous donor provided the materials. ▶

**What pine beetles are good for:** blue-stained pine paneling, turning trees into firewood, thinning the forest, abundant food for woodpeckers, opening up panoramic vistas long hidden by the forest, opening up the forest canopy to let in sunlight for wildflowers, aspen and berry-producing shrubs, potentially stopping ski area development into new areas because the forest is no longer able to hold the snow and protect it from being blown away by high winds. Standing dead trees provide shade for the emerging new forest.



## Happy Valley Happenings of Yesteryear

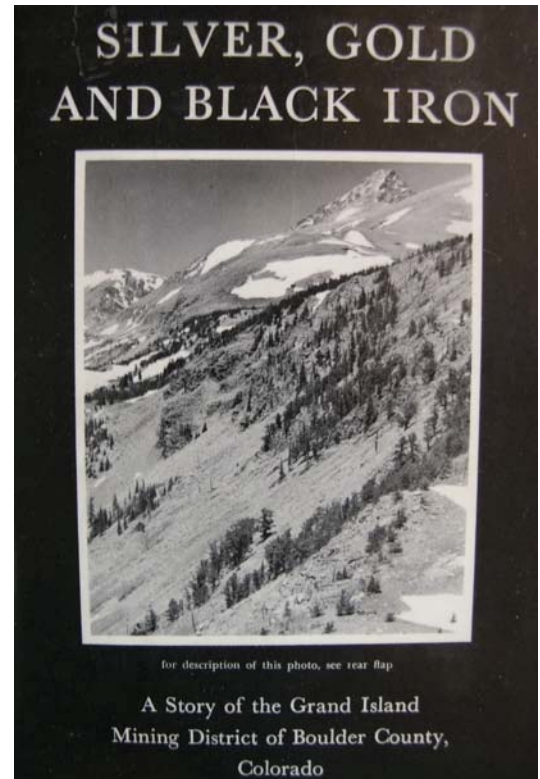
### The Nederland Bugle – July 7, 1962

- Nederland Teacher is at Language Institute

Mrs. Helen T. Langley, Spanish teacher at Nederland High School, is attending an Institute of Foreign Language Teachers at Purdue University from June 1 to August 10. Mrs. Langley is among 70 teachers who were chosen from more than 300 applicants to receive the tuition-free training. The teachers will study in the university's ultra-modern language laboratories and will be instructed by specialists in language teaching, linguistics and foreign civilizations and cultures.

- Visitors interested in the history of the area will find "Silver, Gold and Black Iron" by Donald C. Kemp full of authentic facts. It is available at Kemp's Gift Shop in Eldora.

- A number of people from out of state are now in their summer homes in Eldora. These visitors include the A. M. Buchan family from St. Louis, Missouri; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Egermeier of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Margaret Frazier from Dallas, Texas; the W. C. Huntingtons from Illinois; the D. P. McCleery family from Nebraska; Mrs. Charlotte O'Connor now of Denver.



### The Nederland Bugle – August 18, 1962

Hunters Look Forward to Big Game Season

- The Colorado Game and Fish Department has announced the big game hunting dates for Boulder County as October 27, 28 and 29. Agents in this area are the Trading Post in Nederland, Todd's Corner in Pinecliffe, Crescent Village Store in Coal Creek, The Hitchin' Post in Eldora, LeZotte's Grocery in Rollinsville and Johnson's Store in Ward.

- Some oil spread on the Eldora Road has reduced the dust clouds.



The Jones-Kent Cabin "Pine Shadow"

### The Nederland Bugle – August 1963

- Mrs. Virginia Hale entertained the navy mothers from Denver recently at a dinner eaten in Nederland followed by an afternoon get-together at the Martin cabins in Eldora. Mrs. Hale also had a potluck at her home in Eldora on August 8 to which Mrs. F. A. Dunnagan, Mrs. A. M. Buchan, Mrs. H. B. Martin and Mrs. Emery Olsen went.

- A group of three generations of Joneses – J. M. Jones, his son J. M. Jones, Jr., and grandson J. M. Jones III – are all visiting in Eldora for a while.

- Mrs. M. U. Burton and grandchildren, Nicky, Mike and David Kentopp, have returned to Falls City, Nebraska. Dr. and Mrs. Burton will return to Eldora at the beginning of hunting season.

- More wells have been dug in Eldora. The one at the Log Cabin Corner is 80 feet deep and the one at the W. F. Stover cabin at Marysville is 63 feet deep. At the Ervin W. Bevlin cabin, the new drinking supply is only 17 ½ feet down.

- Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Billingsley of Newton, Iowa are visiting Miss Blanche Smith, Mrs. Billingsley's sister, in the Indianola cabin in Eldora.

- The Ervin W. Bevlins have now moved into their newly built cabin in Marysville.



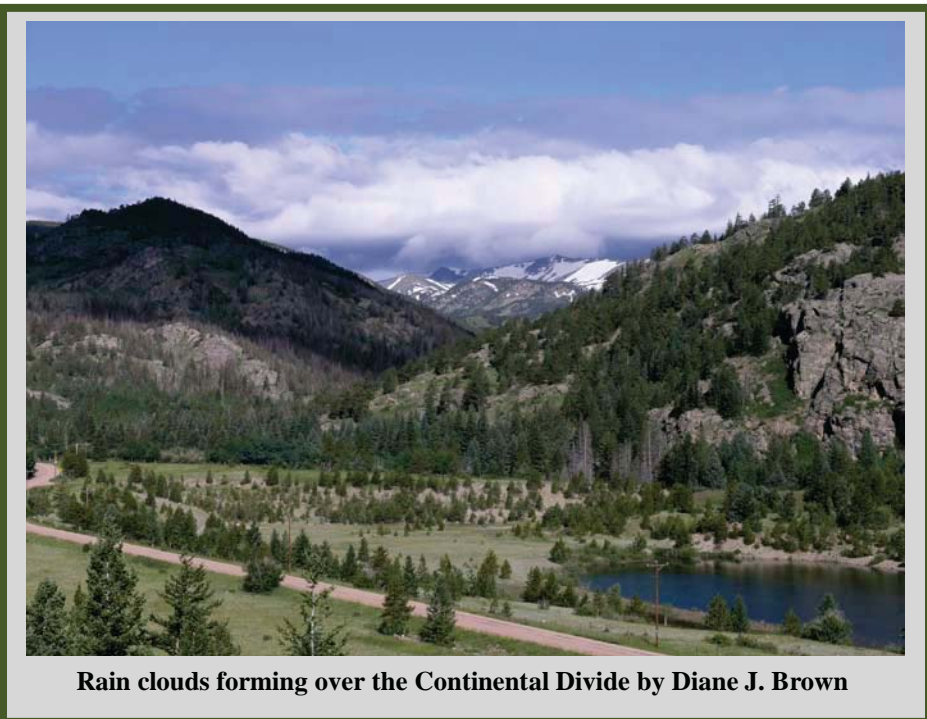
# Eldora Community Picnic 2011

Photos by Ramona Goolsby





# Eldora Weather Report



Rain clouds forming over the Continental Divide by Diane J. Brown



Osha and Ladybug

djb

I am writing this report as a full moon glows in the night sky concluding a glorious summer's display of wildflowers and in our gardens, brought about by a fortuitous program of well-timed rain through the past three months. Middle Boulder Creek, a raging torrent for several weeks, peaked the third week of July.

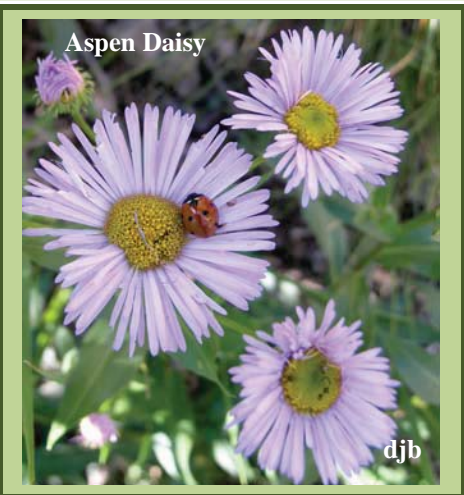
The mass of aspens at the east end of Eldora which were shredded by a heavy layer of hail on July 28, 2010 made a partial sprouting rebound. Spring of next year will show the final survival count.

The last of the 2010-11 winter snow drift on the north side of our house melted June 4<sup>th</sup>. I recorded 26 days of temperatures at 80° F or above this year with the highest of 88° F on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Eldora's first taste of fall came September 4<sup>th</sup> with ice on our car windshield and a thermometer reading of 32° F.

I close this report to record my deep appreciation to a yet unknown "band of Eldora elves" and neighbors for their kindness, support and generosity to my wife Willi and myself as we battled health difficulties. We are truly blessed to live in such a very unique community. Thank you all.

John "Brock" Brocklehurst – September 12, 2011



Aspen Daisy

djb

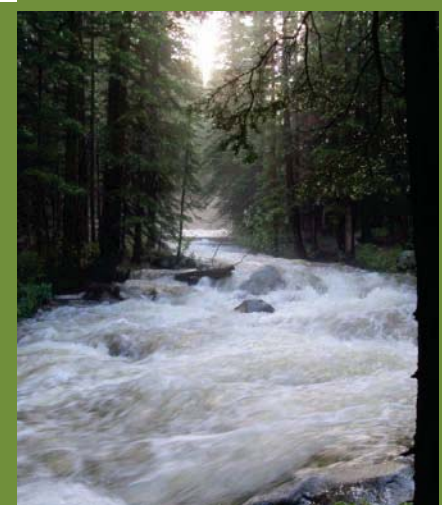
News from the Valley of the North Fork of Middle Boulder Creek: On Sunday, July 17 along with the voluminous amounts of rain and electricity, we had about 20-30 minutes of marble-sized hail. Of course, the newly graded road (which was seeming like a super highway!) became a river and the river itself was raging. ▶  
Linell Wohlers

## The Bear and the Pear

A juicy, succulent pear  
Lay on the car seat where  
The wet black nose of a bear  
Caught drift of it there.  
Thought the bear:  
"Do I dare  
Climb in after the pear?  
Sure does seem fair,  
Since they left it there."  
So in climbed the bear  
And devoured the pear.  
Oh, what a scare  
To share a pear with a bear!



