



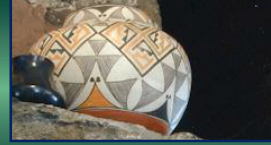
# The Record



Fall/Winter 2021



Volume 48, Issue 2



JCHSColorado.org

## Welch Ditch Trail: Gateway to Golden History

*By Andrea Keppers, Hiwan Museum*

This August, Jefferson County Open Space unveiled the Gateway Segment of Clear Creek Canyon Park. This trail segment runs along the Clear Creek from the mouth of the canyon to just beyond Tunnel One and is a part of the Peaks to Plains Trail. The ambitious Peaks to Plains trail will eventually connect the South Platte Trail in Denver to Loveland Pass; that's 65 miles and more than a mile in elevation change. The Peaks to Plains trail is accessible to recreators of all abilities, featuring wide, paved paths along the Clear Creek, plenty of parking, bike repair stations, and new restroom facilities.

While a new trail might not seem newsworthy, this portion is remarkable for its location, engineering, and history. The Gateway Segment has two levels: the creek-level path that is mixed use and has water access for anglers or waders, and the upper-level, hiker-only path that hugs the wall of the canyon in the historic, restored Welch Ditch.

Formally incorporated as the Golden Canal and Reservoir Company, what is known as the Welch Ditch was begun in 1871 by Charles Clark Welch (1830-1908) as an irrigation ditch to bring water to Golden from Clear Creek. Born in Pamela, New York, Mr. Welch was one of those nineteenth-century entrepreneurs who came west to mine and ended up a multi-faceted businessman. He and William Loveland founded the Colorado Central Railroad in 1865, he was President of the Golden Branch Office of the Great Western Fire and Insurance Company, and he owned both the Cambria Brick and Tile Company on the south side of Clear Creek and the White Ash Coal Mine in Golden.

Charles Welch was a major landowner and town booster in Golden. He became a member of the Colorado Territorial legislature in 1872 and introduced legislation to establish the Territorial School of Mines (now Colorado School of Mines), which was built upon land Welch had donated for the purpose several years earlier. He also donated land for the Golden Cemetery and Calvary Church.



Welch Ditch Flume in winter. Photo courtesy of Tim Sandsmark.

*Continued on page 3.*

# REFLECTIONS: President's Pen

By Elaine Hayden

As activities of EMAHS have weathered an abbreviated year, let us all remain hopeful that we will once again be able to enjoy a full schedule of events in the coming months.

As reported in the last newsletter, EMAHS has upheld its commitment to host a bi-monthly presentation of historic interest to our members. Over the past months we have been entertained and otherwise enlightened by Mark Joyce, Stuart Collins and Larry French. Thanks to all of these EMAHS members for sharing their areas of interest with our membership. The date and title of the next presentation will be forthcoming.

Members of EMAHS participated this year at Staunton State Park History Days on September 11th. Pat Jurgens and Yuri Weydling represented the Society with a full day of presenting the mission of EMAHS as well as promoting Pat's book, *Falling Forward*. Thanks to these members for being the face of EMAHS at Staunton History Days.

October welcomed Larry French with his research and documents in tow as relates to an often forgotten figure of interest in Colorado's historic record, Silas S. Soule. The many books and writings brought by Larry enhanced his presentation and illuminated this history. Well done, Larry.

A new face was presented on October 28th with the Hiwan Halloween Celebration. Unlike our past year's Halloween event, this fun-filled and festive party was held outdoors in the Grove and porch at Hiwan Museum. The Hiwan staff and volunteers offered an enjoyable range of activities, information tables, cider & cookies and a kid and pet costume parade. This event proved to be a great (nearly) post pandemic entry

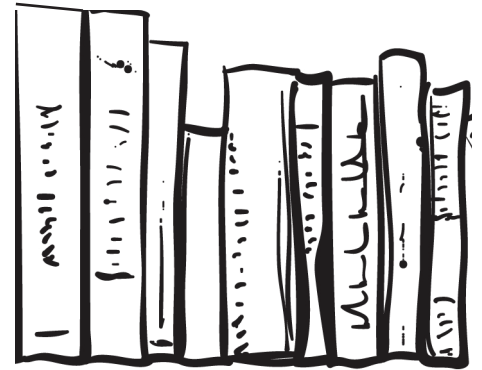
into public programming we have offered so well in the past.

The Alternative Gift Fair was revived this year, thanks to Evergreen Lutheran Church and other area church sponsors. By adjusting the familiar format of the non-profit gift fair, organizers were able to welcome vendors and shoppers on a limited basis. Thanks to Mark Joyce, Bud & Juanita Weare, Candy Porter, JoAnn Dunn, Rosemary Barenbrugge, Diane Fuchs and Stuart Collins, the EMAHS sales table was manned for the 2-day event. I am extremely grateful to Mark Joyce who stepped in at the last minute to finalize all the necessary steps required to conduct a successful sale.

