

COLORADO Heritage

The Magazine of History Colorado

July August 2015

Rocky Mountain National Park

A Centennial Look Back, and Ahead

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Colorado Mountain Club photos of Rocky Mountain National Park
 - Georgetown Loop Historic Mining & Railroad Park®
 - Summer programs around the state

TOYS

of the '50s, '60s and '70s

On view now at the History Colorado Center



Edward C. Nichols
PRESIDENT AND CEO

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Denver, Colorado 80203
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For a full listing of benefits and more about membership, visit www.HistoryColorado.org and click on "Membership."

COLORADO Heritage

JULY/AUGUST 2015



COmingle

At the History Colorado Center
Join History Colorado for our
afterhours history "happenings"
with an offbeat mix of games,
trivia, demos, exhibit adventures and performances.
Snacks and cash bar.

\$10 at the door or at www.HistoryColorado.org



MINGLE

COLORADO IS PLAYFUL

Thursday, July 9, 6–9 P.M.—Get in touch with your inner child for a night of fun and games. Check out your favorite vintage toys and action figures, play throwback video games on the giant screen, and compete to win prizes.

- Reconnect with Gumby, Barbie, Slinky, Spirograph, Hot Wheels and more in the *Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s* exhibit.
- Play video games with Denver's own Oh Heck Yeah.
- Create a Colorado-themed action figure or paper doll and build a Denver landmark out of blocks and bricks.
- Search for historic toys in History Colorado Center exhibits, and spin the wheel to go around a giant Colorado game board.
- Wear your favorite Colorado-themed hat, shirt or tattoo and win prizes.



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Shawn M. Snow
- I 8 Capturing the Rocky Mountains:
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Emily Moazami
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A Centennial Essay
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ON THE COVER

In a hand-colored lantern slide, early Colorado Mountain Club member George Harvey, Jr., goes to the edge to get the perfect shot on the narrows of Longs Peak, in the heart of Rocky Mountain National Park. The year was 1915—the year of the park's designation. In this issue of Colorado Heritage, we look back at 100 years of Rocky Mountain National Park. Photo by George C. Barnard.

All images are from the collections of History Colorado unless otherwise noted.

HISTORY COLORADO CENTER

1200 Broadway, Denver

Open: Daily, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.**Extended evening hours! Open till 9 P.M. every third Tuesday.****Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$12; seniors and students \$10; children \$8; children 5 and under free. **303/HISTORY**, www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$12; seniors and students \$10; children \$8; children 5 and under free. **303/HISTORY**, www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org**BYERS-EVANS HOUSE MUSEUM**

1310 Bannock Street, Denver

Open: Daily, except Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Guided house tours from 10:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$6; seniors and students (with ID) \$5; children (6–12) \$4. Group tours available. **303/620-4933**, www.ByersEvansHouseMuseum.org**EL PUEBLO HISTORY MUSEUM**

301 North Union, Pueblo

Open: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$5; seniors, children 6–12, and students with ID \$4; children 5 and under free; children 12 and under free on Saturdays. **719/583-0453**, www.ElPuebloHistoryMuseum.org**FORT GARLAND MUSEUM**

25 miles east of Alamosa off U.S. 160

Open: April–September, daily, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. October–March, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.; closed Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$5; seniors \$4.50; children ages 6–16, \$3.50. **719/379-3512**, www.FortGarlandMuseum.org**FORT VASQUEZ MUSEUM**

13412 U.S. 85, Platteville; 35 miles north of downtown Denver

Open: March 1–31, Wednesday–Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. April 1–September 30, daily, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. To schedule tours, call 303/866-4591.**Admission:** Members and children under 5 free; nonmembers \$2. **970/785-2832**, www.FortVasquezMuseum.org**GEORGETOWN LOOP HISTORIC MINING & RAILROAD PARK®**

Georgetown/Silver Plume I-70 exits

Call **1-888/456-6777** for reservations or visit www.georgetownlooprr.com.**GRANT-HUMPHREYS MANSION**

770 Pennsylvania Street, Denver

Open: For rental events, including receptions, weddings, and business meetings. **303/894-2505**, www.GrantHumphreysMansion.org**HEALY HOUSE MUSEUM AND DEXTER CABIN**

912 Harrison Avenue, Leadville

Open: Daily, May through October, 10 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Group tours (20+) can be arranged in winter (depending on availability) with reservation.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$6; seniors \$5.50; children (6–16) \$4.50; children 5 and under free. **719/486-0487**, www.HealyHouseMuseum.org**PIKE'S STOCKADE**

Six miles east of La Jara, near Sanford, Colorado, just off Highway 136

Open: Memorial Day to October 1, or by appointment.**TRINIDAD HISTORY MUSEUM**

312 East Main Street, Trinidad

Open: May 18–September 30, Tuesday–Friday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Closed on state holidays. Free self-guided tours of garden and grounds, Monday–Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Baca House and Santa Fe Trail Museum available by appointment for groups of six or more. Bloom Mansion closed for restoration.**Admission:** Members free. Nonmember ticket options for Historic Homes Guided Tours, Santa Fe Trail Museum self-guided tours, Friday Heritage Garden Tours, and combination tickets at adult, senior, and child rates. Children 5 and under free. **719/846-7217**, www.TrinidadHistoryMuseum.org**UTE INDIAN MUSEUM**

17253 Chipeta Road, Montrose

Open: January–June: Tuesday through Saturday, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.July–October: Monday through Saturday, 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.; Sunday, 11 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. **Closing August 1 for expansion!****Admission:** Members and children 6 and under free; nonmember adults \$4.50; seniors \$4; children ages 6–16, \$2. **970/249-3098**, www.UteIndianMuseum.org

From the PRESIDENT

In the last *Colorado Heritage*, I shared that History Colorado is in the process of changing its governance structure. Our twenty-eight-member Board of Directors, currently elected by History Colorado's members, will be replaced by a nine-member board appointed by the governor and subject to Senate approval. As we go to press, History Colorado has put forward four of those nine members. By the time you read this, the new board members will have been announced and begun their duties, effective July 1.

Along with the new governance structure, History Colorado is looking at ways to improve its financial management and bring it into closer alignment with the State's Executive Branch. We've updated and strengthened our financial and accounting procedures, enhanced staff training on State procurement procedures, and hired personnel with broad State finance and accounting experience. Further, our earned and contributed revenues, coupled with decreasing gaming revenues, have not been adequate to support our level of expenses over the past several years, forcing us to reach into our reserve funds. Consequently, we're also instituting significant belt-tightening across the organization, including staffing and programs, while moving forward with a revenue enhancement plan. These measures will bring our expenses into better alignment with expected revenues.

From capital construction on a statewide basis, after years of planning we've begun to renovate the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose. The museum will close to the public on August 2 and is scheduled to reopen in the fall of 2016. The museum will temporarily relocate to the Montrose Visitor Center so visitors can still access the museum office, store, and select exhibit materials. For the expansion, History Colorado is collaborating with representatives of the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Northern Ute Tribes. The plans call for a growth from 4,650 square feet to 8,500, resulting in a new museum that will feature rentable event space, a gift store, exhibits, and a cultural resource and library center. Be sure to join the Ute Indian Museum on Colorado Day, August 1, to celebrate the expansion and to sign a section of wall that will go on display in the newly renovated museum.

Meanwhile, at the History Colorado Center in Denver, we've opened our newest major traveling exhibit, *Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s*. In this latest look back at our recent past, nostalgia meets history head-on. Come to remember and show your young ones the toys from your past, while learning about the trends in technology, advertising, and entertainment that brought about an explosion in America's toy culture. We hope you'll make this hands-on experience part of your family's summer fun!

Edward C. Nichols, President and CEO

The History Colorado Center will be closed for scheduled maintenance on Tuesday, September 8, and Wednesday, September 9. The Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center will remain open for regular hours (10 A.M.–5 P.M.) on Wednesday, September 9.

On page 4 of our last issue, we incorrectly identified Colorado Adjutant General H. Michael Edwards, mistakenly listing his last name as Armstrong. We regret the error and thank the readers who brought it to our attention. Maj. Gen. Edwards, who also serves as Executive Director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, was among the dignitaries who attended our evening honoring Colorado's veterans at the History Colorado Center this past March.

New & On View

Denver

History Colorado Center (unless otherwise noted)



Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s

On view through October 4

Toys provide a window into the shifting fabric of American life, and the three decades in this exhibit represent a unique era.



The toy business boomed, fueled by toy-hungry Baby Boomer kids, the development of cheap manufacturing technologies and the spread of TV—and its ubiquitous advertising. Society was changing too. Gender roles were challenged, racial stereotypes confronted and authority questioned. Toy manufacturers took note—sometimes slowly—and developed new toys that reflected America's shifting culture.

Commercials for early Erector sets always featured boys. But by the '70s, commercials for LEGOs® featured both boys and girls playing and building. The counterculture found its way into the toy industry with Rat Fink, an insane-looking plastic rat designed to challenge the wholesome image of Mickey Mouse. And although criticized today for promoting unattainable beauty standards, Barbie made waves for other reasons when the doll was first released in 1959: she was designed to be an adult role model that encouraged girls to be whatever they wanted to be.

Toys is a playful—and insightful—traveling exhibit featuring themed living rooms where everyone can be a kid again. Rediscover your favorites from childhood and introduce the kids in your life to toys they've never seen! *Developed by the Minnesota History Center.*



EL MOVIMIENTO THE CHICANO MOVEMENT IN COLORADO

On view now

El Movimiento immerses you in the urgency and vitality of one of Colorado's most important social movements. Artifacts, images and the voices of the activists reveal the struggle for labor rights, the founding of the Crusade for Justice, student activism and the Vietnam War.

Presenting sponsor: **AARP**
Real Possibilities

With support from: The Abarca Family Foundation



We ♥ Rocky Mountain National Park

On view now

Rocky Mountain National Park turns 100 this year. History Colorado is celebrating the people and the places of one of our most cherished spots. Every day, Coloradans and visitors alike have incredible experiences in the park: Seeing a moose for the first time. Breathing in deep lungfuls of high mountain air. Climbing Longs Peak for the first—or 47th—time. *We ♥ Rocky Mountain National Park* introduces you to amazing people and the ways they've loved the park.



Photos courtesy Minnesota History Center

New from History Colorado

The Denver Artists Guild: Its Founding Members—An Illustrated History

By Stan Cuba

Watch for this 260-page fully illustrated retrospective of a pivotal cultural movement that began in Denver and reverberated throughout Colorado and beyond.

The book is available at the Byers-Evans House Museum and at other retailers—including the History Colorado Center Gift Shop—starting in July. (Remember: History Colorado members enjoy 10% off the \$39.95 cover price at the History Colorado Center and Byers-Evans House.) Showcasing a range of artistic styles and mediums, the book features more than 200 full-color works by Vance Kirkland, Laura Gilpin, Arnold and Louise Rönnebeck and forty-eight other luminaries of Denver’s twentieth-century art scene.



The Denver Artists Guild: Its Founding Members

Byers-Evans House Gallery
On view through September 26

To kick off the publication of History Colorado’s new book, *The Denver Artists Guild: Its Founding Members—An Illustrated History*, a special exhibit goes on view at the Byers-Evans House Gallery. The exhibit showcases twenty-one works from some of the most influential Colorado artists of their day—the originators of the Denver Artists Guild, founded in 1928.

Pueblo

El Pueblo History Museum

Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863, and the March on Washington, 1963

On view now

One hundred years separate the Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington, yet they are linked in the larger story of liberty and the American experience. Both grew out of decades of bold actions, resistance, organization and vision.

Changing Colorado: Civil Rights in the Centennial State

On view now

Changing Colorado explores Colorado civil rights issues, from Japanese internment to women’s suffrage, worker rights to the Chicano movement. High school students from eight Pueblo schools collaborated to create the exhibit.

Montrose

Ute Indian Museum

The Ute Indian Museum is closing temporarily for a highly anticipated renovation. The museum will relocate to the Montrose Visitor Center for the duration of the renovation so visitors can still access the museum office, store and select exhibit materials.

In celebration of the expansion, visitors are invited to a Colorado Day Celebration on Saturday, August 1, with free admission. This open house features a deep-discount sale in the gift shop, Norman Lansing poster giveaway, scavenger hunt, auction and outdoor movie.

