The Great Divide Train Robbery!

by Steve Plutt

Did you know that there was a train robbery near Divide? Well there was, and it on September 2, 1910. Colorado Midland Railway Engine No. 3 was bound for the Western Slope with passengers. About $60,000 in cash was locked in the strong boxes of the express car. When the train was about four miles west of Divide, a lone highwayman crawled over the tender of the engine. The robber was later described as a man of good size, shabbily dressed and speaking with a Swedish accent. Looking down on Fireman Paul Bochman, the bandit exclaimed “Put up your hands, quick, or I’ll blow your head off!” For obvious reasons, Bochman complied.

The highwayman entertained both Fireman Bochman and Engineer Frank Stewart with two automatic handguns, and escorted the pair out of the engine, marching them alongside the train toward the express car. As the passengers peered out of the windows to see what was happening, the bandit shot at them. Fifteen spent cartridges were later found outside of those cars.

When the trio arrived at the express car, the crook ordered Bochman to pound on the side of the car and tell the express messenger to open up. The messenger answered back with gunfire, shooting through the side of the car. The robber fired back, giving Bochman an opportunity to dash under the car and crawl to the other side of the train. In response, the robber leaned down and fired under the train at the Fireman. Engineer Stewart was later quoted saying, “The minute he took his eyes off of me I struck him with all my might with a rock which I had picked up as I got off the tender. I hit him on the head, and just as I did that, he shot back at me, the bullet going through my leg. But I guess that clip I gave him finished him, for he never moved after he fell.”

When it was all over, the “would-be robber” lay dead with the back of his skull crushed and possibly one bullet hole in his head. As Stewart lay on a stretcher being taken to St. Francis Hospital in Colorado Springs to have the gunshot wound to his leg cared for, he told his comrades, “Tell the old woman, boys. When morning comes and I ain’t there, she’ll be worried.”

Several days later, the coroner’s jury ruled that the highwayman had been “killed from a gunshot wound to the base of his brain and not the rock in the hand of Engineer Stewart.” The jury further noted “said gunshot being fired by a hand unknown to us.” The Lone Highwayman, never identified, was buried in Mt. Pisgah’s Potters Field in Cripple Creek.

Engineer Frank Stewart was later rewarded by the Wells Fargo Company with a gold watch and $300 for his bravery in preventing the train robbery.
The Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition (T.H.E. Coalition) held their inaugural Breit Awards Banquet on Sunday, September 10th at the Ute Pass Cultural Center. The banquet is dedicated to the memory of Dee Breitenfeld, whose passion for preserving our local heritage inspires us all.

UPHS President, Donna Finicle, accepted the award for the Ute Pass Historical Society. The award is in recognition of our ongoing mission to preserve our regional Pikes Peak heritage in particular along the Ute Pass corridor.

The two UPHS tables were graciously supplied by volunteers Paul Loyd and Larry Black. Ute Pass Historical Society members present were Larry Black, Jack and Mary Ann Davis, Nancy Desilets, Donna Finicle, Karen and Doug Gilliam, Lisa Huff, Pat Hyslop, Judy Perkins, Steve and Kim Plutt, Jean Rodeck, Ted and Karla Schweitzer, and Julie Snyder.
Upcoming Events
Annual Potato Soup Supper
Friday, October 13th, 5:30 pm
at the Pikes Peak Community Club
11122 U.S. Highway 24, Divide
Potato Soup, salad, roll, drink and dessert—all for $5
This year’s gathering features another very special
program that you don’t want to miss!

Dates released for the 2018 Marigreen Pines Tours
July 14th and 15th, 2018. Tickets go on sale May 16th
How about joining the 2018 Marigreen Pines volunteer
team? It’s fun, it’s educational, and it’s just the right
opportunity for teens and adults to GET INVOLVED!
Stay tuned for details coming in early 2018.

