



Stateline

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CDOT "ROCKS" THANKSGIVING 2004

BY STACEY STEGMAN
PIO, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Thanksgiving 2004 will long be remembered by Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Region 3 employees. But it won't be because of the Thanksgiving feasts they were able to enjoy at home with their families and friends.

Instead, they served extended duty at emergency locations along I-70 in Glenwood Canyon. When it was all over, their Thanksgiving holiday was just about wiped out.

At 7:30 p.m. on November 24, Thanksgiving Eve, a semi tractor-trailer hauling 1,707 cases of beer overturned in the westbound I-70 lanes about half a mile west of Hanging



Lake Tunnels. The big mess required a big cleanup.

The CDOT maintenance crews on-scene still had visions of getting home for Thanksgiving as wreckers were preparing to get the semi on its wheels at about 7 a.m. the following morning.

But a few minutes later, with a deafening roar that "sounded like a B-52 bomber," hundreds of tons of granite sheared off the cliffs north of the freeway and landed directly on the travel lanes below, between the tunnels and the wrecked truck.

Please see ROCKS, on p. 3

MOUNT EVANS: A PROFILE

BY PHIL DROZDA, INTERN
DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION

Did you know that Mt. Evans has an interesting, somewhat odd connection to the number fourteen? For example, a height of 14,264 feet makes Mount Evans a "fourteener" - a mountain over fourteen thousand feet and the State's 14th tallest peak. The paved road that runs from the entrance station to the summit parking lot of the mountain is fourteen miles long. The Mount Evans Scenic and Historic Byway, which includes this stretch of road, is in fact the highest paved automobile road in North America.



Mount Bierstadt (right) with the connecting ridge to Mount Evans, known as the "Sawtooth." Photo by Donald Koch, courtesy of the Denver Public Library, Western History Collection.

The mountain itself did not originally bear the name of Mt. Evans. Mt. Bierstadt, a nearby peak, was named for Albert Bierstadt, a climber and western landscape painter, and he was among the first to climb his namesake and its neighbor. The taller of the two mountains he named Mt. Rosalie, after his wife.

Mt. Rosalie was renamed Mt. Evans in 1870, after Governor John Evans, and a 13,000+ foot peak, nearby, was named Rosalie. Evans

Please see MT. EVANS, p. 6



A PLACE FOR HEROES

BY GOVERNOR BILL OWENS

In my State of the State message last month, I called upon my legislative colleagues to help make Colorado stronger and more prosperous – and to have it be a fit place for heroes like Matt Casias. Let me tell you a bit more about Matt.

He’s an entrepreneur who started his own business, Power Imaging. He’s a single dad with a daughter named Faith. But what makes Matt a hero is the decisive action he took one afternoon last October. He was working in his printing shop on Santa Fe Drive, when he looked out his window and saw a woman being mugged. A man was assaulting her and struggling with her for her purse.

Matt jumped up – ran into the street and barreled into the

guy. He stopped the mugging. The victim was safe, but Matt was shot in the chest. He stumbled back to his office, opened the door, asked a co-worker to call 911 and collapsed to the floor. Thankfully Matt is recovered today. For his swift unselfish action, I awarded the Governor’s Medal of Valor to Matt at the State of the State speech. He is representative of all that is good about Colorado.

I’m so thankful for people like him – and I wanted more of you to know about him.

With regard to the Legislative session now underway, during the State of the State address I stressed – regardless of who holds the leadership positions – we, as elected officials, all share the obligation of effectively managing the State’s resources. My highest legislative priority in 2005 is to arrive at a budget solution acceptable to the people of this State. The people expect that of us – and we owe it to them. I encourage you to follow the legislative debate concerning the budget closely.

CSECU Food Drive a Great Success

Colorado State Employees Credit Union (CSECU) recently held their annual Food Drive benefiting the Colorado State Employee Assistance Program (C-SEAP). There were 82 food collection bins located across the State of Colorado including all CSECU office locations. The C-SEAP Food Drive was a great success with hundreds of bags of groceries delivered and over \$1,200 in monetary donations! All contributions go to state employees and their families in need of assistance throughout the year.

