President's Corner
by Gudy Gaskill

Another season of activity has passed on The Colorado Trail. There are still a few hikers on the trail hoping to complete the last remaining miles before the evenings get too cold. The aspens have turned, there is a new skiff of snow on the high peaks and we skimmed the ice off of the bucket a few nights ago. All indications are that this is going to be an early winter. The Pika’s were gathering their flowers and putting them into curing hay stacks by mid August. The choke cherries were ripe two weeks ahead of their usual time so we missed getting our supply of jams and jellies, and the arctic gentians were blooming in early August ... a fall bloomer in normal times. Adding all of the above indications together, it forced Ernie Werren and myself to get out in the field and do our reconnaissance for next years trail crews sooner that we

Special Board Meeting
October 23 and 24

A special board meeting was held at 548 Pine Song Trail to review the CT master plan and give guidelines to the annual CTF CT treks. A follow up report will be in the next Treadlines (as the meeting hasn’t been held at this writing). The master plan and its implementation is long overdue and will give the Board direction as to where the parameters of the CTF and the FS are. It will also be a guideline as to our future venture with the trail.

CT Annual Holiday Open House
December 11
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This may seem a bit early to mention holiday dates, but the December calendar does fill up fast, so mark Dec. 11 on your appointment book NOW!! This is a chance to bring your spouse and family. The place is the Gaskill home on Lookout Mountain.

Last holiday we had officials from the F.S., BLM. State Parks, Senate and house members, CTF Foundation members, and best of all, we had you, a supporter of the Colorado Trail!

It’s your chance to meet fellow crew members, the volunteer office staff, including those that pick up and answer mail, enter data base, do the mailings on orders, fold and collate packets, give slide shows, attend meetings, bookkeeping and maintain all of the equipment. Let’s call it the annual open social meeting for all CT members. You’re invited! To get there: Take exit 254 off of 1-70 west and drive north under the Mt. Vernon Country Club sign. Follow signs.

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Tread Lines

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 500 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, non-profit 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 business address is:
Colorado Trail Foundation
P. O. Box 260876
Lakewood, CO 80226-0876

President:
Gudy Gaskill
303-526-0809

Vice President
Merle McDonald
719-599-4258

Secretary
Denise Wright
303-973-7461

Treasurer:
Chris Abston
303-628-4329

This edition of Tread Lines was compiled by Jo Riley.

20th Celebration of the Colorado Trail
"A Celebration of Partnerships"
A Gala Affair

by Belinda Wiman

It was a wonderful evening with exciting friends, great food, and a meaningful program. People started to gather at the gates of the Governor’s mansion up to one half hour early, and unfortunately had to wait until all the volunteers were ready to receive them. The volunteers represented the USDA Forest Service, Toni Piaggio and Jane Leche, EMS lent the managers of all five stores, Sarah Marcikonis, Steve Jones, Shawna Noel, Tim Fiske and Kevin Volz; and the Colorado Mountain Club provided Suzanne Williams and Sherry Anderson. Of course Tom Blyth, district manager of EMS was there and looked so spiffy, he wasn’t recognized and almost was banished! Susan Doherty, who worked so closely with the committee representing EMS was an integral part of the entire planning and implementation and helped manage the evening. Bill Privatsky graciously accepted the invitation to provide the photographic documentation of the event.

In fact, every one associated with the event were volunteers! Included in that were the musicians, a Jazz trio called Standard Issue who looked elegant and provided great sound on the white baby grand piano, bass and trumpet. By the time all the guests had been received, the number attending exceeded 200!

The guests dined on marinated jumbo shrimp, chicken roulades stuffed with artichokes and sun-dried tomatoes, crostini with mascarpone and pesto and vegetable antipasto with foccacia. A far cry from our trail food of gorp, macaroni and peanut butter! There was also an international fruit and cheese board provided, beer and wine and, birthday cake!

Most of the Board was present, including, Chris Abston, Denise Wright, Lynn Mattingly (who looked fabulous!), Sam Guyton (who just made it in from climbing in Russia and came straight from the airport), Merle McDonald, Stuart Macdonald, Reed Donnelly, George Miller, Bob Moore, Tom Thompson, Ernie Werren, Belinda Wiman and Gudy, of course. There Were also several other very special people in attendance; Bill Lucas (the regional forester, who with Merrill Hastings conceived the idea of the Colorado Trail), Merrill Hastings, (cofounder and facilitator of the first grant of $300,000 from the Gates Foundation), Harold Dahl, (an original board member) Mayo Summermeyer (original board member), and Richard D. Lamm, former governor of Colorado.

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20th Celebration
Continued from page 2

The Forest Service was well represented by Tom Thompson, Deputy Regional Forester, Ted Lamay, Animas District Ranger, Marci Guerrein of the Animas District, Rich Phelps, Dillon District Ranger, Paul Semmer Also of the Dillon District, Dave Stark, Trails Coordinator of the Rocky Mountain Region and Lynn Young, Public Affairs Specialist of the Rocky Mountain Region. Dennis Zachman of the BLM was also present as was Bob Moore, State Director of the BLM. We were also thrilled to have Great Outdoors Colorado represented by Will Shafroth, Executive Director, Lisa Aanesbrug, and Chris Leding. Many of the guests were from the Colorado Mountain Club, but we were thrilled to have Mary Ann Davitt, State President, Bob Over, Executive Director, and Marilyn Peterson, Trail and Timberline Editor present.

The program began with the reading of the governor’s proclamation. August 25 was declared “Colorado Trail Day” by the current governor, Roy Romer. Sally Hopper, State Senator and former board member of the Foundation read the proclamation and introduced Governor Lamm, who proceeded to present Gudy with an award for her two decades of dedication. Gudy then presented Bill Lucas and Merrill Hastings awards for their role in putting substance to the vision of this Colorado Trail. Gudy also presented The Colorado Mountain Club with a plaque for being a volunteer, administrative and operational resource to the Trail in its early inception through to the present. State President, Mary Ann Davitt received the award on behalf of the CMC. Tom Thompson, deputy regional forester accepted the award on behalf of the Forest Service for its very important role in the planning and construction of the Trail through the years. Finally, the very important award of longest volunteer went to Irene Cazar, who represents the thousands of volunteers who have implemented the dream through the twenty years. Gudy also gave Irene and Abe Ohr a storytelling doll which she made, so the story of the Colorado Trail can be told to the future generations.

All of those receiving the awards then cut the beautiful birthday cake all together with a gorgeous wooden pulaski. This was the most photo opportunistic moment of the evening! They did a magnificent job, and people really ate the cake after it had been pulverized by the

Continued on page 4
tool. (Gudy had cleaned it well!) Tom Blyth District Manager of EMS, the sponsor of the event, then gave out "birthday presents" of a pack, hiking boots and fanny pack with the CMC 10 essentials loaded in it. Susan Doherty drew for the names. That was most suspenseful moment of the evening. Never mind that the hiking boots were a size 12 and the lady who won them wore a 7! But Tom said EMS would make it right!

The evening ended with John Fayhee presenting John Fielder slides for those wishing to stay in the beautiful white Palm room. Others retreated to the historic Boettcher room (the chandelier is reputed to have hung in the White House) or the newly remodeled Library to socialize in the waning moments of the event. All the guests began their good-byes at about 8:15 PM, and lights went out and the music faded at 8:30 PM. A wonderful evening and special memory indeed.

There are so many people to thank, but the most important at this time is the committee which met in rain or shine or dark of night for months to bring this event to reality. Marilyn Peterson, CMC, Susan Doherty, EMS, Dave Stark, Forest Service, Lynn Young, Forest Service, Reed Donnelley, CTF, Stuart Macdonald, CTF and Belinda Wiman, CTF. This event was truly a celebration of partnerships in every way.

Completion Awards
September, 1994
You finally did it! You fulfilled that lifelong dream and completed the Colorado Trail! You’ve celebrated and now want a memento to commemorate this accomplishment. A Completion plaque, 200 miles and 300 miles pins are available to help retain the good memories.

Call Paul Berteau
303-745-3490
for more information.
Gold Hill Trail Dedication

A new and larger parking lot welcomed trail enthusiasts to the Colorado Trail dedication, making it possible for most to park close in. Speakers officially at the new Georgia PassGold Hill re-route included Merle McDonald, who gave a review of the Adoptee Program, Gudy Gaskill; history of The Colorado Trail, Jan Pownell, Summit County Planning Dept; need and use of trails in Summit County, Rick Hum; Summit County Commissioner; importance of The CT in Summit County, and Lisa Aaneenbrug from Go-Colorado; use of Lottery matching funds for three crews this summer- a top priority project with their fund program and Eastern Mountain Sports, official sponsor of the event; entertained the audience with a couple of environmental sketches.

After the ribbon cutting (Accomplished with a double handled cross-cut saw, a light lunch was served. Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association members, Bob and Jo Riley, from Lyons, Colorado and Reid Langerman from Placitas, N.M brought a dozen of their personal llamas, headed up the trail followed by a large group of hikers (and would-be llama friends). Another group went bicycling with book author Linda Hoffsteader while the last group hiked up the trail and tested out the new trail segment built this past summer with lottery funding. The Forest Service gave out Smoky the Bear scarfs as souvenirs, The CT Foundation gave out CT logos mounted on wooden bases. IT was a grand day for all of the activities.

Reunion Celebrated with BBQ

Around 100 Friends of the Colorado Trail attended the outdoor BBQ held at Mt. Vernon Country Club picnic grounds. Our thanks to Mount Vernon CC and King Soopers for donating the food and facilities for the occasion.

It was great to see all of the familiar faces plus a number of out of town guests: the Ted LaMays, Lucille Klinger, Dottie Hoffman, Jeff Frant, Roger Gomaz, J.J. Kleckner, and George Rippey from Alaska. Those that could stay after the BBQ walked up to the Gaskill Home to preview a rough draft of the video "Hiking the CT from Eddiesville to Molas Pass. (The final copy will be ready in about a month.) Watermelon and fruit tort were offered for dessert before the second video was shown of the geology course on the CT. A special thanks to all those that helped with the BBQ and to George Rippey and Ralph Massey for producing the lovely CT maple plaques.
Colorado Trail Foundation Van

We have a new van! Steve Gladbach and George Miller traveled to Brighton where they found a 1989, steel-gray, 15 passenger, fuel injected, 69,500 mile, 1-ton, Dodge Ram 350 van that they bought. The van is in excellent mechanical condition; it needs a paint job but the rugged look goes well with the spirit of the Colorado Trail. We can seat 15 people, each will have a seat belt and we can depend on it for years to come.

Steve Gladbach, Ken Marshall, George Miller and Sam Guyton solicited many car dealers and individuals to help with this project, but it was only the alumni of the Colorado Trail treks that responded. The only donation that we received outside this tight-knit group of exceptional people came from Mrs. H. C. Blackwell (Lynn Mattingly's mother) and her husband. Even the help promised by the Automobile Dealers Association to locate a vehicle fell through. We hope you recognize the importance of each and every donation received for this project; every gift helped.

The CT Foundation has opened a special account to care for this vehicle and we will be using CT Trek shuttle fees and monies solicited from future trekkers to maintain this account. The van will be utilized for many needed CT Foundation purposes; it will act as a gift to the Foundation from those who have enjoyed trekking the CT. Future trekkers and the hardworking trail crews will benefit from this generosity. We raised enough to purchase the vehicle, pay for a tune-up and some cosmetic repairs, pay taxes, title and first year's insurance; now we need to rely on the generosity of future trekkers to support the fund. (We will need to tell war stories at the campfire about the old van, of course, no one will ever believe us.)

A special thanks is owed to Sue and Ken Marshall and Gloria-and Manuel Bettencourt for their generous gifts which allowed us to purchase not just a temporary solution to our problem but instead a safe van that will last a few years.

As of this writing the van has completed the six week Colorado Trail Trek from Denver to Durango. With the need of only one major repair (a new transmission) and a few minor dings the van has been a very successful addition to the 1994 season.

