Presidents Corner

by Cindy Gaskill

Another successful summer on the Colorado Trail!

It never ceases to amaze me that there are so many wonderful volunteers that are willing to donate their time and money to improve the Colorado Trail with their backbreaking work, so that others can enjoy the magnificent scenery that the trail has to offer, in comfort. Nor do many of the users realize just what the summer trail crews have accomplished nor that there is an organization that is building and overseeing the trail. I have had the chance to talk to several backpackers this summer, that were hiking the full length of the trail and they were completely ignorant of the trails background and the CTF efforts. It must be that when they purchase the book, as we do when we purchase an appliance, we skip the directions before assembling, so it must be with the CT Guide Book readers, they wish to hike ride and skip the first 50 pages. The important thing is: WE KNOW and we appreciate all of your efforts! Each of you that were volunteers for the first time, we urge you to come back and hike bike portions of the trail and reap the benefits of your efforts.

Kirsten, from Hoboken, NJ and a first time crew member on the Brown’s Gulch Crew is applying to her employer, J.P. Morgan for matching volunteer time with funds for the CT. Not only did she swing a mean pulaski, but she’s taking the time to fill out the forms. Continued on page 2

Waterfall on Bear Creek above Beartown

Inside
Equipment Rpt 5
Powderhorn 6
Houghland 6
Help Wanted 7
Mt Princeton 8
Fasbinder 9
Lost Creek 11
Sliderock #2 12
Trail Maintenance 12
Wellington Lakes 14
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.

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This edition of Tread Lines was compiled by Merle McDonald.

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Crew food management at Pat Nagorka's house near Parker

Continued from page 1

Does your employer match volunteer time with funds? **Diana Parker** has been applying for funds with her employer, US West for several years. You could benefit yourself (with deserved recognition) and benefit the CT with added funds. What is one more form to fill out, in this world of paper work?

Most of the crews went well this summer. The weather was remarkable, the lingering snow melted fairly rapidly and the added winter moisture gave us a good indication of future trouble spots. We had resourceful leaders with some unpredicted large crews, all the camps were timely moved, and most camps accomplished far more than the leaders or Forest Service expected them to do! We are proud of each and every one of you. The understatement of the year “We could not have done it without you” Four crews did not accomplish their projected goals due to the Forest Service District not completing their NEPA reports on time or lack of time to do their field work. We will try to avoid this in the future, as this is a waste of money and manpower to the CTF.

**Al Mauther** completed his seventh year as the volunteer trail crew coordinator, and as there was some confusion when some of the acceptance letters were not timely mailed due to a computer breakdown error, we apologize to those of you who had to make a call to find out if you were indeed scheduled for a summer crew. Thanks for your patience, it worked out OK in most cases.

Kudos go to **Joe Slack** and **Phil Smith**, each of whom led two week long trail crews

Continued on page 3
Continued from page 2
plus a weekend crew. Associated with each crew is a lot of preparatory work in food purchases, telephone calls, leader refresher training, pick up of food and assorted equipment, at least 2 pieces of mail to each participant, pictures, a crew reunion and personal contact. Merle McDonald, Larry O'Donnell, George Miller and Gudy Gaskill each led two week long crews for the CTF. Gene Cash, Bill Cannon, Irene Cazer, Lynn Mattingly, Jim Miller, Ernie Werren, Denise Wright, Frank Pulver, Harriet Patton, Pat Nagorka and Abe Ohr, each veteran crew leaders, did a great responsible job with their crew. Thanks guys and gals for staying faithfully with the CT and giving that extra time and effort. We do need additional crew leaders. If you have a hankering for additional responsibility, give your last leader a call ( to recommend you ). A leader training session will be held this spring.

As winter approaches, we go into hibernation. The equipment has all been stored at George Miller's home in Manitou Springs or at Gudy's home on the mountain in Golden. The left over food is stored at Pat Nagorka's home in Franktown and the van and inoperable pickup truck are sitting in Gudy's driveway. Wintertime is the time that we put together next years crews and activities on the trail. Plans are already in progress for the 20th year celebration with a six week supported trail trek led by Steve Gladbach and Lynn Mattingly. Ernie Werren and Gudy have been out in the field in the Taylor River District (NE of Gunnison) doing reconnaissance work for next years crews. There will be an open house holiday party for all Friends of the Colorado Trail, another proposed six day ski tour in the Lake City area using yurts and John Wilson's Cabin, and we hope to lead a couple of ski tours on the CT in January. If you would like to help with any of these functions or spending a few hours filing, sorting, writing letters, and putting picture albums together (from the last 10 years) give me a call at 303-526-0809. It would be nice to get caught up!