To send a donation, make a check payable to C-SEAP and drop it off at any CSECU location; or send it to CSECU, Attn: C-SEAP Donation, 1390 Logan Street, Denver, CO 80203.

STATEWIDE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM RECEIVES HONOR

The Colorado Statewide Travel Management Program (STMP), managed by Lenora Lancaster, was given the award for “**Best 2004 Government Travel Management Program**” by the Society of Government Travel Professionals (SGTP). The panel of judges, which consists of government and travel industry experts, based the award on effectiveness, innovation and creativity.

The STMP is the office with in the Department of Personnel & Administration, Division of Central Services that oversees state employee travel for all state agencies and institutions of higher education.

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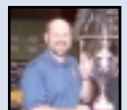
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Some of the boulders were large enough to blast a gaping hole through the surface of the westbound lanes. Others took out concrete barriers and steel railings. On one of the busiest driving holidays of the year, I-70 was closed.

The reality was harsh - van-sized boulders blocked the freeway. A gaping roadway hole and damage to the adjacent viaduct raised issues about the highway's ability to safely take normal traffic loads.

The on-road tasks included determining whether more rockfall was likely from the cliffs and rock faces above I-70, checking the highway and adjacent viaducts to determine damage, and cleaning up the rock already on the freeway. Related tasks included preparing a scope of work to get a repair project contract underway and handling the hordes of media crews that descended on the site.



Materials and Geotechnical specialists found more instability above the freeway, requiring rock scaling to bring down more loose rock. Granite boulders on the freeway, some so large that they required blasting to break into more manageable sizes, were cleaned away.

Bridge management teams from Denver examined the highway and viaducts, finding that despite the damage, they were safe to carry traffic. Once the rock was gone, and no more were threatening to come down, maintenance crews could repair some of the damage, install a New Jersey Barrier, and prepare the freeway for reopening. That happened about 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 26.

In Glenwood Springs, Region 3 Resident Engineer **Karen Rowe** and East Program Engineer **Joe Elsen** worked throughout the weekend to get repair project specifications ready. In three working days, an emergency repair contract was awarded. "I've been called out on several emergencies over the years. It always amazes me - our maintenance forces are top notch; they keep their heads and are able to keep things moving forward," Elsen noted. "It's a very synergistic kind of thing - the whole of the response is greater than the sum of the parts."

Making it Happen

Hanging Lake Tunnels Foreman Area: **Resa Dennie, Mike Avara, Kenny Puls, John Bohman, Richie Drew, Welden Schneider, Jerry Gammill, Chris Norvell, Randy McIntosh, Greg Sullivan, Kane Schneider, Bob Crigger, Jim Gammill, Spencer Dickey, Frank Breece, Clay Anderson, Chris McCartney, Sam Bowker, Larry Carver, Scott Marsh, and Steve Quick.**

Glenwood Springs Foreman Area: **Dave Brown, Kurt Grim, Phil VanValkenburg, Joe McQuiston, Floyd Strader, Adonna Ward, Tim Holbrook, Mike Madrigal, Lysle Wilson, Mario Ramos, William Mason, John Elshof, Phil Pacheco, D'Wayne Gaymon, Adam Padilla, Craig Skramstad, Dave Watkins, Brent Stapelman, Willy Blanco, Randy Macintosh.**

Grand Junction Foreman Area: **John David, Steve Preston, Wes Schneider, Joel Berschauer, Mike Bowker, Don Poole, Dick Latham, Paul Trujillo, Don Bristol, Gene Harvey, Fred Woodhouse, Rodney Graham, Dean Nachtigal, Robert Pauletich, Dan Sanchez, Toby Brown.**

