Presidents Corner

by Gudy Gaskill

The first crews of the season have already gone out! CT here we come! The preparation that goes on behind the scenes before even one crew can go out are mind boggling. Early last fall the Equipment Maintenance Committee separated, dried, inventoried and stored all of the camp equipment. The Food Committee did the same with the leftover food. This spring the same committees came out and waterproofed all of the tents, repaired the stoves and tents and cleaned the equipment. In May the Food Committee, headed by Pat Nagorka, purchased all of the food over a weeks time, then sorted and boxed the food according to the crew, type of crew and size. The briskets were purchased and farmed out to be baked and frozen. At the leaders meeting the food was picked up by the leaders for each individual crew to be brought out to the crew by volunteers or the leader. The maintenance crew came back and sorted the equipment into camps for backpack, jeeping or car camping. Extra supplies and equipment was purchased at this time to replenish first aid boxes, tool kits, lanterns, stoves and basic supplies.

Lynn Mattingly has turned the chairpersonship (is that a word?) of the Equipment Committee over to George Miller but she is still very active when there is work to be accomplished. Other steadfast members are Merle McDonald, Ken Stagner as well as Denise, Pat and Gudy.

The Food Committee, chaired by Pat Nagorka, includes Lynn Mattingly, Denise Wright, Ken Stagner, Harriet

continued on page 2

Reunion Date Set
Friday
September 11, 92
5:30 pm
See page 3 for details
Tread Lines is the internal newsletter of the Colorado Trail Foundation. It is published quarterly and distributed to the Friends of the Colorado Trail.

The Colorado Trail is a 470 mile long high mountain educational and recreational hiking trail that meanders through some of the most beautiful terrain in the state. It stretches from Denver to Durango with many intermediate access points.

The Colorado Trail Foundation, an all volunteer, tax deductible, nonprofit corporation, is governed by public agencies and private sector representatives. The Foundation recruits and trains volunteers for trail construction crews, coordinates the Adopt-A-Trail maintenance program, and distributes information on Colorado Trail activities, trail crews and publications.

The Colorado Trail Foundation’s business address is P.O. Box 260876, Lakewood, CO 80226-0876.

Pres. Gudy Gaskill 303-526-0809
V.P. Merle McDonald 719-599-4258
Sec. Denise Wright 303-973-7461
Trea. Chris Abston 303-628-4329

This edition of Tread Lines was compiled by Merle McDonald.

Presidents Corner continued

Patton and assisting with the cooking of roasts were, Stacy Singer, Irene Cazere, Denise Wright and Gudy Gaskill.

The camps are delivered by George Miller, who sets up the timetable for delivery, moving from one camp to the next and overseeing the inventory for each camp. This takes coordination with crew leaders, Forest Service and George’s time.

Deanne Frank, our volunteer bookkeeper, keeps tabs over all of the expenditures, with assistance this year of our new treasurer, Chris Abston. We keep a tight ship!

So that’s a bird’s eye view of what takes place before a foot of trail is constructed or maintained. Notice that the same names keep popping up. How about seeing your name in print?

We’ve had a lot of requests for slide shows and talks. Phil Smith has taken lots of pictures on his walk of the CT (notice that he has joined the ranks as a leader?) and will be sharing those pictures with us for a new, updated slide show. If you have some exceptional slides’ perhaps you would like to share a duplicate with us.

With Bob Boblett’s untimely death from pneumonia, I’ve come to the realization that we need to share some of the experiences of some of our great CT leaders with everyone, so that they are not just names to our supporters, but REAL people. Did you know: That George Miller is recovering very nicely after having sliced the tips of three fingers off? He laughs and says that it matches his other hand, where he is missing another digit; That Steve Gladbach was caught in an avalanche on June 13th on the S. Maroon Bell Peak? He is recovering from a severe leg wound and will be out on the treks and leader on Crew #3, the second week at Horseshoe Gulch; That Merle McDonald’s youngest daughter, Anne, who has helped put out the Tread Lines has been admitted to the Colorado bar, almost completed her masters degree in tax law and is employed by a Denver law firm; That Ernie Werren’s daughter has just remarried and that Ernie is taking the five grown children to Switzerland this summer to visit his heritage; That Randy Jacobs is working on his masters degree in environmental land use at CU Denver; That Marj Dunmire has written six children’s books and is formulating her seventh; That when Irene Cazere had her birthday party out on the trail with her crew last summer and that she was given $100 by the crew for mad money for her upcoming Alaska trip; That Sue Frey graduated from Law School last week and is now studying for the bar exam; That Gudy had knee surgery in March and is feeling the growing pains of old
age; That Lynn Mattingly, who is a wonderful quilter, had one of her quilts featured on the front cover of the Life Long Catalogue; And that Denise Wright, store manager for REI won’t be able to lead a crew this summer because of the stores BIG move to their new store being constructed at I-25 and Colorado Blvd.?

Last week Marj Dunmire and I joined Ernie Werren in flagging a new route in Dustin Gulch in Gunnison National Forest. We waded through snow and were caught in a fleeting, but thick snow storm. The Rockies are unpredictable, no matter what the month!

The Rio Grande National Forest has invited organizations such as ours to express their interest in providing huts or shelters in their district by September 15, 1992. This is so unusual that we feel compelled to reply. If anyone has time for reconnoitering a couple of areas, we would be appreciative.

Other activities this summer involve completing the Gunnison Spur route planning, the layouts of the Mt. Princeton re-route over the Chalk Cliffs and Kokomo Pass/Camp Hale re-route. Hopefully Jim Miller’s week long trail maintenance crew can help out on the latter.

If we don’t see you on the trail this summer, plan on coming to the trail potluck reunion in September.

