



GOT ELK? AN UNNATURAL HISTORY



by Bud Weare

A hundred years ago, Colorado's elk herd appeared to be following the fate of the bison. Locally, the Evergreen Elks outnumbered the Evergreen elk. And thereby hangs a tale. Most of the elk had been slaughtered in the late 19th century by market hunters answering the demand for fresh meat in Denver and Front Range mining towns. Antlers and hides also found a ready market. Indeed, during World War I, Gates Rubber Company applied the heavy-duty hides to automobile tires in an effort to preserve the valuable rubber. But most controversial was the "vanity hunting" by Elks Lodge members, who preyed on elk merely for the animals' ivory teeth, from which they fashioned badges and watch fobs.

So it was in 1916 that a repentant Pueblo Elks Lodge purchased from Wyoming a carload of fifty elk, half of which they shared with Idaho Springs. Whatever the motives of the Clear Creek importers, the transplanted elk had a mind of their own and soon migrated to the more luxuriant meadows of Upper Bear Creek where they multiplied with a vengeance. According to Ralph Matzner, retired manager of the Mt. Evans State Wildlife Area, this resurgence of the elk population spelled the doom of specialized agriculture on Upper Bear Creek. By 1930, it became virtually impossible to raise summer oats, not to mention other cash crops such as potatoes, peas and lettuce. In the wintertime, ranchers mobilized to defend their hay stacks.

The story was the same across much of Colorado. In 1929, the state re-established elk hunting seasons which had been closed since 1903. And in a remarkable turnabout, Colorado became an exporter of elk, shipping a "small herd" to Texas in 1931. That same year, the state Department of Game and Fish (renamed the Division of Wildlife in 1972) began a policy of making cash payments to farmers and ranchers for "big game damage."

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RENAISSANCE : President's Pen

by Diane Fuchs

I know you must be pleased with our newsletter. Sara Miller, our editor, has done a beautiful job of preparing "The Record". Again, if any member would like to submit a 500 word featured article please feel free to do so. We have two issues a year - one that comes out the beginning of December and the other the beginning of May. Articles should be submitted by October 1 and April 1.

The Grove

On December 22, 2009 at 2:30 pm, Heritage Grove was officially transferred to Jefferson County Open Space. Along the way there were some obstacles to overcome, but with the assistance of Tawyna Ernst, Joy Lucisano, and Steve Snyder of Open Space; Mike Bornhoser a member of the JCHS board; and Scott Robson, President of the Timbervale HOA and the homeowners of Timbervale property we completed the task in a little over a year from the start of the transfer process. We also want to thank John Hugger is his legal assistance in the transfer. With the transfer of "The Grove" to Open Space a new Cooperative Agreement was developed and signed in January of 2010.

Winter Imagery Gala

Mike Strunk, board member, presented a beautiful slide show of his winter images on January 24th. Thank you, Mike, for providing the photographs and to John Erlandson, who provided wonderful acoustic guitar music. Thanks goes to Anita and Jerry Johnson who catered wonderful desserts.



Peaches for Sale

After sending out a survey to JCHS members, the board decided to hold a peach sale of western slope peaches from the Noland Orchards. We hope to make this an annual event. Boxes will sell for \$30 a box and will be sold on a pre-order basis. Each box is 20 pounds and holds about 25 of the most wonderful peaches. I will send out order forms the end of June for pick up around the second weekend in August. Many years ago the Evergreen Branch

of the American Association of University Women sold peaches, but the branch disbanded, and many community members have missed these beautiful peaches. I usually get about six quarts of peaches out of a box. The order form will arrive at your home by mail or e-mail me at hdfuchs@msn.com. We cannot accept credit card orders and please pay by check prior to August 1, 2010. Make checks out to JCHS and mail them to P.O. Box 703, Evergreen, Colorado 80437. They will be delivered to the Hiwan Homestead Museum parking lot. You will receive a call when they are being delivered by myself or anyone else who would like to volunteer to make a call. By my calculations, we should raise at least \$1,000. All proceeds will go to the support of JCHS projects. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE WILLING TO CALL AND/OR DISTRIBUTE THE PEACHES AT THE HIWAN HOMESTEAD PARKING LOT. It will only take about 2 hours of your time.