By Diane Brown  
Based on a true story from  
Klondyke Avenue/Eldora.



The North Fork of Middle Boulder Creek in July by Linell Wohlers

## Eldora's Wild Side



“Especially at Arapaho Ranch this year there is an unusually high proportion of yearling females (vs. older than yearling females) and an unusually high proportion of unbanded adults (vs. banded adults), both of which indicate that last year’s adults had an unusually high mortality rate after nesting last year.”

Dr. Robert R. Cohen, Professor Emeritus,  
Metropolitan State College of Denver, Dept. of Biology  
Tree Swallow Research at Arapaho Ranch and Tolland Valley

This observation by a long time researcher makes one wonder if the spraying of the pesticide carbaryl at Eldora Mountain Resort could be affecting the birds at Arapaho Ranch, since the tree swallows in Dr. Cohen’s research project in Tolland Valley near Rollinsville are not showing the same high mortality rate.

“Pine bark beetle is something we are going to have to live with. It is part of a changing climate. It is counterproductive to spray. It is ecologically unsound and it promotes a health hazard; hence it should not be permitted.” Michael McCoy

Two beautiful white pelicans were seen on Barker Reservoir on June 17 and photographed by Dorothy Emerling.▶



An estimated 300 million to 1 billion birds perish each year in window collisions. Help birds by using low intensity bulbs and closing blinds in lit rooms. Avoid using red, white and yellow lights outdoors. Instead choose bird-friendly green or blue lights. Eliminate or minimize unnecessary lighting. Use window treatments designed to prevent bird collisions against reflective glass.



The next morning we had a special treat—on our way up to the outhouse a moose cow and calf were walking parallel to us slightly uphill, their coloring as dark as the wet tree trunks. They blended in beautifully. Once past us, they stopped briefly. I think the mom was eating. The young one turned its head and studied us for a while and then they ambled on. Of course, we didn’t have a camera and didn’t want to make any motion. We’ve heard of sightings, but this was the first we’ve seen. It’s getting so swampy up there, no wonder the moose are loving it!

Linell Wohlers – Fourth of July Valley

## Eldora's Wild Side

Living in Eldora is like walking on the wild side! Part of being alive in Eldora is walking in the wild. So in order to be alive, I went walking in the wilds on the far side of Arapaho Pass. Walkin' around Caribou Lake and explorin' Coyote Park is a privilege ya hafta earn by workin' hard to git there. Surrounded by Mother Nature's high peaks and trees and velvety meadows filled with flowers is like being held in her womb; I feel how much a part of nature I am / we are. There is a peace in knowing this. We need the wilderness to remind us that we are still part of nature. Nature sometimes reminds of this in strange ways. Every time I went around a big boulder, I half expected to come upon an elk or two. I saw and heard plenty of birds and mosquitoes. After drinking in my fill of this natural elixir, I decided to head over the pass towards home. In order to get back to the trail, I had to crash through trees and brush and in the process I happened on a wasp nest. But, I didn't realize it until they reminded me in their own natural way that I had crashed through their house. Their hot, electric stings were something to run away from, and I banged up my legs in the escape. Back on the trail and well above timberline, I did tell myself that even the encounter with the wasps was part of the adventure in experiencing Mother Nature in the raw! - Brian Collins



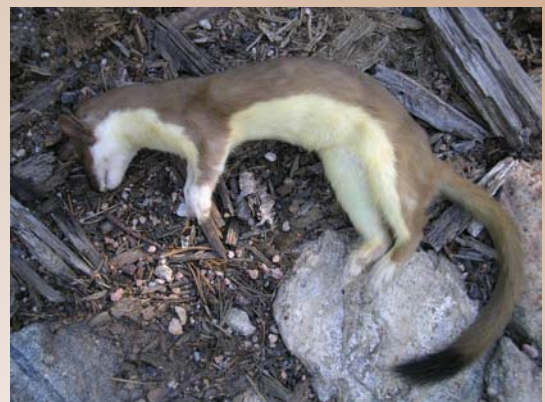
Caribou Lake (center) and distant peaks Photo by Dave Hallock



▲ Diane Brown, Dave Hallock, & Kathy Dugan – Photo by Skip Dugan  
Shortly after this photo was taken a young bull moose crossed the trail.



▼ A beautiful long-tailed weasel lost its life crossing the road at Marysville, the victim of a speeding car.



◀ Audrey Godell surprised a group of elk and took this photo in the early morning hours on the Caribou Road.

## Above Hessie: Pristine Forest or Parking Lot?



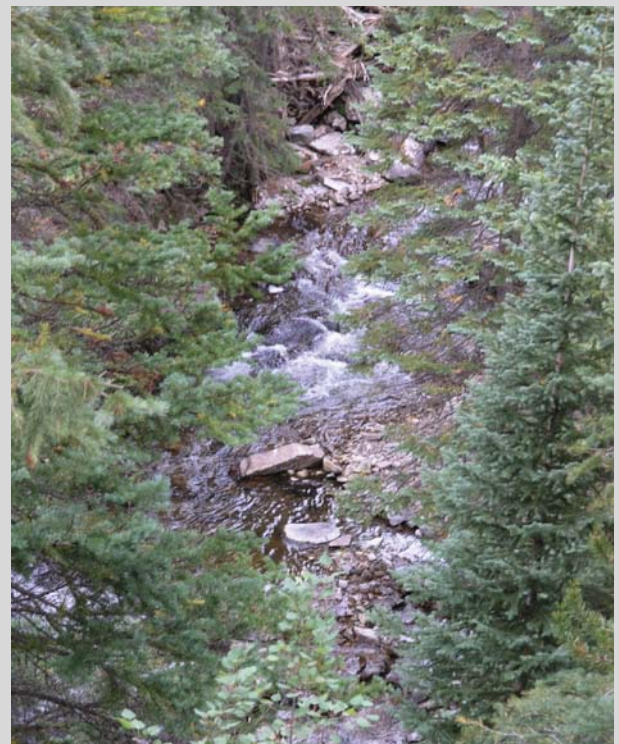
A mature lodgepole pine forest dominates the area being considered for a 100-car parking lot. The site has a lush understory of huckleberry, kinnikinnick and sedges and is prime mushroom habitat. This fairly level bench drops off precipitously to rushing Middle Boulder Creek and slopes downward towards Hessie. Hikers who would park here would need to drop down to Hessie and then start the uphill climb into the Indian Peaks Wilderness.

Hessie townsite has been impacted by human settlement, grazing, logging and mining for well over 100 years. It has been parked on for decades by people who want to access the Indian Peaks Wilderness. It seems like the logical place for a parking lot. The road to Hessie goes through the streambed and is impassable during times of high water. This area could be spanned by a bridge to alleviate the problem. If the numbers of users continues to go up, which they will, there are only two possible solutions: limit the numbers, or build more parking lots and widen the road to accommodate the burgeoning number of cars in gridlock. A comprehensive study of the problems facing the North Fork needs to be undertaken by the U. S. Forest Service and other concerned entities to come up with a solution to a problem that has been ignored for too long and will not improve on its own.



◀ In 2005 Boulder County Parks and Open Space purchased the 80-acre David property on the North Fork of Middle Boulder Creek.

In a 2009 survey of Eldora Civic Association members, three out of four respondents were opposed to building a 100-car parking lot in a relatively pristine forest above Hessie.



A view down on North Fork of Middle Boulder Creek from the proposed site for a parking lot

## Losing Paradise: Invasive Plants

In 1882 John Muir wrote an essay entitled "The Bee Pastures of California" in which he described what that state was like before settlement brought with it practices that would forever change a landscape that was previously covered with hundreds of miles of native ecosystems and a vast array of plants that bloomed and supported bees.

Eldora was also once a valley in total balance with nature until it was changed by human activities such as mining, logging, livestock grazing, construction, and in more recent times by heavy recreational use. Native plants were blasted, hewn down, plowed under, trampled or covered with structures. In their place plants were purposely or inadvertently brought in as ornamentals or pasture fodder, often mixed with seeds of plants considered undesirable by any standard.

Today Eldora is covered from one end to the other with invasive plants that come from Europe, Eurasia, Africa and even South America. They were brought here by the many forms of transportation that we have available. Native plants survive precariously in undisturbed pockets of habitat. Some barely manage to withstand the crowding and competition of the invasive aliens.

As a community we can work together to try to preserve native plants and eradicate invasives or we can just let non-native plants take over. It is much better to be proactive than to wait until the situation is beyond hope.

Central City will be spending \$2,000 to spray musk and Canada thistles, scentless chamomile Chinese clematis, oxeye daisy and diffuse knapweed with herbicides.

Nederland is working with the CSU extension service on noxious weed abatement along its new sidewalks where disturbance created the perfect habitat for tall weeds such as yellow sweetclover and Canada thistle.

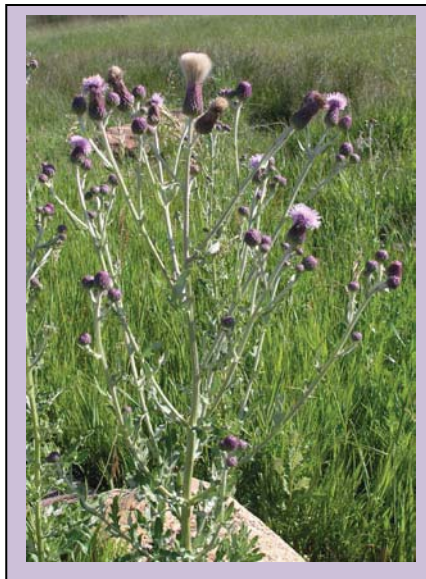


Nederland is covered with ◀**scentless chamomile** and it is moving our way from the high school. It looks a little like oxeye daisy, but the leaves are very finely dissected.