WANTED!
MOUNTAIN PARTNER

Seeking other parties that are interested in hiking the complete Colorado Trail this summer. Start mid-July. Please Call Lauri at 1-303-422-2101 evenings.

Reunion

Location: 1580 Yarrow which is one block west of W. Colfax and Wadsworth on the North side of the street, (behind Wuthering Heights restaurant.)

Trail Crew and CTF Reunion Date
Friday September 11, 1992

The reunion will once again be held at the Clements Community Center in Lakewood. Time for arrival is set at 5:30. This will be a pot luck supper, with door prizes, Awards, slide show and hopefully dancing afterward. Mark this date on your calendar NOW, in case your crew leader forgets to mention it. See if your friends can recognize you out of your grubby clothes! Who can tell the tallest tale of happenings on their crew. Maybe we’ll auction off the remaining tuna fish cans! We’ll have some of the famous trail crew ice cream in the hand crank freezer. So put on your cleanest CT T-shirt and hat and join the fun. You deserve it.

Lynn Mattingly, a professional quilt maker, repairs one of our favorite tents in Gudy’s living room.
Report of Colorado Trail Crews 21 and 22 (Weekend),
June 15/16 and June 22/23, 91
F.S. Road 817, Pike National Forest (Observatory Rock Quad)

The main approach to the Colorado Trail at F.S. Road 817 was up a steep, badly eroded jeep road, parts of which developed into a bog in wet weather. The goal was to improve the access route to the Trail and close the old jeep road to traffic.

Shortly before the two weekend crews arrived, Forest Service personnel installed a three-strand barb wire fence with an opening to admit hikers at the northeast end of the parking area. The fence is temporary until shrubs and trees can be transplanted and grow large enough to prevent short-cutting by hikers.

The main objectives were:

1. Close the jeep road to prevent use by hikers and vehicles, and install structures to prevent further erosion, allowing the road bed to revegetate;

2. Build new tread for access to the Trail for northwest bound hikers;

3. Repair and improve the access route on the old Hooper Trail for southeast-bound hikers and move a portion of the trail further from the creek.

The work accomplished during the two weekends included: installation of 15 waterbars and two checkdams, four series of stone steps in steeper parts of trail, two PVC pipe drains; building about one-fourth mile of new tread - including a switchback - through several rock outcroppings, and a crown about 20 feet long through a seep; construction of two stone retaining walls; setting three posts for signs; placing two railroad ties for a stream crossing; moving dozens of deadfall to discourage short-cutting at the switchback and at both intersections of the Colorado Trail, and to block the old jeep road; also, two large spruce were felled and moved in to the jeep road.

The result is that the west-bound trail contours on a gentle grade through the rock outcroppings with one switchback and intercepts the Colorado Trail shortly before it enters the Lost Creek Wilderness. A sign at the parking area entrance informs Trail users that this approach is not suggested for horseback riders (due to the narrowness of the passage through one rock outcrop).
Access to the Trail for southeast-bound hikers and for all horse traffic is now made by crossing the stream near the lower end of the parking area and using the Hooper Trail for a few hundred yards.

The two crews and two forest rangers worked a total of approximately 300 person hours to accomplish the objectives.
It was a pleasure working with Mike Hessler and Jerry Davis of the Fairplay District Office. They worked with us the entire four days which, due to the variety - and complexity of some - of the tasks, was a necessity. They also furnished all the necessary supplies and plenty of tools, all in good condition, which made the work easier than it would have been otherwise. Their assistance in loading, unloading and storing our tents and other equipment during the week was very much appreciated.

Crew members were: Cheryl Blum, Barbara Brannen, Cheri Litzinger, Margaret Champers, Judy Childers, Katey DelRio, Steven Gillette, Anne Greer, Terry Hardie, Peggy McManus, Josephine Olson, Diana Rahl, Anke Rommerskirch, Jay Sabo, Joe Slack, Gregg & Andrea Bell, Morris Bell, Ruben Bermudez, Bob & Marti Fulton, L.G. Simmons, Peggy Stark & Betsy Weitkamp.

Harriet Patton,
Leader

Note:

Never let it be said that weekend workcrews are less productive or less fun than weeklong crews! Crews 21 and 22 were congenial, cooperative and industrious. They probably did not return home "relaxed and refreshed" as volunteers are expected to do, but on the contrary were no doubt thoroughly fatigued if not downright exhausted!

Crew 22 Marti & Bob Fulton, L.G. Simmons, Peggy Stark, Morris Bell, Ruven Bermudez, Betsy Weitkamp, enjoying a lunch break.

Jo Olson, Peggy Chambers & Judy Childers display muscles used to pull the tree (behind them) into a gully to block use of an old jeep road.
Spring Creek Pass to Molas Pass a Spectacular Hike.

by Merle McDonald

Denise Wright and Lynn Mattingly hiked this section of the Colorado Trail in 90 and their description of it increased my desire to do the same. In the spring of 91 I was talking to Morris Borene about the coming summers trail construction crews when I mentioned my intention to hike this section. He immediately said “Hey, Let’s do it” and the trip was on.

Morris is a retired mechanical engineer from Lakewood who has worked on several trail crews and is working on hiking the whole Colorado Trail piece by piece. Prior to our hike he had covered everything north of North Pass (CO Hwy 114) and south of Hotel Draw (Rico). This section would almost complete the Trail for him. I had been on most of the sections South of Kenosha Pass on various work crews but this was to be my first multi day backpack trip on the Colorado Trail for the pure pleasure of hiking.

Morris and I met on the appointed day a little after 1 pm at Molas Pass and located a parking area near where the Colorado Trail crosses Highway 550 approximately seven miles south of Silverton. Then we were off in my VW bus for the 160

Looking down on Lake San Cristobal from the Colorado Trail on Radio Hill about ten miles west of Spring Creek Pass.