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Jefferson County Historical Society 2009-2010 Officers

President	Diane Fuchs	303-674-9639
Recording Secretary	Juanita Weare	303-679-8889
Corresponding Secretary	Barbie Alderfer	303-838-0443
Treasurer	Hank Fuchs	303-674-9639

2009-2010 Board of Directors

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Director	Mike Bornhouser	303-904-8966
Director	Dale Devine	303-670-2682
Director (Membership)	Josie Hoover	303-674-7359
Director (Grove Events)	Max Lankston	303-697-8932
Director	Heidi Markley	303-987-1307
Director	Jan Murphy	303-674-0825
Director	Mike Strunk	303-670-6077
Director	Bud Weare	303-679-8889

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Annual Meeting

Our annual membership meeting will be held on June 6 at the Bistro at Marshdale in the historic Marshdale Lodge. It will be a brunch from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Jan Murphy, board member and author, will present "Secrets of Colorado: People and Places that Even Surprise the Natives." Be looking for your invitation in the mail. Reservations will need to be made by June 1.

Roadside History Tours

JCHS is expanding its interests and activities now that Heritage Grove has been transferred to Open Space and we have time for other endeavors. Accordingly, we are now developing two brochures that will provide guidance to approximately 30 sites of historic interest between El Rancho and Tiny Town.



Meanwhile, if you are interested in a historic tour of our mountain parks check out the following link to www.mountainparkshistory.org. It is a wonderful website on the Denver Mountain Parks.

Alternative Christmas Fair

JCHS was fortunate to participate in the 2009 Alternative Christmas Fair. We sold many books and handcrafted items and raised \$700 for the Society and the projects we support.

Medlen School Days:

For the twelfth year, JoAnn Dunn and volunteers will be offering a unique "one room school house" educational experience for elementary children. There will be three sessions; June 8-10, 15-17, and 22-24. The cost is \$30 per session and registration forms will be available at the elementary schools or on our JCHS website, www.JCHScolorado.org. Students may also be registered by calling JoAnn Dunn at (303) 674-1695 or e-mail her at joannaandpem@aol.com.

Jo Ann was honored at Jefferson County Volunteer Connection Recognition Luncheon on April 21 for her twelve year commitment to the Medlen School Days experience and for spearheading the renovation of the 1880s Medlen School, which was a four year process.

(Please see additional information about Discovery Days under "Hiwan Happenings". This is also a JCHS sponsored education program for the summer)

Photo Digitization Project

As of this writing we are 2/3s of the way through the indexing of some 6000 historic photographs. Following this process, we will write another grant for the scanning of all the photographs. As you can probably realize, this is a huge project and will probably take at least another year. However, in the end, the JCHS photos will rival most collections in the Denver area and will be easily accessible to the public on site at the Hiwan Homestead Museum. This whole process is made possible with the diligent effort of Meghan McGinnes, museum curator.

Lecture Series

At this time, I am developing a lecture series to be held at the Hiwan Homestead Museum. It is my plan to have three lectures a year; one in the fall, one in the spring and another in the later part of the summer. I would love to have help with this project and suggestions for speakers.

Membership Renewal

Your membership renewal envelope is found in this newsletter. Please send in your renewals in the provided envelope. This method of renewal is working very well and our membership is at 116 members. Josie Hoover, our membership chair, will send you a personal reminder if we don't hear from you by the end of August.

Your membership dues pay for your newsletter and a portion of JCHS' sponsored educational and historical projects. The remaining portion for funding projects comes through donations, fundraising efforts and grants. Please support the Peach Sale, buy books, and join us at the lecture series. Also remember to use GoodSearch for your internet searches. We receive a small sum of money from every use of GoodSearch.



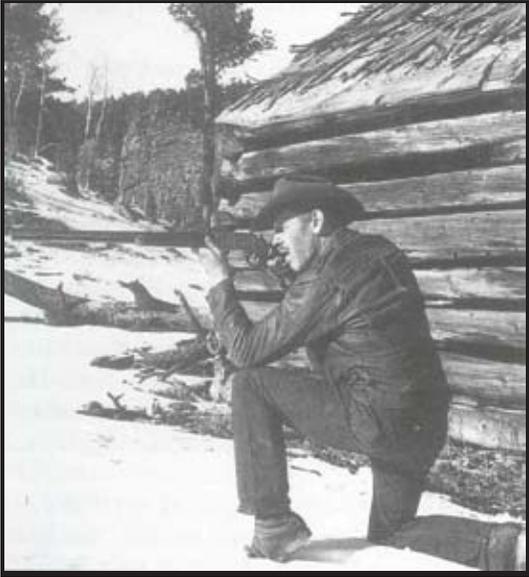
Diane Fuchs
President

Jefferson County Historical Society
303-674-9639

GOT ELK? AN UNNATURAL HISTORY (continued from Page 1)

