



Summit Historical Society voices

Tommy Hobbs' Cabin on the Ellwood Ranch (present day Ski Tip) © Summit Historical Society

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Emma Scheid
(Grandma Yost)

Experience "A Child's Life, Turn of the Century"

A November opening is planned for an all-new exhibit at the Main Street Museum in Breckenridge. Funded by a grant from the Summit Foundation, the exhibit depicts life in Summit County from 1890-1910 through the eyes of children.

The exhibit will feature five individual "views" or vignettes of life during the turn of the century: *Readin', Writin', and 'Rithmetic* (schooling and education), *Health Care* (children's health issues, diseases, etc.), *Winter Life/Sports* (life and fun in the snow), *Children at Play* (toys and fun things to do), *Helping at Home* (chores and life at home), and *Children at Work* (after school jobs done by youth).

In conjunction with the new exhibit, author Bob McCracken is organizing the publication of Summit County history book from the Summit Historical Society archives. The charming book was compiled by county school children in the late 1930s.

The Society is seeking artifacts, photographs, and documents relating to the life of turn-of-the-century children that might be displayed in the exhibit. If you have such material and you are willing to loan it to the Society for the duration of the exhibit or to donate it to the Society's permanent collection, please contact Karen Fischer at (970)453-9022.

Holiday Dinner at the Historic Briggie House

By Patty Wahtera

A lovely evening is being planned that you won't want to miss. Mark your calendar for December 6, 2003, Saturday night, for the Briggie House Christmas Dinner. It's sure to be an enchanting evening



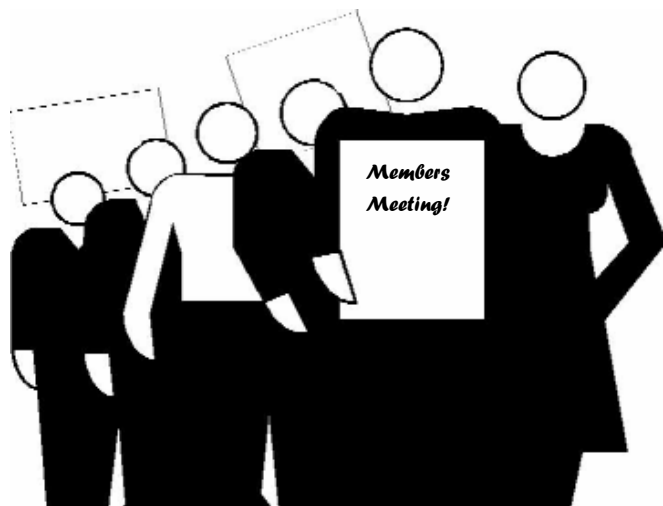
in the lovely setting of the historic home. The multi-course meal will be catered and served by the Hearthstone and there will be entertainment to put you in the holiday mood. So "pencil it in" for now and there will be a reminder forthcoming as the date nears!!

Mark your Calendar Now!

This year's popular holiday dinner has been scheduled for Saturday December 6th

Introducing! Monthly Member Meetings

by Rick Hague, President



In a continuing effort to provide greater membership value and programs

of historical interest to our members, Summit Historical Society is offering a program of monthly membership meetings which began in September. The Society had an excellent turnout during its summer series of historical lectures presented in conjunction with the Colorado Mountain College and intends to build upon that very successful formula.

Discussions are currently underway with the Frisco Historical Society to develop a joint membership meeting format, providing both groups with an activity of mutual interest and benefit. If all goes as hoped, both societies will arrange for speakers and cooperate in organizing the programs. No definite plans have yet been finalized for the joint membership format.

Having begun on September 26, the meetings will feature a short summary of each society's activities and current status followed by a lecture concerning historical topics of interest. The meetings will take place in Summit County's six main towns – Dillon, Frisco, Breckenridge, Silverthorne, Keystone/Montezuma, and Copper Mountain – with the lectures covering events from the history of the host town. The order of the meeting rotation between locations will approximate the order in which the towns first became settled.

The first speaker, on September 26, was author Bob McCracken who spoke on "Life Before the Gold Rush – the Ute Indian Culture" to provide the perspective of Summit County life before European settlement occurred. The first meeting will be held in the Breckenridge Town Hall auditorium on Ski Hill Road between Main and Park Avenues, at 7:00 p.m.

Subsequent meetings will be held in the last week of each month from October through April (excluding December). Exact dates, places, times, speakers, and lecture topics will be advertised in local papers, publicized through membership emails, and published in *Voices* and on the Summit Historical Society website. Member admission will be free, while guests and the general public will be charged a \$5 donation.