Some people think invasive plants are pretty, but they are destroying our natural heritage and the rich biodiversity of native plants.



◀**Oxeye daisy** is prolific in Eldora, where it invades meadows and creek sides, crowding out other native wildflowers. Both plants produce abundant seed, making it important to pull them before the seeds spread.

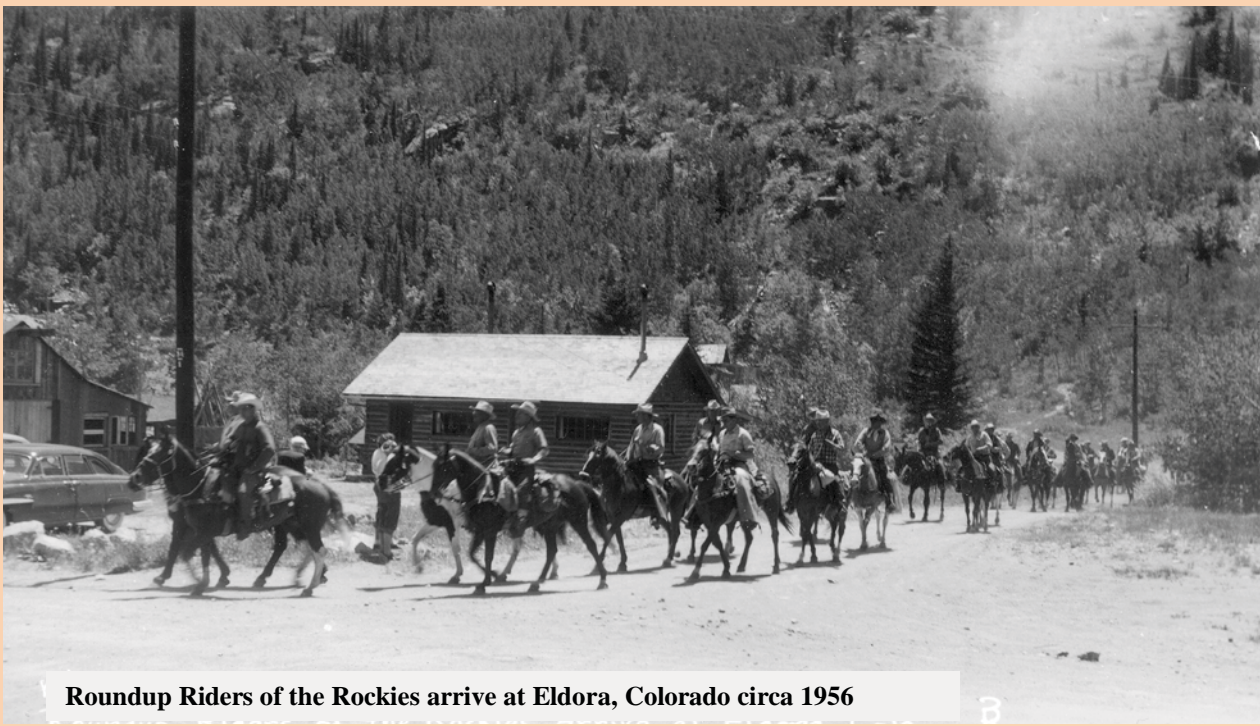


◀**Canada thistles** love moisture and are found in wet areas, such as roadsides where the runoff sustains them. They are prone to invading sensitive wetlands. ECA President Joe McDonald singlehandedly pulled all the Canada thistle on the west side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge and hauled them away. Thanks Joe!

Jeanne McCleery took a specimen of the plant that started opposite the Rugg pasture from "meadow-in-a-can" seed mix to botanist David Buckner to identify. It is the ornamental ◀**golden or yellow chamomile** AKA **golden marguerite**. It has jumped the road and is spreading rapidly in both directions along Eldorado Avenue.



## A History of Livestock in the Eldora Area



Roundup Riders of the Rockies arrive at Eldora, Colorado circa 1956



The cattle, horse and sheep industry were part of the west, Colorado and Eldora. I certainly remember the cattle and sheep drives coming through Eldora as a kid and the impacts they had on Woodland Flats, Caribou Flats, around Long Lake and Brainard Lake. The sheep drives into the high altitude subalpine meadows certainly had impacts also.

There is so much history revolving around cattle, sheep and horse use in our area: the Roundup Riders which always came through Eldora (I think Don Kemp was one of the Roundup Riders; the VanVleets and the Arabian Horses and the Sunday horse shows at Caribou Ranch. Mrs. VanVleet was a true horsewoman; the Basque shepherders and their amazing sheep dogs. Leonard Wittemeyer homesteaded and was a cattleman. He had the forest grazing leases on Woodland Flats. Bee Wittemeyer and her daughter had a horse rental and lived in Tungsten below the dam. Joe Lasinsky (I think Deb Evans called him Uncle Joe.) kept the tack up at the tack cabin that Deb used to own and drove the horses through town every day with his great Doberman running in front. Cindy Rugg is probably the last of the livestock people to take people out on trail trips. Barnes used to run cattle on Caribou Flat, Brainard and Long Lake.

We came off Arapaho Peak in January of 1961 and found one of Leonard's Hereford cows on the way down from Bald Mountain almost to Caribou. The cow had survived the winter up to that point. The cow had brisket disease. The story goes on from there, but the idea is I think lots of people remember lots of stories.  
Michael McCoy

There were the two livery stables in Eldora (The Evanses and the Lillys). The horses were brought up from Boulder and Louisville for the summer and taken back down for the winter. Mr. Harpel and the Ruggs had their horses which were in Eldora all the time. There was Buck, Bess and the colt Jimmy. Buck and Bess were occasionally used to pull a wagon or do some work, otherwise, they were free to roam the town and make a nuisance of themselves as town pets. Charlie Hornback

One year we all noticed that water in the creek was getting a little flavorful. It had a certain air about it and a mild taste. Since most of the town drank the creek water, pretty soon some of the town fathers decided they'd better investigate. I think Mr. Langley and Mr. Kemp and a couple of others got on their horses, rode upstream. Up a little beyond Hessie they found a dead cow, half in and half out of the water, which had been giving the water its distinctive taste. They hauled that out and in a matter of a half a day, the water cleared up again.

William F. Gross

## High Country Horses

### The Chaperone►

A scene on the Van Vleet Arabian Horse Ranch near Nederland (now Caribou Ranch) in the early 1940s by Donald C. Kemp

### Canter Up and Rest Your Saddle at **THE HITCHIN' POST**

Eldora, Colorado

- Souvenirs
- Novelties
- Fishing Supplies
- Drugs!

Come in –

We'll be glad to see you.

(An advertisement in the Nederland Bugle August 1962)

Sunday mornings we'd visit the Van Vleet Ranch north of Nederland where employees in gorgeous costumes put on a show for the public, riding the beautiful Arabian horses. - Barbara Kladstrup



C - J  
M7H  
**LAST ROUNDUP**

In the mid- to late 1930s, Van Vleet, who owned the Tom Tucker Ranch (today's Caribou Ranch), leased the right to use the property (later called Arapaho Ranch) for gathering his cattle for very short periods in preparation to taking them to his high country U.S. Forest Service grazing lease. Cattle were driven up the canyon and allowed to rest prior to taking them on up the canyon. In the fall roundup the cattle were again brought to the property. Van Vleet built a large corral with sorting pens and a loading chute where cattle could be loaded and taken by truck to market or to winter pasture. The corral still stands near the Eldora road and in front of the main ranch house. ▼ Lee S. Evans Photo by Diane J. Brown



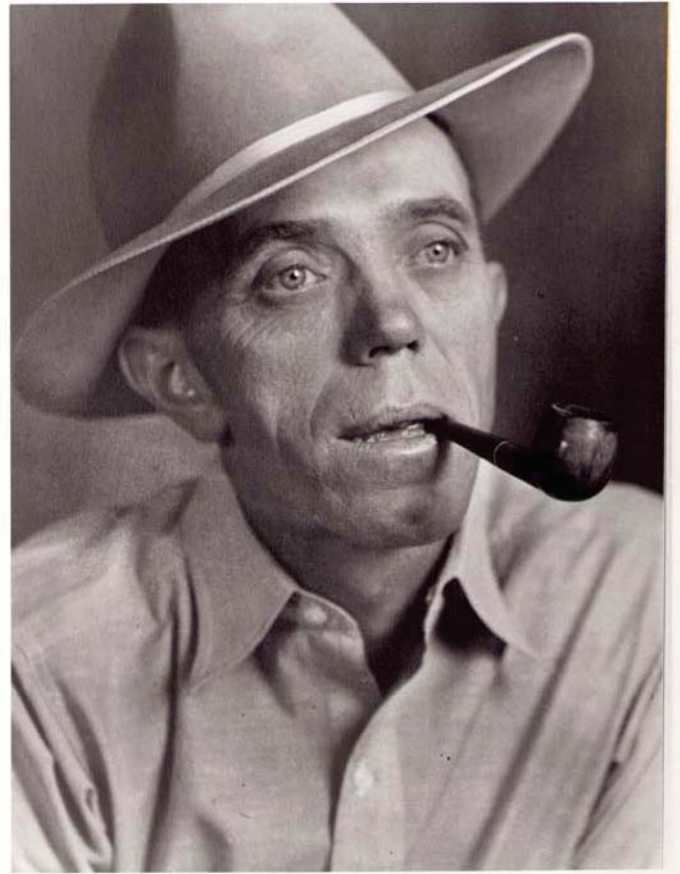


## Riding with Joe Lasinsky

By Deborah Dewey Evans

When it came to horses – and people - Joe Lasinsky had many gifts. He had a gift for matching horses and riders. He had a gift for tall tales and for pulling your leg. He had a gift for letting a dude string find its own pace (within reasonable limits). He had a gift for teaching, a subtle gift for showing a small or inexperienced rider how to keep a horse from lowering his head to eat dandelions, or turning around and going home ahead of schedule, or heading into the willows to brush you off with the flies, or lying down in the middle of the stream to get rid of you that way.

