
What's New at the ***Grand Lake Area Historical Society***

Our mission is to preserve, protect and promote the history of the Grand Lake area.

Why I have a passion for Grand Lake's history by Steve Batty

Grand Lake has always been my summer vacation home as it was my father's starting in 1915 and every year after that until he graduated from medical school in 1938. After that, life and world events, like World War II, sometimes got in the way of his returning every August. We both grew up on the south shore of the lake and almost at the end of Jericho Road. Grand Lake it seems is in the family's blood.

Dad loved trout fishing and once he became a member of the Grand Lake Yacht Club he added sailing to his passions for the lake. I, on the other hand, only sailed when he shanghaied me. I loved fishing the high streams and lakes. But, as I grew older and started spending more of the summer in Grand Lake, I met Dorothy O'Donnell O'Ryan and my life changed. She introduced me to a side of the Lake I had never experienced.

Dorothy's family has been coming to the lake since the middle of the 1890's and the family name was Bryant. Harry Bryant, her grandfather, built a family log cabin on the southwest corner of the lake. Harry also was one of the three founding members of the GL Yacht Club. Dorothy Bryant married into the O'Donnell family and the cabin is still in that family. Dorothy told me many of her stories and we did research in Denver where the two families have lived. Did you know that Dorothy's aunt Minnie Bryant was played by Maureen O'Hara in the 1957 John Wayne movie "The Wings of Eagles?"

One beautiful September morning in 2004 Dorothy called and said she had an old photo album, which had a picture of my grandparents in it. The album belonged to Mac Ruske and he had found it in his parent's attic but knew nothing of its origin. When I saw the old photo, I was a little disappointed because it was a double exposed picture and not very sharp. But, like most of the four hundred plus photos in the album, the names of those in the pictures were written below. My grandparent's names were neatly printed in white ink, Earl and Anna Batty. From that time forward I started researching how my family happened to arrive in Grand Lake during the early fall of 1908 and purchased the family vacation lot. The next year they built a duplex cabin with the Keesters, also from Alma, Nebraska.



I traced my grandparent's arrival in Grand Lake to the Jay Adams family from San Antonio, Texas. Through my research in the Phillips County Genealogy Society I discovered that Jay and his brother Lee Adams had been living in Alma when the State of Nebraska did their 1885 census. Jay Adams just happened to purchase most of the shoreline from Adams Falls, named for him, past where my grandparents purchased their lots from him. As far as I know, his original summer home, now owned by Ginny Paul was one of the first summer homes on Grand Lake and was built around 1890. Also named for Jay Adams are Mt. Adams and Adams Lake. Jay was a close friend of Reverend Baynard Craig. Mt. Craig, more commonly known as Mt. Baldy, and Craig's point were named for the preacher. Jay named one of his two sons, Craig after his friend the reverend. The Historical Society has a 1955 Rotary Club recording of Craig Adams telling what it was like to grow up in Grand Lake during the summers before Rocky Mountain National Park was in existence. You should stop by and listen to Craig's Rotary presentation.

This past summer, 2014, as I watched the Matchless Mountain Cabins either be moved away or torn

**Visit our web page, blog,
Facebook site:**

www.grandlakehistory.org

www.cottagecourt.wordpress.com

Facebook: Smith-Eslick Cottage Court

**Send us your E-mail address so you
can receive our E-Blasts:**

glhistory@rkymtnhi.com

Contact us:

glhistory@rkymtnhi.com

970-627-8324

P.O. Box 656

Grand Lake, CO 80447

Kauffman House Museum

407 Pitkin Street

Grand Lake

Smith Eslick Cottage Camp

729 Lake Avenue

Grand Lake

GLAHS Board of Directors

Jim Cervenka – President

Kathy Means – Vice President
Collections

Patti Stahl- Treasurer

Elin Capps – Secretary

Paul Gilbert - Buildings

Sharon King – Membership

Malene Mortenson – Gift Shop

Dave Sauer – Buildings

Deb Bondi – Finance

Lois Sauer – Special Events

Elmer Lanzi – Town Liaison

Melinda McKinney – Genealogy

Steve Batty – Newsletter

Frank Reardon – Docent Chairman

Cottage Camp Committee

Elin Capps

Jim Cervenka

Judy Forman

Paul Harrington

Paul Gilbert

Lynne Ludwig

Pat Raney

down, then crushed into small pieces, I read two of Nell Pauly's books A Most Dangerous Woman and The Day Before Yesterday. My interest in Nell's books was the destruction of the old motel because Nell, her husband Jake Young and two children had lived in the "The Love Nest," the original structure on the lot, starting in 1926 when they purchased it from the daughter of Mother Harbison. Nell and her family actually lived in the unfinished attic of The Love Nest during the summers when she rented out the lower three rooms to vacationers. Nell's family, like many other early town residents had to make almost all of their annual income between May and mid September, much like what is still happening today. Eventually Nell turned the one rental cabin where they also lived into many and called her motel "Mountain Home Cabins." (see our blog for more)

Nell's two books are chuck full of stories about her life and times living in Grand Lake (1923 – 1972) and her interaction with residents and summer vacationers. A Dangerous Woman is actually her autobiography and shows her growing up in what today we call a dysfunctional family, and at eighteen years of age marrying into another dysfunctional family who owned the Young's Rustic Inn Hotel on the west shore of Grand Lake.

Nell's other book I read, The Day Before Yesterday, is about many of the early residents of the Grand Lake area who are buried in the town's cemetery located in Rocky Mountain National Park just north of town. Some of the articles are actual obituaries taken from the newspapers and some are her own recollections and others came from her mother-in-law Josie Young.

I found the material in both books very interesting and it gave me insight into what it was like to live and work in Grand Lake in the olden days. After reading the two books, I took a stroll through the cemetery and matched the funky headstones with the people in her books.

Nell wrote many books and the two I mentioned above can be purchased from the Historical Society.



The Smith Eslick Cottage Camp is our current major project.

The following is a photo sequence of events over the past couple of years associated with relocating the old motor court from its former location to its permanent new home on Lake Street.



The Cottage Court about 75 years old, in 1991, on its original location off Grand Avenue, next to the bowling alley



Original location, long neglected in 2009



*With community donations, the Court is moved "Foot by Foot" to prevent its demolition
Fall 2009*



A crowd of folks come to watch the Cottage Court being professionally moved!



*Volunteers cover the roof with protective plastic
2010*



*... and build a fence around the site
2011*



*Placed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties
2011*



*With generous support from the Grand Foundation, an authentic rolled roof is installed
Fall 2012*



The Master Plan for the entire Cottage Camp site, supported by grants from the Hart Family Fund/National Trust and the Grand Foundation, was introduced in a community meeting; when audience members shared suggestions. June 2014



With a very generous outpouring of support from the community, more land was purchased, doubling the



At last... the first- ever foundation under the Cottage Court! Thank you, State Historical Fund/History Colorado, Grand County and the Town of Grand Lake! 2015



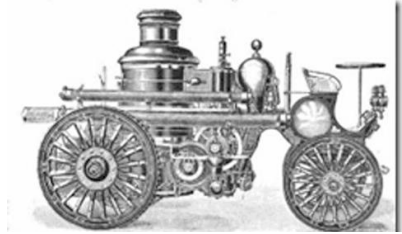
So, what's next? Your Grand Lake Area Historical Society hopes to soon have funding for a complete restoration of the Smith Eslick Cottage Court. Exhibits are being planned by Traub Design Associates, as are other aspects of the Master Plan developed by Humphries Poli Architects with the Cottage Camp Committees. We'll want to rehabilitate the other Eslick building at the site, the "Bay Window Cottage" as a welcome center and gift shop, set up community events areas, landscaping Stay tuned!

2015 coming events – Mark your calendars



**Kauffman House Museum opens for the season.
Open Daily 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM - May 23rd through Labor Day, and weekends in September. New exhibit in the Gallery – “Changes – 100 Years of Rocky’s West Side” Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Rocky Mountain National Park – Wilderness, Wildlife, Wonder**

**June 10th, 7:00 PM, Grand Lake Community House
GLAHS Annual Meeting & Election of Board
Come join us for a presentation by actor Kurtis Kelly portraying
Freelan O. Stanley.
It’s all-FREE and we always have yummy treats and coffee.**



**July 2nd, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM , Victorian Tea at the Historic Rapids Lodge
Join us for a lovely Light Tea in a wonderfully historic setting.
Bring your own, or borrow one of our hats! \$20 All proceeds benefit the Cottage Camp Campaign. For more information, or to reserve, contact glhistory@rkymtnhi.com, 970-627-8324 or call the Historic Rapids Lodge directly: 970-627-3707.**

