



# ELDORA HIGH COUNTRY ©2011

Newsletter of the Eldora Civic Association

July 2011

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.



## **ECA Board of Directors for 2010-11:**

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

Fran Sheets, Secretary

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Dale Johnson, Treasurer

[djohn7000@yahoo.com](mailto:djohn7000@yahoo.com) 303-442-5903

Randy Leever, Member at Large

[rdlbsg@comcast.net](mailto:rdlbsg@comcast.net) 303-494-1243

## **ECA Committees:**

**EEPP – Randy Leever & Dave Hallock**

**ELPF – Diane Brown & Fran Sheets**

**Noxious Weeds – Diane Brown**

**Newsletter – Diane Brown**

**USFS/Ski Area/County & State Liaison –**

**Pete Birkeland, Audrey Godell, Randy Leever**

**History – Diane Brown, Fran Sheets, Earl & Barbara Bolton**

**Eldora Road Cleanup – Earl & Barbara Bolton**

**Nominations – ECA Board**

**Social – Fran Sheets**

**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)

Thursday, July 7, 2011 - Date of determination of eligible ECA voting members

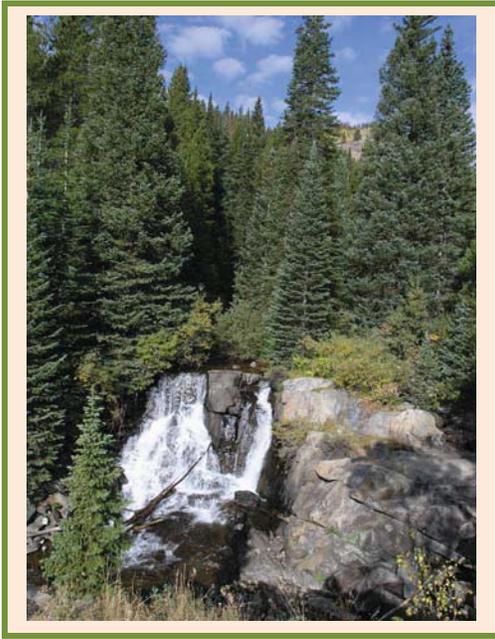
Saturday, July 9, 2011 at 2:00 PM - Annual Business Meeting – McDonald Cabin at 695 Bryan Avenue

Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at 7:00 PM - Eldora History Night – Gold Miner Hotel at 601 Klondyke Avenue

Sunday, August 14, 2011 from 12:00 - 2:00 PM – Eldora Community Picnic – Boltons at 502 Eldorado Avenue

Saturday, August 20, 2011 at 2:00 PM - Annual Member Meeting – Gold Miner Hotel at 601 Klondyke Avenue

September 15, 2011 - Deadline for October issue of the Eldora High Country newsletter



**Fourth of July Falls by Diane Brown**



**Fourth of July Valley  
From Diamond Lake  
By Audrey Godell**

**ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION**  
Minutes for Board Meeting  
June 16, 2011

President Joe McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm and read mission statement. 4 Board members participated, which qualified for a quorum: Joe McDonald, Randy Leever, Dale Johnson and Fran Sheets were present at Joe and Pam's house. Matt Phillips was present. Board member, Pete Birkeland was absent.

Previous Board meeting minutes had been approved by email prior to the last newsletter distribution.

Financial Report was written and passed by the board.

**Unfinished Business:**

- The community bulletin board will be constructed near the site of the old bulletin board near the Gold Miner. Joe McDonald and Matt Phillips are in charge of the construction. Joe has an anonymous donor who is covering the costs.
- The Welcome signs are in process and the ECA will cover the costs as promised. The check is in the mail.
- Potential candidates for the one open position for the ECA board for next year are being asked if they will stand for election. We need someone who can hold the position of Secretary. Staggering the election of board members for 2012 will be important for the ECA.

**New Business:**

- The idea of encouraging wildlife-friendly living in Eldora was discussed at length. Joe will approach local biologists as to what would constitute, and how we might achieve, wildlife friendly fence designs, decreased light pollution, and the maintenance of wildlife corridors in Eldora. Right now huge fences are being constructed restricting the movement and sustainability of local flora and fauna. The Board unanimously approved a motion that the ECA commission a subcommittee to review options for enhancing wildlife-friendly conditions in Eldora.
- There was discussion, in order to reach out to new ECA members, that maybe the newsletter could run an opinion page. It was also proposed that electronic newsletters be distributed to nonmembers to encourage them to sign up with the ECA. Joe will discuss this with our newsletter editor, Diane Brown
- The Middle Boulder Creek Coalition website incurred \$135 in startup costs. The Sierra Club has offered to pay the \$10/month fees to maintain the website and is willing to split the initial costs. The ECA was asked to cover the other half of the start-up costs (\$65). To simplify the issue, Board members gave \$20 each from personal funds. The \$80 will be delivered to the MBCC leadership.
- The Board approved the suggestion to update the ECA membership on the progress of MBCC and ski area expansion proposals in the next newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fran Sheets  
Secretary

View the MBCC website at [www.middleboulder creek coalition.org](http://www.middleboulder creek coalition.org) to receive current information and to sign up for alerts.  
Many thanks to Kay Turnbaugh for getting the site up and running!

## Envisioning A More Wildlife-Friendly Eldora

### Fences

People erect fences for a variety of reasons. Some want to delineate property boundaries or prevent trespass. Others want to contain livestock and pets, enclose gardens or create privacy. It is possible to make fences more wildlife friendly and humane.

Barbed wire in particular is a major hazard for wildlife. Owls, ducks, songbirds, deer, elk, moose, bears, coyotes, foxes and bobcats may suffer permanent injury or a cruel death from entanglement on barbed wire. Many fail to see the fence, especially at night, or cannot clear the height. Pregnant deer, elk and moose have understandable difficulty clearing a high fence.

Barbed wire is used primarily for containing livestock. It can be made more wildlife friendly by having the top wire smooth instead of barbed; or use a wooden rail for the top strand. In known wildlife crossings the addition of a white plastic pipe sleeve on the top strand covers the barbs and makes the fence more visible at night when wildlife is likely to cross. Buck and rail fences are difficult if not impossible to clear unless the top rail is removed to make a gap in likely crossing areas.

The ideal wildlife-friendly fence has a maximum height of 40 inches with the bottom strand 16 inches from the ground so that smaller animals can scurry under the fence.



Payson Sheets

▲ A young moose gingerly negotiates a barbed wire fence.

**Barbed wire is without a doubt the cruelest form of fencing. I have personally observed the harm that barbed wire can inflict on animals. I saw a duck fly into barbed wire and fall to the ground. Once I came upon a deer carcass draped over barbed wire. And two of my dogs have had surgery to close gaping wounds in their chests from running into fallen barbed wire fences. Barbed wire no longer has a place in Eldora. Diane Brown**



◀ **This small shielded LED light at the Gold Miner Hotel is a good example of energy efficient and esthetically pleasing outdoor lighting.**



### Other Ways To Help Wildlife Survive:

- Lower driving speed, especially at night.
- Do not allow cats and dogs to harass wildlife. Free ranging cats and dogs often become part of the food chain.
- Encourage native vegetation instead of planting exotic nursery stock.
- Do not use pesticides or herbicides.

### Outdoor Lighting

All new buildings in Eldora are required by Boulder County regulations to have shielded outdoor lighting fixtures that minimize glare and light trespass onto other properties. Eldora, however, has many older structures with harsh, glaring and unshielded light fixtures. In addition to annoying human neighbors, these lights have a negative impact on wildlife, many of which are nocturnal creatures. Bright lights attract and disorient animals. This can upset their biological patterns and deter them from established foraging areas. Plants are also affected, as artificial light can prevent them from adjusting to seasonal variations. One of the best things we can do for the preservation of the night sky and wildlife values is to use lower wattage light bulbs with shields and turn off lights when they are not needed.

## Happy Valley Happenings



### Eldora Road Cleanup

On June 11<sup>th</sup> ten hardy souls and 1 dog showed up to help with the annual road cleanup. Many thanks to the volunteers who gave their time and energy:

Earl Bolton

Diane & Callie Brown

Jerry and Barbara Donahue

Laura Fisher

Kathleen Henningsen

Ron Leever

Jeanne McCleery

Lisa & Charli Parrish

Special thanks to Earl and Barbara

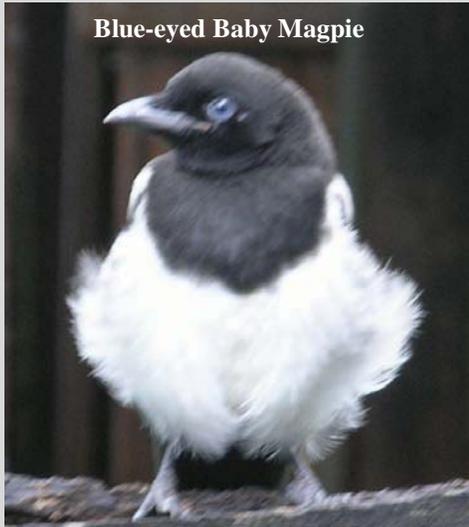
Bolton for hosting the event and to Ron

Leever for hauling the orange bags to the Nederland transfer station.