My mother Barbara Beach (Dewey) loved horseback riding from the time she was a teenager and was able to take the Lillys’ beautiful horse, Zip, up the trails to Woodland Flats. As soon as we were big enough to sit up and more or less pay attention, she began taking my brother Tom and me on regular trail rides with Joe and his horses. Tom remembers when Joe ran this business out of the Saddle Room at Pine Knot cabin at 10<sup>th</sup> and Klondyke in Eldora.



My memories begin after the horses had been relocated to Arapaho Ranch, at the pole corral just inside the big entrance gate. When we arrived for our rides, the horses would be all saddled up, each one parked head-in and tied by the reins to a corral railing. Joe would be there in his Levi jeans and workshirt and hat, ready to match us up with our mounts.

Tom remembers riding Frosty and so do I – so we probably both were started out on this gentle, broad-backed little mare. Later, when I rode Babe, I think Tom rode Molly, who was equally gentle but a bit bigger, and very reliable. Mother’s favorite was Rowdy, who I remember being a little livelier, a bit more willing to move out and stay up front with Joe, who was always mounted on his lead horse, Red. Sometimes our old friend, Dorothy Greenman, would go along with us and she almost always rode Scout, the handsome paint horse that perfectly matched Dorothy’s own long-legged, friendly style.

Joe usually had the same lines for each of us when we mounted up. As soon as Dorothy was up and settled with her reins in hand, Joe would kind of squint up at her and ask, “How’s the weather up there?” When I first started riding, Joe would put me up in the saddle, take my left foot in his hand, and make a little show of trying to make it reach the stirrup. Inches too short. He’d shake his head and say, “Well, guess I’ll have to go get my leg-stretcher,” and start to walk away toward the tack room.



The Tack Room at Pine Knot Cabin in Autumn  
Photo by Diane J. Brown



◀Original sign for  
Evans’ Saddle Horses  
Photo by  
Dorothy Emerling





▲ Joe Lasinsky is holding Sugar with 6-year old cowgirl Debbie Dewey on board. The other horse is either Chief or Scout; rider is unknown.

“No, no, I don’t need a leg stretcher,” I would yelp – “I’m fine!” Slowly he would turn back, tuck my feet into the leathers above the stirrups, and shrug as if to say, “suit yourself, little lady,” and I would let out a big sigh of relief. No leg stretcher that day, anyway.

The trail rides were mapped out in one-hour, two-hour, and four-hour loops. The one- and two-hour rides took us up, down, and around Park Hill, through the back meadows of the ranch, and sometimes down the railroad grade and back through the hay meadow. Four-hour rides would take us over Tennessee Mountain to the Boy Scout Camp, or up the Marysville trail to Lake Eldora and back down the Enterprise Road. There were a couple of all day rides, up to Caribou or Lost Lake, too. I vaguely remember one overnight ride to Devil’s Thumb Lake, which I believe put me off the idea of backpacking and camping for the rest of my life.

Whenever we started up a steep hill, Joe would tell us about the horses that he’d seen who had adapted perfectly to the terrain – their “uphill” legs were shorter than their “downhill” legs. They were kin to those winter-hardened horses who were so used to bracing against the strong winds that they would fall over when the season changed and the wind stopped.

Then there were the quirks and bad habits of our very “own” trail horses. Riding down on the lower part of the ranch, we would approach the thick willows wherein Joe said there could be bears, and he’d warn us to keep a close rein on the horses so they wouldn’t bolt. Mother smirked at the warning, I didn’t know whether to cry or giggle, but I think Dorothy gave him the benefit of the doubt and kept a very close eye on those willows. You just couldn’t be absolutely sure with Joe.

Tom remembers these tongue-in-cheek warnings, as well as one clearly serious one about Kelly, Joe’s Doberman Pinscher, this way: “Joe kept his pick-up parked under a couple spruces at the east end of the corral [at Pine Knot] with the driver’s door hanging open, and Kelly on a long lead tied to the steering wheel. Kelly would go into an attack frenzy whenever someone came up to the corral, and Joe would call out in his usual voice, “Now, don’t go near the truck, Tommy, Kelly doesn’t like it.” Then while he and Mother talked about a ride, I would wander obliviously about between the corral and the trees, sometimes coming a little too close to the truck. Joe would snap, “Tommy! Stay away from the truck!” in a voice like walking into a door.

When we had to ford a creek out on the trail he’d yell, “Now, be careful, Tommy, Babe likes to lie down and roll in the water.” If it clouded up on a ride, Joe might look up and shake his head and say, “Boy, I hope it doesn’t rain. If you get rained on, Tommy, your legs’ll warp.” He said these things in the same matter-of-fact tone in which he said everything except, “Stay away from the truck!” so I didn’t know whether to believe him or not, particularly the one about Babe rolling in the water. Seemed possible. He was always smiling and patient. And quiet.

He was still running horses at Arapaho Ranch when Kayla Evans was three. She’d come tearing down with something for Kelly and climb right up into the truck with him. Joe wouldn’t even look up. She was the only person besides Joe who could do that. If Kelly took too much of his treat in one bite, Kayla would pry his mouth open and take it out. She was probably the safest kid in Eldora. One day Joe stopped to give me a lift when I was walking home from Nederland, and while I was thrilled at the chance to ride in “Joe’s truck,” Kelly was right there on the floor so I said, “No, thanks, I really like to walk.” Joe looked surprised for a second and then half smiled and said, “Oh, he’s alright when I’m here,” so I climbed in, carefully. Kelly ignored me completely.



## A Tribute to Joe Lasinsky

By Robert Burton

I first went to Eldora in 1933 with my brother, sister and mother! After several years my father, "Doc" Burton, came with us and his first week it rained. My father was not happy; however the weather cleared and he met Joe Lasinsky. They became immediate fishing friends.

Mr. Beasley had an old car and the three of them, with my brother Tom, would drive across Woodland Flats and walk to lakes Betty, Cliff (Bob), Jasper and Devils Thumb, Woodland Lakes and a friendship began.



**Joe Lasinsky, Don Kemp, John S. Billingsley and John W. Billingsley 1942**  
Photo courtesy of the Billingsley Collection

About 1941 I started to go with them but I didn't like to fish like they did, so I climbed the thumb and went along to seek and climb while my brother, father, Joe, Ed Fisher and Mr. Van Dyke of Hessie caught large numbers of fish.

The first night I arrived in Eldora from Nebraska over gravel roads and was hurrying to the Woodring Store to see Joe. All the young people including me, Boose Rugg, John Billingsley, Terry Whitman, the Sargent girls among many others, went to see their friend Joe. He teased us! He told us wild stories and totally created a kind love with him. Each summer we rode horses with him, sometimes at night, to Lost Lake for a fire and storytelling.

Joe often took Terry Whitman, John Billingsley and me for three straight nights to Devils Thumb Lake. Sometimes others joined the group. We always, at age 15-16, really let him have it for his lousy cooking. He sent us after firewood, told us to clean our dishes and cook the next meal if we didn't like his! Silence ..... followed by, "Joe, you're the BEST!"

Joe came to Eldora, an orphan at age 14-16, and got work with the horses at Pine Knot. He worked hard to make money while Lee Evans went to college at Colorado Agricultural College (later CSU). Denver was growing in 1949 and Macco-Puget Sound was building a reservoir for Denver. The gravel and rock for this project were approved for Joe, Lee and Mrs. Evans, so the money paid for Arapaho Ranch. I worked for the Gross Dam project one summer and the work was hard.

I still saw Joe and we talked about the ranch. At this point in time, Joe was now taking care of Mrs. Evans until her final days. It was Joe doing hospice. After Mrs. Evans died, Lee came back from teaching. Joe moved to a little cabin where little Joe (Evans) lives now. When Kayla and Joe Evans came along, Joe was crazy about those kids.

My parents spent April and October in Eldora to avoid the Front Range traffic. Joe was a nightly visitor and I know they had a bourbon or two. Joe finally got married and then went to Oak Creek, Colorado and lived there until bad health took him to Louisville.

I visited Oak Creek yearly with my kids and he was still the same Joe. My kids found rocks in the stream and Joe would tell them, "Beautiful rocks but don't put them in your mouth, they will make your teeth curl."

Joe was like a second father. On camping trips he taught me respect for the forest, discipline to help with camping, love of mountain life and to grow up to be a good man. He taught the good to those young ones he knew. Respect to Joe, I love you, man!!

# The Gates of Eldora



**KEEP GATE  
CLOSED  
LIVESTOCK  
IN AREA**



## Gone Loco

### Horse Heaven:

Two horses on the lush Arabian pasture at the Arapaho Ranch enjoy ample space and more than adequate forage; they have lots of vegetation to choose from, including high quality grasses.



Charles LaPoint was a man of many activities. He had prospected considerably, had located and patented the Lady Grace on Ute Mountain, as well as other properties on the hillside about the town. He owned a half interest in the general store of Mills and LaPoint. Also, he was a game warden. One day during a hot, dry summer Charley was hoofing it along the trail toward the high country west of Eldora. That summer there was considerable larkspur and locoweed, and ranchmen as a result had lost many head of stock. Often horses or cows, having eaten these poisonous plants, would either die, or go crazy. The latter plight had befallen a big black bull belonging to a stockman who had his headquarters in Eldora. As a result, trifles operated to upset the bull and made him very cross. Such was the state of affairs when Charley happened along. The bull spied Charley, but he didn't see the bull until, hearing a snort and a bellow behind him, he had just time to climb a jack pine and thus escape the sharp horns. The bull was awfully mad at Charley. Charley felt the bull was more than unreasonable, but there was nothing he could do about it. The bull circled the tree, snorted, bellowed, tore up the ground, and peeled the bark off the tree. The day wore on and night fell. Charley's friends began to wonder, then to worry. A search party, including the owner of the bull, finally located him, tired and peevish, but none the worse otherwise for his mishap. The outcome, however, was fatal for the bull. "Happy Valley" by Donald Kemp and John Langley



Plants that are toxic to livestock tend to increase on overgrazed rangeland. In some cases when cattle, horses or sheep eat these plants, they have a narcotic-like effect on the animals, so that they continue to eat more and more until they become so sick they die. Many non-native toxic plants were inadvertently brought to the mountains by early settlers. They include highly toxic houndstongue, which causes liver damage, mayweed chamomile, which causes rashes and blistering, yellow sweetclover, which causes bloat, and leafy spurge, which causes severe irritation of the digestive system, when eaten by livestock.