During the third week in September, the aspens reached their height on the CT. We hope that many of you had the opportunity to reap in the golden feeling, the wealth of contentment of a job WELL DONE.

20th Year CT Celebration
A supported trek of the complete Colorado Trail, Denver to Durango, is planned for June 26 to August 7, 1994. Leaders will be Steve Gladbach and Lynn Mattingly. Tentative plans are for 31 days of hiking averaging about 16 miles per day. Cost will be about $250 per week. More complete information will be available in the next issue of Tread Lines.

Colorado Trail Foundation Receives Certificate
The CTF received a Certificate of Excellent Achievement from Du Pont for its involvement in making the public aware of the use of trails. A mention was made in the Denver Post of the award.

Continued on page 4
Celebrate Colorado Winner

Last year the CTF was the recipient of the award for preserving and protecting Colorado's environment. This year Jan Redwood from Mancos received the individual award from Governor Roy Romer. Many of you will remember Jan and her husband donating the use of the Redwood llamas for packing supplies for the San Juan Crews. Congratulations Jan!

Trail Crew Reunion

The Trail Crew Reunion was held at the Clements Community Center in Lakewood on September 16th. A wide variety of food was brought for the potluck and many albums of pictures. Door prizes were donated by REI, the Forest Service and the CTF. We apologize to those that received their invitations late. We misjudged the expediency of the postal service on bulk mail. For all of us who did attend, the highlight of the evening was Norm Rehme's heavenly music on his crystal glasses. He is one of seven people in the world that plays professionally. We were honored with his willingness to give us a performance. Another unusual entertainment was Josh Mecham's clogging dance. Josh served a light supper before the meeting, which was attended by most of the leaders. Shortages of some food items, suggestions for new menus, location of equipment, lost equipment and items needing repair, review of projected trail projects, crew problems and Forest Service liaison were all discussed. A review committee will handle all future problems.

Leaders Meeting

A leaders meeting was held the last day of August to review the problems and progress of the summer crews. Gudy has won awards for his performances. Our hats off to you for a fine social evening.

Book and Map Distribution

Do you have a bookstore close to you that is not handling the CT Guidebook? We have many requests from people outside the Metro area stating that they are unable to find the book in their town. To save users shipping costs, we would like to stock other towns and cities. We have an information packet on both the books and maps for the retailer. We will be happy to send you several to pass out if you will let us know.

Slide Shows

On the Colorado Mountain Club CT trek that Gudy Gaskill runs every summer for the CMC, they often have professional photographers. This year the two week trek went from Eddiesville to Durango with 14 days of perfect weather. Rick Tronvig of Lakewood is duplicating his slides of the two week trek for us to use in a slide show. The best scenic photos in the San Juan on the CT are included. If you need a refreshing slide show, or haven't been in that area and want to see the trail that you are supporting, give Wendell Phillips, in Arvada, the slide show coordinator a call. His number is: 303-421-4956.
Colorado Trail Foundation
Received Grant.

The CTF has received a $1000 donation from an anonymous Foundation for use on the Colorado Trail. This will enable the CTF to apply for matching funds for the many identified trail heads in the Rio Grande-San Juan Forest Supervisors office.

Equipment Committee Report

Another summer has come and gone with very successful work on the trail. The usual number of problems have occurred with equipment and the lack thereof of certain items such as coffee pots, cheese graters, pie tins, etc. Happily nothing life threatening was among the missing with the possible exception of the coffee pot.

It has been suggested that we should monitor the movement of equipment from camp to camp and help the Forest Service keep track of these moves a little more closely than we have in the past. With our own people working with the FS we might be able to keep the inventory of our equipment a little more together and see that the completion makes it from one location to another.