Eagle Foreman Area: **Mark Bacialli, David Kuhn, Tim Hollett, Paul Borden, Everett Archuleta, Cary Griffin, Mike Foley, Robert Turner, Braden Lane, Randy Nichols, Charlie Leuders, Dave Schultz, Jack Jones, Jackie Welch, Thomas Halton, Mike Passig, and Clifford Lenard.**

Region 3 Engineering and other CDOT branches/offices:

Karen Rowe, Joe Elsen, Tom Metheny, Mary Moscon, Bart Necessary, Mark Vessely, Jeanne Hemsted, Susan Jacobs, Dana Christensen (Bridge Management); **Ty Ortiz** (Materials & Geotechnical); **Mark Leonard** (Bridge Design & Management Engineer); **Paul Jesaitis; Jim Zufall;** and **Randy Furst** (area engineers); **Richard Ott and Cheri Rupp** (agreements unit); and **Rocky Baker and Tony Roso** (Region 3 Business Office); **Weldon Allen and Del French** (Grand Junction Section 2 Maintenance Superintendents).

ATTEND WILDLIFE WATCH FREE



Wildlife Watch is a wildlife viewing skills workshop. **State employees and family members** (adults and children over 12) are invited to attend any workshop **free of charge!** Participants need to register for Wildlife Watch online or by phone. The workshop dates, times and places are detailed on both the Web site and phone line. When you sign-up, be sure to let us know that you are a state employee.

Register online at www.wildlifewatch.net
or by phone: 303- 291-7258

CDLE ENJOYS EXPANDED BUILDING

BY BILL THOENNES, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

On paper, the equation is easy. Take the Colorado Unemployment Insurance program with all its antiquated, labor-intensive processes, and redesign it – not in small and cautious steps but in an all-or-nothing approach. However, the work that goes into that equation is anything but easy. A critical and underlying challenge facing the Department of Labor and Employment in implementing all the changes – dubbed “the genesis project” – was getting people working together in a new way, says Division of Employment and Training Director Don Peitersen.

“To get the maximum efficiencies out of the Genesis Project, to meet the demands of the Twenty First Century, we needed to dismantle the old assembly-line approach that the Unemployment Insurance program had been utilizing for years and eliminate specialization,” Peitersen says. “We needed a program that was flexible, allowing us to move people in and out of a variety of different assignments, wherever the workload demanded it. But you can’t do that when staff is scattered throughout different buildings.”

As part of the Genesis Project, staff from Unemployment Insurance offices at 1515 Arapahoe Street joined forces with the staff at 251 East 12th Avenue. To accommodate this new approach to working together, smarter and more efficiently, a four-story extension to 251 East 12th Avenue was built. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on December 2 to officially open the new wing.

The creation of a larger building at 251 East 12th Avenue was the brainchild of Department of Labor and Employment Executive Director Jeff Wells. “Now, for the first time, we have an Unemployment Insurance program that is unified, with staff working together under one roof,” he says. “No other state building projects received funding approval in 2004, making this a unique opportunity for us. And we’re not finished with the work on this building. Continuing and ongoing improvements will be made in the future.”

The state building at 251 East 12th Avenue has a long history in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. When it was constructed in the late 1950s, it was a bargain at a mere \$1,800,000 (including the land) but its price tag didn’t keep

it from being controversial. When it was finished, it was considered so nice that *The Denver Post* argued in an editorial that the building was too “uptown,” the furniture too luxurious for government workers.

It was the crown jewel of state buildings for over twenty years but the demands of the computer age and increased staff pushed the building it to its limits – and way beyond. Entering the building in the 1980s and 1990s was like walking through “The Land That Time Forgot.” It went through a major renovation and remodeling about ten years ago but that was nothing compared with the monumental changes the building has just gone through.



Don Peitersen, Director of the Division of Employment and Training, with Executive Director Jeff Wells as they prepare to cut the ribbon outside the employee entrance to 251 East 12th Avenue.

Melding the old and the new was a challenge for the architectural firm of David Owen Tryba. Christopher Nims, an architect with the firm, says an early consideration was ensuring that the project be “green friendly,” which puts it at the forefront of efficient design and makes it a significant demonstration project for the state of Colorado.