EMAHS proudly sponsored the annual ECHO Turkey Trot 5K run/walk on Thanksgiving Day. Proceeds from this annual event benefit the Evergreen Christian Outreach food bank and other needs of families in need. We are glad to support our community with our sponsorship for the 3rd year.

December 7th marks the day for the official Colorado Gives Campaign. We are hopeful that our members and community will consider making a donation to EMAHS as we have had limited fundraising opportunities for the past two years and always appreciate community support. Visit [coloradogives.org/EMAHS/overview](https://coloradogives.org/EMAHS/overview) to learn more and to make a donation.

As 2021 draws to a close, I acknowledge and appreciate the opportunities that were recognized and acted upon by EMAHS. We have an incredible Board who continue to problem solve and innovate while faced with the challenges of COVID protocols and restrictions. Here's to the end of 2021 and to a promising 2022!



## The Book Shelf

By Elaine Hayden

### ***The Fishing Guide to 800 High Lakes in Colorado* by Ron Belak**

Our featured author this issue is Ron Belak, serious local expert on fishing techniques and strategies to put to use in some of Colorado's high-altitude fishing holes. EMAHS is pleased to offer Ron's book, *The Fishing Guide to 800 High Lakes in Colorado*, for sale at the Alternative Gift Fair as well as at Hiwan Museum. This large size paper-bound book is replete with photographs and maps and is a proven must-have for those who enjoy fishing the lakes in Colorado. Locating the featured lakes is made easy as Belak has included maps; describes the location of trail heads and recounts features encountered along the trails that access the lakes.

Many of the articles in this book and Belak's companion book, *Fly Fishing Colorado's Back Country*, originally appeared in the Colorado Outdoor Magazine, the official publication of Colorado Parks and Wildlife and have been updated for current publication. Belak's award winning writing and photography has garnered him a welcome spot on the meeting agendas of the Evergreen Audubon chapter and a speaker at chapter meetings of Trout Unlimited. This comprehensive and colorful reference book is an excellent choice for gift giving as well as an addition to your own library.



Welch Ditch Trail article continued from page 1.



Peaks to Plains Trail and Welch Ditch Trail above. Photo courtesy of Jeffco Open Space.

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To ensure the continued growth of Golden and the prosperity of his personal landholdings, in 1871 Welch started the process of constructing an irrigation ditch that diverted water from Clear Creek Canyon to south Golden. The ditch was built by the Vasquez Flume and Ditch Company, of which Welch was part owner. Welch's ownership of this company made certain that the ditch ran through his properties and the campus of the School of Mines.

The original ditch was packed earth and where sheer cliffsides needed to be traversed, flumes of treated timber were constructed. The consistent grade kept the water flowing at a manageable rate, but in spring runoff, locks and gates could be opened to let water overflow down the canyon wall to the Clear Creek below. A major flood in 1896 destroyed much of the ditch and flume (not to mention killing 29 people across Jefferson County), and the Ditch company had to rebuild, this time in

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## Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society 2021-2022 Officers

President	Elaine Hayden
Recording Secretary	Juanita Weare
Treasurer	Mark Joyce
Corresponding Secretary	Diane Fuchs
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### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Director	Bill Bottoms
Director	Stuart Collins
Director	JoAnn Dunn
Director	Larry French
Director	Hank Fuchs
Director	Bud Weare

### NON-BOARD POSITIONS

Oral History Chairman	Bud O'Leary
Newsletter Editor	Laurie Romberg

Welch Ditch Trail article continued from page 3.



Plaque describing the 1932 reconstruction of part of the Welch Ditch flume. Photo courtesy of Tim Sandsmark.

concrete. William "Cement Bill" Williams, best known as the surveyor and builder of the Lookout Mountain Road, was hired to build a new concrete dam on Clear Creek past tunnel one and replace large sections of earthen ditch with concrete channels. Timber flumes were rebuilt as well. The portion of the wooden flume that hikers can enjoy now was built during the 1930s using timbers from the Pacific Northwest, a plaque recording this can be found on the canyon wall.

At its most productive, the Welch Ditch transported 16 million gallons of water per day, about the equivalent of 32 Olympic-sized swimming pools. Over the years the Ditch extended past Golden City along the north and west of South Table Mountain, providing irrigation to parts of Lakewood. Water ran into parts of the Welch Ditch until 2001 and its footprint is still visible all around Golden, yet few people realize its historic importance. Truly, without the Welch Ditch, Golden and neighboring towns could not have flourished as they did. It brought the most important resource close at hand to grow crops, brew beer, nourish livestock, assist mining efforts, and service the needs of the communities.