**July 31st, 5:30 PM-8:30PM Souper Stars for the Cottage Camp
There’ll be super soup and fixins, excellent live entertainment, wonderful old and new friends, adult beverages, a really unique live auction, and a great time altogether. \$50 per person; all proceeds benefit the Cottage Camp Campaign. To reserve or for location and more information, 970-627-8324, glhistory@rkymtnhi.com.**



August 24th Vintage Time Travelers Model T Club begins its re-enactment of the 1920 Park-to-Park trek with a campout at the Cottage Camp, 729 Lake Avenue. We’ll celebrate with an all-Town party beginning at 5:30 PM: chicken dinner, campfire, stories and music! 970-627-8324 or glhistory@rkymtnhi.com for more information.

Restoring the Kauffman House

The Kauffman House museum is undergoing an exterior renovation this summer. With a grant from History Colorado and donations from members, friends and visitors, the log exterior is getting some much-needed refurbishing. Local contractors will replace or repair logs that are damaged by rot, then the chinking between logs will be removed and replaced with historically accurate material. The existing chinking is a hodge-podge of materials, some of which is crumbling and allowing moisture to penetrate between logs. And finally, the entire log surface will be re-stained. Stop by this summer and watch the transformation!



One Area Needing Restoration

Changes – 100 Years of Rocky's West Side



This year's exhibit at the Kauffman House Museum is a partnership with Cabela's and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Many specimens of the park wildlife will be on display in the Gallery of the Museum. Throughout the house will be a variety of park uniforms worn throughout the century. People who were important in the establishment of the park will be featured along with stories of their work. A photo display will highlight the changes that have taken place. Our new television will show pictures and interviews with park rangers. A mural of the Kawuneeche Valley by Donna Lyons will adorn the Gallery.

When you enter the museum you will be given a character to identify with as you view the exhibit. Children will have an identification game to complete during their visit. Take the opportunity to tell us the Wonders of the park and what Changes you expect in the next 100 years.

Docents Welcome Visitors

People love to visit the Kauffman House museum. They feel like they've truly come to someone's home when they are warmly greeted by volunteer docents who are ready to answer questions or to tour them through the House. There are always two docents on duty so someone's always at the entrance to greet folks, and there's no reason to hurry through the visitor conversations. Volunteer docents work a three hour per week shift, either 11:00 AM-2:00 PM or 2:00 to 5:00, so it takes 28 people to keep the House open and running smoothly! We need a few more folks for this summer's season, and would love to have you join the team. It's fun, and you'll meet very interesting folks. There's a little training, but that can be arranged to suit your needs. Give Frank a call at 970/627-3551 or e-mail frankreardon@gmail.com! Thanks!

Vintage Time Travelers Invite Car Fans to Join Them!

The Vintage Time Travelers Model T Club will be touring through Western National Parks, following the original 1920 Park to Park Highway Route where possible. They will camp overnight on August 24th, 2015 at the Cottage Camp, and will travel about 200 miles per day thereafter, but will be flexible as the need arises. This Western National Park Tour is open to all unofficial "tag alongs". Drive your vintage auto, modern car, or RV for any portion. They will blog regularly, using a GPS program called Spot so you can know exactly where they are. For more information or to contact Vintage Time Travelers, e-mail tourttagalongs@gmail.com or visit the website www.vintagetimetravelers.com.



Several of the donated items from this past year.



The Burtis family donated an organ to the Kauffman House which had been in the family and in their Grand Lake cabin since the 1940s. As a child, Aurel Burtis lived in Garden City, KS and admired a neighbor's organ, which she was allowed to play. Eventually the neighbor gifted the organ to her. This Packard Organ was manufactured in Fort Wayne, Indiana in the late 1800s. The organ is now in place in the Kauffman House parlor. Come by and see this wonderful piece of art.



This small hand painted green chair was pulled out of the Nell Pauly Mountain Home Cabins attic just prior to "The Love Nest" being demolished and hauled off to the landfill. The chair and several other household items recovered from the Young's summer sleeping abode were saved and donated to the Society. If you look closely you can see two drake mallard ducks hand painted on the seat and back of the chair. Nell fancied herself a pretty good artist and sign painter, another of her vocations to help the family survive from year to year.

