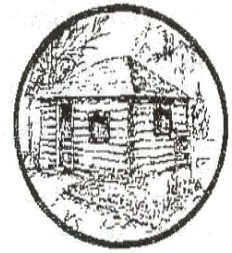




UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & Pikes Peak Museum



P. O. Box 6875 / 231 East Henrietta Avenue

Woodland Park, CO 80866

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

History of Rainbow Falls Park

Ten Miles North of Woodland Park Colo.

Elevation 7478 Feet

by Bob Watson (Excerpt)

In the days of thundering herds of Bison, wide open prairies, lone and scattered camp fires; long before the white man came to the Pike's Peak Region, the Ute Indians made their home camps at Cold Springs, now known as Rainbow Falls Park. The Ute Indians, one of the more friendly tribes, called themselves the Nuntz (the people). They in turn named their country Shining Mountains, and their protector of both property and country was Gitchie Manitou. Thus the name Manitou was given to their valley. Through tradition of their tribe, they prayed to Gitchie Manitou near the Big Cold Spring.

The Utes favorite hunting ground was in the area known as Saylor Park, east of their camps at Cold Springs, near what is known today as the Rampart Range Road.

An Indian cave can still be seen high above the Big Cold Spring, in an outcropping of limestone cliffs. Those of the stout of heart may climb to the cave, there to view Pikes Peak and the surrounding "shining mountains", as the Utes did in days past. Nothing but the view remains today, as the last of the Indian artifacts were removed in the 1940s.

When General William Palmer was planning his city at the foot to Ute Pass, he also envisioned a beautiful resort in the valley of Gitchie Manitou, having a plush hotel, trout hatchery, and—of course—his greatest of Desires--a railroad! He joined forces with Dr. William Bell, and between the two men, a magnificent hotel was built on the site of the present Manitou Forest Experimental Station. The hotel was furnished lavishly, along with spacious stables and carriage houses. Just north of the hotel was a golf course, and about one mile west of Rainbow Falls Park, a race track was built, where guests could watch horse racing. They also constructed Manitou Lake, with a boat house on the west shore.



MANITOU PARK HOTEL

First of Three Manitou Park Hotels, 1873

Third Manitou Park Hotel, built by
Colorado College in 1909
Burned in 1925

Photo Courtesy of George and Velma Worden



(Continued on page 3)

President's Corner, 2021



I want to wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year. What a year we have had, getting through the Covid Pandemic! Hopefully, this will all be behind us before too long.

Thanks to our generous patrons, the Historical Society was able to get through this year in good shape financially. In addition, our Gift Shop sales were better than last year, thanks to manager, Judy Perkins, who also opened up the Land Office in Green Mountain Falls over the summer for book sales

There are several major changes at the Historical Society this year. Karla Schweitzer, our Collections Manager, has retired and is looking forward to some quality time with her family. We have a new part-time curator, Katie Davis Gardner. She is the daughter of Mary Ann Davis, one of the founders of our Society. She comes to us with great credentials and experience, having worked at the Pioneer Museum and the Old Colorado City Historical Society. Our treasurer, Jon Woods, is retiring this year and we are looking for someone who could take his place. If anyone is interested in this position, please let us know.

We are engaged in a new film project, knowing that we need to do more virtual projects, not only during the Pandemic, but for the future. The film is about Dude Ranches in our area. We are lucky to have film director Dennis Zerull, and photographer, Doug Hetzler, managing the production. Local photographer Charlie Chambers is also involved in the film.

There will be a fundraiser auto show called *Cruise in After the Frost* in the late spring to help raise funds to complete the film. Karla Schweitzer, Pat Hyslop, Donna Finicle, Larry Black and Paul Loyd are on the committee to make this film happen.

Due to the Pandemic, we will not be doing the Annual Patron's event in 2021. We will be hosting a virtual silent auction this spring, to raise funds for UPHS.

The triennial Marigreen Pines Tour is scheduled for July 17th and 18th, 2021. If we are unable to have the Tour this year due to the Pandemic, it will be rescheduled for 2022. Keep an eye on our website, newsletters and Facebook pages for updates.

Thanks for your continued support,
Donna Finicle, UPHS President

Ute Pass Historical Society Wins SoundZ of the Season Window Decorating Contest

The Ute Pass Historical Society entered SoundZ of the Season window decorating contest in downtown Woodland Park. Our window was located at *The Cowhand*.

The contest pairs up non-profits with local businesses. The non-profits then decorate their assigned window, in preparation for the vote.

