



## THE WILSON DAIRY



by Hank Alderfer

Early this summer Tiny Town will welcome a one-sixteenth inch scale model of the Wilson Dairy Barn. The original barn still graces the west side of Danks Drive just up hill from North Turkey Creek. Nestled in a hay meadow that is still producing rich Timothy mountain hay, the dairy grew as the Wilson's family and ranch grew. The family operation produced and delivered milk that boasted to be "perfectly pasteurized." Producing for nearly half a century the Wilson Dairy closed down in 1950 when the ranch was sold to John and Willa Marschner.

Many details of the Wilson history have been lost with time, but from the 1880 U.S. Census we know that Harrison H. Wilson (1843-1885) and his wife, Lucy E. (1836-?) had roots in New York. It is recorded that they proved up and were granted a homestead patent in September of 1873. A second patent granted in 1898 established the Wilson's home ranch. Both patents were for 160 acres.

Headstones in the old Evergreen Cemetery mark the loss of the Wilson's ten-year old boy, Horatio S. in 1875. The couple adopted a young boy named Curtis Stacey (1882-1968), shortly before Harrison died at the age of 46. It is not known how Lucy, widowed at age 52, managed to keep the farm and raise a seven-year old boy who was a new arrival in her life.

In 1896, a few miles further up North Turkey Creek, Ernest and Alaminda Hicks received title to their homestead that today lies within the Flying J Ranch. Their daughter, Mary Maude (1887-1944), married Curtis Wilson around the turn of the twentieth century.

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# RENAISSANCE : President's Pen

by Diane Fuchs

I hope you are pleased with the new format of "The Record." The more colorful and contemporary look will bring a new level interest to the newsletter. On the front page of each newsletter will be a featured article on an episode in local history. Members of JCHS are welcomed to submit historical articles for this featured piece. I know there are many of you out there that are wonderful historians and writers. We are delighted that Hank Alderfer has shared the little known history of the "Wilson Dairy."

## The Grove

At the writing of this article, the transfer of Heritage Grove to Open Space is well underway and should be completed by the end of May, at which time Jefferson County Open Space will take over the stewardship of The Grove and bring it back to the same ownership as that of the Hiwan Homestead, as it was prior to 1974.



I have been a resident of Evergreen for 32 years this fall, and when I first moved here I was most interested in finding out as much about my new

community as I could. There were a few books available such as *The Upper Side of the Pie Crust* and *Evergreen Colorado*. It is my belief that an important objective of JCHS is informing residents of our local history and providing programming that will meet this end. Thus, with the stewardship and financial responsibility of The Grove being passed on to Open Space, we can now focus our efforts and expertise on education and the promotion of our local history. Please refer to your newsletters and future mailings for educational lectures, tours, and volunteer opportunities.

## Annual Meeting

The annual membership brunch at the historic Marshdale Lodge, also known as The Bistro at Marshdale, will be held on June 14, 2009 from 11 a.m.-1 pm. Invitations will be mailed to you and reservations will need to be in by June 9. Max Lankston, long time resident of Indian Hills and board member, will present a program on the history and development of Indian Hills. Did you

know that Indian Hills was the site of a Native American Art Center?

## Photo Digitization Project

There has been an incredible response in donations for the Photo Project. As of this writing the following individuals, Evergreen National Bank and The Bistro at Marshdale have made it possible for us to meet the matching obligation for the Colorado Humanities Grant: Joan Ball, LaVeta Bermudez, Lurlie Bickford, Janine Davis, Joan Davis, Dale Devine, Karl and Frances Dize, Pem and JoAnn Dunn, Diane and Hank Fuchs, Thomas Gibson, Ruth Hardman, Josie and Dave Hoover, Sue Jones, Sue Knepley, Max Lankston, Carole Lomond, Randi Marcos, Tommy (Elisabeth) Patterson, Mary Patton, Christine Pfaff, Arie and Gladys Pilz, Barbara Sexton, Marilyn Stechert, Barbara Sternberg and Caroline VonKleydorff. We thank you for your wonderful support.

Please feel free to share your ideas concerning educational programming.

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### Jefferson County Historical Society 2008-2009 Officers

President	Diane Fuchs	303-674-9639
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Director	Bud Weare	303-679-8889



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Curtis Wilson, founder of the Wilson Dairy.  
This picture is a sample of the thousands being digitized as part of the JCHS Photo Legacy Project.