Merle & Max following the proposed reroute of the Colorado Trail about 5 miles west of Spring Creek Pass. The reroute follows the backbone of the Continental Divide across Jarosa Mesa. This will greatly enhance the panoramic views and avoid 3 miles of Jeep track. This is also great X-Country ski terrain.
mile trip around to Spring Creek Pass just south of Lake City. Since we arrived in Lake City about dinner time we decided to have a "Last Supper" there before proceeding on to the campground at Spring Creek Pass for the night.

Spring Creek Campground is on the Continental Divide and the Colorado Trail where Highway 149 crosses the Divide. It has a parking area, nice interpretative signs and several campsites with tables and fire grates but no water. Only one of the campsites was occupied when we arrived, but two more were filled before dark. One with a fellow from the Denver area who was going to hike the Colorado Trail to the east the following day. In the middle of the night a group of about 20 teenagers was dropped off at the campground. It appeared they did not have tents, but spread a large tarp and all crawled under it to sleep. We left before they awoke so I don’t know what the deal was there.

The CT follows the Continental Divide for about 20 miles until it reaches Carson Saddle. Then it drops down into the Lost Creek drainage and follows it by Carson Peak and up and over into Pole Creek. Thence down Pole Creek to the Rio Grande. After wading the Rio Grande a jeep road is followed 4 miles to the abandoned site of Beartown. From Beartown it goes up and over the Divide and down into the Elk Creek drainage to the Animas River, then up a steep climb to Molas Pass.

We spent four nights on the Trail at Ruby Creek, Pole Creek, Beartown and beside the Animas River. The first days hike was nice but not spectacular. We stopped for lunch beneath a solar powered radio tower that beams something down to Lake City. Since we were on the Divide and above timberline we had pretty good views in all directions. By the time we reached Ruby Creek, almost 14 miles in, we were exhausted and decided to spend the night there. En route to Ruby Creek while crossing the divide between Big Buck Creek and Ruby Creek we found a section of the trail that was severely damaged by vehicle traffic even though the area was clearly posted closed to vehicles. They drove through bogs and springs leaving a terrible mess. Perhaps we can get a crew to do some repair work next summer.

From Ruby Creek it is a steep climb to the highest point on the Colorado Trail, Coney Peak at 13,334 ft. where we stopped for lunch. Needless to say the views were great! From Coney Summit to Carson saddle the CT follows a jeep road which is quite steep and treacherous and frequently traveled by ORVs. Its a good place to watch your step especially if you have a heavy pack!

After Carson Saddle there is a fairly gentle climb to the divide and over into the Pole Creek Drainage. We camped in the upper Pole Creek area where finding a reasonably level spot to pitch a tent took several tries. Also there was a flock of sheep about a mile from where camped that we could hear and smell all night. Pole Creek flows into a steep narrow canyon at its lower end necessitating several crossings of the creek. It takes some ingenuity to keep your boots dry.

When you get to the Rio Grande ingenuity won’t help. When we crossed it was a hundred feet wide and a foot or so deep.

I carried a light weight running shoe to wade in and to wear around camp. Unfortunately the uppers had some foam padding that was very difficult to dry.

Just as we crossed the Rio Grande it started to rain which continued until the following morning. The four miles up a jeep road to the old Beartown site where we camped turned into a bit of a slog. By the time we arrived at our camp site it was raining steadily.

While Morris and I were standing in the relative shelter of a tree trying to decide where to pitch our tents a hiker with an umbrella approached a CT sign about 100 feet from our tree. He pulled out a topo map and began

*Continued overleaf*
to study it. Thinking I might be able to help him since I knew that area fairly well I called for him to come over and share the shelter of our tree. Low and behold as he came closer I recognized him as Randy Jacobs the author of the Official Guide to the Colorado Trail. He was checking out the Beartown reroute that had just been opened the previous month. After a short visit he took off for his car that he had left up on Cunningham Creek several miles to the north.

The following morning dawned clear but naturally everything was wet from the all night rain. We spent some extra time trying to get our tents as dry as possible before carrying them up the 2000 feet of elevation needed to cross over Continental Divide into the Elk Creek drainage.

Shortly after leaving the valley floor the views become spectacular. In my opinion the trip from Beartown over the Divide and down Elk Creek to the Animas River is the most spectacular of the whole Colorado Trail. The tundra is covered with wild flowers and you can see for hundreds of miles in all directions. There are many waterfalls coming down into Elk Creek. About half way down Elk Creek there is a very picturesque lake and the Grenadier Mountains are awe inspiring.

Continued on page 9
Elk Creek gets quite a few hikers probably because of accessibility via the Durango/Silverton railroad. The train will let off and pickup hikers at a whistle stop where the CT crosses the Animas. However I would recommend against trying to do it all in one day. Its possible but I don’t think it would be enjoyable. I would recommend a three day trip by establishing a two night camp about half way up Elk Creek. That would give one a full day to explore the upper reaches of Elk Creek and the Continental Divide where it is so beautiful.

We spent our final night on the Trail by the Animas River. There was also a young couple from Texas camped nearby with their two dogs. We shared their campfire for a bit that evening and Max enjoyed a romp with their dogs. The next morning in bright sun we started the 37 switchback climb up to Molas Pass. While that sounds grim and we worked up a good sweat, it really has some nice views of the Animas valley and the Grenadiers. We could have saved ourselves the final mile and a half of walking if we had parked at the Molas Lake trailhead instead of at Molas Pass, but what the heck, we were out for the walk and we finished before noon.

