

Summit Historical Society VOICES

Message from the President

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President

Inside this issue:

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| An Afternoon with Sandra Dallas—A Women's History Month Celebration | 2 |
| Christmas Bazaar | 3 |
| Dillon's Festival of Lights | 3 |
| Summer Events | 3 |
| 50th Anniversary Celebration | 5 |
| Guardians of Our Historical Heritage | 5 |
| Vehicle Donations | 6 |
| Other Ways to Sup- port the Society | 6 |
| New Membership Categories | 6 |
| Chasing the Dream Swandyke, Colora- do, From Boom to Bust to Dust | 7 |
| New Railroad Book | 8 |
| New Volunteer Coordinator | 8 |
| New Website | 9 |
| Excerpts from <i>Windows to the Past</i> Skiing Through His- tory—The Naming of the Peak 9 Trails | 9 |

Watch us go! Watch us grow! Your Society has been very busy over the winter months. The Christmas Bazaar, Dillon's Festival of Lights, Women's History Month celebration, continued collaboration with numerous organizations, three new books, new and different events for the upcoming summer, 50th anniversary celebration, and a new roof on the schoolhouse and annex. Details are in this newsletter.



A huge thank you goes to all of you who supported us financially this last year. We couldn't do it without the extra you give. We received almost \$1700 in donations from 24 donors through Colorado Gives Day, a very good number for our first year participating in the program. We received almost exactly the same amount through our fall appeal letter. Thanks to all of you, there will be a new brown roof on the schoolhouse and annex in the next few weeks. We made it before springing any leaks. Jim Cox deserves a big thank you for his efforts in finding a roofer and working through the contract.

Now we will be concentrating on getting the living classroom operating on a regular basis. The extra funding from last fall will go toward refurbishing the desks in the schoolroom and purchasing a few more. As the desks are now, children cannot sit in some of them safely when they come to the schoolroom. If you have thoughts about who might be able to do the refurbishing or where we might buy more desks, please call Christy at 970-468-2207. School groups have started scheduling visits so the need is immediate.

The next newsletter will have lots of details about our summer events. Come and bring friends. We are looking for members who want to learn about Summit County's unique heritage and care about preserving it. We need volunteers who are passionate about sharing that history with others.

Sandie Mather—President, Summit Historical Society

An Afternoon with Sandra Dallas—A Women's History Month Celebration

Mark your calendars! On March 12, at 2:00 in the Commons Room of Dillon Community Church (371 LaBonte Street, Dillon), local author Sandra Dallas will present a talk about her books as part of the Society's celebration of Women's History Month. Sandra, the author of many books about women from various parts of the United States, lives in Georgetown. Three of those books, *The Last Mid-wife* (released in September, 2015), *Whiter than Snow*, and *Prayers for Sale* have Summit County as their setting. Sandra weaves Summit County history, geography, and weather into her books. Having lived in Breckenridge for a number of years, she has first-hand experience with the environment. Among other topics, she will talk about how she develops the characters for her books and quilting. Because of the quilting theme running through many of the books SHS member Tish Fields has arranged for a quilt display that afternoon.



Alpine Bank is primary sponsor for the event; the Town of Frisco is designing all of the marketing and advertising. The Spice and Tea Merchants from Breckenridge will provide the tea. Whole Foods is supplying the sweets.

Because it is a fund-raiser for the Society, members will be charged \$20; non-members \$25. Limited space requires pre-registrations. You may make your reservation and pay with a credit card using Eventbrite or call the SHS office at 970-468-2207 to reserve your spot.

For more information about Sandra Dallas and her books, check her website: sandradas.com. There are questions to help when reading her books and information about quilting.



Alpine Bank
Member FDIC

The Old-Fashioned Christmas Bazaar

In November the Society held its 3rd Annual Christmas Bazaar. We had so many vendors apply for a booth, we outgrew the schoolhouse. This year the event was held at Dillon Community Church on Friday and Saturday. Thanks to all who participated. The Society made over \$500.00 from the weekend. Watch for special events planned for next year's bazaar.

Dillon's Festival of Lights

The Society's participation in Dillon's Festival of Lights brought many people to the decorated schoolhouse for crafts and a drink. The huge Christmas tree sported many Victorian ornaments. From the accounts of those members who helped on the four Friday evenings, the visitors really enjoyed themselves. We hope to participate again next year.



Summer Events

The summer events calendar is taking shape.

