



UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & Pikes Peak Museum

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Woodland Park, CO 80866

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Christmas in Woodland Park in the 1960s.

For me and everyone I knew, the greatest of all holidays was Christmas. Yes, it was indeed a wonderful time for adults. For kids, it was an amazing and astonishing experience.

Growing up here in the early 1960s, the population was less than 700 souls in Woodland Park. Houses around town were decorated with wreaths, lights and small displays.

Back then, the area lacked the light pollution that exists today, so all the houses had a nice warm Christmas glow, cloaked in a snowy darkness.

The stage at the old school gymnasium (now the Cultural Center) was perfect for our Christmas plays. Christmas cheer was everywhere. Ice skating at the pond was a special time during the holidays, with games like tag and black snake. We even had a Yule Log in the pond fireplace that was perfect for warming up. We'd drink hot chocolate and roast hot dogs and marshmallows. With no adult supervision, we were all on our own, but we were all well behaved friends, just enjoying a night of Christmas ice skating and a nice, big fire.

Hay rides were common, which included lots of Christmas songs being sung. Johnnie Wondergem (former mayor of Woodland) and his wife Jo made Christmas wreaths every year for the town. The local Lions Club sold trees at the Go-Kart track beside Highway 24, at the Green Mountain Falls exit. We'd go sledding on Motel X Hill along with dozens of others that would drive up from Colorado Springs.

The Manitou Park Grange, the Eastern Star and the Masons always had their holiday dinners and most of the church organizations had their Christmas plays and get-togethers. Our local newspaper, the Ute Pass Courier and its owner Aggie Schupp, put on a Christmas Light Contest every year with prizes to the winners.

Both the Progressive Dames Extension Club and the Woodland Park Home Demonstration Club would fill baskets with food and gifts and deliver to the nursing home in Cripple Creek and shut-ins living in Woodland.

Bert Bergstrom would dress up as Santa and would provide stockings filled with Christmas goodies for every child in town.

Yes, for me, *Christmas in Woodland Park* was nothing short of a Norman Rockwell place to be!

Steve Plutt, board member and local historian



It has been a season to be thankful, with plenty of activities and events at UPHS!




Our annual Potato Soup supper was held on Friday, October 11th at the Pikes Peak Community Center in Divide. A hungry crowd enjoyed soup, salad, rolls, and desserts provided by the board members.

The evening's program included the presentation of our much celebrated documentary, "The Mighty Midland and the Towns It Built."

A cake, gifts, and a fond farewell was bid to Judy Perkins, who served many roles over fourteen years – Marigreen Pines tour coordinator, gift/book shop manager, book editor, and more!

This gal sold hundreds of books, jewelry, gifts, and memberships to countless people that walked through our doors over the years. Judy shared her love of local history and the Pikes Peak region to tourists who visited the Land Office gift shop in Green Mountain Falls and the main gift shop at the Museum Center in Woodland Park. She will be missed!!

The First Annual Old Fashioned Harvest Festival in Divide celebrated 125 years of agriculture and mining in Teller County. The event was held at the Paradox Beer Company.

For those of you who attended, you may remember that it was a sunny but WINDY day (holding on to your  was a challenge that day!



Adults and kids alike enjoyed the pumpkin patch, vintage games, and displays. UPHS sponsored a booth that featured lettuce, potatoes, and other crops that were locally grown in the past, along with a hands-on butter churn display, and dress-up clothing.



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**Thanks to our
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Celebrating our History - Past and Present

What do you know about the *Wonder Women of Woodland Park*?

You may have seen or read about the monument installed on International Women's Day (March 8th) on the west side of Memorial Park in Woodland Park, recognizing *The Ladies of the Woodland Park Sunshine Club* (1937-1987). These women were part of Home Demonstration Clubs around the country.

Our local gals were not only engaged in activities related to gardening, cooking, war relief, and the like, but also tackled big projects, such as hosting blood drives, raising money for schools, a library, and a park!



Want to learn more?

A lovely exhibit featuring these women's accomplishments, photographs, vintage artifacts, etc. is on display at the Woodland Park library (top floor). Don't miss it!



The *Donner Special* open-wheel race car was on display at the *Annual Cruise Above the Clouds* on Saturday, September 7, 2024 in Memorial Park.

It rode its last race in the *Pikes Peak International Hill Climb* in 1983, when Bobby Donner placed third in the Open Wheel category.

After his death in 1989, the Donner family donated the car to the Ute Pass Historical Society. We are honored and delighted to celebrate its history and the legacy of the driving legends in the Donner family.

American composer, pianist, and educator Rubin Goldmark moved to Colorado Springs for health reasons in 1899, and wrote many musical compositions in Colorado. In the summers of 1921-1922, he composed the historic "Negro Rhapsody" at his cabin in Woodland Park. Decades later, American composer George Gershwin praised Goldmark for creating the roots of American Jazz.

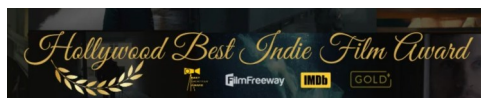




The Mighty Midland and the Towns It Built

A Watchful Eye Studio Production
Directed by Rob Adriel

Our documentary has garnered recognition and awards from all over the world! Copies of the DVD are available at the Museum Store during regular working hours for \$25. Makes a great Christmas or birthday gift! Other videos are available on our website for purchase or free download.