Continued overleaf
Continued from page 9

It was a great trip and we both thoroughly enjoyed it. By paying close attention to the trail description in the Official Guide Book and watching for trail markers we did not have any trouble with route finding. But I have heard some hikers have had problems where the CT crosses the divide just above Beartown. It is easy to see why. The last half mile to the divide the CT is not the most obvious hiking trail. The problem is correctly described in the first two paragraphs on page 192 of the Official Guide. Follow it closely until we can get some new signs up next summer. However signs we put up in July last year were gone in August.

Another good book that covers this area in less detail but with pretty color pictures is Day Hikes on the Colorado Trail by Jan Robertson. It is available from the Colorado Trail Foundation or many book and outdoor stores.

What would I do different if I took this trip again? I would lighten my backpack by 15 lbs. I would take wading shoes without foam padding and carry xerox copies of the appropriate pages of the Official Guide in my shirt pocket for easy access instead of the book in my pack.

It was a great experience! Try it, you'll love it.

The Durango to Silverton steam train in the Animas Gorge at the crossing of the Colorado Trail

Morris Borine, Max and Merle at the Colorado Trail sign at Molas Pass at the end of their five day, 52 mile hike that encompassed some of the most spectacular scenery in Colorado. Photos by Morris Borine
THE FOOD MOUNTAIN

Dear Crews,

Did you ever wonder how all that food in your supply tent got there? I knew somebody had put the meals together, shopped and somehow it was all ready for us to make supper. It was great camp food and the desire to know more ended with a satisfied stomach.

It was a very wise Indian that said (poetic license taken here), "you don't know where I've been until you've walked in my moccasins."

I have a true appreciation for the job Gudy and Denise Wright have done, now that I'm trying to fit into their shoes.

Many years ago when crews first started, Gudy was the one who got the food as well as the crews, plus running the whole show. As Gudy got older and wiser, she gave up the food committee job and handed it over to Denise Wright. Denise computerized it, made it sound easy and I "bit". Perfect timing I'd say as she now had it down to a science.

The science begins with thinking "menu". After the menu is set, what foods are needed to supply the menu for 18 people for 6 days are computed. When the food list is set, trying to get companies to donate as much of that food as possible is next. This means lots of letters and phone calls. More phone calls (these big company types are out a lot!), arrangements to pick up donations, and the heartbreak of rejections. Then the BIG shopping spree--2 to 4 people meet at Pace, load up 2 or 3 of those flat, wheely things that squeal, embarrassing you with every turn, leave $3000 in the cash register, load up 2-3 vehicles and head for the storing place. Muscles are starting to complain now as the cartons and flats of food are moved for the third time.

Continued on page 12
Little sprees follow to get all the things not carried by Pace. I wish I’d had a camera for all the looks I got as I wheeled around a cart with 57 boxes of Jello vanilla pudding and 19 bottles of soy sauce. Such fun! Many such trips later, all the food is finally accumulated. The briskets have been bought thanks to Stacy Singer, and taken to the “cookers”. A cheese run is made to get 171 pounds of Cheddar and Jack. Packing day has arrived.

Ken Stagner has been the man behind all those boxes, saving them up over the year, breaking them down, storing them anywhere, 200 of them, leaving Ken’s wife, Helen, shaking her head. As Ken starts taping the boxes back together, 4-6 other people start the job of portioning out all the food into a pile for each crew (19 this year). Backpack crews have a little different menu, so those piles are kept separate. After the mountain of food is cut down to 19 little hills, the skills of these talented people really shines. Completion gets fierce to see who can get their pile into the fewest boxes. Each packer has their own system, but invariably it takes 10 boxes (made it in 9 this year). The boxes are then carried back to the storage area. Those muscles are firming up. Distribution is next.

More phone calls to leaders, are they going to be at Gudy’s leaders meeting? Can you pick up the food at my house? When can you pick it up??? How many cars do I need to take it up to Gudy’s?

At Gudy’s, the boxes are unloaded and loaded again! But, from now on it is the leader’s muscles that get the toning. The job is nearly done. Thank you letters for donations, settling up the finances, write a final report, convincing myself its all going to work out OK, and taking a deep breath.

Well, now you know a stork did not just drop all that food out of the sky on one of his baby runs. Just like you trail builders, a dedicated bunch of volunteers make it all happen, and I certainly will enjoy that supper even more.

Did you ever wonder how all that equipment to make camp got there????
By for now, see you on the trail.
Pat Nagorka

HELPING HANDS

Members and Friends of the CT spent Mothers Day as well as two other long evenings collating the newly revised CT maps. The volunteers were so numerous that to thank each of you would be too lengthy in this newsletter. So we must thank you collectively for such an unrewarding job. Building and maintaining the trail is just one job on the CT. It’s all of the thankless hours spent “underground” to keep an organization like this going that users of the trail never realize. The finished product has many hidden hands in producing the end results. Thanks for being that extra hand.

If you would like to be contacted when we have the occasional evening of “underground work” to be accomplished please leave your name and phone number with Gudy 526-0809 or Charlotte Biber 756-0787.

Colorado Trail & Continental Divide Trail colocated between Marshall Pass & North Pass
New Member of CTF Board of Directors
Reed Donnelly

Reed has retired after 28 years with State Mutual Life Assurance Co. Was District Group Manager in Denver, marketing group life, medical, and retirement plans.

An avid bicyclist involved with the Denver Bicycle Touring Club, Heartcycle, Team Evergreen and the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Assn. (COPMOBA). Has ridden his mountain bike over eight segments of the Colorado Trail and plans to do more. You'll find Reed at most mountain bike festivals, such as, Crested Butte, Moab, Telluride, Winter Park, or on the Kokopelli Trail and Tabeguache Trail.

Over the winter he stays active downhill skiing or working out at the Denver Sporting Club.

