

Park County Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter - November 2011

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LETTER from the PRESIDENT

In the last "Letter from the President" the purpose of the Park County Historical Society was revisited as many newer members were not sure what we stand for as an organization. I asked the board and membership to recruit more members. Since then the membership has grown 42%. It is thrilling to see such success. More success was the Park County Sesquicentennial event August 6, followed by the fundraising potluck and power point presentation of historical interest by Christie Wright. Christie discussed some of the historical murderers in early Park County's history. More potluck suppers with a historical presentation are in the planning as this combines two purposes for the PCHS:

education by presenting stories of historical interest to the community, and fundraising by charging a small amount at the event to help fund the operations costs mandated to PCHS such as liability insurance, utility bills and park maintenance. One other benefit is the potluck that is tasty and filling.

Park County has a very rich and extensive history. It covers mining, logging and lumber production, ranching, railroading, ice production, tourism and much more. Park County history raises multiple questions such as how many and who were the different Native American tribes that occupied Park County since the 1300s? Or just in the 1800s? What happened to them? Are there Native Americans living in Park County today? These questions could be answered if interested members would step forward and do the research to add to our education base. You do not need to be a professional researcher or writer, just ask any members of the PCHS board and you will have all the help you need.

There is an enormous amount of history in Park County that needs discovery and publication. PCHS is responsible to discover and educate our history but we need interested parties to pursue our rich history. There have been oral histories from time to time by PCHS and Park County Archives that made oral recordings of history from citizens that had ancestors that were pioneers in Park County. Let's resume that program and to do so, I plan to travel to Kansas to interview Jerry Edgington whose family settled in the Platte Canyon in the early thirties.

Arthur Hall president

Park County Historical Society

New Historic Additions of Bailey/McGraw Park to PCHS

In September 2010, PCHS acquired some new historical artifacts, with a direct connection to Bailey and specifically McGraw Park. Susan Gilbreath, who is Helen McGraw's step granddaughter, sent me some truly incredible artifacts. The items are Helen McGraw's, and Susan felt they belong in the park. One of the items Susan sent of utmost notoriety was Helens doll, which she had as young girl, while growing up in Bailey.

She still has the original clothes from when Helen carried her around Bailey, and is in fairly good condition, considering her age. I have 2 pictures of the doll. One is a current day picture. The other is one of Helen holding the doll in a picture taken at the soda fountain in the Bailey Country Store in approximately 1917-18. The soda fountain was where the meat counter is now in the store. Note the World War I flag hanging from the ceiling, with names of area soldiers in the war. See if you might recognize any of the names. I took the doll to Barb Tripp at Glen-Isle, in hopes that Helen might have mentioned some details about the doll to her, but she didn't recall any thing noteworthy. She did give me some storage tips on it however.



Susan also sent some books and a suede bag from Helen. The books included 'The Snow Shoe Itinerant' by Father John Dyer, 'Notre Dame' by Victor Hugo, Sunshine and Awkwardness by Strickland Gillilan, Zoologist, by A.S. Packard, and Robinson Crusoe, by Daniel DeFoe. The books are Helens and her Fathers, Alanson McGraw. Some of the books were from the school in Bailey. The copy of The Snowshoe Itinerant, is from 1891, and could've been delivered to McGraws Store by Father Dyer himself. The store name is inside the cover. Another book that was given is a Colorado & Southern Conductor's trip record, which covers the years 1926-1932. This is an interesting book, with information on many trips on the C&S Railroad.

Our plan is to have the items on display at the school house and Entriken cabin when the construction is completed.

Pat Mauro

www.parkcountyhistory.com

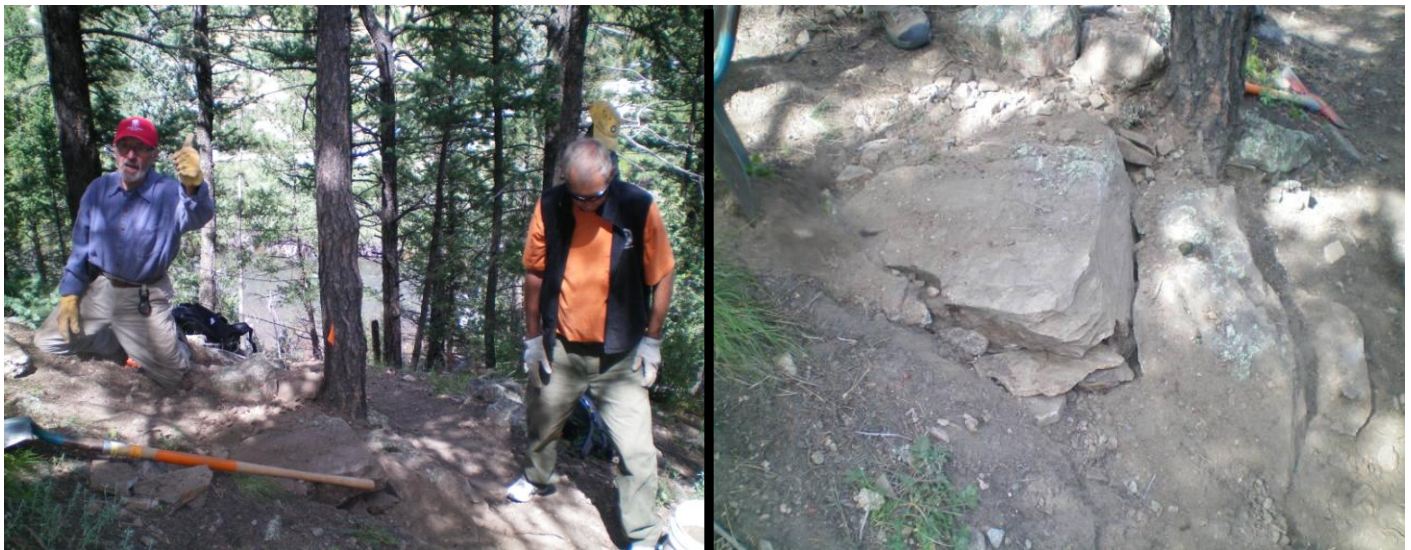
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Morrow Mountain Trail

By Douglas Stephens

Morrow Mountain Trail Building reached the half-way point. In September, volunteers finished the first mile of trail on Bailey's Morrow Mountain. Bailey Scout Sage Sherman led groups of Scouts and Scout Leaders in completing over 1000 feet of trail. The Colorado Mountain Club worked many days and completed much of the rock work including the rock steps to start the second mile. Other groups working with the Park County Historical Society included Destination Bailey and Colorado State University's forestry program. Groups slated to work on the second mile include the Colorado Mountain Club and the Conservancy for the Upper South Platte, who will participate on Friday October Seventh.

Other days for trail building include the weekends of October first and second, eighth and ninth, and fifteenth and sixteenth. Volunteers gather at 9 AM in McGraw Memorial Park. Don't miss your chance to be a part of Bailey and McGraw Memorial Park history as we work towards completing the second one-mile loop. To register please visit www.volunteeroutdoors.com and search for Park County Historical Society. Or Call Doug Stephens, PCHS Secretary, at 303-816-9191. As the weather changes the view of Bailey is wonderful from Morrow Mountain. Please bring water and lunch. Don't forget to wear work clothing and boots. For those not able to participate in trail building activities we are also in need of donations of toilet paper and c-fold towels for the McGraw Memorial Park's new restrooms, thanks!



Warren – left and Jerry – right.jpg Colorado Mountain Club member Warren May (Left) gives the thumbs up to the start of the second mile of trail as CMC member Jerry Helmke (right) surveys the new rock steps. Photo by Doug Stephens – The Flume

Rock Steps to the second mile loop.jpg Colorado Mountain Club members Warren May and Jerry Helmke set the rock steps to begins the second one-mile trail loop on Morrow Mountain. Photo by Doug Stephens – The Flume

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Cycling History in the Platte Canyon

On April 17, 1899 officers and members of the Denver Wheel Club, under its president, Harry Insley, gathered to organize the Denver Wheel Club Country Club on a site in the Platte Canyon comprising 80 acres straddling the river. A month later they selected a name "for the sylvan retreat...near Estabrook, on the South Park branch of the Colorado & Southern. It will hereafter be known as Cycle Park." By August there were three cottages "and a score of tents" on the property now known as Insmont. In 1899 they built their clubhouse/hotel on the hillside above the river. A "crude" nine-hole golf course was built and tennis courts were planned. Bicycling paths were formed. A railroad stop was established. In time, there were numerous cabins and houses built, a post office established, and a small lake was formed alongside the river. A simple wait station was built by the tracks. Today there is a large meadow by the river, surrounded by 80-100 foot spruce trees that are locally referred to as "the velodrome." There is no evidence of a racing track, but there may have been one there. An early account refers to "the Meadow, where tennis courts, golf links, croquet grounds and other outdoor games will be played."



A view of Insmont about the first decade of the 20th century. The Denver Wheel Club diverted the river for this little lake. Front and center is the house known as the "Witches Hat," which was reputedly built around 1870 as a Mennonite church. It still stands, added onto with many new wings and modifications over the years. It was the Cycle Park "cabin" of Harry Insley, last president of the Denver Wheel Club. He named the subdivision after his family name, Insley-Insmont.

In December 1901 the Denver Wheel Club was renamed "The Centennial" and its emphasis shifted to boxing, wrestling, baseball, football and golf. This evidently was a trend of the time as, where cycling had been the sport of wealthy young men; bicycles became more affordable and common. Harry Insley continued to operate the resort, now renamed "Insmont," as a private resort until 1910, when he sold the property, with the exception of his cottage. There are mentions in the society pages of the Denver newspapers of the "season at Insmont" starting, with prominent people arriving from all over the country. One story tells of a couple who took the first automobile trip to Bailey on wagon roads, taking many hours.

The Denver Wheel club started as the Denver Bicycle Club in 1882. At that time, some of its members were arrested for riding bicycles on public streets, reflecting popular feelings against the bicycle. In 1894 the Wheel Club hosted a national racing meet that led to a huge increase in membership, making it the largest in the nation, growing from under 100 to a peak of 800! They moved from a small clubhouse on Evans Street to a larger one on Glenarm Street that included a gymnasium and a billiard room. In 1897 they built a still-larger club on California Street. For the national meet, they built a "three lap track at Broadway Park." The track "established more worlds' records than any other in the country and gave the Denver Wheel Club a renown which has never been eclipsed by any similar organization in the country."

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This is a picture of the Cycle Park clubhouse taken during the Camp Insmont church camp days, probably in the 1950s or early 1960s. This is a view of the uphill side.

This is a recent picture of the "Velodrome," a meadow by the river that is locally known as the Velodrome, but there is no evidence of a banked racing track, which is usually what a velodrome is.



The 1906-08 pictures show it from below.



These are views of the Cycle Park Clubhouse/Hotel/"Insmont Arms" building when we bought the property. It was too far gone--rotted--to salvage, so we tore it down and built our house on the site. In the 1906-8 black and white pictures, it is the large building high on the hill to the left. It is also featured in the newspaper articles. When we bought the property the broad stairs on the downhill side were gone. There are also pictures of Insmont on the county website historical section, including some taken during the Camp Insmont days. You can also find Insmont pictures on the Denver Library Western History Collection online. Just search for Insmont.

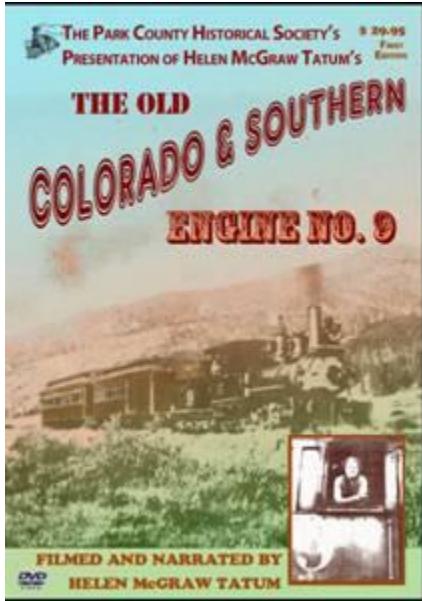
Quotes and much of the information are from The Denver Times, The Denver Republican and The Daily News, Denver.

Pictures: The color picture of the meadow surrounded by spruce is of the "velodrome" today. The newspaper pictures, showing the architect's drawings of the clubhouse/hotel are from The Denver Republican, May 8, 1999. The black and white pictures are from the late Harold Warren, a local historian, showing the Clubhouse/Hotel in the upper left. The wait station is in the left foreground. The lake is below the houses, all of which stand today. The other color pictures are front and back views of the Clubhouse/Hotel in 1994, when we bought the property. It was too rotted to save, so we razed it and built our house on the site, salvaging the large wagon-wheel chandelier for our great room. You can view and obtain other great pictures of Insmont

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The Old Colorado & Southern and Engine No. 9

by Roger Christenson



Helen McGraw Tatum's film *The Old Colorado & Southern and Engine No. 9* is now available on DVD exclusively from The Park County Historical Society.

Helen McGraw was a teacher at Long Meadow School who filmed the narrow gauge railroad through Platte Canon and South Park to Leadville, and the people who lived along the tracks, to entertain folks at a local movie night in the 1930s. The film proved popular and Miss McGraw attempted to exhibit the movie alongside Engine No. 9 at the New York World's Fair in 1939, but, according to Marcia Seleb, ran out of money in Chicago and got a job there. Miss McGraw, who later joined the Marines and married Thomas Tatum, added a soundtrack to the black and white film with her own narration and sound effects she and Thomas recorded of the Denver and Rio Grande locomotive at Knotts Berry Farm in California.

