



MEDLEN SCHOOL

By JoAnn Dunn

The Medlen School was built in 1886 during the height of farming, ranching and lumbering activity in southern Jefferson County. The hand hewn log building was originally located across South Turkey Creek Road (the "old Ute Trail") east of its present location. In 1900 the county and school board moved the schoolhouse a few hundred feet to the west, across South Turkey Creek Road. The school building has remained at this location for approximately 115 years. Once it was moved to its present site, it was covered with white clapboard siding. A small anteroom was added to the front façade about the same time. An extant teacherage, which later served as the Medlen Library, was built when the school was moved and clapboarded. Two Works Progress Administration (WPA) privies, built between 1935 and 1943, replaced the circa 1900 privies and are extant on the school property. The school closed in 1954 when Jefferson County schools were consolidated.

During its years as a schoolhouse Medlen School served as a community



meeting place. There were church services, funerals and fraternal organization meetings. There were also many community celebrations and festivities, such as Halloween parties where everyone was invited.

Medlen School was electrified in the early 1940's along with the rest of the area. This was made possible by the Rural Electrification Administration which was signed by President Roosevelt in 1935. However it took

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REFLECTIONS: President's Pen

By Diane Fuchs

What a delightful fall we have experienced. The colors have been so vivid this fall. We had the wonderful opportunity to go over Boreas Pass at the height of the aspen colors. We actually saw a bull moose and his mate. This is the first time I have seen a moose in our front range mountains.

Much has happened this late spring and through the fall. Most exciting was the birth of **Lucy Vickers** on July 12, 2015. She came a bit early, but is doing fine and **Meghan** will be returning near the end of November. Meghan is our dedicated curator of the Hiwan Homestead Museum. Actually I have gotten a little out of chronological order, but I wanted to share this good news with our members and readers.

Our 24th "Spring Fling", Volunteer Appreciation lunch was well attended with 40 plus volunteers in attendance and our guest speaker was Paul Waldman, who shared with us his thoughts on appraising antiques. This overview provided a great opportunity to announce our new fundraiser the "**Antique Grove Show**". What a splendid success this was. We had an incredible committee of JCHS board members and JCHS members. **Candy Porter** and her husband, **Paul Waldmann**, were principally responsible for organizing the appraisers. They were able to encourage five professional appraisers to give of their time all day on Saturday, June 27th. **Tom Hayden**, husband of Elaine Hayden, was able to get us a huge canopy on loan from the Evergreen Fire Department. We had so many appraisals that we really did run out of time. We were able to raise close to \$700. We were most pleased and hope to make this event an annual affair or at least a regular event in the future.

The "Antique Grove Show" was followed the next day by our **Annual Membership Brunch** held at the Brook Forest Inn. There were more members in attendance than in past years and we elected our new board for 2015-2016. You will find these board members included in a highlighted space in this newsletter. However, I do want to thank the following **retiring board members** for their years of volunteer service on the JCHS board. **Dale Devine** served on the board for many years and was my constant support. **Dave Noyes** served not only on this current board, but on several other JCHS boards and will be missed for his ability to research and attention to details. Finally, we said goodbye to **Candy Porter** after only a short time on the board, but other obligations took precedence in her life. However, she is still volunteering at the museum and will always be appreciated for her "Can Do Attitude". With a huge thank you to our nominating committee, chaired by **Richard Goben**, we have three new board members. Joan Ball will be serving as the Past President for this year. **Jo Ann Dunn** and **Susan Grannell** will be serving as new directors. **Elaine Hayden** is our new President Elect. In addition, past board members will be taking on new tasks. **Pat Jurgens** will be our new Corresponding Secretary and Jan Murphy will be our Historian. Continuing board members are **Diane Fuchs, Juanita Weare, Hank Fuchs, Max Lankston, Pat Goben, Dan Metzler, and Bud Weare**; who will continue serving JCHS in their previous board offices.

"**Flowers for a Friend**" statue was put in place at the Hiwan Homestead Museum with dedication on July 25th. This is a beautiful piece of art work done by Ken Ball and the purchase of the statue and

placement was accomplished by a group of very committed community donors. Take time and visit the museum to see this piece of art work.

August brought our annual **Peach Sale**. With the dedicated help of Max Lankston, his grandson, Jesse Ewan, and board members we sold 80 boxes of the most wonderful peaches from the Noland Orchards on the Western Slope. Again, this is a great fundraiser for "The Society". It would be so special if we could sell 160 boxes. The Noland Orchards will only sell us palates of peaches and that is 80 boxes each. With the sale, we raised close to \$800.