Our New Van!

Please see list of contributors on page 27
CT Annual Lake City Yurt Trip in February

All Colorado Trail Friends are invited to join us in February on our annual week long cross-country ski trip using the La Guarita Haute Assoc. yurt system. Dates are February 16 through February 22nd. There will be one night in the Jon Wilson yurt, two nights in the Ramboille yurt and another night in the new yurt at Buck Creek. Another night is spent in Lake City with John Wilson and from there there are two more nights in John’s cabin close to American Basin west of Lake City. Spectacular scenery for intermediate to advanced skiers or snowshoe’ers. No beginners, please. Cost is $75 plus either 2 breakfasts for 6 people or one dinner for six. Send check with written request to participate. Join us for a memorable trip, but hurry, as this is limited to two groups of six each. This is offered to supporting members only, as YOU ARE SPECIAL! Send request to Gudy Gaskill, 548 Pine Song Trail, Golden, CO. 80401

2nd Creek Cabin made ready for use

As I’m looking up at the snow covered mountains from the living room window in Winter Park, encompassing Berthoud Pass, James and Perry Peak, I realize that the snow will soon be down to the lower levels and our thoughts will turn to skiing. Skiing in Colorado is such a unique experience ... deep powder dry snow and the incredible blue skies! During the past week I’ve made several trips up to the 2nd Creek Cabin (trail head is 2 basins down from the top of the pass on the west side) and have readied the cabin for the winter ski season. The outhouse has been cleaned, the cabin cleaned and fixed (Where holes had been chewed through from gnawing teeth ). All that remains to be done is cutting the wood for the cabin. If I can find some volunteers, then this will have been done by the time that you get your Treadelines. The cabin is free and open to the public. Call 526-0809 if more information is needed.

Update on CT Reconnaissance

Ernie Werren, CT reconnaissance super-person, spent two days last month with the Leadville District, searching for a new route around the west end of Twin Lakes and bypassing Hope Pass. A very feasible route was found, but will have to wait the outcome of some private land holders giving right-of-way across their land. A route that would eliminate the seven mile walk down Clear Creek Road was also investigated. It would be a couple of summers before work could begin on the re-routes. Another day was spent on the Taylor Park area with ranger Jon Morissay. Ernie, Gudy and Jon agreed on a site for a bridge location on the Taylor River. Gudy will make inquiries for a used 40 to 42 foot span bridge or maybe just used girders. Does anyone know of one?

A route was determined to connect this past summers efforts with the bridge crossing which would get the trail off of the very dusty gravel road. One Right-Of Way would have to be worked out. We have met with Raleigh Rogers, adopter of the Mount Princeton segment, on a possible new route over the Chalk Cliffs, as well as with the South Platte District to review the new re-route around the incredible bog in the Lost Creek Wilderness Area. Work on all six of these projects will probably take place over the next two summers.

D.A.R. Award

The Colorado Trail and Gudy Gaskill were honored on October 1 at a luncheon given by the Golden chapter of the D.A.R. Gudy accepted the DAR National Conservation Award from Chairperson Ann Moore. After the presentation Gudy gave an hour long talk on the history and goals of the Colorado Trail. We were indeed honored to have been the recipient of this prestigious award.
WEEK 2: COLORADO TREK-1994

We came together for a week on the trail
Hoping for good weather
Trusting our feet would not fail
Frost in the mornings
As we awake
Comfort is what we forsake
For a view of trees and mountains
Many don't know the beauty
That frees our minds to explore
As we walk in silence
Far above any shore
New friends were made
That week in Colorado
Perhaps we'll meet again someday
As we hike on another trail
(L) 1994 Betty Molloy

MENUS-Are They Yuk or Yum?

Don't blame your leaders for the menu on your crew. They are "stuck" with it just as you are.

Menus are usually decided by the person in charge of the food, with the help of a couple other 'Old hands'.

This year something new was tried, a Tasting Dinner. Thanks to Denise Wright (former head of food), Merle and Uta McDonald, Lynn Mattingly, and sorry Harriet Patton couldn't make it, for being guinea pigs. They were invited to dine on various potential menu items, then discuss which they liked best. The highest vote getters is what you got! (Great food, not great English)

Feedback from the leaders also plays an important role in the choices. From what the leaders said this year, the menu was, well received. There are always each crew's, and individual's foibles, so you personally might not agree.

This year one item got "shot-down" because of availability. The 'tasters' had chicken mixed with Rice A Roni. It was tasty and got the nod. But when I went back to Pace, now Sam's Club, it was not in stock. In fact, I could not find it anywhere, finally- weeks later-.found out it was no longer being produced in that size by Golden Grain. So you got the same as the years before, rice and chicken in the stir fry; not bad, but the change would have been tasty.

Salads were increased this year because of multiple requests. Pretzels will be dropped, as will marshmallows and popcorn. It will be up to the individual leader to decide whether to get these items.

And so it goes. Every year we try to feed you much more than the ordinary camp food, and we try to vary it so we don't burn out all you great people that come back year after year. No more tunafish five times in a week.

Suggestions are not just limited to leaders. I would love to hear ideas and suggestions from any crew member. There could be a fantastic idea just sitting out there like a rocket, just waiting to take off. Write to me: Pat Nagorka, 6796 E. Pine Lane, Parker, Co. 80134. Or call (303) 841-2777.
Thanks to all the Food Helpers

It takes a dedicated group of people to get the food to your food tent. Besides the moving and transporting the food to storage (my house) there are the people that come and pack it for each crew.

First of all, the boxes are collected all year by Ken Stagner. I don’t want to think where we would be without him. Thank you again and again, Ken.

Then there are those that come from far away, Clare Foote from Fort Collins, Lynn Mattingly from up in the hills west of Boulder, George Miller from Colorado Springs (also head of the equipment as if he didn’t have enough to do!), and Larry Mack also from Colorado Springs. The Denver bunch present were Denise Wright and Harriet Patton. The closest was Phil Smith, Castle Rock.

A couple months later a neighbor who had gone by on go by on packing day”, asked me,“What in the world was going on at your house on a Sunday late in May? It looked like you were having a gigantic garage sale?” It took me a few minute to figure out what he could be talking about, then I remembered that had to have been packing day. I invited him to join us next time. In fact one couple came in, parked, and started to get out when Larry Mack went over to see who it was. Well, they had thought it was a garage sale! It gave us all a good laugh.

The day ends up with a mountain of boxes, tired by satisfied people, and lunch. Thanks to all of you for your help- Where else can you socialize and get so much done at the same time? Care to join us next year? Give me a call-Pat (303)841-2777.
Donations Vital to Food Committee

We had a record amount of food donated this year. Total donations saved us about $2500. Every crew member, leader and everyone associated with the Colorado Trail would like to personally thank these companies, but that is improbable. What you as a crew member can do is support these companies by buying their products.

Special thanks goes to Nestles’ Mark Hoven. He has generously supported the CT for the last three years. This year Nestles (also Carnation brand) donated cases of jellies (didn’t you love those bottle characters?), Nips (a real favorite), Breakfast Bars, powdered and canned milk, Que Bueno! salsa, syrup, and tomato sauce. Mark has moved on and up in California. We look forward to working with Tim Connor next year. Cases of thank yous back to Nestles.

We had ten companies donate this year. THEY ARE ALL GREATLY APPRECIATED. We got no coffees or teas this year, a disappointment I hope will be rectified next year. Honey producers are the sweetest people, 3 out of 3 contacts donated. You can’t beat 100%! Many companies called do support very good causes, ie. Second Harvest, women’s issues, education, etc., so it is ok when they say no. Others choose who to give to at the beginning of their budget year, so my calls were just too late for consideration. And, we are on the consideration list for others.

This years contributors were:

*ARCHWAY COOKIES-Ken Hughes
  cookies, several varieties

*CANDY’S TORTILLA FACTORY, INC.-Joe Lorenzo
  tortilla chips

*COUNTRY HONEY Miles County
  jars of honey

EARLY BIRD FOODS-Mike Flynn
  bags of granola

KING SOOPERS-Don Gallegos
  2 gift certificates

*MADHAVA HONEY LTD.-Craig Gerbore
  jars of honey

NESTLES - Mark Hoven
  jellies, syrup, salsa, candy, tom. sauce, breakfast bars, pwd. and canned milk

BANCKOR NICHOLLS, EAST-PET FOODS- Rick Spellman
  canned milk, spaghetti sauce, taco seasoning

SCHULTZ HONEY AND WAX- Herman and Connie Schultz
  honey sticks

STOKES ELLIS CO.- Pat Bayhouse
  corned beef, refried beans

Again, a big THANK YOU to all these companies who helped support the Colorado Trail for the 1994 year.

*Starred companies are new this year. A special Welcome to them, and I hope the list grows next year, Thanks, Pat Nagorka.
Remembering The Colorado Trail

By Frank Swancara, Jr.

I am writing this from far away in Pennsylvania. Concerning the Colorado Trail, my memory serves me pretty well, and any uncertainties as to my participation in its creation are cleared up as I refer to my personal diaries.

I was a U.S. Forest Service employee on the South Platte Ranger District in the Pike National Forest for nearly 20 years, beginning in 1970. 46 miles of the Colorado Trail traverse the South Platte District, beginning at its Denver Metropolitan terminus at the entrance to Waterton Canyon. Over a period of several years I experienced the pleasure of seeing this trail from its inception to its completion and formal dedication.

It was exciting to have been involved with the selection of the ultimate route that the trail would take across this portion of the Pike National Forest, and I shared the satisfaction experienced by many citizen volunteers who enthusiastically labored on the construction and maintenance of this pathway across Colorado.

My involvement with the Colorado Trail was certainly at a grassroots level in the field. As a Forestry Technician, among many other duties I was particularly responsible for our many miles of non-motorized trails. My base of operations was at the Forest Service Workcenter in Bailey, Colorado.

I first heard of a Colorado Trail in the summer of 1974, when I was given the charge of training and supervising a four-person volunteer trail crew. This crew worked for two weeks in 1974, beginning on July 28th. The work centered on a section of trail just off what was, up to that time, known as the Hooper Trail. 1974 was celebrated by the Forest Service as the 50th Anniversary of Wilderness (1924-1974), but it would not be until 1980, that this area we were working in, would become a Congressionally-designated Wilderness -- part of the Lost Creek Wilderness. At the time, however, there was no doubt in our minds that we were experiencing wilderness in this pristine landscape of Aspen and Lodgepole Pine, on the lower slopes of Windy Peak. One thing I remember was working on the trail in the immediate vicinity of a Goshawk's nest and being harassed and "dive-bombed" by the bird into whose territory we had trespassed.

As I recall, the crew quickly 'finished' that section and moved along.

I have worked with many volunteers in the National Forests over the years, but this group was extra special. We had a fine association, and I am sure their memories are equal to mine. These four young adults were Scott Marvin, Mark Thompson, John Cupal, and Jill Ryerson. On August 10th, I had the pleasure of presenting "First Summer" Certificates of Appreciation to them before breaking camp.

The next year, June of 1975, in sharp contrast to "my" four-person crew, nearly 400 volunteers, affiliated with the National Campers and Hikers Association, devoted a weekend to build a new section of the Colorado Trail near Top-of-the-World Campground, south of Buffalo Creek. It is always amazing how much work gets done in such a short period of time when an organized group is mobilized.

There is no doubt that it was volunteers who built the Colorado Trail. They were sometimes individuals working alone, and sometimes groups of people working together. They were young in age, and they were mold, but they all had a common thread in their motivation. I think that was the idea of leaving a legacy for the future, of making a "payment" for all of their previous enjoyment of hiking or riding a trail. The idea of being able to go all the way from Denver to Durango by trail represented a real challenge.

