

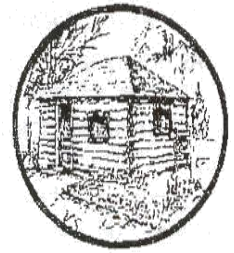


## UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & Pikes Peak Museum

P. O. Box 6875 / 231 East Henrietta Avenue

Woodland Park, CO 80866

(719) 686-7512 • [uphs@peakinter.net](mailto:uphs@peakinter.net)



### Paradise Lodge Put City on the Map

*By UPHS Board Member Marcia Ford*

Just about everyone who has driven west on Highway 24 has noticed the long, single-story ranch building across from Safeway at the eastern end of Woodland Park. Newcomers and occasional visitors vaguely know it as Paradise Lodge and hear that at one time it was something of a big deal. But many others fondly remember it as a place that for more than three decades made summers special and even magical for vacationers seeking an “authentic” Western experience.

Now, 40 years after the one-time dude ranch went out of business, the lodge—the last remaining building on the property—has been demolished.

That’s making locals and visitors alike nostalgic for the good times they had at Paradise Ranch, which in its heyday covered 400 acres, stabled an equal number of horses, employed 100 people, and attracted 200 guests at a time. Or maybe it was more than 500 acres, 300 horses, and so forth. The numbers, of course, changed over time, but even some of the most reliable records from any given year seem to be in conflict.

No matter. It’s safe to say that the Paradise was one wildly popular dude ranch, attracting both domestic and international guests and putting Woodland Park on the map. In operation from 1943 to 1975, at one time it was the largest dude ranch in the country. It helped that its owner, Frank S. Snell Jr., was a man of grandiose style and imagination—and a man who loved his horses. That love was likely inherited from his grandfather, who claimed to have been the first stagecoach driver on the road from Leavenworth, Kansas, to Denver. Snell himself was only 14 when he drove the stagecoach for his grandfather—over Berthoud Pass west of Denver, one of the most challenging passes to navigate even today.

Given his penchant for over-the-top activities, it’s not surprising that Snell once bought a couple of chariots from the *Ben Hur* production company so he could stage chariot races on the ranch, even while insisting on an authentic Western experience in just about every other respect.

That experience included weekly Sunday afternoon rodeos that pitted local riders against the ranch wranglers. The bucking stock were no slackers; Snell made sure his guests witnessed the best, the bucking horses and bulls from the Harry Vold Rodeo Company near Pueblo. And then there were the twice-daily trail rides through the mountains and special activities such as early morning rides to a site where guests could enjoy an outdoor breakfast; weekly overnight pack trips; weekly rides for a lunchtime picnic; and of course, nightly campfires and singalongs.

Guests were matched up with a particular horse, according to the riders’ size, ability, and temperament, for their entire stay, which was a minimum of one week. Those who knew what they were doing were allowed to groom their horses and otherwise care for them. When they booked their rooms for the following year, guests could reserve “their” horse for their vacation.

Making guests happy was clearly one of Snell’s most effective ways of keeping the ranch fully booked every summer, from mid May to mid September. One way to do that was to provide the best food available, prepared to exacting standards by an executive chef who returned year after year despite the challenges of the lodge’s diverse range of dishes. Not content to just offer the expected chuck-wagon fare, Snell added

*Continued on Page 2*

*Continued from Page 1*

gourmet cuisine to the lodge's menu. Sunday brunch was a special treat, with buffet tables laden with all-you-can-eat fare for \$3.95 for adults and \$3 for children in 1960s currency. The lodge and rodeos were open to visitors as well as guests.

By all accounts, the interior of the Western-themed lodge was nearly as breathtaking as the mountain scenery. The high-ceilinged formal dining room sported pine beams, wagon-wheel lighting, and an enormous fireplace built of Pikes Peak granite. A bar, a lounge, and a separate children's dining room were also housed in the lodge. Heavy pine chairs throughout the building provided much-needed resting places for worn-out guests who had had enough of riding and hiking for the day. Evenings at the lodge ended with dances every night of the week except Sundays, when movies were shown. Bunkhouses for employees and cabins for guests dotted the property behind the lodge. The cowboy bunkhouse was located near the stables.