Visitors can share in the legacy of the museum by signing a section of the wall to be preserved and displayed in the newly renovated building—scheduled to open in fall 2016. Make your mark on history in Montrose this Colorado Day!

The Ute Indian Museum Is Closing for Expansion Make Plans to Visit Now!

Navajo Rug and Basket Show and Sale

On view through August 1

In partnership with the Adopt A Native Elder Program, the Ute Indian Museum presents a Navajo rug exhibit and sale.

Platteville

Fort Vasquez

Harvest Daze Quilt Show

Saturday, August 15, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Enjoy a free day at Fort Vasquez Museum, and see art and quilts from Platteville’s Harvest Daze Celebration.



Trinidad

Trinidad History Museum

New and Improved Gift Shop



Stop by the Trinidad History Museum's new and improved gift shop! The shop is open for business and features many new items and exclusive merchandise, while still carrying regional book titles and gift items. Come by for all things Trinidad and Drop City!



Remembering the Ludlow Massacre Exhibit

Rodney Wood Gallery

On view through July 31

The Trinidad History Museum is cosponsoring an exhibit commemorating the Ludlow Massacre, with paintings by Lindsey Hand.

First Fridays at the Trinidad History Museum

Fridays, July 3, August 7, September 4 and October 2

Through October, the Trinidad History Museum will stay open till 8 P.M. the first Friday of every month. Spend an evening enjoying music and special events at local businesses, galleries and museums around town.

FAMILY FUN

Denver

First Wednesday Preschool Story Time

History Colorado Center

Wednesdays, July 1 and August 5, 9:30 to 10:30 A.M.

Bring the kids (age 2–5) to story time in our *Destination Colorado* exhibit. We'll read toy-themed stories and then have playtime in the exhibit before the museum opens.

Free with admission!

Colorado Day

History Colorado Center

Saturday, August 1, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Free

Celebrate Colorado's 139th birthday with a free day at the History Colorado Center! Join us for a fun day of gold panning, blacksmith demonstrations, food sampling and a wonderful group of performers including trick roping, performing pigs, *ballet folklorico* dancers and much more. The Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center will have an open house all day. It's all free!



Low-Sensory Morning

History Colorado Center

Saturday, July 18, 8 to 10 A.M.

Free admission (*space limited*)

The History Colorado Center is happy to open its doors exclusively to families who prefer a lower-sensory environment. The museum will be closed to the general public, attendance limited, and the sound in exhibits turned down. Come and enjoy! RSVP required; contact Shannon Voirol at shannon.voirol@state.co.us.



Fourth of July!

Highline Silver Cornet Band

History Colorado Center

Saturday, July 4, 11:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.

Free with admission

Get patriotic with the sounds of the Highline Silver Cornet Band. The band will play old favorites in two performances during the day.

FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES at the History Colorado Center!

These are just highlights, and performances are subject to change, so check www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org for updates.
Free with admission.

JULY

- July 15: Meet **Molly Brown**, 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.
- July 17: Meet **Keota** resident Elizabeth Rohn, 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.
- July 23: Dance with **Colorado Conservatory of Dance** students, 11:30 A.M.
- July 24: Lisa Mumpton tells **American Indian** stories, 11:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.
- July 31: **Ritmos de Mi Peru** dancers, 1:30 P.M.

AUGUST

- August 8: **Highline Silver Cornet Band**, 11:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.
- August 22: **Square dancing** with the Rocky Mountain Rainbeaus, 11:30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

Mark Your Calendar!

Artocade 2015



September 11–13

Trinidad's Art Car Parade and Festival is back, and the Trinidad History Museum is participating again! One of the largest art festivals in southern Colorado, Artocade celebrates creativity in the form of artfully enhanced vehicles. The high point of a weekend of fun is the parade on Saturday at noon, when decorated cars, bikes, motorcycles, golf carts, scooters and rolling conveyances beyond your wildest imagination descend on Trinidad's brick streets. Look for details in the next issue of *Heritage* or visit www.artocade.com.

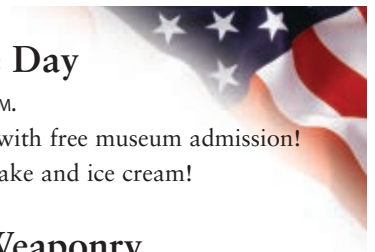
Platteville

Fort Vasquez

Fourth of July Free Day

Saturday, July 4, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Celebrate Independence Day with free museum admission! The first 48 visitors get free cake and ice cream!



Native American Weaponry

Saturday, July 18, 6:30 to 9 P.M.

Bows of Osage orange, ash, black locust, chokecherry and hickory. Arrows of wood and reeds. Hunting techniques, quivers and arm guards. Raised on the Cheyenne Arapaho Reservation in Oklahoma, Mr. Kimball shares the history and cultural background of Plains tribes. For ages 13 and up. Members \$8, nonmembers \$9 (children free) Reservations: 970/785-2832

A Night in the Museum

Saturday, July 25, 4 P.M. to Sunday, July 26, 10 A.M.

Spend the night camping in your own tent, swapping stories and toasting s'mores at the historic fort. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Members \$9 (adult) and \$4 (children), nonmembers \$10 (adult) and \$5 (children), family of four \$30 Reservations: 970/785-2832

Four Forts Armchair Tour

Saturday, August 22, 6 to 9 P.M.

Enjoy a tour from the comfort of your chair as Bill Crowley and Leroy Godfrey present a media tour of the four famous forts on the Platte.

Reservations: 970/785-2832

Toys Take Over Tuesdays

Tuesdays through August, 11:30 A.M. to noon
Free with admission

Toys are taking over this summer! Bring your family in for fun, drop-in, half-hour programs every Tuesday in July and August in our giant atrium or the *Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s* exhibit. Try your hand at a Spirograph design challenge, and see if you can win the people's choice award! Enter a LEGO® build-off, or race Matchbox cars down I-70 on our huge floor map of Colorado. Show us you have all the right moves by keeping your hula hoop going the longest. It's a new challenge every Tuesday, so check www.historycoloradocenter.org/exhibits/toys/ for the schedule or like us on Facebook to see these and other Toys happenings and special features!

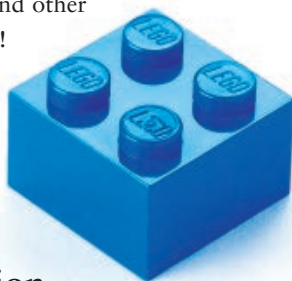


Photo courtesy
Minnesota History
Center

Trinidad

Trinidad History Museum

Colorado Day Celebration

Saturday, August 1
Free admission

Celebrate Colorado's birthday with free tours of the museum and a block party.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Denver

Colorado Day Governor's Cup Wine Tasting

History Colorado Center
Saturday, August 1, 7:30 P.M.

Celebrate Colorado Day with a tasting of the best Colorado wines of 2015.

The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board presents the winners of this year's Governor's Cup Wine Competition. The winners were chosen among 235 submissions from more than thirty local wineries and judged by a panel of wine experts, sommeliers, chefs and writers. The wines will be paired with local chef creations using ingredients from Colorado Centennial Farms throughout the state, which represent 100 years of agriculture in Colorado. Don't miss your only chance to try each wine before the case is released!

Members \$60, nonmembers \$75

Tickets: www.coloradowine.com

COLLECTIONS & LIBRARY PROGRAMS at the History Colorado Center

Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center

The Library & Research Center will be closed on Independence Day, July 4.

Members \$4, nonmembers \$5 (unless otherwise noted)
RSVP required. Call 303/866-2394, or register online! *All programs require a minimum number of registered participants and may be canceled if the minimum is not met 48 hours ahead of time. Early registration recommended!*

Toy Troubles? Caring for Your Toy Collections

Saturday, July 11, 11 A.M. to noon—Do you have childhood toys you want to save for future generations? Collections staffer Melissa de Bie will explain typical damage—and how to prevent it.

Take Me Out to the Old Ball Game

Tuesday, July 14, 10 to 11 A.M.—History Colorado's Patrick Fraker will exhibit interesting photographs, programs, books and ephemera in our collections related to the 140-year history of baseball in Colorado.

Collections Close-Ups: Ute Hand Games and Toys

Monday, July 27, 11:45 A.M. to 12:45 P.M.—History Colorado's collection of Ute artifacts includes items that are used by adults and children for fun. Come learn about the Ute Hand Game and other toys. Free with admission.

COLORFUL COLORADO at the History Colorado Center

Members \$4, nonmembers \$5 (unless otherwise noted)
Meet Colorado authors, History Colorado curators and others. Call 303/866-2394 to reserve your spot, or register online! *All programs require a minimum number of participants and may be canceled if the minimum is not met 48 hours ahead of time. Early registration recommended!*

Cowboys, Yogis and One-Legged Ski Bums— History Makers from the Book

Monday, July 13, 1 to 2 P.M.—Colorado author Don Morreale reads from his collection of stories of locals who've had brushes with history. Don will introduce Jack Welner, a survivor of Hitler's death camps, and Art McFarlane, the great-grandson of civil rights leader W.E.B. Dubois. Also present will be Buffalo Bill reenactor Jeff Norman and John Bell, founder of the

Colorado Buffalo Soldiers, a reenactment troop of the all-black 10th Cavalry Regiment. Each guest will talk about his experience and take questions from the audience.

Toy Talk!

Monday, July 27, 1 to 2 P.M.—The History Colorado collection includes an amazing assortment of nineteenth- and twentieth-century toys. Join staff for an informal talk about toys in the museum’s holdings, fun and intriguing stories and historic photographs of children at play.

Superstars in Colorado History

Monday, August 10, 1 to 2 P.M.—Seventy-five years ago, Denver native Hattie McDaniel became the first African American to win an Academy Award. She’s just one of the many Colorado superstars. Join historian Ed Weising as he looks at the best of the best among athletes, entrepreneurs, doctors, entertainers, artists, musicians and writers.

Note the new date!

Childhood Treasures of the 1970s!

Monday, August 31, 1 to 2 P.M.—Star Wars Death Star Space Station. Farmer Alfalfa’s Farm. Sesame Street. Lite Brite. Perfection. What do these toys have in common? They were stored in a dark attic, cherished but forgotten. Most of our toys separate from us over time, only living on in our memories. But what happens when a child holds onto nearly every toy? Well, it makes for an interesting exhibit in a museum. Come learn about the ’70s-era toys belonging to History Colorado’s tour director, Shawn Snow, as he shares pictures and tells how the toys evoke memories of childhood.



1971—Special Film Screening!

Tuesday, August 4, 6–8 P.M.

On March 8, 1971, eight ordinary Americans broke into a Philadelphia FBI office, took hundreds of secret files and released them to the public. In doing so, they uncovered the FBI’s vast and illegal regime of spying on American citizens. The FBI never solved the mystery of the break-in—until now. Join History Colorado for a screening of the award-winning film *1971*, told through a combination of exclusive interviews, rare documents and archival footage. A discussion will follow, pondering questions of privacy in today’s era of government surveillance.

Members \$4, nonmembers \$5

Call 303/866-2394 to reserve your spot, or register online!



Courtesy 1971film

COLORADO’S WATER STORIES at the History Colorado Center

Free with admission

Water trickles through the personal histories of Colorado families. This series looks at the ways water has shaped Coloradan’s lives and communities. The History Colorado Center is open until 9 P.M. each evening of the series.

No reservations needed

Information: www.historycolorado.org

Presented in partnership with One World One Water Center, Metropolitan State University of Denver

Water for a Growing City

Tuesday, July 21, 7 P.M.—In the late 1880s, the base of Platte Canyon (today’s Waterton Canyon) became the site of Denver’s water storage and filtration. Denver Water staff discuss the city’s original water system, the ingenious methods that created safe drinking water, and the Denver Union Water Company’s development of the company town of Kassler in the early 1900s.



Colorado Water Stories in the Living West Exhibit

Tuesday, August 18, 7 P.M.—Join us for an informal evening in the History Colorado Center’s award-winning *Living West* exhibit. Meet the people behind the water stories and get up-close with artifacts featured in the exhibit—and find out why water is so important to our state’s history.

