Historically Jeffco

Mall visionary Gerri von Frellick, circa 1967, at Villa Italia
courtesy Lakewood's Heritage Center, City of Lakewood
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Please note: A revised version of the 2011 article The
Rhubarb Festival at Pine Grove, by David Nelson, has been
posted on the web site at HistoricJeffco.org.

Cover Photo: 2000 Hi Meadows Fire
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Is there anything more maligned in modern America than the mall? From the countless strip malls that line commercial thoroughfares to mega-malls with entire amusement parks within their confines, the mall is synonymous with blight and the destruction of our historic urban cores. Yet this architectural form is a product of supply-and-demand economics. The rise of automobiles, the post-war baby boom, and the burgeoning economy made homeownership away from the city not only desirable but often a necessity to keep pace with growing demand for living space. Retailers simply followed the money, and the money was in those enticing fortresses of commerce—the Shopping Centers. Indeed these shopping centers (they were not known as “malls” until later) resembled the medieval fortress, isolated from their surroundings by a protective moat of asphalt, turned inward and providing protection from the intrusions of the outside world. They promised escape and a permissible sense of voyeurism embodied in the tantalizing allure of products and services that were the envy of the world. They served as substitutes for civic, social, and cultural centers in the exploding residential suburbs. But within a few decades they passed from novelties to relics, their blank facades revealing nothing of the once-beautiful hive of activity that buzzed within. Today a grass-roots nostalgic movement documenting the dead malls has formed on the internet, and Jefferson County has its own share of stories to tell, notably the distinction of having what is potentially the first fully enclosed shopping center in the United States, Gerri von Frellick’s Lakeside Shopping City.
Although our shopping malls may be considered to have roots in the ancient market centers of Europe, the twentieth-century American mall is largely the brainchild of one man, Austrian emigrant Victor Gruen. He conceptualized an approach to retailing that expanded far beyond the conventional display of wares in store windows to incorporate the entire retail space as a display case for goods. The theory held that the passing customers would be so captivated that they would be drawn subconsciously into the store, shop, and thereby increase revenue. This model, termed the “Gruen Effect” or “Gruen Transfer” stands at the core of modern retail design and by extension the form and function of the shopping center. Gruen’s vision was not limited just to a single store, but to a whole commercial village arranged artfully in a comprehensive fashion to include restaurants, post offices, pharmacies, and banks. In March 1954, the first phase of Gruen’s masterwork, the 460-acre open air Northland Center near Detroit, opened its doors. It was a milestone in retail development, incorporating separate flows for automobiles, delivery trucks, and pedestrians, as well as tasteful landscaping and public art installations.
Denver Suburban Shopping

The Denver metropolitan area benefitted greatly from the post-war economic boom. The five-county Denver metropolitan area, consisting of Denver, Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, and Jefferson counties, posted a population gain of 51.8 percent between 1950 and 1960. Jefferson County maintained a high, but steady, rate of growth in post-war years, on average doubling every ten years between 1940 and 1970, and was second only to Denver County in population in the metro area by 1950. Farms disappeared beneath housing developments, and more residents meant increased demand for convenient retail centers and local grocery stores. Owners of Denver’s leading department stores—Denver Dry Goods, Joslin’s, May D&F, and Neusteters—realized that expansion to the suburbs would be in their best financial interests and began to test the waters, with Joslin’s leading the way.

As of early 1952, Joslin’s operated three branch locations, located in Aurora, Englewood, and Lakewood. These were not associated with a shopping center but were stand-alone establishments with the conventional pedestrian-oriented street-front design. In March of that year, Joslin’s opened its fourth branch location at the new Merchant’s Park on South Broadway, arguably Denver’s first “ultramodern” shopping center. It incorporated a Miller’s supermarket and a variety of specialty shops, as well as the department store, under one roof. The design included plenty of off-street parking, an indispensable necessity in this age of the automobile.

The following year Denver retailers continued their slow but inexorable move to the suburbs. On October 8, 1953, the Denver Dry Goods Company opened its Cherry Creek branch store, in the first phase of architect Temple Buell’s grand scheme to re-develop the former city dump. Sears Roebuck joined the Denver Dry at Cherry Creek in 1954. On December 3, the May Company (it would not acquire the Daniels and Fisher Company until 1956 to become May D&F) announced it would open a branch store at the University Hills Shopping Center as part of that center’s $5 million expansion.

Jefferson County Mall Development

Developers in Jefferson County easily kept pace with neighboring Denver. On September 21, 1953, the directors of the Jewish Consump-
Historically, the JCRS announced a proposed shopping center on 20 acres of its land facing Colfax Avenue that would likely include a Joslin's, which would relocate from its existing Lakewood location. The newspapers speculated that the JCRS development would up the ante by including not just one but two department stores. The second retailer would be Neusteters, as Myron Neusteter was a vice-president on the JCRS board. Neusteters never branched into Jefferson County, instead contenting itself with a branch at Cherry Creek.

Further west along Colfax, a group of investors (including local automobile dealership owners Roy J. Weaver, E. Jack Beatty, Harry Downing, and Ralph Schomp) announced their plans on December 3 to construct a shopping center on 65 acres of the former Montgomery farm west of Miller Street, tentatively called the Colfax-Lakewood Trading Center. Planning for that development stalled only to be resurrected a few years later as the Westland Shopping Center.

While these early runners in the shopping center race were still on the drawing boards, Oklahoma-born developer Gerri von Frellick stole the show. On September 12, 1954, he announced his plans for the biggest shopping center yet in the Denver area—Lakeside Shopping City. Von Frellick arrived in Colorado in 1952, scraping by after the crash of his construction company in Texas and reinventing himself as a shopping-center visionary. He proved to be a genius in promotion, keeping consumer anticipation high with frequent articles in the newspapers, all leading up to the grand opening on August 30, 1956, beating out JCRS and the re-envisioned Westland developments by several years. It also beat out by five weeks the opening of Gruen's highly-anticipated Southdale Center at Edina, Minnesota, as the first enclosed, air-condi-
tioned, shopping center in the United States, a fact scarcely noted in the contemporary publicity and entirely overlooked in subsequent years.

Lakeside was located to the west of Lakeside Amusement Park on West Forty-fourth Avenue, a major street connecting Golden and Denver. The developers anticipated that the soon-to-be-constructed expressway (Interstate 70) would enhance the revenue-generating potential of this shopping area by bringing the masses quickly and easily to its doors. It offered 446,749 square feet of retailing space on multiple levels, 28 shops, 4,600 parking spaces; it cost $12 million. By comparison Southdale had 810,000 square feet of retail space and 72 stores. The venerable Denver Dry Goods Company opened its second suburban location at Lakeside and was the largest tenant. Twenty-seven other retailers and personal service establishments rounded out the list of tenants, including Woolworth's, Fashion Bar and assorted clothing stores, three shoe stores, a cafeteria, two financial businesses, specialty shops such as Russell Stover Candies, a cleaners, a salon, and a Conoco service station. An estimated 25,000 people jammed Lakeside for the first of the three days of opening ceremonies where they enjoyed bands, contests, giveaways, and a riding demonstration by the Westernaires. Bozo the Clown entertained young and old alike.

Von Frellick found that big dreams entailed big headaches. In March 1958, he petitioned Denver to annex Lakeside, citing the high taxes in Jefferson County. In an era when Denver was increasingly ravenous for new property, it found itself unable to acquire the Lakeside site because its annexation rules required at least one-sixth of the total proposed boundary be contiguous with the existing Denver boundary, a condition that did not exist at Lakeside. However not all was bleak; Lakeside scored a retailing coup when, on August 13, 1958, national retailer Montgomery Ward & Company opened its doors, setting a national precedent. This was promoted as the first of 21 stores that the company was building across the country in suburban shopping centers. This combination of local and national retailers proved to be essential in the economic health of the shopping centers.

Meanwhile, the JCRS Shopping Center opened its doors in February 1957. Like Lakeside it featured a range of stores, led by Joslin’s and J.C. Penney, F.W. Woolworth, and Miller’s Super Market. Although both developments were “shopping centers” in the language of the contemporary community builders—commercial establishments planned and developed as a unit and supplied with off-street parking, they differed in their orientation. The JCRS center was less than half the size of the Lakeside center a few miles to the north. Where Lakeside’s design featured the stores arranged around a central, enclosed common area, or mall, JCRS was more of a conventional street-oriented plan with shops arranged in an L-shape facing the parking lot; Joslin’s occupied the intersection of the two arms. JCRS was, however, unique in the new world of shopping centers. The land remained in the hands of the JCRS and the revenue from rentals would go to support the JCRS, a non-sectarian hospital and rest home. Several years later realtor V. J. “Jack” Dunton would emulate this form of ownership and deed the Westminster Plaza in Adams County as an endowment to the Colorado Woman’s College while he maintained management of the center.

The third Jefferson County entry into the shopping center boom of the mid 1950s, the development at Colfax and Miller Street, had meanwhile undergone a change in direction. In January 1959, ground was finally broken on the old Montgomery farm property. May Shopping Centers, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of May Department stores, was the developer, and a May D&F was the centerpiece and major retailer of the newly christened Westland Center. May D&F had already branched out into the suburban shopping center with a store at University Hills in 1953. The first phase of the Westland development opened on August 1, 1960. The design called for 244,000 square feet of retail space, consisting of two rows of stores facing each other across an open, landscaped, pedestrian mall. May D&F was located near the center of the development, and two other large retailers would be located at each end. A unique feature of this westernmost shopping center was Fort Westland, a children’s care facility located
outside the May D&F’s Lookout Room. Alas, Fort Westland was fated to disappear early, with the second phase of construction that began in the summer of 1962. The Westland tenant roster eventually included Fashion Bar, Luby’s Cafeteria, and Sears Roebuck and Company. The mall was enclosed in 1968 with a glass canopy arching over its central arcade, bringing in light for the maturing trees while keeping out the weather.