I now live about 10 miles, as the crow flies, from a section of the Appalachian Trail, which provides many people miles and miles of unrestricted hiking in an area of our country where there is less public land than in the West, and where there are more people. The Appalachian Trail is cherished by its users as well as those who expect, someday, to hike its length. I know the Colorado Trail is cherished too. I think we

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must be grateful for the fact that someone conceived the idea of a Colorado Trail, and a number of people guided its evolution and development, and a great many made it happen. I feel good about having had a part in the making of the Colorado Trail, and I know the Forest Service “felt good” about being an active partner in this endeavor.

We cannot talk about the Colorado Trail without mentioning the name of Gudy Gaskell. I worked with Gudy directly on several occasions in the field. I know she was a driving force for the Colorado Trail, an organizer, and an energetic worker. I was privileged to go to Washington, D.C. in July of 1987, as a local Forest Service representative, when Gudy Gaskell accepted a prestigious award from the “Take Pride in American Program.” Recognition was given to a number of people for their dedicated efforts. We all celebrate our success.

Although the Colorado Trail has been finished, its continued maintenance is still largely accomplished by dedicated volunteers.

Presentation of “First Summer” Certificates to the first volunteer Colorado Trail crew on the South Platte Ranger District, Pike National Forest. August 10, 1974.

Pictured, left to right: Mark Thompson, Scott Marvin, Jill Ryerson, and U. S. Forest Service Officer Frank Swancara, Jr.
TRAIL CREW #19
MUSINGS
Phil Smith, Crew Leader

Location of this week of work was Horseshoe Gulch 2, between Frisco and Breckenridge. Once again, we had great Forest Service personnel with whom to work! Dan and Paul from the Dillon Ranger District were our Forest Service contact people.

Our campsite was not on forest property. The Forest Service had arranged for it to be on private property about a quarter mile from where we hiked to the trail being constructed. Shortly after we arrived there, we were confronted by a family in a jeep, asking what we were doing on "Their" property. It appears that the property had been for sale, the Forest Service made the arrangements with the then owners and the real estate sales people, but in the interim, these people had purchased the property, though all the paperwork hadn't been completed. Fortunately, we were able to satisfy them that we would not do any harm to the area, and they didn't bother us again.

But, on our last night there, another gentleman appeared, saying that part of our camp area was on HIS property, next to the other one! We were glad the three Rangers were there having dinner with us, and they explained the situation, the man showed us the property boundaries, and he, too, was satisfied with our being there! Whew!

Our roster started out at 20, dropped to 17 by the time we arrived at our campsite, but dwindled to 12 by Tuesday. We were certainly glad that those who remained were great workers. and we accomplished quite a bit of building new trail. Most of our crew came from the 2 crews working in the Durango area the previous week, so they didn't require in-depth training.

We appreciated the help of some of the Fat Tire Society from Breckenridge, plus the youth from YCC on several days. Our final crew was composed of 8 teens/college-agers and 2 adults plus my wife and me. Special thanks to the Jeffrey Bergerons of the Fat Tire Society for their generous donation of tickets for everyone to the Alpine Slide in Breckenridge! On our day off, the young people went to Breckenridge (Alpine Slide) and rode the shuttle between Breckenridge, Frisco, Silverthorne & Dillon, returning in the evening and walking the 2-1/2 miles back to camp from the bus stop.

The Crouchies returned to their home in Littleton that day to water their garden. My wife and I went "touristing" in Breckenridge for awhile, and even took a nap in the afternoon.

The weather was great, the mosquitoes pesky, but we had a great time. Once again, my wife Mae went along as full-time cook, which relieved me of some responsibilities so that I could concentrate on actual trail work and supervising the crew. It was quite warm most of the time and, on Tuesday, nearly everyone ran short on their water supply. We shared, and got by, but noticed a slump in our ambition for awhile due to lack of water.

The crew's assignment was to construct new trail for the reroute in the Swan River area. Ours was the second crew working in this area, following Joe Slack and his crew of four. We

(Continued on page 14)
were able to complete the portion of trail which Joe was hoping to get done but couldn’t because of such a small crew. The work went faster for us when we connected to an old trail. We brought the old trail up to standard, and finished it to where the new trail was to connect on the west end.

Our crew consisted of Zuri Betz, Anne & Mary Braun, John Brookman, Lindsay Chanberlin, Jack & Bonnie Crouch, Loren Drummond, Zack Johnson, Jeff Knight, Robert Laurendine, Brian VanSkiver, Joelle Zatkovich, Mae and myself. Texan Robert L. was with us again and he kept us laughing and teasing the entire week. Zuri was the camp fisherman, spending most of his free time down at the river. He caught several fish, but threw them back. We were glad to have Zach back this year. We got to know him on one of our’93 trail crews.

The homemade ice cream was a favorite, of course, and the group requested it a second time. Since we were fairly close to town, we bought the necessary ingredients and tried the orange-pineapple recipe on Friday night when the Forest Service men were our guests. It was great!

**WORK CREW #3**

*Phil Smith Leader*

Location was Razor Park in the Saguache Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest. Dates were July 2 thru 9.

Saturday set-up time went well despite a half-hour rain shower. There’s an hour’s drive from the rendezvous place in Saguache at the ranger station. So we were extremely dusty when we arrived at the camp site. This was the same site that we worked from last year, but the area had been leveled off some and was quite adequate. We were disappointed that from an original 26 people, we had only 17 show up. But they were terrific workers! A couple of them had just come from a prior week’s work on trail so they were experienced and all “limbered up”.

On Sunday, to get us started and to train the new workers, we built a trail from this new trailhead up to the existing trail. So on Monday morning we had a trail to walk on up to where our work was to begin—going west from the area we worked on last year. It was extremely rocky, so it took a significant amount of time to get rid of them. Some trees alongside the trail had to be removed, as well. Despite the hard work of everyone, we completed only about 3/4 of a mile of trail—but as someone remarked one evening, “You could walk barefoot on that trail—it’s so smooth”. (That’s a pretty nice compliment huh?) On Sunday afternoon some of the crew walked the trail from camp to North Pass.

On Wednesday, most everyone took off for various area of R & R, but most returned for the evening meal. We had leftovers—burritos and spaghetti from the two previous nights, with accompaniments.

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Gudy Gaskill is presenting on September 10, 1994 to Retiring Animas District Ranger Ted LaMay a CT Award for his dedication to the Trail.

The CTF Board in action at the Board Retreat in Fairplay.
New Foot Bridge on the CT across a Drainage Tributary to Elk Creek near the Animas River in the San Juans. Constructed by the Adoptees in July, 94.

Tom Bowser
Larry White

Adoptees:
Larry White
Tom Bowser
Earl Beach
Colorado Trail Journal

by Richard Nolde

Saturday, July 23rd - Friday, July 29th
Campsite: Sliderock crew camp 1.5 miles below Kennebec Pass, elevation 10,600

The Colorado Trail represents more than just a physical pathway for me; it is the epitome of what volunteer activism can achieve. The people I have met during this week on the trail crew impress me mightily. It is the dedication and spirit of these volunteers that will bring me back again and again (which is not to suggest that there is anything wrong with the scenery either). Our crew includes people of all ages with quite a variety of backgrounds. The younger end of the spectrum is represented by the students from Europe: Thomas Abdessiaam, Martin Franke, Jannemarie Frowyn, Astrid Guszahn, and Steven Lowe. The other end of the spectrum is represented by a number of retired couples, with highest seniority held by Hobie Cassell, now 72, who returned last year after heart bypass surgery. Everyone works according to his or her own ability and desire, but one thing has become very clear; age is not the determining factor with regard to the pace at which individuals work. Many of the seniors are in far better shape than the youngsters. Few of us can keep up with the likes of Merle McDonald, Larry White, Tom Bowser, or the other veterans of many trail crews, but it does not matter. No one is here to prove anything and competition is not part of ideology that brought us to this place. We work together in a way that is rare in the environments in which I spend most of my time.

There are several major league climbers and distance hikers in this crew: Kelsey Laughlin, Merle, Larry, and Tom, to name a few. Other members appear to be somewhat less extreme in the pursuit of their recreational goals, but equally dedicated to the Colorado Trail and all are essential to the task at hand. Mary Ryan, our culinary director and Donna Cassell, who manages lunch supplies, keep the lot of us going all week long. And of course, how could we hope to accomplish anything without Tom Ryan’s dedication to keeping the coffee flowing. For newcomers like myself, the trail building standards set by the Heckmans, a father and sons team that comes back year after year, were an inspiration in themselves. Earl Beach, Tom Bowser and Larry White came directly from a week of maintaining their adopted section of the CT over in the Elk Creek drainage. Sean Curry and I seem to share the honors for resident computer nerds, but we manage to get through most of the week without descending to geek talk and even then we focus on a program I am writing that might be of use to hikers. These crews have become a family affair for several groups: Larry White is here with his sister and brother-in-law, DeLynn and Butch Kuhn. Larry’s wife Dawn will join us on Friday evening and rumor has it that she will be bringing some excellent homemade cookies. Merle’s wife Uta and daughter Anne are on this crew and of course there is Max, the wonder dog, now a bit too arthritic to make the daily climb to the worksite, but very much a part of the effort in spirit at least.

After dinner in the evenings, there is time for conversation, poetry, and music. Patty Cassell has brought a guitar and there are several players among us. With a little effort we manage to keep the instrument in tune in spite of the rapidly changing evening temperatures. The fare ranges from popular songs known mostly by the students to old standards better known by the seniors. I am completely taken off guard when Tom Ryan recites the soliloquy from Act II, Scene I of Shakespeare’s Henry V that takes place before the battle of Harfleur. Equally intriguing but completely different are poems by Robert Service, The Shooting of Dangerous Dan McGrew and The Cremation of Sam McGee. Lewis Carol’s Jabberwocky and an assortment of other short works fill out the poetry department. Due to the high fire hazard in the forest, we can not have a campfire. Instead, we cluster under the tarps or sit on logs at the edge of the clearing by the forest service cook tents until weary bones and the evening chill drive us to our sleeping bags or campers. Given that breakfast call is at 6:00 AM, most of us turned in early, and some nights the crowd is already thinning out by 8:30. The week passes quickly and soon it is time for me to begin my hike.

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Colorado Journal
Continued from page 17

Saturday, July 30th,
Campsite: Cape of Good Hope, elevation 11,520, 8.5 miles

After a memorable week of work with one of the Colorado Trail Foundation's trail maintenance crews, I am ready to put our handiwork to the test. Breakfast is over and the group will soon be dispersing to all corners of the country, from Washington state to Texas to Connecticut, to say nothing of the foreign students who will return to Europe after a second week of trail crew duty. The forest service camp is pretty much dismantled and the equipment loaded by 7:30 AM and people are beginning to leave to catch flights or start their long drives. I say goodbye to a few more folks and after posing for a before the hike picture, I set off up the connector trail that leads up to the Colorado Trail below Kennebec Pass.

I immediately notice that a 65 pound pack is a bit more work to carry than just the pulaskis and digging bars that we have carried up to the worksite several times this week. The climb, first as a participant in the trail building effort each day, and now as a hiker, is doubling satisfying, and the weight of the pack soon slips from my mind. I note fresh elk and deer tracks on the trail but the animals are nowhere to be seen at this point. As a final gesture of trail stewardship, I clear away a few rocks that have rolled down onto the trail during the night. By the time I reach Kennebec Pass at elevation 11,700', I have achieved the synchronization of breathing and leg action that are essential for strenuous activity at altitudes far removed from my normal sea level abode where oxygen is much more plentiful.