The public were invited to go by *The Cowhand* and other businesses in town to vote on their favorite display. After choosing the favorite, the public could vote by Facebook, phone message or text.

The window was decorated by UPHS volunteers, from left-Julie Snyder, Pat Hyslop and Karla Schweitzer. Honorable mentions go to Jane Lass and Darlene Ruth for their assistance.

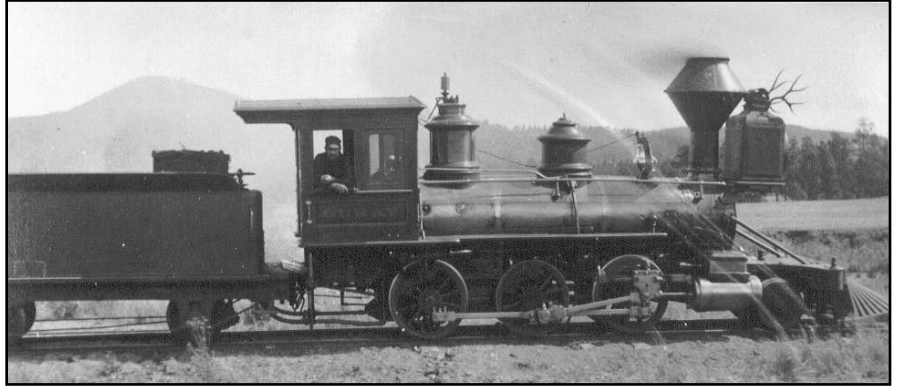
UPHS won first prize of \$50, thanks to everyone that voted.



(continued from page 1)

The railroad was finally under construction as a narrow gauge. It was designed to be 8 miles long, the length of the valley, just skirting the east bank of Trout Creek. The rails and locomotive were freighted up Ute Pass by teams of horses and mules. Supplies and lumber were in turn hauled on the railroad, which had no name. Only one problem faced the engineers of the "No Name Railroad". The Big Cold Springs water could not be used in the boiler of the locomotive as the water started building up limestone deposits in the flues. Several saw mills started operations in the valley, now that the railroad was hauling logs and lumber for the young cities growing in the area.

General Palmer hauled the lumber down the Pass to Fountain Colony by wagons, as the Midland Railroad was not under construction until nine years later, in November 1883. The railroad at the resort park could not be used as it ran only the length of the valley. The lumber which was hauled to Fountain Colony was used to erect Colorado College.

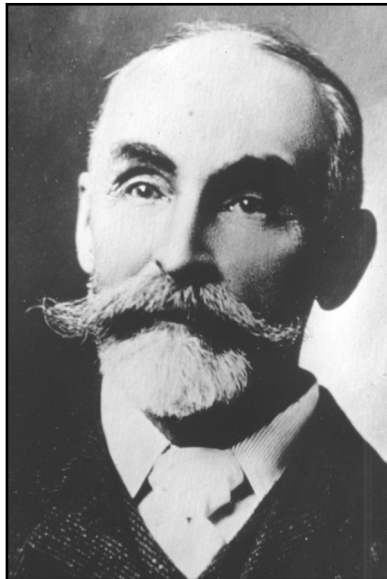


The No Name Railroad
UPHS Photo

In later years, a stage coach line was established through the valley for travel and mail. The Ute's Big Cold Springs was a must-stop for a refreshing drink by the passengers, as well as the horses and drivers.

The name *Fountain Colony* would not be changed to *Colorado Springs* for many years to come.

Along with Fountain Colony, another fast growing community was Thornton Village on the banks of Manitou Lake. This was the elaborate summer home of the Thornton family. Mr. Thornton was a millionaire, his success was in converting a problem into an asset. The machinery at his shop kept wearing out and cracking washers. So, one day, a washer cracked and he didn't feel like changing it, and the machinery kept on running. Lo and behold-it stayed! He named it the *lock washer*, thus obtaining his fame and fortune.



