Traditions

The constant quest for survival kept the Ute people in top physical condition. Those who reached maturity were the fittest of their race, masters of their environment, and well equipped to provide for their family.

A typical family unit consisted of the father, mother, children, grandparents, and the husbands of the daughters. The eldest man in the family was usually recognized as the headman to acknowledge his greater experience and his ability to provide good advice.

An individual might live with another band but he would still retain membership in the band of his mother. These close family ties fostered common ownership of food and supplies. The hunters’ game and the women’s harvest were shared with the elders and others not able to provide their own livelihood. Sharing of food and other supplies was taken for granted. If anyone asked for the property of another person, the polite thing to do would be to give that person the item. For this reason, it was not considered polite to ask for or to admire other people’s possessions. Trapper Ferris was amazed at this attitude of sharing. When I would give none of my possessions to one (Indian) he turned to his companions and observed, “That man’s heart is very small.”

Material possessions and horses were privately owned. While leaving the village to steal from other Indians was considered necessary, stealing from a guest in camp or another Ute was highly unusual. Theft was the sole unpardonable crime, and the penalty for theft was usually a complete loss of all personal possessions. A man could be dismissed from the band along with his entire family, while a woman was beaten and turned out of the village alone.
Banner Year for UPHS’ Mountain Arts Food Booth

Perfect weather made for a great showing at the Annual Mountain Arts Festival, August 3rd and 4th. The slight breeze made the heat bearable as the UPHS volunteers worked tirelessly for both days. They served hot dogs, hamburgers and juicy brats with all the fixings. Meals also included a drink and chips—all for $6.00. We hope to see you next year at the UPHS Food Booth, August 1st and 2nd, 2020.

Many thanks to Marissa Neuzil and the other volunteers from Teller County Conservation for planting and tending our gardens again this year!
Thank you to...

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Special thanks to our Historical Club Patrons

Larry Black
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Upcoming Event:
Annual Potato Soup Supper

As the days become shorter and the chill of autumn is in the air, what could be more alluring than a hot bowl of soup, an entertaining program about the history of our area and the company of friends old and new? You can find all of this and more on October 25, 2019 at the Annual Potato Soup Supper, sponsored by Ute Pass Historical Society. This annual tradition celebrates the agricultural, ranching and railroad heritage of the Ute Pass area.

This year, UPHS is pleased to announce that long-time Woodland Park resident historian Larry Black will present Where oh Where in Colorado, Part 2.

The Potato Soup Supper is Friday, October 25, at the Pikes Peak Community Club in Divide. The cost of the meal and program is $5.00, which includes potato soup, green salad, roll, beverage and dessert. Doors open at 5:30 pm, with the program starting at 6:30 pm.

The Ute Pass Historical Society Traveling Bookstore will be on hand with a wide-ranging selection of books about our area and the 2020 Pictorial Calendars, available for $12 + tax. Cash or check only, please.

Pikes Peak Community Club is located at 11122 US Highway 24 at the southeast corner of US Highway 24 and Colorado State Highway 67 South in Divide. Access is only available from east-bound Highway 24. If coming from the east (Woodland Park or Colorado Springs), make a U-turn at the traffic light at the junction of US24 and CO67.

For more information, check our website: utepasshistoricalsociety.org or call 719.686.7512.
UPHS Will Hold Open House at the Gift Shop
December 7, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

You might just find the special gift you’ve been looking for! The shop contains an extensive selection of books and unique gift items, including hand made jewelry and Native American art. And, we are offering a class on wreath making. Or, just stop by and say “hi”, and share some hot cider and treats, and all around good cheer!

The Old Curiosity Gift Shop is located in the Museum Center building, 231 E. Henrietta Avenue, next to the Woodland Park Public Library. For more information, call us at 719.686.7512 or check our website: uphs@utepshistoricalsociety.org

2019 Green Box Arts Festival

This year, the Green Box Arts Festival welcomed 1.8 Green Mountain Falls, which refers to the length of time measured in microseconds that the earth’s day was shortened as a result of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, which hit Japan with devastating effects.

The forms in the sculpture by renowned artist Janet Echelman, were inspired by data sets of the tsunami’s wave heights across the Pacific Ocean.
**Dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of Ute Pass families and communities since 1976**

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