Every Sunday morning, Snell offered stagecoach rides for those guests who wanted to attend church services. The ranch also held authentic Wild West wagon rides until an accident on Trout Creek Road west of Woodland Park resulted in a fatality and the wagon rides were discontinued. In later years, the ranch added a motel, a heated Olympic-sized swimming pool, and other recreational features including badminton, tennis, and shuffleboard courts, and a ping-pong table. At all times, counselors were on hand to take care of the little ones, keeping them occupied with games and pony rides.

In 1970, Snell sold the ranch to a group that planned to keep the resort operating in much the same way that Snell had run it. But the combination of an economic downturn, the waning of interest in dude-ranch vacations, and perhaps most importantly, the absence of its colorful former owner spelled the end of the ranch. By 1975, the new owners had filed for bankruptcy. Various efforts were made to revive the ranch or renovate the lodge, one as recently as 2004, but none was successful. Today, the lodge, a few chimneys and other ruins, and the underpass that once provided pedestrians and carriages access to the ranch land on the other side of Highway 24 are all that remain of the ranch. In 2006, the underpass was repaired and revamped for pedestrian access to the Safeway shopping center, where Paradise's hip-roofed barn, stables, and arena once stood.



*Log and woodwork  
in the main room of the Lodge  
Photo by Judy Perkins, September 2015*



*Pikes Peak granite fireplace  
In the main room of the Lodge  
Photo by Judy Perkins, September 2015*

After the building underwent asbestos removal and abatement, the owner, Peter Kuyper of PK Enterprises in Divide, had the lodge demolished since the building had not proven attractive to potential buyers, according to Woodland Park Planning Director Sally Riley. Neither is it a designated historic building on local, state, or national registers. But whether or not it has historical significance, its personal significance to many residents and vacationers seems undisputed.

*To renew your memories of Paradise Lodge, or to visit for the first time, take a stroll through UPHS Archives located in the 2 Museum Center, where you are sure to find plenty of photos just right for reminiscing.*

### Upcoming UPHS Events

#### Memorial Garden Dedication

Saturday, October 3rd  
10:30 am, History Park  
231 E. Henrietta Avenue  
Woodland Park

#### 2015 Potato Soup Supper

Friday, October 23rd  
Doors open at 5:30 pm  
Program at 6:30 pm  
\$5 for soup, salad, dessert and program  
Ken Valles presents  
**The Mountain Men**  
Pikes Peak Community Club  
11122 U.S. 24, Divide

#### **Did you know ...**

The more people volunteer, the happier they are  
Volunteering can improve your health  
People who volunteer live longer than those  
who don't  
Those who volunteer have lower rates of  
depression than those who don't  
People who volunteer make more new friends  
than those who don't

**What are you waiting for?  
Volunteer with UPHS today!**

Sue Greene  
Owner

**The UPS Store**   
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743 Goldhill Pl  
Woodland Park, CO 80863

Hours:  
Mon-Fri: 8:00am - 6:00pm  
Sat: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Sun: Closed

UPHS Patrons—  
Be sure to support our  
new  
Business Partner  
Sue Greene, UPS Store  
in Gold Hill  
Shopping Center

### Thank you to ...

#### Our new and renewing Family and Associate Patrons

Esch/Speir Family \* Jay Harshe  
Kayle Higinbotham \* Marty and Jan Wilson

#### Our Benefactor Patrons

Larry Black  
Claire Cusack Cronin  
Thomas Kerwin Family  
Mike and Elaine Smith

#### And UPHS recognizes our Honorary Lifetime Patrons

Larry Black \* Paul and Patricia Crowson  
Jack and Mary Ann Davis \* Donna Elder  
Claudia and Jim Eley \* Anne Foster  
Marg Ed Kwapil \* Sandy and Daniel Lampe  
Gary and Anna Litchenberg \* Betty Merchant  
Mel McFarland \* Louisa Moore  
George and Jeanne Parkhurst \* Janet Pettit  
Claude Wiatrowski \* Katharine Wolff

