



UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & Pikes Peak Museum



P. O. Box 6875 / 231 East Henrietta Avenue

Woodland Park, CO 80866

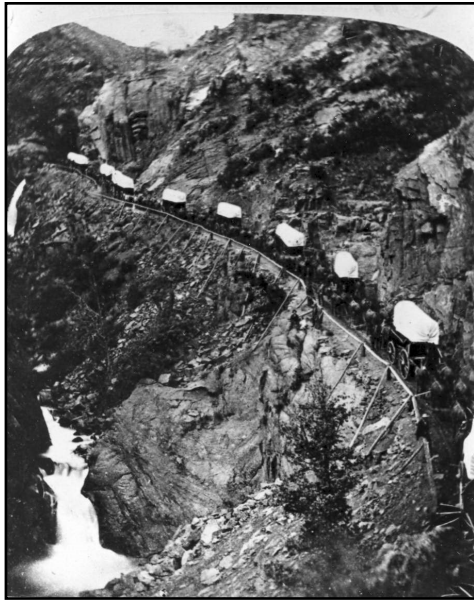
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A History of Woodland Park

*Passage below researched and compiled by the Ute Pass Social Club
for the Woodland Park Centennial Committee in 1990*

The first road was built through Ute Pass in 1859 and 1860, and the present Highway 24 follows somewhat the same trail. The road was steep and narrow, for one-way traffic only, with turn outs every few miles for teams and wagons to pass each other. The road was washed out many times by flash floods caused by melting snows on the higher mountains or by the quick, hard rains. It was rebuilt each time, and was raised higher on the side of the mountain to combat the often rampant Fountain Creek which follows the canyon.

This narrow rocky road became the lifeline for the Cripple Creek Mining District when the cry of gold resounded throughout the world. This was the only passage for men and supplies to reach the gold camps.



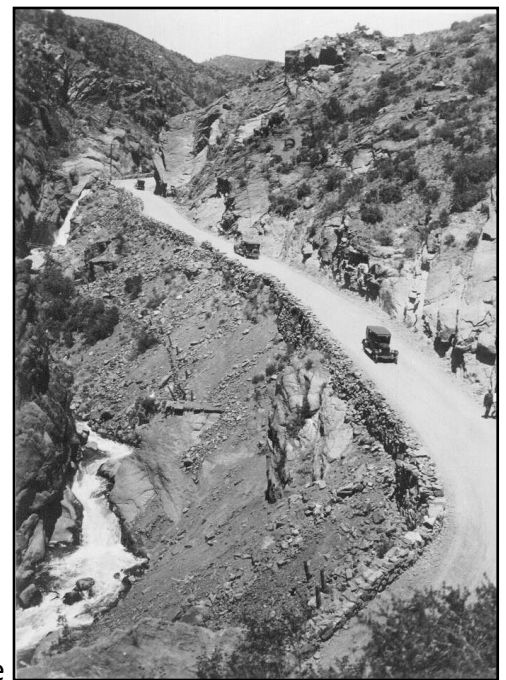
Ute Pass Wagon Road
Lois LaHaye

Mrs. Leila Larsen said that she remembered when the dirt road used to get flooded out and *the big, handsome man who used to have the contract to repair the road*. She remembered him sending their hotel a telegram saying he needed feed for fifty horses and food for the drivers. When they came into town, *all you could see was that man and his wagons drawn by Percheron horses, stretching from the railroad tracks until they were out of sight*.



Percheron horses were first used as war horses

In April, 1860, Anthony Bott laid out the new route for the Ute Pass Trail. \$3,000 worth of improvements made the road much better, allowing easier access to the Leadville (gold) strike. 15,000 prospectors used the Pass that year to get to South Park and Leadville. As written in Irving Howbert's book, *Memories of a Lifetime in the Pike's Peak Region*, (available in the UPHS Gift Shop), *Dr. James, historian of Long's expedition which visited this region in 1820, records that it (Ute Pass) was a well worn tract even then*. In the winter of 1859 and 1860, Ute Pass was greatly improved.



Ute Pass Auto Highway, 1920s
Conrad Wilson

Gone Fishing

*Memories courtesy of Paul Edwards,
long time summer resident of
Green Mountain Falls, Colorado*

My main fishing experiences were trout fishing in the lake in downtown Green Mountain Falls, Colorado from the late 1940's through the 1970's. My teacher was my grandmother, Nellie "Rockpile" Weldon who had owned a couple of houses there from the early 1900s. She was always having us help her build rock work at our cabins.

My first experience with the delicious rainbow trout was as a small boy in the summer vacations we spent there every year. We ate trout dinners in the dining room at the El Pueblo restaurant on the corner of the main street in front of the lake. We would watch the trains go by to and from Cripple Creek until the operations were shut down in 1949.

After the train tracks and depot were removed from the side of the lake and the land smoothed, my grandmother staked her claim to an area next to a bent tree that leaned out over the lake near the bottom end of the lake at the overflow outlet. The small shack that the day fishing permits were sold from by the local policeman was nearby. Local regulars knew that was her favorite place and would stay away from it.

She would bait our hooks with salmon eggs, cheese balls, or bread dough we would get from Edwards Grocery store that used to be next to the El Pueblo. Then she would pull the fishing line out of the rods behind her for about 20-30 feet on the ground after we baited the hooks. She didn't like to cast her line with the rod and reel as most fishermen did. When she was ready to cast the line with an overhead throw, everyone ducked. She made us do it this way, too. Sometimes an unwary passerby got hooked if they weren't carefully watching this evolution. It was dangerous to be around her. She was a very avid fisherwoman and would fish almost every week.

My brothers, my cousins from Oklahoma City, and I went with her at an early 7:00 am when the lake first opened and we went home when the fish usually stopped biting around 11:00 am. We caught a lot of fish most of the time, up to the limits that were allowed by our permits. Below is a picture of my cousin Jim Benefield on the left and me with our full stringer after a morning at the lake in 1958. We were taught how to clean all of our fish after we got home.

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The Bent Tree
Paul Edwards

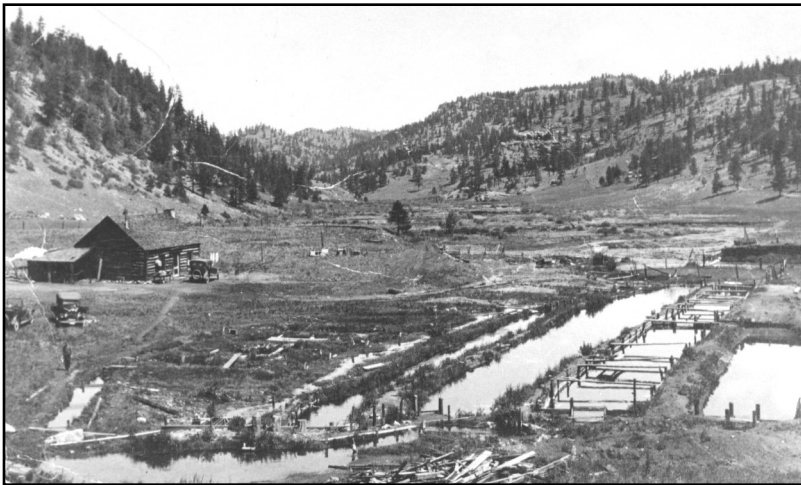


Cousin Jim Benefield
and Paul Edwards, 1958

The lake was stocked about twice a month by the fish hatchery at Rainbow Falls that was on the road to Deckers from Woodland Park. They closed the lake the day after the stocking to allow the fish to get acclimated to the lake. Some of the fish were very large and tagged for prizes offered by the local merchants. Permit sales paid for the stocking cost. There were always a lot of people fishing all around the lake every day it was open. Without the day permit sales at the lake, there doesn't seem to be much fishing activity the last couple of years we have been to the lake to visit.

My grandmother taught us how to freeze the fish in water in ice trays or milk cartons to keep them fresh for many weeks. I still use this method to this day on fish we buy at the store. After coating each fish in corn meal, we would have a morning fish fry on the wood fired outdoor grill in the picnic shelter between our two houses several times a month and invite the neighbors over.

This was a great family experience for all of us and one of the many lasting memories of my childhood spent during the summers in Green Mountain Falls.



Rainbow Falls Fish Hatchery, c 1920
Bob and Neva Watson

Blueberry Cobbler

2 c. fresh blueberries
1/4 c. sugar
1 c. flour
1 c. granulated sugar
2 eggs, beaten
4 Tbs. milk

1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. lemon rind, grated
1 1/2 c. whipping cream,
chilled
2 Tbsp. powdered sugar

Stem berries, gently rinse, pat dry, sprinkle with 1/4 cup sugar and set aside. In a bowl, combine the flour, 1 cup sugar, eggs, milk, vanilla and grated rind. Pour berries into a two quart baking dish and pour the batter over the berries. Bake in a 350 degree oven about 1 hour. Let cool 10 minutes. In a bowl, combine 2 Tbs. powdered sugar and the whipping cream and beat until thick. Serve over the warm cobbler.

From "Old-Fashioned Berry & Cherry Recipes" by Bear Wallow Books

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Columbine 2nd Graders Tour History Park



Left: UPHS board member Pat Hyslop shows kids the calaboose (jail) from 1891 at History Park
Judy Perkins



Right: UPHS Volunteer Abe Adair helps out with the "what would you need to survive?" exercise
Judy Perkins

Upcoming Events



8th Annual Cemetery Crawl *Thursday, July 4*

Tours 15 minutes, from 1pm to 3pm at Woodland Park Cemetery. Cost is \$5, and tickets available at the gate. Free convenient parking at 540 Manor Court in Woodland Park.

Free Tours of Downtown Woodland Park and History Park *Saturdays through August 31*



The walking tour of historic downtown Woodland Park meets at the Museum Center at 9:30, and lasts about 90 minutes. The cabin tour starts at 11 a.m. History Park and the Museum Center are located at 231 E. Henrietta Avenue, next to the library. For more information, please give a call or check our website.

Join the Fun

Traveling Book Shop *Bronc Day,*

Saturday, July 27

9am-3pm, Gazebo Lake Park in Green Mountain Falls. Stop by and say "hi" to Betty Merchant, while perusing the great books for sale. Cash or check only, please!



Mountain Arts Festival *Sat & Sun, August 3 & 4*

UPHS Food Booth at Ute Pass Cultural Center offering hot-of-the-grill brats, dogs and burgers, with chips and a soft drink—all for \$6!!

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



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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!