In 1963 von Frellick capitalized on his experience at Lakeside and announced his newest venture. This new shopping center, nearly double the size of Lakeside at a planned 800,000 square feet, was to be built on a portion of the Belmar estate at the southeast corner of Alameda Parkway and Wadsworth Boulevard on land leased from Charles Stanton, widower of The Denver Post heiress May Bonfils Stanton. The Rocky Mountain News on December 9, 1964, quoted Von Frellick’s vision for the center as incorporating “in every aspect of the center the Italian distinctive[s] in art and architecture that will make Villa Italia truly European in concept and atmosphere.” As part of the lease agreement, Stanton required that $250,000 be spent on landscaping and that provisions for continuing care of the landscape be provided. As with the run-up to the Lakeside opening, von Frellick was often to be found in the newspaper dropping tantalizing hints of what was coming. Villa Italia opened on March 10, 1966, less than a decade after the opening of Lakeside. It included an F.W. Woolworth, Joslin’s, and a Montgomery Ward store larger than that at Lakeside. Von Frellick sold Villa Italia to Texas oilman Don D. Harrington in June 1968 in order to concentrate his efforts and assets on an even grander venture, Cinderella City in nearby Englewood, which opened in March 1968.

Concluding Remarks

Jefferson County’s first flush of mall construction ended with Villa Italia. Staying on the cutting edge of consumer expectations required the mall owners to update constantly, and certainly to launch a major overhaul every five to ten years. James Farrell, author of One Nation Under Goods: Malls and the Seductions of American Shopping, postulated that the mass production of malls in the 1970s and 1980s eroded the novelty of these temples to conspicuous consumption. In 1958 there were an estimated 2,900 malls in America. By 1980 there were more than 22,000. Farrell’s observations certainly held true for the early Jefferson County malls. Within two decades each of the four early shopping centers had undergone major renovations but were still showing their age. Now middle-aged, the original four lost their luster and eventually their anchor stores to newer venues such as Westminster Mall and Southwest Plaza. Joslin’s moved out of JCRS in the late 1970s and its space became the Casa Bonita restaurant. Lakeside became La Plaza de Lakeside in 2002, catering to Hispanic consumers after Montgomery Ward moved out the previous year. It was demolished in 2008 and the land is currently slated to be redeveloped as a Wal-Mart Supercenter. May Company left Westland, and the mall itself was partially demolished and turned into another strip mall of discount stores along Colfax Avenue. Villa Italia was demolished in 2002, but the corner found a new lease on life as the New Urban Belmar development took its place. Nothing now remains of Gerri von Frellick’s retail empire in the Denver metropolitan area. His other projects at Cinderella City and Boulder Crossroads are also but a memory and other, newer, retail palaces have taken their places.

Sources:
History lovers attending the May 2012 Historic Preservation Symposium at Ken-Caryl Ranch got a wake-up call from keynote speaker Diane Wray Tomasso. “Learn to love modern,” she told us, “otherwise you’re ignoring 98.5% of Jeffco’s architectural history!”

Oscar Helmich designed the Shannon House at 14598 Foothill Road, Applewood. Built in 1982, it displays Rustic Modernism. Diane Wray Tomasso, courtesy of Historic Denver, Inc.

Joseph Lort was the architect for the Cummings House in 1956. This example of Expressionism is located at 5200 Ridge Trail in Bow Mar. Kathleen Roach, courtesy of Historic Denver, Inc.
Tomasso, who wrote the National Register nomination for the Charles Deaton Sculptured House, listed in 2004, suggested attendees look at historic districts that span several decades. She cited Jewish Consumptive Relief Society (JCRS) as an example of a Jeffco district that displays 20th century Art Deco, Art Moderne, and International style buildings, side-by-side with older and more traditional architectural styles. She noted that a love for traditional architecture does not preclude an understanding and appreciation of modern architectural styles.

Jefferson County, during the post-war period, had a key role in the “inception of the world as we know it today.” Many events of the second half of the 20th century are reflected in the history of Jefferson County. This was driven by the arrival of the Martin Company (now Martin-Marietta). These post-war events influenced the development of suburban community and family life that still defines Jefferson County, and its neighboring counties, today. They also influenced and defined the changing architecture of this rapidly evolving era.

The Smith House, built in 1962 at 14596 Foothill Road in Applewood, is an example of Usonian Style. Thomas Nixon was the architect.

Kathleen Roach, courtesy of Historic Denver, Inc.

The curved lines of the so-called ‘Spaceship House’ or ‘Sculptured House’ are prominent in exterior views, and echoed in this 1963 building’s custom interiors and furnishings.

Spiral staircases in the Charles Deaton House (aka ‘Sleeper House’) provide architectural interest for this unique example of modern construction.

S.L. White.
After the Cold War subsided, Martin shifted from producing rockets for the delivery of nuclear weapons to rockets that carried Americans to the moon in the Space Race. An imported educated workforce was drawn from all over the country. Lacking ties to or roots in the area, employees began to look to the corporation to provide social and recreational programs, launching a transformation in the culture of community. The large corporate centers that arose in south Jeffco and elsewhere are just reaching the age of 50, achieving a milestone that brings them to the attention of historians.

Highly paid management, office, and technical workers could also afford to hire architects to design their personal residences, and distinctive modern homes began to dot the county’s suburbs or cluster in neighborhoods. Tomasso concluded her presentation with a slide show of private homes that represent styles of modern architecture of the last several decades. These homes, also compiled in her book *The Mid-Century Modern House in Denver*, deserve consideration by historic preservationists. Many are concentrated in areas, such as Applewood and Green Mountain, that could become designated historic districts in their own right—if Jeffco historians look beyond the 19th century and rise to the challenge of documenting these structures.

In closing, Tomasso challenged the audience members and historical societies to survey, document, and list a Foothill Road Historic District in the Applewood area, which would include many architecturally significant modern homes of the period.

**Sources:**
White, Sally L. 2012. Informal notes from Tomasso’s presentation at the May 5th symposium.

Fredrick House, at 13755 W. Kentucky Drive on Green Mountain, is a Lakewood example of Expressionism, designed by Charles Haertling in 1964.

Kathleen Roach, courtesy of Historic Denver, Inc.

Rustic Modernism style is displayed in this 1987 house, located at 905 S. Coors Drive, Green Mountain.

Kathleen Roach, courtesy of Historic Denver, Inc.
Applewood – an Orchard of Apple Trees

by Marian Metsopoulos

The story of Applewood is really the story of the Bungers who came west to take advantage of the Homestead Acts of the mid-1800s. They were part of the wave of farmer emigrants from Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and other eastern states. Applewood’s origins start with cultivation of wheat. By 1876, every plot in Applewood was under cultivation.

In 1883 Fred and Emma Bunger arrived in Colorado from Indiana. First, they homesteaded in Fort Morgan before moving in 1889 to Prospect Valley in Wheat Ridge to raise their six sons and three daughters.

Transporting fruits and vegetables across the plains was costly. It wasn’t long before the gold seekers realized that farming was more profitable than seeking gold. Growing wheat began as early as 1862 but soon gave way to the cultivation of apples, strawberries, raspberries, peas, carrots, onions, potatoes, and other vegetables. To supply the many customers in Denver, Fred Bunger would visit farms to gather produce to sell on commission along with his harvest.

Denver’s first produce market was at 20th and Curtis Streets. Later, a market was formed along the west bank of Cherry Creek, stretching from Colfax Avenue to Arapahoe Street. About 40 wagons made daily deliveries along this stretch. Myron Bunger, the family’s entrepreneur, opened Bunger’s Cellar – Wheat Ridge’s first real fruit stand – on West 38th Avenue. He managed the stand until his brother, Mead, and sisters Val and Luda, took over from him.

At the depth of the Depression in 1932, two of the brothers, Myron and Howard, and a sister, Berness, scraped together an $8,000 down payment for 80 acres centered on West 26th Avenue and Youngfield Street. The land was crossed by a creek that provided good water rights. Today this is the location of Maple Grove Reservoir.

In 1938, in an example of Myron’s “horse trading” skills, a farmer paid Myron in apple seedlings. The family tried to plant the seedlings, but the ground was too hard to plow. So, they pounded a crowbar into the ground and shoved in a stick of dynamite. After the explosion, the ground cracked enough to plow so they could plant the seedlings. The cracks aerated the soil, and the nitrogen from the gun powder provided a powerful fertilizer. The result was a productive orchard that included Early June, McIntosh, Rome Beauty, and Delicious apples. They also planted pear, peach, and cherry trees. Some of these trees still bear fruit in Applewood Glen.

In the 1950s, Youngfield Street was a narrow, rutted dirt road; but land was becoming more valuable for housing tracts than for farming. An example is the 160-acre Creighton Airport landing field owned by Cyrus Creighton and located
north of 20th Avenue and west of Youngfield Street. The acreage became the site of 450 Hutchinson Homes and a 300-foot stretch set aside by the Jefferson County Commissioners for Interstate 70, finished in 1962.

As large acreages were sold off in smaller tracts, wheat disappeared as farmers like Fred Bung er, Martin Everitt, John Tobias, and the Green Brothers turned to growing fruits and vegetables. Numerous nurseries were started featuring fruit trees, plants, and ornamental shrubbery. Over the years, the farmland changed into quiet neighborhoods supported by small businesses, whose owners and employees remained industrious, dependable, and hard working members of their community.

In 1954, the area was named Applewood, after the Bung er apple orchard at 18th Avenue and Youngfield Street. Almost large enough to be a city in its own right, Applewood encompasses 38th Avenue on the north, Colfax Avenue on the south, almost to Kipling Avenue on the east and west up the slopes of South Table Mountain. Residents' mailing addresses are in Lakewood, Wheat Ridge and unincorporated Jefferson County.

The Applewood developments multiplied like seedlings; today there are nine of them. Myron originally acquired enough land for 600 half-acre-plus home sites and named it Applewood Mesa. This area, west of Youngfield Street, has curving roads, spacious lots, and bridal paths. Howard and Mills Bung er, both water engineers with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, helped Myron develop a water system for the community they envisioned. They secured water rights around Golden and combined them with deep wells. Myron got financing from the old Central Bank of Denver and established Applewood Mesa Realty. Applewood Mesa was followed by Applewood Hills, Applewood View, Applewood Valley, Applewood Glen, Applewood Grove, Applewood Heights and Applewood Knolls.

Education was a top priority in the Bung er household. Berness and Mills, the oldest children, had to walk so far to the nearest elementary school, their parents helped found the Prospect Valley School at 35th Avenue and Kipling Street. Eight of the Bung er children graduated from Wheat Ridge High School. Myron received his diploma at a California high school. All nine Bung er children graduated from Colorado colleges.

Fred Bung er was an active community servant. He founded the Wheat Ridge Post Office, where he served nine years as postmaster. In solidly Republican Jefferson County, Fred Bung er stood his ground as a staunch Democrat. He was a delegate at the 1936 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, where President Franklin Roosevelt was nominated for a second term.

