



CADILLAC CANYON: UPPER BEAR CREEK 1920s-1960s

by Meghan McGinnes

The lure of the mountains around Evergreen goes all the way back to the late 1850s. The first settlers along Upper Bear Creek were the Dan Hicks family in 1860. They settled in the Brookvale area and it wasn't long before other people followed. By the 1920s Evergreen had become a popular summer destination, with Upper Bear Creek being the most desirable of locations. Because of this, many high-end resorts, dude ranches and private residences sprang up, which according to legend led one of the better known residents, Baroness Adele von Pousenthal of T Bar S, to nickname it "Cadillac Canyon." Many of these buildings can still be seen today; some live on only in memory and through photographs and objects.



One of the more well-known locations along Upper Bear was Troutdale-in-the-Pines, which began as a small cluster of log cabins and a one-story hotel with a dining room in the 1890s. Owned by the Babcock family, Troutdale offered boating, fishing, horseback riding and hiking. In 1919 Nebraska businessman Harry Sidles purchased the property and began construction on his "hobby," a new 4-story hotel. The hotel, which opened on June 1, 1920, included 100 guest rooms, a lounge, the Rainbow Ballroom (a 40'x80' dance pavilion built over the lake), dining for 250, private dining rooms, billiards, a bar, barber shop, drug store, swimming pool, modernized cabins, kitchens and bakery, garage, apartments for guest staff and dorms for hotel staff. The construction of Troutdale cost over half a million dollars and used 6,000 wagonloads of local stone.

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REFLECTIONS: President's Pen

by Diane Fuchs

Well, I guess I am going to have to prepare myself for winter. As we returned from Westcliff, Kenosha Pass was ablaze of color and the aspen in our yard are now turning. Where did the wonderful summer go?

The activities for the historical society this spring and summer were as varied as our weather.

Carolyn Campbell Workshop

At the end of April, Carolyn Campbell presented her memoir's writing workshop which was just marvelous. We had a full house at the Hiwan museum and I must say it was one of the more insightful writing workshops I have ever attended. She has expressed an interest in returning or doing other writing workshops.

Volunteer Luncheon

Our volunteer luncheon was again a pleasure to host, though I must admit my food creations were not nearly the cuisine as presented in the past by society member, Gwenn Wilson. Dale Devine, Juanita Weare, Gwenn Wilson, Bud Weare, Hank Fuchs, Max Lankston and myself all lent a hand to make this possible. Meghan McGinnes gave a wonderful overview of the Cadillac Canyon Exhibit that opened May 8th.



Cadillac Canyon Exhibit

Speaking of the Cadillac Canyon Exhibit, I had the pleasure of being a docent on the opening night festivities. What a delightful time I had talking with some of the established Evergreen families. Especially rewarding was meeting Elaine and Tom Hayden of the Evan's family.

Medlen School & Discovery Days

The first three weeks of June brought 120 plus grade school students to Medlen School and Discovery Days. Discovery Days is in its 30th year and Medlen in its 14th year of providing unique pioneer experiences to present day grade school students. It was my pleasure and joy to help JoAnn Dunn for all three weeks of Medlen School, except for the last day when Juanita Weare stepped in as JoAnn's assistant because we had a family reunion to attend in Gunnison.

Membership Luncheon

After Discovery Days and Medlen School came the membership luncheon at the Peck House. We were graciously welcomed by the St.Claire family and Sally gave a wonderful historical perspective of the "Peck House".

Peach Sale

Our August peach sale was most successful, we brought in \$881.00 for the society's projects.

Growing Up in Evergreen Project

In early August, Susan Grannell spearheaded a letter inquiry to longtime residents of Evergreen; in hopes of capturing their views of growing up and living in Evergreen. David Noyes has offered to help out with oral interviews of these special people. If Suzanne and David cannot arrange an oral interview, they will have a written survey document to submit to the society's archives.

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Jefferson County Historical Society 2011-2012 Officers

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Director	Jan Murphy	303-674-0825
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Director	Bud Weare	303-679-8889

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Evergreen Artists' Festival

At the Evergreen Artists' Art Festival held in the grove; Dale Devine, Joan Ball and other society members had a table at the front of the museum selling craft items as well as our new note cards and books.

Upcoming Events

Alternative Gift Fair: November 9-10 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm located at the Evergreen Lutheran church on highway 73. This is our largest fundraising event. The "Crafty Ladies" of the historical society and friends of the historical society have made some wonderful articles for this year's event, Jan Murphy's new edition of Colorado Outlaws will be available along with a brand new assortment of note cards of significant historic structures sketched by Robert Jones. Of course all of our other books will be for sale as well. Please come to this wonderful community event and buy items from us and the other vendors to help out non-profits in the area as well as the historical society.



Membership Renewal

If you have been a past member of the society and have not renewed your membership be expecting a reminder letter from our new membership co-chair Pat Goben. You could save the society mailing expenses by renewing your membership online at JCHSColorado.org. Our previous membership chair has taken this year off to travel the United States. Now serving as membership co-chairs are Pat Goben, a new board member and current board member, Max Lankson.

New Board Member

It is my great pleasure to introduce Pat Goben to the membership.

Pat recently retired from the Jefferson County Public Schools. Pat and her husband, Richard, are both volunteers at the Hiwan Homestead for the school programs and they have lived in the Evergreen area for 27 years. They have three grown children and two grandsons. Pat volunteered for several years as the program chair for the gymnastics team at Wulf Recreation Center and was also a volunteer for her son's cub scout and boy scout troops.