The President's Two Cents

It's been an active and (mostly) successful year for your Historical Society.

While so much of the Board's attention has been on the Smith Eslick Cottage Court, The Kauffman House Museum has certainly not been forgotten. Our dedicated docents continue to welcome visitors all summer long, plus several special dates through the winter, including New Year's Eve. The special display of Grand Lake schools was a hit for both young and old. We received a grant to repair chinking on the House itself. Thanks to grants, the Cottage Court now has its first ever foundation. Due to the generosity of our community, we were able to purchase, at a reasonable price, the lot adjacent to the Court. This will allow more interpretation of early auto travel, provide a new gift shop, and a new location for community events, thereby implementing the Master Plan developed for the site. It was a disappointment that we did not succeed in our grant request for restoration work, but a new submittal will hopefully receive better scores (and funding!). We are celebrating the centennial of the Cottage Court and our neighbor, Rocky Mountain National Park. On August 24 we will welcome the Model T Vintage Time Travelers, who are excited to spend time at the Court. I hope you will join in the fun events being planned.

The good news about receiving grant funding is that we are able to proceed with capital projects beyond our normal means. The bad news is that each requires matching funds. Likewise, writing grant applications and conducting events require time and effort. I encourage you to contribute what you can toward our common goal of Preserving, Protecting and Promoting the History of the Grand Lake, Colorado Area.

Jim Cervenka

Your financial help is needed!

I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to join with us in supporting GLAHS. We are an all-volunteer organization and our mission is to preserve, protect and promote the history of the Grand Lake area. Your dues help create a history experience for visitors and local citizens alike. Following are a few of the products and services we provide: Kauffman House Museum - open daily Memorial Weekend through Labor Day, FREE ADMISSION for MEMBERS; family history research, recording and access to records and artifacts; research of local business histories including people, structures, stories; historical picture reproduction; archival storage of photographs and artifacts; ever changing fresh exhibits: research, development, presentation; Grand Lake Walking Tour; interviews and transcriptions of local histories; advise and counsel to local government and site owners regarding restoration and preservation.

Some people I have talked to about becoming members tell me they just don't have any time to volunteer. I tell them they can help a lot by just being members. The money we receive from memberships goes toward funding the behind the scenes work required to accomplish all that needs to be done to keep Grand Lake history alive to be enjoyed by people like you. Please join us by returning the "Yes! I want to become a member" form in this newsletter or through PayPal on our website www.grandlakehistory.org. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Sharon King, Membership Chair.

Yes! I want to become a member of the Grand Lake Area Historical Society:

Date _____ ☐ New Member ☐ Gift ☐ Renewal

- ☐ Individual Membership..... \$25
- ☐ Family Membership..... \$40
- ☐ Business Membership..... \$50
- ☐ Benefactor \$100 - \$1,000
- ☐ Other Contribution

☐ Heritage Coalition Master Membership.... \$175 Includes membership in four organizations

Grand Lake Area Historical Society, Grand County Historical Association, Moffat Road Railroad Museum, Grand County Characters

Name _____ E-mail _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ IRS 501(c)3 #84-6105634

Return this form with your check made payable to the Grand Lake Area Historical Society

P.O. Box 656, Grand Lake, CO 80447

Your Payment

\$ _____

Thank You!



Grand Lake Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 656
Grand Lake, CO 80447



PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer



*Keeping
History
Alive*



GRAND LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (GLAHS)

DONATION OR PLEDGE CARD

I wish to support the GLAHS by making a contribution/pledge to the Cottage Camp Campaign (CCC).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____

☐ GLAHS may publicly acknowledge my contribution.

☐ Gift in honor or memory of

☐ I wish to learn more about naming opportunities.

☐ I'd like more information about including GLAHS in my
Estate plan.

Method of Payment (please check):

☐ Enclosed ☐ Pledge amount \$ _____

Please bill me ☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ yearly
(please check) for a

☐ one ☐ two or ☐ three year period

Charge my credit or debit card \$ _____
(please check)

☐ Visa ☐ Master Charge ☐ Discover

Cardholder's Name: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date _____ 3-Digit Verification Code: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

Make checks payable to GLAHS/Cottage Camp Campaign and
Mail to GLAHS, POB 656, Grand Lake, CO 80447

Tax ID #84-6105634

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT