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Early Wagon Collection Donated to the Society

Imagine every means of horse-drawn transportation in the early West that you have ever seen in the movies or in museums – Conestoga wagons, peddler’s wagons, huge freight wagons, grain wagons, caissons, log haulers, and, yes, even hearses for that final journey. Well, we have them all – thanks to Charles Hildebrandt and his daughter Ms. Claudia Willard.

Mr. Hildebrandt (a former Breckenridge resident who now lives in Denver and is in his 80s) is a prolific and long-time model builder. In fact, in the late 1990s, Mr. Hildebrandt built an operating scale model of the 1905-vintage Reliance dredge – which operated in French Gulch near Breckenridge until 1920 - complete with three small electric motors to demonstrate the manner in which the dredge operated. Mr. Hildebrandt donated the dredge model to the Society in 1998.

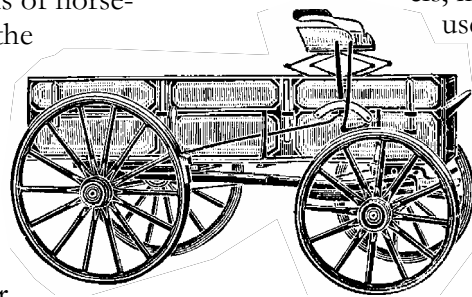
It is Mr. Hildebrandt’s wagon models though – 21 in all – that really stir the imagination. Through the efforts of Claudia Willard and Mr. Hildebrandt’s generosity, the entire collection was donated to the Society in the summer of 2004. In addition to the wagon collection, Mr. Hildebrandt also donated three working machine mod-

els, machines that were used to build the wagons of the late 19th century and early 20th century – a wheel-fabricating machine, a large table saw, and a large lumber saw.

All of the models are built to scale, painted, and decorated with painstaking detail, accuracy, and craftsmanship. To document the wagon details, Mr. Hildebrandt, Claudia, and her late husband visited museums and other sites that housed the real-life wagons.

Photographs, tape measures, and library research provided the detail and measurements for Mr. Hildebrandt’s efforts. The models are in pristine condition and will be displayed in the hoped-for future museum in Keystone. This museum will also house the Society’s early Summit County transportation exhibit.

We sincerely thank Mr. Hildebrandt and his daughter, Claudia, for this magnificent gift and invite our members to view it once the Keystone museum is established.



Letter from the President

by Rick Hague, President



Well, it must be winter. That white stuff coming out of the sky again. After a quick review of my recent letters, though, I see that it seems to be snowing every time I write this letter to you, our members. Must be a result of living at 10,000 feet.

As I noted in my last letter, we were coming off a very strong and productive summer season of programs, events, lecture series, tours, and projects. At this writing, we're looking forward to a vigorous and eventful winter program thanks to **Karen Fischer** and **Liz Duxbury**, our Program Coordinators.

Karen will feature our seasonal family-oriented programs centered on the Carter Museum and the Briggie House. We are also continuing three-day-a-week tours at the Carter Museum and the Barney Ford House Museum (we have a big-time need for volunteers for these two sites, by the way). Liz, for the first time in the northern part of Summit County, has organized Halloween programs as well as Holiday Season family programs at the Silverthorne Museum and the Dillon Schoolhouse.

Both Karen and Liz have also scheduled a winter lecture series that will serve as our monthly membership meetings in a continuation of last year's programs. The first of the series occurred in late November as a part of Keystone ski

area's 34th birthday weekend. Mary Ellen Gilliland gave a great talk and slide show on the history of the Keystone area and of local historical figure Lula Myers.

So, as you can see, we continue to expand our programs throughout the county and throughout the year. Fall and winter used to be hibernation time! But, by and large, our primary activity in this past fall quarter can be summed up in three words – infrastructure, infrastructure, and infrastructure. We used the “quiet time” between our summer and winter programs to really work on the areas of the Society not generally seen by the public nor by our members.

Perhaps our greatest effort centered on the Dillon Schoolhouse-based archive facility. **Jim Cox** and **Jim McNaul** combined to build a new partition (including locking door) in the Schoolhouse Annex so as to provide us with archive security and controlled access for the first time in our history.

Jim and Jim also managed to acquire and install five new map cases in which to store our huge collection of vintage maps and large photographs. Bookcases and a photo-storage cabinet were also installed in this area.