Time and again during the next twelve days, I am reminded to activate the lungs before engaging the feet. Being in relatively good condition and having had the luxury of a week spent at elevations above 10,000 feet to get acclimated to the thinner air, my respiration quickly returns to normal whenever I pause to eat a snack, take a picture, or just soak up the scenic splendor around me. Then, shortly after I set off up the trail at a good clip, a bomb goes off in my head as the remaining oxygen is burned up before my still resting lungs can send a fresh supply. Leaning on my hiking stick and cursing my own stupidity, I take a few deep gulps of air and clarity and equilibrium return momentarily. Some climbers use a technique called power breathing, a sort of snort that empties all the stale air out of the lungs and brings in fresh air. By adjusting my pace and rate of respiration, I can hike comfortably in almost any terrain but occasionally I misjudge a section of trail and fail to shift to the proper aerobic gear in time to prevent a stall. Also, I find that the dry air passing down my windpipe often gives me a scratchy sore throat and swollen glands which are abetted somewhat by consuming a steady supply of hard candies of various flavors, peppermint and butter rum being my favorites.

Crossing the Kennebec Pass, I head down the old jeep road across the Cumberland Basin toward Taylor Lake, passing whole fields of wildflowers: paintbrush, columbine, asters, sunflowers, larkspur, and others I don't recognize by name. Just west of the pass is a spring, one of the few reliable water sources along this part of the trail. I feel obligated to refill my stomach and top off my water containers as I know I will be hiking across dry ridges for the rest of the day once I pass Taylor Lake. The La Plata Mountains rise to the south and west in front of me, Snowstorm Peak and Lewis Mountain prominent among them, with several patches of snow high on their north facing walls even as August approaches. There are several trucks at the trailhead where the Colorado Trail crosses FS-571 and pair of men look to be getting ready for a day hike. I am anxious to get past the steep climb up to Indian Trail Ridge before the sun gets too high and storm clouds move in so I shift into high gear as I take advantage of the relatively easy grade of the trail leading over to Taylor Lake. As I come around a turned in the trail, several ptarmigan run ahead of me for twenty or thirty feet before scurrying off into the flowers beside the trail.

I pause at the cutoff to Taylor Lake and add a Colorado Trail marker to the signpost for Trail 1520, Highline Trail, using a rock for a hammer. It seems that most of the Colorado Trail markers that haven't been stolen for souvenirs are oriented for the benefit of hikers travelling from
WORK CREW # 17

Phil Smith, Leader

This crew met at the Leadville Ranger station on Friday evening to work at the Rock Creek area. Our campsite was on National Fish Hatchery property, and great care had to be taken in what we did and where. Our responsibility was to replace about 75 feet of corduroy with a French drain. Naturally, the primary task was to collect rocks, from grapefruit size to grape size. Fortunately, there was an abundance of rock in the immediate area.

Ranger Loretta McElhinney made the advance arrangements with me, and on Saturday (her day off) she came jogging up with her dog to see how we were doing! Derek, the Leadville District volunteer coordinator, was a great help in getting our equipment up and back, making several trips up and down that horrible road. And he spent most of Saturday working with us.

The crew was listed as a drive-in, but it was scarcely a jeep road for about 4/10 of a mile of the way. Only high clearance vehicles could make it, so we had to share rides. One couple, planning to sleep in their van really had a dilemma, but they decided to brave it and try to drive up there. Through very careful maneuvering they did make it without a mishap to their vehicle.

Our crew consisted of Stephanie Bamhizer, Myke Beardsley, Jim Boehm, Carolyn & Douglas Burtard, Judy Childers, Sue Flowers, Isabelle & Tom Grover, Greg Hall, Morgan Holbrook, Cyndi Larsen, James Long, Matt Morgan, Randy Skalski, Cindy Strange, my wife Mae and myself. They were all hard workers and we accomplished our assignment in good time. Thank you all for a job well done!
CREW #18
Horseshoe Gulch #1
2-9 July 1994
LDR: Joe Slack
DILLON USFS DISTRICT: Paul Semmer
CO-LDR: Herschel Smith

PROJECT: Build new tread on the west side of Horseshoe Gulch but starting in the timber so new tread would not be visible, to westbound hikers, before it is finished.

CREW MEMBERS: Josephine Carpenter, Pauline Chvilicek (*), Tom Randolph, Joe Slack, Herschel Smith. (*) Car quit east of Limon, had a tow to Denver for repairs of two "chips", couldn't leave Denver till 8 Jul. USFS augmented our 4 person crew with a Youth Conservation Corps team: Josh Wyscarver, Dan Botter, Hilary Bennett, Mike Robinson, Steven West, Jennifer Wray, Dayna Robinson, w/alternate LDRS Wendy Gross and Jill (?).

Our understaffed crew worked hard and extra hours, but stubborn rocks and roots made progress slow. On Wednesday the YCC Cadre joined and the morning was spent teaching basic tread building. Progress increased until a "rotten" rock outcropping appeared and with no good fill-dirt easily available.

With Herschel's unit doing finishing duty, it stockpiled dirt to cover the rocks that Tom's "Grunt Team" forged through. While Tom went to Frisco for his wheelbarrow, Joe built a rock retainer wall and with much help built a log wall. Then Tom, with his newly named "Mule Train" of Josh and Dan wheelbarrowed all the fill dirt. Josie applied the final natural looking touch by adorning the downhill bank with rocks.

Herschel and Joe pulled some stumps, but with help of Tom and Josh, the Dillon District's Human stump puller, more stumps were cleared for the next crew. An 8"X10" photo of the District's "puller" were gifts to Josh and District Ranger Jeff Bailey.

With only four for meals, preparation and food choices were no problem--especially with oatmeal for breakfast daily. Josie was a good cook and asked to prepare the "brisket meal". What a meal she made for our guests Jeff and Wendy Bailey, Dan Haskins, Jill of the YCC, SCA members Patrick, Troy, Ivy, Barbie, Carlos, Jabrail w/ldrs Heather and Oscar. (SCA substituted for non-available YCC.) A very special guest was Tom's wife, Sharon, who kept the frozen brisket, thawed and sliced it for us.

ETC: Chef Josie, with 3 men "helping" her by making salad, locating eating utensils, arranging snacks, drinks, etc. kept her "cool" and prepared a most wonderful meal. When the ice cream freezer was ready to turn, the SCA group had never used one so we had plenty of arm power. In addressing the crew, Ranger Bailey said, after hearing Dan's trail report, he felt as if he could put up "handicapped accessible" signs. Days were hot but three nights were cold enough for ice to form in camp. Herschel and Joe visited the CTF Hiking camp of Lyinn and Steve for a short visit with Carol Johnson of our 1993 Crew #13. Carol sang us a couple songs and was just as great as ever. We helped

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All rocks and more came form tread base. Retainer walls --one rock and one log to hold many wheelbarrow loads of dirt. Josie did shoulder protective decor.
TRAIL CREW #16
South Platte #2 25-26 June 1994
LDR–JOE SLACK South Platte
USFS Dist: John CO-LDRS–
PAT NAGORKA, HERSCHEL
SMITH

PROJECT: Build about 1/4 mi of new trail beginning on
the east side and across C0126
from the Trail Head south of
Buffalo Creek; close the old,
replaced section; install new
posts; and repair eroded por-
tions of the trail.

CREW MEMBERS: Marta
and Bruce Armstrong, Linda
and Paul Berteau Nancy and
Roger Gomas, Anne Greer,
Terry Hardie, Andy Hopkins,
Cindy Johnson, Sunny Johnson,
Sue Juutilainen, Nancy
Kranzow, Shirley and J.
“Grady” Monk, Pat Nagorka,
Diane Parker, Diana Rahl,
Randy Rankin, Jim Ray, Rolly
Rogers, Joe Slack, Herschel
Smith, Sean Tangeman, Linda
Tryzna, Brian Ward.

Crew members were spaced
across the area for the new trail.
With so many experienced
workers and the lack of rocks
and/or stumps, the new section
was completed is 1/2 day.
(USFS estimated we might get
eroute done in a day.) This
included planting two posts
and the closing of the old trail.
The rest of Sat was spent repair-
ing the old trail toward Chair
Rock. Sun morning, Pat and
Herschel lead the crew in more
repair work while Cindy, Paul
and Joe installed two trail posts
in the vicinity of Chair Rock
where the Colo Trail passes
through the intersection of
several roads which could best
be called “Confusion Platz”.
This finished, the three joined
the main crew and helped build
many of the new type “roll
over” water bars that John, the
USFS representative taught us.
The crew was dubious at first
but later felt these bars are an
improvement over the ditch
which is easily filled by debris.

The USFS reserved most of
the Top of the World Camp-
ground for our crew. Even
though the campsite has no
water, we had an ample supply
since each member was asked
to bring his own, the USFS
provided a large amount plus
Herschel and Joe brought many
extra gallons. Pat did an ex-
cellent job of selecting the menu
and the chefs were superb in
meal preparation. Unlike last
year’s visit by a bear, this year
not so far from camp we had
motorcycles revving up well ‘
after midnight one night and
the next night cycle-sounds
replaced by automatic gunfire.

The temperature on Sun was
very high, but there were no
complaints. By IPM, most
people had used at least 2 liters
of water, so we closed work.
When turning in tools to the
USFS at Buffalo Creek, a USFS
wife said her shaded porch
thermometer read 98°F. What
an excellent, experienced crew!
Work area had much sun, few
trees and no breeze. In spite of
the heat, everyone was giving
full effort—an excellent example
of dedicated people working on
a project in which they fully
enjoy and believe in. “THANK
YOU” seems so inadequate for
such a GREAT CREW!!!

Row 1: Pat Nagorka, Sean Tangeman, Row 2: Bruce & Marta Armstrong,
Cindy Johnson, Paul Berteau, Sunny Johnson, Linda Trzyzna, Diana Rahl, Diane
Parker, Nancy Kranzow. Row 3: Randy Rankin, Linda Berteau, Brian Ward,
Sue Juutilainen. Row 4: Terry Hardie, Rolly Rogers, Anne Greer, Nancy &
Roger Gomas, Shirely & Grady Monk, Joe Slack. MSG: Andy Hopkins, Kim
Ray – Photo by Herschel Smith.
of dirt, rock, a big depression and gooseberry bushes—the rest being mostly scree. Jim & Andy fitted the depression with rocks as they fought their way through the bushes. The rest were scree movers. Tools weren’t very effective and throwing rocks downhill by hand was slower. Some gave Mary credit for starting the human bulldozer system—sit on the scree and use boot heels to move rocks over the flag-lined edge. Wait until the slope above you quit running and do it all over again until no more runoff. Next, you used tools and made tread. Problem—most of the flags got buried or went downhill with the rocks. Ted and Joe, held by ropes, reset flags Thurs and some tread spots were lowered.

When all units combined, the giant unit of scree-moving, human bulldozers really moved rock. By mid morning Fri, project’s end was in view and was reached by 2PM before the thunderstorm. All could see Jerry’s fine tuning touches as we trekked to camp.

OTHER HI-LIGHTS: Lavern’s preteen granddaughter volunteered to help cook Sat evening then took him to town to be his Sun guide of Mesa Verde. A very nice young man, Tom Engle of Feucht, Germany, bicycling up the trail, got caught in the Wed downpour and sloshed into camp. The crew got dry clothing, fed him, asked him to stay overnight. Jerry, via his HAM set, advised Tom’s friends in Lightner Campsite he would return the next day. Tom said our trail building was wonderful but would not be in his area. People would say, “We need a trail here. The government should build it”. He took a few

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Herschel and Joel combine for wider “dozer blade” effect.
Continued from page 22
Crew #5

pluaski hits before leaving.

The younger set had a lively game of stick ball while the elders watched or talked in our "patio". Much excitement Tue morn upon arriving at work. A large object lay hundreds of feet below our new tread and a large piece missing from the old trail. Cindy and Joe descended, found the object was a saddle w/camping gear, and blood was on nearby rocks. Andy, Bubba, Cliff and Joel were called down to carry the items up to our trail and later to camp. Findings--two people of Parker, Co area were leading four horses by an eroded spot of the old trail. one horse went over and couldn't recover fast enough to stop on some new tread, and by being on its feet got only leg cuts.