The Old Colorado & Southern and Engine No. 9 shows the train in many locations along Platte Canon, including Strontia Springs and the towns of Buffalo Creek, Pine, and Bailey, where aspects of 1930s life are also caught, such as a 4th of July celebration with tourists on horseback and an Army band, cattle vaccinations, and ice cutters on the Maddox Ice Company's lakes at Shawnee. Other highlights include forest fires and the turntable in operation at the Como Roundhouse. The train is seen passing Glen Isle and other local landmarks. On top of all this Helen tells numerous tales of the railroad, engineers, and local residents.

Helen, who donated the land for Bailey's McGraw Park in 1969, eventually toured Colorado and other parts of America exhibiting *The Old Colorado & Southern and Engine No. 9*, and transferred the film to VHS to sell. The Park County Historical Society has finally transferred it to DVD, thanks to years of planning and negotiating for rights, begun by Bob Wonder and continued by Pat Mauro. Pat enlisted Bob Hockenberry of RP Recording Studios to enhance the sound last year, and finally obtained approval to move forward from Helen Tatum's granddaughter, Susan Gilbreath, a couple weeks before Bailey Day this summer.



**PCHS meetings are
held the 1st Friday of
each month, 6:30
p.m. at the Platte
Canyon Community
Center**

Park County Historical Society

continued...The Old Colorado & Southern and Engine No. 9

With little time to design a cover and create a master DVD, the first two copies were sold on Bailey Day. Fifty more copies were duplicated for \$247 and sold during July, many at the Park County Sesquicentennial and the Denver , South Park & Pacific Convention, netting over \$600. With part of these profits, and wholesale advances, 300 more DVDs were replicated at a cost of \$870. So far we've sold almost 100 more of these, bringing the Historical Society another \$1,141. We have received positive feedback about the DVDs both on eBay and from local resellers (e.g. The Knotty Pine, the Pine Emporium), and none have been returned. In summary, for a total of \$1,117 spent on the DVDs, PCHS has grossed \$2,207.29 in sales, a profit well over \$1,000!

But the primary purpose of this project is not to make money. The Old Colorado & Southern and Engine No. 9 may be the only film about early 20th century life in Park County , and our goal is to get the film seen by as many people as possible, in accordance with the Park County Historical Society's stated purpose of promoting history of the county through awareness and education.



PARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Student K-12 \$5 ☐ Senior Individual (60+)\$10 ☐ Individual \$15 ☐ Family \$30 ☐
Sponsor \$50 ☐ Sustaining \$75 ☐ Patron \$100 ☐ Corporate \$150 ☐ Life \$500 ☐ Member of the Shawnee Branch ☐

I would like to help with:

- ☐ Education & Research
- ☐ McGraw Memorial Park
 - ☐ Host
 - ☐ Maintain
 - ☐ Help with collections
- ☐ Local History Archives
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Historic Preservation
- ☐ Publicity & Public Relations
- ☐ Staff Support

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

☐ Check here if address label on reverse side is correct.

Please join or renew your membership today!

Send check and completed form to: Park County Historical Society, P.O. Box 43, Bailey, CO 80421

Donations are fully tax-deductible – Park County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation

Your membership in the Society helps preserve the history of Park County

Park County Historical Society

The SHAWNEE Chapter of the Park County Historical Society is increasing in membership and has a new Website www.historicshawnee.com We will be meeting on the third Tues of each month at 6:30pm at the Shawnee Tea Room next to the Post Office in Historic Shawnee.

The New Board of Directors and current meeting notes are posted on the website. All are invited to participate! New and old membership is encouraged.

Monthly Historic Programs are planned for the new year along with the development of the existing Cemetery, History Past and Present, Scrapbooking, Future Walking tour and Shawnee Day are just a few of the topics for planning and discussion. Obtain Additional info.. contact Barbara Jerome Behl Chair* teashawnee@aol.com 303-880-8193

2011 - 2012 OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

Arthur Hall – President <i>ahall@frii.com</i>	Eve Kuenn – Director <i>evekuenn@q.net</i>
Pat Mauro – Vice President & Caboose Chair <i>pmauro@yahoo.com</i>	Karen Christenson – Membership Chair <i>karenchristenson@msncom</i>
Doug Stephens – Secretary <i>dougstephens727@hotmail.com</i>	Yvonne Garrison – Newsletter Editor <i>jygarrison1@yahoo.com</i>
John Rankin – Treasurer & McGraw Park Curator <i>num1rankin@yahoo.com</i>	Barbara Jerome-Behl – Director/President, Shawnee Branch <i>baronbehl@aol.com</i>
Dee Brown – Director <i>wfbdjbvis@aol.com</i>	

Park County Historical Society

P.O. Box 43

Bailey, CO 80421

www.parkcountyhistory.com

Look for your membership renewal date on your mailing label. Address correction requested.
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