Liz Duxbury began the formidable task of establishing and implementing procedures to log our vast collection of books, maps, and photographs into our inventory system, *Past Perfect*. We also moved all of the Society's collection of books, maps, and photos that were located in other facilities throughout the county into the Dillon Annex.

For perhaps the first time in our 38-year history, all such archive materials that are not a part of an exhibit are now located in Dillon for easy research, access and control.



Contributors to this issue: Rick Hague, Rich Skovlin, Karen Mulsolf.

Summit Historical Society Voices is published more-or-less quarterly. Articles, Letters, Calendar information and other items may be e-mailed to the editor, at BarbaraJY@msn.com. The editor also receives U.S. mail addressed to Barbara J. Yost, 3531 Bryant Street, Denver, CO 80211 when she is not sailing on Lake Dillon, swing dancing at the amphitheater or at home in her little Dillon condo.

Deadlines:

Winter issue, December 1	Spring issue, March 1
Summer issue, June 1	Autumn issue, September 1

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Letter from the President *Continued*

All of this may not pull your chain from an excitement perspective but, hey, what are historical societies all about except for preserving history and making it accessible to researchers – much of that history being in print and image form. We are now looking into installing an intrusion/fire alarm system so as to protect this valuable resource.

Having the promise of a full-fledged archive facility in our near-term future, the Society's Board, at its November meeting, topped things off by honoring one of our very long-term and faithful volunteers, **Ann Rutledge**, the Society's archivist. Our new facility will be dedicated as the **Ann Rutledge Archive and Research Room**. Ann has managed and organized this facility for years and years, if not decades, and has recruited a faithful corps of volunteers to assist her in maintaining some semblance of order in our collection of some 20,000 artifacts and archive items. Sincere congratulations are due to Ann and her volunteers.

Continuing our feverish pace of organization and order, we also completely cleaned out and organized the Society's "attic" – the Rice Barn in Summit Cove. Thanks to **Tom Wheeler** and our immediate Past President **Barbara Yost**, the Rice Barn was restored to much of its original 1916-era splendor last year. Unfortunately, being a barn, the Rice Barn also became a convenient place to "store" stuff – you name it, it got dumped there, much to Tom's consternation.

Tom has done a tremendous job in organizing an effort to transform the barn into a museum and tour location for the 2005 season. Thanks to the efforts of **Jim McNaul, Jim Cox, Bill Leigh, and several county jail volunteers**, the barn was completely "reborn" as the location where horses of the Montezuma – Dillon Rice family

freight business were housed in the early part of the 20th century.

Our adrenalin was clearly in full flood after the Rice Barn effort, so we turned our attention to our last untamed, unorganized "storage facilities" – the Briggie House attic, Milne House, and Eberline House – all in Breckenridge. The Society and the Town of Breckenridge quickly arrived at an agreement regarding "who owns what" in all three locations.

Our energized and experienced Rice Barn crew then moved in and, in one day, moved all Society-owned artifacts from the Milne and Eberline Houses into Society-owned facilities. The Briggie attic was cleaned out and organized as part of this effort. This move was, in part, driven by the Town's intention to perform some major restoration work in the Milne House this winter.

So, again, while it might not ring your bell, for perhaps the first time in our history, the Society now has full control of all of its 20,000-odd-item collection in its own facilities or exhibits where it will be easier to inventory this collection into *Past Perfect*. Additionally, all parties agree on "who owns what" – not a small accomplishment – and we have no disputed ownership issues to contend with.

We have also moved forward on finding a new home for the Breckenridge Main Street Museum. You might recall that our great, nearly three-year relationship with **Grand Timber Lodge** was ended in October. We have two new possibilities, at this writing – both on Main Street, Breckenridge. It is premature to reveal more details, but it appears likely that by early 2005 the Main Street Museum will "ride again". More, hopefully, in our next issue.