Reed has four grown daughters; Susan Chancellor, of Denver; Adrienne Milliren, of Lombard, Ill.; Jennifer, attending Du Page College, Ill.; and Allison, aspiring to be an actress and stand up comedian, living at home.

He is full of energy and enthusiasm and has immediately became a great asset to the CTF Board of Directors.

Welcome aboard, Reed Donnelly!

Entertainment Colorado
In May the CTF had a booth at Denvers Currigan Hall for four days and answered questions and distributed information about the CT. They were long 12 hour days but Joe Slack did a marvelous job in setting up and organizing the event. Our thanks go to Merle, Wendell, Charlotte, Bruce, Bea and Herschel, Peggy Manus and Otis and Elsie Teets (above) for donating time to man the booth.

The CTF was given a table at three different Joslin Stores on a weekend in April to sell guide books and pass out CT literature during and event called Colorado Experience. We had large display posters made of scenes along the CT to show customers the beauty of the trail. The interest in the posters may lead to the sale of posters in the near future. Watch for details in the mail. Our thanks go to Bruce, Wendell, Bonnie, Charlotte and Gudy for giving freely of their time to inform the general public.
End of season report from Robert Studer.

(Editors Note; Robert was hiking the southern end of the CT last summer but stopped to work on two crews, Lu Juan Creek and Rolling Mountain #3. He hiked into camp on the beginning Saturday and hiked on at the end of the week. I ask him to give me a report on the condition of the trail as he found it. I had talked to a couple of sets of Continental Divide through hikers who reported the CDT was very intermittent south of the Rio Grande to Mexico. He sent me the following letter after returning home to Kansas last fall.)

Dear Merle,

This is just a short note to let you know about my travels and what I noted along the Colorado Trail between Rolling Mountain and the Continental Divide at Elk Creek. About 5 m. from Rolling Mountain Pass the trail traverses a steep rock-banded area and about 5 feet of trail has been washed out. About 1/2 mile further down the trail where it enters a section of forest there is a 10 foot mudhole followed by 2 downed trees across the trail. Above Little Molas Lake there is no signage to guide northbound hikers from the ridge down to the trailhead. Between Molas Pass and the Animas River there was little to note except for a few places where small rocks were clogging the trail. I do not recall any problems between the river and the Continental Divide.

Contrary to your previously reported information I found the Continental Divide Trail easy to follow from Elk Creek to Wolf Creek Pass. The treadway was not as well maintained as the Colorado Trail’s, though. I arrived at Wolf Creek Pass on Sunday September 1, and headed for South Fork on Forest Service roads and trails.

Unfortunately I fell down an embankment that night and had to get a ride to Alamosa with a couple of college students in their pick-up. The folks at San Luis Valley regional medical center x-rayed my ankle, which was broken. The next day a cast was put on my right ankle and friends from LaVeta picked me up. It is a shame that I had to do something stupid and careless like that to mar what was a very enjoyable hike otherwise.

Best Regards,

Robert Studer

Attention Hikers on the CT from the Rio Grande to the Animas.

We received several reports last summer of hikers taking the wrong trail when topping the Divide between Beartown and Elk Creek. In the last draw before topping out the Divide there are two trails. The one on the right is obviously a hiking trail and in much better condition than the extremely steep, obviously abandoned, vehicle track on the left.

If you follow the vehicle track on the left you are much less likely to get lost. Although both trails start out heading north the vehicle track continuously curves left until by the time it reaches the crest of the Divide it is going almost due south. If you follow the much better walking trail on the right you should make a 90 degree left turn at the top of the ravine and hike about 300 yards across the tundra until you join the vehicle track. Within another 300 yards the vehicle track joins the Continental Divide trail heading south. To the west you will notice the steep drop into the Elk Creek drainage. Follow the combined Colorado/Continental Divide Trail a few more hundred yards south until the CT turns right and descends steeply into the Elk Creek drainage via a series of 32 switchbacks.

Merle McDonald
The location of the work camp was three miles southeast of Spring Creek Road, about two miles beyond Doctor Mine at an elk hunters' elk camp site, and accessible by four-wheel drive vehicles. The campsite used by this crew and the one following it was situated about midway on the two-mile route that had been flagged the previous month by Ernie Werren and Nora Chavez.

The eleven members of crew 14 began building tread from the jeep road (about 100 yards below the campsite) at about 11,200 feet elevation. The Route, entirely in forest, followed and elk trail on a gentle contour in a generally southwesterly direction toward Doctor Park.

The crew built approximately two-thirds of a mile of tread, staying on the flagged route and removing a dozen or so trees, plus stumps, branches and rocks necessary to maintain the required vertical and horizontal clearance. The spruce and fir in the work area appear to be relatively young with very little downfall to be removed. There is approximately a 200-foot change in elevation in the two-thirds of a mile built. The soil seemed to be quite stable and not very prone to erosion.

The weather was good; there were no injuries of accidents experienced by crew members. Estimated volunteer hours invested in the project: 290.

Members of the crew were; Roger Bearden, Marianne, Roger & Josh McClintock, Shirley DeJaeger, Gerald Fall, Kim Stevens, and Aaron Jamvold. Co-leaders were Harriet Patton and Bill Bloomquist.
Attention X-country Skiers

by Merle McDonald

Jerry Gray who has adopted Colorado Trail maintenance sections 34 & 35 (Spring Creek Pass to Carson Saddle) has developed a great idea for X-country skiers in the vicinity of Spring Creek Pass (the Continental Divide on CO highway 149 between Lake City and Creede). He has designed and built a yurt for overnight use by X-C skiers. And due to his unique design it is about the neatest thing I have seen in a long time.

