



# CAROLYN BRAUN OF IDLEDALE

by Jan Murphy

The historic Braun Ranch, nestled between Idledale and Genesee in the foothills of Jefferson County, has been home to three generations of the Braun family. Carolyn Browne, an Idledale girl, grew up and married Charlie Braun and became part of the second generation of Brauns to run the ranch.

On August 15, 2010, Carolyn Braun passed away. At her request, on Sunday, August 29, over 200 guests showed up under the big tent at the Humphrey Museum in Evergreen to celebrate the end of her 75 years of life. Carolyn wanted people to have fun, just as she would have done if she could have been there. (And some people suspect she was there, in spirit anyway!) She'd asked her family to hold an Ice Cream Social in her honor!! And many people there told stories of how they felt Carolyn had been their best friend!

Although I was only a little girl when I first met her, she invited me to come to her ranch with my mom when they played Scrabble together. I loved the cows and horses and chickens. And my older brother had helped Carolyn's husband Charlie with the haying of the fields for feeding the livestock. Life on a ranch seemed idyllic to me.

And indeed, Carolyn Braun enjoyed life on the ranch after she married Charlie. Charlie's uncle, Fred Braun, had bought the land for the present ranch site in 1904. Just two years later, Fred sold it to his brother and wife, Ernest and Frieda (Charlie's parents). They built a house, and stayed. The ranch started out with a dairy herd, and they also raised foxes for a time. It eventually became a cattle ranch.

Charlie took over the ranch from his parents, married Carolyn in 1955, and they started a family of their own. Carolyn had loved to ride horses, even before she met Charlie. As a kid, she and her friends would ride over to the Mother Cabrini Shrine. At the time, the miracle spring that had been brought forth by Mother Cabrini, had not been enclosed except in a holding trough. Carolyn said it made great drinking water for the horses!



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# RENAISSANCE : President's Pen

by Diane Fuchs

It doesn't seem possible that this is the first day of fall. Where indeed did the summer go? As usual JCHS had a very busy spring and summer.

## Spring Fling

In May we held our annual Spring Fling for the volunteers with our programs and at the museum. Many thanks to Gwenn Wilson for preparing the wonderful food. Meghan McGinnes presented the program on the incredible Kastinas in Clay:Hopi Tile 1882 to Present collection that we have at the museum until November 21, 2010. Be sure you visit it this fall. It is the third largest in the nation!

## Annual Membership Brunch

Jan Murphy, board member of JCHS and published author, presented a fascinating program on the unknown stories and mysteries of the mountains at our annual membership brunch at The Bistro at Marshdale. Her books are available at the Hiwan Homestead, of which a portion of the proceeds are contributed to JCHS.

## Discovery Days & Medlen School Days

For three weeks in June, JCHS sponsored Discovery Days and Medlen School. Heidi Markley, board member, and Cathy Dieter were the head instructors of the 30th annual Discovery Days program. JoAnn Dunn, past president of JCHS, led the 10th annual Medlen School program. These programs are long standing educational experiences offered by JCHS.

## Peach Sales

Our first endeavor at selling wonderful western slope peaches made \$740 to help support these great education

programs as well as our on-going photo legacy project. Over 7000 historic photographs have been catalogued and indexed. Our next step is to find some grant money and proceed to the scanning of these historic photos. To this end, on September 18th, Mike Strunk, board member, organized a Mountain Man Rendezvous held in Heritage Grove. Hope you all had a chance to read the September 22, 2010 "Canyon Courier" for a fantastic review of the event. We still need to



write a grant and would appreciate help from any member to write said grant.

Hope you enjoyed the peaches. Be looking forward to our Winter Gala event. Separate invitations will be sent. Remember to attend the Alternative Gift Fair held at the Evergreen Lutheran Church on Highway 73 to be held on November 13 and 14th where we will have a booth. Please remember to check out our website at [www.jchscolorado.org](http://www.jchscolorado.org) for books we have for sale. Finally please send in your membership renewals. Don't let this be your last copy of "The Record." Most of our current board members have agreed to continue serving on the board of your Jefferson County Historical Society.



*Diane Fuchs*  
President

Jefferson County Historical Society  
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## Jefferson County Historical Society 2009-2010 Officers

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# CAROLYN BRAUN OF IDLEDALE

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by Jan Murphy

And the Braun family has had a long time and continuing relationship with the Sisters at Mother Cabrini by renting some of their land for additional acreage, to expand the ranch's pasture land.

The Braun Ranch consisted of over two thousand acres in earlier years, and today it still numbers in the hundreds of acres. Carolyn and Charlie's children, Art, Robin, and Tracy are the third generation to maintain the ranch although they don't all live there anymore. Charlie passed away in 1994, and Carolyn lived in the ranch house until her death.

Besides Carolyn's life on the ranch, she was very active in her community. She was a member of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, and was the Scheduler of the Volunteers for the Hiwan Homestead Museum. She was also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Evergreen, and a Board Member for the Humphrey Museum. (Hazel Humphrey had been a long-time friend, and continuing her legacy was one of Carolyn's many volunteer efforts). Carolyn helped people in need, and was a friend to everyone she met. She will be missed, but her spirit in our community will remain.