Sign by "Petecasso" Birkeland ►



Blue-eyed Baby Magpie



A memorial gathering was held recently at the Kyeshong Bridge honoring Dr. Doug Rockett, son of Carol Ann Rockett of Memphis, long-time summer resident of Eldora. Doug had lived in Eldora the past two years and was frequently seen bicycling up and down Eldorado Avenue. He passed away at his home in Eldora on June 4<sup>th</sup> and was buried in Tennessee on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Doug was a Doctor of Podiatry and an avid collector and sports fan. He is survived by his mother, Carol Ann, and a sister, Karen McFadden. His father, Dr. John F. Rockett, preceded him in death.

Those who wish may contribute to the Kyeshong Bridge Fund, LLC, c/o the Mutual of Omaha Bank in Nederland in Doug's memory.

ECA received a certified letter from Eldora Mountain Resort informing us that they intend to spray the pesticide Carbaryl to combat the mountain pine beetle at Eldora Mountain Resort and on certain limited Forest Service lands. The scheduled dates for the spraying are: June 24 to June 27 and July 5 to July 13, 2011. This will be the fifth year of the ski area spraying a chemical that has sickened some Eldora residents due to the toxic drift over our community. Carbaryl has also been found in water samples in Marysville Gulch.

### Brock's Eldora Weather Report for April 14 to June 25, 2011

The summer of 2011 looks as if it might be one of the most beautiful. April and May delivered a total of 62 inches of wet snow. Cool soil temperatures delayed germination of vegetable seeds and even the arrival of hummingbirds was delayed by two weeks. One of the delights of living in Eldora at 8,700' is that we get to enjoy spring in Boulder in May, but wildflowers and lilac explode into full glory in June and July. Today larkspur, golden banner and a host of golden dandelions decorate the east end of Eldora while the west end shows off a carpet of shooting stars. A variety of nature's own pasqueflowers in the hundreds bloomed for a full month on the south side of Arapaho Ranch. June 19-21 brought 1½ inches of much needed rain. The big question for Eldorans is will the naked aspens west of Marysville recover their leaves next spring? That area was stripped of leaves last summer in a horrific hailstorm.

## Happy Valley Happenings of Yesteryear

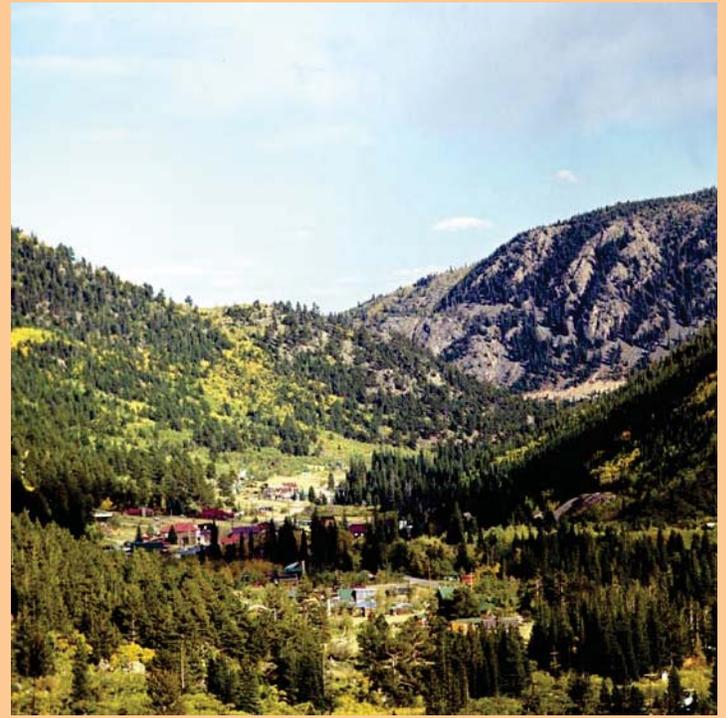
### The Nederland Bugle – June 1964

●Mr. and Mrs. Emery Olsen and their daughter Carolyn from Dragerton, Utah will leave Eldora to return home on July 1.

●Mr. and Mrs. John P. Warning from Chicago will be in their cabin in Eldora until August.

●Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Lovelace of Wichita Falls, Texas have been in their cabin in Eldora. Mr. Lovelace will be showing rocks at a rock show in Ft. Collins. Rock collecting is a hobby for Lovelace.

●Mrs. Jennie Lee Evans died May 11 in a Boulder nursing home. She resided for a number of years at the Arapaho Park Ranch between Nederland and Eldora. Born in Wisconsin in 1888, she came to Louisville with her parents at the age of 12. A son, Lee Evans of Denver, survives.



Eldora in 1968 by Gail Shickley

### The Nederland Bugle – August 1964

●Dr. and Mrs. John W. Billingsley from Iowa are now in Eldora. They are expecting Dr. and Mrs. John S. Billingsley soon.

●Ann Goolsby from San Francisco is with her mother, Mrs. George Goolsby, in Eldora.

●Mr. and Mrs. James W. Close and family from Wilmette, Illinois and their daughter Jean are now in Eldora. Jean went to Loretta Heights College in Denver last fall.

●Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Kanatzar from Jacksonville, Illinois are soon to bring Protima, an exchange student from India, to Eldora for a visit. The girl will live with the Kanatzars and attend high school in Jacksonville for a year.

●Miss Deborah Dewey, daughter of Mrs. Barbara Dewey, was crowned queen of Eldora for 1964-65 at the annual Hedgehog Ball held at the Gold Miner Hotel in Eldora August 1. Other contestants included Miss Connie Kanatzar, Miss Phyllis Kanatzar, Miss Cindy Dowdy, Mrs. Lois Kemp, Mrs. Frandee Bare and Mrs. Alan Cross.

### The Nederland Bugle – May 1967

●Mrs. Carolyn Hale was awarded the contract to operate the new Eldora Rural Branch of the Nederland Post Office. Her bid was the lower of two submitted. Mrs. Hale will operate the branch in her home a block up the hill from the Gold Miner Hotel. The branch will open June 1 and operate until September 30. Mail will be addressed as in the past, Eldora 80437. Mrs. Hale is the daughter of the Emery Olsens, long-time Eldora property owners. Her husband, Thomas, is a grandson of Mrs. Virginia Hale, well-known summer resident of Fourth of July Canyon. Mrs. Clara Worthington has been postmaster at Eldora for 14 years. The position was abolished effective May 19.

●Helen and Jack Langley have moved back to Eldora, where they have opened their summer home.

●Purchase of a 146 acre-foot reservoir above Eldora has been consummated by the City of Boulder. Everett Long of Boulder sold the facility and accompanying water rights for \$300 per acre-foot. Based on the estimated capacity, the cost to the city was figured at \$43,800. The water rights have Reservoir Priority No. 37, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series, dating back to July 25, 1940.

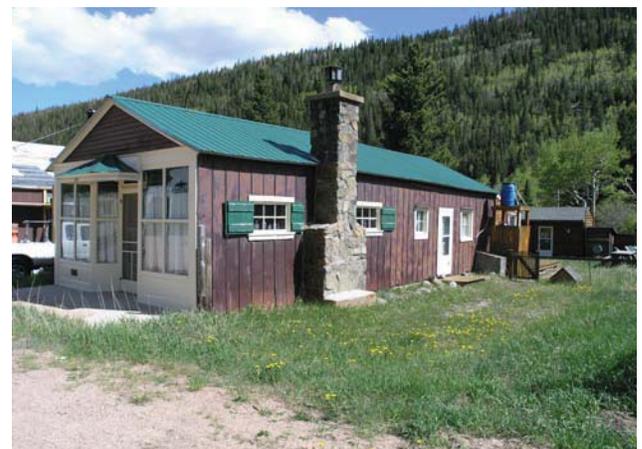
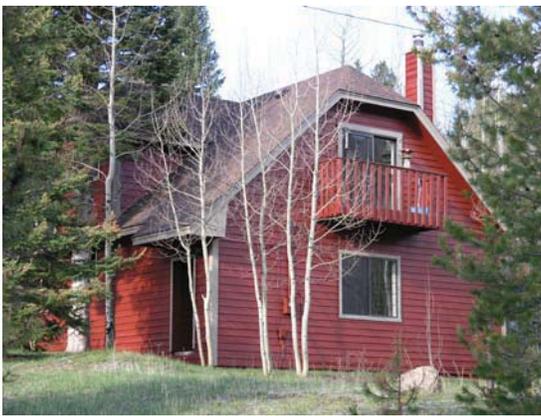
The lake, known as Skyscraper Reservoir, is on the south fork of Middle Boulder Creek. It is fed by Woodland and another creek. What effect, if any, the city's acquisition will have on the natural stream flow of Middle Boulder through Eldora and Nederland was not stated at the time of purchase.

## The July 2010 Hailstorm: One Year Later



From the Arapaho Ranch hail damage is visible in the brown coloration of conifers from the top of Tennessee Mountain over to the top of Spencer Mountain. Many conifers lost a large percentage of foliage, but are still alive. Aspen are also recovering, although some aspen groves appear to be dead. Shrubs in the hail zone such as willow, chokecherry, maple, wax currant, twinberry, elderberry and dwarf juniper sustained heavy damages, diminishing wildlife food and habitat resources.

Hailstorms equal home improvements. Around Eldora new roofs, siding and other repairs have been occurring at an unprecedented rate, especially for those with home insurance.



## FIRE AND FIRE-CAUSING ACTIVITIES

During times of drought, exceptionally low relative humidity, high winds and dry forest conditions, restrictions are needed to protect forest users, structures and natural resources from the increased potential for dangerous wildland fires. The following guidelines apply:

- Do not build, maintain, attend or use a fire, campfire or charcoal-burning device.
- Do not smoke outside of a cleared area.
- Do not operate internal combustion power tools, use welding equipment or torches with open flames, or operate combustion engines without spark-arresting devices in effective working order.
- Do not discharge firearms, except in taking game in accordance with Colorado hunting laws.
- Fireworks are prohibited in the national forests at all times.



We drove over to watch the forest fire in a two-horse spring wagon driven by the owner of the livery stable, Mr. Lilly. A forest fire is just as terrifying as pictured, for I saw it at close range. Mabel Smith Billingsley 1911



Eldora's fire season got off to an early start on the evening of June 1 when a barn at the east end of the Arapaho Ranch was engulfed in flames. The barn was a complete loss along with 100 bales of hay and several trees. Thankfully neither people nor horses were in harm's way. Spontaneous combustion of the hay was determined to be the cause.



Fifty-mile square forest fire west of Eldora  
September 1900  
Photo by W. C. Spratt (Pierson Collection)



## Fish Tales



▲ Harold Lilly, the young son of John Lilly  
Harold Lilly was Barbara Lilly Bolton's father.

The trout fishing was real good in the creek in summer and in the beaver dams and Peterson's Lake in the winter. Most of our meat was wild game from the hills – grouse, squirrels, rabbits and wild pigeon. The pigeons were supposed to be extinct about forty years ago, but I saw one in 1942.

In the early days Lost Lake was loaded with big trout. No small ones. The big ones wouldn't take bait as they lived on the small ones. So Jay Rowley and Sullivan fixed that with a 50-pound box of dynamite. It took years before Lost Lake afforded good fishing again.

Jack Langley

I remember sitting on the bench in front of the store on Saturday mornings, my rod, creel and boots beside me. I usually got there about 8 AM when it opened - to impress the girl of that summer with my fishing prowess (I nearly always caught my limit having started about 5 AM). My dad related a morning when he witnessed a couple of weekend fishermen come in for bait. They saw my wet creel and the sloppily dressed, poorly equipped teenager slouched on the bench. They asked if the fishing was good. Trying to sound very grown up I replied, "Yep." "Well," they asked, "Did you get anything? We sure didn't." I replied, "Got my limit." and proceeded to open my creel. According to Dad their mouths fell open.

Tom Richards

## Greeley Tribune June 5, 1907

In Eldora the fishing is as good or better than most of the streams this side of the range. Although the water is still very high, and probably will be for two or three weeks yet, the young son of John Lilly, the Eldora livery man, caught nine of fair size on Decoration Day, and that was only out three hours. Fishing is best either above or below town in the beaver dams. Some good-size fellows are being caught in the reservoir at Nederland a few miles away, where the Central Colorado Power Company has the highest dam in the state. Good fish are caught every year in North Boulder Creek, starting at the Blue Bird Mine, a few miles east of Eldora, and whipping it clear to the falls, a couple of miles north of Eldora. Later in the season the fishing is fine higher up, nearer the base of the mountains, in some of the lakes.

There are no "cottages" for rent, such as are known at Manitou, Estes Park and other higher priced resorts. The houses are cabins, pure and simple, former homes of the mining population of several years ago. They are of pine logs, or native lumber, lined with building paper, and have rain-tight roofs, are furnished plainly, primitive, but comfortable. There are no bedbugs.

## Night Fishing by Tom Richards

My uncle Erling Hansen was a very energetic man, a jack of all trades who just had to be doing something all the time. He loved mountain climbing and was an avid fisherman which means his tackle went with him on most of his hikes. I believe Erling has fished nearly every stream and lake from Central City on the south to Ward on the north, to the Continental Divide on the west and to Boulder on the east (whether it was fenced or not).

Erling took me out several times showing me his favorite "holes" in the streams flowing down from above Hessie and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Campgrounds. During these trips I learned that Uncle Erling also had a hot temper and was somewhat accident-prone (that is saying it mildly)....

When I was 12 years old, Erling asked me if I would like to go night fishing with him in the Eldora stream. He said it could be a little dangerous since it was illegal which really whetted my appetite to go. We used flashlights to get to the stream near the cabin. Erling positioned me on the bank by a large quiet pool. After showing me what to do, he said he was going upstream a little way to fish. He admonished me to not to fall in, be very careful, be quiet and again, not to fall in.

Soon I saw his light flash on maybe 100 feet upstream. I continued fishing, already becoming a bit bored. Suddenly there was a great prolonged shout from upstream followed by a strangled scream and a large splash. This was followed by a great volume of profanity. A few seconds later Erling's flashlight, still lit, came bobbing down the stream. Erling never mentioned night fishing to me after that.

## The Billingsleys: The Family That Fishes Together Stays Together

\$3.00      1927      No. 13067

STATE OF COLORADO  
DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH  
NON-RESIDENT FISHING LICENSE

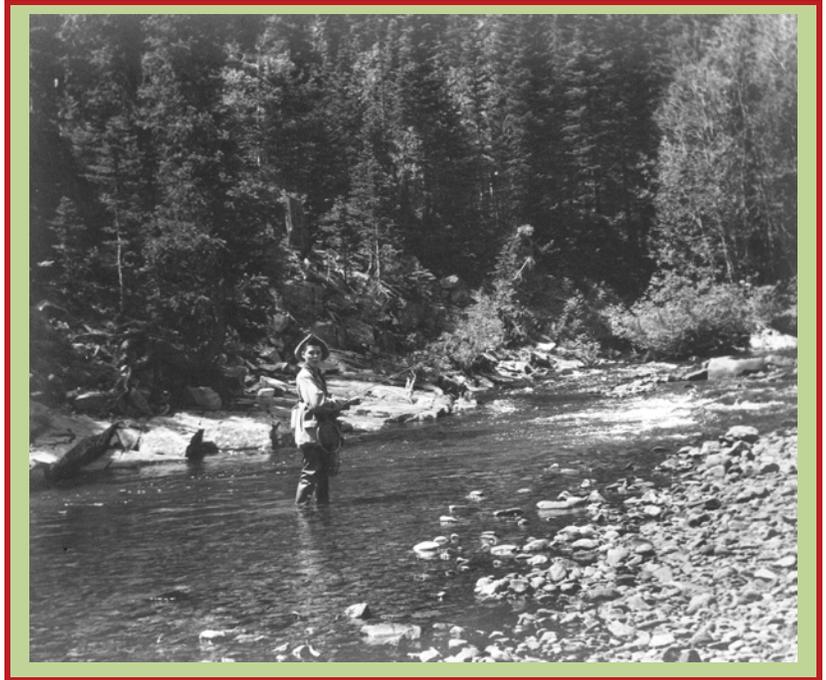
This certifies that O.E. Smith  
whose signature appears hereon and who represents himself to be a  
resident of Indiana State of Indiana  
is entitled to fish in the State of Colorado, in conformity with law,  
during the season of 1927.

This license is not good after December 31, 1927, is not transferable,  
and does not give any protection except to the person to whom issued  
and herein named and while in his actual possession.

Date: 7/27 1927  
Issued by: W. H. Smith  
At: Eldora, Colo. R. S. Parvin  
Commissioner.

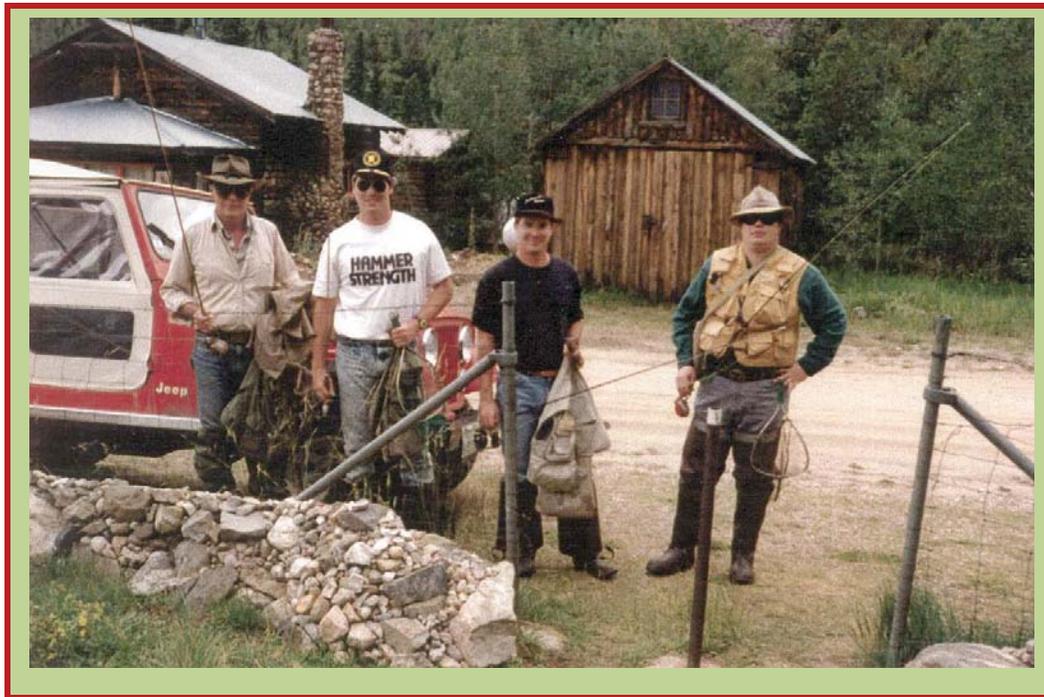
DESCRIPTION OF LICENSEE:  
Age 73 Height 5-10 1/2 Weight 130 Sex Male  
Color of eyes Brown Color of hair Gray  
O.E. Smith  
Signature of Licensee.