Member Tip:

Pop-Up Exhibits

Do you enjoy seeing artifacts from the History Colorado collection? Don’t miss the temporary “pop-up” exhibits in the History Colorado Center’s Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center. These informal displays rotate every few weeks and showcase objects from the collection, with themes like the Rockies, Paris Fashion Week and African American History. A recent display featured a collection of Vietnam War–era Zippo lighters that were personalized and carried by soldiers in the field. Stop by on your next visit, and let us know what you’d like to see next!

Members’ Behind-the-Scenes Collection Tours!

History Colorado Center
Tuesdays, 1–1:30 P.M.

- July 21
- August 18

Ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at the History Colorado Center? Join us every third Tuesday and learn how our collections are stored and cared for. Visit rarely seen storage and processing spaces and get an up-close-and-personal view of artifacts. Preregister for this exclusive opportunity! Make a day of it and enjoy the daily lunch special in Café Rendezvous. *(Limited to 12 people)*

Free for members!

Register at: www.h-CO.org/BTS

Save the date!



Members-Only Grandparents Day Luncheon

History Colorado Center
Sunday, September 13

Treat the grandparents in your life to a day at the History Colorado Center. The delicious special-occasion menu created by our talented in-house chef will tantalize your tastebuds while you take in amazing views of downtown Denver. Kid-friendly crafts and activities will bring the entire family together for a fun-filled day! Questions? Call 303/866-4477.

History Colorado State Historical Fund Roundtables

Want to learn how you can get a grant? Connect with State Historical Fund staff at a Community Roundtable in your town. Learn how to apply for a grant, hear from other grant recipients and applicants in your region, and work directly with staff to plan a strong preservation project. RSVP 48 hours in advance. All roundtables run from 10 A.M. to noon. Reservations: 303/866-3493

JULY

- 15 Wednesday—Montrose: City Hall
- 16 Thursday—Rifle: Rifle Library
- 17 Friday—Buena Vista: Community Center
- 21 Tuesday—Wellington: Buckeye Community Club
- 22 Wednesday—Georgetown: Hamil House Museum
- 28 Tuesday—Fort Morgan: City Hall
- 29 Wednesday—Steamboat Springs: Centennial Hall
- 31 Friday—Colorado Springs: Pioneers Museum

AUGUST

- 4 Tuesday—Lamar: Big Timbers Transportation Museum
- 7 Friday—Trinidad: Trinidad History Museum

Platteville

Fort Vasquez

After Hours 2015

Saturdays, 6:30 P.M.

The Fort Vasquez Museum presents a series of after-hours history programs. Refreshments will be served at the break.

Members \$9, nonmembers \$10

Reservations required: 970/785-2832 *(Limited to 24)*

July 18—Native American Weaponry with Barry Kimball

August 22—Four Forts Virtual Tour with Lee Godfrey and Bill Crowley

September 26—to be announced

October 24—Mountain Man Stories with Dan Overholster

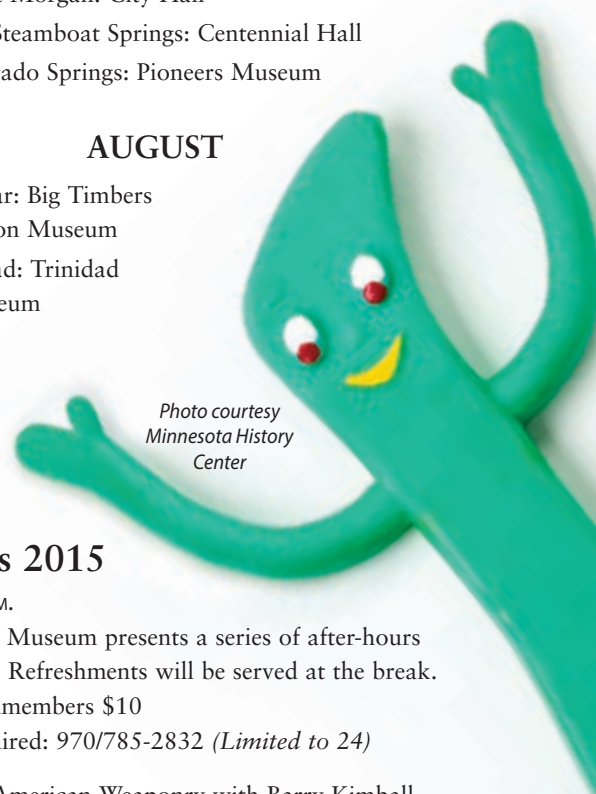


Photo courtesy Minnesota History Center

Tours & Treks

Take a Guided Trip Into the Past (To register call 303/866-2394)

pagemoral/wikimedia commons



Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival and Walking Tour

Michael Vincent



Shambhala Mountain Center

Rocky Mountain National Park and the Peak to Peak Highway

Friday, July 31, 9 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

When early travelers reached the Rocky Mountains, they saw those towering walls as impediments. But misgivings turned to admiration, transforming those peaks into destinations. Join historian Jim Pickering as he celebrates the centennial of Rocky Mountain National Park. We'll also explore the spectacular Peak to Peak Highway—stopping along the way from Estes Park through Nederland and beyond to take in the views, the history, the flora and more.

Members \$75, nonmembers \$90

Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival and Walking Tour

Saturday, August 15, 1 to 3 P.M.

Wheat Ridge was once the carnation capital of the country, and the city embraces its heritage every year with the Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival. We've planned the day so you'll have optional time for all the blooming fun in the morning, perhaps even joining your History Colorado guide for an on-site lunch. Afterward, we'll get a walking tour of the history and current development of Wheat Ridge, learning how it's still growing strong.

Members \$16, nonmembers \$21

Shambhala Mountain Center

Saturday, August 22, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Join us for an exclusive tour of the Shambhala Mountain Center, nestled on 600 acres of serene mountain valley in the Cache la Poudre Canyon. Shambhala offers a safe haven to explore deepened awareness, personal well-being and societal transformation. It's also home to the Great Stupa of Dharmakaya, one of the most noteworthy examples of sacred architecture in the world!

Members \$21, nonmembers \$26

Cussler Museum



Rubber and Rails in Arvada

Tuesday, September 8, 9 A.M. to noon

Experience the face of transit—old and new—in Arvada. We'll explore the modern face of Denver's growing train system with

a walking tour of the original section of town, where the Gold Line is rapidly changing the landscape. Then we'll drive to the one-of-a-kind Cussler Museum—with more than a hundred automobiles built between 1906 and 1965, in a collection begun by bestselling author Clive Cussler.

Members \$26, nonmembers \$31

Calendar

JULY

4 Saturday

HIGHLINE SILVER CORNET BAND
History Colorado Center
See page 5.

MUSEUM FREE DAY
Fort Vasquez Museum
See page 6.

9 Thursday

COMINGLE: COLORADO
IS PLAYFUL
History Colorado Center
See page 1.

11 Saturday

CARING FOR TOYS WORKSHOP
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

13 Monday

COWBOYS, YOGIS AND
ONE-LEGGED SKI BUMS
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

14 Tuesday

TAKE ME OUT TO THE
OLD BALL GAME
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

18 Saturday

LOW-SENSORY MORNING
History Colorado Center
See page 5.

NATIVE AMERICAN WEAPONRY
Fort Vasquez Museum
See page 6.

21 Tuesday

WATER FOR A GROWING CITY
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

25 Saturday

A NIGHT IN THE MUSEUM
Fort Vasquez Museum
See page 6.

27 Monday

COLLECTIONS CLOSE-UPS:
UTE GAMES AND TOYS
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

TOY TALK!
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

31 Friday

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL
PARK AND PEAK TO PEAK
HIGHWAY TOUR
See page 10.

AUGUST

1 Saturday

COLORADO DAY CELEBRATIONS
Ute Indian Museum,
History Colorado Center and
Trinidad History Museum
See pages 4, 5 and 6.

GOVERNOR'S CUP
WINE TASTING
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

4 Tuesday

1971 FILM SCREENING
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

10 Monday

SUPERSTARS IN
COLORADO HISTORY
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

15 Saturday

HARVEST DAZE QUILT SHOW
Fort Vasquez Museum
See page 4.

WHEAT RIDGE
CARNATION FESTIVAL
See page 10.

18 Tuesday

COLORADO WATER STORIES
IN LIVING WEST
History Colorado Center
See page 9.

22 Saturday

FOUR FORTS ARMCHAIR TOUR
Fort Vasquez Museum
See page 6.

SHAMBHALA MOUNTAIN
CENTER TOUR
See page 10.

31 Monday

CHILDHOOD TREASURES
OF THE '70S
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

Repeated Events

TOYS TAKE OVER
History Colorado Center
July 7, 14, 21, 28; August 4, 11, 18, 25
See page 6.

AFTER HOURS 2015
Fort Vasquez Museum
July 18 and August 22
See page 9.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME
History Colorado Center
July 1 and August 5
See page 5.

MEMBERS' BEHIND-THE-SCENES
TOURS
History Colorado Center
July 21 and August 18
See page 9.

FIRST FRIDAYS
Trinidad History Museum
July 3 and August 7
See page 5.

*Toys Take Over on Tuesdays
at the History Colorado Center.
See page 6.*



Photo courtesy
Minnesota History Center

2015–16 Lecture Series

The World Around Us

At times, the ideas, people and reputation of Colorado transcend its borders and engender transformative changes in the wider society. Other times, outside forces influence Colorado in ways large and small. The 2015–16 lecture series uncovers Colorado's place, in *The World Around Us*.

We'll discover Colorado women who changed the world, with talks on the creator of the Barbie doll and Emily Griffith, an innovative Denver educator. We'll learn an important piece of cultural history as we explore the influence of the Denver Artists Guild. Our state historian will reveal the hidden histories of Colorado's official symbols, and Dr. Tom Noel will show us what makes the state so unique. Our annual speaker from the Smithsonian Institution will provide an exciting object-based history of the United States. We'll consider what Colorado's endangered prairie ecosystems and native environment can gain from an influential new conservation project in Montana. We'll close with the legacy of the National Historic Preservation Act on our state.

All lectures are at 1 and 7 P.M. at the History Colorado Center. **NEW: Lectures are now on the third Monday of each month.** In August, History Colorado members will get a lecture series brochure with registration information in the mail. Call 303/866-2394 for more information. Sponsored by the Walter S. Rosenberry III Charitable Trust

The Good, the Bad and the Barbie: How Ruth Handler Changed the Face of American Toys

Monday, September 21

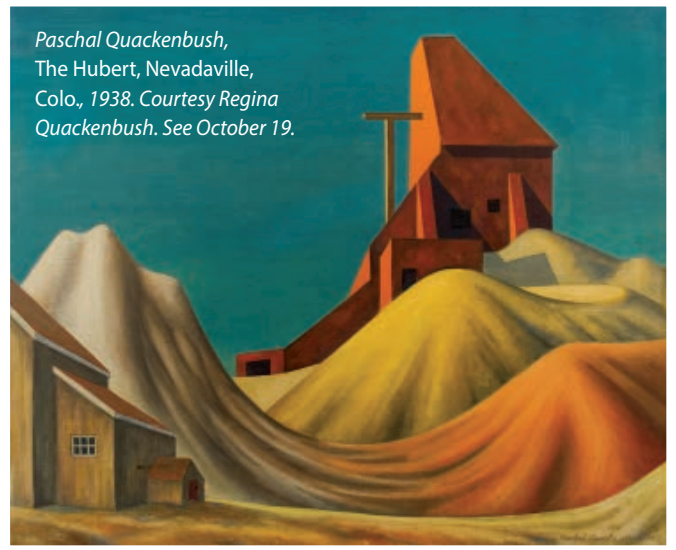
History Colorado is excited to be hosting the *Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s* exhibit. What better way to open the new lecture series season than to honor one of the most popular toys of all time: Barbie! Denver native Ruth Handler created the Barbie

doll after she and her husband Elliot (also a Denver native) started the Mattel toy company. Author Tanya Lee Stone explores how this iconic doll turned Mattel into one of the most successful toy companies in the world, and considers Barbie's impact on American culture.