“There are decisions that have to be made before pencil ever touches paper,” he says, “decisions that will affect how you design the building, the materials you select. Green buildings are very energy efficient but it’s more than that. We utilize construction materials wisely, including recycled, renewable, and reused resources to the maximum extent practical. There are green principles embodied in this building with an eye toward health, safety, welfare, happiness and morale of the occupants.”

“My job – what I’m focused on – is providing the employees with the tools, the resources and the support, that will enable them to get the important work of the Genesis Project accomplished,” says Jeff Wells, “and this newly expanded and remodeled building is an example of getting them what they need in order to make it succeed.”

They’re calling it “the house that genesis built” and Wells says that’s a fair description. “It’s only fitting that the building has changed so dramatically,” he says, “because the work being done in the building has also changed dramatically. Like the department it was built for, it’s ready for a new era.”

NEW PARTNERSHIP "HEATS THINGS UP"

BY JULIE POSTLETHWAIT
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION

As state employees located in downtown Denver might have noticed, we have installed a huge new boiler in the power plant building located at 14th and Lincoln. The project is a partnership between the State and XCEL Energy. The boiler will be used by XCEL to back up the existing district steam system in the downtown area, including the Capitol Complex.



Three old boilers, scheduled for replacement, were removed to make room for the new boiler, which when empty weighs 156,000 pounds.

For agreeing to house this new boiler, the State will receive an energy credit of \$252,355 each year for 20 years, and at the end of those 20 years the boiler will become the property of the State. The energy credits will reduce future energy bills and allow Capitol Complex to invest approximately \$1,500,000 in other energy-related projects through an existing performance contract with Chevron Energy Services. The useful life expectancy of this boiler is a minimum of 40, but up to 60 years, so it is a win/win situation for the State.



Photo courtesy of Rod Vanderwall, State Buildings and Real Estate Program, DPA.

ELECTRONIC FILING, SIGNATURES AND RECORDKEEPING

BY RUSSELL K. SUBIONO
UETA PROGRAM ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF STATE

The conveniences provided by the Internet have filtered down into the daily routine of our lives. Our business and personal dealings have become more streamlined and the time spent waiting for or researching information has been significantly reduced. We save time and money by ordering products, checking account balances, making inquiries and even paying bills over the Internet. Many Colorado citizens and employees want to use the Internet to interact with their government at all levels and not just by finding information or downloading forms. Citizens want to be able to file reports, apply for jobs, pay taxes, register for services, obtain permits, pay fees and conduct other activities on-line. And they want to be confident in the accuracy and security of the information they send and receive.

In turn, government agencies that make available such services on-line not only provide better service to their customers, but also realize many other tangible benefits such as reduced administrative processing time with fewer transcription errors. Storing, locating, transferring or searching information in electronic form is far more efficient and much cheaper than for paper records.

The Secretary of State's Office is leading the way with electronic initiatives. Articles of Incorporation and other business entity documents can now be filed on-line with the Secretary of State's Office, including payment of filing fees. Charitable organizations required to register with the Secretary of State's Office must do so electronically and public notaries may now apply for and be approved to notarize electronically using an electronic signature and "document authentication numbers" issued by the Secretary of State.

One of many issues arising from the use of electronic filings in government has been *how to provide for a signature on an electronic document*, especially where current law requires a hand-written signature or a paper document. The answer to that question was supplied by the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act ("UETA"), which was passed by the Colorado legislature in 2002. UETA states that if a law requires a signature or requires a record to be in writing, an electronic signature or electronic record satisfies the law. UETA also gives legal weight to electronic documents and signatures by ensuring that a record, signature or contract may not be denied legal effect or enforceability solely because it is in electronic form.