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2004 New Members and/or Members Returning (after a long absence)

Business Members

Community First National Bank

Kristina Gold Jewelry Design

Prudential Timberhill Real Estate

Scandia Butik

Tiger Run Resort

Wells Fargo Bank

Westar Bank

Individual & Family Members

Bonnie Smith and Rodney Allen

Barbara and Jim Anderson

Mary Jo Banbury

Paul Barringer

Janelle and Phillip Brown

Linda and David Carr

Elinor Christiansen

Joan deGraaff

Phyllis Dolinsky

Daniel Dorale

John Feinberg

Cheryl Flanagan

Katie and Pat Forshey

Clare and Bill Freas

Janet and Gary Freese

Bob Girvin

Sandy Greenhut

Susie and Rick Grossman

Jan and Tom Hallin

Evelyn and Peter Harder

Barbara and David Hefflebower

Robert Heistand

Jean Hillery

Donald Janes

Judy and Lee Keller

Elinor King

Kenyon Kugler

Sally and Andrew Lewis

Eric Mamula

Barbara and John Markert

Beverly and David McArthur

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From the SHS Archives...

Schoolmarm: a Conversation with Florine Anthony Wiltsie at age 96

By Rich Skovlin, recorded February 16, 1985

In the Fall issue of *Voices* Mrs Wiltsie described how she came to teach on the Smith ranch on the Lower Blue at the age of nine-teen. She told about the little schoolhouse and the students she taught there.

In this installment she talks about the ranch house, how the family lived and social life on the Smith ranch.

Because this interview is a transcription of an audio tape, it is possible that some names are misspelled. Should any of our Lower Blue historians spot an error, SHS *Voices* will be much enhanced by publishing a correction. Please send any corrections to barbarajy@msn.com

Thank you for your assistance!

FW I lived with the Smiths as one of them. Now Mr. Smith was just about the wealthiest person of anyone around there. He had more land and more cattle and all. He would go around big; he'd go to Denver, he'd go to Dillon and Breckenridge and places like that, but he never ever took his wife. She told me there was a time she hadn't been off of that place in twenty years. When I was there they didn't even have clothes to dress up. Mr. Smith dressed up, but the children and Mrs. Smith just had their everyday clothes.

RS Where would you shop? Would you go in on a Saturday or Sunday to shop?

FW Nobody shopped but Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith did it all at about one to six weeks or something. He'd take a team and go to Breckenridge and buy all the groceries.

We had our own meat on the place because of the cattle, and I think they had some pigs too. In the summer Mrs. Smith had a garden so they had some vegetables. There wasn't much in there. They were good folks. They had what they needed but nothing very...

Their house was a log house. It was built like this: one part lay off to the Southeast. Our bedrooms, where we slept, were in the far end. There was a room that had a stove that never had a fire in it. All the furniture was home made—all their chairs and the table. There wasn't anything in that house except for the stove and a little safe of some sort that he had. That was their bedroom. Any time we wanted to go to the kitchen we had to go through their bedroom.

At the end [of the house] was a big room where the stove was and where we dined. They had a very long table there. The men—the hired men and all—sat at the table. The men sat at one end. The children sat at the middle on the sides. We women sat at the other end of the table.

RS To get away from the cigar smoke?

FW There really wasn't much of that. There didn't seem to be much smoking at that time. We young people used to get together in the evening sometimes...we certainly didn't do any of that (smoking)!

One time Mrs. Smith decided she wanted some clothes. I paid \$10 a month for room. She saved that and gave that to my mother. [Mother] bought a coat for Mrs. Smith and one for each of the girls and some things for the baby, acting like we sent it up there. We never had anything to dress up in.

One time Frank Stafford wanted to take Alice to a dance and she didn't have any clothes to wear. She was smaller than I was. I wasn't big, but I was taller. Anything that I could wear I let her have to do [something] with. I think she sewed up [my dress] to go to that dance.

RS Was there any other kind of social life among the farms?

FW No, no other. They got their mail from that stagecoach. He went down [to Dillon] one day and came back the next. I suppose if you wanted something he would get it. We'd go to the box right there on the road to get our mail. We had to go down from way up on the hill there, down to that box.

FW I don't remember doing too much. We really didn't play cards or do anything. But we had fun together, generally out in the bunkhouse. I should have told you more about the big room in which they had the little stove. The stove wasn't very big but they did the cooking there. And then the dining part where the long table was. On the other side of the room were some shelves where they had the milk--where they milked the cows while they worked on these shelves. And of course they had the churn where they made their own butter. Outside in the back door was a well. It was under cover right there at the back door. It

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SHS Book Club Calendar of Events

January

Tue 18 "Ludlow and other Colorado Labor Uprisings"

7:00 p.m. Carter Museum, 111 North Ridge Street, Breckenridge
Facilitator: Anne Robinson Refreshments: Judy McCarroll