Making Art History: The Denver Artists Guild in Colorado

Monday, October 19

With fifty-two founding members—including Vance Kirkland, Allen True, Laura Gilpin and Gladys Caldwell Fisher—the Denver Artists Guild has greatly influenced Colorado's cultural landscape over the past century. Created in 1928, the group's founders went on to explore the range of twentieth-century styles, from Impressionism, realism and regionalism to surrealism and abstraction. Join Stan Cuba, associate curator of the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art, for a presentation about this vibrant, unexplored chapter in Colorado's cultural history.



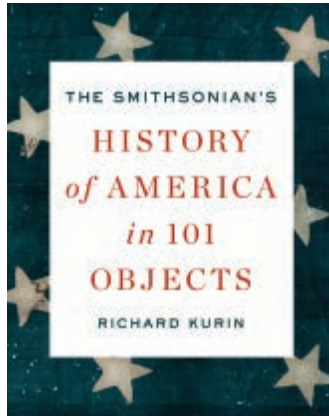
Paschal Quackenbush,
The Hubert, Nevadaville,
Colo., 1938. Courtesy Regina
Quackenbush. See October 19.

On April 18, learn about efforts to restore Montana prairie ecosystems and the implications for Colorado. Photo courtesy American Prairie Reserve.

Color-Oddities & the Colorado Historical Atlas

Monday, November 16

Over the past half-century, Tom “Dr. Colorado” Noel has arguably been our state’s greatest promoter of history. A prolific author, Tom has written more than forty books about Colorado. His latest and greatest, *Colorado: A Historical Atlas*, condenses fifty years of researching, writing and prowling every nook and cranny of the state. He explores ninety different angles, from Mesa Verde to DIA, the most notable women to sports stars, breweries to lynchings, wineries to cannabis. Tom’s presentation will focus on “Color-Oddities”—the strangest things about this highest of states.



The Smithsonian’s History of America in 101 Objects

Monday, January 18

The Smithsonian Institution’s Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture, Dr. Richard Kurin presents his new book *The Smithsonian’s History of America in 101 Objects*, a literary exhibition of objects from across the Smithsonian’s museums that offers a marvelous new perspective on the history of the United States. Kurin will bring objects to life, establishing their connections to American history, explaining surprising ways objects found their way into the Smithsonian collection, and helping us reconsider objects we think we know and understand.

Emily Griffith Education: A Century of Hands-On Hope

Monday, February 15

Emily Griffith began her Opportunity School in Denver a century ago. But her influence on society has reached far beyond the city’s borders. Biographer Debra Faulkner portrays Griffith in a first-person presentation, telling the story of her revolutionary school from the visionary educator’s point of view. By founding one of the first schools in the world to offer free public education to adults, Griffith empowered people of all ages, backgrounds and circumstances to improve their lives. The legacy continues to this day.

The Story of Colorado’s State Symbols

Monday, March 21

As Coloradans, we should all know state symbols that describe our lovely home, like the white and lavender columbine or the blue spruce. But did you know that Colorado actually

has more than thirty official state symbols? These include our brilliant state gemstone—the aquamarine—and the dazzling rhodochrosite, our state mineral. Why do states promote symbols? Do they matter? State historian Dr. William Convery uncovers the history behind some of the more obscure state symbols—and makes the case for why we need them.

Emily Griffith’s Opportunity School began empowering adults a century ago. See February 15. Photo courtesy Emily Griffith Opportunity School.



Montana’s Lessons for Colorado’s Imperiled Grasslands

Monday, April 18

The short-grass prairie of eastern Colorado is an often-misunderstood landscape steeped in historical lore and rugged beauty. What was once a vibrant home to native peoples and wildlife is today a fragmented collection of parcels. This compromised landscape is rife with possibilities, as a twenty-first-century paradigm shift brings renewed interest in restoring some of the prairie ecosystem. Montana’s American Prairie Reserve is pioneering this concept by assembling land to build an “American Serengeti.” The project’s progress and challenges offer key insights for Colorado’s struggles with conservation. American Prairie Reserve president Sean Gerrity argues for the importance of preserving a landscape that shaped our nation.

The Brutal Truth: What’s Worth Preserving for Posterity?

Monday, May 16

In celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, Adam Thomas of Historitecture speaks about the importance of this law and explains how it has affected Colorado’s urban built environment since 1966. With examples from many Front Range cities, he’ll consider the battle between two ideas—urban renewal and historic preservation—and show how this struggle has reshaped our state. He’ll challenge you to ponder what’s worth preserving for posterity.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Stewards

BY SHANNON HALTIWANGER, PRESERVATION COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, AND MICHELLE PEARSON, HISTORIC PRESERVATION EDUCATION GRANTS COORDINATOR

The fiftieth anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 is fast approaching, and the field of historic preservation is engaging a new generation of preservationists, archaeologists, planners, architects, and like-minded citizens for the next fifty years of preservation in America.

In May we celebrated Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month in Colorado. To mark the achievements of youth in preservation and encourage new people to get involved, this year's theme was "History in the Making: Celebrating Youth in Preservation." To simultaneously celebrate the centennial of Rocky Mountain National Park, History Colorado's Preservation and Education programs partnered with National Park Trips Media, Great Outdoors Colorado, Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Visit Estes Park, and other state and national partners for a two-day youth stewardship program in May at the History Colorado Center.

The two-day event brought more than 1,000 students and teachers to the History Colorado Center for a hands-on learning experience. They engaged in stewardship curriculum that included learning the history and purpose of America's National Parks and how to preserve and protect them for the future. Students took part in interactive sessions and learning stations set up around the History Colorado Center, including the new *We ♥ Rocky Mountain National Park* exhibit and in core exhibits like *Living West*, which

tells stories about Mesa Verde and Colorado archaeology; *Colorado Stories*, which features Bent's Fort and hard-rock mining; and *Denver A to Z*, which highlights the state's capital city.

Thanks to support from our partners, we were able to give the students a learning experience that shapes their vision of the world and a memory that will remain in their lives. The program successfully engaged students in historic preservation activities and expanded the accessibility of educational strategies and tools to support teacher efforts in heritage and preservation education—which can bolster local preservation values through an understanding of our historic and natural places.

"I had no idea that our national parks were more than a place to have a picnic and hike," said one of the students. "Now I know that they house historic places, have challenges to meet for the future, and are living communities that showcase what is best about our state. Thank you for letting me learn—I am committed to sharing this with my family."



New Listings

In the National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation.

National Register of Historic Places

Macedonia Baptist Church and Education Annex

Denver (5DV.11696)

This 1954 Modernist-style church is important for its role in Denver's civil rights struggle and its architecture.

Notch Mountain Shelter and Tigiwon Community House

Eagle County (5EA.906 and 5EA.795)

These 1933 WPA Rustic-style structures are examples of Civilian Conservation Corps construction. Representing the expansion of the Forest Service's mission from basic custodianship to extensive resource management, they encourage human use of National Forest lands. The Rustic architecture reflects practicality, efficiency and sensitivity to nature.

Upper Brush Creek School

Eagle County (5EA.1235)

This one-room schoolhouse served area children from 1915 to 1941 and is a good example of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century American Movements style.

District No. 17—Medlen School

Jefferson County (5JF.956)

This 1886 school began as a log building. Around 1900, the school district moved the building across the road, added a small anteroom, covered the building with clapboard siding and built a small teacherage beside it. The complex was the educational and social focal point for the Medlen community until its closure in 1954. It now hosts special events, including a children's summer program.

Good to Know

National or State Register listed properties may be eligible for investment tax credits for approved rehabilitation projects. Listed properties may also be eligible to compete for grants from Colorado's State Historical Fund. These grants may be used for acquisition and development, education, and survey and planning projects (including grants for nominations). The next nomination submission deadline is October 2. For information, call 303/866-3392.

For more about these and all National and State Register properties in Colorado, go to www.HistoryColorado.org/oaHP/national-and-state-registers.



Foster House

Foster House Stage Station and Hotel Site

Las Animas County (5LA.11224)

The Foster House was a Denver and Santa Fe Stage Trail stagecoach station, a freighter's stopping place near the Old Freight Road, a post office, hotel, cattle ranch headquarters

and center for tubercular patients. James Foster and wife Susan moved to the area in 1868 and operated a small swing stagecoach station and began cattle ranching. They expanded the station and operated a home stagecoach station and hotel from their large 1872 house. James platted the Apishapa community—which lasted about ten years—on the site. The 1872 house, now in ruins, is a rare example of a two-story central passage double-pile residence from adobe construction.

Sound Democrat Mill and Mine and Silver Queen Mine

San Juan County (5SA.1537)

As successful silver mines and a mill beginning in the late 1870s through the 1910s, this property is a significant and intact example of a hard-rock mining operation in the San Juans.

Do you know this building?

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Where is it? | 2. When was it built? | 3. What was its original use? |
| a) Battlement Mesa | a) 1887 | a) Church |
| b) Bethune | b) 1897 | b) Mine superintendent's house |
| c) Briggsdale | c) 1907 | c) Post office and living quarters |
| d) Burns | d) 1917 | d) School |



Answers on page 32



The Georgetown Loop—Still a Colorado Marvel.

Member Tip:

Don't forget! When you visit the Georgetown Loop Railroad® you must present your membership ID card and ticket(s) in order to redeem your complimentary train ride and mine tour. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 1-888-456-6777.

*Photos courtesy
Kyle Banister*



Completed in 1884, the Georgetown Loop was an engineering marvel like no other, and it connected a once-bustling mining town with the rest of the region. The railroad ran from Denver to Silver Plume, transporting freight, ore and passengers. In 1938, when Colorado's silver rush had subsided, the original railroad was abandoned and dismantled. But with the help of the Colorado Historical Society (today's History Colorado), the Union Pacific Railroad and the Boettcher Foundation, the Georgetown Loop Historic Mining & Railroad Park® was able to reconstruct a portion of the original track, and it's been entertaining families since the summer of 1984.

Today, visitors can enjoy a three-mile ride showcasing the scenic Rocky Mountain landscape, four bridges including the spectacular Devil's Gate High Bridge rising a hundred feet over Clear Creek, two mines including the newly opened Everett, and other historic structures along the tracks.

The Georgetown Loop® offers day and evening adventures as well as first-class upgrades to the parlor cars, where attendants serve you light snacks and complimentary beverages; you can also buy wine and beer on board. Or, on Saturday evening rides, enjoy a selection of microbrews and wines with your view of



Clear Creek. The Georgetown Loop® offers a slate of themed and holiday rides that are fun for all ages. You can even reserve a private train!

On this nearly 1,000-acre property, train rides are just the beginning. The park offers two optional mine tours along the route: the restored Lebanon mine (a perennial favorite) and the all-new Everett mine adventure. Experience mining life in the 1800s as you pan for your own gold at the Everett, which opened to the public this May after being closed off for over 100 years. The mine tours take you 500 to 900 feet into tunnels carved out in the 1870s.

Until the end of the season in mid-January, families can experience the lifestyle of the Rocky Mountain miners who lived and worked in the 1800s or relax with loved ones on a leisurely train ride that twists over Clear Creek. And as a History Colorado member, you get packets of free passes, based on your membership level. Call ahead for reservations, or go online!

**Georgetown Loop
Historic Mining & Railroad Park®**
www.georgetownlooprr.com
1-888-456-6777

What if You Could Double Your Gift to History Colorado

In 1954, General Electric created the first employee matching gift program. Today, many companies support causes important to their employees through charitable giving programs, which match an employee's donation and double the impact. Some companies even offer contributions to match their employees' volunteer hours.

Businesses find that supporting the charitable causes their employees care about increases the company's visibility and its impact in the community. It also increases employee morale and retention, creating a positive effect on corporate culture.

Procedures for employee matching programs vary by company. Typically, all you have to do is fill out a form and submit it to your employer, documenting your donation and requesting a match. Contact your company's human resources department to learn if your company offers a matching gift program. For more information, contact Susan Beyda, corporate and foundation giving manager, at susan.beyda@state.co.us or 303/866-4913.

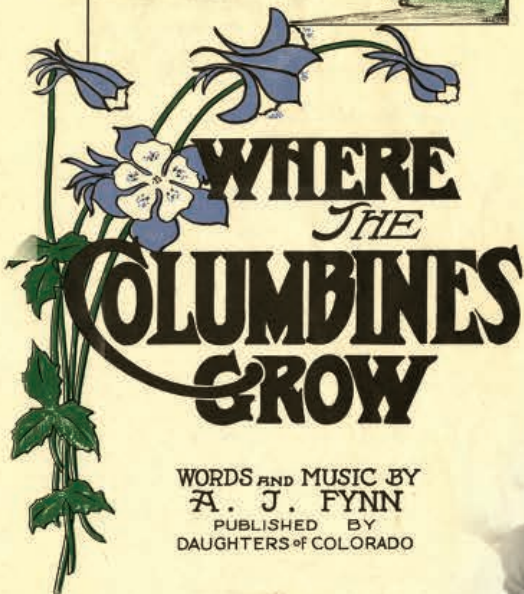
Colorado's Unloved State Song

BY SHAWN M. SNOW,
PUBLIC PROGRAMS, LECTURES
AND TOURS DIRECTOR

DEDICATED TO THE COLORADO PIONEERS
ADOPTED, 1915, BY THE COLORADO LEGISLATURE AS THE OFFICIAL STATE SONG



Courtesy of
the author



Below: Arthur J. Fynn.
Courtesy Denver
Public Library, Western
History Collection.
X-19430



On May 8, 1915, Governor George Carlson signed a law creating Colorado's first state song—Arthur J. Fynn's "Where the Columbines Grow." Over the past century, few have heard the song. In fact, most people don't even know Colorado *has* an official state song. Over the years there have been many efforts to replace "Where the Columbines Grow" with a catchier, more contemporary selection.

Arthur Fynn was so moved by his early experience in the rural school districts of the San Luis Valley in the 1890s that he later penned the state song based on the beautiful fields of columbines he'd seen in his travels. The song itself is quite melodious when sung by a barbershop quartet—something more akin to the tastes popular a century ago than today. Still, even at the time of its adoption, folks asked how this could be our state song when it doesn't even mention Colorado's name in its lyrics.

In 1921, Fynn added a fourth verse that does contain the name of our state, squelching that criticism. But over the years, the unloved Colorado state song has languished on the sidelines. In breathtaking imagery, "Where the Columbines Grow" describes the glory of our state, and among the beautiful, poetic, and descriptive lyrics, some reminisce about what was lost in creating Colorado. Consider this verse:

*The bison is gone from the upland, the deer from the canyon
has fled, the home of the wolf is deserted, the antelope moans
for his dead. The war whoop re-echoes no longer, the Indian's
only a name, and the nymphs of the grove in their loneliness
rove, but the columbine blooms just the same.*

The 1960s and '70s brought a strong push to adopt as a new state song the Up With People ensemble's popular "Colorado" (otherwise known as "If I Had a Wagon, I Would Go to Colorado"), written by Paul Colwell and David Allen. But this marvelously appropriate state song was not chosen. Among its verses:

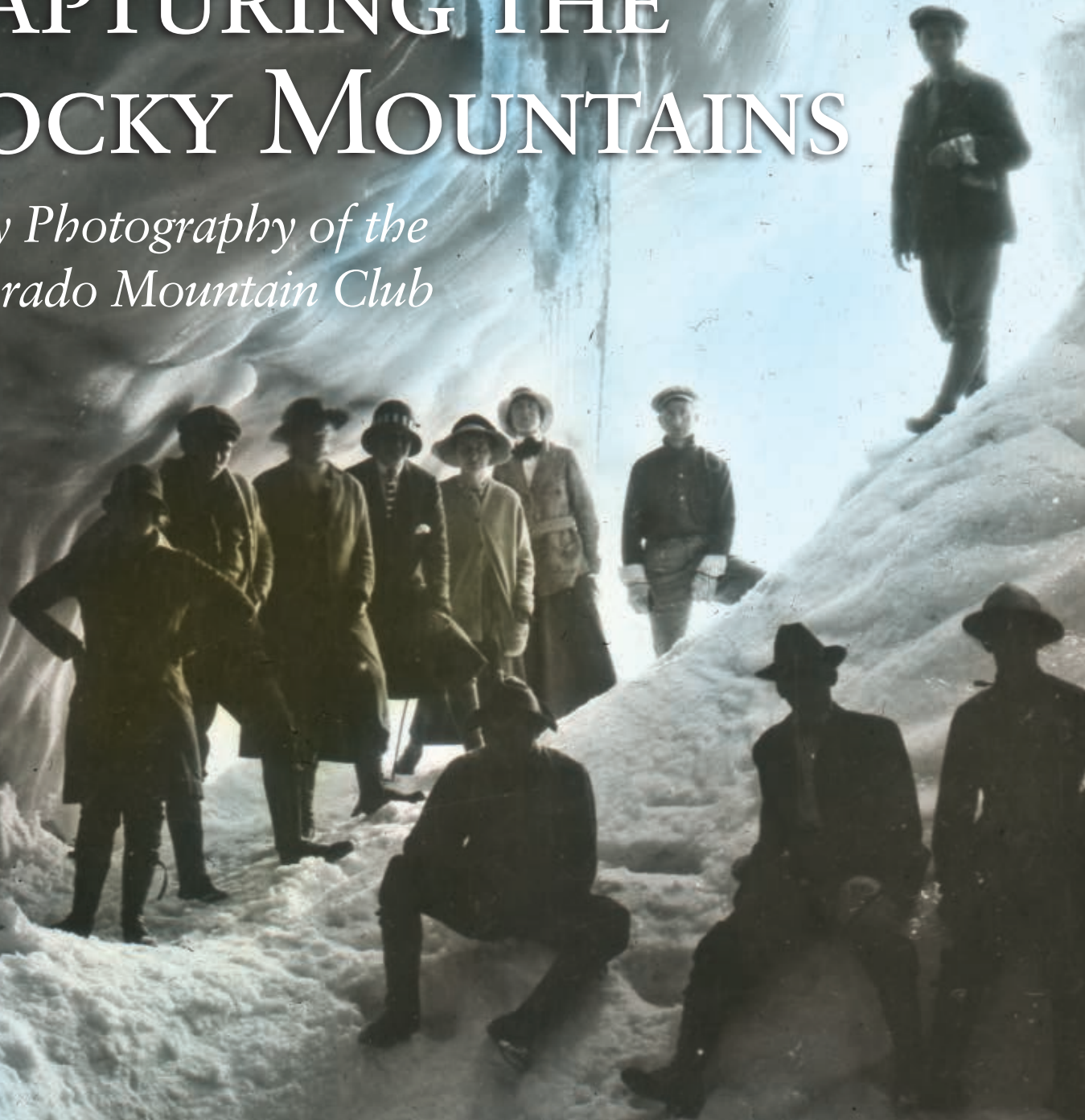
*You come across the prairie, and there before your eyes, you see
the Rocky Mountain peaks climbin' up to the skies.
Just take a big deep breath of that most abundant air, that is
why so many folks from California are there.*

Finally, the state legislature adopted a co-state song, John Denver's "Rocky Mountain High," in 2007. In the end, how important is a song to a state's psyche? It's a question that can be asked of any state symbol. The answers to these important questions, however, may remain elusive until March 21, 2016. That's when Bill Convery, our state historian, will speak on this very topic, in a lecture: "The Story of Colorado's State Symbols." Join us to learn more!

August 1 is Colorado Day! Celebrate with our museums on our state's 139th birthday. See pages 4, 5 and 6.

CAPTURING THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

*Early Photography of the
Colorado Mountain Club*



EMILY MOAZAMI,
PHOTO ARCHIVIST & ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The Colorado Mountain Club and Rocky Mountain National Park have seen a lot of history together. In fact, they were formed within three years of each other. And the club members' love of photography played a key role in the campaign to establish the park.

The Colorado Mountain Club began with a shared idea between Enos Mills, a naturalist living in Estes Park, and James Grafton Rogers, a Denver attorney, to form a club committed to preserving, exploring, promoting, and educating people about Colorado's wilderness. Similar clubs were popping up across the United States, including the Sierra Club in California, the Appalachian Club in New England, and the Prairie Club in Chicago. But despite the grandeur of the Rockies, no such club had yet been established in the Centennial State.

At the same time, camera clubs were gaining popularity too, with advances in technology and equipment allowing amateur photographers to more easily capture the world around them. The majestic peaks, valleys, lakes, flora, and fauna of the Rocky Mountain region offered these new photographers marvelous scenes to capture on film and glass.

In August 1911, James Grafton Rogers published an open letter in the *Denver Republican* calling for like-minded outdoor enthusiasts to form a mountain-climbing club

. . . to collect, record and publish information in regard to the trails and the geography of the mountains in this region, to gather all possible information on botanical and natural history matters, to improve the trails, establish camps and provide guides on our most interesting peaks . . . and to advertise and excite the interest of the public in one of the most genuine and enduring of Colorado's resources.

Mary S. Sabin of Denver responded to Rogers's call and helped organize an initial gathering of interested parties. On April 26, 1912, twenty-five enthusiasts met in a Denver home and affirmed their desire to explore, study, and preserve Colorado's mountain environments. That day they formed the Colorado Mountain Club, devised its committees, elected officers, and signed the club's charter. James Grafton Rogers was elected the CMC's first president.

The creation of Rocky Mountain National Park, three years later, was accomplished in part due to this dedicated group. The club campaigned for the park by giving public lectures illustrated with CMC lantern slides. They guided hikes into the proposed park and wrote to conservation clubs across the country asking for support. The club formed a National Park Committee with Rogers's law partner (and son of a Democratic senator) Morrison Shafroth as chairman. According to Rogers, Shafroth "was ready to travel to Washington with boxes of lantern slides and portfolios of photographs." Hand-colored lantern slides shot by club member Frank Byerly were indeed projected for Congress via a stereopticon[↔] on December 30, 1914, to illustrate the beauty of the proposed

park
and to
help persuade
Congress to set aside
and protect the land.

Beyond community outreach and lobbying, the club also played a more direct role; it was Rogers who drafted the legislative bill that created the park. Congress passed his bill and President Woodrow Wilson signed it on January 26, 1915.

In addition to its amateur photographers, the club boasted professionals on its roster, including *National Geographic* photographer Fred Payne Clatworthy, whose stunning images helped draw visitors to the region before and after the establishment of the park, and Clark Blickensderfer, a charter member and pictorial photographer who exhibited his photographs of the American West worldwide. William Henry Jackson, official photographer for the U.S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories in the 1870s, joined the CMC on several outings. The club held photography lectures, annual photo exhibitions, and photo contests, and published photography tips and advice in its publication, *Trail and Timberline*.

History Colorado holds several photography collections that document the Colorado Mountain Club's early years, including CMC lantern slides and the George Harvey, Jr. photograph albums. The George Harvey, Jr. collection contains more than 900 photographs, most shot by Harvey. An amateur photographer, Harvey served on the club's board from 1913 to 1922 and as president in the early '20s. The lantern slide collection contains about 1,400 photos documenting a number of club members' adventures around the state. The collections are available for viewing at our Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center, and portions will soon be available on History Colorado's Online Collection at H-co.org/collections.

The photos in these collections are stunning visual representations of the club's values, capturing the energy, people, exploration, and natural beauty that the CMC hoped to promote.

↔ A stereopticon is a projection device similar to a magic lantern, but with two lenses (one above the other), allowing for one image to be projected and faded out while a second image fades in.