This License does not authorize transportation or sale.  
Upon demand of any officer authorized to make such demand this  
License must be immediately produced and an opportunity afforded such  
officer to inspect and copy the same.  
No fee is required for shipments of fish within the State, but  
shipment must bear conspicuously attached (Domestic Certificate,  
Form 13).  
For information concerning fees for Transportation Permits, which  
are required for shipments out of the State, communicate with  
R. C. PARVIN,  
Game and Fish Commissioner, State Capitol, Denver, Colo.

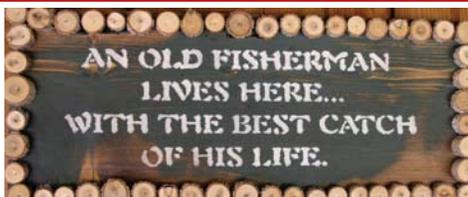


The Smith-Billingsley families have been fishing in Eldora for five generations. The fishing license pictured above was O. E. Smith's, dated July 27, 1927. He was John S. Billingsley's grandfather. Smith's daughters Blanche and Mabel fished, too, along with Mabel's husband, Dr. John W. Billingsley.

▲ In 1942 Don Kemp took this picture of 13-year old John S. Billingsley fishing in Middle Boulder Creek. Joe Lasinsky taught young John to fish.



Cleo Billingsley, mother of Joe, Jim, and John, has a fishing license in her name dated 1950, probably her only one, because she was always home with a baby boy! John S. Billingsley's many licenses are kept at the cabin. On the walls of the cabin are numerous pictures of family fishermen, several showing the first fish that they ever caught. Grandchildren Tanner, Shelby, Sam and Paige are being taught to fish by their dads Jim and Joe.



▲ John S. Billingsley and his sons Joe, Jim and John E. Billingsley are about to leave their cabin (formerly the Kemp cabin) on Klondyke Avenue to try their luck at angling in the stream.

## The Bailey Mill Dam

John H. Kemp built the Bailey Mill Dam in the summer of 1899. This photo of the construction of the dam was taken by W. C. (Jack) Spratt and shows left to right: C. M. Stapp (owner of a store in Eldora), Carl Olsen, Frank McGraw; middle group is unidentified; Olaf Olsen (next to John H. Kemp at far right) built the flume. Olaf and Carl Olsen built and lived in Texanois cabin in Eldora.



The big open wooden flume that ran from the Fourth of July Dam to the Bailey Mill was fun to wade in if the water was running. - Lee S. Evans



◀ John H. Kemp, father of Don Kemp, is standing on the apron of the dam in this photo, watching as water flows over it. Water to turn the 100 horse-power Pelton turbine which activated the Bailey Mill machinery was drawn from this log cribbing dam 1200 feet up the creek west of the mill and carried there in a wooden flume to the penstock above the mill. Webster: penstock = a gate or sluice used in controlling the flow of water  
cribbing = a framework of wooden or metal bars for support or strengthening

The Bailey Mill Dam was later called the Fourth of July Dam or Second Dam and for many years was a popular place to picnic and enjoy the stream. When Henry Toll fenced the property, access was by trespass only. After the US Forest Service purchased the property in 1996 it once again was open to the public. Remnants of the old dam are still obvious today, but not many know its history. Today this site is just a short distance from the proposed ski area expansion down to Middle Boulder Creek.

**The Bailey Mill Dam** in Autumn 2010▶  
Photo by Diane J. Brown

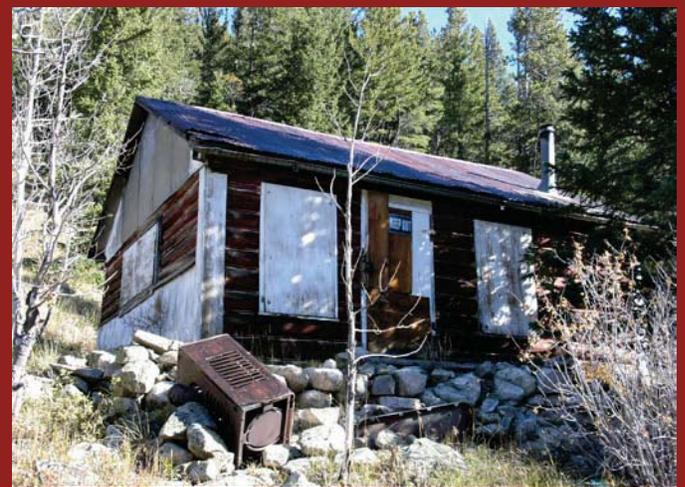
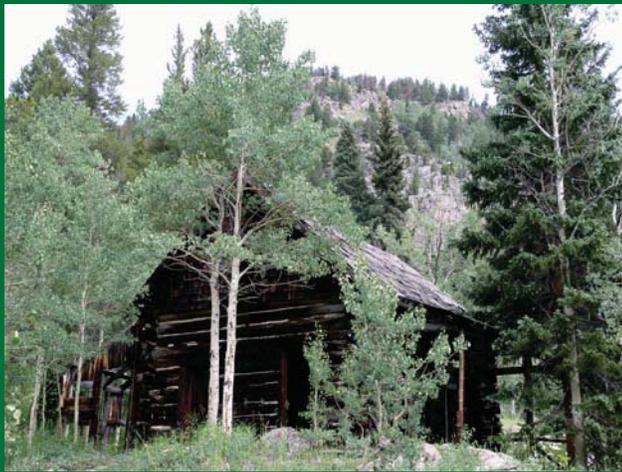


## Hessie Townsite



Isabel Hansen Cross once told me that along the east side of the creek north of the bridge at Hessie are the foundations of the old Hessie schoolhouse, now quite overgrown with vegetation. – Diane J. Brown

### Cabins still standing in the Hessie area today:



Two miles west of Eldora, Capt. J. H. Davis laid out a small townsite in the hollow near the foot of Chittenden Mountain and just east of the confluence of the North Fork with Middle Boulder. This he named Hessie, in honor of his wife. Here were a post office, one or two stores, a schoolhouse, and perhaps a dozen cabins. . The Colorado State Business Directory for 1901 and 1902 gave the camp a population of eighty, including a boarding house, two machinists, a justice of the peace, and a postmaster. Quigley and Company were listed as operating a saw mill. “Silver, Gold and Black Iron” by Donald C. Kemp

## Jesse B. (Jay) Rowley – Mountain Man

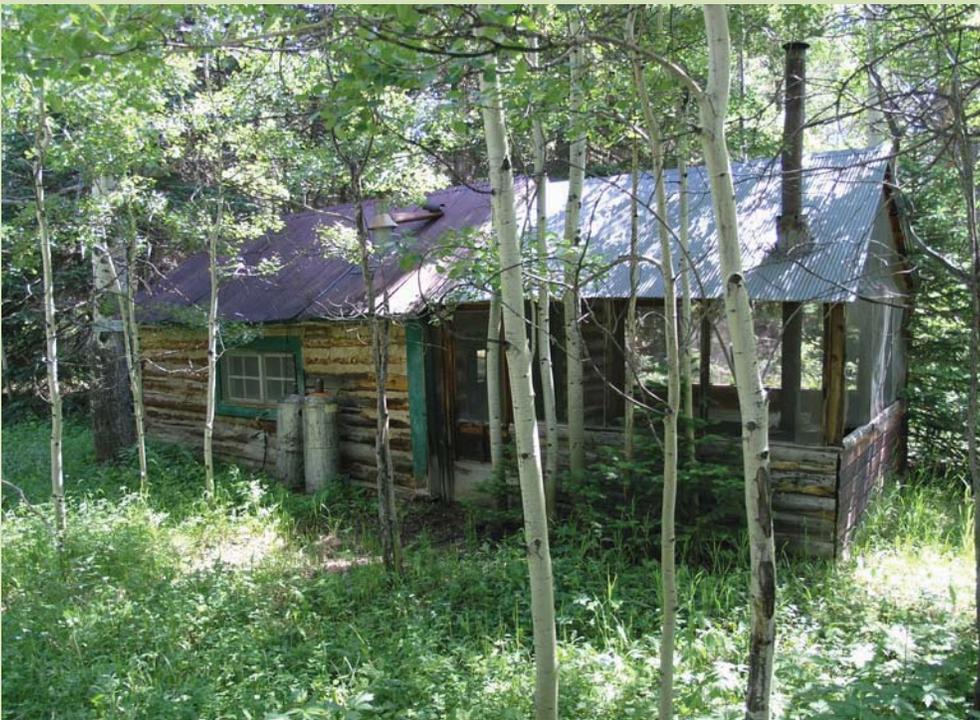


Jay Rowley and Jack Gilfillan in 1937 at the Kemp cabin – The headline reads “State has money to pay full monthly pensions for rest of year.” Photo by Donald C. Kemp

