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## November Beneficiary



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*Evergreen resident Margo Hamilton is the volunteer beneficiary coordinator for the Mountain Connection. She has extensive background working with nonprofits and writes to help people better understand each other.*

### Park County Historical Society - Small, mighty Bailey rich in heritage

by Margo Hamilton



Panorama picture of McGraw Park showing the Shawnee schoolhouse built in 1899 and the Entrioken two-story log cabin built in 1864. And the Wren cabin built in 1920. (Photo by Arthur Hall)

Dee Brown, director, and Arthur Hall, president of the Park County Historical Society, live in the majestic beauty that is Bailey; a mountain community with a population of approximately 8,000. Bailey might be small, but it is mighty with a rich heritage.

In 1864, William Bailey must have been enraptured with the mountain scenery, so much so that he set down stakes by establishing the Bailey Ranch and building a hotel. Soon, in 1878, the Denver & South Park Railroad reached this beautiful berg and the Bailey Post Office opened Nov. 20, 1878.

Michigan pioneers Edward and Blanche McGraw forged their way to this amazing area and bought land

from William Bailey. Mr. McGraw worked for Hallack and Howard Lumber Mill, and Mrs. McGraw opened Bailey's first general store, which stands today and is known as Bailey Country Store.

When Edward died in October of 1880, Blanche remarried to W. A. Morrow in November 1888, and the two purchased what is known as Morrow Mountain.

The McGraw's daughter, Helen McGraw Tatum, donated land to the Park County Historical Society. It is here that Park County Historical Society has established a base to preserve and promote the amazing heritage of Park County. The organization is dedicated to historic preservation and stewardship of history, heritage, antiquities and land that has been left in its

"McGraw Park is home to the last wooden caboose, which ran the line, and the railroads wait station," Arthur Hall recounted of the historic Colorado & Southern Railway that operated in the late 19th century and initiated a pilgrimage during the mineral boom. The train ascended from Denver to Platte Canyon and traversed South Park. "We are also preserving Morrow Mountain with foot trails that loop east and west," Hall said.

Dee Brown added, "We also have the original Shawnee schoolhouse, an annex that is on the wish list to become a museum with relics from the Maddox Ice Co." The Maddox Ice Co. shipped ice to Denver taken from two lakes where Platte Canyon High and Fitzsimmons Middle schools now stand. They shipped ice to Denver on the narrow gauge Colorado & Southern Railroad.

Ute Indians camped near the North Fork River.

Meanwhile, Miners from China and Italy came to strike it rich. Kit Carson, Capt. Zebulon M. Pike and French fur trappers trekked through. Visitors to Elizabeth Entrioken, who came to Bailey with her sister Ann and brother-in-law William Bailey in 1864, included Chief Colorow, Horace and Augusta Tabor, John Evens and William Byers. You can visit Elizabeth's cabin, now housed and lovingly cared for at McGraw Memorial Park.

Become a volunteer to help restore the wooden caboose that is in need of scrapping and painting. Help plant and care for Morrow Park's lawn and flower beds, and come to monthly lectures. Rex Rideout, musician, historian and storyteller, will speak at the November meeting. Brian Heber will speak at the December meeting regarding the Chinese and Italian miners who worked at King Coal Mine. Earl Clay Maddox III will speak in January about his family's ice business.

For more information, contact Arthur Hall at 303-816-1735 or Dee Brown at 303-838-6025 or visit the Park County Historical Society's website at [www.parkcountyhistory.com](http://www.parkcountyhistory.com).