UETA designates the Secretary of State as the agency to promulgate rules to specify the manner in which electronic Please see UETA, p. 7

MINE SAFETY HONORED WITH NATIONAL AWARD

BY BILL YORK-FEIRN
MINE SAFETY PROGRAM MANAGER
DIVISION OF MINERALS & GEOLOGY

The Division of Minerals & Geology's Mine Safety & Training Program (MSTP), was honored as the Grand Prize winner in the 2004 National Training Materials Competition sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). This is the second year that the program has garnered the top prize. The awards honor members of government, industry and academia for the development of new, innovative training materials which assist miners in working safely.

The award was presented in October 2004 at the 2004 National Mine Instructors/TRAM Conference Beckley, West Virginia. The winning entry was a new, interactive CD-ROM training program entitled *"Task Training -*

Loader Operator, Plant Operator and Laborer" designed to help reduce accidents and injuries to mine workers at surface aggregate mine operations. The program was produced in a cooperative effort with the Colorado Rock Products Association and is the first in a series of three CDs that will deal with the most common mine occupations at aggregate mines.



Bill York-Feirn receiving the award from Mr. David D. Lauriski, MSHA Assistant Secretary of Labor.

"One of the most common problems at mine sites is in the area of adequate task training. With this program, we hope to assist mine operators and contractors in providing more effective training not only to avoid citations, but more importantly, to protect the health and safety of mine employees." said Bill York-Feirn, MSTP Manager.

MT. EVANS, from p. 1

himself served as Colorado's second territorial governor (1862-1865), and had a long and eclectic career both before and after being governor. Evans originally worked as an M.D., professor, and medical researcher in Illinois before his political appointment. Once in Colorado, he supported legislation to found the Union Pacific Railroad Company. After the end of his political career, Evans invested in railroads, developing several railroad lines in Colorado.

The mountain is now a major tourist destination for Colorado's Rocky Mountain region. The 28-mile road from Idaho Springs to the peak of the mountain is one of the most scenic drives in the State. The road passes several mountain lakes, including Echo Lake, and all of which are accessible from trail heads that run from the main road; all told, there are over 100 miles of hiking trails on the mountain. Mt. Evans has three different climate zones, each with an abundance of plant and animal life - including bighorn sheep - unique to that area. In fact, Mt. Evans is one of the few places people can find alpine tundra below the Arctic Circle. Above timberline (some 12,000 feet above sea level), the alpine tundra small plants and wildflowers that have adapted to the harsh conditions on the mountain, are the only living things that grow. However, the vegetation is still very fragile, and some areas along the road are still recovering from the clear cutting that took place when the road was built.

The University of Denver has operated scientific programs on the summit of Mt. Evans since the 1930s, and in 1996 the

university built the Mt. Evans Meyer-Womble Observatory. It was, until the year 2000, the highest astronomy observatory in the world.

Interestingly enough, the observatory has a connection to the mountain's namesake, John Evans. In addition to being territorial governor of Colorado, Evans was a philanthropist who helped found several colleges including Northwestern University and the University of Denver. According to Dr. Robert Stencel, Professor of Astronomy at DU, "An observatory project of this magnitude does not happen without the support of many. Its roots trace back to the founders of the University of Denver, particularly Governor John Evans. His vision enabled astronomer Herbert Howe to be hired in 1880, resulting in the construction of a campus observatory housing a 20 inch Clark refractor (telescope) in 1890." The discovery of and subsequent interest in cosmic rays, which were found to be more visible at high altitudes, made a high altitude observatory an attractive prospect. Mt. Evans was an ideal choice because its new paved road, completed in 1927, allowed for easy transportation of gear and equipment. Eventually, a DU alumnus named William H. Womble left a bequest to the university to build a mountain-top observatory "to promote educational research in physics and astronomy," in memory of his mother. The observatory was finally completed in 1996, housing a binocular telescope designed by Eric T. Meyer (thus the name Womble-Meyer observatory). It is now operational, but open to the public on a reservation basis only.