Dillon Schoolhouse Museum

The schoolhouse will open July 5 and be open from Tuesday through Friday, from 11:00 until 3:00, until September 2. If you would like to become a docent at the schoolhouse, please contact Christy at the SHS office to learn when the training sessions will be held.

Lake Dillon Boat Tours

Boat rides on Lake Dillon begin in mid-June and run through the end of August. If you would like to become a boat guide, please contact Christy at the SHS office to learn when the training sessions will be held.

Dillon's Farmers' Market

The Society will staff its table at the Dillon Farmers' Market from June 24 through September 2. Stop in and say hello. When you are there, look for the new special gift you can buy to advertise the Society and carry your books.

Walking Tour of Dillon

The Dillon, Denver, and the Dam talk and walk will be offered starting July 14 and ending August 25.

Donor's Celebration

Save July 6 for the Donor's Celebration. Donors will receive invitations.

The Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social

On July 16, there will be 5-cent ice cream for everyone at the Ice Cream Social. Many volunteers make this "fun" event a successful event. Please say yes when you are called.

Historical Hikes

The Board approved two new fund-raising hiking/driving adventures this year. On July 20, Bill Fountain will lead a tour to Swandyke in celebration of his new book in the *Chasing the Dream* series, *Swandyke, from Boom to Bust to Dust*. Those attending will receive the new book as part of their registration fee. Rick Hague will lead a trip to the Mountain Pride mine on Mt. Baldy on August 17. Details are coming on both adventures.

History on the Move Bicycle Tours

The Society is planning two events for those who love to ride their bicycles—History on the Move. Watch for details.

Pastry and the Past

The very successful Pastry and the Past dessert and lecture series will be held Monday evenings, July 11, 18, 25, and August 2. Dessert will be served at 7:30. Please note the change in time. The list of speakers and topics will be sent soon.

Fund-raising Breakfast at the Elks' Lodge

Plan to enjoy a yummy breakfast at the Elks breakfast scheduled for Sunday, July 31. Bring your appetites!

50th Anniversary Celebration

Your Society, formed October 25, 1966, is 50 years old! Come celebrate with fellow members at a gathering at the Schoolhouse at the time of the annual meeting on August 11 at 5:30. There will be BBQ-picnic food. The Board will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, and condiments. Members will be asked to bring salads and desserts. More details coming.

A new book will be ready as part of the celebration. Rick Hague and Sandie Mather have combined all of the short articles they wrote for the *Summit Daily News* into a book entitled, *Windows to the Past*. Rick gathered lots of historic photographs to accompany each of the vignettes.

We wish to thank Gary Soles of the Breckenridge Photo Shop for generating a CD of over 150 of the Society's most popular photographs for use in the new book. Gary had previously scanned these photos in an earlier arrangement with the Society to sell the photos on a commission basis to his retail clientele. The CD, now in the Mather Archive in Breckenridge, will become part of the growing collection of digitized photographs available for research.

Guardians of Our Historical Heritage

The SHS Board thanks the following people for responding to our fall appeal or giving through Colorado Gives Day:

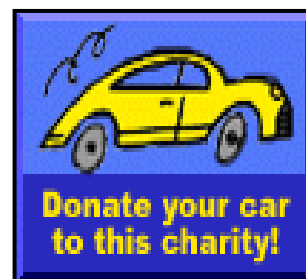
Jean Adams
 Mary and Glenn Amstutz
 Corina Aragon
 Kathie and Dick Becker
 Jean Berkheiser
 Peggy and Doug Brown
 Susan Brown
 Charlotte Clarke
 Maggie and Jim Cox
 Pat and Mike Dahly
 Diana Deittmering
 Jerry Eggleston—In Memory
 of Judith A. Eggleston
 Candy Emerson
 Carol and Bob Faust
 Jackie Ferguson
 Karen Goldman
 Juliana Gordon

Tom Gross
 Linda and Rick Hague
 Linda and Brian Hall
 Carol Hammack—In Memory
 of Jim Hammack
 Jim and Jean Hammond
 Janet Humphrey
 Pat Hutson
 Duke Kaminsky
 Nancy and Chuck Kauffman
 Linda and Larry Kelly
 Susan Knopf
 Fran Krech
 Sandie Mather
 Don and Jo Miller
 The Moose Jaw
 Christy and Glenn Nelson
 Dick Ramsey

Claudia and Paul Schickler
 Chuck Simmons
 Judy and Rich Skovlin
 Karen and Allen Spelman
 Spirit Builders
 Kathi Suelflow
 Cheryl Tatro
 Deb and Ken Torrington
 Karen and Alex Turner
 Steven Walker
 Robert Wiegand

Vehicle Donation

Do you have a vehicle that you wish to donate? The Society joined many other non-profit organizations that are part of the Vehicles for Charity program. It is a very simple process to donate. Christy has the phone number. The Society gets 80 percent of the sale price of the vehicle; Vehicles for Charity keeps 20 percent. Cars should not be more than 5 years old at the time of donation.



