



The Record



Spring/Summer 2021



Volume 48, Issue 1



JCHSColorado.org

Membership Renewal

With this newsletter, you are being reminded to renew your membership. **Your membership ends on July 1, 2021.**

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT MORE THAN EVER. We are asking you to renew online this year by going to EMAHSColorado.org and paying your dues using Pay Pal or credit card or by printing the renewal form (included) and sending in a check to EMAHS P.O. Box 703, Evergreen, Colorado 80437. Please print the form and include with your check any changes in your address, phone number, or e-mail. You may also write the changes on an additional sheet of paper and please be sure to identify yourself. Diane Fuchs: Membership Chair, 303-674-9639 or HDFuchs@msn.com.

Cheat Grass: A Tinder Story

By *Burdette Weare*

I listened carefully for clues whether the West has accepted cheat grass as a necessary evil to be lived with until kingdom come, or whether it regards cheat as a challenge to rectify its past errors in land use.

(Aldo Leopold, Sand County Almanac, 1949.)

In 1949, on a hot July day near Ken Caryl Ranch, my cowboy-stepfather reined up his horse and cupped his hand to light a Bull Durham cigarette. The wooden match flared against his fingers and fell into a patch of parched cheat grass. In a flash, he was astride a wildfire . . . and a wild horse.

Cheat grass (Downy Brome, or *Bromus tectorum*), the incendiary weed of the American West, came to North America from Eurasia as an unintended stowaway and then hitched a railway ride to Colorado in the 1890's. A century later it has taken over vast sections of the high desert, especially the Great Basin of Nevada and Utah, and extends into all except the highest sub-regions of Colorado.

In the 1940's, we seldom saw cheat grass above Idledale. Morrison, on the other hand, was surrounded, and its citizens faced the Fourth of July with a worried look as the Tom Sawyers of the town stockpiled firecrackers. In 2021, I worry because cheat grass has taken a stand as



Photo provided by Weeds of the West, University of Wyoming

Continued on page 3.

REFLECTIONS: President's Pen

By Elaine Hayden

Webster's Dictionary defines the word endurance as "the ability to withstand hardship, adversity or stress". We can all feel proud for acknowledging our endurance over the past year with sacrifices made that ensured the health of ourselves, family and community. While we felt the absence of gathering with friends and family, the EMAHS community is showing signs of re-emergence in the coming months.

Following the retirement on April 1st of JCOS staff supervisor, Tim Sandsmark, the hiring team has filled the position of Heritage Stewardship Supervisor with the well qualified candidate, Erica Duvic. She will be based at Hiwan and will oversee heritage sites throughout the JCOS system. We look forward to welcoming a new member of the Hiwan team. Heritage Grove tree mitigation was performed in early May and the roofing project is still on the future schedule.

We are delighted to report the return of the summer day camp program at Medlen School. JoAnn Dunn is in preparations for opening the one-room school for this popular educational program. Two sessions will be offered in June. Discovery Days at Hiwan will also return this year with Jennee Hancock and team offering two sessions, also in June. Both of these popular camps are happily filled to capacity. We welcome the return of both of these programs. Of additional interest, a virtual tour of the Medlen experience will soon appear on our web site. Dick Scudder will film the tour at Medlen School with JoAnn Dunn featured as star tour guide.

In honor of dedicated volunteer and Society charter member, Josie Hoover, a desk lamp has been installed at the front desk in the museum where Josie spent many hours greeting guests. Josie's legacy at Hiwan is seen in our library

catalog and as a model of volunteerism we can all aspire to.

House tours at Hiwan Museum resumed in April with limited capacity. Guests are eager to enjoy the history of Hiwan and to glimpse the interior of the museum following a year's long hiatus. The popularity of last summer's Hiwan History on the Porch compelled staff to offer the porch program again this year with the addition of a scaled down quick tour of the house.

In an attempt to welcome all to Society meetings, EMAHS is striving to establish a presenter program every other month, on Saturday mornings, that will allow members and the public to enjoy history in many forms. Mark Joyce is scheduled as our first presenter this June and we are looking forward to his talk on local history (See Events section).

While the popular teas at Hiwan have been on temporary hold and in compliance with county and state protocols, there is no schedule for teas in 2021. We will revisit the possibility of offering a Holiday Tea in December but no plans are in the offing.

