

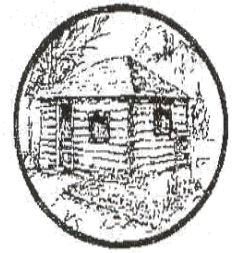


UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & Pikes Peak Museum

P. O. Box 6875 / 231 East Henrietta Avenue

Woodland Park, CO 80866

(719) 686-7512 • uphs@utepasshistoricalsociety.org



IN MEMORIAM

Jan Pettit, founder and benefactor of the Ute Pass Historical Society, died January 31, 2018.

JAN ALWAYS WANTED TO TELL OTHER PEOPLE'S STORIES

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Back in the day, Jan was working for the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum and she was asked to develop a school program on the Ute Indians. In a 2005 interview with Kate Kettler of the *Ute Pass Courier*, Jan explained that, "Educators felt there was inadequate to nonexistent information about the Ute Indians in the schools." Jan further explained that, "This request for a school program in which the Ute People should be the ones to tell what should be in the books, is how I got started in all this."

"All this" resulted in three books: **Ute Pass, A Quick History**, 1979, based on Jan's early interviews with area pioneers; **Utes: The Mountain People, the History and Customs of Native Americans**, 1982 (revisions published 1990 and 2012); and Jan co-authored **Pikes Peak—America's Mountain Official Guide**, 2000.

Her research and resulting close relationships with members of the Ute Tribe led to numerous educational programs about the Ute People for elementary students and public lectures nationwide, including Alaska. Jan's association with the Native Americans also resulted in the production of an unprecedented video of the Ute Indians' Bear Dance, a valued element of the UPHS archives. The thirteen minute video can be seen at: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/culture/bear-dance/bear-dance-video/>.

Jan was held in high esteem by the Ute Nation as evidenced by the fact she was given a Ute name, Mountain Woman. Yellow Falcon, a Southern Ute and his wife Hummingbird Woman came from Ignacio, the Southern Ute Reservation, to honor Jan in prayer and song at her memorial service, February 9, 2018.

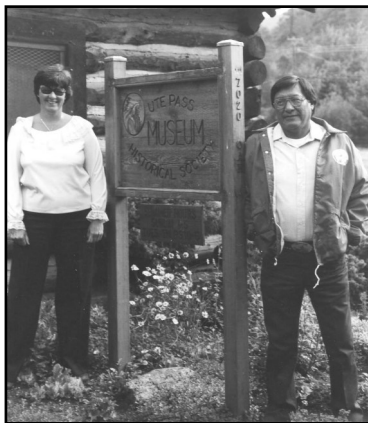
In 1975, Jan began gathering material for her book about the Utes while working on a book about the

Ute Pass Indian Trail. She said the Indians themselves interested her as much as the trail itself. In 1982, Gene Birkhead reviewed **Utes: The Mountain People** in *The Colorado Springs Sun*. He wrote, "Her quest for information has taken her to Ute reservations in Colorado and Utah, as well as to every town in three states (Colorado, Utah and Arizona) and others where local libraries museums or historical societies had material on the Utes."

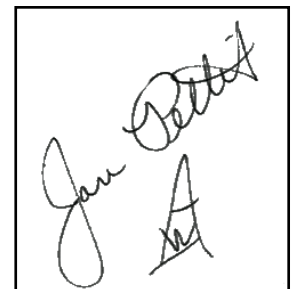
Dr. James Jefferson, the Ute Tribe Historian, was very helpful to Jan. She asked that Jefferson and other Ute members review her completed manuscript for accuracy before publication of **Utes: The Mountain People**.



Jan, always with a playful smile and cheerful air



Jan with Dr. James Jefferson at the original UPHS Museum location in Green Mountain Falls, September, 1981.



