



THE RECORD

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THE GRACIOUS OWNERS OF BAEHRDEN: AS REMEMBERED BY NANCY LEE FROHARDT NIKL

Interview By Diane Fuchs

Nancy became aware of the Hiwan Homestead shortly after it opened by responding to an insert in the paper from Connie Fahnstock in 1974 asking for volunteers for the Hiwan education programs. Nancy became a volunteer at the Hiwan Homestead, thus, making her one of the first volunteers. She continues to support the Hiwan Homestead museum and is a lifetime member of Jefferson County Historical Society.

Nancy hails from Omaha, Nebraska and moved to Denver in 1948. That spring, her grandparents Jessie and Lester Hawk joined Nancy's parents in Denver. Looking for employment, Nancy's grandparents responded to an ad for a gardener and cook at the Baehrden, home of Mr. William Baehr. Her



Nancy Nikl Grandparents 1948

grandparents took the positions and shortly thereafter, Irene Baehr, daughter to William Baehr, invited Nancy, then 15, to come up to Baehrden for a week.

Nancy was apprehensive about the visit, since she knew the Baehr's were a family of considerable wealth and she was not sure if she would act properly and she above all would not want to embarrass her grandparents. As it came to past, the Baehrs were very gracious and wonderful people. Nancy was surprised that they treated her grandparents with great respect and cordiality. So much so, that Nancy and her grandparents had dinner every night with the Baehrs.

Nancy shared the following in her memories of the Baehr Den. Miss Baehr, Irene, and Nancy's grandma handed out small drums and all the necessary pots, pans and large spoons for all and then

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REFLECTIONS: President's Pen

by Diane Fuchs

The first snow has fallen, thus I should be putting together my Fall/Winter article. I hope our members were not affected by the Evergreen flooding. What a shock it was to see main street flooded on the news in Mississippi, while we were visiting my brother.

Volunteer Luncheon

In May we again celebrated our volunteers with a luncheon. Our own Meghan McGuiness Vickers, yes she is now married to Jason Vickers; presented the new exhibit entitled the "Celebrating 40 years of Open Space and Jefferson County Historical Society".

Celebrating 40 Years of Open Space and Jefferson County Historical Society:

I hope you all had an opportunity to drop by Hiwan and learn more about the association of these two well known entities. Meghan also wrote the featured article for the Spring/Summer "Record" and provided a great deal of insight into this association. I heard from some members that they had no idea as to the historical aspects of the Hiwan Homestead and Grove purchase. Again thank you so very much Meghan.

Medlen School and Discovery Days

Our two premier summer education programs occurred during the first three weeks in

June. The Medlen School program was full for all three weeks. Again, JoAnn Dunn served as the director for the 15th year. A huge thank you goes to JoAnn for her remarkable dedication. I am currently preparing a recommendation for JoAnn to the national level of the Daughters of the American Revolution for her continued program of excellence at Medlen School. She has been nominated by Nancy DeGuire of Evergreen and the DAR. JCHS members and volunteers, Pat Goben, Juanita Weare and myself assisted JoAnn with the special summer program.

Discovery Days changed to a four day format for two weeks and was well attended. This year celebrated our 31st year of the Discovery Days program at the

Hiwan Homestead. We would love to see more children attending this fantastic program. A thank you goes to Jennee Hancock, who was the director this past June.

Membership Luncheon

We had a wonderful luncheon at Zoka's and just a fantastic tour of Baerhden Lodge. Thanks goes to John Steinle and Meghan Vickers for this great event. "The Lodge" will again be open this next summer for tours. Be sure to take time to experience this grand home.

2013 Summer Events

We had a JCHS table at the Evergreen Artists' Art Festival and the Quilt Show and we sold many of our craft items and new books

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Jefferson County Historical Society 2013 - 2014 Officers

President	Diane Fuchs	303-674-9639
Recording Secretary	Juanita Weare	303-679-8889
Treasurer	Hank Fuchs	303-674-9639

2013 - 2014 Board of Directors

Director	Candy Porter	303-838-6535
Director	Dale Devine	303-670-2682
Director	Pat Jurgens	303-679-8191
Director	Dave Noyes	303-674-4227
Director	Jan Murphy	303-674-0825
Director	Bud Weare	303-679-8889
Director, Membership	Max Lankston	303-697-8932
Director, Membership	Pat Goben	303-670-8494
Book Sales	Randi Marcos	303-679-6797
Newsletter and Website	Michael Stills	303-921-1936

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now available at the Hiwan Homestead. John Steinle and Meghan Vickers arranged for the Grove showing of movies this summer. I must share with you, I only saw the "Great Train Robbery" and it was an absolutely fun event. Thank you for bringing this new entertainment to our community.