2005 Sandwiching in History Lecture Series

Satisfy your history cravings over a delicious sandwich and a varied menu of thought-provoking noontime talks offered by the Colorado Historical Society. From the Navajo code-talkers to early prostitution in Colorado to the Trinidad race riots to Colorado's indomitable pioneer women, these choice offerings will please the palate of the most discriminating history buff, giving you a fun alternative to lunch at your desk.



Author Sally McClain kicks off the series on Thursday **February 10** with her fascinating presentation *Navajo Weapon: The Navajo Code Talkers*. This slide-illustrated talk reveals the use of the Navajo language as the ideal top-secret medium for transmitting combat intelligence quickly and accurately during WWII. McClain interviewed more than twenty code talkers, and will tell the remarkable stories of how they worked together to create a unique "code-within-a-code" that the Japanese never were able to crack.

On March 10, Nanette Simonds, co-author with Sandra Dallas of the poignant and riveting book *The Quilt that Walked to Golden*, will recreate the arduous westward trail of women pioneers in her slide-illustrated talk *Western Spirit: Pioneer Women of Colorado*. While 19th-century women were discouraged from meeting and speaking in public, their quilting bees allowed the political discussions that lead to the suffrage movement. Simonds will tell their stories of adventure and heartache as revealed in the quilts and personal documents they left behind.

UETA, from p. 5

records are created, sent, and stored, as well as the type of electronic signature required, control processes to ensure the security, integrity, confidentiality, auditability and preservation of the electronic record and any other required attributes specified for corresponding non-electronic records.

In 2004, the Secretary of State created the UETA Program, which currently focuses on investigating market technologies, researching similar laws in other states, and surveying the current and prospective use of electronic signatures and electronic records in Colorado government. For answers to questions about UETA or to set up a meeting to discuss how your agency or department can use UETA to benefit your organization and your customers, please contact Barbara Groth, UETA Program Manager, barbara.groth@sos.state.co.us or 303 894-2200 ext. 6423.

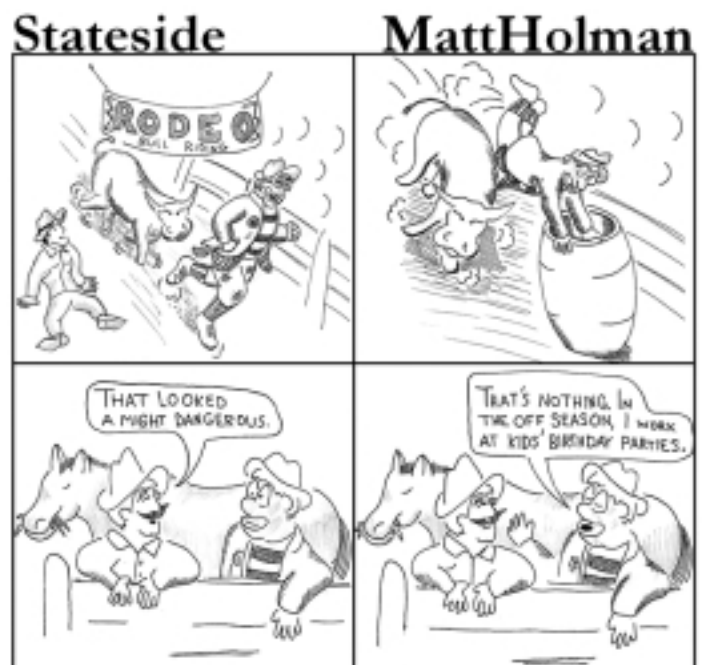
On **April 14**, hear how a reasonably civil athletic event in 1867 ignited the "Trinidad War," a violent three-week race riot that shattered the cultural harmony previously enjoyed in that community. UCD history professor William Convery will discuss the Trinidad Race Riots of 1867-1868, including the colorful background of this vibrant, ethnically diverse southern Colorado town.

Wrapping up the series on **May 12** is author Jan MacKell, discussing *Brothels & Bordellos: Early Prostitution in Colorado*, based on her recent book. For over fifteen years MacKell diligently researched the lives of many of Colorado's early prostitutes, providing a detailed overview of the business and of their lives. She tells their often touching stories with respect and compassion, doggedly tracing the elusive lives of many women to their graves.