Locoweed is a vetch flower, which when eaten in quantity by a horse, or eaten at certain seasons of the year, will cause a horse to go "loco" or at least become unpredictable. - Lee S. Evans



# Native Plants Toxic to Livestock:

All photos by Diane J. Brown



Golden Banner – *Thermopsis divaricarpa*



Nelson Larkspur – *Delphinium nuttallianum*

Alkaloids found in larkspur are very toxic to cattle. Losses of more than a hundred head in a few days have been reported. Sheep seem to be unaffected.



Whoa! What should I eat or *not* eat today?



Wand Lily or Death Camas  
*Anticlea elegans*



Lambert Locoweed – *Oxytropis lambertii*



Silver Lupine – *Lupinus argenteus*

Locoweed, lupine and golden banner are members of the pea family and enrich the soil with nitrogen. Do not eat the seeds of their pods!

## Leftover Burritos



**Lucile Millikin with a burro playmate in Eldora 1919 - Pierson Collection**

After the mining boom in Eldora went bust around 1905, most miners left town, but the donkeys that carried heavy loads for them were left behind to fend for themselves. They were free to graze in the meadows and on the hillsides around the town. Winter without care must have been tough though, even for such hardy animals. Eldora children especially enjoyed playing with the friendly burros, even hitching them up to wagons for a scenic ride.

### **The Eldora Miner – March 17, 1900**

A serious accident occurred to John Lilly's little 6-year-old son, Thursday afternoon at his home in Boulder. The little fellow was riding a pet burro when he fell off and the burro stepped on his arm, breaking it. (The little boy was Barbara Lilly Bolton's father, Harold Lilly.)

My father, Emery Olsen, had a donkey he would take down to the train station when the train arrived in Eldora. Tourists could have their pictures taken with the donkey for five cents.

Carolyn Olsen Hale

### **The Nederland Bugle - August 1963:**

Irene Eaton planned to enter her burro in the Leadville-Fairplay burro race, but she decided not to since her burro is too small. (From 1959 to 1965 Irene owned and kept her burro on the property that Dave Hallock and Diane Brown now have on the north side of the road at Marysville.)

Fatty Mills, Eldora shopkeeper, holds a donkey cart filled with children and several ladies in the early 1900s. The woman in the dark dress is Kate Phebus, the aunt of Barbara Lilly Bolton. ►  
Lilly Collection

Before they started a saddle horse business, Harold and Edna Lilly had a small herd of donkeys that they rented out. The donkeys often ended up in Nederland and Edna had to herd them home through clotheslines and other obstacles.





Frank Haffner sits behind the wheel of the automobile in this early 1900s photo. The other men are not identified. Notice the carbide headlights and the steering wheel on the right side of the car. Cars were once required by law to stop for an oncoming horse.

The building behind the car was located just east of Brookside cabin. The Bide-a-Wee cabin in the center background no longer stands. The small white building with a “Justice of the Peace” sign is where the Hitchin’ Post is now. The hardware store is near the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Klondyke.

Photo courtesy of Virginia Haffner Reid.

◀ Circa 1936 this picture was taken near Sunkist cabin on Eldorado Avenue. A mule is pulling John and Temmie Lilly and a boy named “High Gear Homer” (on the front of the cart). The mule was used one winter at the Mogul Tunnel to pull ore carts. The mule would pull the kids around in the wagon for a while and then get tired of it and kick the heck out of the cart. – Earl Bolton



◀ Currently the sole equine resident of Eldora is a sweet friendly favorite of passers-by, who often treat him with fresh grass, apples and carrots.

When the town of Eldora disincorporated in 1973, it came under Boulder County’s forestry zoning, which allows two animal units per acre. An animal unit is one horse (+ foal), or one cow (+calf), or 5 pigs (+ piglets). Since most properties in Eldora are small in size, this much reduced the potential of livestock in town. In today’s Eldora Valley horses are primarily seen grazing on the spacious Arapaho Ranch, or coming via horse trailer for rides into the high country.

## Shepherding in Eldora and the High Country



◀ Jasper Lake Trail  
A shepherd and his dogs negotiate heavy timber in 1922 by Donald C. Kemp

Frank Lugo probably was the best herder they ever had, and he took care of the herd on Chittenden several years. Frank liked the high country, and to him it was a fine paid vacation. He had a wonderful little sheep dog that was all the companion-ship he needed.

Lee S. Evans

There were at least three and sometimes four ranges above Eldora that carried large herds of sheep in the summer months. Typically there was a big herd on the top of Corona – perhaps as many as 1,200 head. In some years there was a smaller herd around Devil’s Thumb. The top of Chittenden Mountain was a prize range and always carried a large herd of ewes. The fourth range was in North Fork around the Fourth of July Shaft House, up on the side of Baldy Mountain, and the saddle below Arapaho Peak. This range was used for ewes some years and for rams in other years. Lee S. Evans

I remember quite well when the sheep came through Eldora. All of us kids would help herd the sheep up through town. Or we thought we were helping. There was a house across the street from the Lilly Livery that housed a family who were in charge of the sheep during the summer. As I remember they were the Goins. They were from Arkansas and had a boy my age, Harold, and a younger boy named Dede who had a deformed hand that looked like a fist that had little fingers sticking out. The people who owned the sheep were from Platteville. The time was about the early 1930s. I remember the sheep up around the Fourth of July area all standing in the streams, pooping and making a mess of vegetation, as they ate everything. Barb had a stray one year that she kept. We used to say that when the water was exposed to the sun it would become pure, so we never were bothered about drinking downstream.

Earl Bolton

Early each summer two or three sheep outfits took their flocks through Eldora on their way to the summer range on Corona, Chittenden, Arapaho Pass or Bald Mountain. Now this is all part of the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. We would help drive the sheep through town. With the help of our big black and white shepherd dog, Ned, we would drive the sheep to make sure they did not stop to graze all the grass that our milk cows and horses needed. A few times the owners offered to give me lambs that were too young and weak for the long walk to the high country. Lee S. Evans

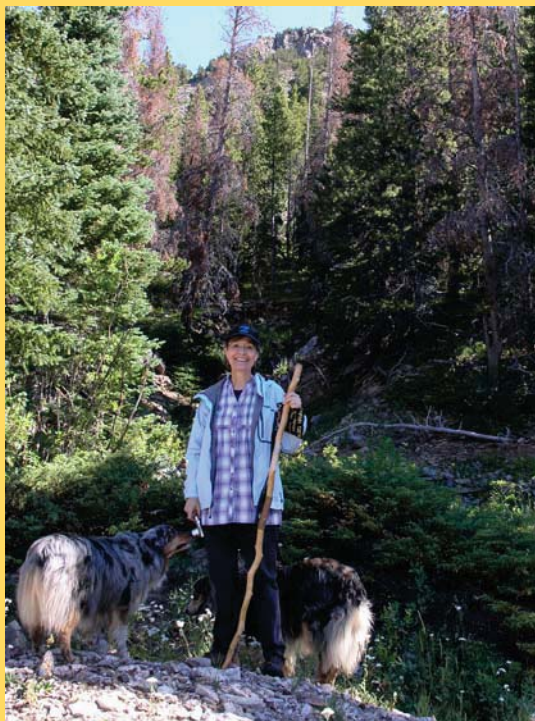
In early summer there was a sheep drive (all the way from east of Boulder to Woodland Flats or the North Fork). It was always quite a sight to see about a thousand sheep being herded up through Eldora. In the fall, the sheep were herded back down. Needless to say, what traffic there was in Boulder Canyon was disrupted. Charlie Hornback



## A Steep, Rugged Sheep Trail

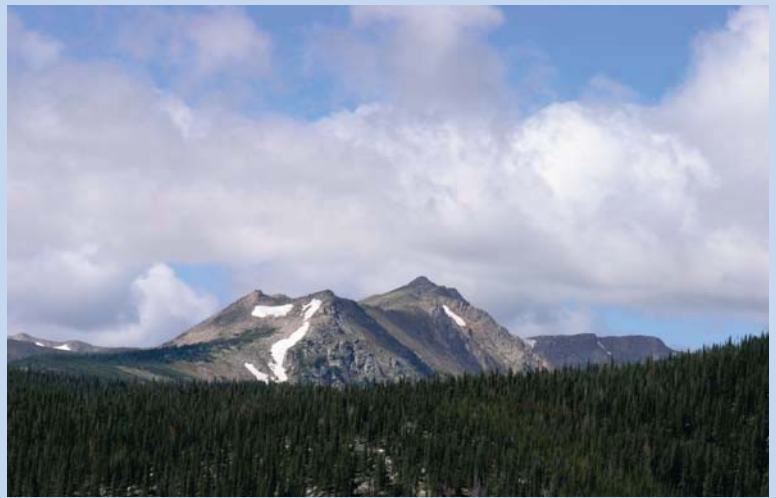


▲ An old forest service sign marks a former designated sheep trail. The words on the sign are so faint that they have been added digitally.



Two modern day sheep dogs accompany modern day hiker Linell Wohlers.

The lower part of the sheep trail crosses **private property**. Up top sheep found good pasture; their wool coats grew thick and plush in the cold high mountain climate.