Applewood has changed from farms supplying the early gold seekers, to large-acreage ranches, to homes which became the “city” of Applewood. This 4.8 square-mile area, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, is home to 7,120 residents, many of whom are involved in the life of the greater Denver Metropolitan Area.

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All It Took Was One Ad

Writers’ Award Winner, First Place, Adult Long Essay

By Matthew Prythero

It was a beautiful Monday morning on Sept. 24, 1923. Arvada citizens were enjoying a quiet day, but that was soon to change. It was five minutes before noon when three men walked into the First State Bank of Arvada. Never before had the three men been in the bank. The bank cashier looked up from his work to welcome them, only to have a gun pointed in his face.

The men forced the cashier, the president, and a customer to the back of the bank. From there, the unknown men stole nearly all of the money in the bank, including Liberty Bonds and silver dollars. The robbers ran from the bank when many Arvadans were looking toward the bank and saw three men run from the bank, get into a car, and drive off. Two minutes later, the cashier, the president, and the customer got into a car and raced after the three men.

The bank, which started business in 1913, continued to be owned and operated by John F. White with his relatives as employees. The bank, with great business, had never once had any trouble in Arvada - until 1923. In the Arvada Enterprise of Sept. 20, 1923, the bank published its Report of Condition, stating how much money the bank had on hand, including the number of Liberty Bonds.

Unfortunately, that same week, a man named Jack came across that issue of the Arvada Enterprise and read the bank’s report. He decided it would be worth a “visit” and began looking for other “trustworthy” men to help him rob the bank. Jack was staying at a boarding house at 2636 Stout St. where the four men planned the robbery. The quartet met the morning of the robbery at a park at Tennyson Street and West 46th Avenue. Frank O. Carpenter was left behind to man the second getaway car, a Cole Eight Roadster, much faster than the Ford Touring Car, which was the first method of escape.

It was business as usual on that Monday morning for bank cashier, Morley White, and his father, bank President J. F. White. President White was looking for the nearest store that sold the batteries used in the bank’s alarm system. When both Whites opened for the day, they noticed that the battery that furnished current to the alarm was out of order. The bank had no replacement. At 11:55 a.m., Morley White heard the door open. He looked up to find a gun pointed right in his face.
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The only words spoken to Morley were, “Hands up.” The man holding the gun, unidentified at the time, was Claude Carmen. His partner, Jack, pointed his gun at President White. The third robber, David Lee Masters, went behind the cages and pointed his gun at the Whites. Carmen and Jack forced them into the back room. Then Charles W. Clark, president of Midwest Tire Company, walked into the bank. Masters, who was in the tellers’ cage, temporarily lowered his weapon when Clark asked for the location of President White. Masters replied that he was “in the rear room.”

Masters then told Clark how to get behind the cage. Once behind, Clark turned to Masters only to have a gun pointed at his midriff. Masters then told Clark, “He’s in the back room. You go back there, too!” Masters moved Clark into the back room where Clark saw the two Whites being covered by the other two bandits. After making sure their prisoners wouldn’t bother them, the bandits then cleaned out the safe, taking $500 in Liberty Bonds, $6,220 in cash, and $490 in silver dollars. The robbers ran from the bank, jumped in their Ford, took off down Grandview Avenue, and were gone. It took Clark and both Whites a minute to realize that they had been left alone. It took another 30 seconds for Morley White, Charles Clark, and O.H. Donner, who had seen the bandits run out, to get into Clark’s car, start it up, and race after the bandits.

The bandits’ 90 second head start wasn’t much since the $490 in silver dollars weighed the car down, and the car pursuing them was faster. Within two minutes, the pursuing car caught up to the bandits’ Ford Touring Car; but it could not get too close as the trio threatened the pursuers with automatic weapons. The pursuers planned to maintain the high speed chase to allow alarms to be set off and to have Denver Police join the pursuit. Unfortunately, since no alarm was tripped and there was no police car in sight, the pursuers pressed on.

As the bandits neared their meeting point where they were to meet Carpenter, they noticed that he was nowhere in sight. Fearing that they could not start the car fast enough to evade their pursuers, the trio did not stop. Trying to evade their pursuers, the Ford made sharp turns and maintained a fast pace to lose the Arvadans. At Raleigh Street and West 45th Avenue, Jack was dropped off, carrying all the money except the $490 in silver dollars. Carmen was dropped off a couple of minutes later at West 25th Avenue and Sheridan Boulevard only carrying his weapon. By this time, the Arvadans had lost the trio; but they continued searching. Masters doubled back and continued west on West 26th Avenue until a flat tire forced him to stop.

Carrying the bag filled with the silver dollars that Jack had left in the car, Masters jumped from the car and ran to a tree in a nearby field, three miles west of the Denver city limits. Masters buried the silver dollars and the revolver in separate holes under a tree. He then walked south to the Denver and Intermountain Railway line. At a small way station, he caught a street car into Denver.

Jack was not so lucky in his getaway. After being dropped off at West 45th Avenue and Raleigh Street, he ran up the street to a garage so he could better conceal the money on his body. He found the perfect garage, or an unlocked one at least, on the property of Mr. H.W. Feurstein, 4515 Raleigh St. Jack had been in the garage for several minutes when Feurstein entered the garage, intending to take his car to Denver to complete errands. Seeing the unknown man, he ran back, but not before being nearly shot by Jack. Feurstein ran into his home where he got his gun. Returning to the garage, he found it empty except for $1,665 of the stolen money. Jack somehow found his way to Denver with the money concealed on him.
Both Carmen and Carpenter made it safely back to the Stout Street boarding house. Masters returned to the room in the Stout Street house late in the afternoon to find Carmen and Carpenter. Jack recounted his experience with Mr. Feurstein and that he had left some of the money at the garage. Jack spread out on the bed in the room the $2,582 he had saved. It was split four ways, each man taking $645.50. Jack then bade the others goodbye and said he was going to the city.

Carmen told the police that he later saw Jack who told him he had lost some of his money and would not have enough to reach the Pacific Coast where he was headed. He borrowed $200 from Carmen, promising to pay him back when they would later meet in San Francisco, according to their plans. Carmen had planned to watch developments for several days and then follow Jack’s plan to move to the West Coast.

After the robbery, police and detectives, using every resource they had, were already searching for the thieves.

Masters, 22, who had just left Fort Logan as a soldier with Carmen, was arrested Sept. 29, 1923, in Pueblo as a suspicious character. After being severely grilled by detectives and unable to give an account of his actions or where he obtained the money found in his pockets, he broke down and confessed his part in the robbery. Carmen, 24, was arrested Sept. 30, 1923, in a private home in Littleton.

Carpenter, 32, was captured at daylight on Oct. 5, 1923, some 10 miles away in a deserted mining cabin northwest of Central City. His capture resulted from a tip by Gilpin County Sheriff Williams. On the night of Oct. 4, 1923, cars containing Denver detectives, Jefferson County officers, and Gilpin County officers drove to the Anna Mine where Carpenter had formerly worked. They discovered him asleep in the cabin. Carpenter surrendered when he saw the superior force of the officers.

From their combined confessions, the police learned that four men robbed the Arvada bank, not just the three in custody. The fourth man was only known as “Jack” to Carmen, Carpenter, and Masters. It was also learned that the robbery had not been planned long before it happened. It happened rather soon after an article appeared in the Arvada Enterprise stating how much money was on hand as well as how many bonds were located in the bank’s vault. Because of this robbery, the Arvada Enterprise published an article stating that a police officer was needed in Arvada to prevent events like this.

Another fact learned by both the police and the other thieves from these confessions was that Jack had held out $2,000 before returning to the Stout Street boarding house to split the money. The police learned that Carpenter left the car at the transfer point and walked around because he was scared to stay.

In the weeks leading up to the trial, police received a call from an Arkansas police department advising it had a man under surveillance. The man, whose name was Jack Bondes, was alleged to have been spending money lavishly in the Arkansas town. At the time, his arrest was considered extremely likely. Unfortunately, it seems nothing more was learned about Jack. It appears he may have escaped the long arm of the law. It is possible that he traveled further east after he disappeared from town. At the Nov. 13, 1923, trial, Judge Johnson sentenced Masters and Carmen to serve 10 to 11 years and Carpenter 7 to 10 years in the State Penitentiary. His last words to the trio at the end of the trial were “Do not entertain any ideas about breaking out of the penitentiary.”

Sources:
These accounts were taken from many newspaper accounts and several judicial documents. Unfortunately, due to the Colorado State Archives changing the numbering systems of judicial cases from the Jefferson County District Court, the original case files could not be located at this time. If anyone has information that will lead to location of the files or more about the people involved in the case, I would appreciate you contacting me at my e-mail: egyptmap@aol.com.

Detectives Harry B. Lane, C. A. Jones, and W. H. Bennett were instrumental in capturing the fugitives.
Golden Cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 18, 2012. It is Jeffco's fourth funerary site designated on the National Register. Jeffco's first complete burial ground, with more than 8,000 gravesites, was established by the Town of Golden on Oct. 6, 1873, as a municipal cemetery. Companion divisions are owned by Golden's Masons and Odd Fellows. Jefferson County government established in 1876 the County Section, or Potter's Field,* which has been used ever since as a final resting place for Jeffco's indigent poor and unknowns. Through the years, Golden Cemetery has created more sections, including the Veterans Section (originally Grand Army of the Republic, 1910); Babies Section (1986); and Cremation Garden (1993). Its streets were named by Boy Scouts with the help of cemetery personnel in 1988.

Golden Cemetery is the final resting place of many prominent people, including Jefferson County Hall of Fame members Edward Louis Berthoud, Charles Holder Easley, George Morrison, Alexander and Emeline Rooney, Gov. John Charles Vivian, and George West. It is also important for its landscape, hard-won from the wilderness by generations of Goldenites and including improvement projects by the Civil Works Administration (1933) and Works Progress Administration (1937). The CWA project built its stone Shelter House, now used as the cemetery office; WPA trees still shade these burial grounds.