**Jesse B. (Jay) Rowley** was in the Eldora region in the late 1880s and stayed throughout the boom. He prospected throughout Boulder County, chiefly in the Grand Island District, where he located the Delaware and other prospects on Spencer Mountain. In the Lost Lake area he staked out the Shirley, X-Ray, Amy Paul and others. “Happy Valley: A Promoter’s Paradise” by Don Kemp and John Langley

Jay Rowley squatted on the southwest corner of the forty acre tract that the Power Company had purchased from the Tucker family. He built a small cabin, a fur cache building and a root cellar. Jay mined and trapped in the area, and this became his winter headquarters. I have maintained the buildings, and they still stand on the land that is now part of Arapaho Ranch. - Lee S. Evans “From Happy Valley to the Mountaintop”

◀One of Jay’s cabins still stands on the Arapaho Ranch



After he built his winter cabin, Jay established a network of cabins, each about two to four miles from one of the other cabins. These cabins served as stopover places on his trap line. The first stopover point was with the Sullivan brothers who lived in the cabin at the junction of the Hessie and North Fork roads. The other four stopovers were in cabins that Jay “appropriated,” although it is possible that Jay built one of them.

Lee S. Evans

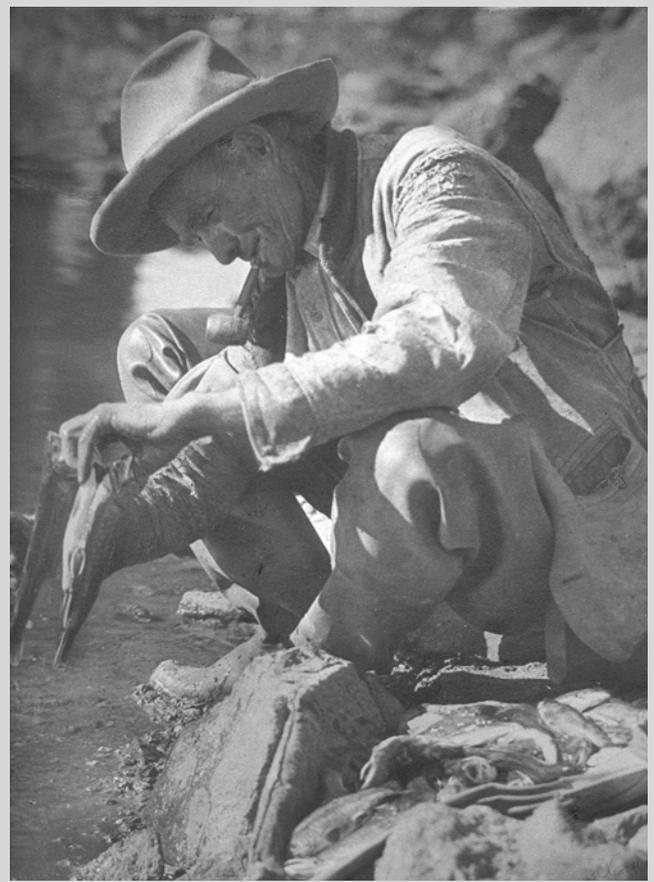


◀ This cabin at the Hessie turnoff was the Sullivan brothers' cabin that Jay used. It is also known as the Geyser cabin, built in 1878.  
Photo by Diane Brown

In the fall Jay would set in a store of firewood, a few groceries and other necessities in each of the cabins. The first cabin west of Hessie was at Lost Lake. Then he walked and snowshoed down into South Fork and over Woodland Mountain to a cabin located where the old log chute and sawmill were on Woodland Creek. - Lee S. Evans

The next stopover was the cabin at Jasper Lake, which necessitated going over or around the mountain between Woodland and Jasper Creek. After the Jasper cabin the trap line went up and over Chittenden Mountain and dropped down to the cabin in North Fork. This cabin was by a small pond on the south side of the road – an idyllic setting with a nice spring a few steps from the cabin. Jay used this cabin much of the summer, and it furnished a base for his fishing jaunts to the high lakes.

In later years Jay did not follow the full trap line, which was along a rigorous and dangerous trail. Jay scratched out a meager living as a “mountain man.” He grew potatoes and a few root crops at his winter cabin and made huckleberry jam and wine. He admitted eating a few grouse, but to my knowledge he never hunted deer or elk. He stocked fish in some of the remote lakes. He and the Sullivan brothers carried fish in buckets from Woodland Creek over the ridge on the west to stock Betty Lake for the first time. And he regularly watched and talked about the pair of wolves on Caribou Flats, but I do not think he ever tried to shoot or trap them. Several times I saw the big almost black wolf which Jay said was probably the male. - Lee S. Evans



▲ Jay Rowley eviscerates a fish at Jasper Lake in the early 1920s.  
Photo by Donald C. Kemp

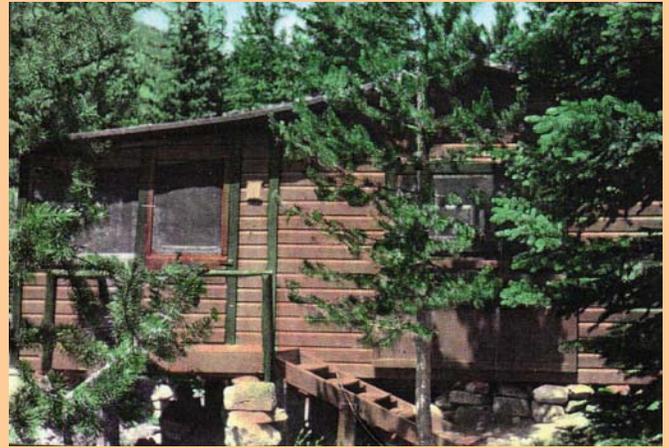


Jay was pretty secretive about where the biggest fish were or about the location of the best berry patches – but I did not tell him where my best spots were either! How overwhelmed Jay would be today to see his unspoiled high country – now the most heavily used “wilderness” area in our nation. - Lee S. Evans

## The Hale Cabin – Fourth of July Canyon By Billie Hale Mues and Linell Mues Wohlers



Virginia and Delmar Hale in the early 1940s



The Hale Cabin at 3450 Fourth of July Road  
Also affectionately called “The Old Hen’s Roost”

The Delmar and Virginia Hale Family arrived in Fourth of July Canyon as a result of Denver East High School teacher, Ralph Pitts, who was acquainted with their son Claude through his study hall class. Claude was invited to come work for Mr. Pitts at his mountain cabin during the summer of 1935. The Hale parents, with daughter Billie, (five years old at the time) drove Claude up from Denver to the Pitts place, which, for a time, had been a boys’ camp. Reportedly Ralph Pitts had come years before to Colorado from Boston to recover from tuberculosis, and credited the Rocky Mountains with helping restore his health. That summer Claude chopped wood and did other chores for the Pitts family while his parents and sisters Wauna and Billie camped in a tent for two weeks. Young Claude impressed Mr. Pitts who took him on hikes to learn about the local flora and fauna. The Hales admired Mr. and Mrs. Pitts and their way of life. The Hales also became friends with Sandy and Ruth Buchan who were building their cabin on the hillside above “The Falls” that summer. The Hale family was so impressed with the valley that in 1936, Virginia and daughters Wauna and Billie stayed for two months at the Pitts’ cabin, caretaking and enjoying the place in the absence of the Pitts family that summer, with Del joining them on weekends. In the summer of 1937, they rented the cabin “Roadside” where Billie recalls their cat, Bootsie, let loose a mouse for her kittens to catch. Billie also remembers setting up a roadside stand, attempting to sell her mother’s cookies to passers-by. Traffic being what it was back then, she doesn’t remember making many sales. Then in 1938 they rented “Riverside” which she remembers as wet and full of mosquitoes.