To this end I am going to call for volunteers to offer assistance with the moves on one or more weekends during the summer construction season. We generally have three crews out at a time during the period from the third week of June until the third week in August. This would involve volunteers from across the state near the trail heads in the various FS Districts. Being near the trail is not a prerequisite if you don't mind a little travel into our beautiful mountains during the summer. "What a great excuse!"

Anyone who is interested in volunteering to help with this project is encouraged to call the equipment chairman, George Miller at 719-685-1278 any evening and discuss it with him.

I would like to personally thank all of you for your hard work and continuing devotion to the Colorado Trail and its program of improvement and development. As the years pass and the trail moves from the construction mode to a maintenance program we will still need your help to keep the Colorado Trail in excellent condition and the premier trail that it is.

George Miller
Equipment Chairman

Notice the fine equipment (Tables, Pots and Pans and Fire Grate) George has scrounged for us.
Powderhorn Wilderness Area  
Crew #3  July 3/10, 1993

Leaders: Irene Cazer and Abe Ohr

Can you imagine a Colorado Trail Crew with a house for a base and stranger yet Irene Cazer cooking on an electric stove in a modern kitchen with a refrigerator and hot water for all purposes? That was the situation when we stayed at Ryan Ranch, a BLM acquisition about 8 miles north of Lake City.

Our crew of 30 with the assistance of 6 BLM employees who also provided transportation to the work site enabled us to build a longer trail than usual. This was also possible because we were spared the time consuming job of water bars and switchbacks which will be added later by the BLM.

It was certainly not all work and no play because in addition to the usual after work fellowship and fun we were fortunate to have three accomplished guitarists who provided almost nightly music for sing-a-longs around the campfire. Also on one special evening we all went to town to enjoy a performance of a play about the history of Lake City. Starring Sally Shade, one of our BLM friends.

All in all it was another memorable experience made so by good friends old and new.

One incident proved how these special people were dedicated to the out-of-doors and possessed a concern for nature comparable to the protectors of the spotted owl.

Ryan Ranch was an old dude ranch with numerous outbuildings in various stages of disrepair. One of the best of these was a shower house with a stall where sun showers could be hung and which would relieve the necessity of a long line at the one indoor shower.

It sounded like a wonderful idea until a robin’s nest with one baby bird and 2 eggs was discovered in the broken window near the stall. Willingly back to the more primitive showers and daily viewing of the bird nursery until all three more hatched.

Irene Cazer

The main building at the Ryan Ranch which was the headquarters for the Powder Wilderness Crew

Houghland Camp  
Crew #4  July 3/10, 1993

Leader: Lynn Mattingly

It was one of those magical weeks — our camp just glowed with good humor and camaraderie — waxing lyrical at times. And we pulled TONS of rock from the Colorado Trail.

Our group consisted of Wayne & Caroline Odom (South Fork), Bob Ballou (Pueblo), the terrible threesome Bill Brown, Bill Cavode and Hal Weber (Denver), Kathy Turteldt (Denver), and Jeff Knight (Aurora), who for various reasons could only come for the first half of the week. Lynn Mattingly (Jamestown), the

Continued on page 7
Continued from page 6

leader; and our "younger crowd" Clint Wasser (Colorado Springs), Ben Brubaker (Rangely), Angela Davis (New York), Paul Wicks (England), and Matt Brown (Denver), who though not quite as young brought out the child in all of us.

Our camp was nestled under the Continental Divide just west of Sargeants Mesa next to a spring. From camp we hiked onto the divide (the CT) and worked westward, pulling rock, re-establishing old trail that had returned to rock. The goal was to polish about 6 miles of trail (less the one mile reroute built 3 years ago by the Stanley/Dunwrire reunion crew). We divided into two groups, the first hiking all the way to Baldy Lake (at the beginning of the week) and working towards camp—the second working from camp westward.

We pulled tons and tons of rocks, employing 4 rock bars and many pulaskis. Three water bars were built on the lower end of the trail where needed. All told we pulled rocks from about 3½ miles of trail leaving about 1½ miles between the two working groups rocky. Not bad at all for a group of 14 workers the first half of the week and 11 workers the second half of the week.

Back at camp everyone pitched in to make life run smoothly. Certainly the highlight of each day was the entertainment of original poetry and song around the campfire after dinner. We enjoyed each others company so much we hope to gather together next year to do it all over again.