All programs will be held at the Colorado History Museum at 1300 Broadway from noon to 1:00 p.m., with optional boxed lunches available at noon. Each presentation begins at 12:15. Delicious lunches include a choice of roasted turkey, chicken salad or roasted vegetable sandwiches, chips, fruit, cookies and beverage. State employees receive a special discount: \$4 per lecture without lunch, or \$10 with lunch; the four-part series is \$14 without lunch, or \$38 with lunch.

Lunch reservations must be received by Monday the week of the program. To register, please call 303-866-4686 and identify yourself as a state employee.





MY BACK PAGES: DIGGING FOR THE TRUTH

By PAUL FARLEY

I've been writing articles for DPA's internal newsletter, *The Dispatch*, for the past three years, and as part of *Stateline's* new style and format, I was asked if I would do something more or less *not* work-related to provide a little more variety. Since this pretty much amounts to a blank check, I of course quickly agreed. Some of these essays may be familiar to DPA employees, but hopefully they will understand and not mind too much.

A while ago, I had lunch with John Horan, president of Horan & McConaty, one of Denver's oldest funeral service companies, and he told me an interesting story I'd like to share. Many of you may know some of this tale, but I hope, as Paul Harvey would say, "this is the rest of the story."

For many years, "Buffalo Bill" Cody headlined a wild west show that toured throughout the country, but made his home in the town of Cody, Wyoming. In late 1916 he traveled to Denver to stay with his younger sister, Mary Cody Decker. It was there, at her home at 2932 Lafayette Street, that he died on January 10 after a brief illness. His body was brought to the Capitol to lie in state on January 14, with a military honor guard and thousands of citizens coming to pay their respects. And this is the point at which things got a little interesting.

Cody's will indicated that it was his wish to be buried on Cedar Mountain near Cody, Wyoming, and the folks there (including several members of his family) naturally assumed that his final resting place would be there. But with the financial "encouragement" of Harry Tammen, publisher of the *Denver Post* (which was a part owner of the wild west show), Buffalo Bill's wife said that despite what the will said, he had actually wanted to be buried on a mountaintop near Denver. Unfortunately, the road to the burial site on top of Lookout Mountain was impassable in winter, so they had to do something with the embalmed body until late spring. This is where John Horan comes in.

John's great-grandfather, George Olinger, was one of the leading funeral directors in town at the time (yes, John is a fourth-generation mortician). When George took charge of the care of the body, there were continuing concerns about a possible raid from the townsfolk of Cody. So George had the body taken to a vault in the basement of a building at 16th and Boulder, on the northwest side of the South Platte River, for safekeeping. The State Militia (now part of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs) posted armed guards around the clock, and John's great-uncle Joe

checked on the body every so often to make sure everything was OK.

On June 3, 1917, an estimated 20,000 people looked on as Buffalo Bill's remains were taken up to the grave site. The coffin was opened one last time, and Uncle Joe (along with several hundred others) confirmed that it really was Buffalo Bill. The coffin was lowered into the grave, and later several hundred pounds of concrete were poured on top to make sure it stayed there.



Buffalo Bill's funeral procession through downtown Denver in January 1917. Photo courtesy of the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave at Lookout Mountain in Golden.

Occasionally over the years some people have questioned whether Buffalo Bill is in fact buried at Lookout Mountain. But as John Horan assured me, he really is there, and he isn't likely to be going to Wyoming anytime soon.

This and That:

- The brick building where the body was kept is still in use - you can see the large neon "Olinger's" sign on the west side of I-25, just north of Speer Boulevard.
- While the saga of Buffalo Bill's body is a bit unusual, the record must belong to Abraham Lincoln, whose body was moved *twelve* times between 1865 and 1901.

*Paul Farley is Deputy Executive Director of DPA.
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