I'm writing this by the light of the full bright moon and a crackling camp fire. It's a cold night, so I sit close to the flickering flames. This is my last night out. Tomorrow I'll be back in the bustle of modern life, on the outside looking in, gazing at the mountains from afar and remembering these past weeks of life on the trail. Friends will ask, "how was your trip?" I will answer, "Great". But I will never be able to share the joys and fears, good times and bad, that special rhythm I have lived by, and the tremendous awe that I have experienced.

Tonight I mull over the past 450 miles. Each new flame jars loose another memory from the past six weeks. I can't help but look back, now that the trail's end is so near.

Each day of the trip, whether plowing through two feet of snow from an August storm, or diving into an ice cold, clear alpine lake, had it's own magic. I can count something memorable and special for each day I was out. How can I tell you about those special days! Come walk with me, they are yours to experience and mine to keep forever. By Walking Jim
A SPECIAL HOLIDAY OPEN LETTER TO ALL 1992 TRAIL CREW VOLUNTEERS

GREETINGS TO THE ADOPTEES OF THE COLORADO TRAIL

During this special holiday season where we give thanks for all of the good things in life, to our health, friends, relatives and our privileged life style of working on the Colorado Trail, your 1992 crew leader would like to thank you again for giving your time and effort, spending your money and using your camp equipment, for believing in the Colorado Trail and its needs, AND for joining us on the 1992 trail crew.

To unselfishly giving your time to make this a better trail for the many users who take the CT for granted. Collectively we have grown to respect the environment and its fragility, we have learned to live in the wilds and leave it a better place than we found it, to re-seed, reroute and re-plant without leaving a scar, and we have learned to live together, share experiences, become strong and knowledgeable and truly a FRIEND of the COLORADO TRAIL. A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYOUS HOLIDAY TO EACH OF YOU FROM: Merle, Frank, Phil, Ernie, Gudy, Steve, Marj, Lynn, Jim Ray, Abe, Irene, Sue, Larry, Pat, Gene, Bill, Harriet, Joe, Jim Bock and George.

With over 45 groups, corporations, clubs, individuals, friends and families that have adopted sections of the Colorado Trail to maintain each summer we would be hard pressed to just list the names of the contact person of each segment without naming the hundreds of other volunteers that make up the adoptees. If we were given one dollar for each tree that is removed from across the 500 miles each summer, we would probably be self supporting! The hard, thankless work of maintaining by rebuilding, draining, clearing, leveling, building and cleaning water bars, removing trash and fire rings, reseeding, and drying out boggy areas gets little notice.

You give hard earned days, week-ends and weeks of your vacation time to preserve a better trail for us. Our thanks goes mostly unspoken because each of you maintain your part of the trail so well, that we expect a GREAT TREAD AND WE USUALLY GET IT without giving credit to each of you for the toil that went into our pleasure. THANKS Guys and Gals (and llamas too!) for a job well done. The trail is beautiful!

Greetings!
I just hiked a section of the C.T. from Rt. 114 down to Durango. It was great though we were hit with a very unusual all day snow storm (totally about one foot and drifts to our waist over Coney Peak) on Aug. 24th. The trail is magnificent for the most part, especially from Silverton to Durango and the scenery brought tears to my eyes.

Enclosed is a donation for your use in maintaining this great trail.
Sincerely, Dave

Hello CTF!!
Kristi and Chris here! We are camped on Snow Mesa in the La Garitas right at this very moment and just wanted you to know that we are still at it!! We wanted to thank you for sending our folks a trail map and to especially thank you again for such an organizational effort to provide us with a fantastic trail experience. We are going to Lake City tomorrow for resupply, then onward!

Thanks again, Chris and Kris
Consider a tax deductible contribution for 1992 or give a gift of a membership to a special friend!

A Christmas Gift to Last a Lifetime!

☐ Please accept my annual contribution to the Colorado Trail Foundation as a "Friend of the Colorado Trail."
☐ $15 Subscriber
☐ $25 Individual
☐ $75 Contributor
☐ Other Amount

Benefits for friends of the trail include:
Quarterly newsletter
* Discount on Colorado Trail Foundation publications
* Information about Colorado Trail functions, meetings and trail crews.

Please send me information about trail maps and interpretive guides.

Name __________________________
Address _________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip ______

Make checks payable to the Colorado Trail Foundation

The Colorado Trail Foundation is a Colorado-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

THE COLORADO TRAIL
It was Christmas Eve as I passed through Leadville on my way home for Christmas. Leadville, cloaked under high banks of snow, and dark overhead clouds, was a-bustle with skiers and last minute shoppers. In the early morning the endless display of colored lights outlined each ancient building, a story book town of steeples, massive brick building and antiquated street lamps. On the spur of the moment, I turned in at Tennessee Pass to ski a short distance south on the Colorado Trail. Last night beneath a sky that seemed so endless with stars I thought I saw the other side of space. This morning as I ski along, I see Lodge Pole Pine covered with snow, so fine it could have been sifted by a fairy.

The snow creaks and squeaks under the skis, and a thin layer of crystal frost builds up on the threads of my pile jacket. Suddenly there is a steep downhill pitch, a fast crossing of a very narrow bridge and the skis are propelled up the other side of the hill and onto a bridge. Could this be Wurtz Ditch already? What a disagreeable name for such a lovely place. The tumbling water was almost frozen over with dark areas of open water intermixed with larger areas of undisturbed crystalline snow. ‘Oh, the joy of watching the surging water, pulsating under the ice, pushing and swirling toward the crystal encrusted open areas. The linings were like delicate lace, each ring built on to the next, so that there was a continuous lace pattern on the slightly frosted, yet clear ice. The moving water underneath created a kinescope of color, bringing the crystals alive in a movement of illusion. Time passed watching the ever changing scene until a large lazy snowflake settled on my eyelid. It was time to go!

Snow was falling thickly, muffling out the sounds of the water.

I turned around, but not before admiring the beautiful long span wooden bridge built by CT volunteers. Sagging snow hung in garlands on the railing. It was decorated in its Christmas finery! Christmas spirit was everywhere on the Colorado Trail, in the quietness of the softly falling snow, in the serenity and majestic stance of the Lodge Pole Pines, in the branches of the little firs, bent under the weight of their snow cloaks, and in the comfort and warmth of my ski tracks leading me back home though the ever increasing blanket of snow.

Christmas in Colorado...; Christmas on the Colorado Trail.... It sends shivers of joy tingling through the spine! We are blessed. It is ours to enJOY each season, FOREVER.