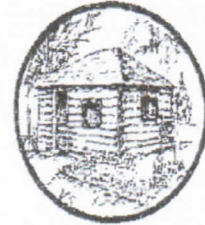




UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & Pikes Peak Museum

P. O. Box 6875 / 231 East Henrietta Avenue
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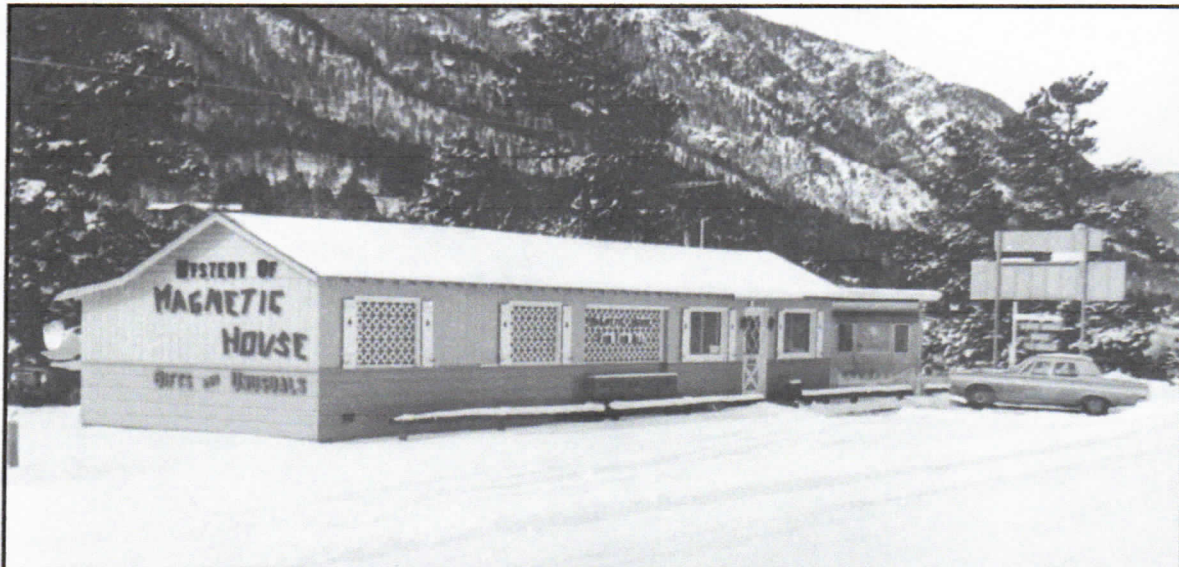
Bust, Colorado *by Steve Plutt*

If you've driven Ute Pass for long, you know where Bust is. But what is the history of this "town"? Was it part of the Pikes Peak Gold Rush of 1858? Or perhaps it came to be when gold was discovered in the Cripple Creek-Victor area? Did it have something to do with the Colorado Midland or Midland Terminal Railroad? The answer to all of those possibilities in one word is "NO". Its existence goes back only to the 1950s, and Bust has never, ever been a town in any way, shape or form.

The building was originally built in 1958 by Mr. Herbert Harr (1915-1987) of Manitou Springs and was known as the Magnetic House, a tourist attraction where visitors could experience "strange, mysterious sensations".

Harr had lived in the Colorado Springs and Ute Pass area since 1922. He was a professional carpenter by trade and a member of the Carpenters Union, Local 515 for 61 years. The small trailer house that Herb set up during construction is still standing in the same place beside the building. The family lived in it for about two or three years while Mr. Harr built their home. The "phenomenon" of the Magnetic House was a house of deception and illusion that "mystified" many tourists and school children, including myself.

Inside this building, you could witness water running up hill, people walking up walls, objects falling up instead of down and many other strange occurrences. Until about the mid-1960s, this was a landmark along Highway 24. When Mr. Harr sold the property, the new owner tore out all of the illusions and then lost it to the bank shortly afterwards. So the next time you're heading up or down the Pass, imagine all the fun I and many other kids had in the building you see there today.