Take the time to visit the Gateway Trailhead at Clear Creek Canyon Park and walk into history on the Welch Ditch trail. Smell the creosote as you walk inside the old wooden flume; imagine the sound of millions of gallons of water rushing around you; shuffle your feet through fine sand churned by decades of runoff and deposited in the ditch; then spare a thought for Charles Welch and his contributions to Jefferson County.

(Credit to Paul Haseman and Richard Gardner for their biographical research on Charles Welch)

## COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION

**COLORADO**  
**GIVES DAY**   
Corporate Partner  
[ColoradoGivesDay.org](https://www.coloradogives.org) **Dec. 7**

To enhance our ability to protect, preserve and promote the history of the Evergreen mountain area, this year Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society is once again participating in **Colorado Gives Day**.

This hugely successful online giving option will help power our work and multiply our good. **Community First foundation** is proud to offer Colorado nonprofits like EMAHS a unique and highly engaging way to connect with supporters and spread the word about our mission and work. **ColoradoGives.org** is the year-round, online giving website featuring the missions, programs and finances of more than 2,500 Colorado nonprofits. Each organization's online profile is screened by Community First Foundation to ensure specific standards of transparency.

Made possible by Community First Foundation since 2007, ColoradoGives.org encourages charitable giving by providing comprehensive, objective and up-to-date information about Colorado nonprofits and an easy way to support them online. ColoradoGives.org and its signature giving day - **Colorado Gives Day** - make fundraising simple for your organization and easy for donors. More that \$295 million has been raised for Colorado nonprofits through ColoradoGives.org since 2007.

**Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society's Online Profile:**  
<https://www.coloradogives.org/EMAHS/overview>

**Thank you for your support.**







## Chief Hosa Lodge

*Elaine Hayden*

Chief Hosa is familiar, if in name only, to thousands of I-70 motorists. The name is often repeated when giving directions to Evergreen as the westbound highway exit #253 between Genesee and Evergreen Parkway. Far more significant is the structure and namesake of the magnificent lodge that graces the City of Denver's Genesee Mountain Park. Constructed in 1917-1918 as an attraction for tourists enjoying the newly formed Denver Mountain Park System, the lodge has withstood the test of time and endures as an event venue, a camping location and an example of sustainable stone construction.

The concept of a mountain park system was the brainchild of Denver city leaders including Robert Speer, John Brisbane Walker and Warwick Downing, among others. The task of developing a plan for a mountain park system fell to the Mountain Parks Committee, formed in 1911. Armed with the mission of creating easily accessible parks for the residents and tourists of Denver, the committee was successful in bringing the question of funding to the voters in Denver in 1912. Initial funding for the park system was secured with a 0.5 mill per dollar of taxable Denver property values through the successful ballot campaign that yielded widespread support. Working in collaboration with county, state and federal agencies, landscape architect, Frederick Olmstead, Jr. was hired to present a park plan that would identify and effectively utilize the mountain properties. By 1913, Denver had purchased the first of its property at Genesee, a park that would anchor the Denver Mountain Park System and remains one of the most accessible parks located outside the Denver

city limits. In conjunction with creating the Genesee property was the development of Lookout Mountain Park and the Lariat Trail that ascended Lookout Mountain in 1913 as the success of the Denver Mountain Park system hinged on providing passable roadways.

Equally as important to travelers on the Lariat Trail was the availability to rest and picnic in the parks. Stone shelters were constructed on Lookout Mountain, and later at Fillius, Bergen, Corwina and Starbuck Parks on the Lower Bear Creek loop. The sturdy shelter houses one encounters in the parks today were constructed in the nascent development era of the Denver Mountain Park system. The first lodge constructed for Denver Mountain Parks was the Chief Hosa Lodge in the Genesee Park locale. Recognizing the success of the foothills parks system, the Mountain Parks committee envisioned a destination restaurant and lodge with the growing popularity of Genesee Park. The Chief Hosa Lodge was completed in 1918 to serve day travelers and campers at the park. The lodge featured meals, a terrace for viewing the far ranges of the Rocky Mountains and a dance floor for those so inclined to activate the Victrola provided by the lodge. The camping area at Chief Hosa was one of the first dedicated motor camps in America in 1918 and remains a popular camping location despite its proximity to the busy I-70 roadway.