On April 7th Gudy, Gerd, a neighbor of Gudy's, George Miller, the CT equipment chairman, and I went to Lake City to try it out. The classical yurt is a circular, domed portable tent used by the nomadic Mongols of Siberia. Jerry has updated the design with the use of modern materials into a really neat place to spend the night while on a ski tour. A large section of the roof is made of clear plastic so one can lie there on the carpeted, insulated floor and watch the moon and stars at night. It is heated by a wood stove of his design that keeps the 20 foot in diameter yurt as warm as toast. With proper banking the stove still had heat in the morning and with the addition of a few sticks of wood it soon brought the interior of the yurt up to shirt sleeve comfort.

While there are three double deck bunks set up around the perimeter of the room, there were several folding cots available. My guess is at least a dozen people could sleep there quite comfortably. Gudy and I just rolled our sleeping bags out on the carpeted floor and went to sleep while gazing up at the magnificent star-studded winter sky.

The yurt also has a cabinet for food preparation, a propane stove for cooking, a table for eating while water is carried from a nearby stream. It has gas lanterns for light as well as candles mounted on wall brackets around the room. All in all a really delightful place. It even has a cleverly designed "outyurt" for the more mundane necessities of life.

The yurt was (it was taken down and stored for the summer) located on the West Fork of Cebolla Creek which runs roughly parallel to the Continental Divide about 2 miles north of Spring Creek Pass. The skiing on the CT west of Spring Creek Pass was great I think a beginner with just a few basic skills could have a great time. My only cautions are; don't go alone, it's lonely country and take lots of sun screen.

Jerry is proposing to rent the yurt out next winter for the flat rate of $65 per night. He can be contacted at 303-944-2269. Get a group together and have a great time skiing the Spring Creek Pass area.

PS. The picture below doesn't do the yurt justice, it's really neat.

This winter ski Yurt-To-Yurt on The Colorado Trail

HINSDALE HAUTE ROUTE
(303) 944-2269
P.O. BOX 771, LAKE CITY, CO 81235

CTF Receives 12 Seat Van

Craig and Martha Gaskill have given the CTF a much needed van to move the mountains of equipment for the trail crews as well as people on the Colorado Trail Treks. Thanks Craig and Martha, you are an answer to our dreams.
IN MEMORY OF BOB BOBLETT
February 1, 1918 - April 19, 1992

The Colorado Trail Foundation and all of its many friends lost a wonderful and dedicated member. Trail Leader, Musician, Storyteller and above all a FRIEND. A friend that was willing and able to fit into any slot, whether it was to bake bread or supply fresh vegetables from his garden, run the chain saw or sort out paper work and files. He was the first in the morning to haul heavy buckets of water or bring his pick-up into impossible places. He opened his camper doors to accommodate rain soaked bodies and was a terrific leader on the trail. He could swing a pulaski better than a 19 year old and coax mountain size boulders out of the ground. We all grew by knowing Bob Boblette. Thanks Bob for sharing some of your life with us. We became the privileged.

Bob’s family has asked that memoria be sent to The Colorado Trail Foundation. May Bob walk on the CT forever.

Gudy Gaskill

LIVE SIMPLY SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE

Betty Seeley’s bequest

Betty Seeley’s will has gone through probate resulting in a gift of $8500 to the Colorado Trail Foundation. The monies have been put into a special fund until a suitable project is found in which to invest the money. Friends of both Betty Seeley and Bob Boblette have suggested a bench be placed somewhere on the trail in memory of these two fine friends. The Foundation is looking into the project and its feasibility.

Gudy Gaskill

Dear CTF

We have thoroughly enjoyed hiking about 100 miles of the Colorado Trail. We intend to hike the whole trail in the next few years and since we are third generation Colorado natives, we feel that this is a special trail for us. We would like to contribute $1.00 for each mile that we hike, so I’m starting this by sending the Foundation $100.

Thank you for the beautiful trail and for giving us the opportunity to enjoy it.

The Hickey family, Mike, Deb, Pat and Kyle

The Colorado Trail along Pole Creek in the San Juans
Carson Peak is on the skyline
Colorado Trails Weekend

No, the “s” on Trails in the headline is not a typo. On May 16 and 17 the State of Colorado celebrated Trails Day to bring attention to its many and varied trails. The event was organized by Bruce Ward of the Denver REI store with a grant given by REI and support from a number of corporations. The main event, a weekend booth at Heritage Square was attended by many outdoors enthusiasts all wanting to learn more about trails from the organizations and agencies represented at the ‘fair’. There were authors of many of the outdoor publications available to sign autographs, as well as a great deal of literature available. The Colorado Trail Foundation’s Booth was overwhelmed with sales and requests for information. Thanks go to Randy, Charlotte, Bonnie, Gudy, Tracy and Lynn for disseminating information.

The Colorado Trail Foundation also sponsored a pancake breakfast on the trail at Meadows Campground in the South Platte District. Irene Cazer organized the event with lots of help from many hands, including Ernie, Nora, Charlotte, Jane, George, Pat, Randy, Bob and Kay.

On Sunday, May 17th the CTF sponsored four hikes on the Colorado Trail. A hike up Junction Creek in Durango was led by book author Paul Pixler; A hike from South Cottonwood Creek to Mount Princeton was led by CTF Board Member Merle McDonald; A hike from Meadows Campground to Forest Service road 543 was co-led by Board Members Lynn Mattingly and Belinda Wiman; And a conducted bike ride was led by Board Member Reed Donnelly. Although the hikes were not well attended, possibly due to a lack of publicity, the day was beautiful and the opportunity was there for the people of Colorado to see and enjoy the Colorado Trail.

Reed Donnelly organized a weekend maintenance crew on the CT through the Denver Bicycle Touring Club. This was accomplished in the Buffalo Creek area. The group enjoyed the pancake breakfast on Sunday morning before returning back to work. Our hats off to the DBTC.