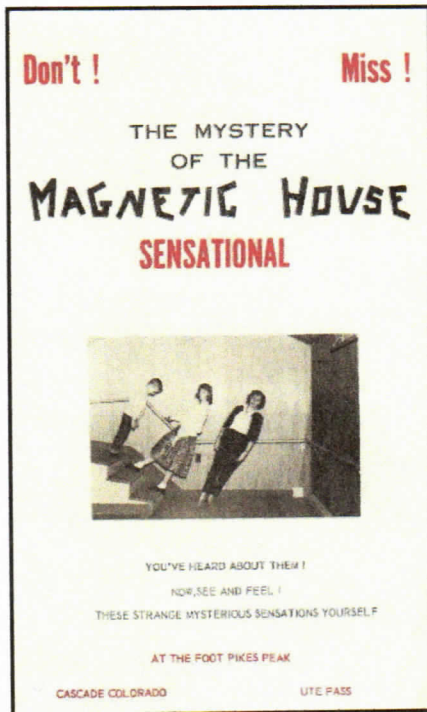
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The Osbornes purchased the property and turned it into a convenience store and gas station. They were area merchants and had previously owned El Vista in Woodland Park. El Vista is that area where today's (2022) Banana Belt Liquors and the Woodland Veterinary Clinic is located. Bust was a marketing scheme created by Bill Osborne and his wife Lou in the summer of 1975 in preparation for the Colorado Bicentennial Celebration of 1976.

Bill and Lou named the 250' strip alongside Highway 24 "Bust" to draw customers into his convenience store and gas station. He also leased space to Hy Country Solar and a Farmers Insurance agency. Later, there were Millers Auto Repair Shop and a realty company, too.

Bill's main interest was his gun shop that he started up at El Vista and was now located inside the convenience store. Clark's self-service was the gasoline brand. With Colorado's Bicentennial coming up in 1976, Bill tried without success to actually incorporate the retail area as a town in time for the Bicentennial. The Pikes Peak Chapter of the Centennial-Bicentennial Commission joined his effort by issuing a certificate of endorsement for the new town and the idea did make it to Colorado's Office of the Attorney General for approval, but ended there. If it had been approved, it would have been Colorado's newest town on an "honorary basis" just to add some humor to the 1976 activities. Osborne said all along that if made a "town," it would serve primarily as a visitors' attraction.

Bust did have a fire department: a 1935 Ford in mint condition with "Bust, Colorado" across its doors. Osborne always claimed that if there was a fire and the truck didn't start, it would be no problem because it had enough hose to reach anywhere in the entire town. He also bragged about his "jail" that was a well house that would sleep two comfortably. With Osborne being the only eligible voter, he elected himself mayor, police chief and fire marshal. Since Bill Osborne and Bust, the building has served as many different small businesses, including a Mexican restaurant, and now is an ATV guide service.



Charles "Chuck" Davis
July 27, 1935 - November 10, 2021

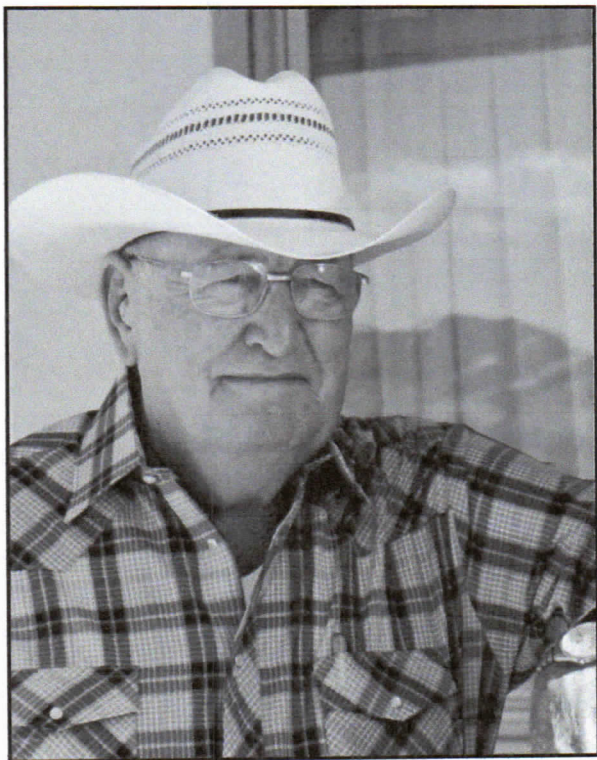
Charles L. Davis, "Chuck", 86, of Simla and Woodland Park, Colorado passed away November 10, 2021 surrounded by his children and wife in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He worked for Mountain Bell Phone Company, which later became US West, Qwest and now CenturyLink for 35 years. When he retired, he bought a ranch near Simla, Colorado where he resided until his passing.