Jan included a glyph of her Ute name, Mountain Woman, in her signature

Another significant outcome of “*All this*” is the Ute Pass Historical Society which Jan started in 1976. The Society is now caretaker of her prodigious research. Over the last few years, she and her children have donated all of her papers and research documents to UPHS. Jan knew that the Society would make the collection available to whomever was interested in studying the research perhaps carrying on some of her unfinished projects.

By 1974, Jan had already started an oral interview program with area pioneers. These interviews became the foundation of the ongoing Oral History Interview Program at the Ute Pass Historical Society.

After getting the Historical Society off the ground, Jan took it upon herself to become professionally educated in the care and preservation of the many artifacts which were being donated to the Society. Also, at her own expense, she learned how to properly organize and operate a museum to house and showcase the growing collections.

Jan Pettit’s considerable accomplishments remain important today and generations yet to come will benefit from her life’s work of “preserving and protecting the history of the Ute Pass Area.”

Jan was a multifaceted talent. Her artwork was varied and exceptional. Her ability to recruit help and volunteers was well-known. One of Jan’s many recruits said to her “I just love/hate the way you get people to do anything you need.” Jan wasn’t shy about speaking up and letting people know what task was next on her list.

Most of all, Jan was fun! Listening to her grandchildren and great grandchildren at her memorial service, one could tell that those kids really loved their Grandma Jan. She was never at a loss to entertain them and others. Games were a big part of the family, though the family said, “Grandma always won because she cheated.”

A beloved memory of Jan came about one Halloween in the days when trick-or-treating was prevalent. It was about 9 pm. All the youngsters in costume had come and gone. The late visiting teenage boys had come and, it was hoped, had gone to play their mischief elsewhere. It was about time to blow out the pumpkin’s candle, turn off the lights and figure the fun was over. Not so! The doorbell rang. It was Jan and her oldest daughter Kim, well into adulthood, standing on the doorstep. At least one of them in a costume—a bunny rabbit or something. They were not asking for treats. They were hoping to “redistribute” the treats they collected earlier in the evening. Always ready for fun! That was Jan.

A poem by an unknown author was shared at her memorial service:

A life well lived is a precious gift of hope and strength and grace.
 From someone who has made our world a brighter, better place.
 A life well lived is a legacy of joy and pride and pleasure,
 A living, lasting memory our grateful hearts will treasure.

Myrrhiah Perkins, Jan’s youngest granddaughter, has captured the real essence of Jan. “Grandma always wanted to tell other people’s stories. She taught me history was an adventure and to make life about loving the people around you. I always knew my Grandma loved me.”

So many of us who had the privilege to know and work with Jan agree!

Thanks to Mary Ann Davis and Claudia Eley for this heartfelt tribute to Jan Pettit. The Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of Ute Pass Historical Society are grateful for Jan’s leadership and integrity. We strive to continue Jan’s work with passion and respect as she so steadfastly did.



*Jan, VIP at Bronc Days
 July 29, 2017
 Photo courtesy of Pat Hill*

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volunteer
do good, feel good

2018 Marigreen Pines Tours

Tickets for the much-anticipated tours of the historic Marigreen Pines Estate go on sale May 16, 2018 at the UPHS Office, 231 E. Henrietta Avenue in Woodland Park. Tours of the celebrated 1920s mansion are Saturday, July 14, and Sunday, July 15, 2018. The tours of the estate are hosted by the Ute Pass Historical Society every three years.

Marigreen Pines was the home of the Thomas Cusack family from 1895 until 1978. The tour includes their original home, Ellinor Cottage, as well as the elaborate Marigreen Pines mansion built in 1923. Anne Cusack Johnson donated the estate to the Order of Holy Cross in 1978.

At that time, Mrs. Johnson, stipulated that the mansion and grounds be open for tours every three years for the benefit of the Ute Pass Historical Society. The tour is the biggest fundraiser for the non-profit group.