We will welcome Pat Jurgens, author of *Falling Forward*, in July as our featured author at an outdoor book event and signing. Pat will be on hand to read, answer questions and personalize your books. It is with pride that I announce Pat has been selected as a finalist for the Colorado Author's League Historical Fiction Award. We are fortunate to have Pat join us for this event.

Diane Fuchs reports that the Noland Orchards will be able to provide the Western Slope peaches this year. As you remember, we had no offering in 2020 as a late freeze destroyed the crop. I

know many of you are looking forward to fresh peaches this August! Details for dates, price and payment options are in separate notice in this newsletter.

As July nears, it is once again time to renew membership in your historical society. The Society stands in appreciation of your support despite limited event opportunities during the past year. Your membership supports our educational programs, insurance protection for our extensive collections and the continued preservation of the historic record through oral histories and the photo archives. As restrictions are eased, we look forward to offering more activities of historic interest to our members and community. Membership renewals are due July 1st and can be made online with a credit card or PayPal account at EMAHScolorado.org (click 'Join') or by clipping and mailing the attached renewal form to EMAHS at P.O. Box 703 Evergreen, CO 80437.

It is with robust enthusiasm that the EMAHS Board is stepping forward into the next phase of projected normality. As always, our focus remains on the preservation of history and the appreciation of our loyal supporters and volunteers.

Cheat Grass article continued from page 1.

high as 10,000 feet, and is flourishing around our homes in Evergreen. How and why it has gained elevation is a matter of debate. In the Great Basin, everybody from the U.S. Forest Service to the Nevada Cattleman's Association attribute the upward march to climate change. Probably so, but Aldo Leopold's point is well taken: Cheat grass loves development and disturbed soil. Above all, it is opportunistic, and some would argue that as a shallow-rooted annual with a short-lived seed bank, it lacks the noxious prowess of a perennial species like Canada thistle. But, "God's mistake," as my mother depicted cheat grass, can be "tough as the devil and mean as hell." It prospers in poor soils, requires as little as six inches of annual precipitation, and withstands temperatures from -30 to +110. As an annual, it has mastered the four seasons. Putting its seeds to bed in the fall and setting its alarm clock for March, it becomes a verdant carpet by April, consuming precious water and nutrients while competing natives are still asleep. By late May, it can be knee high, setting seed, shifting color from green to reddish, preparing to go dormant but dangerous from June to August--sharpening and shedding its seed, turning blond and dying to burn.

The mature seeds (as many as 20,000 per square meter) are a story in themselves. They cling and penetrate, holding fast to clothing and animal fur, invading the ears, eyes, noses and mouths of wildlife, livestock and pets. (Only an Eastern dude or a masochist would walk through cheat grass while wearing low-cut shoes and wool socks.) Nature, however, designed the seeds not for pain but for transport; and for a half-century or more we have multiplied the carriers on a massive scale. Ironically, flatlanders seeking to "get away from it all" often bring much of it with them. Inadvertently, the seeds find their way to construction sites, roadways,

horse pastures, subdivisions, parks and recreation areas; and frequently, with the best of intentions, to lands being reclaimed and landscaped. "Buy cheap seed, get cheat seed," we used to say. And now that we have elk who commute between Evergreen and Lakewood, we have a convenient explanation for the appearance of cheat grass in pristine meadows. Grandpa Ed Haight (my mother's father) would warn us as we set out to work in his fields in Bear Creek Valley below Morrison, "Boys, be careful of the 'gasoline grass'" Today, he might say the same for areas above Evergreen.