Fundraising has become so critical to "The Society" in recent years, because insurance costs have gone up dramatically. Thus, we are also participating in the **Alternative Gift Fair** again, to be held on **November 14-15th** at the Lutheran Church on highway 73. We will have all of our books for sale including the *Lost Ski Areas of Jefferson County*, a new printing of the *Upper Side of the Pie Crust*, and new printings of Jan Murphy's wonderful historic books. We hope to have some wooden toys also available made by Michael Stills. Last year we raised over a \$1,000 and we hope to do better this year. All funds raised help to keep JCHS financially sound.

The Outdoor Quilt Festival, sponsored by JCHS and under the direction of Susan Grannell was held September 26. Over 70 quilts were displayed and Susan thought there were about 100 visitors to the show. The most unusual quilt was that of Susan's mother-in-law, which was a "Paper Doll Quilt" that had exchangeable clothing.

Other events that JCHS will be sponsoring the remainder of the year are **Halloween at the Hiwan**, the **Christmas Tea** and in March the **Member Winter Gala**.

We, the JCHS board, are trying to encourage more members to become a bit more involved with "The Society" through the creation of several committees. Of these, the Communication Committee is already under full steam. Other committees to be officially formed are the by-laws, finance, membership, and events committees. Please if you are at all interested in helping our organization become even more viable, please contact me, Diane Fuchs at 303-674-9639 or hdfuchs@msn.com.

Speaking of the Communications Committee we have a new website master, **Jeremy Goben**. Yes, Jeremy is the son of Rich and Pat Goben, but he certainly has the expertise to run and coordinate our website. Jeremy lives in Colorado Springs but postings are very easy to do on the JCHS website, **JCHSColorado.org**. Contact Jeremy at 303-585-0555 or e-mail him at jchscoloradowebmaster@gmail.com. Finally, we have a newsletter editor recommended by Sara Miller, our former newsletter editor prior to Michael Stills. She will be putting together "The Record" on a bi-annual basis and mailing "The Record" in mid November and April or May. Articles may be submitted to "The Record" by contacting Laurie Romberg at laurie@rombergdesignsplus.com. She may also be contacted at 303-679-1762. Articles need to be submitted prior to October 15 for the November mailing and March 15 for the April or May mailing. Diane Fuchs President Jefferson County Historical Society, 303-674-9639



Flower for a Friend Statue at Hiwan Homestead Museum

Jefferson County Historical Society
2015-2016 Officers

President	Diane Fuchs
Vice President	Elaine Hayden
Recording Secretary	Juanita Weare
Treasurer	Hank Fuchs
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Jurgens
Historian	Jan Murphy
Past President	Joan Ball
Membership	Pat Gobin

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Director	JoAnn Dunn
Director	Susan Grannell
Director	Max Lankston
Director	Dan Metzler
Director	Bud Weare

NON-BOARD POSITIONS

Book Sales	Chair Carl Jurgen
Webmaster	Jermey Goben
Communications Chair	Richard Goben
Newsletter Editor	Laurie Romberg

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the dedication and hard work of a few citizens of South Turkey Creek to bring it to their neighbors. Their first application was denied, so they reorganized and traveled at their own expense to Washington, D. C. to present their case, which was then approved.

When the Jefferson County schools were consolidated, the school district sold the school to the South Turkey Creek Community Center for \$1. For the next 38 years it continued to be used as a community center and the teacherage was the Medlen Library. The Community Center later sold the property to the South Turkey Creek Improvement Association who deeded it to JCHS in 1992.



The Book Shelf

By Elaine Hayden

JCHS is pleased to feature five book selections that complement our array of available books. We are proud to offer the newly released Lesley Poling-Kempes book, *Ladies of the Canyons* that features a fascinating history of four women whose contributions and travels from the Ghost Ranch to Monument Valley helped to establish cultural recognition of the Southwest. Of particular interest to JCHS is the friendship that one of these women, Natalie Curtis, built with Charles Winfred Douglas, Dr. Jo and their son Frederic Douglas. The book relates extensive history of the Douglas's interest and association in American Indian art and music. References to Camp Neosho help link our museum to this broader story of adventure.

Our newly re-printed edition of *The Upper Side of the Pie Crust* by Margaret Bentley is available for purchase. This book concentrates on the history of our neighbors in Southwestern Jefferson County including Pine, Conifer and Buffalo Creek. The early history of these areas is fascinating and helps to enhance the history of our Bear Creek Valley and beyond.

We are very fortunate to have Jan Murphy serving as our Historian on the Board of JCHS and we are happy to offer Jan's popular title, *Outlaw Tales of Colorado*, 2nd edition, that includes true stories of Colorado's infamous crooks, culprits and cutthroats from the late 1800s into the early 1900s. Additionally, Jan Murphy's, *Mysteries &*

Legends of Colorado features factually based accounts of the unsolved and unexplained. Both titles are well researched and promise to fulfill the appetite of readers interested in Colorado's curious and colorful past.

