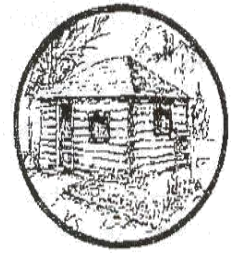




UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & Pikes Peak Museum



P. O. Box 6875 / 231 East Henrietta Avenue

Woodland Park, CO 80866

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Mary Lou (Nelson) Penny

July 31, 1923-January 9, 2022

Mary Lou (Nelson) Penny, 98, slipped peacefully from this earth and entered Heaven to see her Lord and God in all His glory on Sunday, January 9, 2022. She was an elegant and much-loved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and Christian. A life-long Kansan, Mary Lou was born on July 31, 1923 at 1046 Kentucky Street, Lawrence, to Mary Estelle Nelson and Dr. William Oliver Nelson. She met Junius M. Penny while attending Pinckney Elementary School. After graduating from Liberty Memorial High School, she attended K.U. for two years, studying in the first Occupational Therapy program offered.

The couple eloped in 1943 as sophomores in college. It was Wartime, and Jun, who had enrolled in the Navy Air Corps, was later drafted into the Army because his marriage made him ineligible for the Air Corps. He was trained as a radiology tech, and Mary Lou followed him to each training site, thus ending her college endeavors. Before deployment, they had a son and she was pregnant with their second child. When Jun returned from



Photo courtesy of the Penny Family



Mary Lou and Jun Penny

Photo courtesy of the Penny Family

India, he finished his last two years at K.U., earning a degree in civil engineering. Black & Veatch hired Jun to be resident engineer in Caruthersville, Missouri where the young family moved. His father, M.N. Penny, recruited him to operate the Penny's Ready Mixed Concrete business in Emporia, which Jun's brother, Charlie, had started. By this time, there were four little Pennys with one more to come. Mary Lou was a wonderful homemaker and partner to Jun. They were a team, reflecting a love of people and an open, welcoming home. They never seemed to meet a stranger. Mary Lou, with rare exception, was available for her children when they came home from school providing time for talking about the day's activities or their thoughts.

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Together, they raised five children, grew Penny's Ready Mixed Concrete as a business, served their church and community on various boards and planning committees, traveled across the world, made friends in several countries, and served God in all endeavors. As they grew older, they remained committed to each other and strong in their faith. Mary Lou



Photos courtesy of the Penny Family

tenderly cared for Jun in the home for several years until he lost his battle with Parkinson's disease in 2008. And she spent her final years mentoring her family in the sunroom of her house, sharing her faith, entertaining with her sharp wit, and loving those in her life. Mary Lou loved growing up in Lawrence and spending summers in Green Mountain Falls, CO.

Mary Lou was active as a Sunday school teacher (wondering later what she had taught, not knowing the Lord at that time), in the Women's Garden Club, and Research Study Club as her children got older. She later served on the boards of the Emporia Public Library and the City Parks and Recreation. If she learned of neighbors or friends having trouble, whether financial, marital, or emotional, she tried to help. She took food to those who were ill, and helped several elderly women. She came to know many of the foreign students (from Ethiopia, India, Greece, Thailand, and Taiwan) attending Emporia State, inviting them into their home for meals and visits. She and Jun were the unofficial sponsors for a group of Hawaiian students at Emporia State in the late 50's, and remained in touch with some up until now. Two children from the Villareal family of



Columbia, South America, lived with the Pennys in the early 1970s, calling and visiting as family throughout the subsequent years. There were many women who were close friends to Mary Lou. Neither age nor culture proved a barrier in Mary Lou's friendships and outreach. When her children left home, Mary Lou took classes at Emporia State, especially enjoying *The Great Plains* Semester taught by Jim Hoy and others. She was a dignified, strong, and caring woman and lovingly committed to her family. She was "Lou" to Jun, "Mother" to her children, "Nonny" to her grandchildren, "friend" to all others, and a faithful servant to Jesus. We will miss her beautiful garden, the hot-pink lipstick smudges on our cheek from her kisses, her timeless sense of style, her warm hugs, her faint scent of perfume and moisturizer, her sage advice, and her mashed potatoes that were more sour cream than potatoes because "every recipe is improved by adding more sour cream or butter". Neither Lawrence nor Green Mountain Falls, Colorado will be the same without her. Her five children, their spouses, scores of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and innumerable friends survive Mary Lou. Her beloved Jun, grandson Nathan, parents, and many others welcome her home.

**Thank you to ...
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UPHS Board Member is 2021 Chamber Volunteer of the Year



Above: UPHS Board Member, Pat Hyslop

Left: Pat Hyslop marching in the recent Saint Patrick's Day parade in Woodland Park



The 2021 winner spends a great deal of her time volunteering for a multitude of different organizations. Her assistance with the Ute Pass Historical Society allowed them to complete an introductory film about historic Dude Ranches – even in the midst of COVID. She recently assisted the Historical Society as well with a film on the history of lettuce and potato farming in Divide. As a volunteer, she goes the extra mile to assist – whether decorating the main office of the Historical Society or working with 2nd graders making history fun for them. She's passionate about her community and the organizations she works with.

High Altitude Oatmeal Raisin or Cherries Cookies

3 eggs, beaten
 1 1/2 c. raisins
 1 T. vanilla extract
 1 c. butter, room temperature
 1 c. brown sugar
 3/4 c. granulated sugar

2 1/2 c. + 2 T. flour
 1/2 t. salt
 1 t. cinnamon
 1 1/2 t. baking soda
 2 1/4 c. oatmeal

Combine beaten eggs, raisins and vanilla in a small bowl. Cover with plastic and let stand for 1 hour

Preheat oven to 350. In a small bowl, sift the flour, salt, cinnamon and soda together; set aside

Cream the butter and both sugars together. Add flour to mixture. Dough will be stiff. Slowly add the egg/raisin mixture and mix until fully incorporated.