Adult tickets are \$25, and UPHS Patrons and groups of 10 or more are \$20 per person. For more information, call UPHS at 719.686.7512



Marigreen Pines (left) and Ellinor Cottage (right) as they are today

About Marigreen Pines

Thomas Cusack and his wife Mary Greene Cusack arrived in Cascade in 1895. The couple made their home in Ellinor Cottage until Mary's death in 1922 of cancer. Although construction of Marigreen Pines was underway, Mary died before the mansion's completion in 1923. Thomas honored his wife by naming it for her.

Being an acute businessman, Thomas Cusack acquired more land in the Cascade area. In 1920, he purchased the Cascade Town and Improvement Company, effectively buying the town of Cascade. This was the first known private purchase of a town in the United States. He planned to develop the area as a resort similar to Green Mountain Falls complete with a new hotel, racetrack and club rooms.

Cusack personally monitored every detail of the construction. He traveled to Europe to find furnishings, and imported expensive and exotic materials to give the mansion the look and atmosphere he wanted. He hired Italian craftsmen and painters to complete the more intricate decorative details.

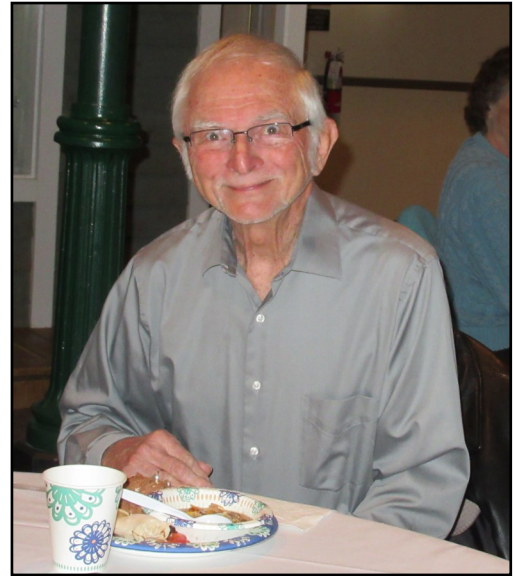
In 1978, the Cusack family donated the property to the Congregation of the Holy Cross in South Bend, Indiana. It is operated by the Holy Cross Novitiate.

4 Be sure to take the Marigreen Pines Tour this summer—next opportunity is 2021!

**UPHS Annual Patron Luncheon
Ute Pass Cultural Center
January 28, 2018**



*Mel McFarland, left, is joined by David Martinek
For lunch prior to his program,
"The Midlands in Ute Pass"*



*UPHS Benefactor and Volunteer
Larry Black*



*UPHS President Donna Finicle received an honorary UPHS
Lifetime Patron designation from Board Members, from left
Donna, Jane Lass, Pat Hyslop, Paul Loyd, Karen Gilliam, and
City Liaison Sally Riley*



*Gift Shop Manager
Judy Perkins*

What visitor to the UPHS Office doesn't immediately respond to Judy's smile and warm welcome? And how many UPHS Patrons stop by the office regularly just to enjoy a few words and a laugh with Judy? In case you haven't heard, Judy recently took a tumble at home resulting in a serious break to her ankle and leg. It is uncertain when she'll return to work, so in the meantime, if you'd like to send your warm wishes to Judy, drop a note or an email to the UPHS office and we'll be sure she receives your greeting.

Judy, we hope you mend quickly and painlessly. We love and miss you and look forward to seeing your beautiful smile soon!

Ute Pass Historical Society
& Pikes Peak Museum
P.O. Box 6875
Woodland Park, CO 80866-6875



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Marigreen Pines Tour tickets available Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at the UPHS Gift Shop.
Tickets sell out quickly, so plan ahead!*

Dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of Ute Pass families and communities since 1976

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UPHS is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization

THANK YOU!

The Ute Pass Historical Society's Board of Directors is grateful to our loyal patrons and enthusiastic volunteers. Without your generous financial contributions and dedicated volunteer service, we would not exist. Thanks to all of you for supporting our mission to preserve and share the history of the families and communities of the Ute Pass area of Colorado.

It is an honor to serve you!