Chuck was born to Charles J and Elizabeth J Davis in Russell Springs, Kansas on July 27, 1935, the fifth of seven children. The family moved to Florissant, Colorado when he was one year old. He graduated from the small school in Florissant in 1953. As a teen he worked for the lumber and logging company in Florissant owned by Billy Manuel. He also worked for the Forrest Service out of Lake George, watching for fires, before starting with the phone company. He had many roles at the phone company, starting in the warehouse, then climbing poles and installing phones, to inspecting, to supervising and managing a crew.

Chuck married Hildred Roberts in 1957 in a double wedding with Hildred's twin sister Mildred to Chuck Hammer. Chuck and Hildred resided in Woodland Park, Colorado where they raised their four children. Chuck loved to fish, hunt, and camp with family and friends. He went on an annual hunting trip with his Dad, brothers, sons and close friends for many years only missing the last three years. He was also one who always searched for the tranquility nature offered, whether it was at his home in the country or somewhere in the outdoors. Some of his favorite things to do included long scenic drives in the mountains where he would always be the first to spot wildlife. Chuck was often found reading a good western and watching TV shows like Gun-smoke. But he loved playing cards too! Poker with his brothers and friends when he was younger and in his later years playing cribbage with his children and grandchildren. He was sharp as a tack! He touched many lives and his sense of humor was a blessing and brought many smiles over the years. He was a wonderful and loving husband, father, son, brother, uncle and grandfather and friend. He will be dearly missed by many.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Charles and Elizabeth Davis; brothers, Harold Lindsey Davis, Leo Davis, and Terry Davis; and sister Lorraine Lockwood. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Hildred Davis; two brothers, Leslie Davis (Betty), Gary Davis (Earlene); children, Melda Musick, Larry Davis (Rhonda), Kenny Davis (Carolyn), Betty Ward (Pete); 12 grandchildren, Stacey Zaiger (Steve), Kelley Pomis (Arron), Daniel Davis (Raquel), John Davis (Blair), Benjamin Davis (Annie), Amanda Kahr (Curt), Shannon Gilman (Kyle), Diana Davis (Bobby Sinsi), Kerry Swanson (Megan), CJ Ward, Carolyn Ernst (Cody), and Amy Ward: 21 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and friends.

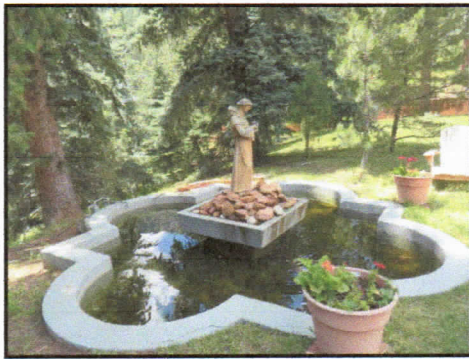
Later in life when he developed COPD from many years of smoking, he would see a random stranger and young person smoking and tell them you better quit that now or you will be carrying one of these heavy things (an oxygen tank) around like me. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the American Lung Association in Chuck's memory. <https://action.lung.org/>



Marigreen Pines

Mrs. Anne Cusack Johnson was a dedicated member of the Ute Pass Historical Society, and provided for its future by permitting *UPHS* to host public tours of Marigreen Pines with proceeds benefiting the organization. The Ute Pass Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the ongoing cooperation, assistance and support of the Congregation of Holy Cross in making Marigreen Pines/Holy Cross Novitiate available for the popular tours. The next scheduled tours are July 16 and 17, 2022. There are still tickets available.

Thomas Cusack was born in Ireland on October 5, 1858. The Cusack family, along with young Thomas, immigrated to New York City around 1861. After he was orphaned at nine years old, Thomas was sent to Illinois to live with a distant relative. By the time he was 16, Thomas Cusack lived in Chicago, where he

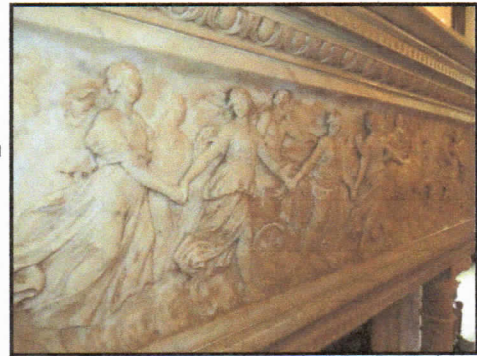


worked hard to put himself through college. Trained as a sign painter, he started a sign and carriage painting shop that grew into the largest outdoor advertising company in the United States. When he retired in 1924, his company showed assets in excess of \$26 million.

Sometime during the 1880s, Cusack vacationed in the Pikes Peak region. He loved the area and resolved to make it a part of his life.