Contributors to this issue: Bill Fountain, Rick Hague, Patty Wahtera, Karen Fischer, Karen Musolf, Glenn Vawter, Doug Yost.

Summit Historical Society Voices is published 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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The Lost Flumes of the Swan

By Bill Fountain with Rick Hague

In late 2002, Rick Hague, Rich Skovlin and I discovered a second flume system on the Middle Fork of the Swan near the Tony Mine, at an altitude of 10,500 feet. This flume, believed to be the “Stevens Flume” mentioned in Fossett’s 1879 book, continued for about 4.8 miles on the 10,500-foot contour. The flume crossed the South Fork of the Swan and continued on to the lower section of the 1873 Mineral Survey 85 in American Gulch.

The Stevens flume was in very poor condition and was difficult to follow in the field. There was no ground preparation or grading done during construction of the flume. Instead, the builders had cut trees and placed the logs on the downside of the hill for grade-leveling purposes. There was evidence of tongue-and-groove running boards being used that were only one-half inch thick. It appeared that very few 2-inch by 2-inch support posts were used.

There are two locations where the Stevens Flume crossed old rockslides. The flume builders used large, flat rocks scavenged from the slide to build pedestals in and through the slide area to support the flume. These pedestals are still in place.

Some of the original boards are also still in evidence. Most have either rotted or been swept down the slope by snow and the elements.

At one point, the flume builders constructed two 6-foot by 6-foot cribbed squares with large logs to support the flume over a ravine. The builders used square nails of various sizes. The flume appears to have been built as economically as possible considering the lack of grading evident and the type of wood used.

We found a third system of ditches, the “American Ditch” referenced in Fossett’s

1879 book, in late 2002 at an elevation of 10,314 feet. This system ran from the South Fork of the Swan River to the south side of American Gulch. The observed distance was just over one mile, but the ditch probably continued onto the northern side of the gulch as well. A fourth ditch system was found at an elevation of 10,663 feet, but we have not identified it or followed it to date.

To date the Stevens Flume and American Ditch, we relied upon the filing dates for two sets of claims in 1873 that were probably serviced by the flume and ditch. The American Ditch and another unnamed flume were shown on the 1873 surveyor’s maps of both sets of claims. In both cases, their map locations coincide with recent field observation of the Stevens Flume and American Ditch, indicating that both flume and ditch existed at least in 1873.

A federal government geological survey conducted in 1909 indicated that the American and Georgia gulches were both worked extensively in 1859 – 1860. It is therefore probable that the claims in these gulches were being worked prior to the 1873 claim filing date, perhaps as early as 1859-60.

Based upon that supposition, the Stevens Flume and the American Ditch probably date from at least the late 1860s to early 1870s (if not earlier). They were built to work the lower American and Monitor Gulches, and provided water for the hydraulic mining being done in the area at that time.

Further research has extended the story of the flume and ditch systems and the three companies into at least the 1890s.

This is the final installment of an article (that appeared in the Spring and Summer editions of *Voices*) about three companies that built ditches and flumes that carried water from mountain lakes and streams to the mining and milling sites of early Summit County. The full article appears on our website www.summithistorical.org

Calendar of Events



Exhibit

Main Street Museum will be closed,
September 24-November 14.
Beginning November 15
"A Child's Life, Turn of the Century"
10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. every day
111 South Main Street, Breckenridge
Free Admission

October

Tues 8 Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 p.m. Dillon Schoolhouse,
403 LaBonte Street, Dillon.



Fri 17—Sun 19

Book and Travel Club Adventure

"Tracking the Santa Fe Trail."

Join Anne Robinson's Plains group, to visit sites along the Santa Fe Trail in southeastern Colorado: Santa Fe Trail hike (1.2 flat miles), New Bent's Fort and Old Fort Lyon ruins, Boggsville, Bent's Old Fort National Monument, Fort Lyon National Cemetery, Iron Springs and other sites. Some of the group may wish to camp at John Martin Reservoir; others will stay in lodging in Lamar, Colorado. Tour leader will be Anne Robinson.



For more information please call Karen Musolf (970) 453-8874

Tue Oct 21 Book and Travel Club

6:00 p.m. at the Carter Museum, 111 North Ridge, Breckenrdige.

Annual soup supper and planning meeting for fall, winter and spring. Come with suggestions for readings.

Free to members.

Thu 30 Haunted Histories &

Monstrous Mysteries

6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

104 N. Harris (NE corner of Harris and Lincoln), Breckenridge.

A "spooktacular" annual event that will take you on a haunted literary journey through three historic Breckenridge homes. Excerpts from some of literature's SPOOKIEST tales will be read in theatrical fashion by costumed actors from the Backstage Theatre. Historical Society docents will lead the tour leaving on the quarter hour. Appropriate for adults and children.