Stir in oatmeal. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool COMPLETELY.
 Hints: Roll dough into balls and press between palms of your hands before baking. This flattens them.

Thomas S. Gayler 1942-2021

Thomas Stephen Gayler of Canon City, Colorado passed away on October 25, 2021, due to complications from Covid-19. He was born in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado to Les and Sarah Gayler, now deceased, and attended Manitou Springs High School. Tom married the love of his life, Gloria Bergman of Stratford, Iowa on August 9, 1962, also in Green Mountain Falls, where they had three children. They lived most of their lives in the Ute Pass area, before moving to Canon City in 1997.

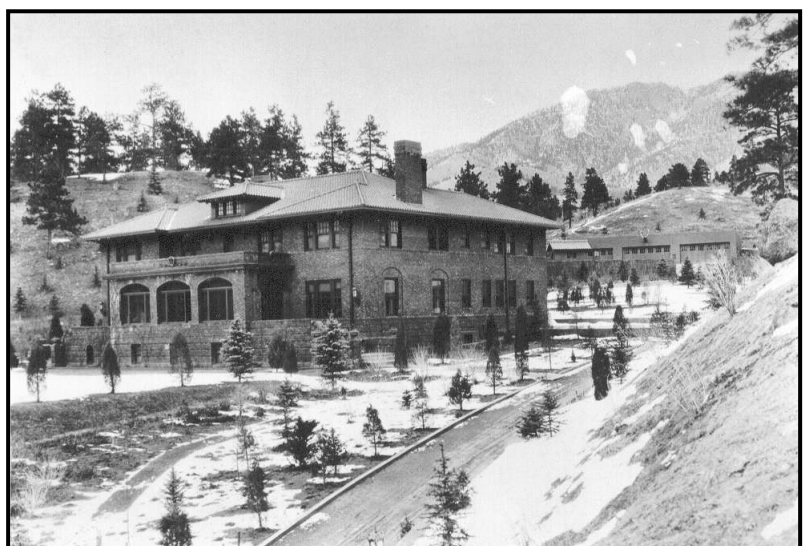
Tom was extremely passionate about hunting and fishing. But what he loved most was “his” mountain, Pikes Peak, where he worked for more than half his life. Tom started out hauling trash on Pikes Peak in 1963. He worked his way up the ladder over the years, working on the road crew, as head of the patrol, and becoming the Pikes Peak Highway manager. He was forced to retire in 1995 due to kidney failure and had a transplant in 1998. His loving wife, Gloria, was his donor.

Tom went back to work during the summers on his mountain as a heavy equipment operator until he officially retired in 2014.

Tom is survived by his children, Jeff (Julie), Leslei, and Amy, all of Canon City; grandchildren Jillian, Brian and Jacob; sister Sally (Alvin) Coblentz of Gunnison CO.



Photo of new marker in the Ute Pass Historical Society’s Memorial Park. The pen and quill signify what a great writer she was.



Triennial Marigreen Pines Tours rescheduled for July 16 and 17, 2022. Tickets on sale May 19, 2022. Check our website May 12 and download the ticket order form.

UPHS Helps Out with the Lake Street (GMF) Display



According to Jan Pettit's 1981 book, *Utes: The Mountain People*, the Ute Trail is one of the oldest documented routes of the Native Americans. In 1911, the El Paso County Pioneers Association organized an effort to mark what was left of the ancient Ute Trail between Manitou Springs and Cascade with 15 white marble markers that were to be dedicated by the Southern Ute Indians.

On August 29, 1912, a large group of Ute Indians accompanied by state and local dignitaries gathered for the ride down Ute Pass Trail. The procession began near the junction of French and Fountain Creeks near Marigreen Pines (Cusack) property and continued down the Pass to Rattlesnake Gulch in Manitou Springs.

Buckskin Charlie, chief of his tribe, had not been on the trail since the Utes left this land more than 30 years prior. He remembered every turn of this trail he had ridden in his youth. He said, "I'm seventy years old. I['ve] never [been] so happy in all my life."

-Compiled and researched by Judy Perkins,
Ute Pass Historical Society

Green Box recognizes and honors the original inhabitants who first settled in this unceded territory, including the Ute, Apache, Arapaho, Comanche, and Cheyenne.

Please share your photos and tag us:
Facebook: [greenbox.arts](https://www.facebook.com/greenbox.arts)
Instagram: [@greenboxarts](https://www.instagram.com/greenboxarts)
#GreenBox

**Display can be seen at the end of
Lake Street, next to the Green Box offices
in Green Mountain Falls.
Sponsored by The Green Box**

UPHS recognizes our Honorary Lifetime Patrons

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Historic Land Office Building in Green Mountain Falls Undergoing a Facelift

The Land Office was first used to sell property in Green Mountain Falls. It was built in the 1890s, and went through many uses over the century. Kids could rent ice skates, buy fishing licenses, use Kodak film services, and much more.

The Land Office has been open weekends in the summer for UPHS book and gift sales since 2019.

Last summer, the roof started leaking every time it rained. Thanks to a grant from Christian Keesee and the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, the roof is being replaced!

Stop by next summer and say hi, and check out the new roof!



KIRKPATRICK FAMILY FUND



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
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Funding for these grants has been provided by Colorado Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the NEH Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) initiative.



Ute Pass Historical Society
& Pikes Peak Museum
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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!*