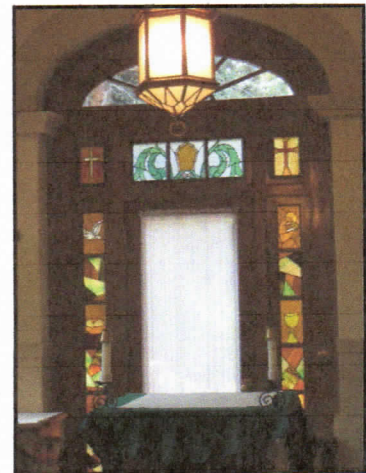
For years, he made his summer home at Montcalm (Miramont Castle) in Manitou Springs.

Tragedy struck Thomas Cusack in 1890 when his wife, Ella Ross, died in childbirth. Their infant daughter died soon after. Five years later, he married Mary Greene of Chicago. During their honeymoon, they visited Colorado. On their way up Ute Pass, Mary saw a small house on the hill above the road near Cascade and fell in love with it. Cusack decided to buy Rock Haven for Mary as a wedding gift. He renamed the place Ellinor Cottage in honor of his lost first child. The Cusacks eventually had five children and also raised Mary's nephew, who was orphaned around 1900.



The three bedroom Ellinor Cottage was used as a summer home by the Cusack family. It grew as the family grew, and after three additions, became an impressive 13-room home. The cool mountains must have been a welcome escape from the heat and humidity of Chicago.

As time went on, Thomas Cusack acquired more land in the Cascade area. In 1920 he purchased the Cascade



Town and Improvement Company, effectively buying the town of Cascade, which was the first known private purchase of a town in the United States. He planned to develop the area as a resort similar to Green Mountain Falls where employees of his company could come to relax.

Mary Greene Cusack died in July of 1922 after a struggle with cancer. The next year, Thomas finished construction of a 20-room home on the hill above Ellinor Cottage, which was named Marigreen Pines in Mary's memory.

(Continued on next page)

Cusack personally monitored every detail of the construction. He traveled to Europe to find furnishings, and imported expensive and exotic materials to give it the look and atmosphere that he wanted. He hired Italian craftsmen and painters to complete some of the decorative details. *Papa wanted to build a spectacular house, recalled Anne Cusack Johnson in 1981. Mother wanted everyone to have log cabins instead. After she died in 1922, the family urged him to go ahead with his plans because he was so lonely.*

After Marigreen Pines was finished, Ellinor Cottage was used by visiting family members with young children. The little ones could sleep peacefully in the old house while their elders dined and entertained in the big house. Ellinor Cottage still stands today, although it is greatly changed in appearance. You can still see it from Highway 24. The original house is hidden inside several additions. The "Cottage" is included in the Marigreen Pines Tour.

Historic Land Office in Green Mountain Falls gets a Facelift

The Land Office housed the original Green Mountain Town Company Sales Office. When the train pulled in, people would be greeted by salesmen, encouraging them to buy land. Many of these lots still belong to the original families and have been passed down over the years.

The Land Office was built in early 1890. It was donated to the Ute Pass Historical Society in 1980, who then moved it to where it stands today.

The roof was just replaced-an urgently needed repair. It had started leaking like crazy last year. Special thanks to Christian Keese and the Kirkpatrick Family Fund for granting \$30,000 for a complete reroof. We would also like to thank Jesse Stroope, Liz Charles, and Julia Witcher for their assistance in processing this grant.



Photos above: before replacement; photos below: new roof



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NANCY BRITTAIN

12/5/1937-3/27/2022

Nancy Parker Brittain, 84, passed away March 27, 2022 in Denver, CO.

Nancy was born in Kansas City, Kansas on December 5, 1937 to the late Paul and Elsie Parker. She was raised primarily in Bartlesville, OK where she attended Garfield Grade School, Central Middle School and College High. She furthered her education graduating from KU in 1958 where she was also a member of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity.

Nancy was Head of Development with Sewell Rehab Center, Denver Botanic Gardens and Central City Opera. She was also a board member of Central City Opera. She was involved with Junior League in Savannah, GA, Bartlesville, OK and Kansas City, KS. Nancy volunteered with Channel 6.

She is survived by her son, David P. Brittain.

Nancy is preceded in death by her parents and her son, Robert Scott Brittain.

Memorial Service was held on Friday, April 15. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the Central City Opera, 4875 Ward Rd Suite 100 Wheatridge, Co 80033.

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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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It is an honor to serve you!*