The ridge of Chittenden Mountain looms in the foreground and in the background is Woodland Mountain above Woodland Flats, called Frog Eyes by some locals. Frog Eyes is the prominent mountain on the Divide visible from Arapaho Ranch.

Near the remains of a shepherd's cabin the grasses are knee-high. The remains of the cabin stand lonely and forlorn and somehow out of place in the tall grass. One can only wonder what kind of existence it might have been, here above nowhere, with only the wind, the grass, the marmots and the sheep for company.

“Land Above the Trees” by Ann Zwinger & Beatrice Willard

Starry skies, vistas that bring tears to the eyes, only the sounds of nature, respite from the trials and tribulations of humanity, the companionship and unconditional love of a working dog – these were the rewards of the life of a shepherd.



On top of Klondyke Saddle Dave Hallock and Duane Wohlers enjoy the view. Behind them are the slopes of the ski area.



## THE SHEEP DRIVE AND THE PUPPIES

By Michael McCoy

In the late 1940s and early 1950s Basque sheep herders would bring their sheep through Eldora on their way to the summer range. The herds were of significant size, probably over 100 in all or at least a lot to my young eyes. These drives were exciting. The sheep would come right through our front yard along with everyone else's. After the herd went through, there was plenty of fertilizer to green up the grass for the rest of the summer.

I have to digress a minute. Let me assure you that the sheep drives were much "cleaner" than the cattle drives. When the cattle went through there were lots of what my sister called meadow muffins which all the dogs in town enjoyed thoroughly. My little dog Blackie loved the cattle drives. After the cattle passed our house there were numerous meadow muffins and Blackie immediately headed for the nice warm fresh muffins and started rolling and rolling in them trying to absorb as much of the aroma as possible. Why dogs love dead animals and fecal matter so much is as questionable as why women love perfumes that tend to make me ill. A dog's manner of greeting another dog leaves a lot to be desired in polite human company. Dogs probably despise perfume as much as we dislike the cow flops and dead animals. Of course, after rolling in the flops and getting a thorough covering, a definite chocolate-sundae appearance, it was time for Blackie to scratch at the front door and come into the house for a good shake and roll on the carpet, couch, bed or any other coveted item that might be handy. My mom really appreciated moments like this. If you knew Ruthanna McCoy Evans you would smile because she was a rather particular neatnik.

Now back to the sheep drives.

On one occasion a friend of mine, Dick Spahn, and I decided we would go up to the high country with the Basque herders. This was an all-day affair and we did have parental permission. This certainly would not happen today because we were only about seven years old.

We went through Eldora and headed up the North Fork with all the commotion that you could imagine. The sheep were kept in line by well-trained sheepdogs, which was truly amazing. The dogs would keep the herd together as we headed up toward the turnoff up the old Chittenden Sheep Trail to the meadows between Woodland Flats and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Valley where they would spend the summer. We never realized the damage that these animals did to the subalpine and alpine meadows. Sheep are not called hooved locusts for nothing.

One of the Basque herders had an old gunny sack thrown over his shoulder with a hole cut right in the middle. Several days prior one of the sheep dogs had a litter of pups and the reason for the gunny sack became apparent when puppies started to cry. It was feeding time. We stopped and the herder pulled the sack from his shoulder and gently lowered it to the ground. He proceeded to reach in the opening and removed pups from either end. He called the bitch over and she lay down and he put each pup on a nipple. After the little bellies were filled, and the bitch finished grooming them, they were put back into the sack and put back over the herdsman's shoulder and we continued up to the summer meadows. The herder was very gentle with the puppies as he handled each one of them.

We reached the subalpine meadows after lunch. We had to be home in Eldora before dark, so reluctantly we turned around, said our goodbyes to the shepherds, dogs and sheep. When we got back to Eldora the sun was just about setting on one exciting day for a couple of young boys with memories never to be forgotten.



The range still has not fully recovered from the sheep and cattle days but it is much better than it used to be. Now real elk have replaced the "Slow Elk" and "Hoofed Locusts" of yesterday.

## Cattle at Petersen Lake

By Virginia Haffner Reid

Looking east towards Petersen Lake over a lush meadow dominated by golden banner in the foreground ►

The lower left photo is James Peak from the Terror Mine Road.

The lower right photo is the Terror Mine cabin enhanced with red Indian paintbrush.



As a child in the late 1940s when my father drove from Tolland to Petersen Lake, it was my job to open and close the gates that guarded the railroad tracks and several sets of cattle guards around the Zarlengo Saw Mill. The cattle in that area probably roamed as far as the Forest Service land and privately held lands west of Petersen Lake. There were definitely sheep in the East Portal area and the lands up near the old Moffat Road Hill Route. We often saw the old style canvas covered wagons that shepherds would take to live in while they tended their flocks in the high country.

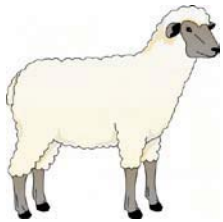
Cattle were grazed around Petersen Lake in the area east of our cabin during the 1970s. We saw and heard them on the Terror Mine Road and down the Marysville Trail. They trampled through the grasses and aspens where a spring was located and forced us to stop using a spring that had been used even before 1900 by Charlie Petersen. The spring was mentioned in several stories in the February 2011 Eldora High Country featuring Petersen Lake. In the early days of the ski area, it was open during the summer for weekend activities. Horses were brought up to rent to weekend riders. On several occasions at the end of the summer, we watched as the small herd of horses was walked down the ski road and back to the Nederland area.



## Ecological Impacts of Livestock Grazing at High Elevations



Bunker Hill with North Arapaho Peak by David H. Hallock



Domestic sheep grazed Boulder County's tundra for the first half of the century; the last band was on Niwot Ridge in 1946. Although data reflecting the magnitude of sheep damage is not available, trails were cut across slopes and bedding areas were trampled. Butterfly populations were reduced as meadows were overgrazed. Undoubtedly other ecosystem changes occurred, but were not recorded. Since high altitude causes heart failure in cattle, cattle herds have not grazed the tundra.

"From Grassland to Glacier" by Cornelia Fleischer Mutel

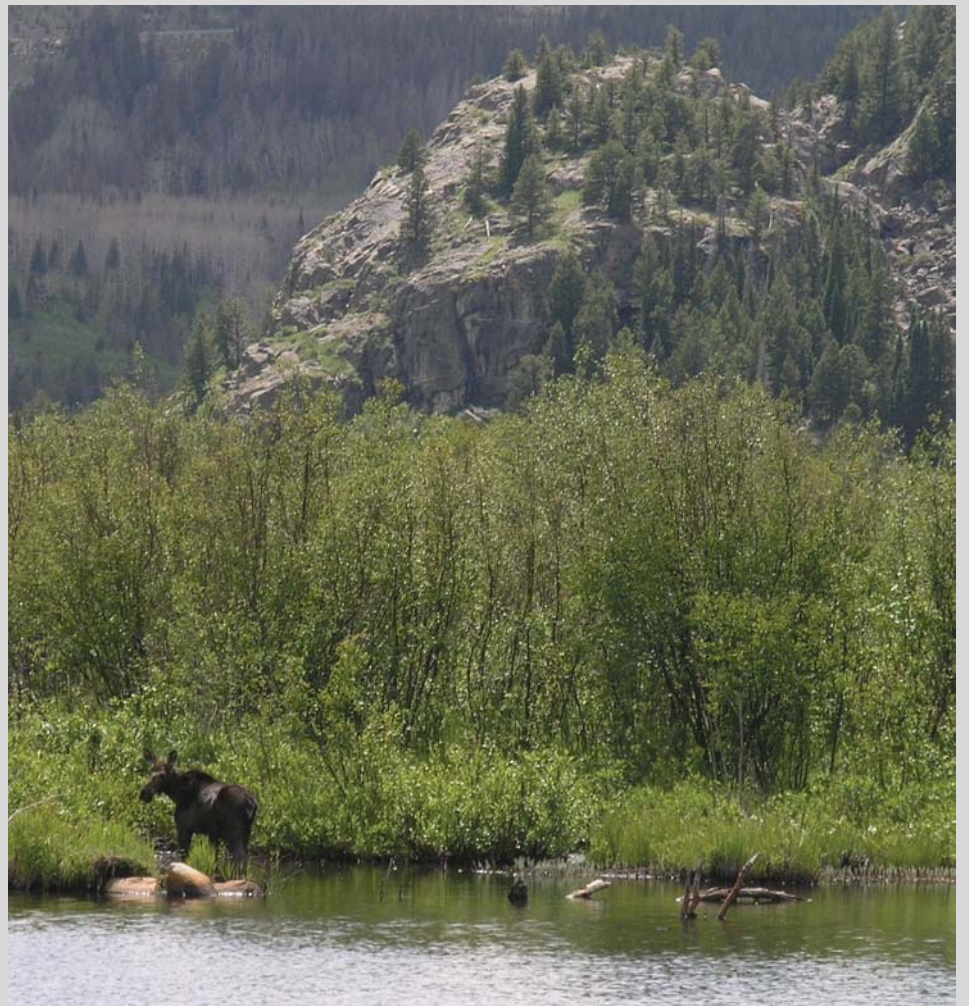
Alpine ranges have been used for grazing sheep since the mid to late 1800s. Early grazing operations herded sheep in tightly grouped bands continuously bedded in the same location for several nights in a row, and drove sheep to and from water. These practices caused losses of forage through trampling and overgrazing, especially near water, along with excessive trailing, soil compaction and erosion. High intensity grazing caused changes in vegetation composition (e. g. the unpalatable alpine avens has probably increased because of grazing pressure on more choice species). Short, cool growing seasons, strong winds, frequent frosts and a limited pool of adapted plant species limit successful revegetation of disturbances in alpine ranges. Sheep numbers peaked in the western U.S. in about 1910 and have declined since.