Billie and Wauna Hale  
around the time the cabin was built

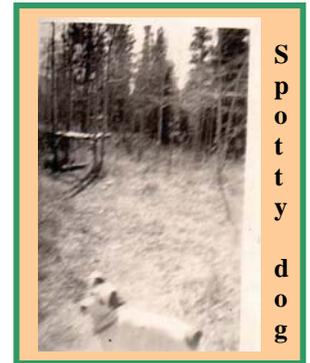
Good North Fork Neighbors 1978:  
Ted Rice, Virginia Hale, Chandos Rice and Ruth Buchan



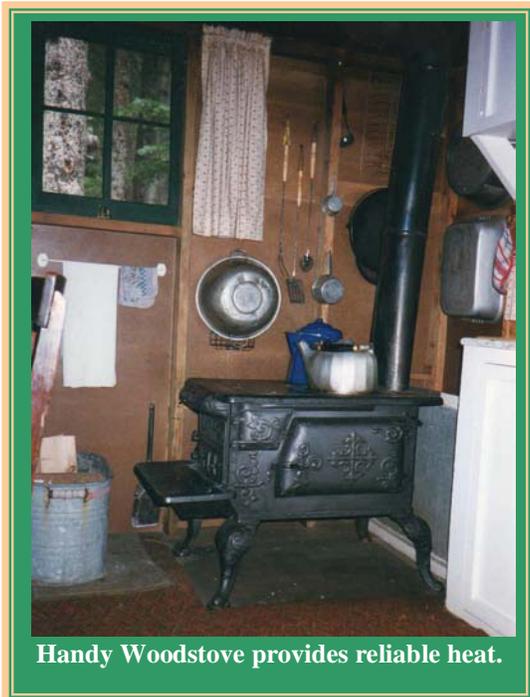
By this time, Delmar Hale was actively looking for property to purchase in the valley and ended up acquiring ten acres in the northwest portion of the Ruth Placer from A.C. Bailey. Among the sale papers is a copy of the original U.S. patent on the land, signed by Theodore Roosevelt. The plat, which had been drawn up in 1905, placed the property in the Grand Island Mining District of Boulder County. The property taxes at the time the cabin was being built were \$4.19.

Billie recalls that at that time the area was still seeing the effects of a fairly recent forest fire, so the trees were young and short and the view was far-reaching, all the way down to a gate across the road for keeping cattle contained, at approximately the current location of the old Rademacher's pond. A sign was posted to "Keep Gate Closed" because of all the ranging animals in the area at the time. Cattle grazed much of it and the Sheep Trail, mostly utilized by Basque gypsy-type shepherders and their herds, crossed the road a little above the gate. Billie remembers they would hear a sheep bell and soon after would see a good sized herd with two dogs and shepherds coming down the trail, who would stay in what is now known as the Old Barn. Her family refused requests to water the sheep in the stream behind the cabin, not wanting their water source to be contaminated. Spotty, the family dog, had to be kept inside to prevent altercations with the fierce sheep dogs.

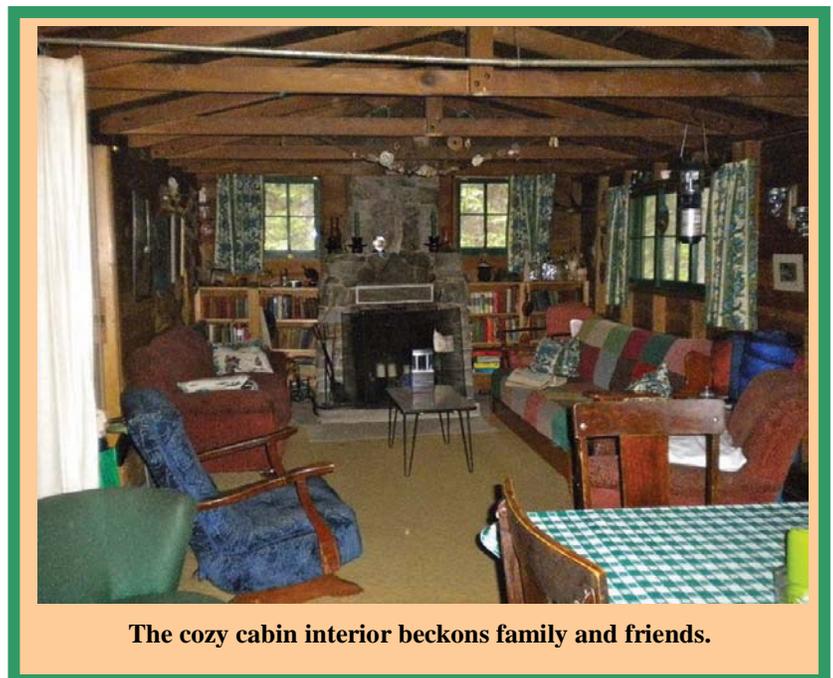
After the sale, Del and Virginia walked from corner to corner, marking rocks every 30-50 feet with paint to identify the property line, a practice which has been maintained over the years. During the summer of 1939 they built the main cabin structure, which consisted of one room, using lumber and supplies Del had planned and ordered down to the last nail. Billie remembers hearing that the third grade wood was so green and crooked that Virginia would lean heavily into the boards in an attempt to straighten them enough for Del to pound in the nails. The "Handy" brand cast-iron woodstove which still heats the cabin today was purchased for \$5 that year, delivery included.



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Handy Woodstove provides reliable heat.



The cozy cabin interior beckons family and friends.

A wooden box with screened shelving was built over the stream for refrigeration of food. Unfortunately with this arrangement a bear could easily lift open the box door and enjoy the contents. The Hales found the empty paper milk cartons with the wrong end ripped open and could imagine the bears tipping them back, drinking the milk human-style. They would also find broken eggs all the way up the hill in the get-away path of the bear who, of course, always took the bacon with him, too. Eventually they would be forced to get an indoor icebox. Water was always carried in from the stream until a pump and sink were installed many years later.

In 1940 the screened-in porch was added on and the outhouse, which the previous year had merely been a vault with a seat built over it and tablecloth curtain hanging around it for privacy, became a finished structure. In the meadow below the cabin were the remains of what had been a working wood mill prior to their purchase. Resident packrats from the mill roamed the area and hung on the porch screens. Billie recalls that they smelled terrible and the family would have to whack the inside of the screen with a broom at night to dislodge them. They also tended to chew the laces and any shoes carelessly left by visitors tenting outside the cabin. Actual structural remains of the mill and its workings were visible in the meadow along with more water than now exists in the area. Bits of the old mill continue to be exposed to this day.

An old miner's cabin, with most of the wood intact was located on the property a short distance up the mountain from the present cabin location. Unfortunately most of it disappeared one year before Del could make use of any of the parts.

During the weekdays Del would work in Denver as an insurance salesman for Prudential and on weekends and vacations he would join Virginia and Billie where they would enjoy hiking all over the area, fishing and learning about plants and wildlife. For many years they were joined by the family dog, Spotty and cat Bootsie and her perennial kittens, and later a cat named Solly. By the time the cabin was built, son Claude had joined the Navy and daughter Wauna was an older teen working in Denver, joining the family when she could.

It should be noted that the cabin as it was back then was intended to be a temporary dwelling. Del had plans for building a better more permanent structure further up the mountain. He had selected a stand of wood to use and had the road surveyed in anticipation of building another cabin. Sadly he became progressively debilitated with a mysterious ailment and complications from surgery, which eventually took his life in 1945.

In the years that followed, Virginia would spend the entire summer at the cabin, maintaining the home they had built together. Getting in wood, cooking for crowds of guests and workers, baking bread in the old woodstove, tarring the roof, doing laundry in a ringer tub under the cabin fed by the stream, picking berries to make jams and jellies and various quilting and sewing projects always occupied her time. Weekends always involved capacity crowds of "company" which influenced her to build on an addition. With the help of friends, two more rooms were added on, a living room and bedroom with rock fireplace completing the addition. Work was completed in 1958, around the time that Billie, who'd been widowed young, was marrying husband Leonard Mues.

An attorney in Denver, Leonard was able to attend to some much needed legal work including acquisition of water rights to the stream behind the cabin, and installation of survey markers. Over the years he would plan, head up and maintain many improvements to the property including a shed, a new outside porch and eventually a steel roof. With Leonard donating the legal work necessary, he and Billie, along with Kippen Kelly, Condrons, Steinachers, Dietzes, and others, formed the North Fork Council in 1977, for the purpose of protecting and preserving the area and addressing community concerns.

Over the years, Virginia would be visited by hundreds of visitors and acquire the title of "The Bear Lady" because of several close encounters. Interacting with her hummingbirds and other birds, chipmunks, ground squirrels, porcupines, skunks, raccoons, martens, and the occasional deer or bear, (some of which she had names for) she was completely at home with wildlife.

The cabin was a special place for all the family over the years—Claude and Grace Hale, their children "Skip," Janet, and their families, Wauna and Jack Smith, their children Del, Cathy and their families, and Billie and Leonard Mues, their children Linell, Debbie and Marla, and their families, as well as a host of friends and relatives.

Virginia would spend all of her summers at the cabin up through her mid-eighties when health would necessitate a move to California to live with Billie and Leonard until her death in 1996. Since then children and grandchildren have enjoyed the rich heritage of Delmar and Virginia by cherishing the summer home they built and enjoying the same rocks and trees and trails that they once roamed.