She has had the opportunity to travel extensively and ski in Canada. Before moving to Evergreen, she spent a month living at the Dodge Lodge at Mt. Evans Outdoor Education Lab School (OELS). In 2001, Richard took the position as curriculum specialist at OELS and four years later they were offered a job as caretakers on the Elbert-Austin Ranch. While caretakers, Ethelind Austin shared many stories associated with her scrap books.

Photo Digitization Project

We continue to seek out grant funding for the completion of this project. At this time, Meghan shared with the board at the September board meeting that we may have found a firm that could digitize our photos at a reasonable fee. The board will be reviewing the quality of their work at the November board meeting. We are continuing to pursue this project until it is completed.

SCFD Grant

The first of October, 2012; Jefferson County Historical Society was informed that we received and SCFD \$750 grant for an education program entitled "Here's History: Neighborhoods and Communities". The grant will be used to utilize the expertise and historical/resources of the society to enhance students' knowledge of their local Jefferson County history as it relates to their communities and neighborhoods. The grant is awarded for a year.

The grant was prepared and submitted in March 2012 with the extensive help of Andy Spencer.

Diane Fuchs



President
Jefferson County Historical
Society

303-674-9639

HIWAN HAPPENINGS

Hiwan Happenings contributed by John Steinle, Meghan McGinnes and Andrew Spencer



Upcoming winter events at the Museum

Evergreen Holiday Walk

Friday, December 7

The Museum will be open from 6 to 9 p.m. during this festive community celebration. Beautiful Christmas decorations, chestnuts roasting on an open fire, hot cider, Christmas carols, popcorn, and festival-type tours through the old log mansion. And it's all free!

Christmas Tea

Monday, December 10, 11:30 to 2 p.m.

The always-popular Christmas Tea will include a light lunch, delicious tea, tours of the Museum, and a special performance by pianist Joya Wonderlight. This event is by reservation only and space is limited. The cost is \$12 for Jefferson County Historical Society members, \$15 for non-members. Please contact the Museum at 720-497-7650 for reservations.

Holiday Decorating

The Christmas decorating theme this year for the Museum is "Christmas Carols" and each room will be decorated with a different Christmas Carol theme.

Hiwan Homestead Book Club

We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise stated at 12:30 pm in Eric's House. Come join us and if you need further information about the book selections please contact Randi Marcos at randirose8@aol.com.

The JCHS book club has selected their readings for the remainder of the year through January. They are:

- * No meeting in November due to Thanksgiving
- * December 12: *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell
- * January 23: *Just Like Us* by Helen Thorpe



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Later additions included a 9-hole golf course with clubhouse (now Evergreen Golf Course and clubhouse/Keys on the Green restaurant), tennis and croquet courts, playground and another story to the hotel.

Despite discouraging the Jewish population from coming (a common practice), Troutdale was one of the most popular resorts in the West during the 1920s and 30s, even rivaling the Broadmoor and the Stanley. With entertainers such as Dusty Rhodes, Ted Weems, Paul Whiteman, Lawrence Welk, Woody Herman and Tommy Dorsey it's easy to see why. Missing guest books used to show names such as Greta Garbo, Douglas Fairbanks, Jack Benny, the Marx Brothers, Mae West, Ethel Merman, Jean Harlow and Clark Gable.

World War II and the accompanying fuel shortages (which caused Troutdale to close for a year) precipitated a slow decline for Troutdale, and many ownership changes and never-realized reincarnations later, grand old Troutdale-in-the-Pines was torn down to make way for custom homes in 1994.

During the year that Troutdale was closed, local resident Adele Trumbull created the T Bar S Ranch which included a restaurant and chalet-style guest cabins (which can still be seen along the road today). Named for her first two married names, Trumbull and Sommers, the Ranch was approximately 2.5 miles from Evergreen Lake and encompassed both sides of the road. It included horses, corrals, barns, an outdoor pool, barbeque area, bar and restaurant, and a "ghost town" with mock gunfights. Adele's eventual fourth husband was Baron Vladimir Von Pousenthal, leading to her being known as the "Baroness of Cadillac Canyon." After several ownership changes, the restaurant burned down in 1975.

While Adele was married to her third husband, Fred Brown, she oversaw construction of a luxurious private residence on the crest of a rocky hill with a view of Mt. Evans on the T Bar S property. According to legend, Adele actually micromanaged the construction; at one point her workers walked off the job until she promised to stay away and let them build as they saw fit. Hacienda del Sol was built in 1950 for \$40,000 and had named and decorated rooms such as Fiesta, Cowboy, Indian and Swiss, which was built around a large pine tree. The house had terraces for dancing and dining, and outside bunks on the porches for sleeping under the stars; it was furnished with items from all over the world. It is still a private residence.

To learn more about Cadillac Canyon, stop by the Hiwan Homestead Museum to see the current exhibit "Cadillac Canyon: Upper Bear Creek 1920s-1960s." The exhibit runs through November 18 and features many more stories and never-before-displayed artifacts.

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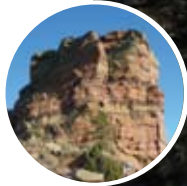
BARON AND BARONESS VLADIMIR KUHN VON POUSENTHAL



HACIENDA DEL SOL ON UPPER BEAR CREEK

DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 9-10 - Alternative Gift Fair
- November 18 - Last Day of Cadillac Canyon Exhibit
- December 7 - Holiday Walk
- December 10 - Christmas Tea at Hiwan
- December 12 - *Outliers* Book Club at Hiwan
- January 23 - *Just Like Us* Book Club at Hiwan



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