

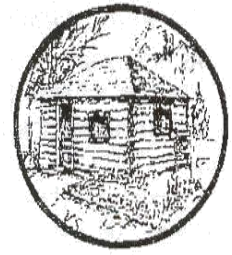


UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & Pikes Peak Museum

231 East Henrietta Avenue

Woodland Park, CO 80863

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Green Mountain Falls

Stories of the Early Years

*by Mary Ann Conn Davis and
Claudia Eley*

What was once a lush meadow with grazing cattle, flanked by mountain streams, became a scenic resort with large hotels, businesses and cabins overlooking a picturesque lake. Soon after the first cabin was built in 1872, the meadow was sold to the Green Mountain Falls Town and Improvement Company.

A young Englishman, William J. Foster, laid out and started the town in the summer of 1888. The Midland Railway Company had purchased the right-of-way along Fountain Creek in 1886 from George Howard. The railroad from Colorado springs to Divide was built in 1886 and 1887.

By 1889 a church had been built, a school district formed, a post office opened. A town was growing. Rental cabins were hurriedly erected, hotels opened, and summer tent houses available for rental were spotted near the lake and streams.

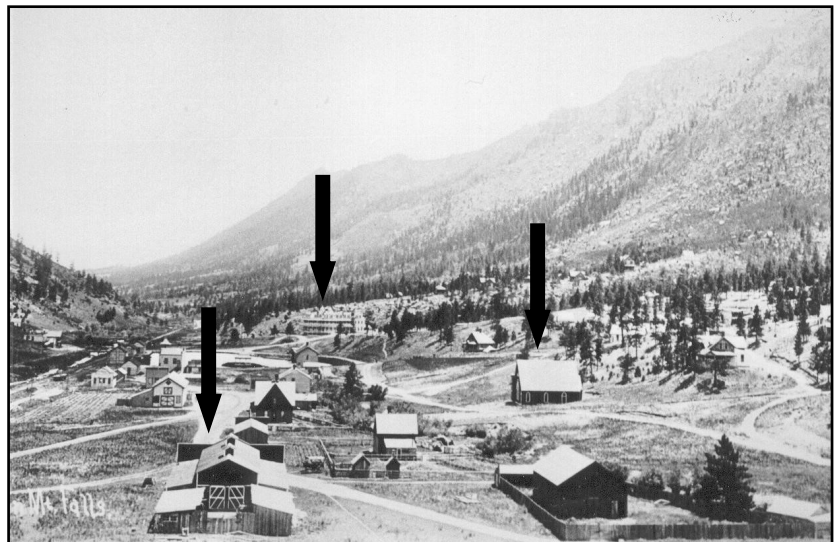
Along with the Town Company, the Midland Company advertised the new resort in cities to the east. Both day and nighttime activities were organized to entertain the crowds. As many as 3,000 on a summer weekend rode the Midland passenger trains and debarked in Green Mountain Falls.

Surrounding the valley, land was being worked diligently by hardy souls trying to "prove out" their 160 acres, thereby gaining their homesteads. The area west of Green Mountain Falls was also thriving as the trains gave the farmers access to eastern markets for their potatoes and lettuce.

But as the fortunes of the Midland Railway went, so went those of the small towns along its route west. Many of the little towns managed to thrive again, although never reaching their zeniths of those 25 years surrounding the turn of the 20th century. Green Mountain Falls, born a town catering to, but also dependent on, vacationers from the East and South, can now be called a year round bedroom community. The town still welcomes summer vacationers, but is not dependent on them for its very sustenance.

Many of the returning "summer people" are descendants of the early tourists who purchased cabins and land in those glory days. Several families have already celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of returning to Green Mountain Falls.

Green Mountain Falls, ca 1890
From Left: Livery, Green Mountain Falls Hotel,
Church of the Wildwood
Wellington Collection



Continued on Page 3



Photos by Khurshid Rogers

UPHS Volunteers Warm Things up at the Aspen Valley Ranch Rendezvous



Volunteers Dale Perkins, left, and Jimmy Blackwolf presented the 4th graders of the local school district with historical background on living in the Ute Pass area.