Other Ways to Support the Society

Don't forget to select the Society as your non-profit of choice when you use your City Market card or order from AmazonSmile.com.

New Membership Categories

The Society's membership brochure has been redesigned (thanks, Christy) and the membership categories redefined. As always, we welcome new members at any of the levels. We support our programs mainly on funding received from yearly dues. There are six levels of membership. All members receive *Voices*; advance e-mail notices of events; weekly e-mail updates of summer events and news; discounts on photographic reproductions ordered from the Mather archive; and reduced registration fees on selected events.

An individual member: \$35 per year

Couple (two adults): \$60 per year

Family (adults and children): \$100 per year

The following three levels are for those wishing to support the Society in an extra special way.

Miner level: \$250-\$499 per year

You will receive in addition to a one-year membership:

recognition in our newsletter, on the website, and on social media; free advertising in our newsletter and on social media, thus making this a membership suited to companies, small businesses, and organizations as our newsletter goes to over 200 members; an invitation to a Donor Celebration and Happy Hour; and a coupon for a free admission for one of our summer events.

Rancher level: \$500-\$999 per year

You will receive in addition to a one-year membership:

recognition in our newsletter, on our website, and on social media; free advertising in our news-

letter and on social media; an invitation to a Donor Celebration and Happy Hour; a coupon for two free admissions for one of our summer events; one free book published by the Summit Historical Society; and a Victorian tea party for four in the Myers Cabin, subject to availability and calendar.

You Bought the Ranch and the Mine! \$1000 and above

You will receive in addition to a one-year membership:

recognition in our newsletter, on our website, and on social media; free advertising in our newsletter and social media; an invitation to a Donor Celebration and Happy Hour; a coupon for four free admissions for one of our summer events; two free books published by the Summit Historical Society (and a special gift to carry those two books); and a Victorian tea party for four in the Myers Cabin, subject to availability and calendar.

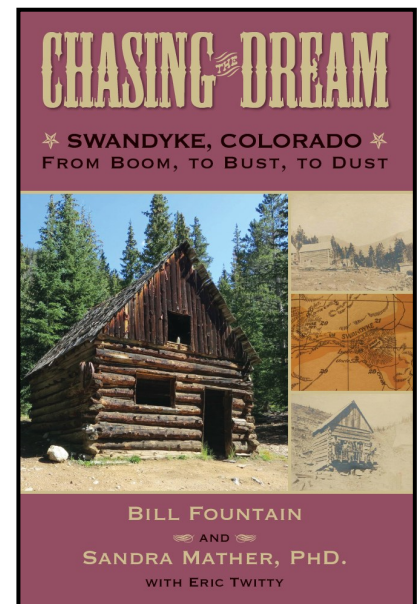
Chasing the Dream, Swandyke, Colorado, Boom to Bust to Dust

The fourth book in the *Chasing the Dream* series, *Swandyke, Colorado, Boom to Bust to Dust*, will soon be available from Bill Fountain and the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance.

The book tells the story of the birth and death of Swandyke, located almost at the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Swan River.

Known as Middle Swan until 1897, the first part of the name refers to its location on the Middle Swan River. A dyke, the English spelling for the word “dike,” is a mineralized vein that cuts across pre-existing rock. Swandyke actually existed in three separate locations: the original site on the Middle Swan Road; the second location along Bull Creek just across the Swan River; and the third site, referred to as Upper Swandyke, another mile farther up the mountain at tree line.

Swandyke, with a lifespan of about ten years, typifies the many, short-lived boom-to-bust Colorado mining towns. The record of the men and women who lived and worked there and the photographs taken by a miner in 1899 of the town’s main street and surrounding area set it apart from other such towns. Of special interest is information about Carl Fulton, one of the earliest to live and work in the town. A miner and entrepreneur, Fulton played an integral part in the development of the town but left during the town’s declining days to pursue business interests in Breckenridge. The addition of archaeological information prepared by Eric Twitty gives the reader important details about what existed at the sites and the remains that can still be seen by a visitor.