'LITES Cont'd: Hiker guard duty Wed for 4 of crew as USFS blasted rocks on last year's trail. All got caught by Tom's large thunderstorm. At work two hard hats, without heads inside, went over the hill but were recovered. Bob was on his 10th year of trail work. Joelle collected items, made many notes, etc for her college credit. Anne and Loren also were on a community project. Jerry's dog, Boots, an oldtimer in camp,' made friends with Linda's Ginger that didn't really enjoy the rain, wind, hail, and chilly Wed hike to Indian Ridge. Cindy doing kitchen cleanup alone and in the dark too. Joelle, Lindsay and Bob prepared an excellent brisket dinner. As the homemade ice cream was being opened, Joe was surprised by a beautiful birthday cake with icing of a mountain scene including standing miniature fir trees. Jim's comment--the crew's age spread is 63 years and all worked together so smoothly. The crew expressed thanks and appreciation to Ted for all support he and his organization have given. Ted told the crew how much help it had been, commended Bob for his many years of dedication, and gave a few thoughts about his own future. Lois gave her handcraft CTF-decorated rocks to her unit, Ted and Joe. Under her new title of Lady Energy, Mary delivered the CTF certificates. Ted gave each member a USFS patch. It was a great honor, with the super help of Lois and Herschel, to lead this most cooperative and hard working crew that built tread, across a very difficult slope, as its farewell gift to Ranger Ted LaMay, a wonderful supporter of The Colorado Trail Foundation.

Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Assn. Conference

A number of CT Friends attended the slide show sponsored by RMLA and given by Cindy Ross in Longmont, Colorado.

Bob and Jo Riley (this month's new editor of the Treadlines) of Lyons, Co. were in charge of the Conference and invited Colorado CT members. You missed a great slide show with wonderful shots of the llama trek as well as the beauty of the Colorado Trail. Great music, entertaining comments and a well-rounded presentation.

Llamas are a great solution to the long sections on the CT, create a memorable experience and help all of us who are of weak backs and strong minds.
Memories of the San Juan Yurt Ski Week

by Gudy Gaskill

We who went loved every minute of it, even the hard breaking of trail the second day! Such clean, unbroken snow, virgin, new and unspoiled. To put life back into perspective, a super ski excursion such as this one, is vital.

The shower of shooting stars in the night sky vied for attention with the radiant sparkle of ice crystals in incandescent colors in the early morning light, animal tracks telling stories of leisure or fright, gurgling water in the small streams, encrusted with lace ice forms; warming skis against the cabin, snow skittering off from the tips and splattering on the frozen ground; the hillside, once pristine, now covered with interlocking turns, and the willows along the trail reaching out with their long shadow fingers, caressing the skiers as they quickly glide by. Silence in the white stillness. You could hear your heart beat and your mind think! Soft shadows in the hollows and the touch of golden color from the late afternoon sun.

Those are the memories that come back. Not what we ate or spoke of. It is those things that cannot be bought or exchanged. We were but a tiny minute fraction of the world's population that had the privilege to see such intense beauty and purity of life.

You were all invited to share this experience with us last February. It was a dazzling experience. Don't miss it if we offer it again.
More Pictures of the CTF Ski Yurt Trip
February, 1994
American Basin Tour
THE PULASKI CARD

by Sam Junkin

A "Pulaski Card" will be made available annually to any person who volunteers for, and completes* an experience** as a crew worker or leader helping build The Colorado Trail.

[*Note: Exceptions will be made for, and Pulaski Cards issued to, those prevented from completing the week by major heart attack, forest fire (if in the direct locale in which he trail crew has assignment), or a National Emergency declared by the President and Congress and certified by the President of the Colorado Trail Foundation.]

[**Note: Those otherwise eligible who complete a week or more will receive a Gold Card. Those who complete a weekend experience will receive a Sliver Card. Those who complete more than one week of work in a given summer will receive either a Platinum Card, or a Post Card from the rest of us who are allowing bruises to heal, still involved in long showers, or who are still walking through the bathroom to flush the toilet just to hear that delightful sound.]

The Pulaski Card:

1. Qualifies bearer to participate as a skilled artisan in a crew building or repairing The Colorado Trail. As an illustration: during the week-long experience the bearer will have the privilege of investing a minimum of four days of heavy-duty labor for a registration fee of only $35.00.

2. Enables bearer to purchase any item sold by the Colorado Trail Foundation at an absolutely unbeatably undiscounted price.

3. Furnishes the names and addresses of the chief officers of The Colorado Trail Foundation, and other operative architects of The Colorado Trail such as the District Ranger, so that crew members may write unexpurgated letters expressing deep feelings about trail which is built through talus and/or bog.

4. Equips bearer for labor with hard-hat, rock bar, McCleod, and a personally-assigned Pulaski at no rental charge nor breakage deposit.

5. Furnishes bearer with a delightful, and/or challenging, variety of other items or experiences. For instance:

a. Duct Tape with which to repair leaking tents and ground cloths, broken hiking boots, worn-out work gloves, ripped pants (and underpants), blistered ankles, toes, hands and other vulnerable body parts, etc. This tape will be furnished the crew at no extra charge, unless the crew is careless and sloppy enough to require more than one roll.

b. Paper goods: One (1) brown paper bag will be furnished each crew member for transport of lunch to the work site. Since there is a carefully calculated supply of toilet paper, the crew is free to affect proper punishment to any crew member who drops a roll into the privy. No one on any trail crew knows what a paper napkin is.

[*Note: The Colorado Trail Foundation is especially grateful to those who return the assigned paper bag at the end of the week.]

c. Wild Life: an endless number of stories are assigned each crew concerning real, and imagined, sightings of deer, elk, and bear. Any "sign" noted near a crew camp site may be reliably assumed to have been left by a bear.

6. Encourages bearer to reconsider, and if possible to delight in the modification of, former culturally-induced and societal-accepted practices having to do with personal hygiene and bathroom behavior. For instance, shaving habits are often eliminated by both sexes. Or, when line for the privy is not available the behavior of the locally resident flies may be greeted as either a poor person's air-conditioning, or as a "lift-off for the next assigned duty.

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7. Provides bearer with an awesomely beautiful view from both latrine and shower, provided that each is enclosed on three, or fewer, sides.

8. Provides bearer with twenty (20) nutritious and delicious meals during the week-long experience, as long as bearer in concert with other bearers will prepare them, serve them and clean-up after them.

9. Will reward bearer with a Colorado Trail cap, pin, patch or tee shirt, dependent on the best deal* the officers of the Colorado Trail Foundation can dig-up in a given year.

[*Note: If no worthy deal appears, the award will be a firm handshake and a true blue look in the eye.]

10. Will reward bearer during and after the trail crew experience—

   --with a sense of being intimately involved in, and at peace with, the creation which God calls good.

   --with an opportunity to experience life in a community of diverse people, quickly teaming to be interdependent, focused on common goals, working together to accomplish those goals, and rediscovering laughter to be an essential building block for a healthy community.

   --with a renewed faith that through the experience of such unusual communities extended into other locales by the participants, world community and peace are translated from imagination into reality.

   --with the heartfelt conviction that one’s lease on life is in large part paid when the bearer builds trail which future generations will use and enjoy.

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A Big Thank You for Donors for our New Van

Chris & Joanne Amorosa • Leona Berger • Manuel & Gloria Bettencourt • Mark Bonomo • Peggy Brackett • Susan Brackett • Louise • Bradley • Judith Bregman • Ann Clark Dan Coulter • Margaret Endres • Ran & Joyce Estep • Clare Foote • Richard & Valerie Friesen • Barbara Jean Gard • Kay Geitmer • Betty Goding • Thomas Grover • Sam Guyton Ernestine Hamil • Terry Hardie • Jim Hlavaty • Herbert Hochberg • Ray & Louise Lindsey • Shari Lutz • Tess Malumphy • Ken & Sue Marshall • Carol Miller • Eleanor Pomie • George Saum • Bruce & Christa Taylor • Martha Walton • Julie Weber • John Shiting • John Wilson • Myra Winfield • Charles Yeomans • Mr. & Mrs. H.C. Blackwel
Status Report

A summary of what was accomplished on The Colorado Trail during the summer of 94 and what we are thinking about for the summer of 95 and beyond.

by Merle McDonald  
VP Colorado Trail Foundation

Starting at the north end of the CT George Miller had a weekend crew that rebuilt the trail going up the hill behind the South Platte Hotel. That area had suffered from motorcycle hill climbing that caused rather severe erosion. The FS has posted prominent signs prohibiting motor vehicle traffic. Perhaps that will solve the problem. No additional work is planned for this area other than routine maintenance.

Joe Slack had a weekend crew in the vicinity of Top of the World Campground that did some rerouting to improve alignment with the road crossing. That work was completed.

The Forest Service and Tom Butterfields adopter’s group, The RV Packers, worked on finding and alternate route for the CT in the Lost Creek Wilderness where it follows the old Hooper logging road. The bog in that area got the best of Mr. Hooper and now it has gotten the best of the CT. We are looking for a drier route. The new route is a possibility for work crews in the future.

Just south of the Lost Creek Wilderness is another series of bogs that are proving difficult to tame. We may need to install several hundred feet of turnpike or slightly raised bridging. This could require several crews in the next year or two.

The three miles of new trail on the Swan River bypass from Horseshoe Gulch to Highway 9 were not quite completed this summer so two crews are planned for next summer to bring the trail down from the ridge on the east side of the Blue River down to the river bed via a series of reinforced switchbacks. Larry O’Donnell and Bill Cannon will co-lead these crews in the early part of the next working season.

Two crews, headed by Irene Cazer and Larry O’Donnell, worked on rebuilding the CT on the west side of the Ten Mile Range. There is still more work to do up above timberline but the logistics of supporting a crew up there are very difficult. Another crew is needed there if we can find a way to support it.

The log foot bridge across the West Tennessee Creek has washed out and a replacement is needed. This might be a good candidate for a weekend crew. Also in this area additional signage is needed on the south side of the creek and between Bear and Galena Lakes. The many social trails in this area make it difficult to identify the CT.

Phil Smith’s weekend crew at the Rock Creek crossing west of Leadville constructed some French drains that should clear up that area. No further work is planned for that crossing.

The section of the CT around Twin Lakes is being considered for a reroute. If the current plan is adopted the CT will be rerouted to the west of Twin Lakes. It seems likely that several crews will be required when the plan is finalized.

The section of trail from Harvard Lakes to North Cottonwood Creek is in pretty rough condition, probably from horse traffic. It needs some major improvement. But this problem needs further analysis.

The CT between Middle Cottonwood Creek and South Cottonwood Creek has been receiving heavy use by horses from a commercial stable in the area. About one and a half miles needs to be rebuilt. A possibility for the summer of 95.

The Razor Park Crew lead by Phil Smith reworked another mile of trail in that area. This section of trail was never constructed but just happened and it is pretty rough. Several more crews are needed between Razor Park and North Pass over the next few years.

The crossing of Cochetopa Creek just east of the Eddiesville Trailhead could use a foot bridge to eliminate a very cold ford. Also there are multiple parallel trails in this area so the CT is difficult to identify. Some clarification would be helpful.

From San Luis Pass to Spring Creek Pass the CT is occasionally difficult to identify. Since most of this is in a wilderness area signing is
kept to a minimum. However what signage is there is poorly located and ambiguous. Trail sign names do not agree with names on some maps. At intersections where there are signs it is not clear as to which trail they apply. It appears part of the problem may be sign vandalism. Correcting these problems is further complicated by the regions remoteness. We need a joint FS and Colorado Trail Foundation effort to correct these problems, but they are not amenable to the normal work crew. In the mean time hikers in this area need to pay close attention to their guide book, map and compass. (This is a round-about way of saying I got lost there for a full day and spent a rainy night in some of the most rugged terrain I have ever seen.)

From Spring Creek Pass to the headwaters of Big Buck Creek the CT follows a jeep track, a distance of 10 miles. The views and the walking can both be improved by following the La Garita stock driveway across Jarosa Mesa. The Creede Ranger District disapproved our rerouting proposal and chose to keep the CT on the jeep track due to the light traffic on the track. This is not in accordance with the Colorado Trail Foundation’s goal of a completely non-motorized trail. Until this is resolved I recommend hikers follow the La Garita stock driveway over Jarosa Mesa rather than the jeep track that is shown on the map. It’s easy to do.