February

Tue 15 "Denver: Early Days"

7:00 p.m. Carter Museum, 111 North Ridge Street, Breckenridge
Facilitator: Jim McNaul Refreshments: Jim McNaul

March

Tue 15 "Mt. of the Holy Cross: Yesterday and Today"

7:00 p.m. Carter Museum, 111 North Ridge Street, Breckenridge
Facilitators: Bill and Karen Musolf Refreshments: Maureen Nicholls

The purpose of the Summit Historical Society Book Club is to enrich participants' understanding of Western history and literature. During fall, winter and spring it meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Please check additional announcements for further details. If you wish to join the Society's Book Club, please contact Karen Musolf at 970-453-8874 or bdrmoose@colorado.net

Late News

The Main Street Museum rides again! Coming in early January at 115 South Main Street in Breckenridge, next to the Horseshoe II restaurant. The exhibit will feature a history of skiing in Summit County—all kinds of skiing from mail delivery to recreation. Stay tuned!

From the SHS Archives...continued

was a pump. The other side was for the hired men. That's where they slept.

RS The hired men lived...it was kind of a long building, wasn't it?

FW It was built like this. At this end we slept. Down here was the dining-kitchen. And out that way was the bunkhouse. John had three or four hired men. And he was a great worker.

After I'd been there and I was going home, I asked Alice, who was a couple years older than I was, if she wanted to come home with me. Well she asked her father if she could go and he let her .

RS How old was Alice?

FW I was nineteen and I think she was twenty-one. She [stayed] about a month. That was the first trip she had ever had. She had never been to Denver. I don't know why she'd never been to Dillon. He just didn't take... They just stayed at home.

It was quite an experience for me. I used to go back in the summer and stay a couple or three weeks with them. We used to have fun.



Present day Lower Blue from the Historical Society's Slate Creek Site

Volunteer Appreciation

Why not join us in our many projects and roles? Add your name to this list of great people who are really contributing to their community and to the preservation of our heritage.



Once again, our corps of faithful volunteers stood up to be counted in this past quarter. As described in the President's Letter, a great deal of behind-the-scenes work was done to better organize our infrastructure in addition to work along our more traditional lines. We attempt to sincerely thank our great volunteers every opportunity we get – so here are this issue's "volunteers of the quarter":

We had a lot of support from our museum docent group and for this we are very grateful. At this time of year, the summer's visitors have gone home, and the winter's crop has not yet arrived, making for some lonely times for our docents. Nevertheless, **Deenie Zelkin** and **Joy Nunley** have faithfully kept the Edwin Carter Museum open in Breckenridge, while **Susan Preaus** and **Charlie Bond** have done the same in our Silverthorne Historical Museum. Many, many thanks to you all for your great support and assistance to Karen and Liz.

Speaking of museums, once again we recognize and thank **Nancy Fulton** for being the mainstay and "sparkplug" behind the Silverthorne Museum. Nancy has made this museum happen right from its beginning a year ago. We sincerely appreciate her great effort. Nancy is currently changing the exhibit at the museum to a new theme and also wrestling with arranging for new partners to assist us in the process we need to maintain someone in the museum for 68 hours per week. Our hats are off to you, Nancy.

Charlie Bond joined us only last summer, but he has already made his mark. Charlie began his association with us as a docent and guide in Dillon and Silverthorne. He was so enthusiastic and willing to step in wherever necessary that we soon asked him to join our Board. He then volunteered to be our Secretary. And now he has taken

responsibility for the retail sales program for our books and other items. In this latter capacity, he has organized and inventoried our book supply and moved it to one location. He's now developing a sales and distribution strategy to get our wares in stores throughout the county. Welcome aboard, Charlie, and thanks so much for all you do.

Karen West once again makes our appreciation list, this time for placing the holiday decorations in, on, and about our Briggie House in Breckenridge. This great Victorian house looks wonderful in the winter with its beautiful decorations and wreaths. You may remember that we thanked Karen in our last issue for the great gardening work she did last summer at the Briggie. Here's wishing you a warm and happy holiday season, Karen, and thanks so much for your contribution.

In the President's Letter, we spoke of a lot of moving, organizing, lifting, and tossing in several of our "storage" facilities. This was heavy work done under pretty cold conditions. Nevertheless, stalwarts **Jim McNaul**, **Jim Cox**, and **Bill Leigh** provided both the muscle power and the motive power to pull our trailers around the county as we distributed our various treasures to new locations. Many, many thanks, guys!