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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
Past President	Diane Fuchs

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

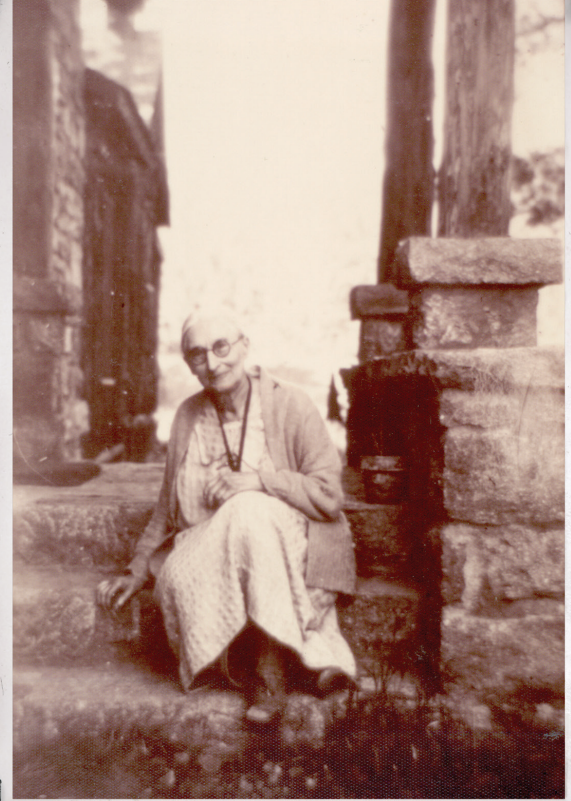
Director	Bill Bottoms
Director	Stuart Collins
Director	JoAnn Dunn
Director	Larry French
Director	Hank Fuchs
Director	Bud Weare

NON-BOARD POSITIONS

Oral History Chairman	Bud O'Leary
Webmaster	Clarence Low
Newsletter Editor	Laurie Romberg



Original stone library and attached cabin



Julia Douglas sitting on library steps

As a memorial, the following is a reprint of an article written for EMAHS by Josie Hoover in 2019.

Julia Brewster Douglas And Evergreen's First Public Library

By Josie Hoover

When one contemplates the resources offered at the Evergreen Public Library, it is difficult to imagine Evergreen without a library. Point in fact: in the 1920's few cities had public libraries, especially small mountain communities such as Evergreen. But thanks to a remarkable woman, Julia Brewster Douglas, Evergreen did have a library. Julia Brewster Douglas was born in upstate New York, the daughter of a school superintendent and his school-teacher wife. Julia attended Oswego Normal School and taught school in and around New York City until she was forced to retire at age 60. Not ready to quit work, she landed a job in the Newark New Jersey, Free Public Library. This library was headed by one of the most innovative librarians in the country, John Cotton Dana, who began his career in Denver where he organized programs that extended beyond book lending. Dana viewed the library as an arm in educating the public to community needs, displayed works of art to enhance the reading rooms and organized the first children's room in the library facility.

In 1917, Julia contracted pneumonia. Fearful that she would not survive another winter in New York, she came to Colorado to say "Good-bye" to her family. Her brother, Father Charles Winfred Douglas, and his wife Josepha, had a summer home in Evergreen called Camp Neosho (now Hiwan Museum). A sister, Helen Seamans, a widowed nurse, had been the nanny for the Douglas's son, Eric. After Eric no longer required a nanny, Seamans remained in Colorado and subsequently welcomed Julia as her house guest. Julia was restored to health in the high, dry climate of Colorado, and soon began looking for a project to fill her time.

When Ms. Douglas discovered the schools in the Evergreen area offered only textbooks for the children to read, she contacted her friends in the Newark Library asking for their discarded books, and soon opened Evergreen's first public library in a storefront in Evergreen. This early library building was located across Bear Creek from what is now the Highland

Haven Creekside Inn. The library charged 25 cents a year for a library card, and one cent a day for borrowing books. With these funds, donations and an annual fundraiser, Julia was able to increase the collection from the original 600 donated books. Choosing new titles taxed her ingenuity in an attempt to meet the interests of the local rural community, the school children, and Evergreen's summer visitors. Additionally, the library was a source for teachers of the local schools who did not otherwise have local access to books.

Using her knowledge gained at the Newark Free Public Library, Julia snipped pictures from magazines that she framed and lent along with her ever-growing collection of books. Inspired by librarian John Dana's implementation of a children's room, Julia established a story hour for the children and offered boxes of 'busy work' for the young library patrons that included puzzles, games and blocks. Through the years, the regular summer visitors would bring dolls and other artifacts from their travels to librarian Julia, which she used to enhance her story hours. Much of this collection is currently housed at the Hiwan Museum.