Thank you to ...
Our new and renewing
Family and Associate Patrons
Bruce and Cleona Flipse * Ken Valles

Our Benefactor Patrons
Mrs. Claire Cusack Cronin

And UPHS recognizes our
Honorary Lifetime Patrons
Larry Black * Paul and Patricia Crowson
Jack and Mary Ann Davis * Donna Elder
Claudia and Jim Eley * Anne Foster
Marg Ed Kwapiil * Sandy and Daniel Lampe
Gary and Anna Litchenberg * Betty Merchant
Mel McFarland * Louisa Moore
George and Jeanne Parkhurst * Janet Pettit
Claude Wiatrowski

Thanks to our Amazing Volunteers!
Larry Black * Austin Box * Randy Braggrick *
Jack and Mary Ann Davis * Dee Dejong
Nancy and Paul Desilets * Cyndi Deswik
Claudia Eley * Marcene Ethchieson * Donna Finicle
Linda Garrett * Miriam Gillespie * Karen Gilliam
Suzie Graf * Destinee Guerrero * Amy Hopfe
Lisa Huff * Pat Hyslop * Jim and Evelyn Irving
Bryan Kochis * Jane Lass * Trudy Layton
Paul Loyd * Dave Martinek * Betty Merchant
Claudia Meyer * Suzanne Miller * Jason Pearce
Dale and Judy Perkins * Dave and Michelle Perkins
Trevor Phipps * Steve and Kim Plutt * Tim Rhatigan
Mel and Sally Riley * Jean Rodeck * Renee Rowcliffe
Darlene Ruth * Ted and Karla Schweitzer
Julie Snyder * Nancy Spradling * Lois Sprague
Maria Stepien * Wayne Stewart * Eric Swab
Jean Taylor * Ken Valles * Kendra and Kylee White
Jon Woods * John Yantorno * Fred Zobel

This year, the Gift Shop is offering a choice of
two calendars. The 2018 UPHS Calendars are
just the right memento to help your out-of-
town guests remember their summer vacation
in beautiful Ute Pass. They cost $12 each and
are available now in the Gift Shop.
And, dare we say, it’s not too early to think
about Holiday gift giving.
2017 Mountain Arts Festival

The 32nd Annual Mountain Arts Festival took place August 5th and 6th at The Pavilion between the Ute Pass Cultural Center and Woodland Park Public Library. UPHS served grilled hamburgers and brats to satisfy the hungry crowd who feasted their eyes on juried artwork by jewelry designers, woodcarvers, photographers, painters, potters and much more.

Thanks to benefactor Larry Black for generously funding the necessary supplies. And, many thanks to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly all weekend to make the Annual Food Booth a huge success.

Volunteers Julie Snyder and Dave Fahler spent a day tending and beautifying the Pioneer Garden at History Park. The Harvest Center donated native plants and those appropriate for high altitude gardens.

In addition to weeding and planting, Julie and Dave also installed deer netting over the west Garden to protect the new growth, at least in theory. A doe and her twins supervised the goings-on, hoping to be first in line for the fresh “salad bar.”

From Left: Paul Loyd, Karen and Doug Gilliam and Pat Hyslop

Fresh Peach Dessert

Bring just one more day of summer to your fall table with this easy and yummy dessert.

Leftovers are great too, but there won’t be any!

Ingredients

- 1 can of cut peaches (21 oz)
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 6-oz butter cut into small chunks

- 1/3 cup walnuts, crushed (optional)
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- Vanilla ice cream and/or whipped cream

To use fresh peaches, you may substitute 4 cups peeled, sliced peaches for the canned peaches. To peel peaches, bring a pot of water to a boil. Remove from heat. Carefully drop peaches into hot water; let stand for 1 minute. Use a slotted spoon to transfer peaches to an ice water bath; when peaches are cool enough to handle, skin will slip right off.

Directions

1. Pour out canned peaches with all the juice into a 6-quart slow cooker.
2. Evenly pour out cake mix over peaches. Then sprinkle walnuts, cinnamon, and nutmeg over the top. Do not mix.
3. Place cut butter slices on top, evenly distributed.
4. Cook on high 2 hours.
5. Serve warm with ice cream or whipped cream.
The Ute Pass Historical Society once again participated in the Annual Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration in beautiful Memorial Park, reopened just in time for the event.

**Top L:** Folks enjoying the day  
**Top R:** UPHS Board Member Pat Hyslop wrangling the popular stick pony races  
**Left:** UPHS Traveling Book Store  
**Right:** UPHS Volunteer Dale Perkins helps kids learn to play his hand-crafted drums

The 5th Annual Cemetery Crawl, presented by the Ute Pass Historical Society every July 4th, was very well-received again this year, thanks in part to Michelle Perkins and the Woodland Park Actors Guild.  
**From Left:** Marcene Ethchieson, Trevor Phipps, a group of Crawlers, and Ken Valles
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!