\$5 general admission — \$3 for children, Summit Historical Society members or Backstage Theater donors.

For more information call (970) 453-9022

November

Tue 11 Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 p.m. Carter Museum , 111 North Ridge Street, Breckenridge

December

Tues 9 Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 p.m. Dillon Schoolhouse,
403 LaBonte Street, Dillon.

Sat 6 Holiday Dinner at Briggie House

6:00 p.m.

A lovely evening with holiday entertainment, catered by Hearthstone Catering. \$65 per person.

RSVP by November 30

Patty Wahtera (970) 453-8332



Calendar of Events

Wed 17 Victorian Christmas at Carter

1:00-4:00 p.m., Carter Museum,
111 N. Ridge St., Breckenridge

Make & Take Home Activity:
pomander balls, trinket tubes and
cranberry and popcorn garland
(ages 6 to 96).

\$10 per person. All Materials and
Refreshments included.
Reservation Recommended.

Call (970) 453-9022

Thu 18 Victorian Christmas at Carter

1:00-4:00 p.m., Carter Museum,
111 N. Ridge St., Breckenridge

Make & Take Home Activity: pomander
balls, trinket tubes and cranberry
and popcorn garland (ages 6 to 96).

\$10 per person. All Materials and Re-
freshments included. Reservation
Recommended.

Call (970) 453-9022

Fri 19 Victorian Open House

Times: 11a.m.-1:00 p.m.

1896 William A. Briggles House 104
North Harris Street (One Block North
of CMC in Breckenridge, Milne Park)

Enjoy light refreshments as we celebrate
the Holidays by showcasing this beauti-
fully restored Victorian House Museum.
Free, donations accepted.

Call (970) 453-9022

Sat 20 Victorian Christmas at Carter

10:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m., Carter Museum,
111 N. Ridge St., Breckenridge

Make & Take Home Activity: pomander
balls, trinket tubes and cranberry
and popcorn garland (ages 6 to 96).

\$10 per person, All Materials and Re-
freshments included, Reservation Rec-
ommended.

Sun 21 “Après Ski” Christmas High Tea

4:00 pm, Briggles House, 104 N. Harris
St. (One Block North of Colorado
Mountain College, Breckenridge)

Enjoy a traditional “Après Ski” High
Tea and Classic Christmas readings at
this beautifully restored Victorian
house museum decorated in traditional
Victorian holiday trimmings (ages 6 to
96).

\$20 per person, includes refreshments.

RSVP on or before December 18th

Call (970) 453-9022



Members Savored Rice Family Recollections By Barbara Yost

After the brief annual meeting at
the Rice Barn on August 2, members filled
the cozy Cala Inn in Summit Cove to meet
the Rice family, renew friendships and get
acquainted with some new folks.

Everyone enjoyed Dr. Alan Rice's
photos, many of which were taken with a
bellows camera before the 1940s. Some of
the best moments were the good natured
banter between Dr. Rice and Max and Edna
Dercum, as well as some fact-checking be-
tween Rice and Mary Ellen Gilliland. When
we learned that Edna was celebrating her
birthday, we all sang “Happy Birthday”

The Calla Inn treated us well, bring-
ing platter after platter of fish and chips,
wonderful fresh salad, garnished with
smoked trout, and serving ice cream for
dessert.

We all had a great time and we
raised about \$1000 for our \$9000 match to
the State Historical Fund grant to preserve
the Rice Barn.



2003 annual meeting
Photo: Glenn Vawter

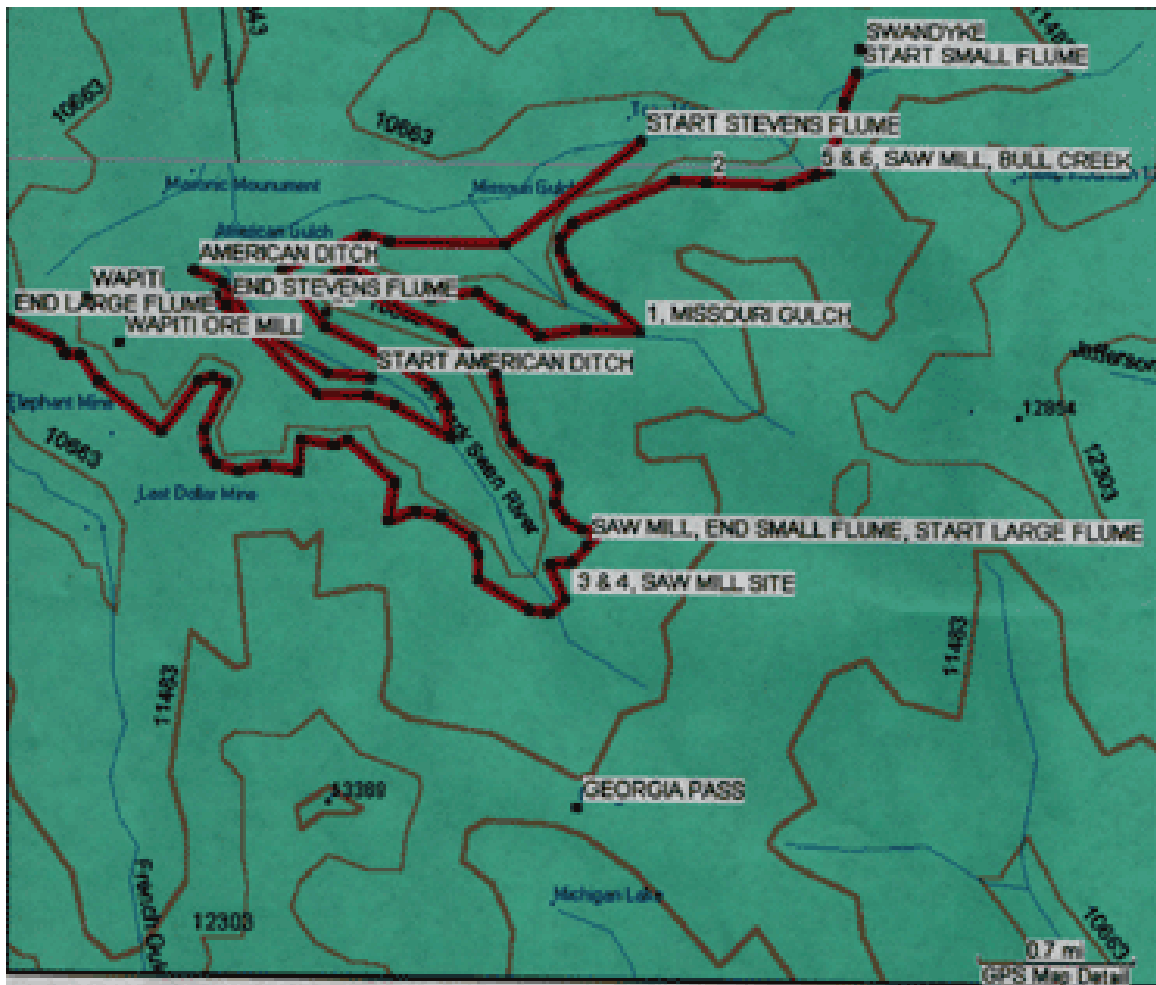


Haying at the Rice Barn
in the 1930's

Photo courtesy of Dr.
Alan Rice

Lost Flumes...from page 3

Historical Society members Bill Fountain and Rick Hague like to hike back in the woods where most people don't go. Summers find Rick volunteering as a tour guide at the Lomax Gulch Placer Mine and the Washington hardrock mine.



The 1974-1975 Daugherty report states: "The property of the Wapiti Mining Company originally constituted the property of the old Fuller Company located on the north side of Farncomb Hill. Colonel M. B. Carpenter and A. J. Ware of the Victoria Mining Company owned the property prior to the Wapiti Company takeover in 1894."

Daugherty continues: "The Wapiti Mining Company filed Articles of Incorporation on February 24, 1894." Additionally, "on March 16 (1894), Wapiti (a town site) was designated a post office."

We spent many weeks in the field

exploring for and tracing the remains of the flumes, ditches, and sites described in this article. In viewing the scattered, generally decomposed, and largely forgotten traces of civilization in what is now a lonely and deserted forest, I was struck with a number of emotions and impressions. Words such as isolation, danger, suffering, perseverance, loneliness, hardiness, and adventure come to mind. One can almost hear the thudding of axes in the forest, the shouts of men, the pounding of hammer on nail, the rush of water, and the crash of felled trees - now all dead and long forgotten

Lost Flumes...

As I think about all that we discovered and all our fieldwork implies, I am left with the overriding awareness of the primitive environment in which the men worked in the latter part of the 19th century in the Breckenridge gold fields. As evidenced by the cans and bottles found, the workers carried their food into these remote locations. They shot game for food, as evidenced by the bones found. They undoubtedly filled their canteens with water from streams. They slept in tents or in the open, only building cabins if they were to be in one place for a long period of time.

These men carried in all of their equipment and supplies. At first, there would have been no roads, only narrow steep trails. Then they worked from sunup to sundown for many long, tiring days.

The gold miners of 19th Century Breckenridge had no power tools, radios, TVs, SUVs, electricity or snowmobiles to use in building and maintaining shelters, transporting themselves to and from civilization, or in whiling away their few leisure hours.

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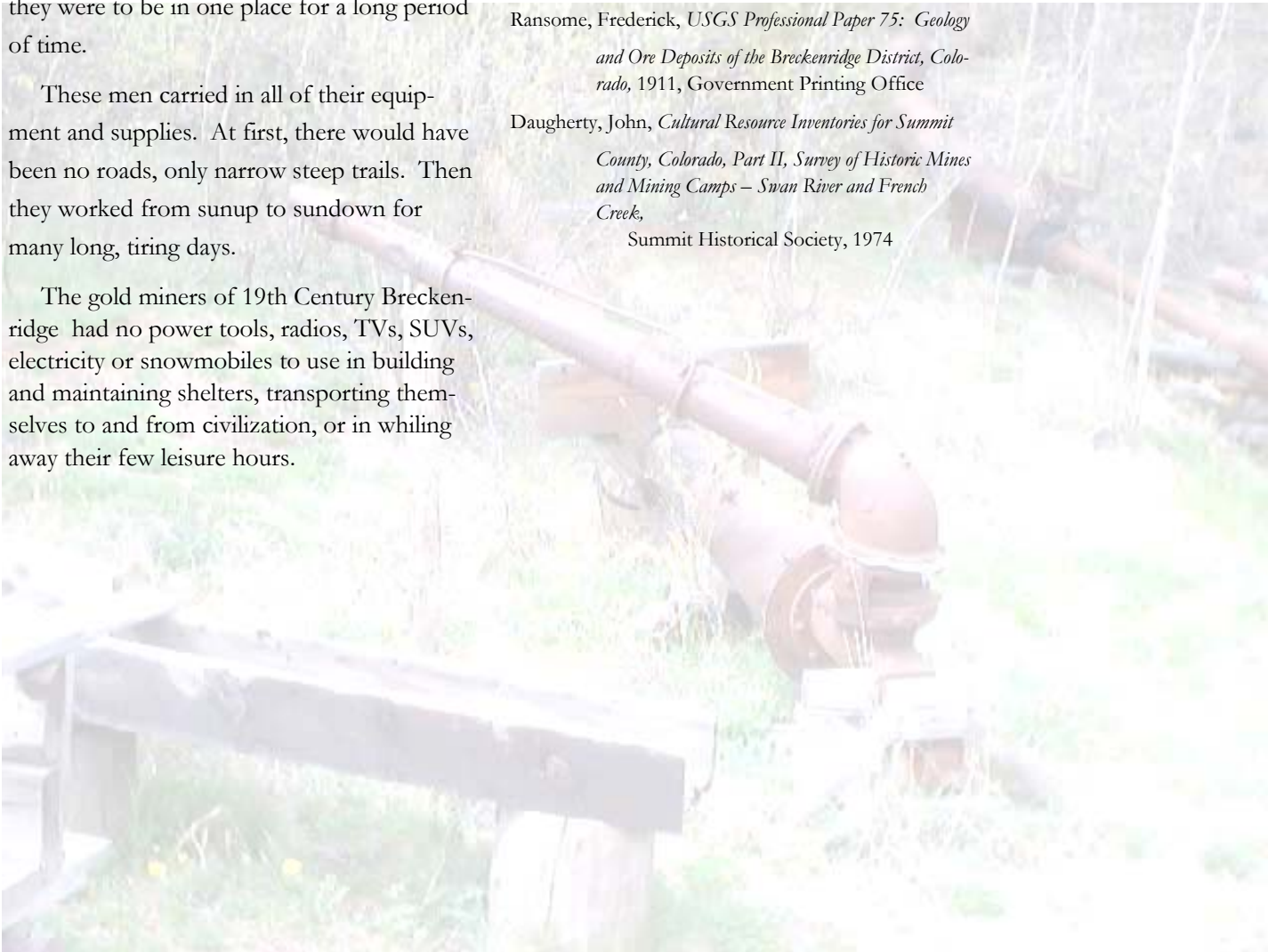
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Period photographs are owned and were furnished by The Ed and Nancy Bathke Collection

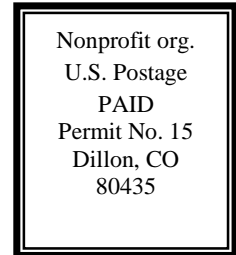
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We're on the 'Net!

<http://summithistorical.org>



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