New Book about the Narrow Gauge Railroads running from Como to Leadville

Last fall, your Society president along with Bob Schoppe, President of the Denver, South Park & Pacific Historical Society, and Simone Belz, Museum Manager, Frisco Historic Park & Museum, began collaborating on a new book for Arcadia Publishing entitled *The Narrow Gauge Railroads of Summit County, Colorado.* The book will include photographs from the SHS Collection, the Denver, South Park & Pacific Historical Society, Frisco Historic Park & Museum, Bill Fountain, Rick Hague, Breckenridge Heritage Alliance, and others. The book includes chapters telling the story of the two railroads (the Denver, South Park & Pacific and the Denver & Rio Grande) from Como to Leadville. Yes, I know, we stretched beyond Summit County a bit to tell the whole story.



Courtesy of Rick Hague



Uneva Slide Near Curtin

Snow slides commonly caused problems each winter in the Ten Mile Canyon. The Uneva Lake area near Curtin, just west of Frisco, provided particular trouble each winter. Here the rotary struggles to clear snow deeper than the top of its blades. When it goes as far as it can into the drift it will back out and hand shovellers will shovel the top of the slide onto the cleared track. The rotary will move forward and throw that snow away from the track. The process will continue until the track is clear.



Wreck at Washington Spur

Refrigerator car 24011, originally a Tiffany patent refrigerator car, stands on the right. Engines 60 and 70, along with flanger plow 08, used to clear the snow from the tracks, headed the train. The engineer on engine 70, Curley Colligan, spent 14 months in the hospital recovering from his injuries before returning to work.

New Volunteer Coordinator

With funding from the Town of Dillon, the Board approved hiring a volunteer coordinator, Margaret Knode. Margaret will be coordinating schedules for schoolhouse docents and boat guides; finding people to help with Pastry and the Past; and identifying volunteers for special events such as the 50th anniversary celebration. When she calls, please say yes.

New Website

Check it out! The Society has a new website: www.SummitHistoricalSociety.org. Thanks to Graham Hukill, a friend of archivist Susan Gilmore, we now have a website that will keep people informed and attract them to our events. All organizations are learning that visitors increasingly use websites and social media to plan their trips to destinations such as Summit County. We will stress both in advertising this summer.

Excerpts from *Windows to the Past*

Skiing Through History—the Naming of the Peak 9 Trails

THE PEAK 9 SKI AREA AT BRECK, originally named **Royal Tiger Mountain**, first saw the light of day in the 1971-72 season. The Royal Tiger Mines Company, a local mining company, was formed in 1917 by local mining engineer, John A. Traylor. Over a 15-year period, Royal Tiger came to own most of the mining properties in French Gulch and the Swan River area before it went bankrupt in the mid-1930s.



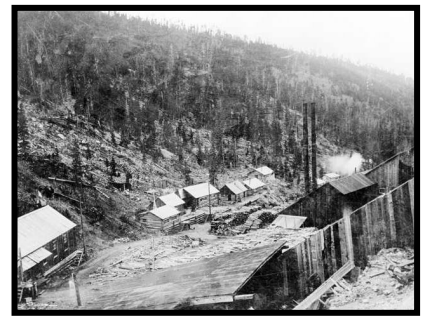
The original lifts on Peak 9, in a stunning flash of imagination, carried the names “A” and “B,” with “C” added in 1972. Lift **A**—the lower portion originally located near the current **Quicksilver** lift— and **C** still carry skiers, moseying their way slowly up the mountain. “**D**,” built in later years, sat where the current Mercury SuperChair is located, while “**E**,” also still with us, operates on the backside of Peak 9. “**F**,” added in later years, became what is now called the **Falcon SuperChair** on Peak 10 in 1985. The original location of “**B**” is known only to the blizzards of past winters.

While the original lift names had no historical meaning, many of the names for Peak 9 runs were taken straight out of local history. **Wellington**, the largest mine in the Breckenridge area, opened in the 1880s and finally closed in 1972-73. The silver/lead/zinc mine in French Gulch was vital during World War II for its high-grade zinc ore. The nearby **Country Boy** operates as a tourist attraction in French Gulch. This mine also began operations in the 1880s and, along with the Wellington, produced valuable high-grade zinc ore during World War II.



Silverthorne was named for one of the more colorful figures in Breck history—Judge Marshal Silverthorn—an early 1860 prospector who soon learned that “mining the miners” was far more lucrative than mining itself. He opened the Silverthorn Hotel on the site of the current Downstairs at Eric’s in Breckenridge, owned at least one mining supply store, and served as a judge. Despite his pint size, he was known for his fiery disposition, outspokenness, and fairness. Finally, note the spelling—the town of Silverthorne adopted its version of the judge’s name, thinking that the “e” on the end added “class” to the name.

Cashier, one of the original runs on Peak 9, honors the silver/lead/zinc Cashier Mine in Browns Gulch in the Swan River area, active from the 1880s until the early 1970s. It was very close to Swan City, an early gold mining camp whose namesake ski run is on Peak 7. Others included **Gold King**, a large, local placer gold claim, and **Lehman**, named after Lehman Creek which, in turn, probably carried the name of an early prospector in the area.



Two of the three current lifts on Peak 9 have mining-related—or seemingly related—names. **Quick-silver**—not given that name until the 1986/87 season—is an informal name, or nickname, for mercury, a silvery, metallic liquid element used in an early gold recovery process called retorting. Mercury “dissolved” gold and silver flakes. Miners then boiled off the mercury to recover the precious metals. They had no idea that mercury vapor is highly, highly toxic.

The **Mercury** lift might seem to be a convenient link to our mining past as well. However, the lift (originally located at the site of the current-day Beaver Run SuperChair) honored the Mercury space program of the early 1960s. Mercury astronauts, Alan Shepard, John Glenn, Scott Carpenter, and Gordon Cooper, attended the lift opening ceremony in 1990, due possibly to a personal connection between the space program and then ski area Marketing Manager Dave Peri.

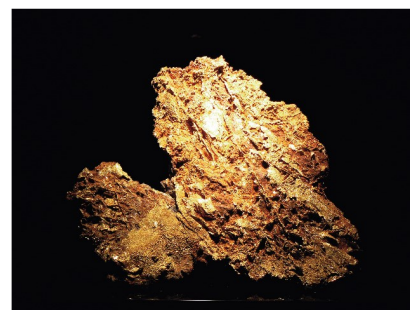
Several other runs carry the names of early local silver/lead/zinc mines—the **Briar Rose**—an 1880s mine visible on the north slopes of Peak 10 from its namesake run on Peak 9—and **Union**—a mine complex. The Union Mine and Mill are in French Gulch near the current Wellington neighborhood.

How about the fiery “hell” theme on the back side of Peak 9? No real connection to local history but some good stories . . . ski area management in the mid-1970s wanted some catchy names for the very steep new area, the steep road to hell was the way it was expressed. Local skiers, and perhaps the Ski Patrol, had long called a steep chute in the area **Devil’s Crotch**. “Crotch” seemed pretty “catchy” and the meanest name the Patrol could think of in line with the “hell” theme—at least for a family ski area.

One run was called **Inferno** but little did management know that the area would soon live up to its name. During the cutting of the run in 1975, the trail crew was burning slash from the cutting operation when a drum of diesel fuel rolled into the fire, igniting its own inferno. **Hades** and **Purgatory** round out the theme in the area.



Tom's Baby has a dual origin—the name originally recognized the ski area's trails director—Tom Timmons—who designed the trail and helped to cut it in 1977. In short order, the ski area managers realized that Tom's Baby was also the largest mass of gold ever discovered in Colorado, near Breckenridge in July of 1887. No one knows whose “mom” the **Tom's Mom** run honored. Then there is **Mineshaft**, not much to do with hell, unless working underground in the 1880s could be considered as hell, which it probably was.



Not far from the backside trails of Peak 9 is **Volunteer**, referring to the Ski Patrol. They received the honor in about 1990 when **Volunteer** recognized the fact that the Patrol was then a volunteer corps of dedicated safety patrollers at Breck.



And finally, on a bit of a sad and nostalgic note, we celebrate **Kevin Brown** and his **Peak 9 Restaurant**, which faded into history at the end of the 2014-15 season. Kevin and his recently deceased business partner, **Barbara Tunncliffe**, leased and operated the restaurant, beginning in the 1973/74 season. The restaurant reverted back to Breck Ski Resort control and is now operated as the **Overlook Restaurant**. Goodbye, **Kevin and Barbara**, and many thanks for all of

those years of great hospitality, friendship, and good food.

This certainly does not exhaust the historically named trails of Peak 9 but does provide a nice sample of why things are as they are on today's ski slopes. Thanks to Robin Brown for some of the history in this article and to CJ Mueller, Olympic speed skier and longtime local.



Photographs in this excerpt are courtesy of Rick Hague

Summit Historical Society

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