by Bud Weare

By 1949, these annual outlays amounted to \$125,000. In the meantime, the department turned to “thinning” destructive herds, and here the story refocuses dramatically on Evergreen and the famous (or infamous) Bill Forgett.



William Wilford Jean Forgett (1906-1982), described as the department’s “one-eyed French sharpshooter,” first came to notice in a thinning operation at Rocky Mountain National Park during the winter of 1944-45, when he killed 301 elk and 113 deer. In 1950, the department installed Forgett as the first manager of the Mt. Evans State Wildlife Area, a 3600 acre site purchased largely from the Evans and Truesdell families. Perhaps Forgett should be remembered as the key figure in the creation of the Mt. Evans Wildlife Area, the man on the ground, constructing the compound, building the roads, and overseeing the preserve in its formative years.

But that is not how he is remembered. Instead, he became a local legend who was barred from amateur shooting competitions, and who gained national recognition in outdoor magazines as a latter-day Buffalo Bill—holding the modern record for shooting more deer and elk than anyone else in America. The irony in his dual role as conservation officer and sharpshooter is that he was both guardian and hired gun, preserving the herd while thinning it, not necessarily a contradiction under the principles of wildlife management, but the mixed duties could make for an unpleasant stewardship.

Matzner recalls that Forgett used a big dump truck to haul carcasses into Denver for distribution to the Denver Mission and the Salvation Army. Gene Bassett, a rookie wildlife

officer fresh out of college, remembered being assigned to assist Forgett: “It was pretty bloody. We had to go in ... and shoot a truckload ... and gut ‘em and it was colder than hell. The next day we’d haul ‘em to where they were processed and donated to charity. And then do it all over again.” These were things “they didn’t teach college guys,” Bassett added.

Bill Forgett is the little story within the larger story of Evergreen’s environmental history. Demography and economics constitute the underlying plot, with the elk, rather than Forgett, serving as protagonist. Forgett represented a fleeting era when greater Evergreen shifted almost overnight from ranches to subdivisions. The old game warden proved less adaptable than the elk. He fled to unsettled South Park where he closed out his career and is buried among the aspens.

The elk, on the other hand, welcomed the subdivisions. Janet George, biologist with the Division of Wildlife and author of the 1998 “Elk Management Plan” for the Mt. Evans herd, points out that clearing the forests, even for housing developments, often provides a net gain in elk forage. If we build it they will come. For the moment, Evergreen’s adaptable elk are enjoying the best of both worlds. They seem equally at home grazing in Elk Meadow or picnicking on our patios.

Janet George, who is working on an update of the 1998 report, believes that the size of the Mt. Evans herd has stabilized over the past decade, remaining at about 2500 head. Not everyone would agree, but her more telling point is that the herd has “redistributed” itself—moving east, downslope, increasingly concentrated on private landscapes and public open space where there is less snow, more food, and no hunting. Above all, there is more human contact, which leads George to predict that if there is a crisis looming, it will have less to do with the carrying capacity of the land than with the carrying capacity of the culture.

People have been more than patient with their patio elk, but the elk should know that humans are a capricious species, unreliable in our alliances. Moreover, “habituated” elk make for an uneasy, unpredictable relationship. A bull elk herding a harem up your driveway is a majestic creature right up to the moment he impales you and your Subaru. In the past, elk existed at our pleasure. If the tables are turned, how would we respond? The Division of Wildlife will be polling our opinions. We should have creative answers, keeping in mind that Bill Forgett is gone but not forgotten.

HOPHI EXHIBIT AT HIWAN



Hiwan's newest exhibit "Katsinas in Clay: Hopi Tiles 1882-Present" is now open! The exhibit consists of the third-largest collection of antique Hopi tiles in the world, as well as a smaller collection of contemporary tiles. The collections are on loan from Tad Anderman of Albuquerque, New Mexico. There are over 160 antique tiles dating from 1882 until approximately 1910, and over 20 tiles done by contemporary Hopi-Tewa artist Mark Tahbo between 2007 and 2009. "Katsinas in Clay" will be the first time that this private collection will be on display in a public forum. Also, be sure not to miss the 60+ tiles set in one of the original fireplaces in the Museum; these were collected by Charles Winfred Douglas during his days as an agent for the Fred Harvey Company. "Katsinas in Clay" runs through November 21, 2010.

DISCOVERY DAYS 2010

Yee Haw!!! Discovery Days 2010 It's spring! June and Discovery Days will soon be here. Registration is now under way for Discovery Days 2010 – "Cowboys (and gals) of the Old West". Three sessions are planned: June 8-10, June 15 – 17, and June 22-24. Each session is three mornings per week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:15 a.m. Children who have completed kindergarten, first or second grades will experience the "Old West" through hands-on, small group activities. They will have three fun-packed, life on the range days. A chance to check out a cattle drive, chuck wagon and cowboy gear (and his horse), make a rope, throw a lasso, sing songs, cook up some tasty vittles, ride some "stick ponies", and create leather and branding crafts. The cost for the program is \$35.

Coordinators Cathy Dieter and Heidi Markley (both retired Jeffco Elementary Teachers) will be returning to Hiwan Homestead in Evergreen to be the "trail bosses" of this year's program. Teens and adults: it is time to dust off your cowboy hat and boots and sign up to volunteer to help "ride herd" on our activities and small groups. No prior knowledge is needed, just a willingness to have fun with the "Spirit of the West". All materials, background information, and easy-to-follow instructions will be provided. Free daycare is available for any volunteer's preschooler.

To find out more about Discovery Days or to volunteer, contact: Heidi (303-987-1307), Cathy (720-935-0801), or Hiwan Homestead 720-497-7650. Brochures are available at the museum, which is located at 4208 S. Timbervale Dr. in Evergreen.

Brochures are also available at the Golden Visitor Center at 10th and Washington in Golden. Check out our website, www.jchscolorado.org.

Special note: We are looking for a cowboy or cowgirl (who can dress the part) and tell stories about the West, play "cowboy songs" on a guitar or fiddle or harmonica, and/or do rope tricks. Also, we could use any western equipment (horse, cowboy, chuck wagon) that you would be willing to loan for three weeks.

Discovery Days is a signature program of the Jefferson County Historical Society for more than 28 years. Discovery Days has been teaching history to the children in our communities with alternating themes of "Cowboys," "Indians," and "Pioneers".

HIWAN HAPPENINGS

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



Just Being Kids

Just Being Kids is a summer program at Hiwan Museum for children, Kindergarten through 6th grade. Participants have fun doing crafts and activities that children did many years ago. Classes are presented July 7 – 29, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. There is a fee of \$2.50 per child, per class and pre-registration is required. Watch the website or call 720-497-7650, for more information.

The annual **Children's Tea Party** will be held at Hiwan Museum, Monday, August 9, Noon to 1:30 p.m. This fun event is for children age 6 and older. More information will be available in early summer. Save the date and call the Museum to learn more.

Adult Education

"Crepes: Sweet & Savory" Cooking Class will teach you techniques in the kitchen. Instruction will include hands-on cooking and a "snack" of our creations. Join us on Monday, May 10; 10:00 am at the Museum.

\$10 includes instruction & ingredients. Instructor: Gwenn Wilson

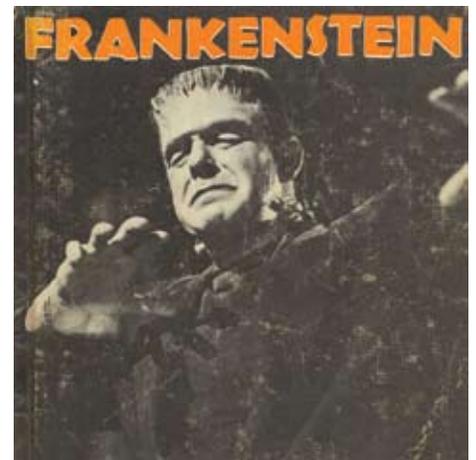
Pre-registration is required & space is limited. Call 720-497-7650, to learn more or to register.

Needles & Friends

Anyone who loves needlework or wants to learn something new should not miss this fun gathering. We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 12:30 pm in Eric's House at the Museum. Bring a sack lunch if you like and enjoy your needlework project. Bring a "show-and-tell" for the group to admire. There is no charge, no dues and no reservations necessary.

Frankiefest 2010

Hiwan Homestead Museum and the Jefferson County Historical Society will be hosting "Frankiefest" on Saturday, August 7 in Heritage Grove. This event celebrates the 100th anniversary of the first Frankenstein movie ever produced. We will be showing the 1910 version, a silent film produced by Edison Studios. The festivities begin at 8:00 p.m., with the movie beginning when darkness falls. This program is free and no reservations are required. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets and a picnic supper or snack. The Museum will provide popcorn and lemonade. Call 720-497-7650 for more information.



Book Club is for adults at Hiwan and continues to be a source of learning and fun. The club meets the 4th Wednesday (usually) of each month, at 12:30 pm, to discuss the current volume. We focus primarily on titles pertaining to women and children and the West, mixing fiction and non-fiction. No reservations needed. All are welcome.

Book Club Books

May 26 – *The Good Earth*, Pearl Buck
 June – no meeting
 July 28 – book TBD

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Arts Alive Week

Hiwan Homestead Museum, Jefferson County Open Space, and the Jefferson County Historical Society are participating in the exciting Arts Alive Evergreen week-long celebration of arts and culture in Evergreen.

They are sponsoring an old-fashioned brass band concert and Victorian lawn party on Wednesday, July 21, from 7 to 9 pm. This event is free to the public and will be held in Heritage Grove, next to the Museum at 4208 S. Timbervale Dr., Evergreen. The High Line Silver Cornet Band will be performing tunes from the 1800s that would have been familiar to Americans in the Victorian era.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, brass bands abounded. Virtually every town of any size had at least one. Every company of any size had one, too, as did schools, prisons, benevolent societies, and other organizations. In 1907 there were an estimated 20,000 brass bands in the USA alone.

These bands were often called silver bands, cornet bands, silver cornet bands, even Sousa bands. Surprisingly, they were not often called brass bands. The Highline Silver Cornet Band is based in Denver, Colorado, specializing in music of the Brass Band Era. They are a five-piece band and they play traditional instruments, including an Eb cornet, a Bb cornet, an alto horn, a vocal horn, and a tuba.

The music they play is the popular music of the time. Cornet bands, from about 1865 to around 1915 were the equivalent of today's pop bands, and they played the music that everyone wanted to hear. It's all fun, good-listening music.

Together with the band concert, the Museum will also hold a Victorian Lawn Party in the Grove, with 1800s children's games, croquet for adults, period-style refreshments, ladies and gentlemen strolling the grounds in Victorian costumes, and other nostalgic amusements from late 1800s America.

Volunteers of the Year have been selected by the Hiwan staff. Please offer your congratulations to Diane Fuchs, Genie Ender, Ginny & Rick Bailey. These folks have given their talents here at Hiwan above and beyond the call of duty and we really appreciate their dedication! The annual Volunteer Connections recognition luncheon was April 21

Upcoming Events @ Hiwan

June 8-24

Discovery Days Day Camp
9:00-11:15



June 19

Evergreen Rodeo Parade
10:00-Noon



July 7-29

Just Being Kids crafts classes
2:00-3:15



July 21

High Line Silver Cornet Band
Concert 7-8:30



Aug. 7

100 Years of Frankenstein
Movies 8:00-9:30



Aug. 9

Summer Children's Tea Party
12-1:30



Aug. 28-29

Evergreen Fine Arts Festival
10:00-5:00

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 6 - JCHS Annual Meeting
Bistro at Marshdale - 11am-1pm
- June 8-24 - Medlen School
Days at Medlen Schoolhouse
- June 8-24 - Discovery Days
"Cowboys (& Gals) of the West"
- July 31 - Deadline for
ordering Colorado Peaches
- August 7 - Frankiefest 2010 at
Hiwan Homestead Museum
8-9:30 pm
- August 31 - JCHS Membership
Renewal Deadline



The Record is published two times per year by the Jefferson County Historical Society.
The deadline for the Winter/Fall 2010 issue is September 1. E-mail your submissions to saramiller1@comcast.net.



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