Many of Golden Cemetery's markers and monuments reflect strong fraternal, spiritual, patriotic, and civic beliefs and connections that help illuminate the importance of these to Goldenites through time. Their materials span every type known in area funerary art, including wood, marble, stacked marble, granite, flagstone, bronze, cement, metal, terra cotta, and more, in carved, sculpted, rough hewn, and combinations of forms. These monuments include many significant pieces, including unique artistic markers: Woodmen treestones, marble tombstones transplanted from Cemetery Hill that are among Colorado's oldest, homemade headstones, Sears mail order stones, wooden tombstones, the Bengson family terra cotta monuments, John Walker's boulder from Clear Creek, James Simmons Senior's basalt tombstone from North Table Mountain, and more.

* A potter's field or common grave is an American term for a place for the burial of unknown or indigent people. The expression derives from the Bible, referring to a field used for the extraction of potter's clay, which was useless for agriculture but could be used as a burial site.

Gravesite of Edward and Helen Berthoud. Gardner Family Collection

Shelter House, built in 1933 as a Civil Works Administration project, and now the cemetery office. Gardner Family Collection
The historic Ralston Cemetery was originally organized around 1857 with the deaths of twelve stagecoach route builders. They had been working one morning when a group of Native Americans rode up on their horses and attacked part of the group before the rest could start firing their rifles. The site of the deaths was about where the 1858 stagecoach stop building was later built on Ralston Creek and Indiana Street. Looking around, the survivors found a very special place which stood out from all the rest of the land—a little knoll on which to bury their dead friends.

The next known burial at the cemetery was recorded in 1862. This burial was for the child of a local Ralston’s Crossing family by the name of Sawin. Over the course of its active existence, until the last known burial in 1926, there were over 90 burials, mainly of children dying from sicknesses, but some being entire families. The last known burial was of Ray F. Shank who died while in prison down in Cañon City and was buried next to his parents in the cemetery.

Some of the burials in the cemetery, however, did not remain within the grounds. In about 1910, Charles McFadden, a mayor of Arvada, removed the remains of his little brother, Elmer, to the Arvada Cemetery. In 1924, there was a transfer of 13 burials, all first moved to Mr. Oliver Cemetery and later transferred to the Arvada and Crown Hill Cemeteries.

During the next 80 years, many events took place at the cemetery. Unfortunately, many of these events involved vandalism. As a result of all the vandalism that has taken place at the cemetery, more than 70 headstones were stolen, broken, or destroyed. However, in 1994, a group of descendants led the way to having the cemetery purchased by the City of Arvada, and the City agreed to preserve and protect the cemetery for future generations.

Note: In 2008, the author became involved in documenting the cemetery and the headstones on the grounds. In 2010, a partial survey using ground-penetrating radar was completed by Dr. Larry Conyers of the University of Denver, revealing that approximately 80 remains are present that do not have grave markers for the burials. Matthew wrote out the nomination to place the cemetery on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties. The cemetery was awarded a place on the Register on June 30, 2011. This was a second successful nomination for the cemetery after being placed on the Colorado’s Most Endangered Places list by Colorado Preservation Inc. The most recent project for the cemetery is the restoration of the headstones in cooperation with Colorado Cemetery Conservation, which is owned by Ingrid McDonald, who is restoring the headstones free of charge, for which the Ralston Cemetery Historic Association will be forever grateful.

View looking south easterly at the two obelisks bearing the names of Emma and James White, children of Torrence White.
Norman and Ethel Meyer Award for Historic Preservation in Jefferson County

By Deborah Andrews

Every year, individuals and organizations across the county are active in preserving some aspect of the county’s built history. At the 2010 Hall of Fame ceremony, JCHC initiated an award celebrating these types of efforts: the Norman and Ethel Meyer Award for Historic Preservation in Jefferson County.

In 1950, Norman Meyer, Sr., and his wife Ethel purchased the historic ranch that now bears their name, and, with their four children, embarked on a life-long adventure in preserving the ranch and giving back to the Conifer area community and Jefferson County. Their efforts of leadership over the years in creating a culture of preservation are inspirational and worthy of recognition.

In addition to preserving the historic Meyer Ranch and working with Jefferson County Open Space to acquire additional property, they have maintained a mountain ranch lifestyle, from canning and pickling Ethel’s homegrown produce to selling hay from the front of the yard. Beyond Norm’s long tenure on the Jefferson County Historical Commission and preservation work on historic toll roads in the Conifer area, he wrote a book on schoolhouses in Jefferson County and was one of the first on board with JCHC’s program of county landmarks, designating the Lubin-Blakeslee House in 2004 and the ranch’s large barn in 2009. In light of these and other accomplishments, the 2010 inaugural award was presented to the Meyer family itself.

2011 and 2012 marked the second and third years, respectively, of the presentation of the Norman and Ethel Meyer Award for Historic Preservation in Jefferson County at the annual Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony each fall. The Jefferson County Historical Commission is proud to continue this new tradition of recognizing special contributions to preservation of our valuable historic resources in the county.

Golden Landmarks Association

In October of 2011, the award was presented to the Golden Landmarks Association at the gala celebration of Jefferson County’s 150th birthday. This seemed doubly fitting because the City of Golden shares its early history with the origins of Jefferson County. Golden Landmarks Association (GLA) was recognized for its ongoing efforts and successes in preserving the city’s built environment, beginning with successful 11th hour efforts in 1971 to save the 1867 Astor House from demolition. Today, the organization is one of the oldest non-profit historic preservation organizations in Colorado, with a key mission to encourage conservation and preservation of historically significant features in and around Golden.

Over a 40-year time span, and building on the success of the Astor House, GLA has played a key role in saving numerous other important landmarks, from the Guy Hill School and Pearce Ranch Cabins (now part of Clear Creek History Park), to a successful effort to save the Brickyard House, as well as Burgess House hotel, located in Golden’s Goosetown district. Five historic buildings and three historic districts have been given local, state, or national historic designations through the efforts of Golden Landmarks Association. GLA efforts have also led to the establishment of the Astor House Museum and the Clear Creek History Park, now under the umbrella of Golden History Museums.
Pine-Elk Creek Improvement Association

For 2012, Jefferson County Historical Commission is pleased to announce the presentation of the Norman and Ethel Meyer Award to the Pine Elk Creek Improvement Association (PECIA), and a companion organization, the Friends of the North Fork Historic District, for outstanding efforts and achievements in preserving Jefferson County’s historic and cultural resources.

Incorporated in 1947, PECIA is a grassroots community organization whose mission is “to accomplish goals that are not within the capability of individuals alone to improve, maintain and preserve a good quality of life, the natural beauty and rich history of the community, and surrounding areas of lower Elk Creek and Pine Grove, Colorado.” PECIA’s impact on this area of Jefferson County extends far beyond this modest statement.

Growing from their 60-plus year ownership and caretaking of the Pine Grove Community Center (originally Pine Grove Methodist Church, one of the oldest remaining church buildings in Jefferson County), PECIA has demonstrated their dedication to preserving and highlighting the rich history of the North Fork Historic District and its communities time and again. An overview of noteworthy PECIA accomplishments includes:

- Ongoing stewardship of the Pine Grove Community Center, including much needed structural stabilization, restoration and building improvements, funded in part by a State Historical Fund grant and driven primarily by volunteer commitment;
- Receipt of a 2012 Stephen Hart Award from the Colorado Historical Society in recognition of the Community Center project;
- Designation of six Jefferson County Landmarks in the community of Pine Grove, as well as placing Charles Dake, founder of Pine Grove, in the Jefferson County Hall of Fame;
- Dedication to the establishment of the 1974 North Fork National Register Historic District, and commitment to the 2003-2005 Cultural Resource Survey of the North Fork Historic District (NFHD);
- Annual hosting, with other community partners, of the Elk Creek Elementary School 4th grade tour of the NFHD and offering walking tours of historic Pine Grove;
- Partnering with JCHC, Buffalo Creek, the National Park Service, and other community stakeholders on the Foxton-Pine Grove plan;
- Collecting oral histories from old timers in the NFHD, in partnership with other groups;
- Annual production of the famous Pine Grove Rhubarb Festival, a fundraising vehicle that supports numerous community needs; and
- Successfully spearheading the formal return of true historic name of “Pine Grove,” in spite of numerous bureaucratic obstacles.

PECIA also helped launch the Friends of the NFHD, a fledgling community organization that has already conducted tours to raise sufficient funds to place new National Register Historic District signs at each of the four primary road entry points to this uniquely linear, rural historic district, promoting better awareness of this valuable resource. Together, these two organizations demonstrate that great things can happen even in the face of limited resources and thus deserve the Meyer Award for their impressive accomplishments.
John C. Bandimere, Jr.  
*Business Man, Community Leader*

John Charles Bandimere, Jr., was born in 1938 in Denver, Colorado, to John and Frances Bandimere. In 1940 his family moved to Jefferson County. John attended Columbia Heights Elementary School and Wheat Ridge Junior and Senior High Schools. Throughout his school days he was involved in school-sponsored clubs and played baseball, basketball, and football. He began doing part-time work within his family’s automotive business, which unknowingly prepared him for a life focused around the automobile. In 1961 he married Lorraine Webber, and they had three children: Tami, Johnna, and John III. John was a member of the Air National Guard and in 1962 was activated during the Cuban Crisis. He coached little league football, basketball, and softball, and was involved with his church, teaching Sunday School and serving as a Deacon, choir member, and finance board chairman.

In 1970 John became President and General Manager of the Bandimere Speedway and led it to its National Hot Rod Association membership in 1978. Under John’s leadership the facility is now host to the largest annual motorsports events in Colorado. The speedway’s high school drag-racing program has grown to be a nationally recognized program, providing a safe facility and supervised environment for adults and kids to take out their “need for speed.” John’s community involvement is extensive: he has served on the Guaranty Bank West Advisory Board, the West Chamber, the National Hot Rod Association, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Colorado Motorsports Hall of Fame Board, Colorado Christian University Foundation Board, Red Rocks Community College Foundation, and Rooney Valley Association.

John Bandimere, Jr. was elected to the Jefferson County Historical Commission Hall of Fame in October 2012. 

Viona ‘Vi’ Mae Hader  
*Community Leader, Activist, Historian*

Vi Hader was born in Holdredge, Nebraska, in 1918. Her family moved to Golden, Colorado, in 1941. Soon after, she joined the Red Cross and during World War II she served as a command program advisor for the U.S. Air Force. She also spent time in England, Japan, and the Philippines. When she returned to Golden, she began what would become more than 60 years of community service. Her efforts were instrumental in forming the Foothills Art Center. Because of her love of animals she formed the humane society, which later became the Foothills Animal Shelter. She was the first full-time employee of the Golden Chamber of Commerce and later served as the curator for the Astor House.