## The Fourth of July Mine

In 1944 the Fourth of July Mine shafthouse was still standing, but it had already begun to collapse from exposure to extreme elements and lack of maintenance. ►  
Photo by Muriel Wolle

▼ "Cloudscape"  
Looking east from Fourth of July Mine  
Photo taken circa 1942 by Donald C. Kemp



Like so many other mines the 4<sup>th</sup> of July tunnel was driven several thousand feet on the strength of the values supposed to come out of the shaft way up on the side of Arapaho Peak. Old Bob Stewart, the hermit prospector that lived in a tiny cabin at the head of Strawberry Creek, told me how this mine was salted. Since he lived alone miles from anyone else, he was seldom seen, except when he came to town for flour, beans and chewing tobacco; also to get drunk. Bob would go to Caribou Mine and pick out ore from the dump and pack it to the shafthouse. Some trips were made to the Boernite Mine northwest of Caribou. Each trip was a day's work. After a time there was quite a nice pile of good ore supposedly from this shaft. Prospective stock holders were shown the ore, but the mine was full of water, so they couldn't see where it came from. This hog wash must have worked pretty well, as the 4<sup>th</sup> worked several years on the strength of it. – Jack Langley

The Fourth of July Shafthouse, located above timberline at the foot of Arapaho Peak, was built of huge logs, solidly anchored to withstand the terrific blizzards prevalent at that altitude. Inside the shafthouse was a horse whim which powered the hoist and a blacksmith shop. The shaft had been sunk to a depth of two hundred feet. Close to the shafthouse was a log structure which served as boarding house and sleeping quarters for the crew. The stable for the whim horse was a lean-to adjoining the north side of the bunkhouse. A narrow wagon road zigzagged and doubled back and forth as it threaded its tortuous upward course from the canyon floor of the North Fork along the steep mountain slope for a distance of nearly three miles to the mine. Its trace, now only a trail, is still used by hikers. It continues past the old mine (long since bereft of both buildings and logs) as Boulder County's share of a road plan to connect Boulder with Grand County in Middle Park. Boulder County constructed its section, as per agreement, to the summit of Arapaho Pass. But the Middle Park section never materialized. At the summit of the Pass, two trails take off and plunge westward down steep pitches. One leads to Monarch Lake via Arapaho Creek Canyon; the other bears southwest down to Strawberry Creek, Ranch Creek, and finally emerges into Middle Park a few miles south of Granby.

The Fourth of July property stood idle for over twenty years. Before closing down, it had been mined through a tunnel whose portal was in the bottom of a canyon, about five hundred feet directly below the shafthouse location. The site was a semicircular valley at the headwaters of the North Fork, formed by the beetling craggy north face of Mount Neva, and the somewhat less steep timbered slope of Arapaho. The tunnel was begun in the late 1870s with the idea of driving the bore to cut the big vein already described.

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

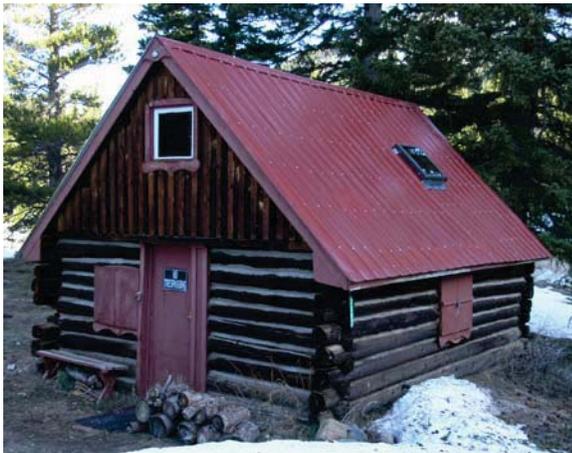
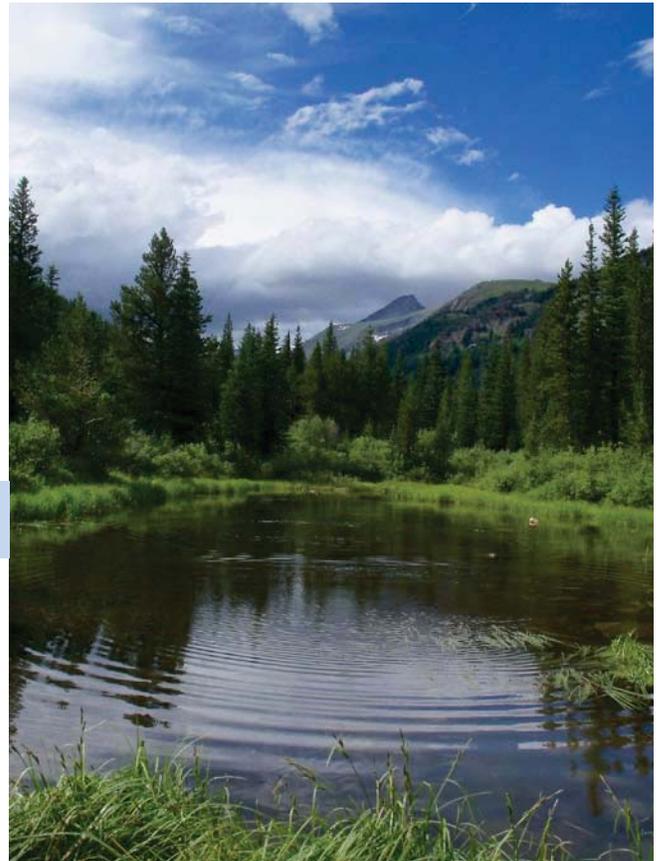
## The Fourth of July Valley

The North Fork Valley from Caribou Flats in 1968 – by Gail Shickley ►

The Fourth of July Road as it looked in the 1930s ▼



▲ Kemp Falls – Photo by A. M. Thomas circa 1900  
These falls were also known as Denver Falls or Hellem Falls.



◀ Rademacher barn and pond ▲  
Jay Rowley once had a cabin at this pond.  
Today moose frequent it! Barn photo by Diane Brown  
Pond Photo by Linell Wohlers

## The Fourth of July Valley

The North Fork of Middle Boulder Creek is a rushing mountain brook, fed by perennial snowfields in the shelter of the Continental Divide. Too small for trout in its reaches above timberline, the North Fork tumbles over rust-brown boulders spackled with dipper droppings. The creek and its tributary streams are dependable sources of water even in dry years, although deeply buried by snow in winter and spring.

“The Fourth of July Valley”

By James B. Benedict

We used to go up the North Fork quite often in the summer looking for huckleberries, raspberries, and black currants. I remember climbing over the saw dust piles from the old saw mills on the south side of the creek (the black currants were more plentiful around the sawdust piles). It was also customary to cut down a dead tree along the road and take it home to be cut up for winter firewood. - Charlie Hornback



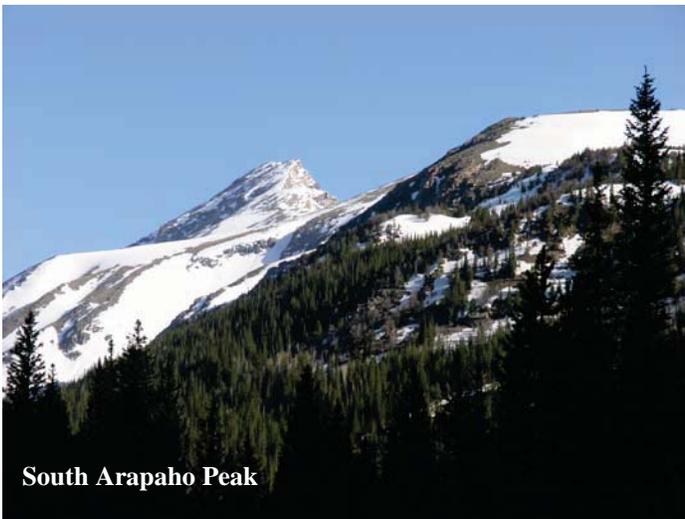
June 3, 2011

All Photos by  
Diane J. Brown

This issue of the Eldora High Country is dedicated to Susan B. Kent, who was swept away by an avalanche as she and several companions traversed a snowfield on the southwest slope of South Arapaho Peak in 1977. She was 21 years old and had just graduated from CU two days before with a degree in molecular biology. Her ashes were scattered on a knoll above Caribou with a panoramic view of South Arapaho Peak and the Divide. The Kent family owns Pine Shadow cabin in Eldora.



