Colorado Springs, Colo., June 20.---Fifteen-year old Mrs. Martha McNight, a bride of only a few hours, is in the custody of the sheriff while her husband William N. McNight, 21, is under arrest following their elopement.

What action will be taken depends upon the child-bride’s father, L. J. Riley, a farmer living near Woodland Park, a short distance west of Colorado Springs. “I would rather see my little girl lying in her grave than in the arms of that man,” declared Riley, “but Martha must not be his wife. She may have to go to the reform school and he may go to prison, but so long as I can do anything they cannot live as man and wife.”

The elopement wrought Woodland Park and vicinity to the highest pitch of excitement yesterday afternoon and caused a sensation last night in Colorado City when the fathers of the bride and groom, each armed with a shotgun, lashed their tired horses into Colorado City on the last stage of their pursuit of the elopers.

By a clever ruse, Riley’s daughter got permission yesterday morning to come to Colorado Springs. After she had left her home, McNight joined her. They drove here as quickly as possible and got a marriage license at the county clerk’s office, the groom making oath that the bride was over 19 years of age. They were then married by Justice C. R. Dunnington. Two hours after the couple had left Woodland Park, Riley was told by a neighbor of the elopement. Quickly harnessing a horse and grabbing his loaded shotgun, he started in pursuit.

(Continued on page 4)
The Ute Pass Historical Society held their Annual Patron Luncheon Saturday, January 26th. This year was a little different, with a silent auction. The prizes for the auction came from many local businesses and members of the Society. Volunteer Nancy Desilets single-handedly brought the whole auction together, spending many hours gathering the auction items and making several themed baskets, including a Super Bowl basket, wine basket, and a beautiful tea basket. Many thanks to Nancy for making it happen!

**Auction Donors**

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- A.J.’s American Pizzeria
- Animal Medical Center
- Double Eagle Hotel & Casino
- Foxy Woods-Larry Fox
- Home Town Garage
- Hot Heads Studio
- Lynne Tatro
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- Karen Anderson
- The Swiss Chalet
- Tweeds Fine Furnishings

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- Paul Loyd
- The Perkins Family
- The Riley Family

Volunteers are always needed for our special events, research, archiving, maintenance, gift shop coverage, tour guides, and whatever floats your boat!

Contact UPHS in person, or call us at 719.686.7512
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Two hours after the couple had left Woodland Park, Riley was told by a neighbor of the elopement. Quickly harnessing a horse and grabbing his loaded shotgun, he started in pursuit. W. L. McNight, father of William, learning that Riley was on the trail of the couple, also seized his shotgun and started for Colorado Springs to warn and if necessary, protect the young folks.

The two fathers met in Colorado City but the meeting was supervised by Chief of Police Wolfe and there was no trouble. McNight was forced to tell of the where-abouts of the couple and the young people were found a short time later in a Colorado Springs rooming house.

The child-wife protested against being separated from her husband and declared that she would stand by him to the finish. Her father was just as inexorable. McKnight was arrested and released in the custody of his father.

Looking at the State of Colorado Marriage record report, they were married on June 19th which is when Martha’s father intervened. Three days later, Martha Riley and William McKnight were united in marriage at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colorado Springs by the Reverend Edmund Ley and witnessed by both of the brides parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Riley. The marriage produced 5 children. William died in 1960 and Martha in 1989 in Cañon City. ----Steve Plutt
Long Time Ute Pass Historical Society
Volunteer and Board Member Receives Lifetime Patron Status

By Nancy Desilets

The Ute Pass Historical Society Board of Directors recognized Paul Loyd, Photo Librarian, Co-Treasurer and de facto SysAdmin, by honoring him with Lifetime Patron status. Paul has been a member of Ute Pass Historical Society since 2003 and was voted to the UPHS Board of Directors in 2004.

In his sixteen years of service to UPHS, Paul has volunteered countless hours helping out in various functions, including gift shop operations, photo printing and organization, tour guide, computer network and software support, and stepping in at a moment’s notice for whatever task is at hand. Paul plays an integral role in the Board’s policy development and decision making, helping shape UPHS into the organization it is today.

Thank you, Paul, for the generous donation of your time, your expertise, and your financial gifts to Ute Pass Historical Society.

Paul Loyd with his award
Photo by Judy Perkins

Local historian Steve Plutt delivers a presentation about Henry Hoder and the Wildhorn Ranch
Photo by Judy Perkins

The Annual UPHS Patron Luncheon reached new heights this year. The program by Steve Plutt, The Life and Times of Henry Hoder and the Wildhorn Dude Ranch” was chock full of humorous and amazing tales about Henry and his exploits. Thanks, Steve, for sharing your time and wealth of knowledge with us!

The silent auction, new this year, raised a whopping $1,010 for UPHS. Thanks to all who donated auction items and to those who bid. Look for it again next year!
Thanks to our Amazing Volunteers!

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And UPHS recognizes our Honorary Lifetime Patrons

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Claudia and Jim Eley * Donna Finicle * Anne Foster
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Gary and Anna Litchenberg * Paul Loyd
Betty Merchant * Mel McFarland * Louisa Moore
George and Jeanne Parkhurst * Claude Wiatrowski
Ute Pass Historical Society “Shows Up” for the 2nd Annual Saint Patrick’s Day Parade

Left: UPHS Board President Donna Finicle and volunteer Ginger Patrick march in the 2nd Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Woodland Park
Right: Ginger Patrick, followed by UPHS President Donna Finicle and Volunteer Ken Valles

Photos by Judy Perkins

Spring has sprung in Woodland Park

Photo by Judy Perkins
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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!

Find your 2019 U.P.H.S. Patronage Renewal Form enclosed!!!