## Membership Renewal

Please find your membership renewal envelope in this newsletter. It will help the society's finances, if you would renew your membership and return it in the provided envelope. If we have not heard from you by the end of July, Josie Hoover, our membership chair, will send you a personal reminder. Finally, if we have no renewal by the end of November, we will assume you are no longer interested and will remove you from our membership lists. I hope this does not happen and that the society can provide you with new learning opportunities and can give you a reason to continue helping us preserve the past and enriching the future. Please remember we financially help support many educational programs,

exhibits, and help to enhance our collections at the Hiwan Homestead Museum, one of the architectural gems of the mountain area. We are the only historical society in the Evergreen, Kittredge, Indian Hills, Bergen Park, Mount Vernon, Idledale, and El Rancho areas. We also own a one room school house, Medlen School, on old Turkey Creek.

Hope to be seeing your renewal envelope in the post office box!



*Diane Fuchs*  
President

Jefferson County Historical Society  
303-674-9639



## MEDLEN SCHOOL DAYS

JCHS owns a one room school house built in the 1880s at its original location on South Turkey Creek, about halfway between Tiny Town and the Meyer Ranch. We acquired the property from the Homeowners Association, received a grant from the State Historic Fund and spent about four years restoring it. This will be the eleventh year of having a summer program for elementary children at the School House. We started with one three-day session and now offer three three-day sessions. We strive to have an authentic experience of early education in a Colorado mountain school for the students.

This year the dates are June 2-4, 9-11 and 16-18 and the cost is \$30.00. Activities include reading McGuffey Readers, writing with pen and ink, taking part in a spelling bee, performing a part in a play, playing marbles and jacks, jumping rope, playing early games, churning ice cream and making lemonade.

Registration forms will be available at the Hiwan Homestead Museum in May and will also be distributed in the Jeffco mountain schools. Forms will also be available on our web site ([www.jchscolorado.org](http://www.jchscolorado.org)). If you have any questions, you may call Jo Ann Dunn, program coordinator at (303) 674-1695 or e-mail her at [joannandpem@aol.com](mailto:joannandpem@aol.com).



# THE WILSON DAIRY

(continued from Page 1)

by Hank Alderfer

In 1904, Mary gave birth to a son named Ernest Stacey. Ernest was the first of five boys and two girls, the last being born in 1928. All seven children had names starting with the letter “E” and grew up in the midst of the dairy enterprise. Ernest, the oldest, went by his nickname, “Curly,” and became the Ranch’s farm manager, planting and harvesting grain and putting up hay. Earl, next in line, took over the delivery routes and soon added oversight of the Creamery. The third boy, Elmer, who was known as “Slim,” worked in the Creamery until his death in his thirties. Emery preferred the name “Shorty,” and worked in the Creamery until leaving to serve in WWII. The fifth son, Elva, used his middle name, Enos. As a young cowboy, Enos showed that he preferred horses and ranching, over milk cows and dairy chores. Ella Mary, the first girl, helped with both milking and household chores. Edna, the last child, joined her sister in housework and assisting in the Creamery.

The family lost Mary Maude in 1943. Later, Curtis married Vera Berrian whose family had been neighbors of the Wilsons since homesteading. Vera died in 1950 and before the end of the year Curtis S. Wilson sold the dairy along with 926 acres, excluding parcels that had already been deeded to the children. After moving off the ranch in thirty days, Curtis moved to Deer Trail to build up a poultry farm. Hit hard by the flood of 1964, it took a rattlesnake hiding under a nesting hen to slow Curtis down. He returned to Evergreen for his last years amongst his growing tribe of grand- and great-grand children.

Throughout the years, it was area resorts, camps, and summer homes that supported Wilson Dairy and for many, “it was hard to turn down a cold milk that was perfectly pasteurized.”



(Above) Curtis and Mary Maude Wilson pictured at the Dairy with all seven kids!

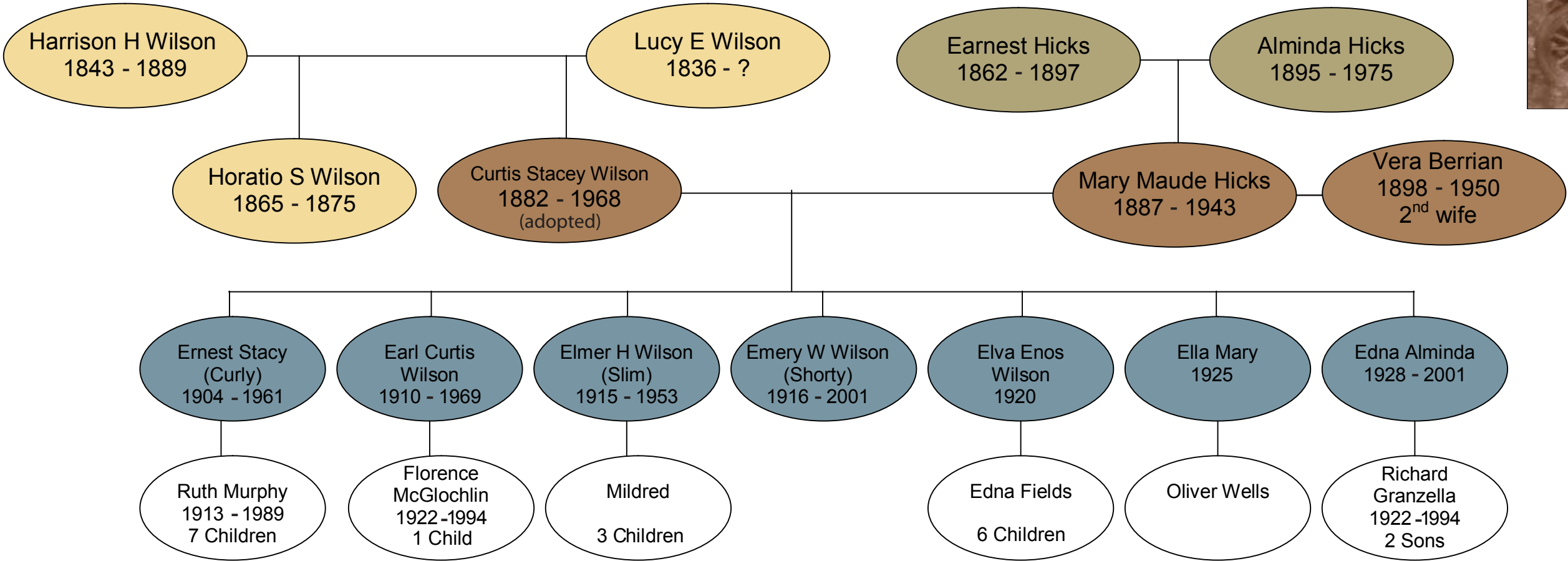


Earl Wilson delivers milk to Bendemere Lodge in 1925.

(Right) Ella Mary was around two years old and climbed into the milk delivery truck. Although records don't provide an exact date, this photo indicates that the dairy was in operation before 1926.



Two Wilson Farm Dairy trucks stand ready to deliver a “cold glass of perfectly pasteurized milk!”





# HIWAN HAPPENINGS

Hiwan Happenings contributed by John Steinle, Meghan McGinnes and Sue Ashbaugh



## Discovery Days

Discovery Days Program, sponsored by JCHS, for children who have completed Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grades, will take place at Hiwan Homestead Museum in June. This year the coordinators are Heidi Markley & Cathy Dieter.

The theme is "Indians." Dates for the three sessions are June 2-4, 9-11 and 16-18. Brochures are available at Hiwan Museum or by request. For more information or to receive a registration form, call the Museum at 720-497-7650.

The Discovery Days program depends on volunteers to lead and teach the children. If you are interested in helping out, please call to find out more. This fun program has a position for you, no matter what your interest!

## Adult Education

Adult Education and craft classes, sponsored by JCHS, are ongoing at Hiwan Museum. Call the Museum for the class schedule. Everyone is welcome to join these informative, inexpensive and fun sessions. Learn something new! Meet folks with similar interests!

## Book Club

Book Club meets in Eric's House at the Museum the 4th Wednesday (usually) of each month at 12:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Join our lively, casual discussions!

## 2009 Scheduled Books:

Apr. 22 – Cane River – Latita Tademey  
May 27 – Skin Walker – Tony Hillerman book

Books for the remainder of the year have not been chosen.

## Summer/Fall Museum Exhibit

From June 16 through September 27 stop by the Museum to see vintage and contemporary aprons. This exhibit will reflect changing tastes and attitudes seen through the evolution of the apron. If you have any aprons that you would like to loan for this exhibit, call Meghan at 720-497-7650.

## Summer Tea

There is a summer adult tea being held on Monday, June 8 at 11:30 AM. This tea will feature Mary Jane Bradbury as Augusta Tabor, the lesser known of the two Tabor women. Reservations are required; there is a suggested donation of \$12 for JCHS members or groups of 4 or more and \$15 for non-members. Call the Museum at 720-497-7650 for reservations.

## Needles & Friends

Needles & Friends group meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 12:30 p.m. in Eric's House at the Museum. Learn something new, finish a project and make new friends!

## Volunteer

There are openings at Hiwan Museum for many volunteer positions. Here's your opportunity to:

- learn more about local history
- learn a new skill
- serve the community
- take part in group outings to other historic sites

For more information, call the Museum at 720-497-7650.

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### Evergreen's 150th Anniversary Celebration

On July 4th, 1859, the Bergen family finished building their cabin in today's Bergen Park, becoming the first settlers to put down roots in this area. They chose to live along the Mount Vernon Toll Road, which connected Denver City with the gold mining camps in South Park. The toll road ran through today's Evergreen area, and met the Bradford Toll Road at Bradford Junction, now known as Conifer. So the 150th anniversary this year celebrates Bergen Park, Evergreen, and Conifer. An exciting schedule of activities is planned to commemorate this important anniversary!

#### Activities will include:

**Bear Creek Rodeo Association** - Rodeo Parade will have a Gold Rush/150th Anniversary theme. Hiwan Homestead will have its own slot in which all volunteers and JCHS members are invited to participate in cowboy/cowgirl costuming to celebrate the 150th.

**Center for the Arts Evergreen** - The Center will sponsor a 150th anniversary art contest in the grade schools. The winning pictures will be displayed at the Center during the summer, and the first place winner will be used as the image on the poster advertising the 150th anniversary events around the area.

**Conifer Historical Society** - John Steinle will give a presentation on the 150th anniversary at the Old-Timers' Picnic on July 19th.

**Evergreen Downtown Business Association** - They will be leaving their Rodeo Parade decorations up until July 4th, and Hiwan's entry in their Egg decorating Contest will have a 150th anniversary theme.

Susan Grannell is coordinating the assembly of a **150th anniversary quilt**, and Sue Ashbaugh is organizing the **150th anniversary suitcase project**.

In conjunction with the 150th anniversary, the Museum will present a **special photo exhibit**. Using photos from collection, this exhibit will highlight the past 150 years of the Evergreen area. This exhibit opens June 2 and runs through November 22. This exhibit is being organized by Meghan McGinnes and her volunteers. Sue Ashbaugh and Meghan are also designing a "then and now" photo brochure covering Evergreen and the surrounding area.

We are negotiating with Denver Mountain Parks to place a historic marker on their property at the site of the second Bergen homestead, across from the octagonal barn on old Bergen parkway. They moved to this site in 1865, six years after settling on their original site just off the present roundabout in Bergen Park.

### Transportation Grant

The Jefferson County Open Space Foundation has granted approximately \$5,000 to be used for funding school field trips to Hiwan Homestead Museum and Lookout Mountain Nature Center. The Foundation would like to use this as a pilot project to fund field trips into the foreseeable future. The grant would also reimburse JCHS for the 50 cent charge for each student. The Hiwan guidelines for education programs have been sent to the Foundation liaison, John Litz, and will be communicated to the schools in the Eastern part of the Jefferson County R-1 school district.

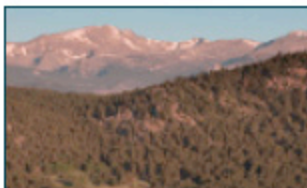
### Mortar Grant

This grant was submitted by Open Space to the State Historical Fund in April. It will fund total replacement of all the old, mismatched and deteriorating mortar on the Museum stonework. The work will be accomplished this year.

### Photo Legacy Project

The photo project committee has decided to hire Pat Jurgens, one of the weekend tour guides, as the project organizer. Pat has an extensive library background and is very comfortable with the kind of computer work needed. The work began in April and will conclude with a final reception in July. Phase One of this project, reorganizing the 4,000-6,000 photos housed at the Museum is partially funded by a \$1,000 grant from Colorado Humanities.

After Pat's work is complete, JCHS will apply for another grant to scan and digitize every photo in the collection.



**Don't miss the  
Medlen School Days 2009!**

**June 2-4, 9-11 and 16-18**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 27 - Hiwan Bookclub  
*Skin Walker*; Tony Hillerman
- June 2 - Medlen School Days  
and Discovery Days Begin
- June 8 - Summer Adult Tea  
Hiwan Homestead Museum
- June 14 - Annual JCHS Meeting  
The Bistro at Marshdale
- June 16 - Vintage & Contemporary  
Apron Exhibit Opens
- July 4 - Evergreen's 150th  
Anniversary Celebration
- July 31 - JCHS Membership  
Renewal Deadline



The Record is published two times per year by the Jefferson County Historical Society.  
The deadline for the Fall/Winter 2009 issue is September 1. E-mail your submissions to [saramiller1@comcast.net](mailto:saramiller1@comcast.net).



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