Many alpine plants have been used for summer sheep grazing. Although this has been largely terminated because of poor forage, heavily grazed areas still bear the imprint of damaged soil and impoverished plant communities. Grazing was most damaging where sheep crossed steep passes, for here the ground is open to wind erosion and downslope movement. "Land Above the Trees" by Ann Zwinger and Beatrice Willard

Approximately 10 percent of the West's national forest lands were located in Colorado. Although a fee permit and grazing allotment system was imposed across the West and within Colorado in 1906, heavy use continued on national forests thereafter, particularly during World War I, when demands for meat prompted the Forest Service to allow over one million more head of livestock onto national forest ranges. By the 1920s, however, federal officials saw the need for a comprehensive survey of range conditions across the West's overused forest lands. The survey suggested the wisdom of reducing livestock numbers on overused ranges, creating longer-term permits to stabilize range use on allotments, and preparing range management plans that established the actual carrying capacity of western lands. The policy helped the Forest Service reduce livestock grazing in the West by more than 50 percent between the late 1910s and the early 1940s. Colorado national forests participated in these adjustments with the dry 1930s prompting further reductions in sheep and cattle on the state's distressed forest lands. "Creating Colorado" by William Wyckoff

## Happy Valley Hunting

The Colorado Division of Wildlife estimates the state's 2011 moose population to be 1,690, not including the young calves born last spring. For the first time there will be a moose hunting season in 36 game management units, including two new units on the Front Range and Continental Divide. Eldora is in Unit 29, so it is to be expected that there will be some hunters looking for moose on forest service lands. The archery season was September 10-25 and the muzzle loading season was September 10-18. Rifle season runs from October 1-14. Moose licenses are available by drawing only and cost \$254 + \$10 for a habitat stamp for Colorado residents. Out-of-state moose hunters pay \$1844 + \$10 for a habitat stamp.

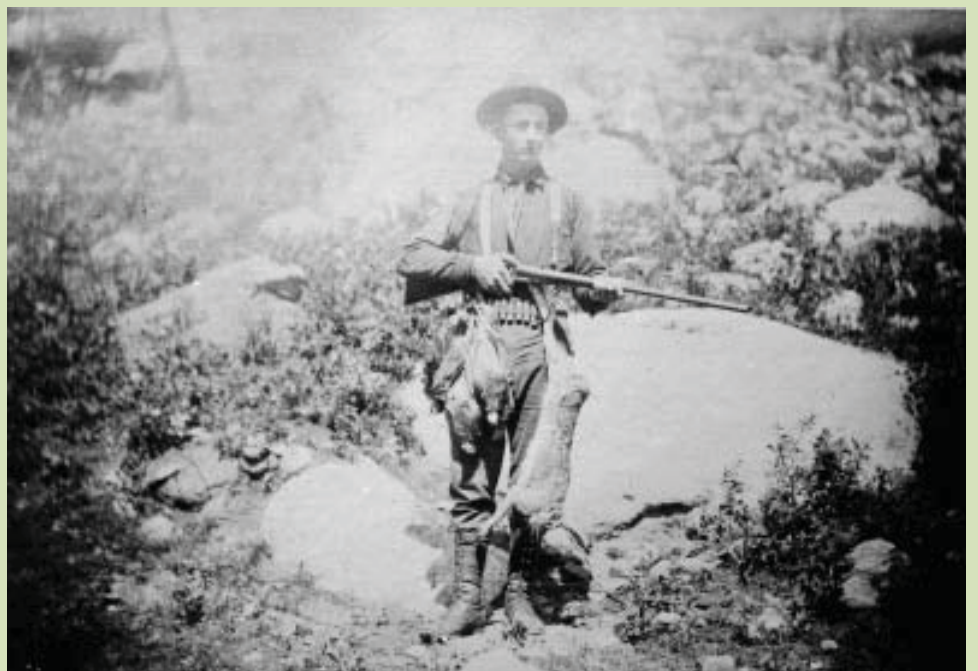


Moose on a pond at Arapaho Ranch

Photo by Diane J. Brown

I believe the picture of the young fellow with the shot-gun and the rabbits tied to his belt is Rubin Rugg. Rubin was a brother of Merle Rugg, I don't know if he was older or younger than Merle. I don't remember of ever seeing Rubin, though he could have been around when I was a little boy. I used to hear Dad and Merle talk about Rubin. Rubin was well thought of. Rubin I believe was in the Evergreen and Denver areas and became an electrician working on power lines--I think I remember Dad talking about Rubin being killed in a power-line accident.

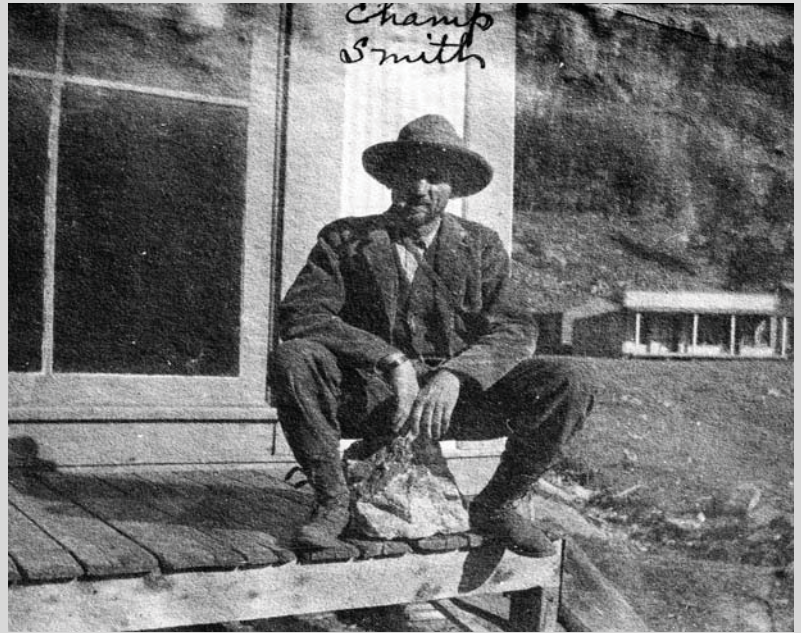
Charlie Hornback



Rubin Rugg bringing home a snowshoe hare for the family's dinner ▲

## A Mountain Murder Mystery

Hessie was the scene of as fine a murder mystery as one might encounter anywhere. The early summer of 1914 saw Hessie's population down to fewer than a dozen people. Among these were a miner, Wilson Davis, and his wife, who lived in the largest house, a story and a half nondescript with a front porch. The building was encased in corrugated iron, painted green. Adjacent, in two small log cabins, lived two brothers named Smalley, also miners, with their respective families. The three dwellings faced the road which led from Eldora to Lost Lake, the Woodland Flats region, and several other lakes near timberline, such as Jasper, Devil's Thumb, and Woodland.



Champ Smith before his demise

The road skirted a small clearing in which, during Eldora's boom, stood Hessie's half a dozen or so store buildings. A thick forest growth extended up the valley from the west edge of the village. Here in a small slab cabin, under the spreading branches of a tall spruce, lived Champ Smith, a tall, gray-haired, blue-eyed bachelor in his early fifties, who had prospected and mined in the region since 1897. For some time he had been driving a tunnel he called the Caledonia, located near the foot of Bryan Mountain a half mile below Hessie. Early each morning, after carefully locking his cabin door, Champ would cross the narrow, swaying foot-log, which spanned the creek a short distance south of his cabin and wend his way to the day's toil in the tunnel.

On Saturday afternoon, June 13, 1914, G. W. Orear, friend and neighbor of Smith, came to the tunnel with mail for him, which he had brought from the Eldora post office. A few yards beyond the portal, inside the tunnel, Orear stumbled upon the dismembered and mutilated remains of his old friend. A dynamite blast had blown every vestige of his clothing into fragments. The left leg and trunk lay at one point and the other leg and an arm at another point on the tunnel floor. The head was almost entirely destroyed. Champ's watch was found in three pieces, one of them being the dial, undamaged, with the hands pointing to 7:30 o'clock.

The terrified Orear, a man seventy years old, turned and ran. He ran the two miles between the tunnel and Eldora without stopping, to notify Coroner Leslie Kelso in Boulder.

The last time Smith had been seen alive was on Thursday, June 11, at the grocery store in Eldora, where he purchased groceries, loaded them in his canvas packsack, and set out toward Hessie.

Champ lived alone and kept pretty much to himself. Although he was widely known and well liked, absences from his cabin of two or three days were unnoticed by either the Davises or the Smalleys. His tragic death appeared at first to have resulted from the accidental explosion of a charge of dynamite. But investigators from the sheriff's office discovered that the explosion had occurred near the portal, some 200 feet from the breast of the tunnel, where Smith had been working. Blood stains were found on the ore car which stood a short distance from that point. Champ's hat, with a bullet hole in it, lay nearby, and a trail of blood led to the spot where the explosion took place. It appeared that a charge of dynamite had been placed under the body and set off. The explosion tore a deep hole in the tunnel floor.

Sometime early in the preceding spring, Champ had been appointed a deputy game warden and had notified his neighbors and several others living in the area that they could neither hunt nor fish unless they obtained a license required by law. This notice had led to altercations and arguments. One neighbor, long a friend of Smith's, objected strenuously and asserted that not only would he refuse to buy a license, but he would continue to fish and hunt whenever he felt like it. There had been other disagreements and bickering during the preceding winter; and while none had appeared serious, the cumulative result caused estrangement, if not open hostility, between Smith and some who had been his friends.

The sheriff's chief investigator (named O. B. Smith) was an operative of wide experience who had an enviable record as a detective. He quietly proceeded to analyze the circumstances leading up to Champ's death and to fit them into a pattern which would picture what had occurred. Painstakingly he examined every foot of the tunnel's bore from portal to breast. Here and there he found missing pieces of the body. Embedded in the muddy floor were fragments of the skull. Another spot yielded the copper shell of a 0.22 caliber bullet; and from the wall the deputy pried the leaden projectile fired from the shell. The bone fragments he washed thoroughly in the creek, wrapped them, and took them to a Boulder medical laboratory. In one of these pieces Smith found a small hole about the size of the bullet he had dug out of the wall. The laboratory technician succeeded in fitting the pieces into their proper places and this assembly was found to fit perfectly into the skull.

