GLAHS has received a lovely painting of the Cottage Court from Alan Hodges. Thank you, Alan!

If you or someone you know once stayed in the Cottage Court, please contact us. We are eager to collect memories and especially photographs of the Court back in the day.

The Board of Directors of the GLAHS wishes to express sincere thanks and appreciation for donations and pledges in support of the Cottage Camp Campaign. Recent pledgers and donors include: Mountain Food Market, Pancho & Lefty's, Grand Pizza, Grand Lake Rotary, Margaret White, Ken Larner, David & Hollie Lubchenco, Patti & John Stahl, Steve & Sue Armstead, Steve Batty, Elin & Jim Capps, Grand Realty, The Crabtree Co., The Red Sled. *Thank you all!*

"Judge" Joe Wescott's Bear

Exerpts from the memoirs of George W. Cox who camped on Grand Lake @1879 with two friends and three mules, transcribed by his great granddaughter, Pat Snyder.

The Judge's Story, copied by George Cox: One night I retired early, being extremely tired after a tedious day on the lake. I soon fell asleep. I judged it came about midnight and awoke me. It being something unusual. I listened attentively but could not distinguish the cause, only that it came from some large animal. I had forgotten to tie up the strings that held the door shut. This did not occur to me until too late. The night being a cold still moonlight one a heavy mist arising over the lake gave a gloomy Ghost like shade, that seemed very uncanny. Before I had decided on my plan of action, the door was pushed aside and a great Cinnamon Bear came in. I gave a shoop, sprang for my large sheath knife, and with one stroke opened a passage through the back end of the tent. I bolted through; as I jumped down from the logs, I saw the bear making for me. I did not take any more time for looking, but shinnied up a pine tree close at hand. I never went into a tree quicker. I did not find it a pleasure resort; the branches were few and far between that caused me to use my clinging capacity more than I enjoyed. Only the fear of that beast prevented my falling. My wardrobe of a necessity being quite scanty I soon began to feel the night air. The animal came out passing around the tent, and returned with a cub half grown. The old one tore an opening into the side of the tent and proceeded to go through my goods. They soon found my condensed milk, biting holes in the cans. The milk would come through; they would gether it with their tonges. They seemed to enjoy the find, judging from the many satisfied grunts that came my way. How I did wish nature had given me more sand*, for just then I felt quite hostile. They destroyed a dozen or more and proceeded to destroy many things. Finally they found the sugar bag that contains my winters supply. This they finished up entirely. Then they took a rest. The old one clasping the cub between her fore paws, they laid down and remained thus until daylight. Getting up, she came to the foot of the tree, looked up with a twinkle I fancied in her eye, and followed her cub into the bush.

Then my courage came sufficiently strong enough to venture a descent. I was benumed, stiff, and quite exhausted. It required considerable time to secure a fire, and a long time to get enough warmth in my body to think. When I did, the tent business ended for me, and I would build a cabin then and there. **courage*

"Judge" Joseph Wescott at his cabin

Several GLAHS members presented the history of Grand Lake, the Lake, in a skit for all the county sixth graders to begin Watershed Week. They presented six times, were a huge hit, and they made us proud. Congratulations to Katie Gailey, Kathy & Bob Means, George Campbell and Elin Capps!

Your Grand Lake Area Historical Society Board of Directors is a true "working board", with each person taking on responsibilities and working hard to make history come alive in Grand Lake.

Elin Capps Jim Cervenka Sharon Clarkson Paul Gilbert Sharon King
Nancy Lavington Dick Leinbach Dave Lively Donna Lyons Kathy Means
Malene Mortenson Scott Munn Dave Sauer Lois Sauer Patti Stahl Gay Shaffer

Our many volunteers work as Docents at the Museum, help to accession collections, research family histories, maintain the integrity of the Kauffman House and Cottage Court, design displays, and so much more. It's fun and very satisfying work. We would love to have you join us. Give us a call: 970-627-9644.

Holidays at the Kauffman House and More

Open House ***November 25th, 26th and December 28th 1:00 pm - 4:00***
Kauffman House, off Pitkin Street at the beach Free admission and tours
Enjoy the wonderful holiday decorations, this year more amazing than ever, thanks to Kathy Means, Anne Bagg, Lois Sauer and the team. There'll be delicious treats and decorations from around the world! Mark your calendar, and plan to come!

Historical Holiday Celebration! ***December 26th 6:00 pm - 9:00***
Kauffman House, off Pitkin Street at the beach
Amazing food and drink in a lovely, beautifully decorated rustic setting.
Optional Victorian dress encouraged. Olde-fashioned entertainment and a few surprises.
Advanced reservation tickets $10 at many local stores. $15 at the door
Donations are welcome to benefit the Smith Eslick Cottage Camp Campaign.
Bring your friends, but no young children, please.

Olde-Fashioned Craft Bazaar ***Grand Arts Center November 25th, 10:00 - 5: November 26th, 10:00 - 4*** *Look for the Historical Society Booth Wonderful books, vintage photos, other gift ideas*

We welcome friends who have recently become first-time members of the Historical Society. Welcome Brenda McGinnis, Beth Lagerborg, Bobbie Heisterkamp, Olivia Edwards, Ginny Passoth, Carolyn Alcorn, Jeff & Wanda Bush, Don Campbell, Richard & Mary Follenweider, Russ & Daviana Rowe, Jeri & Mike Stately, Arza & Carolyn Straight, Dr. Bob Wiebe, Karl & Wanda Wilson, and the Jarvis Family. They join our almost 200 renewing and Life members who are the backbone and invaluable supporters of history in the Grand Lake area.

The Smith Eslick Cottage Court is an original condition, best example of an early "motor court" or "motel". It is lauded by the Colorado Historical Society and National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In 2009, the Cottage Court had to be moved to prevent its demolition. The Historical Society had to find appropriate land for its placement, and were able to begin purchasing original Smith-Eslick property, on the old road into town, and close to where the Cottage Court spent its first 95 years. That's all good. However, the Society now has a mortgage of about $1,500 each month to pay for that land. This is an enormous burden for a volunteer organization, but the Grand Lake Area Historical Society is absolutely committed to the preservation of the historic Smith Eslick Cottage Court and the development of a greenspace around the structure.

We truly need your help. As you review your charitable donations for 2011, please consider this invaluable Grand Lake project. Any donation will be very, very much appreciated and essential to the completion of this enormous project.

Many thanks for your timely and welcome assistance. GLAHS, Cottage Camp POBox 656 Grand Lake, CO 80447

Great Summer Season

As expenses were mounting, and as we "needed to keep the lights on", the all-volunteer Grand Lake Area Historical Society opted to charge an admission fee at the Kauffman House Museum, instead of requesting donations as we have for the past 38 years. For the first time, the Kauffman House Museum charged a small $5.00 admission fee for adults, with GLAHS members and children free. We also installed a credit card machine, making payment easier for travelers. We are pleased to report that these changes worked out very successfully, so thank you to all who supported our changes ... never easy... after 38 years! Visitors came from all over the world... some 20 countries, and almost all states. Meeting all these people is part of the satisfaction felt by our remarkable volunteer docents.

If you'd like to volunteer for next summer's season, please contact us at glhistory@rkymtnhi.com or call the GLAHS office at 970-627-9644. Volunteer hosts are also needed for the upcoming Open Houses as