Channel 6 aired the CT

On June 20th and 22nd Channel 6 featured the Colorado Trail on its Senior Showcase. A month earlier the TV crews came up to Lookout Mountain and filmed Kay and Bob Hubbard, Ernie Werren and Gudy Gaskill doing maintenance work on the training trail below Gudy’s house. An interview with Gudy followed the trail work. There have been many positive calls about the trail as a result of the show.

NEW THIS SPRING

The THIRD edition of the Official Guide Book to the Colorado Trail by Randy Jacobs has just been received from the printers. Westcliff Publishers will be handling the commercial accounts with the CTF still filling the individual orders. There were 45 pages that had changes.

The second edition of the general information brochures on the CT are out and being distributed to stores and Chamber of Commerce offices. This year the color is pale green, with some changes to the contents. We have 15000 for distribution this summer.

The THIRD edition of the CT maps are out with eleven of the twenty nine having revisions. The map sales are still being handled by volunteer Debbie Sweeney. Our hat goes off to Debbie for holding down two jobs and still managing the mailings.

New release forms are out this spring, a product of CTF Board Member Sam Guyton. All volunteers must sign a release form before working on a crew or
hiking with the CTF TREKS.

Along the Colorado Trail, a new pictorial book of the Colorado Trail has been written by M. John Fayhee with 100 color photographs by renown photographer John Fielder. Published by Westcliff Publishers the book is available through the Colorado Trail Foundation (with 10% off to FRIENDS OF THE CT) as well as most book stores. Makes a wonderful gift from Colorado and the photographs are superb! The book sells for $19.95 and $29.95 (soft and hard cover). The hard cover comes packaged in a colorful mailer box.

Orders are again being taken for the CT sweatshirt. All colors and sizes are available. By special order only. The $25 includes postage. Contact Lynn Mattingly at 443-4396 or 8621 Left Hand Canyon, Jamestown, CO 80455.

Supported Bike Ride on the CT

Steve Gladbach and co-leader Lynn Mattingly announced that there was still room on the first supported Mountain bike trip on the CT July 26-August 1. The trip is an easy one for the casual weekender and covers about 19 miles per day from Kenoshapass to Denver, following the official CT bike route.

The trip costs $205 for CT members and includes all meals, leadership and a swag wagon. Contact Steve Gladbach in Pueblo at 719-543-8616 or Lynn Mattingly at 303-443-4396 for additional information and to sign up. An easy, enjoyable way of ‘doing’ the Colorado Trail. Trip limited to 20 riders.

Gudy Gaskill Received Award

Gudy Gaskill received and Individual Award from Colorado Governor Roy Romer in appreciation of the years of dedication to the trails community at the Awards dinner at Heritage Square on May 16th. Gudy accepted the award for all volunteers who have given many weeks to maintaining and building trails in Colorado.

Colorado Trail Foundation
P.O. Box 260876, Lakewood, CO 80226-0876

The Colorado Trail by Randy Jacobs
(CTF official guide, 240 pgs, paperback) postpaid 14.35

Day Hikes on the Colorado Trail by Jan Robertson
(48 pgs, 35 color photos, traveler format) postpaid 6.20

Topographic waterproof maps (11" x 17")
Full set: 29 maps, Denver to Durango 17.95
Southwest set: 13 maps, Marshall Pass to Durango 9.95

Note Cards, assorted designs by Jerry Albright 3.00
Christmas Cards, assorted designs 3.00

CT-Shirts: CT map design, short sleeved
50/50: white _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL
cool green _____ M _____ L _____ XL 8.00
light blue _____ L _____ XL 8.00
100% cotton: aqua _____ M _____ L _____ XL
raspberry _____ S _____ M _____ L
white _____ S _____ _____ L _____ XL 8.00

Official Colorado Trail Souvenirs with CT Logo
Baseball caps 7.50
Patch 2.50
Pin 2.00
Trail Sign 1.00

Subtotal

Colorado residents add 4.2% tax
Colo. Tax

Shipping: shirts, add $2.50; maps, add $2/set Shipping

(You may copy this form for your order.)

Total

Friends of the Colorado Trail

$15 Senior/Student $50 Family $100 Patron
$25 Individual $75 Contributor $500 Supporter

Benefits for Friends Include:
Quarterly newsletter 10% Discounts on CT materials
CT Trek invite Info on CT functions, meetings, crews

___ I would like to work on a trail crew.
___ I would like to "adopt" a section of trail to maintain.

Name
Telephone

Street or PO Box

Town or City State ZIP
A funny thing happened on the way to the printer. But a bit of background first. For the last several years, Tread Lines has been printed by a private company as a donation to the Colorado Trail Foundation. Due to a downturn in business they could no longer donate their printing services. Beginning with the last issue Tread Lines was printed by a commercial printer.

After I had finally finished the camera ready copy of this edition I called the printer to see how much money I needed to bring. The discussion revealed that to get the best rate it would be necessary to use a press that printed pages in blocks of eight instead of blocks of four as our previous printers press operated. Therefore a 20 page newsletter would cost more than a 24 page newsletter.

Since I am due to head out for the Colorado Trail the day after tomorrow you are about to observe four pages of a soft shoe routine.

This issue has been compiled with the Aldus PageMaker 4.0. This is my first document with this software program. It's an extremely powerful program, (that's computerese for hard to learn). The first shock came when I found out the Aldus Corporation does not offer telephonic technical support. Most computer companies at least claim to offer tech support.