No thanks for this work would be complete without mentioning a great group of guys who have, over the past couple of years, provided countless hours of lifting, loading, shoveling – you name it. This is our corps of "**Trusties**" from the county jail. Our recent moves were no exception – these guys, who are short-term, minimum-security individuals, made an amazing amount of work happen in very short periods of time. And all in good humor as well. This is a great program that the county sheriff has developed as a reward for good behavior for these individuals and for county nonprofits. Definitely a win-win-win situation.

Letter from the President

Continued from page 3

The Society has recently been invited by the Town of Breckenridge to actively participate in the planning and development of a 5,000 sq. ft. information and historic center on Blue River Plaza in the center of Breckenridge.

The Town has purchased a building on the plaza to showcase the Town's attractions and heritage beginning in early 2006. This participation by the Society is yet another indication of the very positive relationship we have developed with the Town over the past two years or so. More in later issues as plans begin to formalize.

The Keystone museum prospect continues to move slowly ahead. It seems that I report the same set of facts in every issue of *Voices*. But I still firmly believe that it will happen. Shelves have been

A Fallen Comrade

We are sad to report that one of our very active members, volunteers, and Board of Director members has been badly injured in a hit-and-run skiing accident. Claudia Carbone, a resident of Breckenridge and professional journalist who specializes in ski resort and ski touring articles, was skiing at Breckenridge on November 19 when an out-of-control snow boarder struck her from behind.

The boarder picked himself up, said he would send the ski patrol, and hasn't been seen since. A Guest Services patroller summoned the ski patrol, and Claudia was moved, very painfully, off the slope to medical facilities. She was taken to the Vail Valley Medical Center where she was diagnosed with a pelvis broken in four places.

Claudia is now in a rehabilitation center in Denver where she is already on a physical rehabilitation program and is doing

built to house our collection of early transportation model wagons that were donated recently by long-time supporter and model builder, Charles Hildebrandt (see a separate article on this collection).

So, as you can see, we haven't been idle over the past three months – you just won't see much of our effort. Yet the strengthening of our base, our organization, is important so as to support our more visible programs, exhibits, and events.

Don't let the winter weather hold you back if you feel a need to volunteer! We have plenty of things going on to keep you busy! Just give Liz (970-468-2077) or Karen (970-453-9022) a call.

limited walking assisted my a metal-framed walker.

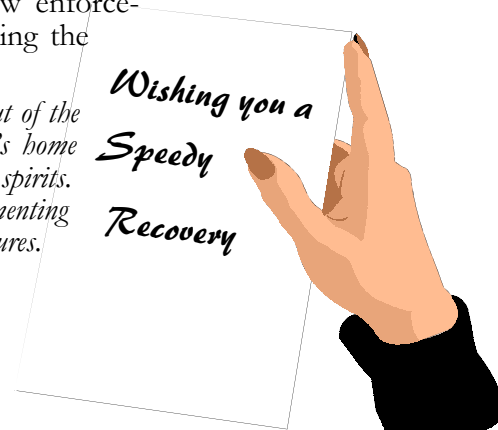
Despite the considerable pain and disappointment of being off the slopes and out of work for the season, Claudia is keeping her chin up and maintaining a smile on her face.

Our sympathy and best wishes go out to Claudia and her family for a speedy recovery. Local law enforcement officials are still seeking the boarder.

Late Flash! Claudia is now out of the hospital, recovering in a friend's home in Denver, and still in good spirits. Breck Ski Resort is implementing more strict speed Control Procedures.

2004 New Members
and/or
Returning Members
(continued from page 3)

Sandra and Patrick McKone
Ben Neivert
Marilyn Nelson
Aleene Nyquist
Pam and Rick Oshlo
Doug Pierce
Richard Regan
Carole Rice
Ed Rounds
Len Shipman
Dana Smith
Kurt Steuer
Duane Stewart
Paula and Jim Stover
Sandra and Richard Toy
Mary Ellen and Bill Vieth
Kelly Vowel
Karen and Andrew Walters
Barbara and Gary Weis
Jo and Del Whitmer
Judith and Trent Winegar
Jane and Nicholas Younk
Deanie and Howard Zelkin





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Lee Harrison
Heather Lemon
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Robert Porter
Tom Wheeler