The library quickly became a fixture in the Evergreen community and served as a focal point for various community activities, as there were no clubs in town. Evergreen's first library quickly outgrew its makeshift quarters and in 1921, Father Douglas and his wife, Josepha, built a stone library on the grounds of the Church of the Transfiguration that was modeled after Children's Room at the Newark Library. A small log cottage was constructed adjacent to the new library that served as the residence for Julia and her sister, Helen.

The stone library and cottage stands today on the hill above the commercial business, JPTotal Lawn Maintenance. A display of Julia's doll collection, along with native art in the form of basketry and pottery that her brother and nephew acquired from the Native tribes of the Southwest, were a permanent display at Julia's library. A wall-sized photo of the interior of the early Evergreen library is displayed in the community room of the present Evergreen Library, offering a contrast in the scope of community needs in the Evergreen area from bygone days to the present.

After coming to Evergreen to what she thought was near the end of her life, Julia had another 20 years to run the library for her beloved community's children. During that time, she kept up a lively correspondence with her former colleagues at the Newark Library, as well as with many other librarians throughout the United States who knew of her and her library through her articles in library publications. When the American Library Association was to meet in Denver in 1934, Julia was determined, in spite of her 83 years and declining health, to have them visit her library. Hundreds came to the conference and she greeted each on personally.

Julia Douglas died on September 29, 1935, and her obituary appeared in the Library Journal and many other national library publications. In a quote from one of those articles in the Library Journal by the Reference Librarian of the Denver Public Library, "Julia often said of the children that she wanted them to know that a library was a very pleasant place to be. Many who are not children will remember her as one who made that so."

Though the future of the Evergreen Library looked dark after Julia's death, the public library managed to stay open with the help of dedicated volunteers. The Douglasses set up a trust fund for the library, and with the help of Mrs. Jock Spence, whose husband had built the library, and the Sisters of St. Mary, who had a summer home in Evergreen, the library managed to remain open during the summer months. In 1942 Olive King, a member of a prominent local family, became librarian and was subsequently succeeded by Jane Kemble, who had known the library since she was a teenager, Kemble served as librarian from 1953 until 1969, when the library became a branch of the Jefferson County Public Library.

The stone building that housed Julia Douglas' Evergreen Public Library remains today and is owned by the Church of the Transfiguration in lower downtown Evergreen. In 1971, after being absorbed into the Jefferson County Library System, the new library was housed in what is now the building occupied by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Annex. The Evergreen Public Library we know today moved into its newly-built facility in the early 1990s on the site of the former Evergreen High School at the junction of Highway 73 and Buffalo Park Road.

EMAHS Annual Peach Sale is BACK!

FANTASTIC WESTERN SLOPE PEACHES

\$40 Per box (prepaid)

Delivery in August

Will contact by e-mail or phone



Pay with credit card or check

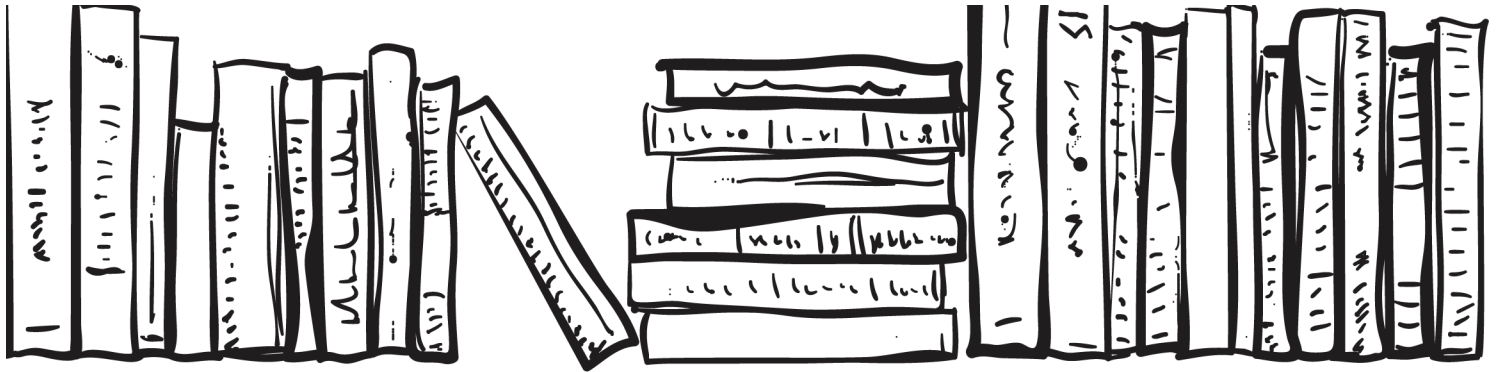
Go to: JCHSColorado.org for online payment