You don't find out they lie until you try to use it. One notable exception is the WordPerfect Corporation. Not only do they offer you an 800 number their people are knowledgable and anxious to help you. But I digress, now back to the usual software people. Typically the software documentation has been contracted out to a Chinese who has never met an english speaking person. But seriously PageMaker is a pretty good program once you get the hang of it. By the next newsletter I should have better control of the fonts and graphics.

Fortunately I have a nephew in Fort Worth who uses PageMaker and after a half a dozen or so calls to him we got it up and running.

Summer 1992 Work Areas

The map on the opposite page shows where the 19 week long crews will be working this summer.

The Swan River Reroute will have six crews in three separate locations all within a couple of miles of each other. They are named Horseshoe Gulch 1 & 2, Soda Creek 1 & 2, and Keystone 1 & 2. Each camp will be just a little higher up the ridge, but reached by an entirely different route.

The two southern Leadville camps will be within a mile of each other, but reached by different routes.

All of the Gunnison camps are on the high ground between the Taylor River and Spring Ck.

Merle & Larry White on the top of San Luis Peak, an hours easy climb from the Colorado Trail. Photo by Tom Bowser
The Following newspaper articles are offered without comment. Ed.

**GAO: Wealthy few devour BLM land**

*by Ned Martel*

*States News Service*

WASHINGTON - The livestock of relatively few ranchers are devouring more than their share of federally managed rangelands, according to a Government Accounting Office report. Capitol Hill's investigative wing, has scoured the Bureau of Land Management's records, tabulating the 500 largest grazing permitholders.

The study found that these top 500 control 76 million acres of the nation's public grasslands.

Thus, those who have paid for the 500 largest permits make up only 2 percent of all the ranchers who use BLM land, yet their livestock graze nearly half of all that available land.

"It is not the small producer that depends on public rangelands," said Rep. Mike Synar, the Oklahoma Democrat who requested the study. "It is some of the wealthiest Americans who are living high off the American taxpayers."

Synar said some of the "corporate welfare cowboys" who enjoy the rangeland hegemony include New York businessman Laurence Rockefeller, computer barons Bill Hewlett and David Packard. Several corporate permit-holders also rank in the top 500: insurance companies such as Aetna, John Hancock and Metropolitan Life; oil and gas giants such as Getty, Hunt and Texaco.

In considering the numerous permit holdings in Colorado, the GAO investigators found the state's ranchers collectively holding the short end of the stick.

Looking at the total acreage allotted to Montana ranchers, the study found only 11 permit-holders in the state who qualified for the top 500. More Coloradans could be found in the survey's lowest 500, where the GAO calculated that 103 of the smallest allotted-acreage permits were in Colorado's rangeland.

Only yesterday, Synar set in motion his annual appeal to raise the grazing fees for all ranchers. A key House panel agreed to the Oklahoman's proposal to gradually increase the rate, currently at $1.92 per animal-unit-month, to a rate of $5.36 by 1997.

An identical proposal was pushed through the House in last year's appropriations process, but was rejected in conference with the Senate in exchange for the killing of a provision by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., that would have restricted National Endowment for the Arts funding for projects that could be considered obscene.

In the wake of this "corn-for-porn" compromise, as it was known, Synar said there will likely be no such deal struck this year.

**Forest Service loses millions on timber sales in Colorado**

*Associated Press*

MONTROSE- National forest timber sales lost about $7 million in Colorado last year, according to a report by the U.S. Forest Service.

About $1.6 million was lost on timber sales in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison national forests alone, which sparked another round of debate over how the Forest Service handles those sales.

The agency lost money on all of its Colorado timber sales, taking in $5.1 million but reporting $12.1 million in expenses, the report said.

The Wilderness Society, and environmental group, charged that the losses are even greater because the agency hides the cost of road preparation. The society estimates that road preparation accounts for between 50 and 95 percent of total road-building costs on Forest Service land—about $95.3 million in Colorado last year.

The Forest Service builds the roads and factors the cost into the price of timber.

The agency defended its policy of not revealing outright the cost of road building, saying the method is similar to standard accounting practices.

Matt Glasgow, spokesman for the three Western Slope forests, said the loss for the three is the highest in the state because of the large number of aspen sales; the agency sets the price of aspen lower than conifers.
"You know what I'm sayin'?... Me, for example. I couldn't work in some stuffy little office. The outdoors just calls to me."

NEW COLORADO BOOK
BY JOHN FIELDER!

ALONG THE COLORADO TRAIL,
Photography by John Fielder,
Journal by John Fayhee

Over 120 breathtaking color photographs document the 470 mile journey through the heart of the Colorado Rockies, from Denver to Durango. Complementing Fielder's perceptive eye is Fayhee's entertaining diary of his experiences while hiking the Colorado Trail: a combination of narrated, revelations and education!

Available May 1st at a 15% savings off retail.
Hardcover - $25. Softcover - $16.

Part of the proceeds benefit CTF.

This book is a great companion to "The Official Colorado Trail Guide". These fine quality books make perfect gifts for outdoor enthusiasts!

To order, call (303) 935-0900 — please mention this ad and the special price — Visa & MC accepted, or send check/money order to Westcliffe Publishers, P.O. Box 1261, Englewood CO 80150.
I would like to adopt a section of the trail to
maintain.

If I would like to work on a trail crew, please send info

I would like to work on a trail crew. Please send info

Information on trail sections, meetings and crews.

Trail incentive
Quarterly newsletter

Periodic discourses

Promotes for friends of the Colorado Trail

Patron $100
Supporter $200
Contributor $25 Student/Teacher
Individual $15

Trail Foundation as a “Friend of the Colorado Trail”.

Please accept my annual contribution to the Colorado Trail.

YES: I would like to support the Colorado Trail!

So much to be done.

The Foundation invites you to join in making The Colorado Trail, an educational and recreational reality...