Champ's brother, John R. Smith, of Denver, an employee of the U. S. Revenue service, hurried to Hessie as soon as he was notified of the tragedy and rendered valuable aid in the investigation. He established the fact that there had been a previous attempt to take his brother's life in which a bullet was fired at his brother through the cabin window. He, too, had picked up a spent copper case and dug the bullet from the cabin wall. He was able to show also that there had been friction and ill feeling among the inhabitants of the tiny community toward Champ.

The deputy sheriff's investigation continued. With the same thoroughness which had resulted in piecing the skull together and had brought to light the fact that the victim had been murdered, he was able to assemble evidence which led to the arrest of Wilson Davis and the brothers Smalley. All were lodged in county jail at Boulder, and the district attorney initiated action looking into their early trial. Unfortunate and unavoidable circumstances transpired, and no one of the three suspects was ever held to answer. Eventually they were released, and to this day the mystery of the murder of Champ Smith remains unsolved.

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

### Condensed Game Laws of Colorado circa 1911-12

For doves, August 20<sup>th</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup>

For prairie chickens, October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup>

For sage chickens, mountain and willow grouse, September 10<sup>th</sup> to October 10<sup>th</sup>

For one deer with horns, October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 10<sup>th</sup>

For ducks, geese, brants, swans, cranes and other water fowls, September 10<sup>th</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup> next ensuing

For curlews, snipes, plovers and other wading, marsh and shore birds, March 1<sup>st</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>

NO OPEN SEASON on elk, mountain sheep, antelope, wild turkeys or quail.

No person permitted to hunt either protected or unprotected game without first procuring a license from County Clerk or State Game Commissioner.

License permits hunting during the open season only. Killing is allowed for food purposes only.

Cost of resident license, \$1.00. Anyone entitled to a resident license does not require a license to fish.

Non-residents and all persons not citizens of the United States must have a non-resident license; to hunt \$10.00; to fish, \$2.00.

LIMIT: Twenty pounds trout in one calendar day; twenty-five pounds in possession at one time. Twenty geese and twenty other birds of the same kind in one calendar day; twenty-five geese and twenty-five ducks and twenty-five other birds in possession at one time.

Shooting from public highway at game prohibited. Coursing game with dogs prohibited. Trapping or obtaining by any other method than gun, or hook and line prohibited; provided that dogs, sinks, blinds and decoys may be used in hunting water fowl.

Possession in closed season evidence of transgression. Transportation out of state allowed on permits obtained from the Game Commissioner. Cost of permits, \$1.00 to \$10.00. Boxes containing game or fish must bear label, with contents marked thereon.

PENALTIES: For fishing with explosives or stupefying substances, or killing buffalo, fine \$500.00 to \$1,000.00, or imprisonment in the penitentiary six months to two years, or both. For other violations, fine \$25.00 to \$500.00 or jail imprisonment ten days to six months, or both.

(From "Resorts & Fishing Grounds along the Switzerland Trail of America" a brochure for the Denver, Boulder & Western RR)

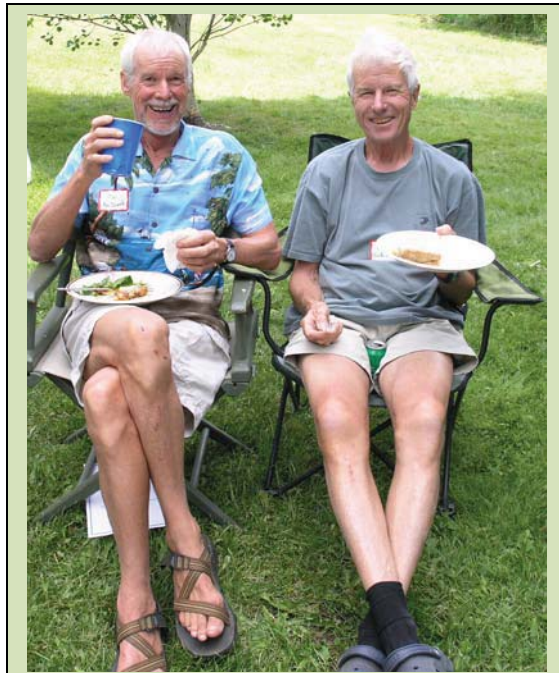
Earl and Barbara Bolton Collection



**Eldora – Sweet Summer 2011**



**Kallen and Sam ran a lemonade stand on busy weekends.**



**Joe & Pete at the Eldora Community Picnic**



**Max angling on Kingfisher Lake at the Arapaho Ranch**



**Dale and Frandee with guest Bryce above Peterson Lake**



**Fourth of July at Bungalog Cabin**

**“In summer the song sings itself.”  
William Carlos Williams**



**Eldora Civic Association 2011-12**

Full Members (Property Owners)

Andersen, Ellen  
Anderson, Bob/Pat  
Bailey, John  
Barrett, Phillip/Marilyn  
Bartelma, Bob/Jan  
Beatty, M. Gretchen  
Billingsley, Cleo  
Billingsley, John E./Jim/Joe  
Birkeland, Pete/Sue  
Bolton, Dave/Sue  
Bolton, Earl/Barbara  
Bradac, Rudy/Jean  
Brocklehurst, John/Willi  
Bruntjen, Scott/Rinderknecht, Carol  
Bryan, Steve/Suellen  
Buchan, James/Susan  
Buchanan, Todd/Lopez, Lisa  
Buhse, Howard/Moira  
Burns, Kate/Schroeder, Sheila  
Busch, Edwin/Eleanor  
Carson, Edgar/Julia  
Chapin, John/Micki  
Cross, Arnold  
Donahue, Jerry/Barbara  
Dugan, Skip/Kathy  
Egaas, Brian/Bersentes, Korina  
Evans, Virginia  
Eyster, Brad/Tammi  
Fisher, Marc/Laura  
Freymuth, Peter/Karin  
Geer, Richard/Nan  
Gitin, Gene/Gail  
Goolsby, Robert/Nancy  
Hallock, Dave/Brown, Diane  
Hartsell, Rich/Marilyn  
Hawkins, James/Nancy  
Hoffman, Amy/Commers, Mary  
Hollis, Edna  
Hunziker, Bud/Joyce  
Jensen, Jeff/Kathy  
Jess, Charles/ Mary Ketola  
Johnson, Dale/Frandee  
Kent, Jinny  
Kindig, Jean  
Kladstrup, Barbara  
Kready, JoAnne  
Leever, Virginia/Randy  
Malmquist, Barbara  
Marron, Bruce/Ann  
Martin, Margaret  
McCleery, Jeanne  
McDonald, Joe/Pam  
McGuffee, Chris/Liz  
Merrill, Nancy  
Miller, Kent/Kay  
Neu, Art/Naomi  
Newens, Nick/Mary Jane  
Nichols, Ron/Barbara  
Parrish, Frank/Lisa  
Pierce, Lowel/Annie May

Pierson, Bill/Kathleen  
Pierson, Bill/Kay  
Reid, Virginia Haffner  
Roberts, Carl/Donna  
Roberts, Kathryn  
Rock, Paul/Phyllis  
Rottman, Gary/Stringfellow/Ann  
Rountree, Robert  
Ruhnka, John/Sallie  
Sandquist, Rick/Katrina  
Schneider, Harold/Jan  
Shaw, Marilyn  
Sheets, Payson/Fran  
Simpson, Robert/Patricia  
Smith, Jared/Deborah  
Swope, Beverly  
Tiberi, Henry/Diane/Grace/Joe/Anna  
Tillotson, Rich/Lee  
Vahling, Arnie  
Weber, Gerhard/Deborah  
Wheeler, Jeff/Signe  
Whitworth, Sam  
Williams, David  
Wohlers, Duane/Linell  
Zemanek, Phyllis

Associate Members

Amaranto, Ernie/Marian  
Barrett-Smith, Allison  
Bauder, Jane  
Buhse, Andrew  
Campbell, Esther  
Casey, Marilyn Frazier  
Evans, Deb  
Flowers, Willard  
Forstner, E. S.  
Goolsby, Ann  
Goolsby, Mark/Ramona  
Goolsby, Sara  
Gross, Richard/Regina  
Guthrie, Bill  
Harnden, Alec/Kendra  
Helmberger, Skip/Jane  
Hill, Tom/Sherry  
Johnson, Irene Courtney  
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Klenk, Anne  
McCaffree, Inez  
McCleery, Kathy  
Mues, Willa  
Naylor, Earl/Joan  
Olsen, Nancy  
Price, Denis/Satah  
Quarterman, Linda  
Roossinck, Marilyn  
Shaw, Ben  
Slaven, Pamela  
Sturm, Ron  
Whitworth, Gretchen  
Woodward, Edgar



**If your name is not on this list, you need to rustle up a check and pay your dues!**

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

**ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM 2011-2012**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eldora Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eldora Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Subscription Rates:

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- Associate Member – Electronic Newsletter (This requires a computer & email address!).....\$15

Additional copy of newsletter 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.)

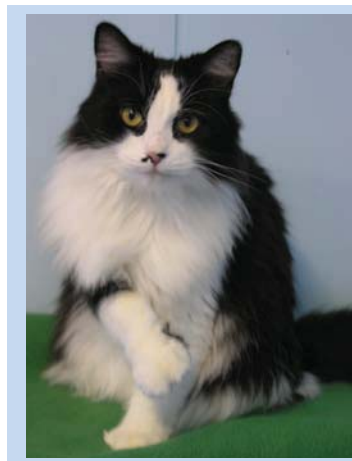
Please note that donations to ELPF are *not*  
 tax deductible.

Please send an acknowledgement of this  
 donation to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

This donation is in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_



**Thank  
 you!**



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

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

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

Please send an acknowledgement for tax  
 purposes to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

This donation is in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_