The CT follows another jeep track from the crest of Coney Peak down to Wager Gulch. Portions of this track are so steep and slippery that they are a serious hazard to backpackers. The FS is doing some trail work in the area, but so far has not addressed the steep section. I don’t know if they plan to or not. It is a section that needs improvement but as yet no plan.

Pole Creek is crossed 4 times by the CT, but only one crossing is wide and deep enough to require fording. This is the one closest to the Rio Grande. It would be nice if we could get a foot bridge here. But the scarcity of bridge building material in the area makes it a difficult project especially since motor vehicles are prohibited. So until we can come up with a solution I guess it will remain a ford.

The remainder of the trail is in the Animas Ranger District, and therefore it is not surprising that the CT is in pretty good shape here. This past summer the Sliderock reroute was completed. It required the concerted effort of six crews and many sticks of dynamite for this 2 mile long section. And it is now beautiful! Ted LaMay, the Animas District Ranger who retired last month, has adopted this section so we can anticipate that in spite of the constantly sliding rock it will remain in excellent condition. Building trail through the sliding rock in this area proved to be much more time consuming than anticipated, so an extra crew was transferred in so it could be completed this summer. The crew transferred was the Grindstone Crew so that meant that the Grindstone area did not get worked on this year. It’s now proposed for the 1995 list.

The Cascade Creek bridge approach trail was also completed this summer by Harriot Patton and her crew. It is worth the long hike in just to look at this beautiful area. In late June there are many beautiful waterfalls in this area for those who take time to look for them.

Six crossings of the Flagler Fork of Junction Creek were eliminated this summer by the Flagler Fork crew with the help of numerous sticks of dynamite. Now if the mountain will cooperate and not move too much this winter we will still have a neat trail there next summer. If not, we may have to send a weekend crew in to muck things out.

George Miller’s crew continued making trail into the newly designated Powderhorn Wilderness to the Devils Lake area. This section may eventually become a spur of the CT by joining it at the east side of Snow Mesa.

Gudy Gaskill and Ernie Werren lead four crews continuing work on the Gunnison Spur on the east side of Taylor Park. Gudy tells me she thinks we will need several more crews in this area before it is completed.

So as you can see there is still plenty of work to keep us all busy enjoying a week high up in the Rocky Mountains with some great friends.
Quotes from Some of our Favorite People:

George Miller:
I'm responsible for maintaining all of the equipment.
ALL OF IT?

Merle MacDonald
I thought that when you're retired that there would be lots of leisure time!

Sam Guyton
You mean that there isn't when you're involved with the Colorado Trail?

Tom Thompson
Wow! These weekend retreats really do accomplish a lot!
Quotes from Some of our Favorite People:

Denise Wright
As secretary I'm tired of taking notes. Let's go skiing!

Bob Moore
I'm the facilitator. Let's get going so we can ski.

Reed Donnelly
Great! I'd rather be skiing or biking any day.

Gudy Gaskil
Not so fast! Another hour of work, or there's no dinner!
Crew #13

We were fortunate to have Rachel Callow and Larissa Howard (high school seniors) from England participate in building the trail near Breckenridge. Following is Larissa’s impression of the week’s activities.

Colorado Trail Crew #13 first met on August 13th, all pretty well ready for a week that promised to hold a lot of experiences, not the least of which being WORK. However, work was only going to take up a small portion of our time together; the rest seemed to be wide open for possibilities. One of the first things that struck me was the diversity of the people, especially as my friend and I had come from England. Seeing so many distant areas of America represented meant we were really going to get to know some of the country’s people. In fact, Steve Mengel’s trip from Pennsylvania took longer than our flight from London.

So with these people of different ages from different places, the working day included more than just work. The beauty of the scenery that made up or raw materials also suggested not much could go far wrong. Trail work was part of the day’s schedule and we built 4,985 feet. (Steve Mengel won the pool with the closest guess.) It has to be said that looking at a line of trail stretching before you, that you built, is immensely satisfying; it feels worthwhile.

What with all that work, digging up those hardy roots and rocks, camping and cooking in tents, braving whatever the Colorado weather might throw, it could be deduced that the end result was a hardy bunch of strong, fit and indestructible workers. Thins did not quite work out like that! The presence of the Recreation Center at Breckenridge, 3 miles away, complete with swimming pools, whirlpools, hot tub, and steaming showers did rather destroy the “roughing it experience.” Evidence of the comparative ease of our lifestyle can be found in the compulsive actions of some jogging and reading (Wren) and teeth cleaning (Sam). The food was pretty good, too.

It was not only the strange habits of certain people that provided amusement, there was a humorous blooming romance that ran the whole week. The progression of affection was impressive - whispered invitations to lunch and square dancing, culminating in Juliette’s last lunch when Romeo carried a cold beer up the mountain and carved out a table for two in the dirt. It was unfortunate that Juliette took an early departure on Thursday as Romeo’s withdrawal symptoms showed.

This is not to suggest that the week was only composed of lighthearted fun and games. Quite apart from all the heavy work, our two rest days proved more taxing than relaxing. The Sunday show originally suggested transformed into a Gestapo-style march up to Georgia Pass and back, led by hill-walker of but finally successful, attempts to climb Mr. Quandry (14,165’) in hailstones, rain, lightning and forceful winds.

Basically the week had it all. Everyone owes a huge debt to Gene Cash; our highly effective, yet amazingly relaxed (if a little bit clean gloved) leader. I felt like each day was one I’ll remember the rest of my life. Especially moments when the dirt was piled up before you, at least an hour before lunch time, and definitely time to remember Gene’s words of wisdom; “Never let the goal compromise your judgment.”
March 14, 1994
Gudy Gaskill
Colorado Trail Foundation
548 Pine Song Trail Golden, CO 80401
Dear Gudy:

Having hiked many portions of the Colorado Trail, I still feel that the Hope Pass section is one of the most spectacular and varied (do you think. I am prejudiced). in my fifth year of maintaining this portion of the trail I find that every time I go it is a new exciting experience.

This portion of the trail starts at the south west corner of Twin Lakes. It is a several mile hike just to get to the start of the Hope Pass section, which meanders along the lakes and passes several restored historical buildings. The trail then starts up following a creek in an area with heavy pine cove. The terrain then becomes more gentle with the pines giving way to meadows along the stream and some old log buildings. (Last year in early July when 1/3 of the trail was still covered with snow I saw bear tracks in this area).

The trail then goes above tree line with several ponds, beautiful wild flowers and then climbs steeply to the pass. Reaching the ridge is spectacular, especially in the fall when the drop off exposes a valley and other mountains with many aspens. The trail then drops off very sharply with many switch backs and enters an aspen covered area until the section of the trail ends near Vicksburg. The Leadville 100 race reverses itself at this point to return to Leadville.

The biggest problem I have with the trail is in high snow years when many avalanches cross the trail depositing a lot of debris. Having lived in Summit County for about a quarter of a century and having hiked much of the central Colorado mountain area, I have felt good in working for “The Colorado Trail” to give something back.

Gudy, all of the adoptees appreciate what you have done and your continuing efforts. Thank you’
Sincerely,

Craig C. Nelson
President
TEXAS CREEK
Crew #8
July 30 - August 6, 1994
Leader: Ernie Werren

Our camp was in Taylor Park in a nice lodgepole stand at 9700', one quarter mile from Texas Creek. Our goal was to build one and one-half miles of new trail on the Gunnison Spur of the Colorado Trail. This approximate 65 mile spur will leave the main CT south of Leadville and continue to Western State College in Gunnison. Most of this trail has been built in the last six years. Crew #8 was one of four crews charged with completing one of the last segments of the Trail from Taylor Lake to the Timberline Trail, from which it will cross the Continental Divide at 12,500 feet and drop into the Lake Ann area of the eastern slope.

The seventeen member crew consisted of twelve Coloradans (ten "old" and two "young") plus five young Europeans and one American who joined us through the Council of International Educational Exchange. The CIEE members were- Thomas Abdessiam from France; Martin Franke and Asrid Guszahn from Germany, Jannemarie Frowijn from the Netherlands; Steve Lowe from the U.K.; and Craig Pocock from Connecticut. The Coloradans were: Kathie Del Rio, Golden; Herb and Sherry Drury, Breckenridge; Laura Farmer, Palisade; Doris and Ralph Palmer and Gerry Venard, Littleton; Ruby and Gene Taylor, Poncha Springs; plus two strong young men from Colorado Springs, Jared Veteto, and Tim Kendall, who unfortunately had to leave after only two (but very productive) days.

Jon Morrissey, our USFS contact, was very helpful in providing an ample supply of good sharp Palaskis and saws, plus McCleods and a strong rock bar. Jon gave valuable guidance and support to the crew.

How lucky we were to have Ruby Taylor, a south Louisiana Cajun as our full-time camp cook! She ran the kitchen with great efficiency and there was always plenty of excellent cuisine prepared with plenty of cheer. (Paul Prudholme could not have done better). Of course, Ruby had plenty of kitchen help from the rest of the crew. Herb, fly fisherman, provided enough fresh trout for a great dinner.

The trail will prohibit motorized vehicles, but in order to discourage unauthorized use ATVs, etc. the specifications for the trail were a narrow 12-15" wide tread, with trees removed six feet wide to accommodate horses. This is a narrower tread than usual CTF standards and the crew had to adapt to the new specifications.

Gene, Gerry, Martin and Roger were the "big" tree lumberjacks, but all of the crew worked hard at stump, small tree, and rock removal. Jared and Tim were great with the rock bar for their two days on the crew and this chore was taken over by Thomas and Martin thereafter.

On Thursday night we were joined for dinner by Gudy and the members of Crew #10 who were camped up Illinois Creek and working towards us from the Timberline Trail.

This was an enjoyable social event as were the lively nightly poker games. On Friday night we drove to the Tincup Community Center and square-danced the Virginia Reel and other folk dances. Martin and Jannemarie were the outstanding European dance at this affair and a good time was had by all of the crew who participated.

Crew #8 built about one and one-third miles of new trail which was a good weeks worth My thanks to all of the crew members for a job well done and to Jon, our USFS contact, for his help and support.

Ruby Taylor, Our Cajun Cook

Continued on page 35
Back Row: Astrid, Craig, Thomas, Jannemarie, Steve, Rogers, Doris, Ernie, Gene and Herb
Front Row: Sherrey, Martin, Gerry, Kathie, Ruby, Laura

Crew #8

The CIEE Gang Working

Continued on page 36
More Pictures from Crew #8

Gerry, Herb and Gene plan a tree fall.

Doris helps Roger Shower
A Great Story about a Trail That Was Adopted:

by Jean Mann

Dear Merle

I just wanted to let you know that my sisters & I thoroughly enjoyed our section of the Trail that we have adopted in memory of our mother, Helen Newell. We have the section from Hotel Draw to Orphen Butte, not that far from where I worked on your crew with Mamma on Indian Ridge a few years ago. We have a section that required very little maintenance, but that offers spectacular views and gorgeous wildflowers. We had about 10 people, friends and family of Helen, who hiked, camped, remembered Helen, and got acquainted with that section of the Trail. And, ok, yes, cleaned water bars, pruned a few branches, leveled a few spots on the Trail, etc.

It just seems like the Colorado Trail is another of the positives legacies that Mamma left to us. The Trail and the people she met while working on the Trail, were very important to her. By spending the time on the Trail, we can connect with some of what she found so special.

We really didn't know what we were getting into by adopting a Trail section. But it looks like a marvelous thing for us to do each summer. Zea lives close enough (35 miles) that she & her husband and son can do it by themselves, but it's a great excuse for all of us to get together.

Thanks for all your work on the Trail. And know that we look forward to continued involvement with the Colorado Trail.