Vi was appointed to the Jefferson County Historical Commission in 1985 and was an active supporter of the Commission’s involvement with the Festival of the West from 1975 thru 2001. Vi was also a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a member of Eastern Star for more than 70 years. She was a founding member of the Golden Landmarks Association and an active member of the First United Methodist Church.

Vi was considered one of Golden’s Living Landmarks for her work. She passed away on March 21, 2012, and was elected to the Jefferson County Historical Commission Hall of Fame in October, 2012.
Cupid’s arrow reached its target in 1898, when it struck 17-year old Hazel Harry Hammer, who was attending the Federation Women’s Clubs of America convention at Iron Springs Hotel, Manitou Springs. Her mother, Mary Amaryllis Hammer, a Chicago socialite, was president of the Chicago chapter. Also attending the convention was a Denver newspaperman, Carl Paddock, a telegraph editor for The Denver Times. The young couple enjoyed seeing the sights and enjoyed the dances. In Mama’s view, this was too much. She immediately returned to Chicago with Hazel Harry and booked passage for them both to England, where she enrolled Hazel in the Elderly Edge Seminary. Unbeknownst to Mama, Hazel and Carl exchanged letters. On Oct. 29, 1901, the couple finally married in Chicago. They immediately entrained to Denver with parrot and cat. The horse followed later.

Colorado, its mountains, its climate, and its people drew Hazel like a magnet. She and Carl honeymooned in the mountains near Nederland, lived in Boulder, and then lived in Denver. They had two children: Ward, who died in a wagon accident at age 18; and Marion, who died in a fall at 11 months. Carl died of pneumonia from complications due to his asthma in 1914 in Virginia, where the family was visiting Carl’s brother. Hazel was stranded there with Ward, then 12. She eventually made her way back to Denver, staying with friends and relatives along the way.

Cupid struck again Jan. 1, 1916, when Hazel married another newspaperman, who was a family friend. Lucius Edwin Humphrey, a widower, was known as Lee to family and friends or “Hump” to those at the paper. On Jan. 17, 1917, the couple had their only child, Hazel Lucia, known as Hazel Lou.

The family wanted to move from Denver to the mountains. They finally found their home in Bergen Park, Evergreen in Jefferson County. A large ranch—with a house, prove-up cabin, and more than 300 acres of land—became their permanent home. They named it Kinnikinnick Ranch. Lee was the first ‘year round’ commuter from Evergreen to Denver, where for many years he was head of the copy desk for the Rocky Mountain News and later, The Denver Post. Lee named his Model-T Mary Ann. When Hazel Harry was pregnant with her second son, the family called the child she carried “Mary Ann.” When she delivered a boy, her brother-in-law sent her a letter saying, “We are all so used to calling your baby Mary Ann. Why not name your boy Marion?” The family did so. It can’t be documented, but it is assumed that Hazel and Lee named the car for this lost child.
It took Lee more than two hours to travel the Lariat Loop through Golden to Denver, stopping at the Ralston Ranch to add water to his radiator. He sometimes drove Mrs. Ralston to Denver, so he could claim to have provided the first taxi service in Evergreen. He named his second car, a Model-A, “Aimee” for the popular temperance preacher, Aimee Semple McPherson because, unlike the Model T, it never had to stop for a drink on its way home from Denver. Lee Humphrey died in 1946 of cancer.

The two Hazels, as they were familiarly called throughout the community, were active in the Republican Party and also helped form the Evergreen Players. Hazel Lou even acted in one of the plays. They belonged to many local organizations, including the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). They traced their roots to the 1630s and were eligible for DAR membership 13 different ways. Hazel Harry died at the ranch in her sleep in 1972 at the age of 90.

After her mother’s death, Hazel Lou completed the plans she and her mom had drawn up to have their ranch turned into a museum. The ranch was placed on the National Register of Historic Places at the same time as Hiwan Homestead, on Dec. 31, 1974. Hazel’s will set forth the plan to form a board to create the Humphrey Memorial Park and Museum, Inc. The official ribbon cutting and first tour took place Aug. 8, 1998. Hazel Lou also stipulated that the house should remain the way they lived in it. That wish has been honored.

Hazel Lou continued to live alone at the ranch. In 1973, she joined other active citizens of Evergreen to found the Jefferson County Historical Society, to serve on its board of directors, and to work as a volunteer at the Society’s sister institution, the Hiwan Homestead Museum. In 1974, she became a charter member of the Jefferson County Historical Commission. In 1984, she was elected to the Jefferson County Hall of Fame.

Humphrey Family Tree

Key:
B- Birth
D- Death
M -Married

Mother
Mary Amaryllis Bower
B 5-12-1848
D 4-26-1934

Father
David Harry Hammer
B 12-23-1840
D 3-30-1904

Children
Maud Carpenter
B 7-10-1867
D 1949

Fay Mercedes Hammer
B 11-22-1885
D 3-5-1889

Russell Wittner Hammer
B 11-22-1885
D 3-5-1889

David Harry Hammer II
B 4-22-1892
D 10-13-1987

Hazel Harry Hammer
B 7-4-1881
D 4-14-1972

Mary Amaryllis Bower
M 6-6-1874

Hazel and Hazel Lou Humphrey, 1928
Continued on page 24
Step Back in Time at the Humphrey Museum

By Margaret T. Chapman

So, you want to experience the “old timey” life style? For a broad ranging sample, the Humphrey Memorial Park and Museum in Evergreen serves as a trip back in time.

Located at 620 Soda Creek Road, Evergreen, the park and museum is nestled on 35 pristine acres of mountain and meadows. During the last half of August 2012, more than 24 events were offered, under the guidance of new director Angela Rayne.

You could roll up your sleeves to learn to make apple and pumpkin butters, cream cheese chocolate fudge, or fresh pasta. If you don’t want to spend the day in the kitchen, you could take classes on harvesting your garden, make primitive luminaries, or make sand candles.

If you think all of this sounds like too much work, you could just relax and listen to the Derry O’Leary Trio for a night of timeless music. The popular “Summer Under the Stars” series offers plays, concerts, dance recitals, poetry readings, a writer’s festival, and more. Check out the web site www.hmpm.org for the current schedule.

You also have the option of visiting the grounds and museum. The Humphrey house museum is filled with antiques, collectibles, art, textiles, and artifacts from the family’s many transatlantic cruises and world travels. The family was unique in documenting its own history for more than a century through scrapbooks, letters, photos, and heirloom collections dating to the 1860s.

Today the rooms of the house are very much as they were when the family lived in them. Photos from the early Twentieth Century show the furniture, wall hangings and items placed just as you see them on your tour.

The park is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Guided tours of the Humphrey Home are Tuesday through Saturday at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m.

The Humphrey Museum also offers event venues for weddings, receptions, parties, banquets and reunions. Call 303-674-5429 for more information.

Editor’s Note: Many thanks are extended to the Humphrey Memorial Park & Museum web site for this information.

The Humphrey Memorial Park and Museum was designated as a Jefferson County Landmark in October 2012.
of the Federated Women’s Club of America. She stayed active in the Republican Women’s Club and was a delegate to a national convention. She was president of the Social Ethics Club in Idaho Springs. During World War II, she served on the Selective Service Board.

Hazel Lou died in her sleep on her 75th birthday, Jan. 17, 1995. Her closest friend, Ethel Snowbarger, waited in vain all day for Hazel to attend her birthday party at Ethel’s home.

Today, the Museum’s mission is to tell the story of the life and times of the Humphrey family and their home, the Kinnikinnik Ranch. The Humphrey Memorial Park and Museum’s goal is to preserve and interpret the mountain heritage of Colorado to a diverse public. Its vision is to present, through the Humphrey family story, the living history experiences that engage, entertain, and educate visitors on the history and challenges mountain founders face. Visitors interact with daily activities in the original Humphrey home, garage, cattery, play house, teacherage, reconstructed visitors’ cottage, barn, animal pens and restored flower and vegetable gardens.

The museum’s director, Angela Rayne, has focused on the living history of the Kinnikinnick Ranch during the 1930s and 1940s, the period of significance identified for the property under the National Register of Historic Places. The living history programming follows “A Manual of Home Making”—Monday Wash Day, Tuesday Ironing Day, Wednesday Mending Day, Thursday Market Day, Friday Cleaning Day, Saturday Baking Day, and Sunday Church Day. Educational programming encompasses classes that teach the life ways of the 1930s through the 1940s.

The Park is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 620 Soda Creek Road, Evergreen, CO 80439. Visitors may tour the Museum grounds at their own pace through a self-guided tour during Park hours. Guided tours of the Humphrey Home are at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. For more information, please see the Museum’s web site, www.hmpm.org, or call 303-674-5429.
Wildfires have been an ever-present danger to the citizens in the dry climate of Colorado and Jefferson County. Over time they have flared in all parts of the county, caused by lightning strikes, abandoned campfires, cigarettes thrown from vehicles, explosions, sparks from railroads, and more. Some, unfortunately, have been intentionally set. Historically, fires have occurred throughout the year, with major fires possible regardless of the date on the calendar; realistically, every season has been fire season in Jeffco. Some years and some seasons stand out, however. Even early in the year, 2012 appeared to be one of those for the Front Range and the state as a whole. Jeffco residents have learned that disasters come as triplets: drought leads to fire leads to floods. These three “brothers” have been regular visitors throughout our history. The year 2002 has been called the “worst fire season ever” in Colorado, but this distinction is a moving target. Certainly 2012 will rival it. In 1980, a fire called “Emerald Lake” in the White River National Forest burned 9,000 acres and was called the “worst fire ever” (Rocky Mountain News, June 28, 1980). Sadly, that award too has been withdrawn many times over in the last two decades.

Fires become personal, with names that stick in our collective memory for decades: Buffalo Creek (1996), Hi Meadow (2000), Hayman (2002). Further afield, we remember Lefthand Canyon (1988), Black Tiger (1989), Storm King/South Canyon (1994), and Snaking (2002). Older fires slowly drift away as our memory moves on, but it is the job of historians to remember. What often goes unrecorded as responders deal with emergencies is what wildfire can mean to historic structures and historic preservation.