Make checks out to EMAHS or JCHS and mail to:

Mark Joyce - EMAHS Treasurer

P.O. Box 938

Kittredge, Colorado 804357



The Book Shelf

By Elaine Hayden

Colorado and the Silver Crash: The Panic of 1893 written by John Steinle

Following great success with his previous books, *Evergreen* and *Conifer*, John Steinle is adding to his credits with a new book to be released in early July. Titled, *Colorado and the Silver Crash: The Panic of 1893*, is the latest offering from Steinle as he explores the impact of the repeal of the Sherman Silver Act. The large Colorado mining centers of Cripple Creek and Leadville felt the repercussions of the decline in silver demand as evidenced in high unemployment numbers and the resultant economic and social unrest. The decision to adopt the gold standard, versus silver, in the United States fomented political unrest and economic disaster across the country.

This era in Colorado's history is critical in understanding the history and development of the mining industry in our state and pays homage to the resiliency of those who labored in Colorado mines and endured the panic of 1893. Steinle includes over 100 historic photographs and primary source material in bringing this narrative to life. EMAHS is looking forward to offering this title for sale upon release in early July. This paperback book is published by The History Press at Arcadia Publishing.

MILESTONES IN THE LIFE OF EMAHS (JCHS) 1993-1998

Excerpts from the commemorative booklet printed to honor the 1998 25th Anniversary Celebration of the JCHS.

1993-1994

The JCHS office was located upstairs in the east tower of Hiwan Museum, once the bedroom of Mary Neosho Williams.

The first children's Victorian Tea was held with hopes of continuing the tradition of teas at Hiwan.

An ice cream social was held at Medlen School to welcome South Turkey Creek neighbors.

Museum exhibits included 'Mountain Stage Stop', 'Victorian Vanity' and 'Home on the Range'.

1995-1996

Jock Spence's tool box was donated to the Society to feature on display.

Medlen School was officially listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties and received a grant for restoration from the State Historic Fund.

Mountain Rendezvous Chapter of the DAR awarded JCHS for 'outstanding achievements in the preservation of American heritage and history'.

The wall tent and furnishings were dedicated in the memory of former JCHS President and Hiwan Museum administrator, Sandy Crain.

1997-1998

JCHS members assisted in establishing the Humphrey Memorial Park and Museum through many hours of cleaning, cataloging and through a financial donation from JCHS.

JCHS joined the Art in the Mountain Community by supporting the creation of the bronze, 'The Foreman' to be placed near the front entrance of the museum.

Museum exhibits presented in the Stone House included 'Indian Hills Pottery' and 'Come Up to Evergreen; Tourism and Resorts in the Evergreen Area'.

Past JCHS Presidents were honored at the 25th anniversary celebration held at Douglas Hall on the Church of the Transfiguration campus.

Upcoming Events

June 8th to 10th and June 15th to 17th
Medlen School Days **Sold out**

June 8th to 11th and June 15th to 18
Discovery Days at Hiwan **Sold out**

June 26th 10:30 am Presentation by Mark Joyce.
'Colorado State Highway #74: From Footpath to State Highway' Outdoor EMAHS member event at Hiwan Museum.

July 24th 11:00 am Book signing and sale. Pat Jurgens will be on hand to sign her book, *Falling Forward*, answer questions and read excerpts. Outdoor event at Hiwan Museum.

August Date TBA Delivery of Western Slope Peaches. Order by July 23rd to reserve a box of fresh deliciousness! See ordering details in this newsletter.



Picture provided by Laurie Romberg, *Spring flowers and Continental Divide*

The Record is published two times per year by the Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society. Deadline for the Fall/Winter 2021 issue is November 1. Email your submissions to Laurie Romberg at 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

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 opportunitis** _____ **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!**