In the search for an architect with an appreciation of the rustic nature of the Denver foothill area, the committee hired J. J. Benedict to design the lodge in Genesee Park. Benedict,

*Continued on page 6.*

*Chief Hosa Lodge article continued from page 5.*



respected Colorado architect of renown, designed the lodge with the emphasis on utilizing materials of locally sourced stone and timber. The stately lodge is constructed of native field stone and the original roof was graced with peeled lodge pole pines. As revealed in an article published in the Municipal Facts publication of March 1919, "Hosa Lodge was always there. It lay about before one's eyes as surface rock and spruce trees growing on the very ledge upon which it stands today". Similar in concept, Benedict created many structures that are often defined as his Colorado Alpine or Rustic style including the Echo Lake Lodge and the Keys on the Green building and Baehr Lodge (Pine Valley Ranch), among others. J. J. Benedict's designs are prominent and highly regarded throughout the Denver landscape.

It is believed that Benedict is responsible for the naming of the Chief Hosa Lodge. Chief Hosa, also known as Chief Little Raven, was a Southern Arapaho Tribal Chief who is highly regarded in the pages of Colorado history. There are conflicting beliefs that Little Raven was given his name of *Hosa* by the Ute Tribe, a name that in their language means peaceful and beautiful. In contradiction and according to the web site, native-languages.org, the name Chief Hosa is most likely an English derivation of his Arapaho tribal name of *Housoo* that carries the meaning of young crow or young raven; thus, Chief Little Raven in the familiar English translation of the Arapaho name. It seems unlikely that the Ute Tribe would give a name to an Arapaho chief in flowing terms as the Ute were often at odds with the Arapaho and Cheyenne Tribes as they all attempted to share in front range foothill hunting regions.

Little Raven was often considered a friend to the European/white settlers, wishing to retain peace while demanding the sovereignty of the Arapaho Nation. Although an Arapaho encampment was located at the site of the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre site, Little Raven was not present; however, many in his band were killed in the massacre, including fellow Chief Left Hand. In good faith, Chief Little Raven signed the 1868 Treaty of Ft. Laramie that essentially designated land from the Platte to Arkansas Rivers to the Arapaho and Southern Cheyenne only to have that treaty broken in less than a decade as gold seekers converged on Colorado. Little Raven signed the 1867 Medicine Lodge Treaty that relegated the Arapaho to a Kansas reservation. Not satisfied with that location, Little Raven and tribal chiefs agreed to move their band to Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma. Chief Little Raven continued his pressure on the U.S. Government by traveling with other tribal leaders to Washington, D.C. throughout the 1880s with demands for treaty compliance. This short overview of the namesake of the Chief Hosa Lodge will, hopefully, bring new significance and knowledge of Chief Hosa, aka, Chief Little Raven, to travelers that pass this exit off I-70. Both the Chief Hosa Lodge and its namesake, Chief Little Raven, are woven into the early history of Colorado.

The original lodge pole pine roof at Chief Hosa Lodge has been replaced and the facility has been modernized over time; however, the spectacular views of the Continental Divide remain. The lodge is available as an event venue and the camp ground welcomes visitors. The current COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines are observed at the site. The lodge is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites and continues to be an anchor for the Denver Mountain Park System and an excellent example of the value of sustainable stone and timber construction.

#### Sources:

Municipal Facts. March, 1919. 11-16

Denver Mountain Parks. W. Rex-Atzet, S. White, E. Walker. J. Fielder Publishing, 2013.

[www.native-languages.org/definitions/hosa.htm](http://www.native-languages.org/definitions/hosa.htm)

Colorado-An Illustrated History of the Highest State. T. Noel, D. Faulkner. American Historical Press, 2006.

EMAHS Photo Archive Collection



# Upcoming Events

**December 7**

**Official Colorado Gives Day**

**January 2022**

Presentation of historic interest at  
Hiwan Museum **TBD**



*Picture provided by Laurie Romberg, Evergreen Snow Crystals*

The Record is published two times per year by the Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society. Deadline for the Spring/Summer 2022 issue is April 1. Email your submissions to Laurie Romberg at [laurie@rombergdesignsplus.com](mailto:laurie@rombergdesignsplus.com).

## For More Information

For more information about the Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society or Events happening at Hiwan Museum go to:

**[www.jchscolorado.org](http://www.jchscolorado.org)**

### Join Us! Support local history with your membership in EMAHS:

#### Benefits Include:

- A subscription to "The Record" the EMAHS newsletter.
- Special invitations for history programs and social events.
- Field trips to museums and historical sites
- A subscription to "Historically Jeffco," the annual publication of the Jefferson County Historical Commission.

Available at the Hiwan Museum

### Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for annual membership (select the category that best suits you and your family):

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Pioneer

\_\_\_\_\_ \$150 Mercantile (business membership)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Miner

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Donation)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Rancher

*Memberships are fully tax deductible, less the fair market value (fmv \$5.00) of benefits received.*

**Tell me more about:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Volunteering opportunities** \_\_\_\_\_ **Making a memorial gift**

Detach and mail to: **Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society, P. O. Box 703, Evergreen, CO 80437**

Or go online to **EMAHSColorado.org** and click on **JOIN!**