The North Fork of the Middle Boulder, a noisy, tumbling, narrow stream, joins its sister, the South Fork, about two and one-half miles west of Eldora. The North Fork has its origin in the springs and melting snow drifts of the Divide at the foot of Arapaho Peak and Mount Neva, and the north end of Chittenden Mountain. “Happy Valley: A Promoter’s Paradise” by Donald C. Kemp and John R. Langley -

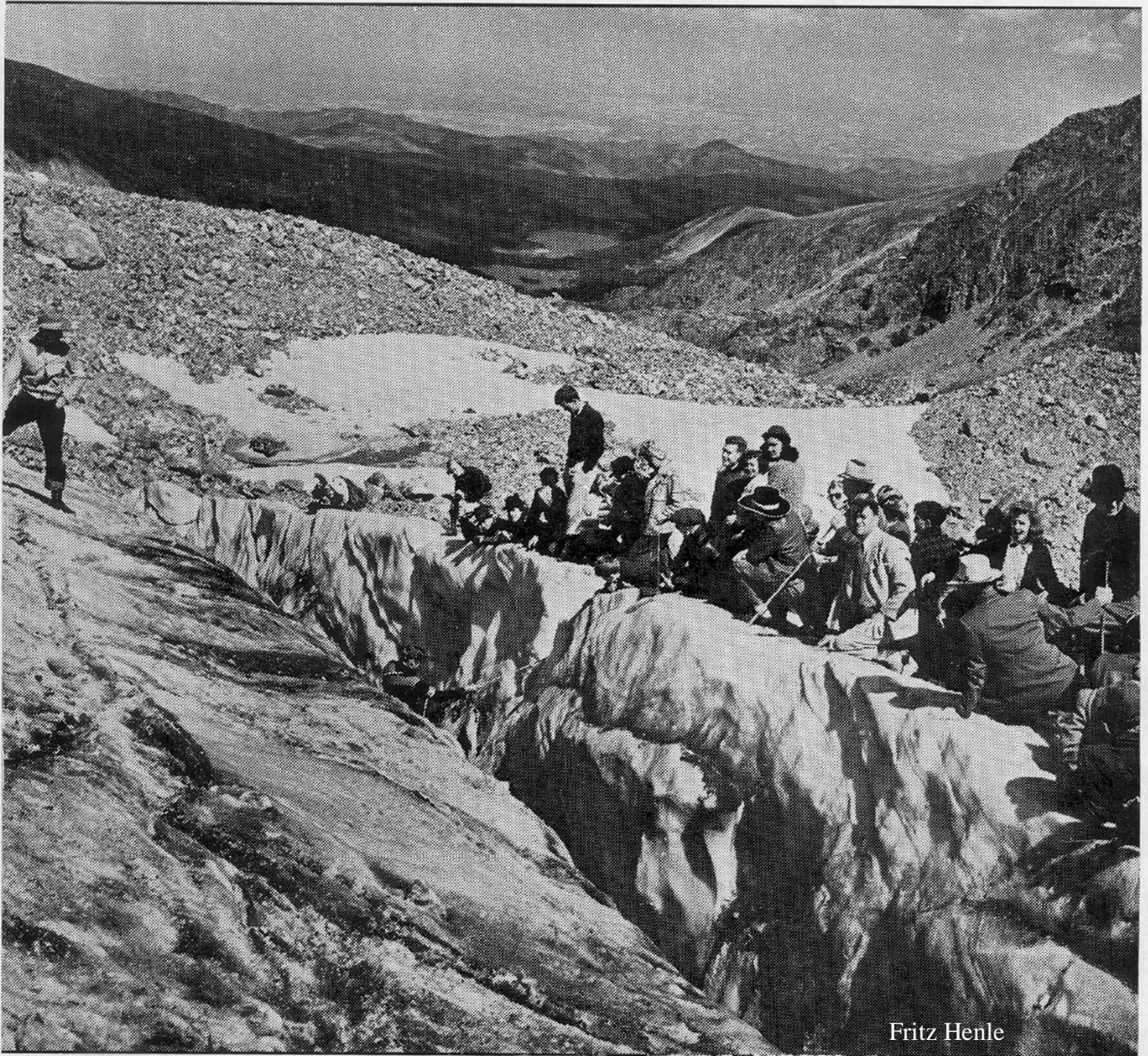


South Arapaho Peak



Dave Hallock atop a boiler at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Mine in 1980 ▲

# SOUVENIR FOLDER



Fritz Henle

*Thirteenth Annual*  
**ARAPAHO GLACIER HIKE**  
**BOULDER, COLORADO**

Sponsored by the Boulder Chamber of Commerce

**AUGUST 12, 1951**

## The Arapaho Glacier Hike



**Arapaho Glacier Panorama taken in 2006 by Jesse Varner**

The famous Arapaho Glacier is located about 28 miles west of Boulder. It is the largest glacier in the state. In 1906 the city of Boulder purchased a chain of lakes lying at the foot of the Arapaho peaks, all above 10,000 feet elevation. Later the city purchased from the government 2,300 acres of land on either side of the stream between the lakes and the intake reservoir two or three miles below. Then in 1919 a bill was passed in Congress permitting the city to buy out of the Colorado National Forest (now Roosevelt National Forest) 3,695 acres of land including the Arapaho Glacier and the entire Arapaho watershed. As a result, today it is thought that Boulder is the only city in the U. S. actually owning a glacier as the source of its water supply. Thus the water supply of Boulder is as pure and as soft as nature can make it.

The Glacier Hike started at 5 a.m. when all participants met at the Highland School grounds in Boulder where the caravan of about 75 cars was formed. Then with a Colorado Courtesy Patrol leading, the party drove west over the wonderful new Boulder Canyon highway to Nederland – the location of the huge Barker Reservoir of the Public Service Company of Colorado. The group then continued through Eldora to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July campground. Immediately upon arrival a hot breakfast was served by the camp crew. The hikers were then divided into three sections and with guides leading the way, took to the trail leading to the glacier three and one-half miles away. When the party returned to camp in late afternoon, a tasty hot dinner was served and the hikers – tired but happy – returned to their homes.

**Glacier Facts:** The Arapaho Glacier is about a mile in length – east and west and perhaps three-quarters of a mile in width north and south. By actual measurements it is moving at the rate of 11 to 27 feet per year. The ice is estimated to be from 100 to 500 feet in thickness. High on the body of the glacier is the main crevasse, known as the “bergschrand” – a great crack in the ice from six to fifteen feet in width and from 300 to 500 feet deep. This marks the point at which the glacier has broken away from its moorings allowing the lower part to slowly move downward. In the walls of this great crevasse may be seen layer upon layer of ice – separated by dirt lines, each layer representing a season’s snowfall of perhaps 25 to 35 feet. Then during the summer dust blew down onto the fresh snow and in the autumn new snow fell and so on, year after year and century after century. It is said that the ice now melting at the foot of the glacier was formed previous to Columbus’ discovery of America.

There was the annual trek up to Arapaho Peak sponsored by the Boulder Chamber of Commerce. (It was a good time for the locals to stay away from the North Fork, unless you had horses for some of the would-be climbers.) The road through Eldora was not paved then, and the dust created by the cars going to the North Fork was horrendous. One year there was an accident when five women in a car ran off the road above Hessie (apparently the driver panicked). The car rolled down the hill to Hessie. Amazingly, no one was killed, though they were badly hurt. Of course, seeing the accident site the next day was a big event for us kids. – Charlie Hornback

## **DONATIONS 2010 – 2011**

### **Eldora Land Preservation Fund**

(not tax deductible):

#### **Spencer Mountain \$1 - \$49**

Diane Brown for Roxie the Airdale  
Steve and Suellen Bryan in memory of Edythe Gaines  
Betsy Munson in memory of Tud and Pearl Barrett  
Earl and Joan Naylor  
Virginia Springer Overlees in memory of Bill Springer

#### **Eldorado Mountain \$50 - \$99**

Sara Goolsby for Roxie the Airdale

#### **Tennessee Mountain \$100 - \$249**

Experimental Aircraft Association  
Patti Vance in memory of Philip Rouse  
Virginia Springer Overlees  
Michael and Susan Weissberg  
Sara Goolsby in memory of Virginia Springer Overlees

#### **Guinn Mountain \$250 - \$499**

Ernie and Marian Amaranto  
Robert & Nancy Goolsby for Roxie & Ellie Pups  
Bruce and Ann Marron

#### **Mineral Mountain \$500 - \$999**

#### **Bryan Mountain \$1000 - \$2,499**

The Eldora Land Preservation Fund savings account at Mutual of Omaha Bank in Nederland, Colorado, was established in 1996. It receives donations without the benefit of tax deductions.

### **Boulder County Parks and Open Space Foundation/Eldora Land Preservation Fund (tax deductible):**

#### **Spencer Mountain \$1 - \$49**

Stephen and Suellen Bryan  
Nancy Merrill  
Nick and Mary Jane Newens

#### **Eldorado Mountain \$50 - \$99**

#### **Tennessee Mountain \$100 - \$249**

Michael and Susan Weissberg  
Jerry and Barbara Donahue (2010)  
Jerry and Barbara Donahue (2011)

#### **Guinn Mountain \$250 - \$499**

#### **Mineral Mountain \$500 - \$999**

#### **Bryan Mountain \$1000 - \$2,499**

Balancing Rock LLP

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

The BCPOS Foundation/Eldora Land Preservation Fund is managed by Boulder County Parks and Open Space Foundation as a 501c3 organization, which means that donations to the Foundation are tax deductible. The ELPF account within the Foundation is solely for the purpose of land purchases in the Eldora area. It offers Eldora residents who want to deduct donations from their taxes a way of doing that. The BCPOS Foundation/ELPF account was formed as a way to encourage larger tax-deductible donations.

**Spencer Mountain from the Bailey Mill Loop**



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Nederland Area Historical Society	Boulder County Commissioners
Nederland Community Library	Boulder County Parks & Open Space
Denver Public Library	Boulder County Land Use Department



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 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please send in  
 your 2011-12  
 dues by  
 September 1st.  
 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:

\_\_\_\_\_