Upcoming Fall/Winter Events

Alternative Gift Fair: November 9 and 10 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm located at the Evergreen Lutheran church on highway 73. This is again our largest fundraising event of the year. Our "Crafty Ladies" of the society will have new craft items to sell and in addition to all of our past history books we will have added two new books to our offerings. Read more about these wonderful books on page 4.

Membership Winter Event

March 2; 2014 at 6:00
"The Soiled Doves"

Carolyn Campbell and her friends will present a series of monologues which reflect a variety of attitudes about prostitution around the 1880's to the turn of the century. Carolyn is a remarkably talented lady and I know you will love this presentation. Please set aside this date. Members are free and guests of a member will be \$10.

Membership Renewal

If you are a member of JCHS through July 2013 and have not renewed your membership through July 2014, be expecting a

renewal membership reminder from Pat Goben one of our co-membership chairs. Included in your Spring/Summer 2013 edition of "The Record" was a renewal form with envelope. If you have not renewed by January 1, we will regretfully have to drop your membership, we will indeed miss your support.

Board Members

Ken Stenman resigned from the board in July, since he and his wonderful wife Priscilla have moved to Centennial to be nearer their children and grandchildren. The Stenman's have been remarkably supportive of the society and of the museum, both volunteering many hours over the past several years.

Candy Porter has graciously agreed to join the board and become a director. Candy has been a member of the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce and Heart of Evergreen Business Association. For 16 years she was the director of the historic Evergreen Conference Center. She attended the University of Nebraska and received a teaching degree in Library Science. She

served as a board member for Landmarks (a historical preservation organization), the Indian/Chicano Health Center, Chanticleer Theater, Omaha Academy of Ballet, Omaha Junior Theater, and served as a docent at the Joslyn Art Museum. Candy has extensive experience including theater and motion pictures. Finally, she has been a weekend tour guide at the Hiwan Homestead Museum for the past two years. We welcome Candy and all her wonderful skills to the board.

If you are ever interested in joining the board of JCHS kindly let me know. We meet the third Friday of every month except for June and November, which is the Friday before the alternative gift fair. We meet at Evergreen National Bank at 1:00.

Have a great fall and winter and I will see you in March for membership event.



Diane Fuchs

President
Jefferson County Historical
Society
303-674-9639

COMING SOON

New Look for JCHS Website

Our Webmaster, Michael Stills, in collaboration with Bill Hamilton of Cornerstone Marketing & Advertising is developing a new JCHS website using WordPress. Michael's goal is to simplify the maintenance and updating of the website by involving a small team of volunteers who enjoy working with computers. NO HTML experience need! Contact Michael at mykellee@gmail.com if you are interested. We are planing a Launch date before Thanksgiving. - Stay Tuned!

www.jchscolorado.org

HIWAN HAPPENINGS

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



Monday, December 2

9 AM--??

Decorating Day

Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP to 720-497-7650 or mvickers@jeffco.us if you're planning on attending

Wednesday, December 4

12:30 PM

Hiwan Book Club Potluck

We are reading *Murder at the Brown Palace* by Dick Kreck

Friday, December 6

6-9 PM

Holiday Walk

We need volunteers to staff the Museum for this event; please let us know if you're interested in helping

Monday, December 16

11:30 AM

Christmas Tea

Reservations required; \$12 for JCHS members and groups of 4 or more, \$15 for non-members