Students learned about the lives of the Native Americans that called Colorado their home. The morning was cold and windy, and the children appreciated warming up at the fire in the tipi, while learning about the Ute Indians who roamed this area in the 1800s.

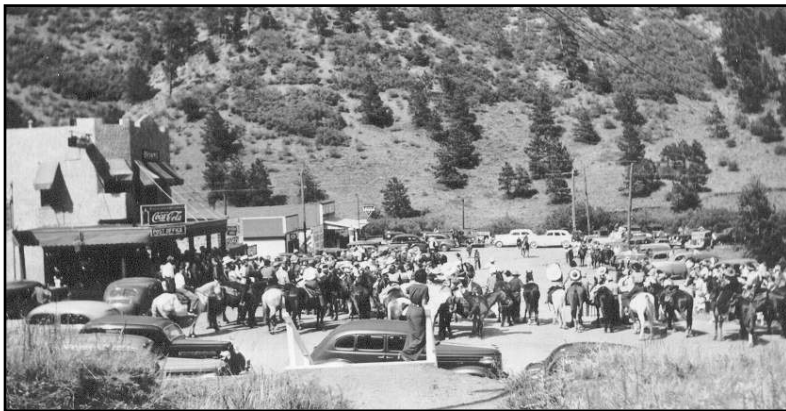
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Annual Bronc Day Celebration

Sally Bush and Harry Diveley, who owned several rental cabins on the Mesa called The Diveley Camp, seemed to have been the first to broach the idea of Bronc Day. Whether it originated in 1937 or 1939 (sources differ), Bronc Day is now a perennial activity in Green Mountain Falls.

The annual event, in the early years, was devoted to horse competitions, boot scramble, nail driving contests, sack races, three legged races, and Indian wrestling. The day ended with square dancing on the tennis court in the evening. Ray Hope was one of the popular square dance callers. For the last dance, well after dark, the tennis court lights were turned off. The musicians played the Missouri Waltz, and onlookers in automobiles ringing the tennis court turned on the car lights to provide some light for the dancers.

Events of the day now center more around vendors lining Lake Street and Gazebo Park than on competitions among horse-back riders. There are at least as many bicycles as horses in the parade.



Bronc Day Judging, 1937
Mrs. Lynn Gayler



Bronc Days, 1968
UPHS

"It's like homecoming"

Mary Lou Nelson Penny gives a summer resident's memories and expectations of the Green Mountain Falls Bronc Day:

There is one day in summer we never want to miss. It is the first Saturday in August, Bronc Day. (As of 2016, held on the last Saturday in July). The first order of the day is to head for the fire house where the volunteer firemen have our breakfast on the grill---sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, hot cakes, orange juice and coffee. Long tables and chairs fill the fire house. We may meet newcomers sitting across the table, but for many of us old 'geezers' our special delight is the joy of our reunion with old friends. Suddenly it is 'old home week' with the town folks, summer neighbors, the 'kids' we used to play with down on the stream and hiking the mountain trails or making our own trails. We get to talk with the man that reworks our roads following each rain, learn more about who sorts out the mail, the Town Marshal, where the fellow lives that stopped us from going over twenty miles an hour yesterday, where our little waitress will be going to college next fall and we meet the Mayor.

Out on the lake there are the big guys battling to stay on top in the log rolling competition and little guys and girls involved in other water games. We see the huge fire trucks that have been waiting patiently parked outside are now loading up with eager wide eyed little people to drive down the blocked off street with horns blaring over the squealing of the delighted children.

It's like homecoming. We get to see friends we haven't seen for years, and sometimes we meet folks who

**Be sure to say hi to Betty Merchant and the UPHS Traveling Bookstore on July 29th!
Green Mountain Falls: Stories of the Early Years is available for \$20 plus tax**



Local Homeschoolers
Take the Tour



Upcoming Events



6th Annual Cemetery Crawl: Tuesday, July 4th, Woodland Park Cemetery. Parking at 540 Manor Court, behind Casa Grande Restaurant. Tours are from 1 to 3, and cost is \$5. Children under 12 are free.



Bronc Day: Saturday, July 29th, Green Mountain Falls. UPHS Traveling Book Store will be there with a great assortment of books, and THE exclusive 2018 G.M.F. wall calendar, available for \$12 each!