A strange group were they the strong and the brave. All volunteered to be fearless trail slaves.

The group was close as close could be. But the differences were still plain to see.

There was the joker with humor real dry. And a leader who loved to simply ask why.

The Britishman sat with no fish & chips in sight. As the ecologist talked of the buffalo's plight.

The New Yorker rested all out of breath. While Bill number one Slept there in depth.

Now Bill number two took one more picture of myself in July snow, frozen as a light fixture.

Clint of the Springs sat near the hot fire, as Wayne of the west lead the campfire choir.

Now Kathrine the great prepared to leave soon, Bob declairned rain under clear sky at noon.

by Ben Brubaker

Volunteer Mail Processor Wanted

Denise Wright has been picking up the CTF mail from the Lakewood mail box and distributing it to the proper person for action for the past couple of years. She would like for someone else to have a chance to volunteer. The Post Office which houses our mail box is located in the vicinity of the Federal Center. The mail would need to be picked up at least once a week and processed. The mail quantity averages about 25 pieces per week. (more in the spring, less in the fall)

Each piece of mail needs to be entered in the incoming mail log and then routed to the proper person for action. The information from the mail log is combined into a monthly report which is sent to the CTF staff.

The mail log is maintained in a simple database on an "IBM" type (XT / AT etc.) personal computer. The database program and files need about 10 megabytes of hard drive space. The Windows operating system is nice to have but not necessary.

If you and a couple of friends think you would enjoy getting together for a couple of hours each week to handle this task for the CTF contact Denise at 973-7461 for more complete information. (You could even do it by yourself if you wanted to but it is more fun with friends.)
Mount Princeton
Crew #5
July 10/17, 1993

Leader: Joe Slack

PROJECT: The original objective of this crew was to build a trail along the base of Chalk Cliffs to get the CT off of county roads in this area. Unfortunately the right-of-way across some private land did not get approved so the objective was changed to maintain the trail on the other side of the valley. We maintained three miles of trail that included rebuilding eight switchbacks and numerous water bars as well as reworking all of the tread and constructing four cairns.

CREW MEMBERS: Tracy and Lois Cochran, Clare Foote, Hassan Elghandour, Megan Ramsay, Catherine Pees, Herbert Hofmann, Rolly Rogers, Herschel Smith, Phyllis Ertz, Mark Sante-Maria, Jenni Zinn and Joe Slack. (Diana, Megan, Catherine, & Jenni from Kansas, Mark from Michigan, all others Colorado)

Mike Archeletta was our point of contact with the Salida Ranger District.

A note to 1992 crew #
16 Grindstone: Roy Kepler. (a member of crew 16 last year) and his wife were hiking the CT and found that a CTF crew was in the area. Result he got his photo album of Grindstone and brought it to camp for Mark and me to see. He sent his best wishes to all of his friends of last year.

Mike walked through the area with me on 9 July to show what they wanted done. He then returned Saturday when the camp gear was hauled in from the Dillon area. Within record time, all members had put the camp in order and even had their personal tents erected. About half of the crew were first timers but this was an indication that everyone had come to work. When trail work started Monday morning, an unspoken challenge seemed to have energized everyone into showing each person's unit was best.

The crew was divided into four units with Rolly, Tracy and Herschel as unit leaders. Mary ran my unit when I was working elsewhere. Rolly's unit became known as the rockwall builders by making a wall about 8 feet high and an arc of about 12 feet long so a turning area could be made for a switchback.

Tracy's unit overcame the problem of joining an upper tread that could not be lowered because of rock ledges and a lower tread that was very steep. They installed landings held in place by large, anchored logs. A giant boulder was rolled into place as a turning post. Upon completion, four sets of initials were engraved into the logs. Horses didn't hesitate to use this switchback.

Not to be outdone, Herschel's unit had to move so much dirt and rocks it appeared to be equivalent of the volume of two cords.

In the meantime my unit, under Mary's guidance, was burrowing along widening tread, deciding where the weak outer edge could be strengthened or a cut into the hillsides for tread widening. At all times all members were extremely cautious that rocks should not get away and roll downslope. A goodly number of hikers, including a large group of disabled youths, and some horse riders were using the trail. However the cry of "ROCK"!! still sounded at times.

After the first three most difficult of the switchbacks were done, the remaining three showed no challenge. Not wanting to carry tools uphill too much, we got a change of scenery on Thursday by going to the southern slope and "into the frying pan". Piñon trees never seem to grow in a cool area, do they? This crew made rocks and dirt fly and by a little after lunchtime they had reworked two switchbacks, 12 to 14 water bars and built four cairns. Then back over the hill to the relatively cooler area, in the high 80's, to start the downhill...
renovations which took until early Friday afternoon.

As some members had airplane reservations in Kansas City on Sunday, we switched our awards banquet to Thursday night. It so happened that that was the evening that Elizabeth Medina, wife of Salida District Ranger Charles Medina came to do an interview for the Salida newspaper. It was very enlightening to have her and her children in camp. Also that evening — I heard Rolly engineered it — the crew threw a birthday party for me, complete with cake. It was a very pleasant surprise, but a week early, to cheer me into the last quarter of the century. “Recycle for a new generation” was factory printed in very large letters on the side of the cake box. Maybe they WERE trying to tell me something!

Mike had dropped by on Thursday, but we were on the hill. He returned early Friday morning and walked through the complete work area. He had a few minor suggestions which were finished well before he and I returned from the Raspberry Gulch slope.

When at leisure, this crew spread out — to the hot springs, sight seeing in Buena Vista and Salida, hiking, or just relaxing. Come work time, it was all business and work. How the cooks stood the heat in that hot tent, I don’t know. come evening the campfire ring was a real treat. The games, singing, trying to make “s’mores” with chocolate syrup, and all of the enlightening conversation put the finishing touches onto the week.

Our special thanks to Streamside B & B, one mile upstream, who supplied all of our potable water during the week.

WHAT WONDERFUL PEOPLE. MAY I ENJOY YOUR COMPANIONSHIP AGAIN!!

Joe Slack

FASSBINDER CREW # 17
Walls Gulch on Junction Creek
August 14 to 21, 1993
Leader: George Miller

Bridging the might Junction Creek a Wall’s Gulch just below the Flagler Fork confluence was the goal of Crew # 17. This group of 15 mighty warriors and talented craftsmen met the challenge and tamed the roaring river on our way to Durango via the Colorado Trail.

As usual the Animas District of the San Juan NF under the guidance of Ted LaMay provided an excellent camp at the worksite. This was a backpack crew located about 3 miles from the forest service road east of Kennebec Pass. The Forest Ser-

vice delivered the bridge materials via helicopter including two 40 foot girders, many gabion baskets, and a large pile of lumber. The bridge is essentially a kit which is assembled at the location in about two days. Approaches were built with gabion baskets filled with rock. Fortunately there were plenty of rocks at the site. Our only problem was finding gravel with which to top the trail. This problem was solved by widening the trail coming down to the gulch and using that gravel. We were able to complete the bridge by Thursday afternoon when the rains came. Friday morning was dry and allowed us to work on some of the creek crossings above camp. Saturday morning was dry long enough to break camp and pack out.

The following is an “unedited” description of the project written by crew member Julie St. John.

From August 14-21, the 15 members of Crew 17 worked diligently filling gabions, hefting boulder sized rocks, pulasking trailsides, piling rocks, filling Gabions, bolting posts, re-piling rocks, hammering planks, and, well. You get the picture, to build a bridge over Junction Creek, about 20 miles north of Durango. When completed the bridge spanned 40 feet. two 20’ approaches were laid out, and the north section of the trail was widened. This bridge will be used by hikers, cyclists and equestrians.
Many thanks go out to “Dan-Dan the wheelbarrow man” Ward for his death-defying rock and soil transports; to Bill “the rock wall man” Sowle for his legendary 30° rock wall artistry; to Larry “the spotted owl” Mack for his enlightening commentary on environmental issues plus his delicious “fresh from the creek” soups and tasty coffee; to Mike “the all-time boy scout tent trencher and southern gentleman” Brazell for his back-breaking stone masonry; to Richard “the renaissance man” Conger for his stories and award-winning camp laundry art exhibit; to Tom “the I could make paper out of that butterfly” Leech for digging a great posthole and celebrating his birthday with such a splendid crow; to Gentle Ben Leech for being one of the youngest but most experienced (4 crews) trail builders on this crew; to Josh “did I miss breakfast?” Logan who along with Ben discovered the Model A Ford driven by the original Thelma and Louise; to Vanessa Nelson and Alan Santa-Maria for their helpful cameo appearance; to Larry “Junior” Johnson for providing us with a challenging trek to one of the most scenic and odoriferous views in the San Juans; and to our fearless leader George “check your urine” Miller for telling us wonderfully entertaining CT stories and exhibiting gentle nature except for the morning we used all of his tea water.