JCHS Library Collection

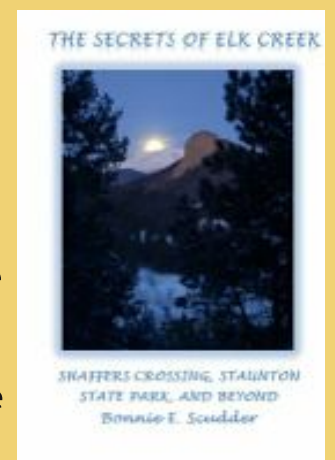
One of your Jefferson County Historical Society membership perks is the ability to check books out of the library housed in Eric's House at Hiwan Homestead Museum. Yes, JCHS owns an extensive library covering not only Jefferson County history but also Colorado history. There are books on American Indian art, cookbooks, reference books, Sears Roebuck reproduction catalogs and so much more. The library has recently been cleaned up by several interns. Books that were duplicate copies or were simply not a good fit for here were removed and donated to other area libraries. All books were re-catalogued into a computerized (and searchable) database and clearly labeled as belonging to JCHS. Anybody can come to the Museum and use the collection onsite, but as a member of the Society, you are eligible to check these books out. Take advantage of this valuable resource!

Two New Books Available Now in our Bookstore

Newly published "Denver Mountain Parks" with photography by John Fielder and historical information by Wendy Rex-Atzet, Sally L. White, and Erika D. Walker. This is an absolutely beautiful book and is currently available at the Hiwan for \$30; this is the same price as Amazon, but JCHS receives a \$10 profit on each book.



We will also be selling the recently published book "The Secrets of Elk Creek" by Bonnie Scudder who is a member of JCHS and this book is also available at the Hiwan.



Publications sold by JCHS are available for sale at the Hiwan Homestead in addition to the Alternative Gift Fair. Many of these publications can also be purchased through paypal on our website, JCHSColorado.org.

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THE GRACIOUS OWNERS OF BAEHRDEN:...

Interview By Diane Fuchs

everyone ran around the sturdy long table in Indian style gleefully whooping and howling as they loudly beat their drums before dinner. Nancy shared "I was shocked yet delighted experiencing the merriment with my dignified elders; as the Baehrs along with their guests, were the elite of Chicago, and no one held back!" Nancy vividly remembers the magnificent dining room with the stone fireplace and the gorgeous hand-carved wooden ceiling.

Nancy continues, "On Sunday morning we all sat in the living room overlooking the serenity of the valley, sang hymns while the piano played, then Mr. Baehr gave a short sermon-like talk. It was so simple, yet so beautiful in that setting. It is all like yesterday to me and I was truly blessed."

"One morning Irene asked me to if I would join her as she drove to Stapleton Airport to pick up a guest named Carman. "She was a lovely young woman with thick black hair..." "I was very comfortable with Carman and I became pals as we rode horses and tubed down the river." (See the insert of "Cactus" and Nancy) Both Carman and Irene remained close friends with Nancy's grandmother and this friendship continued until her grandmother's death.



Nancy Nikl



Baehrden Kitchen Stove

Nancy also shared her wonderful evening at the observatory where Mr. Baehr set up the telescope and allowed her to sit in the seat and point it in any direction she desired. In so doing she pointed to the area of the night sky that had a brilliant green star. To this day Nancy's favorite stone is Malachite.

Nancy's last vivid memory of "the Den" was the horribly steep, narrow and twisting road accessing the main house. "At two severe turns I glanced back to see if the back wheels and made it around..."

Later, Nancy and Bill, Nancy's husband, joined Dr Arneil of the Denver Orchid Society in tour and visit of the house. In 2002, after Open Space had purchased the home in 1986, Nancy along with 81 "lucky individuals cleaned the inside of the mansion from the very top of each room to the floors below." It was not until recently that Open Space made the necessary improvements and repairs to again open this beautiful mansion to the public and Nancy is now a tour guide at Baehrden.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 9&10 - Alternative Gift Fair

- December 2 - Decorating Day

- December 4 - Hiwan Book Club

Potluck

- December 6 - Holiday Walk

- December 16 - Christmas Tea

- January 1 - July 2013 Membership

Renewal Drop Date

- March 2 - "The Soiled Doves"



The Record is published two times per year by the Jefferson County Historical Society.
The deadline for the Spring/Summer issue is April 1. Email your submissions to mykellee@gmail.com.



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