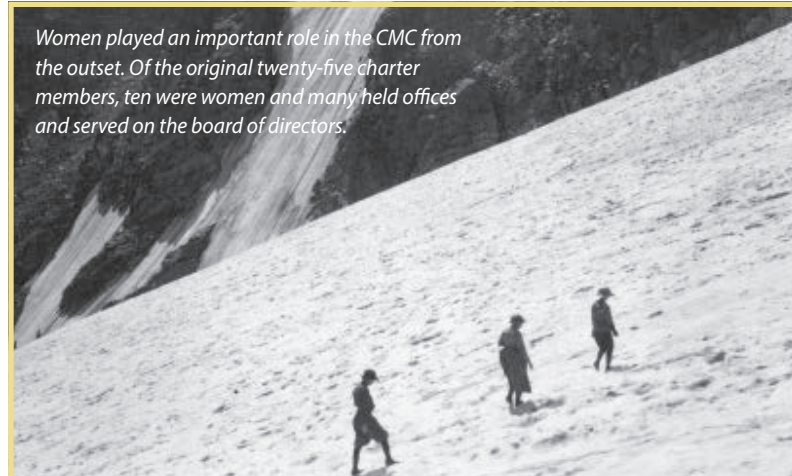
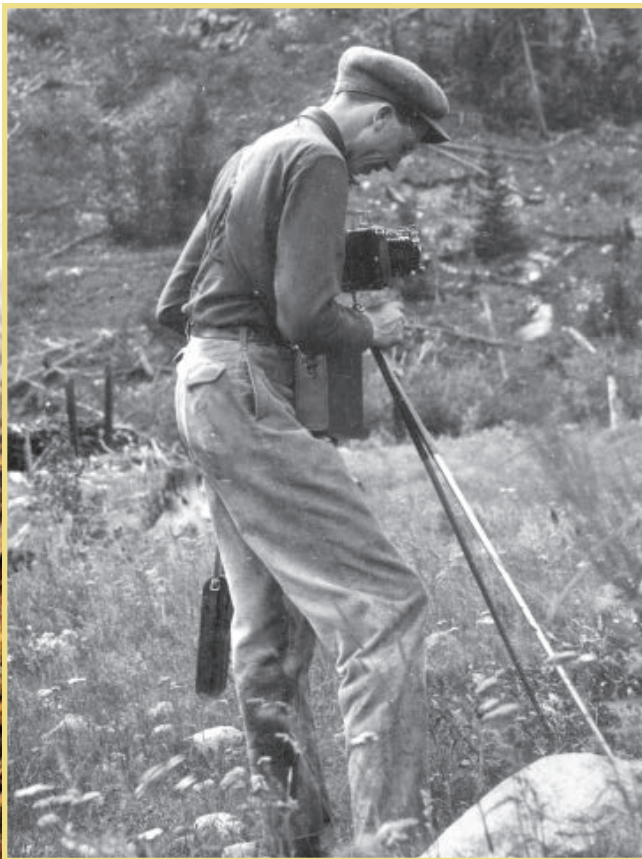
In a hand-colored lantern slide, CMC members pause inside a crevasse on Hallett Glacier in August 1915. Photo by George C. Barnard.



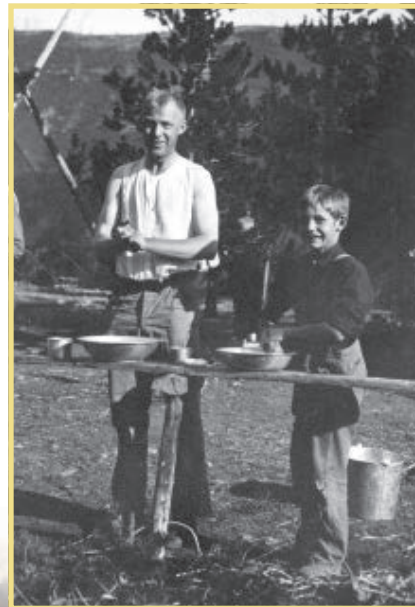
Left: Morrison Shafroth stands on Otis Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park in 1915. Shafroth was the chairman of the club's National Park Committee and helped lobby for the park's creation. Photo by George C. Barnard.



Below: Albert Haanstad makes autochromes in 1914. In a rare and early color process, autochromes were made on glass plates coated with dyed potato starch granules. History Colorado's photography department also holds the autochromes of fellow club members Fred Payne Clatworthy and Clark Blickensderfer.



Women played an important role in the CMC from the outset. Of the original twenty-five charter members, ten were women and many held offices and served on the board of directors.



Top: Club members pose outside Longs Peak Inn in 1913. In the photo are several original charter members, including Enos Mills, Dr. M. Ethel V. Fraser, and James Grafton Rogers.

Left: Harvey and other CMC photographers didn't wait to reach the summit to start taking photos. Here, club president James Grafton Rogers and an unidentified boy wash their hands in two small water bowls set atop a makeshift platform at a campsite in the proposed Rocky Mountain National Park. Photo by George Harvey, Jr., 1913.

Below: Another hand-colored lantern slide shows CMC members at Mills Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park. Lantern slides are transparent, positive photographs on glass plates, meant to be viewed via projection and often used to illustrate talks.



Above: Many of the CMC members were avid photographers and carried their cameras with them on their climbs. After each trip, the club shared and exchanged the photos they shot, so members could add them into personal photo albums. Many of the photos capture club members documenting scenes with their cameras.



Above: CMC men, women, and children camp outside under blankets and sleeping bags at Loch Vale, also known as "the Loch," in the proposed area of Rocky Mountain National Park. George Harvey, Jr., shot this image at 5:30 A.M. in the summer of 1913.




Above: During the club's campaign to establish Rocky Mountain National Park, the group took many trips to the region for research, education, and photo opportunities. Here they rest atop Mt. Craig, overlooking Grand Lake. Photo by George Harvey, Jr., 1914.

WE ❤️ RMNP

Come see the History Colorado Center's exhibit all about the people who've lived in and loved Rocky Mountain National Park through the decades. See page 3.

ENOS MILLS AND THE CREATION OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

A Centennial Essay

 On January 26, 1915, President Woodrow Wilson signed legislation creating Rocky Mountain National Park. Six days earlier, following the final passage of the bill, a congratulatory cartoon had appeared in *The Denver Post*. It showed Enos Mills, park bill tucked safely under his arm and shaking hands with “Goddess Colorado,” who is saying, “Enos, I’m proud of you!” In the background, two mountains join in: “Good boy, Enos!” “I always knew you were all right, Enos!” Within a matter of months came the title that Mills would proudly appropriate in his writings: “The Father of Rocky Mountain National Park.” Though Mills would die a premature death seven years later in 1922, this is how many remember him to this day.

Father of Rocky Mountain National Park is, nonetheless, an unfortunate descriptor. It simplistically implies—as does that *Denver Post* cartoon—that Enos Mills was singlehandedly responsible for the establishment of the nation’s twelfth national park. He was not. Though Mills’s role was important—and at times crucial—others helped, and in major ways, over the course of an exhausting campaign that lasted nearly seven years. As we celebrate the centennial of this important accomplishment, it is appropriate to revisit the campaign that created Rocky Mountain National Park, particularly with respect to the role played by Enos Mills and others.

BY JAMES H. PICKERING

WE ♥
RMNP

The inspiration for the new park can be directly traced to spring 1908 and a suggestion made at a meeting of the Estes Park Protective and Improvement Association (EPPIA), a group of local boosters whose major contribution to date had been the successful campaign to build a fish hatchery on Fall River two years before. The speaker on that occasion was Herbert N. Wheeler, head of the Medicine Bow National Forest, which included the area now embraced by Rocky Mountain National Park. "If you want to attract tourists," Wheeler told his audience, "you should establish a game refuge where tourists can see the wild life." By way of illustration, Wheeler produced a map covering four townships—an area of over 1,000 square miles, extending twenty-four miles north to south and forty-two miles east and west, from the Poudre River along the foothills through Estes Park and west toward North and Middle Parks.

Enos Mills did not attend that meeting, but the proposition struck a resonant chord. Accordingly, he wrote Wheeler—headquartered in Fort Collins—to inquire about where the actual boundaries of such a preserve might be located.

In January 1915, the Rocky Mountain News and "Goddess Colorado" celebrated the legislation creating Rocky Mountain National Park, with a misleading sole credit to Enos Mills for the effort. Courtesy of the author.





Enos Mills (back row, far left) poses with his family, around 1884. Courtesy of the author.

There the matter largely rested until the June 1909 meeting of the EPPIA, which appointed a committee of two to study the matter further: Enos Mills and steam auto pioneer and local hotel owner Freelan Oscar Stanley. From that point onward, Mills took things into his own hands. Within days of the association’s September meeting—at which the membership voted unanimously to seek the creation of the Estes National Park and Game Preserve—Mills published a statement of his own. It called attention to the “exceptional beauty and grandeur” found around Estes Park while bemoaning the fact that “in many respects” the area was “losing its wild charms.” “Extensive areas of primeval forests have been misused and ruined,” Mills wrote, continuing:

. . . saw-mills are humming and cattle are in the wild gardens! The once numerous big game have been hunted out of existence and the picturesque beaver are almost gone. These scenes are already extensively used as places of recreation. If they are to be permanently and more extensively used and preserved, it will be necessary to hold them as public property and protect them within a national park.



Enos’s childhood home outside Pleasanton, Kansas. Courtesy Estes Park Museum.

By 1908 Enos Mills was a man to be listened to. He had long since overcome the health issues that originally brought him as a sickly youth of fourteen to Estes Park from the family farm in eastern Kansas. Inspired by a chance meeting with naturalist John Muir on the beach at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco in 1889, and by dint of sheer will, hard work, and no lack of capacity for self-promotion, Mills had emerged as a leading advocate of forestry and conservation, with a compelling persona to match. He purchased Longs Peak House, a small resort he renamed Longs Peak Inn and then enlarged over the years



into one of the most distinctive and best-known mountain hostelrys in the nation. Two other reputation-enhancing events also helped Mills.

The first was a three-year appointment beginning in 1903 as Colorado's official snow observer, a well-publicized and romantic calling that sent Mills on lonely journeys through the high country to measure the depth of the snowpack at the head of rivers and streams in anticipation of the spring runoff. The second occurred four years later, in January 1907, when Mills went to work as a salaried lecturer for Gifford Pinchot's new Forest Service, an agency just two years old and struggling to expand and consolidate its role as the guardian of "wise use" conservation.

This assignment elevated Mills's expanding platform from a regional to a national one and allowed him to fine-tune his growing preoccupation with the recreational and aesthetic uses of nature. For the next two years Mills took his message to the nation. Between October 1908 and May 1909, he made 140 appearances in thirty-six states. He spoke to any group that could secure a hall and turn out an audience on the practicality and poetry of forestry and the physical and moral value of getting outdoors to enjoy the "spell" of nature. Clad in a brown sack suit, the unpretentious Mills seemed authentic to the core: a happy, enthusiastic, down-to-earth man of the West.

This was the same image that Mills projected in his writings. By now he was making a name for himself, publishing

The Story of Estes Park

... and ...

A Guide Book

By Enos A. Mills

"The brain,
That forages all climes to hue its cells,
Will not distill the juices it has sucked
To the sweet substance of pellucid thought,
Except for him who hath the secret learned
To mix his blood with sunshine, and to take
The winds into his pulses."--Lowell.

Copyrighted, 1905, by Enos A. Mills.
All rights reserved.

PAPER, \$1.25 CLOTH, \$1.50.

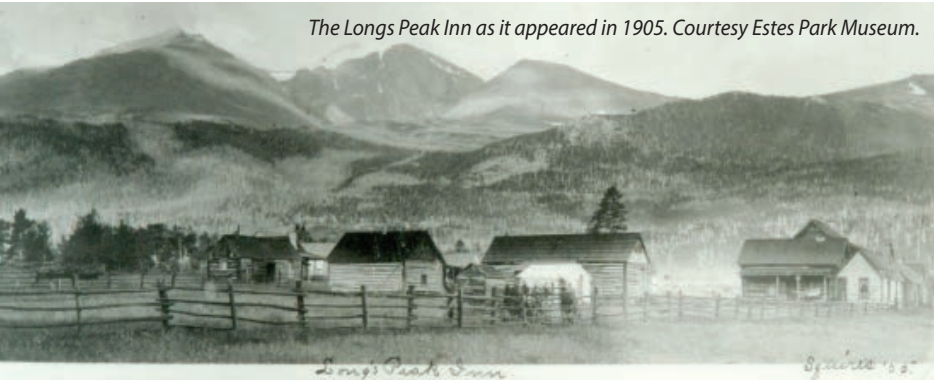
PRINTED BY THE
OUTDOOR LIFE PUBLISHING CO.

Mills published his first book—a history and guidebook of the Estes Park region—in 1905. Courtesy of the author.

Above left: Enos Mills, about 1885. Courtesy Estes Park Museum.

essays on nature and conservation in national magazines like *The Saturday Evening Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Collier's*, and *American Boy*. Mills soon began to gather these essays in anthologies, starting in 1909 with the miscellany he titled *Wild Life on the Rockies*.