The drill queens Linda “McTamper” Parobek, Sug “let me in the kitchen but don’t make me cook” Peterson and Julie “the celery hexer” St. John would also like to thank all of the men on Crew 17 for not telling us what to do or how to do it. Happy trails to you all.

I would like to thank the entire crew for their enthusiasm and hard work in completing an excellent bridge on the CT. No report on work in the Animas District is complete without mentioning Larry Johnson and his excellent guidance and hard work on every project. Without Larry our jobs would be less professional and less fun. Thanks Larry for all you do to add to the experience on the Colorado Trail.

Crew 17 Larry Johnson, Dan Ward, Ben Leech, Mike Brazell, George Miller, Larry Mack, Richard Conger, Linda Parobek, Sug Peterson, Tom Leech, Josh Logon, Julie St John, Bill Sowle,
WEEKEND CREW # 18
Lost Creek
June 26/27, 1993

Leader: George Miller

Friday evening, June 25th found 22 members of Crew # 18 gathered in a lovely clearing on the Colorado Trail near the Lost Park Campground access. Thanks to the Pike National Forest crews careful flagging of the road leading to camp, everyone was able to locate the campsite. Saturday morning dawned bright and clear and after a great breakfast prepared by Lila Miller we headed out to the worksite. An enjoyable 3 mile hike brought us to the east end of the project near the location of the old truck in the creek.

Our mission was to drain the swamp, chase out the alligators and generally make this stretch of the old Hooper Road again accessible to foot traffic without the aid of hip boots.

Two days of hard work by an excellent crew, many water bars, and new drainage ditches brought this mile of trail back to an acceptable condition. This section of trail is on a very wet north facing slope and will never be easy to maintain. The final solution to this problem will be a complete reroute to a dryer, sunnier location.

Crew 18 was a very enthusiastic and hardworking group ranging in age from 12 years to 60+. Many were repeats from last years Buffalo Creek crew and most were experienced CT trail builders.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of the crew members for their devotion to the Colorado Trail.

Crew 18 consisted of Paul and Linda Bertheau, Evelyn and Joel Taylor, Abdi Jama, Randy, Mary and Laura Rankin, Brian, Diane, Ace and Sunny Word, Sport Strange, Gail Norby, Richard Kremers, J. J. Long, Anke Rommerskirch, Ken and Ken Jr. Walker, and Joey Chaussi. George Miller was the leader and wife Lila provided the excellent meals.

CTF Receives Vehicle.

Manuel J. Bettencourt, a long time CT supporter and volunteer, who hiked and biked the whole CT this past summer, has donated his ’85 Chevy Astro Van to the CTF. Since the Astro Van is a little small for the Foundations needs it will be sold and the proceeds will be used for seed money in our project to get a newer 9-12 passenger van with a 5 (or more) speed manual transmission that will get us into the remote access points of the Colorado Trail. Many of our Friends and Volunteers have commented on the CTF’s deficiency in vehicles and this donation is an excellent opportunity to get started on the procurement of a vehicle that will meet our needs. Thanks a lot, Manuel, for your generosity and dedication to the Colorado Trail. The CT has become a reality through generosity and efforts of thousands of volunteers like you.
Sliderock #2
Crew # 13
July 31 to August 7, 1993

Leader: Joe Slack

PROJECT: Reroute a steep section of trail between Kennebec Pass and Forest Service Rd. 171.