We thought this year was a good time to review the history of wildfires in Jefferson County. Research continues on this important aspect of county history, but here we provide some background on several significant fires and summarize what is compiled to date.

A century of aggressive fire suppression, combined with cycles of drought and changing land management practices, has left many of Colorado’s forests unnaturally dense and ready to burn. At the same time, the state’s record-setting growth has driven nearly a million people into the forested foothills of the Front Range and along the West Slope and central mountains—the same landscapes that are at highest risk for large-scale fire. This movement of urban and suburban residents into the wildland-urban interface (WUI) significantly increases the values-at-risk from wildland fire—the most critical of these being human life.”

—Colorado Wildfire Mitigation Plan, 2010 Draft
Jefferson County Fires

1859, June  Miners Fires (Upper Golden Gate Canyon)
1869, Nov. 20  Jarvis Hall Fire (South Golden Valley)
1870, May  Turkey Creek Fire (Turkey Creek Canyon)
1874, June  Floyd Hill Fire (Floyd Hill)
1874, June 13  Beaver Brook Fire (Clear Creek Canyon)
1898, Oct.  Crawford Gulch Fire (Head of Crawford Gulch & Belcher Hill)
1901, July  Evergreen Pine Grove Fire (Between Evergreen & Pine Grove)
1902, June 24  Buffalo Creek
1902, July 31  Foothills Fire (Between Coal & Ralston Creeks)
1905, July 4  Clear Creek Canyon Fire (Clear Creek Canyon)
1907, Jan. 8  Leyden Fire (Leyden)
1908, Jan. 7  Northeast Golden Fire (Northeast Golden Valley)
1908, June  Deer Park Fire (Deer Park)
1908, June  Crossons Fire (Crossons)
1910, July  Coal Creek Fire I (Coal Creek Canyon)
1910, Oct.  Carter Lake Fire (Standley Lake)
1910, Oct.  Coal Creek Fire II (Coal Creek Canyon)
1919, June 24  Lookout Mountain Fire (Lookout Mountain)
1919, June 30  Creek Fire (Southern Jefferson County)
1920, Oct. 10  Downes Fire (4 Miles West of Evergreen)
1922, June 25  Gates Fire (Bear Creek Canyon)
1924, Aug. 19  Moonshine Fire (Standley Lake)
1925, May 2  Watershed Fire (Bear Brook)
1930, June  Funicular Fire (Lookout Mountain)
1976, Aug. 30  North Table Mountain Fire (North Table Mountain)
1977, May 19  Murphy Gulch Fire (west of Ken-Caryl)
1978, Oct.  Murphy Gulch Fire (west of Ken-Caryl)
1988, Sept. 7-8  North Table Mountain Fire
1990, June 12  Buffalo Creek
1994  Roxborough Fire
1996, May 18  Buffalo Creek Fire (Buffalo Creek)
2000, June 12-20  Hi Meadow Fire (Park County Border)
2002, June 8-July 18  Hayman Fire (Southwest Jeffco)
2002  Blue Mountain Fire (North Jeffco)
2006  Plainview Fire (North Jeffco)
2006  Upper Bear Creek Fire
2011, March 20  Indian Gulch Fire (Mt. Galbraith)
2012, Mar 26-Apr 2  Lower North Fork Fire (Lower North Fork South Platte)

Fire map and list are works in progress. Please help us add to this record. Send additions and corrections to jeffcohistory@gmail.com or add comments online at HistoricJeffco.org.

Sources:
This map was compiled from Jefferson County GIS data, and various internet resources. It is considered preliminary and subject to correction. Circles indicate an approximate location and not a specific perimeter.
On March 26, 2012, the Lower North Fork fire claimed three lives in Jefferson County, those of Sam and Linda Lucas and Ann Appel, making it the first lethal wildfire in Jeffco in 152 years. It sadly brings back to attention the only previous lethal fire, which burned into the upper Golden Gate Canyon area in 1859. That wildfire also claimed three lives, three men who were miners, who didn’t start the blaze but were quickly overtaken by it. In a grim irony, this fire likely also started from a “prescribed” burn that got out of control, of another kind: Some early miners, all recent arrivals from the east not knowing the dangers of this dry climate, deliberately set fires to burn off underbrush while they were looking for gold.

A prospector along the original road to the gold fields encountered the miners’ remains eight miles east of “the mines,” that is, the Black Hawk-Central City area. This places the deaths in a ravine along Guy Gulch in the area west of Booten Gulch and today’s Centennial House, within Jefferson County. Burned beyond recognition and without the aid of modern technology to identify them, they were given a proper burial at the place where they perished. Here is the Rocky Mountain News report provided by Capt. Richard Sopris, foreman of the investigating committee:

"On Wednesday, June 15, Mr. John N. Sapp, a miner, while prospecting, came upon the bodies of three men having the appearance of miners on a prospecting tour, burned to death, their features so destroyed by fire, that even their own relatives could not have recognized them. Mr. Sapp, without removing the bodies or making any examination, returned to the mines, some eight miles, and reported the news of the sad discovery. The miners at once appointed a Commit-

The front page of the Rocky Mountain News carried the headline of Jefferson County’s first major wildfire, which was also its first lethal one.
“Upon a careful examination of the bodies, no marks of personal violence being found, the decision of the Committee and all present was that they came to their death by being caught in a mountain fire of the most destructive character. The bodies were found laying on their faces with their heads up the mountain and but a few rods from each other on an old trail. At a short distance from them was found a pony and also a dog, supposed to be a pointer or greyhound, burned to death. In the vicinity of the dead bodies were found the following articles: Colt’s eight inch revolver No. 5553; the clasp of a belt with letters U.S. raised; one dark knife; two tin gold pans, double runs; the barrel of a double barrel shot gun, fine London double twist and silver mounted; one rifle barrel, brass mounted, of large size; and one long handle shovel, No. 2, Ames; one pick of Simmonds’ manufacture; one hatchet; remnants of blankets both white and blue; one tin camp kettle; one sheet iron dipper; one Spanish pack-saddle; one U.S. cartridge box; and various other articles such as miners outfit would consist of. On the trail, between the first two bodies, was found $15.00 in gold coin and $1.93 in silver coin. The articles found were brought in by the Committee, and deposited with Capt. R. Sopris, in Mountain City, to be exhibited to all who may wish to examine them, which, it is hoped, may lead to their identity.”

In 1864 the Colorado Territorial government outlawed miners’ fires of this kind, in the process expressing their wish that future offenders would be hanged. Unfortunately, these three men remain unknown to this day. Reports varied to as many as 100 people dead, but Dr. Casto confirmed to the *News* in November that there were only these three. In the future, new evidence might be found to finally identity them, as even this report itself is a new piece of evidence that has very recently been rediscovered.

**Sources:**

“Warm winters, hot, dry summers, severe drought, insect and disease infestations, years of fire suppression, and growth in the wildland-urban interface continue to increase wildfire risk and the potential for catastrophic wildland fires in Colorado.”

—*Colorado Wildfire Mitigation Plan, 2010 Draft*
Historic Consequences of Early Fires

To Our Farmers

There is no disguising the fact the wholesale destruction of the former vast pine forests that clad the slopes of the mountains on Bear, Clear, Ralston and Boulder creeks, and the continuance of the wholesale destruction by saw-mills and by fires, and the utter and complete want of protection to the forests of our mountain reserves, is the immediate cause of the destructive floods which all these streams entail upon every one living near them, from the too abrupt and sudden drainage of large rain-storms on the denuded slopes and valleys of our mountain ranges. Accompanying this sudden effusion of water, where no forest area remains to absorb and slowly give them out is the denudation and loss of rich soil, which yearly strips our best mountain farms of millions of tons of rich earth, and leaves in the valleys, bare rocks or else vast amounts of gravel and broken stone bars. It is a fact that no fit soil is left to nourish a new forest of coniferous or deciduous trees. To the farmers in the valleys of Clear and Bear creeks the floods of July 24, 25 and 26 are an object lesson of no uncertain measure, protect the forest of the central range, and you will have irrigation water in season. Let this measure go, in less than ten years you will have no water when required.

Note: Berthoud foretold the concerns we have today in recent burn areas, and we did lose 2 more at Buffalo Creek in 1996 (a century later) due to this ourselves. The storm of 1896 was immense so I can't give the burn areas sole credit for the flood as Berthoud does, but definitely agree the wildfires increased its magnitude. It was a 1,000-year event by measurement, which must have made it even more apocalyptic in sheer scope. I consider the wildfires as contributing to the 1894 Clear Creek flood which wreaked havoc on Golden as well. Berthoud was fortunately mistaken that the slopes could no longer support forest, as the forested areas have recovered.

Jeffco Incident Management Team

In 2000, the Hi Meadow fire threatened historic Baehrden Lodge (Pine Valley Ranch Lodge), designed by J.J.B. Benedict and owned by Jefferson County Open Space. That fire burned 58 other structures.

A Category B FEMA disaster for Jeffco and Park counties, the Hi Meadow fire led to the formal establishment of the Jeffco Incident Management Team (IMT), a group initially created in 1992. This was the first IMT to be certified by the state of Colorado and the first organized by a Colorado county. By 2006, they had been called out to fires eleven more times (the original group had also responded to the 1996 Buffalo Creek fire).

Source:

Do you know of any historic sites, especially endangered places, that should be recognized and preserved?

The Jefferson County Historical Commission invites you to participate in the county’s Landmark Designation Program dedicated to the preservation of a wide range of historic sites, including private and public structures; cultural and commercial sites; historic districts; archaeological sites; and time-honored features of natural history.

Information and criteria for Landmark Designation may be found at HistoricJeffco.org. Also you may contact Dennis Dempsey in Jeffco Planning and Zoning: ddempsey@jeffco.us, 303-271-8734.
On Monday, March 26, 2012, a fire storm, soon to be known as the Lower North Fork fire, swept through the forest near Reynolds Ranch Park, jumped Long Gulch, and crept up steep rocky terrain toward Critchell and Kuehster Road. The fire was named after the area north of the North Fork of the South Platte River between Foxton and South Platte, where a prescribed burn had been conducted. Believed to have been put out, its purpose—to aid fire prevention by burning to reduce fuels—seemed to be fulfilled. Unexpected strong winds rose from the southwest during the afternoon of March 26. A hotspot exploded into the ferocious fire that spread over 1,400 acres or 4 square miles and devoured 23 houses and a barn. Not only that: the fire tore the lives of Ann Appel and Sam and Linda Lucas from our midst.