Dr. William A. Bell
Founder of Manitou Springs and
co-owner of the Manitou Park resort
Photo from
Local History Department, PPLD



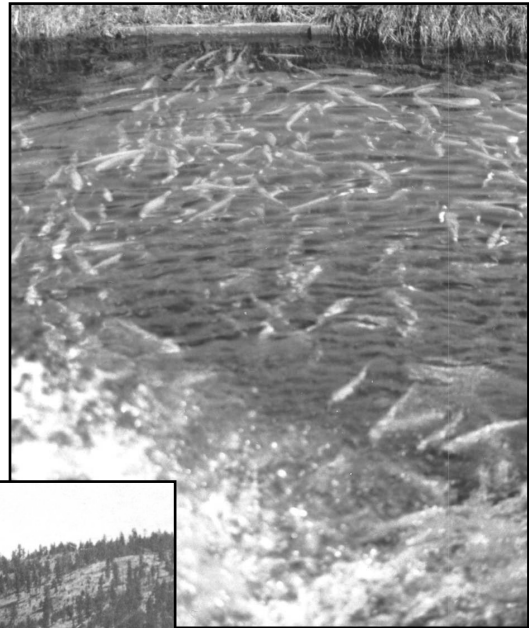
Dr. William Palmer
Founder of Colorado Springs and
co-owner of the Manitou Park resort
Photo from
Local History Department, PPLD

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(continued from page 3)

At the north end of the valley, General Palmer constructed one of the first trout hatcheries in America, certainly the first in the west.

The first hatchery and rearing ponds were constructed in the spring of 1874. The first hatchery superintendent started raising *speckled beauties*, or *brook trout*, as they are commonly known today. The source of water was naturally the *Big Cold Springs*. The water splashed out of the cliffs at four hundred gallons per minute. The flow never varied, and the temperature remained a constant 49 degrees. This trout hatchery furnished fresh trout for General Palmer’s own Manitou Park Hotel, as well as his new Antlers Hotel, and later The Broadmoor and all the eating establishments in the Pikes Peak Region. In the days of General Palmer, the trout were delivered alive and dumped into tanks at various eating establishments for the chef to use as he wished.



Above left: Indian Cave at Rainbow Falls Park

Above right: Rainbow Falls (Big Cold Spring) Hatchery

Bob and Neva Watson owned the hatchery and Rainbow Falls Park 1953 to 1990

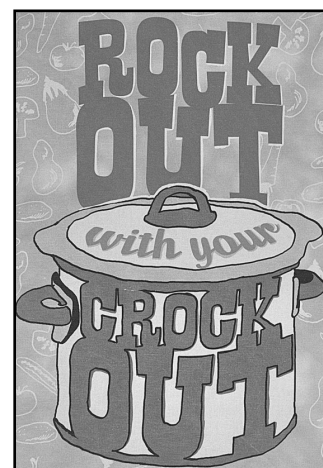
Photos courtesy of Bob Watson

Rainbow Falls (Big Cold Spring) Fish Hatchery, ca 1920
Established 1871 by Dr. Wm. Bell and General Wm. Palmer

From the Big Cold Springs and Trout Creek, an elaborate water and irrigation system was established. It flowed from one end of the valley to a ditch near the hatchery. These irrigation water systems not only produced trout, but also lush green meadow grass for cattle, along with the first of Teller County potatoes. Before long, three thousand head of cattle grazed the length and breadth of Manitou Park. The grass was so tall it polished the stirrups on the saddles of the cowboys who herded the cattle. Here in this valley, at the Ute’s Big Cold Springs, white men and the Ute became good friends-in no more fitting a place than here at Rainbow Falls Park. This valley, not known at the time, was to be one of the West’s first great ranches.

Slow Cooker Chicken Chile Relleno Soup

- 3 medium large boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 white onion, diced
- 4 diced poblano peppers
- Generous pinch of salt and pepper
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 8-oz. package of cream cheese
- 1 8-oz. block sharp cheddar cheese, shredded



Instructions:

- 1) Add everything but the cream cheese and cheddar cheese to the slow cooker.
- 2) Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours.
- 3) Pick out the bay leaves and throw them away.
- 4) Transfer the chicken breasts to a large cutting board and shred with two forks.
- 5) Set aside.
- 6) Add a few ladles of the broth to a blender, along with the cream cheese.
- 7) Cover and pulse until smooth.
- 8) Pour this mixture back into the slow cooker.
- 9) Stir in the cheese, then add back the chicken.
- 10) Serve and enjoy!

I printed this from the internet about a year ago. I have made it 5 or 6 times since. It is super easy, and very tasty! In case you are worried, poblano chiles are not hot; they just add flavor. So good!!

Judy

And UPHS recognizes our Honorary Lifetime Patrons

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Please complete and return.



Annual History Park Wreath Making Project a Success



Cabins, from left: Brockhurst Cabin and Outhouse

Above: Calaboose and Outhouse

Left: Immer Cabin

The wreath makers got together in November to make the wreaths to decorate History Park for the holidays. The pine boughs were supplied by Blue Mountain Ranch Camp.



Sally Riley, left, and Carol Harvey, right



Wreath Models

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



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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!*