Back by popular demand is Caryn and Peter Boddie's book, *Lost Ski Areas of Colorado's Front Range and Northern Mountains*. This book is of particular interest to outdoor enthusiasts and historians as well. This book was extremely popular at last year's Alternative Gift Fair and is a delight to read.

Books make great gifts! Support your Jefferson County Historical Society by ordering these titles and many more from the JCHS web site or purchase at the Hiwan Homestead Museum.

Historical Bits and Pieces About JCHS From “Highlights of Our History 1995-2005”

- 1995: Grant received from Colorado Historical Society for the continued renovation of Medlen School.
- 1996: Medlen School listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Sites
- 1997-1998: “The Foreman” was set in place at the Hiwan Homestead Museum by Art in the Mountain Community.
- 1999-2000: Hiwan Homestead celebrates its 25th anniversary. Medlen school opens the first Medlen School days.
- 2001-2002: The stone alter is returned to the chapel. The “Monday Groups” restores many for the room at the Hiwan museum to their 1930s appearance.
- 2002-2003: Original pieces of pottery owned by Charles Douglas and Erick Douglas are returned to the museum by the Denver Art Museum at a substantial cost.
- 2003-2004: “The Society” (JCHS) designed our website, JCHSColorado.org and adopted our 4th new logo. Permanent roof installed over the stage in “The Grove”.
- 2004-2005: Granddaughter Wendy, of the Buchanan family, donated her bedroom furniture from the 1960s. \$900 is donated anonymously for the renovation and restoration of the covered wagons.

To be continued Spring Issue of “The Record”

JCHS Book Club:

We meet generally the fourth Wednesday of the month except for November and December. We meet at Eric’s house (the museum offices) at 12:30. Our selections through February are:

December 2nd: This is a pot luck meeting we are to read *Rosie’s Project* by G. Suasion

January 27th: *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang

February 24th: *Orphan Train* by Christina Kline

Bios of New Members:

We welcome the following new board members:

Joan Ball has been a volunteer at the Hiwan Homestead Muesum since 1995. She has been responsible for the instructional material for the Pioneer Program for 4th graders and the material used in the 3rd grade Southwest Tribal Arts program. She has taught both of these programs on a regular basis or brought her 4th grade students since their inceptions. Her fourth grade students were treated to the Pioneer program from 1976-1994. She also helps with the “Behind the Scenes” Monday group, is a tour guide, and is the “sort of” coordinator for the JCHS/Hiwan Homestead book group. Finally, Joan served as president of JCHS from 2002-2003. Joan was the person who encouraged me to join the Jefferson County Historical Society and as a side note she taught my daughter in the fourth grade. My daughter still loves history and is a success in life thanks to teachers like Joan. Thank You Joan!!

Jo Ann Dunn moved to Evergreen in 1984. She and her husband, Pem, have been members of JCHS and volunteers at the Hiwan Homestead since 1989. JoAnn’s initial involvement at the museum was as a tour guide and then as a teacher in the Pioneer history program for 4th grade students. She served as president of JCHS from 1993-1995. During her tenure as president she was instrumental in acquiring a State Historic Site designation for Medlen School. In so doing, it was possible that JCHS received a grant from the State Historic Fund and Medlen School was restored over several years with a great deal of volunteer efforts and coordination by Jo Ann. JoAnn opened Medlen to 2nd-5th grade students in the summer of 1998. It has grown from 1 week of 18 students to now Medlen School is a three week program of three days each week with a total of 60 students attending. I have had the pleasure of working with JoAnn at Medlen for the past 7 summers. What a fun program it is and indeed is most interesting. This past year, JoAnn took it upon herself to write an application for Medlen School that placed it on the National Register of Historic Places. I am so impressed with JoAnn’s dedication to Medlen as well as to “The Society. Thank you for all you do JoAnn!!

Susan Grannell on May 8th of this year retired after 23 years of serving Hiwan as Customer Service Representative and Volunteer Coordinator. I believe Susan knows more about the Hiwan Homestead than most. She has shared with me on occasions that she was involved in the initial operations of the Jefferson County Historical Society. She is looking forward to her director’s position on the board.

Dates to Remember

December 4

Evergreen Holiday Walk

December 14

Christmas Tea

For more information about the Jefferson County Historical Society or Events happening at Hiwan Homestead Museum go to

www.jchscolorado.org



The Record is published two times per year by the Jefferson County Historical Society. Deadline for the Spring/Summer 2016 issue is April 1. Email your submissions to Laurie Romberg at laurie@rombergdesignsplus.com.

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