Besides these tremendous losses, we also lost the beloved, historic Lamb School, a traditional schoolhouse in an open meadow along Kuehster Road.

Frederick and Caroline Kuehster had married in Central City in 1872. They homesteaded southeast of Critchell in Jefferson County in the mid 1870s and built their home from logs. In 1886, nine families, including the Kuehsters, Huebners, Lambs, Dudleys, Greens, and others who had settled nearby, became school board members and organized School District 36. They built a log structure in the large meadow on today’s Kuehster Road or “Green Ridge.”

The Lamb School opened in 1887, named after David Lamb, a homesteader who presumably donated the land. It was furnished with a stove and fixtures that cost the community $9.40; six double desks were bought for $19.40 plus freight. It is not clear exactly what teacher Stella Dudley was paid to instruct her first 19 students: $40.00 a month or $400 for seven months. In 1919, the Lamb School was destroyed by fire for the first time. The cause of this fire has not been recorded.

The community constructed a new one-room frame building three years later. The one-story gabled structure had a rectangular composite stone foundation and a steep pitched roof. Three double-hung windows with four-over-four panes on each long side lit the interior. White painted shutters protected the school from bad weather and uninvited guests, though not from the fire out of the tops of nearby trees last March 26. The roof was covered with grey composite shingles, and a brick chimney sat on the northern end of the ridge. Before entering through the door on the south side, one passed a porch built of a concrete platform supported by rough stones. Two rectangular posts (4x4) supported an awning covered with the same light grey composite shingles as the roof. Two wooden railings kept kids and visitors from falling off the sides of the porch. Horizontal wood siding was painted red. Ironically, only two boys and one girl were taught in the rebuilt school by 1924, and by 1942 it was closed entirely. The Sampson Community Club rented the building in 1955 and purchased it four years later.

In August 2000, my husband and I, with friends from the Jefferson County Historical Commission, were invited by the Sampson Community Club to their pig roast on the meadow of the Lamb School. We spent a wonderful afternoon with delicious food and delightful company. On March 26, 2012, nothing—not even the few aspen trees that surrounded the school and seemed to be dancing for the kids and visitors—could resist the ferocious fire. We will forever miss it.

Sources:
2012 marks the 150th anniversary of Golden officially becoming the Territorial Capitol of Colorado. The year 1862 marked the latest chapter in an epic battle among the top communities in Colorado for the honor, beginning in 1859 when Denver became the first capitol of the provisional Jefferson Territory. Golden City became its second capitol on November 22, 1860, when legislators voted to move to a more central locality, drawing scorn from the Rocky Mountain News for being “taken in” by Goldenites. Golden’s Western Mountaineer responded by saying ‘they have been ‘taken out’ of temptation and bad company.”

When the federally recognized Colorado Territory was organized in 1861 the issue was revisited, and through 14 ballots the House fought with the many communities receiving votes including Altona, Apex, Boulder, Caleria, Cañon City, Central City, Cherokee City, Colorado City, Conejos, Costilla, Denver, Empire City, Fall River, Fort Garland, Gold Dirt, Gold Hill, Golden City, Golden Gate City, Grass Valley Bar, Hamilton, Idaho, Jonesboro, Mill City, Mt. Vernon, Oro City, Paine’s Bar, Pueblo, St. Vrain, Sajancho Valley, Spanish Bar, Tarryall, Trail Creek, Utilla, and Yaap. Ultimately in the legislature, Colorado City prevailed by one vote, drawing scathing fire from the News, which accused six of the Territorial Councilors (Senators) of being “persuaded to yield to the influences of an itching palm” and “That this consummation is a fair expression of the people of this Territory, no one can possibly claim. It has been the result of corruption of the most unblushing character.”

Colorado City did function as Colorado’s first Territorial Capitol, and the legislators met in a log building that still stands today in old Colorado City of western Colorado Springs, but soon they were reconsidering their decision. This time Golden City and Denver found themselves on the same side, they and others determined to make sure the capitol was moved to where the bulk of settlement in Colorado was, if not their own city then another. The House voted to make Golden City the capitol, and in the Council William A.H. Loveland led the fight, with Golden City prevailing over Denver, Central City, Cañon City, and Fairplay. On August 15, 1862, Governor John Evans signed House Bill 98 into law, and Golden City became the new capitol.

To celebrate, Golden City welcomed the legislators by holding the Capitol Ball on August 18, 1862, which proved a smashing success. Drawing dignitaries from around the region, it featured dancing until 1 a.m., followed by a sumptuous feast, brief speeches, merriment, and laughter. For a finale at 4 a.m., all sang in full chorus “John Brown’s Song,” a new favorite among the troops. Its refrain, “Glory, glory, hallelujah!” would soon transform into the Battle Hymn of the Republic. The next day in a glowing review, the News wrote ‘we ‘embrace this opportunity’ to express the following sentiment in behalf of the Denver delegation: ‘The citizens of Golden City; may their hopes of future greatness be realized, and may we often meet them on such festive occasions as the one last night.’

Sources:
Rocky Mountain News, Western Mountaineer, and the historical files of Richard Gardner
Historic Places in Transition

Historic places are not static. Sometimes, we hope often, they are saved and restored; other times they decay quietly. They can also disappear from our landscapes at a moment’s notice— or no notice at all. A change of ownership can leave even well publicized historic sites vulnerable.

All photos by Jefferson County Historical Commission.
Celebrate Jeffco Outdoors

Celebrate Jeffco Outdoors is a yearlong celebration of the spectacular public lands that have been preserved and the wonderful outdoor recreation opportunities created by Denver Mountain Parks, Jefferson County Open Space and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) over the past 100, 40 and 20 years, respectively. The celebration will begin with a gala event scheduled for April 5th, 2013 6pm-8pm at Red Rocks Visitors Center. Additionally, throughout 2013 will be a diverse mix of park-based events in an on-going series. Together our organizations have preserved over 62,000 acres of land in Jefferson County and created the closest foothills and mountain outdoor experiences to the largest urban population center in Colorado, the Denver metropolitan area. Information about the special Celebration evening and year-long event series will be available online by visiting “JeffcoOutdoors.org”
Historically Jeffco 2012

Denver Mountain Parks Centennial Celebrates a Legacy of History

By Sally White, Denver Mountain Parks, and Jay Clark, Marketing & Communications, Denver Parks and Recreation

One hundred years ago, in May 1912, Mrs. J.J. Brown was climbing Denver’s social ladder upon her safe return from the disastrous sinking of the ship Titanic, capturing headlines and imaginations in the process. Two other Coloradoans were reported safe; three were lost at sea, as the event echoed worldwide.

In 1912 the Committee hired Frederic Law Olmsted, Jr. to evaluate the proposed Mountain Park area and plan the necessary acquisitions and roads. In 1913 and 1914, a state legislative act granted Denver the powers of Eminent Domain and Police in respect to Mountain Parks, and federal legislation allowed Denver to acquire national forest lands for only $1.25 an acre. When the first money for Denver Mountain Parks became available in 1913, the Committee and an independent report called for Lookout Mountain Road to be the first capital project. Construction on the “Lariat Trail” project was finished in 1914; the same year Olmsted’s report recommended the acquisition of more than 41,000 acres in the foothills west of Denver.

As the Mountain Parks Committee predicted in 1911, “A Mountain Park for Denver will be the first step, and perhaps, the greatest step, in the great movement of making our mountains available for the people. We believe the Mountain Park should be more than a picnic place, it should be a summer home for the people of Denver, and indeed for the tourists of the nation.”

Those modest yet visionary beginnings created one of the most distinct city-owned mountain parks systems in the nation. Fast forward 100 years and the Denver Mountain Parks system has grown and evolved to consist of 22 developed parks and 24 conservation/wilderness areas currently encompassing approximately 14,000 acres of mountain and foothills land—all owned by the City & County of Denver. Here citizens can find an alpine lake (Summit Lake, near Mt. Evans), a world-class concert venue (Red Rocks amphitheatre), a ski resort (Winter Park), two bison herds (at Genesee and Daniels Parks), and Buffalo Bill’s grave. The majority of the system, more than 9,000 acres, lies in Jefferson County.

Here in Colorado, young ladies were campaigning in downtown streets, urging Denver citizens to adopt a new mill levy, one-half mill to support the acquisition and development of a system of parks in the foothills west of Denver. Thus 1912 also marks the official formation and approval of the breathtakingly beautiful Denver Mountain Parks system. Denver Parks and Recreation is thrilled to celebrate this 100-year anniversary and is proud to look back on the history of the system.

In early 1911, three Denver civic organizations came together to form the Mountain Parks Committee of the Commercial Bodies. Thanks to the efforts of public officials, newspaper editorialists, labor organizations, and prominent citizens, the campaign for a Mountain Parks Amendment passed with a substantial majority. On May 21, 1912, Denver citizens voted to approve the mill levy for Mountain Parks, which provided funding for the growth and development of the early parks and the roads necessary to reach them.
But the heart and soul of the system is the opportunity it provides, today as it did in 1912, for citizens to find rest and recreation in scenic outdoor settings close to Denver. Today’s visitors will find all but a few Denver Mountain Parks within easy driving distance; most are less than an hour away from the Denver city limits. According to the 2008 Executive Summary of the Denver Mountain Parks Master Plan, 68 percent of Denver residents visit at least one Denver Mountain Park annually (excluding Red Rocks and Winter Park), and more than two million people visit the entire system annually. Surveys show that Denver residents comprise about one-third of the visitors; another third come from communities near the parks; the rest are visiting the area from further afield, including travelers from other states and countries.

Denver Mountain Parks are scattered in four counties (Clear Creek, Douglas, Grand and Jefferson), but they make up a cohesive system of significant lands connected by watersheds, forests, sensitive ecosystems, trails, and scenic drives. Each park has its own distinct character; the system as a whole shares an audience, uses, geography, character, and historic integrity.

A Wealth of Historic Structures

Denver Mountain Parks are also unique for the historic structures they contain—more than 50 across the system. Denver Mountain Parks Superintendent Dick Gannon recently noted: “Denver pioneered this system with the new automobile in mind, making mountain scenery available to picnickers from a network of improved roads. Most of the early parks also have unique stone shelter houses, many of which were designed by J. J. B. Benedict, that add to the distinctive historic character. Benedict’s rustic architecture created the continuing ambiance of the Denver Mountain Parks.”

Jules Jacques Benois Benedict, best known as the architect of some of Denver’s grandest Beaux-Arts churches and residences, designed many Rustic style, or “Alpine” style, shelters and well houses, most of native stone and logs. The Bergen Park Pavilion (1915) was one of the earliest designs completed by Jacques Benedict in the mountain parks. This open shelter was constructed of native white quartz and green mortar with a shingle-clad hipped roof, log supports, and a stone chimney. In 1916, Benedict designed the Fillius Park Shelter, which displays unique use of round openings framing surrounding views, as well as woven wattling in the entrance and under the roof beams.

In 1918, work was completed on the grand Chief Hosa Lodge in Genesee Park near Golden, Benedict’s largest and most significant work for the Denver Mountain Parks. This building originally housed a restaurant for campers in the nearby “tent colony,” and was also the home of a World War I Museum in the 1920s. Benedict shared his view on the Lodge’s design in a 1919 Denver Municipal Facts article:

“Hosa Lodge was always there. It lay about before one’s eyes as surface rock and spruce trees growing on
Skaters on Evergreen Lake appreciated the Warming House, built in the late 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Restored after a 1995 fire, it now serves seasonally as the Evergreen Nature Center and boathouse.

the very ledge upon which it stands today, as a sort of collection of waste material at hand. We simply piled up the rock in layers, leaving some openings for light. When we had enough rock and openings we laid the felled trunks across the top and called it a lodge, and it suffices. Its interior is no better than its front or back, so it does not have the fault of disappointing one on further acquaintance. It remains rock and red bark like its setting.”

Benedict is sometimes credited with a few buildings he apparently did not design. One in Jefferson County is the $9,000 Dedisse Park Clubhouse (Evergreen Golf Club), created as a peeled log octagon with a conical roof with eyebrow dormers and completed in 1925. Plans for the building have the notation: “Designed by Fred. W. Ameter, Oct. 10, 1924.” This Rustic style building was intended to house a restaurant, bar, and golf pro shop. The interior featured a four-sided center stone fireplace, exposed beams, wood paneling, and light fixtures fashioned from tree branches. Today it is known as Keys on the Green.

Economic difficulties and funding issues continue to make maintaining the Denver Mountain Parks a challenge, as they have since the dedicated mill levy was abandoned in 1955. One thing is certain—the internationally known cultural attractions, historic features, and natural beauty of the Denver Mountain Parks system will remain an integral part of Denver’s reputation as a world-class city. With understanding and support, they can carry on as magnificent and vibrant parks at the bicentennial in 2112 as they are today.

For further information:
http://denvermountainparks.org
http://www.denvergov.org/parksandrecreation/Parks/

Sources:


See also:
Our capstone event of 2011, the Sesquicentennial Gala held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds on November 18, was a great success by any measure. It was a mild, beautiful late autumn evening that reminds us just why we live in Colorado’s Front Range. Approximately 500 attendees, many in costume, feasted on barbecue, enjoyed entertainment provided by the volunteer Civil War Band, and perused displays of County history and artifacts collected for a time capsule. Presidents Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln addressed the crowd (also known by their alternate identities as Jack Van Ens and Michael Houston), as did our County Commissioners, Faye Griffin, John Odom, and Don Rosier.

The evening’s program included the induction of Norma Anderson and the Church family into the County Hall of Fame, recognition of the Colorado Railroad Museum as a County Landmark, and honoring Golden Landmarks Association, for its record of achievement in historical preservation, with the Meyer Award. Special informative displays contributed by historical societies from around the county provided diverse browsing for attendees and thoroughly enhanced the evening.

A grand event, burial of a Jefferson County time capsule, took place on Friday, April 13, 2012. A small crowd gathered for this historic event, to watch this “message to the future” be securely buried for rediscovery in 2061, the county’s bicentennial year.
We wrapped up the three-year observance of Jefferson County’s 150th anniversary with the burial of the time capsule in the memorial garden west of the Courts and Administration Building on a blustery April 13, 2012. In attendance were County Commissioners Griffin, Rosier, and Odom, along with President Thomas Jefferson (aka Jack Van Ens), who addressed a crowd of about 75 people. The capsule is scheduled to be unearthed in 2061 for Jefferson County’s bicentennial. Our County archivist, Ronda Frazier, provided all the professional preservation work and inventory of the artifacts in the capsule.

We are continuing to explore opportunities to work with our sister County organizations in preserving our history. The Historical Commission is coordinating with Open Space as a stakeholder in the preservation of Baehrden Lodge in Pine Valley Open Space Park. This rustic gem, designed by renowned architect J.B. Benedict, was constructed in 90 days in 1927. We look forward to the reopening of this venue to the public in the near future. We are also investigating opportunities to work with the Jefferson County Libraries in support of the Oral History program.

On May 5, the Commission sponsored our annual Historic Preservation Symposium together with our host community, Ken-Caryl Ranch. The theme this year was to take a look at the recent past, of post-war Jefferson County. The keynote speaker was Diane Wray Tomasso, who opened our eyes to the historic value of modern architecture, from the famous Deaton Sculpture House (“Sleeper” House) to some of the wonderful surprises lurking in the Applewood and Green Mountain suburbs. More information on this presentation is provided elsewhere in this edition of Historically Jeffco. After the morning session, attendees were invited to tour Ken-Caryl’s preservation success of the Bradford Perley House and environs.
The year has brought with it some changes to the Commission. By resolution of the Board of County Commissioners, as of May 1, 2012, the Historical Commission has been reorganized into a smaller volunteer organization that should be more effective. In addition to our appointed members we have opportunities for volunteers who may be interested in pursuing or assisting a specific defined project related to Jefferson County, such as our Placenames Directory or with our annual Historic Preservation Symposium. In addition, members of historical societies and the public are always welcome at our monthly meetings, usually first Monday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Courts & Administration Building. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or have any suggestions on projects, please let us know through our Planning & Zoning office contacts or visit us at a meeting.

We continue to expand our presence on the Internet with the posting of past articles from this magazine, as well as our informational brochures and links to sites of local interest. As always, we are available to assist the public with navigating the maze of historic preservation options at the local, state, and national levels, or in helping preserve stories and artifacts related to Jefferson County.

As a final note, we lost one of our longest-serving Commission members earlier this year. Viona “Vi” Hader passed away on March 21, 2012, at the age of 93. She served with JCHC until just a few months before her death. She worked tirelessly for the betterment of Golden and Jefferson County in her many volunteer activities on behalf of the Foothills Art Center, the Foothills Animal Shelter, Golden’s Astor House, and for 27 years on this Historical Commission. Her presence is missed by all who knew this wonderful, dedicated, lady.
The Jefferson County Historical Commission was established by the Board of County Commissioners in 1974 to encourage and engender stewardship of the history of Jefferson County. The Board of County Commissioners appoints the members of the JCHC, comprised of eleven citizen volunteers representing every part of the County. We invite you to get involved in helping us promote and recognize the county’s significant historical features! The Historical Commission’s purpose, according to its bylaws, is outlined as follows:

“The business and purpose of this Commission is to bring together people interested in history, and specifically the history of Jefferson County. Understanding the history of this community is basic to the County, State, and Union, and promotes a better appreciation of American heritage. Additional purposes of the Commission shall include:

• Coordinating the historical activities of the County of Jefferson and acting as a liaison with national, state and local historical organizations.

• Disseminating historical information and arousing interest in Jefferson County’s past by publishing historical material.

• Promoting and supporting various historical and educational programs.

• Identifying, researching, and actively participating in the preservation of historical sites within Jefferson County.

• Participating in various organizational grant programs which provide financial assistance for the preservation of historical sites, or other historical programs.”

Programs and Projects
JCHC joins with a host community to organize an Historic Preservation Symposium each May to discuss topics of current interest in the preservation community. In recent years the Symposium has been held in Conifer (2010), Westminster (2011) and Ken-Caryl (2012).

The Landmark Program promotes the preservation of significant buildings and structures contributing to local history. Nominations from the community are encouraged, and are due June 1 and December 1.

This magazine, Historically Jeffco, is produced annually. Writers are invited to submit articles for the Writers’ Awards. Winners in the adult and youth categories are recognized at the Hall of Fame party.

JCHC has developed a series of informational brochures of historical interest, including our agricultural, ranching, and tourism heritage. We also have a directory of Museums and Historic Sites available.

JeffCo History Just One Click Away...
www.historicjeffco.org
Visit Jefferson County’s history online, via our web site that provides direct links to most historical societies, museums, resource pages, city and county information, and other sources for historical information. Sponsored by the Jefferson County Historical Commission but privately funded, the web site provides easy access points to pages on the official county web site. Indices of the Commission’s annual Historically Jeffco magazine are also provided on the site, and selected stories from previous issues are gradually being added. Send comments or corrections on the historicjeffco.org web site to jeffcohistory@gmail.com.

Obtaining Copies of Historically Jeffco
Copies can be purchased for $6.46 at Planning and Zoning beginning late October. The magazine is available free of charge to members of Jefferson County historical societies. Back issues are also available upon request. Contact Jo Blakey at 303-271-8708.

For More Information
Planning and Zoning has further information for those interested in history and historic preservation in Jefferson County, plus applications for Commission membership. Call Jo Blakey at 303-271-8708.

Disclaimer: The information in this magazine is solely provided by the authors. JCHC, the Board of County Commissioners, and the Publications Committee are not responsible for the opinions of authors or the content of their articles.
2012 Jeffco Historical Commission Members


Cheryl Wise, 2011 – Manager of Copper Fields Chateau and volunteers with the Foothills Animal Shelter. Lives in Lakewood.

Commission Staff

Emie Witucki, 2009 – Member of Colorado Preservation Inc. Member of the Colorado Tourism Council. Lives in Lakewood.

Jo Blakey

Dennis Dempsey

Ronda Frazier

Faye Griffin

John Odom

Donald Rosier

County Commissioners
Celebrating Our Parks and Open Space Heritage in 2013

Denver Mountain Parks 1913-2013

**Chief Hosa Lodge**
*Designed by JJB Benedict, 1918*

**Baehrden Lodge**
*Designed by JJB Benedict, 1928*

*Chief Hosa Lodge, circa 1920. Courtesy Denver Public Library/Western History Collection, Z-6321, from City & County of Denver. Baehrden Lodge, courtesy of Jefferson County Open Space*