The Longs Peak Inn as it appeared in 1905. Courtesy Estes Park Museum.



Despite Mills's enthusiasm and the unanimous decision of the EPPIA at its annual meeting in 1909 to seek the formal creation of a game preserve, the next three years brought little progress. Mills received support from fellow preservationists and an increasing number of individuals, but for a surprisingly long time plans for the park remained nebulous. Basic questions about boundaries, acreage, and private in-holdings remained unanswered. In the absence of detailed maps, much of the discussion turned on a few amateurish and erroneous sketches.

There was also pushback. At the national level, some argued no new national parks should be created until an administrative structure existed to manage and oversee them, an effort that would culminate in 1916 with the creation of the National Park Service.

As Mills and his supporters soon discovered, the major challenge was both tactical and political. It required, above all, the establishment of an effective coalition of local, regional, and national advocacy groups to lobby for a park bill and then monitor its progress through Congress. Preservationist J. Horace McFarland and his powerful American Civic Association—a supporter of state and national parks—came on board early. So did

James Grafton Rogers and his Colorado Mountain Club (CMC), an organization formed in April 1912, along the lines of John Muir's Sierra Club, whose initial membership of twenty-five contained two future park superintendents: Roger Toll and Edmund Rogers. Of equal importance in the early years and throughout the campaign was realtor and civic leader Frederick R. Ross, head of the Denver Chamber of Commerce, which formed a National Park Committee to coalesce support among the Denver business community.

Other groups joined as well. These included the National Federation of Women's Clubs and its Colorado chapter; the Daughters of the American Revolution; the Colorado legislature and the Colorado delegation in Washington; the Denver Real Estate Exchange; state Democratic and Republican organizations; and local business and civic groups in Boulder, Larimer, Weld, and Grand Counties. With some exceptions, Colorado's press was friendly and supportive.

So was Mills's old friend, John Muir. "I'm heartily with you in your plan for a National Park in Colorado," he wrote Mills in February 1910. "Will call attention of the Sierra Club to the proposed new park."

Nowhere was Mills's role more critical than with respect to the Colorado Mountain Club and the General Federation of

Women's Clubs, whose Education Committee chair, Mary Belle King Sherman, had spent several summers at Mills's Longs Peak Inn and eventually bought a vacation cottage nearby. Without Mills's direct personal involvement, the CMC would not have been founded and the General Federation would not have become so vigorously engaged in support of the new park.



Enos Mills renovated the Longs Peak Inn into one of the country's most distinctive lodges. Courtesy Roberta Heisterkamp Collection.

Attorney and CMC leader James “Jim” Grafton Rogers (1883–1971), ever at the center of things, also played a key role. A recent graduate of Yale and DU law, Rogers practiced law in Denver with Morrison Shafroth, the son of Colorado Governor and future U.S. Senator John F. Shafroth. Though the CMC did not pass a public resolution of support for the park until April 1914, it was Jim Rogers who, having thoroughly researched the legislation that created previous national parks, patiently drafted and redrafted the legislation. He remained the guiding and calming force throughout a frustrating seven years in which emotions often ran high.

Rogers also proved adept at using the expertise of Club members and other fellow Denverites to work through many of the vexing logistical questions about the park. His partner, Morrison Shafroth, was particularly helpful. As Rogers later noted, throughout the campaign Shafroth stood ever ready “to travel to Washington with boxes of lantern slides and portfolios of photographs.”

As details about the park began to crystallize, so too did opposition. Initially, individuals and groups in Boulder and Grand Counties, which stood to lose a large portion of their territory under the Mills proposal, opposed the plan. There was also the expected opposition from mining, grazing, timber, and water interests, which argued against restricting the amount of public land available for commercial use. Leaders of both political parties in the state also resisted, chafing against the policies and practices of the Forest Service, which they found excessively bureaucratic, and against those of the federal government in general, which already controlled nearly 15,000,000 acres of Colorado land on which no taxes were paid to the state. In the Estes Park region the only major objection came from a small but vocal group of Mills’s Tahosa Valley neighbors—the so-called Front Range Settlers League—who saw in Mills’s advocacy a threat to their property, fearing the power he might wield over them should he become head of the new park.

Mills himself was unclear about the position of the Forest Service and its new Chief Forester, Henry Graves, with respect to the new park. At the very least, he came to believe that his old employer was guilty of foot dragging in offering its support. Soon, Mills openly and heatedly charged the agency of being an active—if covert—opponent, out to delay, sabotage, and, if at all possible, kill the Estes Park project. “Scratch any old Forest Service man,” Mills wrote

to his friend Horace McFarland in March 1911, “and you will find a Tartar who is opposed to all National Parks.”

Breaking what seemed to Mills and his colleagues an endless logjam of delay was the September 1912 visit to the Estes region by Robert Marshall, chief geographer of the United States Geological Survey. Marshall had been sent west by Secretary of the Interior Walter Fisher with verbal instructions to “Go out and see what you can and come back and tell me about it.” Marshall and his party—which included two survey assistants—spent six days inspecting the region and meeting with a variety of individuals in Denver and Estes Park. One was Jim Rogers, to whom Marshall suggested the Colorado Mountain Club find names for unnamed peaks in the region. The result was CMC’s Nomenclature Committee, which two years later, in 1914, sponsored the visit of three Arapaho men from Wyoming’s Wind River Reservation to aid this task. As a result of their two-week pack trip through the proposed park, thirty-six landforms now bear Native American names.

With Marshall’s departure, hopes were high. Park supporters were not disappointed. His report of January 9, 1913, was highly enthusiastic, though it reduced the size of the original Wheeler-Mills proposal to 700 square miles. The Marshall report, more than any other single factor, propelled the park forward. Difficulties lay ahead in the form of compromises and political haggling—two years of them in fact—but Colorado at last had the outline of a new national park. Marshall also gave the future park its name.

The name “Estes Park,” which has been commonly used to designate the proposed park, is not in my opinion sufficiently comprehensive. The Estes were early pioneers and their name, no doubt, will always be preserved in the valley now known as Estes Park. A national park should, however, bear a name of broader significance and it is certainly fitting that this striking park section of the Rocky Mountains—the backbone of the country—should be honored in the naming of this proposed park, rather than that it should be given a name of merely local significance, and it seems appropriate that it should be called the “Rocky Mountain National Park.”

The Marshall report was also highly tactical. It waxed eloquently about the region, calling it “as beautiful as any to be found in the United States, or, indeed, in the world.”

As details about the park began to crystallize, so too did opposition.



“At first view,” Marshall continued, “as one beholds the scene in awe and amazement, the effect is as of an enormous painting, a vast panorama stretching away for illimitable distances. . . . Each view becomes a refined miniature, framed by another more fascinating, the whole presenting an impressive picture, never to be forgotten.” Stressing its accessibility to major population centers, Marshall was also careful to note the proposed park contained “but little marketable timber,” and no “well-developed mines,” though he did indicate that the “development of water power,” grazing, and the automobile should be permitted.

Here Marshall was, of course, placating those who argued against locking up nature. This tactic was not new. Yellowstone and Yosemite only became national parks when proponents argued they did not contain resources needed for the economic development of the West. The establishment of Yellowstone—our first national park—did not occur, in fact, until it had been deemed worthless for anything other than tourism. Not until the 1930s would Congress recognize wilderness preservation as the primary justification for establishing national parks.

The Marshall report in hand, Jim Rogers went to work drafting the first park bill. It was introduced in the House of Representatives on February 6, 1913, and in the Senate the following day. Interestingly enough, it contained utilitarian provisions allowing timbering, mining, and grazing, thrown in by Rogers as window-dressing in support of Marshall’s assertion that the region contained few marketable resources. Though Rogers was confident the legislation would pass without a hitch, the bill quickly died. One reason for the failure was the matter of boundaries. The bill made the Moffat Railroad the southern boundary of the proposed park. This boundary was subsequently moved north to Wild Basin.

In the end it took three separate park bills and five separate revisions, all overseen by the patient Jim Rogers. Before it was over the area of the proposed park had been whittled down still further to 358.5 square miles—far less even than the 700 proposed by Marshall and the 1,000 that Mills and Wheeler had originally discussed. In the process, tempers flared. Enos Mills, a man of extreme sensitivities, whose suspicions at times bordered on paranoia, believed that not only was the park secretly opposed by the Forest Service, but that Rogers himself was guilty of procrastination and of making too many concessions and compromises. “I can no longer remain silent,” Mills wrote Rogers in May

1914, “while the President of the Colorado Mountain Club exhibits the Forest Service on one shoulder and the Park on the other.”

Rogers, for his part, worried about the ferocity Mills displayed against his opponents and warned Chamber head Ross that Mills seemed “suspicious of everybody’s motives but his own” and could do park supporters like the Chamber “considerable harm if his feelings are hurt.” Looking back on these events a half century later, in 1965, Rogers was forgiving. He recalled Mills’s “fiery personality and small bald figure,” but then he generously added, “My admiration and even affection [for him] have not faded.”

Fortunately, though Mills’s behavior was increasingly disturbing to allies like Rogers, Ross, and McFarland, it did not diminish his importance as a spokesman for the proposed park. The final park bill was introduced in both houses on June 29, 1914. Thanks to the skilled handling of Colorado Senator Charles Thomas, the bill quickly made its way through the Senate, which on October 9, 1914, referred its version to the House and its Committee on Public Lands. When that committee finally held its hearings beginning on December 23, Mills was introduced by Colorado Representative Edward Taylor, from first to last a tireless supporter, as “one of the noted naturalists, travelers, authors, and lecturers of this country who has made a great study of this question and has lived in the park for a great many years and knows every foot of it, and is probably better qualified to speak on this park than anyone.” In the presentation that followed, Mills proved himself fully equal to the task with “a stirring plea for the Park.”

Equally helpful was photographer and Colorado Mountain Club member Frank W. Byerly, who on Christmas Day, at the request of Morrison Shafroth and Frederick Ross, left his home in Estes Park for Washington, bringing with him hand-colored stereoptical views of such scenic landmarks as Longs Peak, Bear Lake, Fern Lake, and Grand Lake. At the close of the second session of hearings on December 30, members were summoned into a large committee room where Senator Thomas introduced Byerly and his photographs. This collection, Thomas told his fellow legislators, “showing the mountain, the sky, the lakes, the waters, and foliage . . . will give you much more vividly than any words of mine possibly can, the tremendous attractions, advantages, beauties, and sublimity of this section of the country.”

The sessions of that committee were the last and final step in the long and torturous park campaign. With the bill formally reported out of committee on January 12, 1915,

Edward Taylor arranged to have it placed on the calendar for passage on January 18—the earliest date possible. Although the legally required quorum was not present that day, and a quorum call would have killed the legislation, House Speaker Champ Clark allowed Edward Taylor to call up the slightly amended Senate bill. After forty minutes of debate, during which everything still hung in the balance, the final park bill passed almost unanimously by voice vote. Senate concurrence followed the next day.

A week later, on January 26, 1915, President Woodrow Wilson signed the bill into law. It included \$10,000 in annual funding for the new park.

“The people of Colorado have many things to be thankful for at the beginning of this new year,” *The Rocky Mountain News* told its readers,

. . . but perhaps none of them, not even the remarkable revival of the mining industry, means more to the future of the state than the creation of the Rocky Mountain National Park. The passage of this bill is the crowning result of one of the best organized and most efficiently managed campaigns ever conducted by Colorado people to obtain any benefit for the state.

A full century later, we can only wonder at the complexity of it all and at the stubborn insistence of men like James Grafton Rogers, Enos Mills, Frederick Ross, Edward Taylor, and others to see the task through to a successful conclusion. Who deserves to be called the “Father of Rocky Mountain National Park”? The park’s longtime ranger and historian Ferrell Atkins told me many times that the steadfast Rogers most deserved the title. Unlike Mills, who found the park campaign “strenuous” and “growth

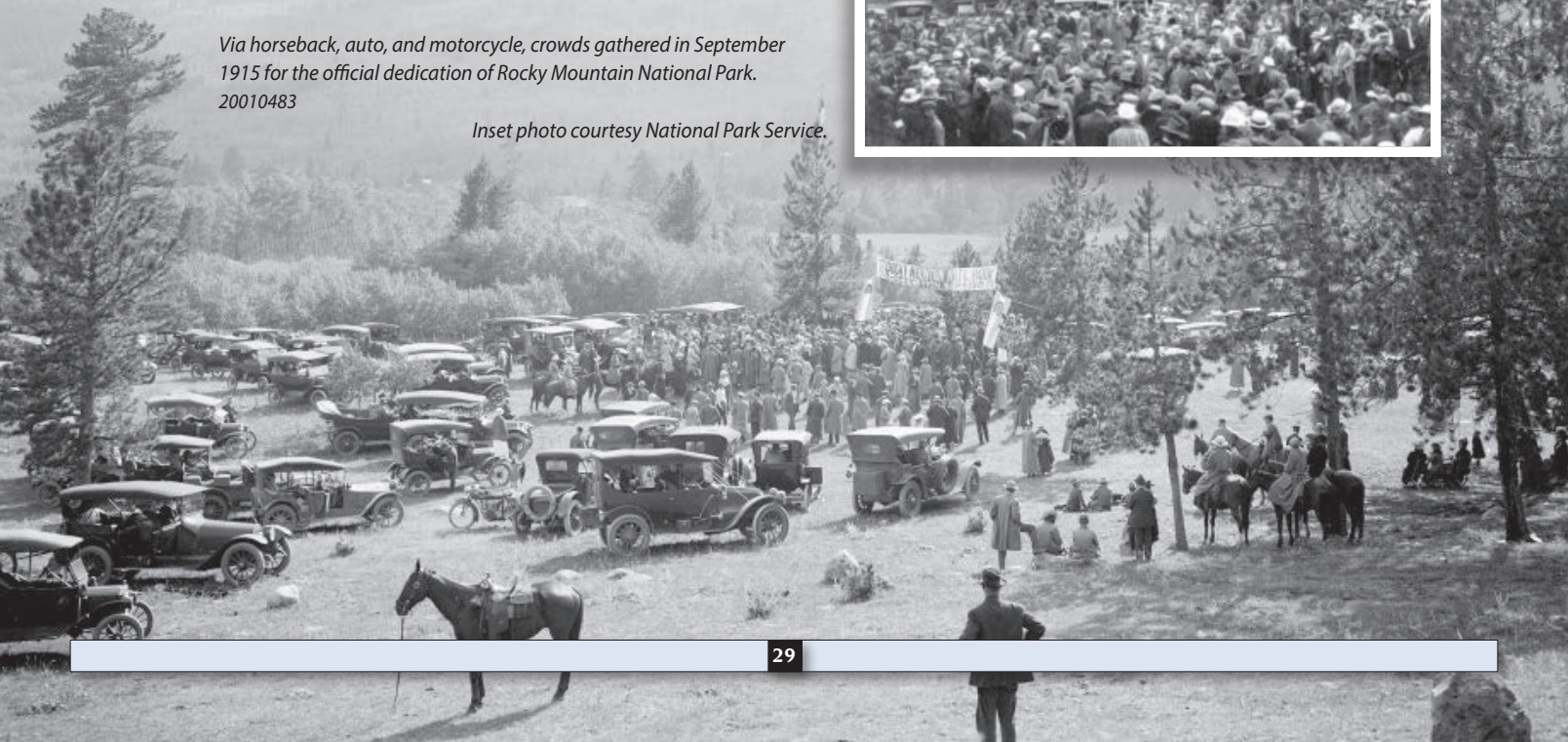
compelling,” Rogers in 1915 called it “the most strenuous and unpleasant struggle I was ever connected with.” Clearly, without James Grafton Rogers and his legal expertise, his Colorado Mountain Club supporters, and his professional, political, and social Denver friends, the road might have been longer still. By August 1914, Germany, France, and Great Britain were at war. A few years later the United States would also be involved, with little time to focus on such issues.

The case for Enos Mills’s importance is equally strong. It was Mills first and last who, as historian Patricia Fazio notes, “cultivated and nourished the seedling park dream.” It was Mills, she continues, who

. . . gained Rogers and the Colorado Mountain Club [as well as other outdoor organizations with which it became affiliated]; McFarland and the American Civic Association; Muir and the Sierra Club; Mary Belle King Sherman and the General Federation of Women’s Clubs; George Horace Lorimer and the *Saturday Evening Post*; Frederick R. Ross and the Denver Chamber of Commerce; Freelan Oscar Stanley and his Estes Park Protection and Improvement Association cohorts; and a lengthy list of magazine and newspaper editors and writers.

Via horseback, auto, and motorcycle, crowds gathered in September 1915 for the official dedication of Rocky Mountain National Park. 20010483

Inset photo courtesy National Park Service.





Recent historians, seeking more complex explanations, invite us to take a closer look. They ask us to consider “the strong thread of economic self-interest and promotion” that lies behind it all in the form of “Individuals, Chambers of Commerce, conglomerations of real estate developers, park officials, and politicians all [of whom] saw in the park idea an opportunity to further economic growth through the promotion of tourism.” As Jerry J. Frank further writes in *Making Rocky Mountain National Park: The Environmental History of an American Treasure*,

The geographic, economic and political nature of Denver was of crucial importance. The Longs Peak region, though beautiful in its own right, lacked the sort of geological or cultural curiosities requisite of our longest standing parks. Instead, the idea of a park nestled at the foot of Longs Peak was attractive because it held the promise of drawing tourists, generating revenue, and providing respite and relaxation to a growing middle class of urbanites eager to momentarily escape the city’s whirr. In the final analysis, the creation of Rocky Mountain Park offers a subtle reflection of the urbanization of the West and the nation—without Denver, without the swelling desire of millions of Americans to escape the harsh angular world of the city, Rocky Mountain National Park would not have come into being.

Perhaps Frank is right. But in the end it scarcely matters. What really matters in 2015 is not the story of the creation of Rocky Mountain National Park, however fascinating I may find it as a historian. What matters most in this centennial year is not Rocky’s past, but its present and future. And here all of us have a critical role to play. America’s national parks are no more destined for perpetuity than anything else. They can all too easily—as we have seen more than once in recent years—become pawns in political games. Enos Mills, Jim Rogers, and the forces of American life—sociological, economic, and otherwise—established this scenic treasure for us. Their successors have just as successfully guided Rocky Mountain National Park through its first century.

But past is merely prologue. The years ahead are likely to be equally challenging, if not more so. National parks, as author and environmentalist Wallace Stegner has noted, are the “best idea” that America ever had. And we are their present-day custodians and stewards. Rocky Mountain National Park’s centennial year, rightly considered, should be a year of both reflection and re-dedication, so that a hundred years from now it will be said that we in our time—to quote the 1916 act that created the National Park Service—helped “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects . . . by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” Put in less lofty terms: that we helped secure Enos Mills’s “great dream,” and successfully and safely passed that dream forward into the hands of those whom we will never know.

For Further Reading

The story of the creation of Rocky Mountain National Park and its early years is told in the author’s *“This Blue Hollow”*: *Estes Park, the Early Years, 1859–1915* (Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1999) and its sequel, *America’s Switzerland: Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park, the Growth Years* (Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2005). For more on Enos Mills see Alexander Drummond’s *Enos Mills: Citizen of Nature* (Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1995) and Patricia Fazio’s master’s thesis, *Cragged Crusade: The Fight for Rocky Mountain National Park, 1909–1915* (University of Wyoming, 1982).

James Grafton Rogers, who went on to lead a distinguished career as law dean at both the University of Colorado and the University of Denver, trustee and then chair of the Colorado Historical Society (today’s History Colorado), assistant secretary of state in the Hoover administration, and chair of the Planning Group of the Office of Strategic

Service, briefly discussed his role and that of the Colorado Mountain Club in “The Creation of Rocky Mountain Park” (*Trail and Timberline*, June 1965). In the same issue of *Trail and Timberline*, see also Morrison Shafroth’s “Seeing the Bill Through Congress.”

For an excellent retrospective of Rocky Mountain National Park’s first century, see Mary Taylor Young’s *Rocky Mountain National Park: The First 100 Years* (Helena, Mont.: Farcountry Press, 2014). The park is also commemorated in the author’s forthcoming *The Rocky Mountain National Park Reader* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2015).

JAMES H. PICKERING, a frequent contributor to *Colorado Heritage* over the past three decades, is professor of English Emeritus at the University of Houston, where he served as dean, provost, and president. He has authored or edited more than thirty books on Estes Park, Colorado, and the American West. Jim currently makes his home in Estes Park, where since 2006 he has been the town’s historian laureate. He also serves on the board of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, Rocky Mountain National Park’s major support organization.

10043610



Tourists enjoyed the comparatively easy access to the newly designated Rocky Mountain National Park’s wealth of sites and recreational opportunities.

10043611



Facing: Enos Mills and Scotch

Do you know this building?

Continued from page 15

BY HEATHER PETERSON,
NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTER HISTORIAN

Answers: a) Battlement Mesa b) 1897 (original portion) and
c) 1907 (large addition) d) School

Long before corporations discovered oil shale on Colorado's Western Slope, settlers found a prime location for ranching near a mesa called Battlement. Battlement Mesa rises above the Grand Valley a few miles southeast of Parachute. The settlers built a log school for the area's children in 1889, which the community outgrew in just a few years.

Rancher George Sipprell donated land for a larger school, and in 1897 builders used locally quarried stone to complete a two-room schoolhouse. Battlement Mesa School had four windows on each side, providing ample natural light. A 1907 stone front addition nearly doubled the size of the school and included a front cloak room. The school served grades one through eight, with two teachers responsible for about seventy students each year. Statewide school consolidation closed the school in 1947. Throughout its history—and after its closure—the school has provided a place for community events like church services, taekwondo classes and meetings.

Oil shale was discovered by 1916 and the area experienced boom and bust cycles in the 1920s, '40s and late '50s. In the late 1970s, Colony Oil—later selling to Exxon—began a \$5 billion development project to create employee housing. This became the town of Battlement Mesa. When crude oil prices dropped abruptly in 1982, Exxon closed the plant and laid off 2,000 employees. Still, the town thrives, with the restored school standing as a tribute to its early settlers. The National Register added Battlement Mesa School to its list in 1983.



HISTORY

Mystery

*an occasional
series of historical
oddities*

The Mount Morrison Scar
BY PATTY MAHER

Just west of Denver, a red vertical scar runs down the face of Mount Morrison, starting at the top of the peak and ending north of Red Rocks Amphitheater. What caused this disfigurement?

The line is red, the color of the earth. But what carved the scar into the mountain's face is evidence of just one of many ideas put into action by entrepreneur John Brisben Walker.

In 1905, Walker made a handsome profit selling the thriving *Cosmopolitan Magazine*—bought just six years earlier—to William Randolph Hearst. Walker's circle of friends also included Tolstoy, Mark Twain, and John Jacob Astor. He was a partner in a steam automobile company, developed River Front Park (Denver's first amusement park), bought the area now known as Red Rocks and Mount Falcon, envisioned the Denver Mountain Parks system, donated

land for Regis University to the Jesuits, opened a casino in Morrison, and built a castle for his family on Mount Falcon.

Perhaps his most breathtaking venture was the steam-powered cog railway that took thrill-seekers from Red Rocks Park to the 8,000-foot summit of Mount Morrison. The railway could ferry 80 to 100 passengers up the mountain, riding backwards so they could enjoy the "200 mile view of scenic wonder." The trip cost 75 cents. The cog railway operated for five years, from 1909 to 1914, eventually falling victim to the rising popularity of the automobile. In 1929, Walker sold Red Rocks Park to the City of Denver, which dismantled the railway. But the red vertical line down the mountain's face remains.

Walker also envisioned a summer White House on Mount Falcon and had engaged architect Jules Jacques Benois Benedict to design a grand structure based on King Ludwig's castle in Bavaria. Unfortunately, Walker's own Mount Falcon castle was struck by lightning in 1918, burning the plans for the summer White House along with his home. Eventually he and his third wife—Walker was twice widowed—moved to Brooklyn, where he died destitute in 1931, at age 83. John Brisben Walker may have died penniless but was rich in ideas—and in the courage to pursue them.

Is there a Colorado history mystery you want to know more about? Contact patty_maher@yahoo.com and it may be featured in this column.

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