#### Thanks to our Amazing Volunteers!

Jennifer Bittman \* Larry Black  
Marilyn Blackwell  
Jack and Mary Ann Davis  
Nancy and Paul Desilets  
Claudia Eley \* Donna Finicle \* Marcia Ford  
Garry and Peggy Garrison \* Karen Gilliam  
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David Martinek \* Rick McVey  
Betty Merchant \* George Parkhurst  
Dale and Judy Perkins \* Michelle Perkins  
Jan Pettit \* Mel and Sally Riley  
Jean Rodeck \* Renee Rowcliffe  
Ted and Karla Schweitzer \* Jean Taylor  
Jon Woods \* John Yantorno \* Fred Zobel

**UPHS volunteers make history!!**





### UPHS Volunteers Make the Big Time!

Two of our most dedicated and generous volunteers share a moment in history, along with other community leaders and personalities, serving as models for “The Story of Us.” Artist Lois Sprague, chronicles the history of Woodland Park with paint, brushes and her tremendous talent. The mural will eventually cover the north side of Ute Pass Cultural Center.

Can you identify these two celebrities? If you’re stumped, see Page 7 of this newsletter.

*When the days become shorter, temperatures begin to drop and aspen trees are decked out in their golden finest, it’s time for apples. Apple pie, apple crisp, apple cider, apple sauce, or simply a bite out of a crisp and juicy apple that dribbles down your chin. Try this quick, easy and tasty dish for something a little out of the ordinary.*

### Apple Enchilada Dessert

#### Filling:

- Four apples, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

#### Crust

- Six 8” flour tortillas
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup water

Mix filling ingredients in a saucepan, cook over medium heat for about seven minutes or until the apples are slightly tender.

Preheat the oven to 350\*.

Spoon apple evenly onto all tortillas, sprinkle with cinnamon. Roll up tortillas and place seam side down on a lightly greased 8” x 8” baking pan.

Bring butter, sugars and water to a boil in a medium sauce pan. Reduce heat and simmer constantly for three minutes.

Pour sauce evenly over tortillas. Bake in preheated oven for twenty minutes. Makes six servings, or cut in half to serve twelve. Don’t forget the vanilla ice cream!!

Notes: Good baking apples include Granny Smith, Honeycrisp, and Golden Delicious. Substitute one or two cans of apple pie filling if time is short. Reduce sugars to 1/3 cup if you prefer a less sweet dessert.



*The front entrance of Marigreen Pines, facing south*



*UPHS Board Member Paul Loyd showing the DVD "The Cusack Years at Marigreen Pines 1895 to 1978" before the tour*



*Fireplace and chandelier in the living room*



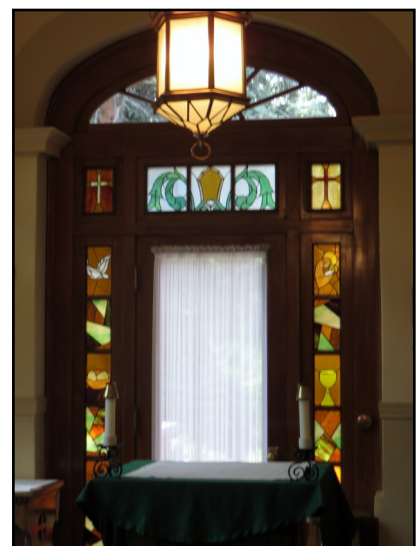
*Father Don Dilg, Assistant Novice Master at Marigreen Pines*

### **2015 Marigreen Pines Tours**

What people said ... Thank you for this wonderful experience! Very enjoyable! I'm going to tell all my friends! Who knew this treasure was in our backyard! Marigreen Pines is so beautiful! We'll be back in three years! Best tour ever!

Once again, the sold out Holy Cross Novitiate at Marigreen Pines tours on July 11 and 12 delighted area residents and tourists alike. The weather could not have been better...not a cloud in the sky. Eleven of the novices were on hand to provide insights into community life in the mansion.

Coordinating the tours is no simple task. Heartfelt thanks to the over 30 volunteers who helped out with all aspects of the tours, from ticket taking, bus guides and onsite docents. The next tours are in three years, July 2018. Just a hint ... mark your calendars now!



*Stained glass Window*



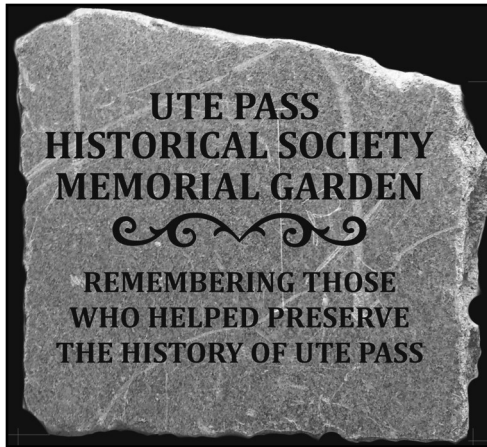
### Ute Pass Historical Society's Pioneer Garden

Please join us on Saturday, October 3, as Ute Pass Historical Society celebrates completion of the Memorial Garden and recognizes the volunteers who made it possible. Light refreshments will be served.

Flowers and vegetation familiar to the Ute Pass pioneers are planted in the garden, including some native species. Engraved stones honor the memory of the past volunteers whose efforts helped make UPHS the dynamic organization it is today.

Memorial Garden was made possible by the donations and the dedication of UPHS volunteers.

History Park is located at 231 E. Henrietta Avenue in Woodland Park (next to the Woodland Park Library). For more information, call UPHS at 719-686-7512.



### 2015 Mountain Arts Festival

For well over a decade, UPHS volunteers provided “victuals and vittles” at the annual Mountain Arts Festival, one of the most popular summer events in Teller County. Not only is the event a major fundraising opportunity for UPHS, it’s loads of fun for all involved. We thank the Mountain Artists for the opportunity to be involved with this community favorite.

UPHS thanks to Sally Riley for coordinating the many volunteers who staffed the food tent. We also give a hearty shout out to our benefactor Larry Black who donated a whopping \$500 to help cover the cost of food and supplies.



Volunteer Kathy Stockton serves up a bratwurst at the Mountain Arts Festival

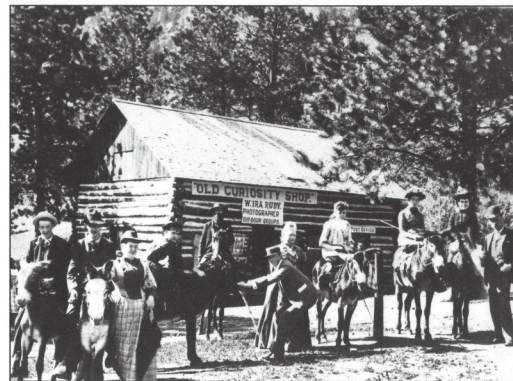
### HO HO HO !! CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!!

Check out the UPHS Gift Shop for unique gifts and books, including jewelry, DVD's and unique Indian art.

#### Extra! Extra!

Now available in the Gift Shop— the 2016 Ute Pass Historical Society Calendar, hot off the press, for \$12 plus tax. Remember, UPHS can ship all gift ship items and members receive 10% discount!

### Ute Pass Historical Society Celebrating 40 Years of Service in Ute Pass



2016 Calendar: *A Journey through Time*





*Reenactors Ken Valles as Andrew Templeton, Arlo Baumgartner as Bert Bergstrom, and UPHS President Donna Finicle as pioneer Anna Lacey*

The UPHS 4th Annual Woodland Park Cemetery Crawl was held on Saturday, July 4th. The tour featured volunteer reenactors located near the graves of various “residents,” relating stories about these early Ute Pass pioneers.

The Crawl was started on July 4, 2012 to coincide with the release of Laura Moncrief’s book “Pioneers in Woodland Park, Colorado Cemeteries”, which is available in the UPHS Gift Shop for \$21.99 + tax.



*Local business owners and UPHS members Marty and Jan Wilson hanging out in Woodland Park*



*Jennifer Bittman was a natural portraying Nancy Mooney*



*From left, UPHS volunteers Larry Black and Fred Zobel*

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



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**Website: [utepasshistoricalsociety.org](http://utepasshistoricalsociety.org)**

***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!*