Sincerely,

Jean Mann
Timberline Trail #1  
Crew #9  
July 30-August 6, 1994  
by Jon Greeneisen

Gudy Gaskill’s crew of 22 volunteers rendezvoused on July 30th at the north end of Taylor Park Reservoir, the same place Ernie Werren’s Texas Creek 1 crew assembled. The two crews would be cutting new trail down into Taylor Park on the Leadville to Gunnison spur.

Having come from as far as Michigan and Texas, we slowly followed Ranger Jon the final four miles over, through and along Texas Creek to our tree-line campsite at the end of the “road”. It was a beautiful spot where we looked up at Jenkins Mountain, Grizzly Peak, Three Apostles and a distant ridge that was our work site.

Our crew was an experienced bunch. All but four were CT veterans with the “Three Musketeers—J.J. Kleckner, Grady Monk and Roger Gomas—setting the pace. They were up before first light each morning to handle the breakfast setup for Gudy and were off ahead of the rest of us to mark with pink ribbons our long trek to work. They also treated us to a fish fry Wednesday night from the bushel of fish they caught on our day off. Nice people to have along.

Dick Fibiger and son Ryan had driven from Michigan for a CT reunion with former neighbor Clive Bosnyak and son Paul, who came from Texas. The Kepler family—Glenn, Wesley and Sandie—came from Lakewood with Wes’s friend Zach Pomeroy. Sandie, 11, pruned bushes, yelled “Timber” when trees fell and charcoaled the fresh-cut stumps. Wes, Zach, Ryan and Paul teamed up to construct two super bridges which they named WZRP I and II.

Beverly Gherardini, Lakewood, and Lynne Van Westrenen, Kittredge, were on their first crew and quickly adapted to camp living. Then there were the groupies from Parker/Franktown/Elizabeth—Bob Hughart, Jon and Marylin Greeneisen, Don and Pat Burrell and Rosalie Long.

Continued on page 39
Timberline Trail #1
Crew #9
Continued from page 38

Bill Lewallen, Pueblo, already had hiked part of the trail on the CT Trek. Greg Hall, a fireman from Breckenridge, was on his third of five crews this summer.

Gudy called us a good crew and we didn’t disagree. We built a bunch of new trail and had fun doing it.

Our task was to build a couple of miles of new trail from the old Timberline Trail up at tree line down through the thick lodgepole pine forest into Taylor Basin. On Sunday we climbed more than 1,000 feet, hiked 3-4 miles and didn’t arrive at the starting point until 11:00 a.m. But each day our worksite was closer as we worked toward camp.

The good news was that the Forest Service wanted only a one-foot trail. The bad news was that the trees were as thick as a weed patch and rocks were, well, there were lots. But by quitting time Friday night our new trail, we were told, was more than three miles long.

Camp life went well. Some complained the privy was too far up the hill. There was no campfire, of course, because of dry conditions and the statewide ban on fires this summer. Favorite evening games in the community tent were Taboo and Ninety-nine.

We had ample food with the same menu as other crews. The Gaskill rule of "waste no food" was in force and some claimed they could still taste Sunday’s bananas in Friday’s oatmeal. Not true.

Thursday night we hauled our grub down the trail, around the ridge and back up to the Texas Creek #1 camp. Gudy had made peach pies, peanut butter cookies and home-made ice cream. We put all the food together and had an enjoyable time with Ernie Werren’s crew that included six volunteers from Europe.

1994’s Timberline Trail #1 crew had a productive, enjoyable week—another great experience in the Colorado Rockies for all of us who were there.

Rock bar: teams on Timberline Trail #1 crew in Taylor Park.
1994 Crew Numbers

Report from Jon and Marylin Greeneisen, CT Crew Registrars

In the summer of 1994, 303 volunteers came to work on 19 crews (16 week-long crews and 3 weekend crews). They filled 364 crew positions and provided 10,492 hours of volunteer labor.


The three weekend crews had 26 individuals registered for each crew and an average of 22.6 volunteers showed up to work.

Disregarding the largest and smallest week-long crews (Crew #7 with 30 volunteers and Crew #18 with 4), 14 week-long crews had an average of 21.6 individuals registered for each crew and an average of 18.7 volunteers came and worked. On average, 2.8 (13.2%) of the people who registered either cancelled late or failed to show up. But only three of these 14 crews failed to meet the target of 18 volunteer workers (Crews #2 and #3 with 16 workers each and Crew #10 with 17). Crew #18 was small (4 people) because it was announced too late to inform prospective volunteers.

Colorado Trail Crews/ 1994

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Number Registered</th>
<th>Volunteers who worked</th>
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<td>Cazer</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Jun 25/Jul 2</td>
<td>O'Donnell</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>3 Razor Park</td>
<td>July 2-9</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>McDonald</td>
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<td>Slack</td>
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<td>Jul 30/Aug 6</td>
<td>Werren</td>
<td>21 (13 + 8)</td>
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**TOTALS** | **415** | **364**
Grindstone Report
Crew 0794
July 23/30 1994
By Merle McDonald

Three days before the Grindstone crew was to begin I received a call from the Animas District Ranger, Ted Lemay, who stated the Sliderock area construction was going slower than expected. Due to the steep, unstable terrain he had closed the construction area to horse traffic. It had become imperative to complete the Sliderock construction of the CT this summer. He wanted to know if I would be willing to move my Grindstone Crew to Sliderock to get the trail opened up. Having just completed a week of strenuous construction in that miserable sliding rock I was somewhat less than enthusiastic. But having been there for a week already I knew first hand how important it was for it to be completed. So I reluctantly agreed, hoping my crew would forgive me.

As always the crew performed like real troopers, millions of pounds of rock were moved, miles (it seemed like!) of willow roots were dug out and we finish and opened the section on Friday. And it is now one beautiful section of trail!

One of the crew members was Richard Nolde, a programmer from the Yale medical research unit in New Haven, CT. After working a week on the crew he hiked the CT from Kennebec Pass to San Luis Pass. He kept a very well written and interesting journal. I will let his journal tell you about this crew and his hike afterward. Since it is quite long I'll break it into sections and continue in the following editions of Tread Lines. The following is his journal entries for the crew and the first day of his hike.

George Miller sorting out equipment at Gudy's house
Steve Quinn debating whether to enter Gudy's shed.
For the third straight year this crew assembled in last June to accomplish maintenance on the assigned Colorado Trail Section, a nine mile length through the Camp Hale area, form the peak of Kokomo Pass to U.S. Highway 24. This section of the CT is beautiful with magnificent views of Holy Cross, Camp Hale, Climax, Glory Hole, Bartett Mountain (what is remaining), and much of the Sawatch Range. The trail has a nice pitch starting at approximately the 12,200 foot level (Kikimo Pass), then descending to the Camp Hale valley, elevation 9,680 feet.

Trail maintenance this summer was scheduled for the weekend of June 25. Prior to the crew’s arrival, Jim Miller and Harold Lawrence surveyed the Trail noting trail condition and maintenance needed all of which was subsequently reported in the CT operating plan.

First troops to arrive were Edd Quigley and Judy Thorne, after a three year hiatus (Edd was with the Peace Corps in Honduras), returning early in the week. A mountain bike competition was underway, utilizing a portion of the CT, so they experienced a fun race and considerable excitement.

More troops began to arrive mid-week with many families in tow. At one time I believe we enjoyed approximately forty people in the Ease Fork Group Campground. A great turnout. Working directly on the CT were twenty-seven volunteers. We had folks from the states of New York, Louisiana, California, Texas, Alabama and Colorado.

Meal preparation was shared for the weekend outing. Mauge and Jim Miller brought BBQ brisket, cherlynn and John fixed smoked turkey, and Helen and Harold Laurence served Blue Parrot “Home of the Famous” Italian spaghetti. The dinners were gourmet. Jodi and Ramon McKinney followed through with their delicious breakfasts as usual, supported by Margaret and Mac McKinney, Julie Mestag, Ty Cobb, Barbara and Bob Sage, Eraina and Wally Willey plus Edd and Judy.

We welcome some new volunteers form Texas, Wally and Eranina Willey (retired FBQ) and Chuck Stough (NASA), Les Foiles (retired, Estes Park), and Ty Cobb (no, not the ballplayer) but a superb Cajun storyteller form you know where). John and Ty kept us in stitches all weekend.

The entire nine miles of trail was hiked, surveyed and where necessary work was accomplished. The Trail overall is considered to be in excellent condition by the Forest Service, Holy Cross Ranger Station.

The Forest Service has hiked the Trail with Bill Todd and Beth Boyst has several recommendations which they have given us. These recommendations are outlined in the Colorado Trail log and condition survey dated September 12, 1994.

We have received fine support form the Forest Service. This year because of a large workload we assisted the Forest Service and picked up or work tools (The F.S. normally delivers tools) - we also returned equipment using our vehicles. The F. S. Was sort of some tools due to heavy work projects elsewhere, but in spite of some shortage they assemble new tools to support our maintenance effort.

Our CT new bathing shower designed and constructed by Max Smith was a big hit, but we did have a problem deciding who owned the best looking legs. The shower will be lengthened per Max to accommodate those great legs.

As usual its difficult assessing food requirements and there was excess. However, there is a group of children at the St. Joseph’s Home Group, through the efforts of Barbara and Bob Sage that do approve. Our excess was given to these little folds and they responded with a very rewarding letter to our Trail crew.

We had a great outing, and
Camp Hale Area
Continued from page ?
in addition to improving our Trail section, we shared many stories, enjoyed listening to Wally’s uke playing, singing around the campfire, but most of all, just being together with wonderful friends. Although Jim Boyden was not able to overnight, we really appreciated he and his wife coming to our camp for a short-time on his way to a family reunion in Utah.

Margaret and Jodie are doing a terrific job assembling an album of our group’s history on the Trail. The story telling pictures weave a wonderful experience, The CT Sojourn.

Our financial wizard, Mac McKinney, is to be congratulated for his superb work in keeping track of the bucks world. We have a balanced budget. We have also assembled a more than adequate set of group camping and cooking gear through very generous donations form our CT crew.

Our next Trail maintenance is scheduled for last June, 1995.

Pictures of some of our Board Members:

Merle McDonald

John Sowell
would have gone because most of the Forest Service personal take their vacations right after Labor Day. Primarily we have had to find a new route around the Mount Princeton road walk, a new route around Mount Hope, site for a bridge to cross the Taylor River, and check the progress that the Sierra Club made on a new reroute in the Lost Creek Wilderness Area (Actually, this segments, the Lost Creek Wilderness summer work, was a surprise to the CTF).

This completed, Merle McDonald and I will make a decision on the locations and base camps of next summers crews. This year we hope to have the schedule ready in December.

Kudos to all the volunteers that worked on crews this past summer. It was a great summer for accomplishment, some great trail was built and rebuilt, there were no accidents, a couple of people got lost on their day off, we had great food and wonderful menus, we were a bit short on some crews with hardhats due to the demand for hats and tools for firefighting usage, and a few crews had more work to do than they could finish (One crew actually built 2 1/2 miles of new trail in four days time, setting a new record!). The Colorado Trail is ‘bustin ilt britches’ showing off its new splendor. Some trail built this summer was only a foot wide and left as an inconspicuous wilderness trail, while others were three or four feet wide and smooth as a baby’s bottom. Each elevation and location needs its own adaptation to make it fit in with its environment. Same regulations, different interpretations, makes for an interesting trail. We know that we have a winner when the elk and deer discover the new trail the very evening after its built, and have an urge to test it out for grade and walk ability. Yes, Virginia, the trail is complete, but never finished!

We’re all ‘bustin our britches’ cause we’re so proud of what you did on our trail. Incredible-inCREDIBLE-INCREDIBLE!