*Jan Murphy is on the Board of Directors for JCHS, and has written two books about Colorado, **Outlaw Tales of Colorado** and **Mysteries and Legends of Colorado**, available in the Hiwan Homestead Museum bookstore.*

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Over the past four years the board has addressed issues that needed to be addressed. Heritage Grove has been transferred to Open Space, a far more financially able entity to act as steward of the grove. This past year, carpeting and new chairs were purchased for the museum.

Computer equipment has been purchased for the museum for the indexing of the approximately 7,000 historical photographs. We now need to prepare grants for the actual scanning of the photos and creation of a format capable of being used on the internet. Bottom line, the JCHS board needs your help.

First and foremost, we need an individual or individuals to write or help us write grants for the digitization of the historic photos. Our finances are not such that we can pay for the remaining part of the process.

We need help in developing and implementing additional fundraising efforts.

Every year the JCHS board hosts two parties for our members and volunteers. I need someone to help me and act as the host or hostess and party arranger for these two events. One occurs in the winter and the other in the spring.

Finally, our current membership chair, Josie Hoover, is having to resign due to personal obligations. Josie was so kind these past two years to take over this position and provide members with "TLC". Josie shared that the position requires 2-3 hours a month.

I hope all of our membership will consider helping our society and supporting our special projects.



Diane Fuchs  
303-674-9639

# HIWAN HAPPENINGS

Hiwan Happenings contributed by John Steinle and Meghan McGinnes



## Fall at Hiwan Homestead

It's fall, and Hiwan Homestead Museum is in full-swing with its education programs. Several new volunteers have been trained for both the Pioneer History Program and the Arts of the Tribal Southwest program—we're excited to have them on board!

## Katsinas in Clay

If you haven't had a chance to see "Katsinas in Clay" yet, you still have some time. The exhibit will be on display through November 21. Make sure not to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!



## Mortar Project

The project to replace the old mismatched mortar on the main Museum building began on Monday, September 20th. This will be about a two-month effort and will involve replacing all the old mortar with period-correct, visually pleasing lime mortar. Please stop by if you want to check out this project and talk to the contractor, Olde English Inc. This project is partially funded by the State Historical Fund.

## Needles and Friends

Needles and Friends is temporarily on hold. We are hoping to start back up again in 2011.

## Book Club

There is no book club meeting in November. The book club will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 12:30 for a potluck--the book is *Pavilion of Women*. Book club usually meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 12:30. Call for more information and book list.

## Holidays at Hiwan

Hiwan volunteers met on September 30 and decided on a theme for the 2010 Christmas decorations. We have chosen a theme of "O Tannenbaum." Each room in the Museum will have at least one differently-themed Christmas tree. Most of the items that we will use to decorate are loaned from the volunteers and members; we will begin accepting these loans on Wednesday, November 3, with decorating day being on Monday, November 29.

The Museum is in need of several sizes of artificial trees, as well as ornaments and decorations for those trees and rooms. The themes that will be represented are:

- Cowboys
- Toys
- White bows/flowers
- Christmas cookie cutters
- Christmas dinner in miniature (tea cups, spoons, dollhouse dining/kitchen sets, etc.)
- Red/Silver
- Fiber arts and related
- Pink/hair bows
- American Indian
- Birds
- Whimsical/off-the-wall
- Poinsettias

We also would like to collect new children's mittens to hang as decorations in the schoolroom, which will be donated to Evergreen Christian Outreach after we take down the decorations. Any donations of mittens will be most appreciated! Please call the Museum at 720-497-7650 for more information.



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### Join Us for Tea at the Museum

On Monday, December 13 at 11:30 a.m., we are hosting a Christmas Tea at the museum. The cost is \$12 for JCHS members and \$15 for non-members.

On Monday, February 14, join us for a Valentine's Day tea. This event is also at 11:30 a.m. at the museum. The cost for each Tea will be \$12 for JCHS members, \$15 for non-members. Both events are by reservation only. Please call the Hiwan Homestead Museum at (720) 497-7650 to sign up.



### Volunteer

There are openings at Hiwan Museum for many volunteer positions.

Here's your opportunity to:

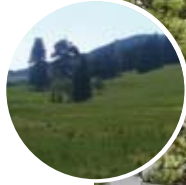
- learn more about local history
- learn a new skill
- serve the community
- take part in group outings to other historic sites

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



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 3 - Holiday Decoration Collection begins at the museum
- November 21 - Last day of Katsinas in Clay exhibit
- November 29 - Holiday Decorating Day at Hiwan Homestead
- December 1 - Bookclub at Hiwan Homestead - *Pavilion of Women*
- December 13 - Christmas Tea at Hiwan Homestead
- February 14 - Valentine's Tea at Hiwan Homestead



The Record is published two times per year by the Jefferson County Historical Society.  
The deadline for the Spring/Summer 2011 issue is April 1. E-mail your submissions to [saramiller1@comcast.net](mailto:saramiller1@comcast.net).