CREW MEMBERS: Mark Santa-Maria; Gerald Fall; Herschel Smith; B.J. Triebel; Ruth, Maggie, Ethel (Tut), and Richard Troyanek; John Watt; Jim McIntosh; Angela Davis; John Brookman; Barb Den Besta; Carol Johnson; Waneta and Jack Cousins; Jim Ray; Paul Wicks; and Joe Slack. (Crew from MI, TX, AL, NY, MO, CO and England).

Larry Johnson joined us from the Animas Ranger District.

This was the first experience of trail working for about half of the crew. However, within a few hours, everyone was busily moving individual piles of dirt and other debris over the trail’s outer edge. Everyone took great effort to keep rocks from sailing down the mountainside. With several sections of trail right below us, as well as the forest access road, when a rock did get away, the chorus of “ROCK, ROCK” sounded loud and clear. Each stone was watched until it came to rest.

Maggie, Tut and Ruth helped Mark finish the switchback and Ruth became quite artistic in placing the rocks she collected for Mark’s engineering. Herschel and Joe started forging ahead in cutting the outer tread edge and inward for about 12 inches to allow footing for members to the mountainside away for tread width. The slope was 45° to 50° so large amounts of dirt and rocks had to be moved over the edge.

Jim Ray and John Watt were working their own sections as well as assisting new-comers. Jack and Waneta soon became proficient in making good smooth tread. However, I think Waneta ran through a pair of gloves the first two days because she liked to brush the dirt off the trail by hand. Carol soon fell in love with the rock bar and almost displaced Mark with that chore. However, she didn’t have the “rocks-in-the-pocket” weight that Mark possessed. Gerald continued to swing the pulaski just as he has on all the other crews he has been on for the last several years. His faithful little dog, Boots, stood guard over their possessions so they didn’t roll down hill.

Mac escaped from the midwest flooding by coming to the mountains and enjoyed it so much he said he would be back. Angela is no longer a city girl as she was on several crews. BJ said the faraway views were just great and covered much more distance than in Texas.

Carol, a professional musician, had many talents. After a hard day of digging, she stayed a while on the mountainside to enjoy the peace and quiet plus write a record of her feelings. She was so kind as to share her thoughts with us. The last evening her gift of writing was just as great as her musical talents. Accompanied by her guitar and sometimes by Mark’s harmonica, her singing placed a wonderful and peaceful dome over the campsite. Many times Mark’s and the voices of others joined her.

Paul, being from England, fit perfectly into crew life. After tuning my hearing aid into his “english” we had some great conversations. However, the differences in meanings of some common words cannot be entered here. He, Angela, Carol and Mark stayed right in camp and joined the next crew.

On Wednesday, seven of us headed for Indian Ridge to see the flower field portrayed on the cover of Along the Colorado Trail. Mark warned that the flowers were not as gorgeous as last year because of the late spring. The hike was well worth it anyway and we had to cross a small snowfield en route. Tut, having never been off paved roads in Colorado, thoroughly enjoyed it.
Ruth had a memorable day in that she had her 12th birthday in camp. Gifts, a large birthday cake and the losing of a tooth combined to make nice memories for her. Further, the tooth fairy was able to find her in the Colorado mountains.

Our Wednesday evening meal of hot dogs was cancelled by Larry’s friend Heidi who brought us four very large pizzas. That was a great treat that all members will not soon forget.

On awards night, we had the pleasure of having Ted and Pat LaMay join us for dinner. I am sure that the two ice chests that Ted brought were very welcome to many. Along with the various awards, a special award was given. With so many coffee drinkers in camp, it was a great challenge, but Herschel met it. For his “above and beyond the call of duty” Herschel was knighted and presented a necklace displaying a small plate adorned with fresh, mountain flowers and having an attached cluster - a small bag of coffee grounds. Henceforth he shall be known as “Sir Herschel, Knight of the Everflowing Coffee Pot of the Meleod clan and the Pulsaki Brigade”.

Attendants for the ceremony were Paul and Angela with Waneta preparing the necklace and Carol doing the beautiful floral centerpiece.

Even though we were a small crew, there was no let-up in work efforts. This crew was just great! Always cheerful, cooperative, and such a pleasure to be with in work or play.

CHEERS TO A CREW WHOSE ENERGY CREATED ANOTHER LINK IN THE COLORADO TRAIL AND FOR WHICH YOU CAN BE EXTREMELY PROUD ! ! ! ! !