Mountain Arts Food Kitchen: Saturday and Sunday, August 5th and 6th, behind the Cultural Center in Woodland Park. Choice of hot dogs, brats or a cheeseburger with a drink and chips-all for \$6!

Thank you to ... Our new and renewing Family and Associate Patrons

John Bell and Lisa Bonwell * Jeanie Bray
Billie and David Kilman * Dr. Mary Kokosky, M.D.
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Karla and Ted Schweitzer * Gene and Carol Sperry

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Special thanks to our Historical Club Patrons

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And UPHS recognizes our Honorary Lifetime Patrons

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Claude Wiatrowski



Calling All History Buffs, Thespians, Fashionistas, Gardeners and...YOU!

by Nancy Desilets

Summer is a busy and fun time at Ute Pass Historical Society with activities, tours, events and, of course, out-of-town people interested in learning about the history of our area.

Pat Hyslop, our new "Volunteer Volunteer Coordinator" invites you to share your time and enthusiasm by helping UPHS celebrate and educate about our local history.

Would you like to learn more or share your knowledge about the culture and lifestyle of the early Ute Pass settlers? Why not become a docent, leading weekly tours in History Park. With your help, the exhibits in the five cabins in History Park can come alive, leaving a lasting impression on our visitors. The tours are at 11 and noon Saturday mornings, June 3 through September 2 (excluding August 5th), and typically take about 1 hour. Training is provided and your personal panache is encouraged.

(For your planning purposes, the Marigreen Pines Tour is July 14th and 15th, 2018. Docents are also needed for this event, a perennial favorite and always a sellout.)

If you have a flair for drama, volunteering to portray a noted old timer who currently "resides" in the Woodland Park Cemetery is for you. The popular 6th Annual Cemetery Crawl is July 4, 1 to 3 pm. Actors receive a script and history about their character as well as help in finding attire compatible with the era.

Speaking of attire, UPHS owns a small collection of vintage and vintage-like clothing. Put your love of fashion to good use by helping expand our clothing and accessories inventory. What could be more fun to the creative fashionista's heart than shopping at thrift stores and garage sales, raiding your relatives' closets and even finding simple sewing patterns and old-fashioned fabric? Volunteers dressed in historical clothing and theatrical accessory—a feathered "picture hat" or pioneer bonnet for the women, a high-collared shirt or buttoned vest for the men—adds a festive tone to UPHS events as well as a touch of authenticity to the occasion.

For those with a green thumb, your expertise is needed in the Pioneer and Memorial Gardens adjacent to the Museum Center as well as around the cabins and walkways in History Park. Heavy foot traffic takes its toll on these areas. It's important that UPHS introduce visitors to History Park with a welcoming and attractive outdoors that complement the well-designed exhibits indoors.

Your volunteer time with UPHS most certainly helps the organization. With limited staff, we depend on volunteers to maintain our community presence, lend support to fundraising and community events, serve on the Board of Directors—in short, to further our mission to *preserve and share the history of the families and communities of the Ute Pass area of Colorado*.

Volunteer at the UPHS Museum Center, 231 E. Henrietta Avenue, or call 719.686.7512 about other opportunities.

***UPHS VOLUNTEERS
MAKE HISTORY!!!***

Thanks to our Amazing Volunteers!

Larry Black * Marilyn Blackwell * Jimmy Blackwolf
Jack and Mary Ann Davis * Nancy and Paul Desilets
Claudia Eley * Donna Finicle * Karen Gilliam
Suzie Graf * Lisa Huff * Pat Hyslop * Bryan Kochis
Jane Lass * Paul Loyd * Betty Merchant
Dale and Judy Perkins * Michelle Perkins
Tim Rhatigan * Mel and Sally Riley * Jean Rodeck
Renee Rowcliffe * Ted and Karla Schweitzer
Jean Taylor * Jon Woods * Fred Zobel

2017 Columbine School Tour

This year, the students were entertained with hands-on learning, from loading a wagon with necessities, churning butter, and dressing up and portraying a timeline of people coming up Ute Pass.



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& Pikes Peak Museum
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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!*