Not only has it been a busy trail crew summer, it’s just been a BUSY summer with all kinds of Colorado Trail related activities. We celebrated National Trails Day with an EMS sponsored hike and pancake breakfast at Waterton Canyon, a booth at the Peoples Fair and a number of hikes/rides on various parts of the trail. There were 19 trail crews, a six week supported trek along the WHOLE trail, led by CTF Board member Lynn Mattingly and trail crew leader Steve Gladback and supported by CTF Board member George Miller. There was a two week supported trek sponsored by the Colorado Mountain Club, led by CTF Board member Gudy Gaskill, a one week accredited Geology Course on The CT organized by CTF Board member Dr. John Sowell and assisted in camp by Gudy Gaskill and CTF Board member Ernie Werren. A magnificent evening spent at the Governors mansion celebrating 20 years of partnership with the Dept. of Agriculture, organized by Board member Belinda Wiman and sponsored by EMS, and the fun day hiking with llamas and biking at Breckenridge, celebrating the opening of a new segment of trail. The trail crew reunion BBQ that evening, open to all supporting members and volunteers at Mount Vernon Country Club and not to forget the leaders meetings, board retreats and work days getting the food and equipment purchased, packed, repaired and organized. There were many trips to district offices, basecamp site inspections and equipment and food stored. Upcoming we have a Board retreat at Winter Park, a scheduled historic hike from Tennessee Pass to Camp Hale with historians and a BBQ, a winter OPEN HOUSE and a planned (annual) ski trip to Lake City in February.

Now do you believe that this is a working CT Board? If you know of someone that has completed the WHOLE trail, have them get in touch with the CTF. We have started a log book of people that have completed the hike/bike/ride of the CT and need your help to pass the word along. This summer there were three board member completed their backpack. They are Merle McDonald, Denise Wright and George Miller. Now we have three more knowledgeable members to answer the CTF phone and give accurate information. Up to this point it has been Charlotte Biber and Gudy Gaskill that have answered the phone inquiries with their myriad questions.

Congratulations! We believe the Merle And his partner Larry White (a volunteer and trail
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**President's Corner**

adoptee) set a new record for backpacking the CT...26 days and eight hours. With the lingering snow drifts, that's really hoofing it!

The free certificates for trail completion should be ready by the time that you receive this newsletter. We are also designing a ‘completion’ patch to be sold at a nominal fee, plus the fact that we have 200 and 300 mile pins. What more could you ask for?

We will be recipients for another national award in early October, plus the Colorado Trail has had a LOT of publicity nation wide. The days of not meeting anyone on the trail for days on end are over. There are still stretches in the La Garita Wilderness and the Weminuche Wilderness where there aren’t any bikers or motorcycles and very few hikers, because of the restrictions and remoteness of the areas. When the fourth edition of the Official Guide book comes out, illustrated with John Fielder's pictures and topo maps, it’s going to make everyone's heart skip a beat. The trails beauty is revealed through John's pictures. Randy has done a magnificent job on completely rewriting the whole description of The Colorado Trail. It was a joy to sit and edit the journey through the mountains with it descriptive dialogue. Keep it in mind for a wonderful Christmas gift.

Your support of the CT has been rewarding to us because of your voluntary giving. Board member Sam Guyton and Bea Slingsby have been sending the thank you notes. They are sincere and come from the heart... all of our hearts. You make possible all of the work and activities that we have been able to accomplish or offer. Just know that you are appreciated and looked on -as a generous and caring individual. You are not just a number in the computer but a special person. If you are reading this, consider yourself hugged!

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**Work Crew #3**

Jon and Marylin Greeneisen hiked east on the Colorado Trail to Baldy Lake and on the way back they saw a herd of elk estimated at about 200! Thursday evening two others went east on the trail and saw the same herd.

Thursday was back to work, of course. But that night for dinner, we had our second dessert of homemade ice cream! It went over so well the first of the week that the guys who went into Gunnison on their day off brought back the ingredients for another batch!

We were somewhat disappointed that no outdoor fires were allowed due to the dry conditions throughout the state. But we were thankful for the little sheepherder's stove in the community tent. That gave us a gathering place each evening after the "chores" were done. This time of fellowship each night was enlivened by Robert, our 16-year old from Houston, Texas! He was "the life of the party" and we enjoyed teasing him about Texas. Once nice thing about not having a campfire at night is that most of us went to our tents soon after dark--so everyone got plenty of sleep!

Once again, it was my privilege to work with Forest Ranger, Jim Jaminet in the advance assessment of the work to be done, etc. Jim was in the Grand Junction area fighting that fire during our week down there, but his co-worker, Dave (I think it was) was most helpful and cooperative in every way.

Those comprising this wonderful crew were: Robert Ballou, Robert Doman, Marylin and Jon Greeneisen, Roy Kepler, Robert Laurendine, Jim Morgan, Bill & Jan Roth, Blair Sinclair (from Canada), Paul VanBeusicher. Brant Wilson, Amy Young, Larry Zier, and my wife, Mae, who was our full-time cook.

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**Work Crew #18**

them with an overnight supply of propane.

What a pleasure to once again meet and work with old-time friends, meeting and exchanging views with the YCC younger set, receiving such wonderful support of the Dillon Ranger District, relaxing one evening in Sharon and Tom's hot tub -- these are examples of what makes building trail so rewarding. It's the people and the thought of creating something for others!
Denver to Durango. Given the sparsity of signs and markers to begin with and the fact that the official Colorado Trail guidebook gives descriptions in that direction only, I am moderately concerned that I may miss a turn and wander down a side trail without knowing it for quite a while. I am carrying the Colorado Trail Foundation's published 15' topographic map set for the sections of the trail that I will cover in the next two weeks and a compass, but this is not exactly an urban park with paved self-guiding nature trails. In areas where no side trails or roads intersect the Colorado Trail, there are no trail markers on the wooden posts that you do pass for miles at a stretch. It can be unnerving if you have hiked for several hours and not seen a marker or another hiker to reassure you that you are indeed still on the Colorado Trail. Furthermore, since the Colorado Trail follows a number of old roads and stock driveways as well as trails marked with their local names, one could easily end up leaving the Colorado Trail via one of these peripheral routes and not realize it.

By the time I reach the first rocky outcrops of Indian Trail Ridge north of Taylor Lake, the clear morning skies are giving way to a caucus of cumulus and stratocumulus clouds, perhaps deciding when and where to release their moisture. Several mountain bikers come toward me over the rocky ridgeline and I quickly step aside to let them pass. One false turn on that segment of trail would take them down a scree slope thousands of feet long in a ride that would certainly be their last. I take a break for an energy bar and refreshment at a little rock edifice surrounded by wildflowers and grasses on top of one of the higher ridge points. It is still before noon and I am already halfway to my destination for the day. The views of the La Plata

Mountains behind me and the San Juan Mountains ahead of me are spectacular. I pull out my camera and lenses and click off frame after frame as I strive to get the best composition and lighting. I can see Engineer Mountain and Lizard Head some 25 to 30 miles northeast of me and speculate on how the trail follows the intervening ridges and valleys. The Colorado Trail Foundation maps form a sort of trip-tic that often leaves little room for surrounding features. This complicates sighting distant reference objects, but there is no question about my location or where I am headed next at this point. I revel in being up high again with no need to hurry down as I take in the scenery and fresh air.

My reverie is interrupted by a verdict from the caucus; a peal of thunder announces that the clouds have voted and rain is now falling to the east of Indian Trail Ridge. Lightning begins to cavort between the clouds around me but so far nothing is threatening near at hand. A few drops of rain suggest that I would do well to consider the consequences of being the highest object on a ridge in a thunderstorm if the direction of the wind should shift and the storm move toward me or another storm come up from the other direction. With a little added incentive, I lengthen my stride and go into overdrive to see if I can keep out of harm’s way and possibly reach camp before conditions worsen. Shortly thereafter a storm front comes over the ridge ahead of me which means that I will be heading directly into it for the next few miles.

Once again lady luck smiles on me and I reach the Cape of Good Hope without an incident reminiscent of Benjamin Franklin’s experiment of flying a kite in a thunderstorm. My big external frame pack does not look much like a kite, but I am sure that it would serve more than aesthetically as a lightning rod. However, I have no desire to be on the receiving end of a Jovian bolt, preferring instead to observe them from a distance. I find spot for my tent amongst the sunflowers and daisies in a meadow near the intersection of the Colorado Trail and the Good Hope Stock Trail. I manage to get the tent set up with a good thirty seconds to spare before the skies open for some serious corrections to the recent dry spell. Since my tent doesn’t permit me the luxury of sitting up and no lightning was striking nearby, I put on my rain gear and set off in search of the spring to refill my water containers for the evening and morning meals. Twenty or thirty minutes walk down the ridge in the storm, which waxes and wanes by the moment, is pleasant without the heavy pack, but it reveals no better source of water than the spring two hundred yards below my tent site. I return to my starting point and descend the side of the

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ridge to where the spring trickles down the steep slope and fills two shallow pools fifteen or twenty feet across. With very few exceptions along the Colorado Trail, all water for human consumption needs to be treated with chemicals or passed through a filter designed to remove microorganisms such as Giardia that may be present in the water. This is particularly true in areas open to stock grazing or along streams with beaver ponds. I filter my two liters of water for tomorrow’s hike and a quart for supper, and then fill my water bag with enough water for breakfast plus an extra quart or two. My intended campsite for tomorrow lacks a guaranteed water source, though I have been told that there should be a stream not too far down the side of the mountain at Corral Draw or one of the nearby drainages. Not wishing to take a chance, I decide that I will carry enough extra water tomorrow for the overnight meals. In a month the stream may have gone dry or at least receded down the slope quite a ways to where it would be difficult to reach.

The rain stops and the sky begins to clear as I return to camp, so I prepare for my evening meal before conditions can change again. As I lean back in my Thermarest, a fabric and stiffener affair that holds my air mattress up like a camp chair, a chipmunk runs over to my pack. Assuming that he has come over to raid my pack as is so often the case in the National Parks and eastern mountains where these animals are nearly welfare clients of the tourists in summer months, I scare him off. Shortly afterwards he comes back and before I can find something to toss his way, he crawls over my pack without even stopping in order to get to whatever it was he was after on the other side. I am embarrassed at my presumption of guilt when in fact I am the intruder here and should not be hassling the wildlife at all. Not wishing to tempt my host with food-stuffs inappropriate for his digestive system, I hang my food sacks from a branch six feet above the ground and sit back to finish my supper.

This is only the first day of my hike and already I have set a new personal elevation record for hiking with a pack, 12,338’ above sea level, along Indian Trail Ridge. Similarly my campsite elevation, 11,520’ above sea level is the highest I have ever camped. These new records are of no significance in themselves, but I am curious to see how my body reacts to exertion at these heights as I have dreams of someday climbing higher peaks and I am alert for signs of difficulty that would indicate inadequate conditioning or acclimatization. Headaches seem to be the extent of my difficulties, but they yield to anti-histamines and disappear after a good night’s rest. My appetite is somewhat dulled at first as often happens when I exercise heavily.

1994 Colorado Trail Trek

by Lynn Mattingly

In honor of the 20th Anniversary of the Colorado Trail, the Colorado Trail Foundation offered a six-week trek of the entire trail from Denver to Durango. This was our fifth year of supported treks - which allow strong hikers to move along the trail about 15 miles per day with only a day pack (a base camp provides food and crew support moves camp in vehicles each day.)

On June 26th we met our first group close to Waterton Canyon where the Colorado Trail begins, winding its way form Denver’s record heat into the foothills. Each week the core group of seven “through hikers” were joined by more hikers to round out a group of about twenty. Friday, August 5th, the end of our hike brought us to the junction Creek trailed close to Durango. Finish line!

The seven through hikers who persevered for six weeks and completed the Colorado Trail this summer include Chris & Joanne Amoroso, Anne Craddock, Ed Hoing, Carol Johnson, Jeanne Patton and Kevin Zimmerman.

Congratulations!
So Much to be Done!
We make a living by what we get
We make a life by what we give.
_Winston Churchill_

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