Joe Slack

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Crew # 20

Continued from page 14

noise at all.

With no first-timers, this crew also had the benefit of experience and advice of Jim Ray, a long-time leader and trail worker. This was about the eleventh year for Jim. Also, for the second year in a row, we had Sean in camp. For a young man of only 13, he maintains pace with the rest of the crew. In a few years he won’t need rocks in his pockets when prying with a rock bar.

On July 25, 1993, Augie Alcala, 24359 E. Bayaud Ave, Aurora, CO was one of two horseback riders who were the first to use the newly opened trail built by Crew # 20.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANOTHER SUPERB CREW!!!

Adopt-A-Trail Maintenance Molas Pass to Continental Divide
July 11/15, 1993

Adopters: Larry White & Tom Bowser

This year trail maintenance started in a hurry, and continued in that mode as Tom and I had signed up to work back to back on our section then on to the Mt Yale work crew the following week.

Ted LaMay, the Animas District Ranger supplied us with tools and the renown “Mountain Man” Larry Johnson. We knew we could count a sunup to sundown pace with him and we weren’t disappointed.

Trusty side-kick Tom Bowser recruited a fellow cyclist, Earl Beach from Hales Corner, TX to help us; and I promised my wife Dawn, a ride on the Durango narrow gauge rail road if she would pitch in too. Course I managed to tear up my nest of bliss by bringing two left boots for her from separate pairs and no right boots! — No good deed goes unpunished.

Surprisingly, in spite of this past winters heavy snow we were able to work all the way up to the Divide. This extraordinary arena of high altitude mountain views, combined humorous company and some challenging sweat, made this week of trail polishing one of the greatest recreational values around. Adopt one!
Wellington Lakes
Crew # 20
July 24-25, 1993

Leader Joe Slack

PROJECT: Build about 1500 feet of new tread, some maintenance of old tread, rebuilding and painting some wooden structures and installing steps on either side of FS RD 550.

CREW MEMBERS: Kathy Del Rio, Mary Figgins, Nancy and Roger Gomas, Cindy Johnson, Nancy Kranzow, Anke Rommerskirch, Peggy McManus, Shirley and James (Grady) Monk, Diane Parker, Sean Tangerman, Tom Randolf, Herschel Smith, Judy and Ray Van Dusen, Jim Ray and Joe Slack. (the Monks are from Texas, Mary from Ohio, others from Denver)

USFS employees Angie and John joined us from the South Platte Ranger District.

The crew was split into east and west units from FS RD 550 with Tom the Leader of the east unit. They cleared rocks, stumps, clipped branches, improved tread, repaired and painted a gate and turnstile, and fixed an elevated ramp over wet ground. Next, they built steps up each side of FS 550. As in cairn building, Cindy again came forward and engineered the steps into a nice even curve with all timbers level. Top timbers were a little below road level but out of grader blade reach. Kathy did all of the hole drilling for rebar holding stakes that Jim cut. Ray made timbers to Cindy’s request while other members stockpiled dirt and rocks for filler. Several bikers had nice compliments as they carried their bikes up and over.

Meanwhile, the west crew was busy cutting tread that went through pulverized granite, stones, rock ledges, tree removals, sawing and/or rolling old logs. And yes, I believe it was Roger or Grady that tackled an underground stump that was home for some small, black, bumblebees. That section of tread got a fast touch-up and left for Angie and “beecologists” to decide whether to bend the trail or kill the honey makers. Peggy did all of the tree trimming as well as manning one end of the crosscut saw or swinging a pulaski. Last year Nancy and Shirley mastered the pulaski so this year they conquered the McLeod also. As the completion of the new tread drew closer, members not needed to dig began blocking the old trail.

This camp was not without its excitement. First, on the eve of the 24th. Roger and Nancy treated the group as they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Later, as a complete surprise to me. Peggy produced a large birthday cake with a big 75 on it to usher me into the last quarter of the century. The evening was enjoyed by all.

At daylight, we saw one camp, occupied by a couple and a very young child, that had their coolers and food boxes strewn over the area. Our camp put food together so they could at least have breakfast and hot drinks. Their two large dogs, sleeping beside their tent about 60 feet from the table, made no

Continued on page 13
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