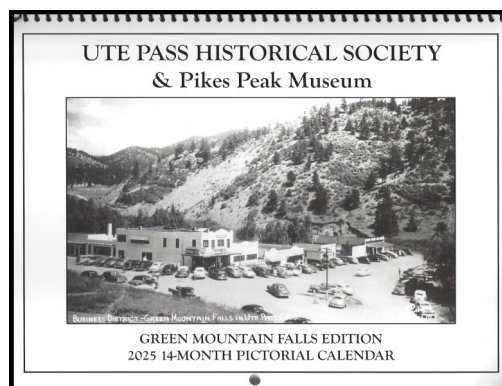
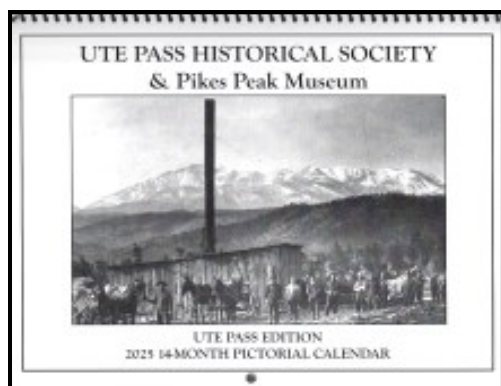
We are the grateful recipients of not one, but two awards this quarter! We received a \$1,500 scholarship award from the annual *Cruise Above the Clouds* Car Show for our participation in this “gathering of custom and collector excellence, bringing enthusiasts together through exciting activities, education, community support and friendship.”

The *Denver Posse of the Westerners* will be bestowing the *Rosenstock Award* to UPHS later this month for its many years of dedicated work preserving the history of the Ute Pass area. Katie Gardner will accept the honor and \$1000 check on December 18th at the Lakewood meeting to support collection care and preservation efforts.



The 2025 14-month pictorial calendars are available! We have two editions available—the Ute Pass Edition calendar and the Green Mountain Falls edition calendar.

Each calendar is \$12 + tax. Get yours while supplies last!



Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 25th, 2025. UPHS Patron Luncheon. The venue this year will be the Pikes Peak Community Club in Divide. Check our website for more information. *Utepasshs.org*.

July 19th/20th, 2025. The Triennial Marigreen Pines Tours in Cascade, CO. Check our website for more information in upcoming months. *Utepasshs.org*.

A short history of the Cusack family and the Marigreen Pines estate.

Thomas Cusack (1858-1926) was a self-made man and millionaire when he arrived in the Pikes Peak region. He was known to his peers as the “Billboard King of Chicago” with assets in excess of \$26 million by 1924.

Active in civic life, he served as a U.S. Congressman and on Chicago’s Board of Education. Cusack visited the Pikes Peak region in the 1880s and summered at Montcalme (Miramont Castle) for many years.

In 1890, his wife Ella Ross died in childbirth. He remarried five years later, and brought his wife Mary Greene to Colorado for their honeymoon.

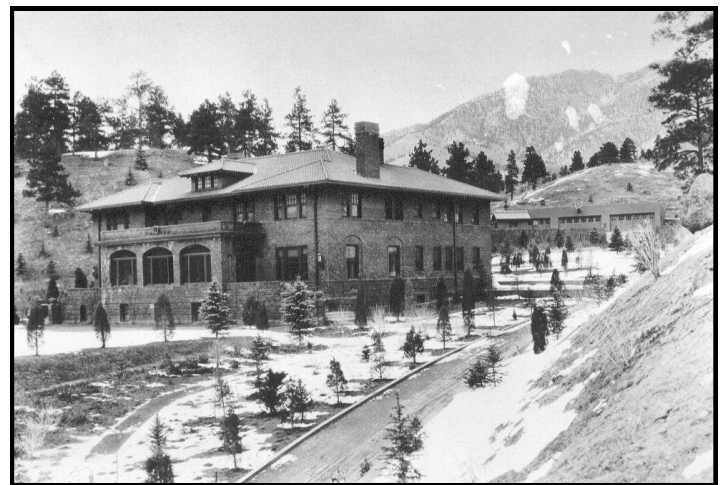
Mary fell in love with a small house on the hill near Cascade and Thomas promptly bought it for his young bride. They named the little house Ellinor Cottage in honor of Tom’s lost first child. The cottage was used as a summer home. As the family grew, additions were made to the cottage.

Thomas made plans to construct a larger home on the hill above the cottage. Tragedy struck once again; Mary Greene Cusack died in July 1922 after a struggle with cancer. Tom finished the house and named it Marigreen Pines in Mary’s memory.

The Marigreen Pines estate was personally designed by Thomas Cusack, and featured European furnishings and craftsmanship. His children and grandchildren enjoyed the fulfillment of Tom’s life-long dream home. The little ones slept peacefully in Ellinor Cottage while the elders entertained in the big house.

Life went on for the Cusack family as they enjoyed their elegant summer quarters. Thomas died of pneumonia at his Chicago home in 1926. Members of the Cusack family continued to live at Marigreen Pines until 1978.

At that time, Anne Cusack Johnson and her family donated the estate to the Congregation of the Holy Cross. It is best known for Notre Dame University in Indiana and several Cusack men attended college there. With Anne’s donation came the stipulation that the Ute Pass Historical Society be allowed to give public tours of her former home every three years.



Today, the Marigreen Pines Estate spreads over 200 acres of richly wooded hills near the junction of French and Fountain Creeks in Cascade. Holy Cross novices considering the priesthood reside at the estate.



As the new president of the Ute Pass Historical Society, I just want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you—our dedicated board members, committee members, the production team for the documentaries, and our incredible volunteers. Your support and warm welcome have truly meant a lot to me.

I also want to acknowledge the fantastic work that our former president, Donna Finicle, has done in shaping this organization into what it is today. It's an honor for me to carry on her legacy as we embark on some exciting projects ahead. Thank you once again for your commitment and passion.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas season filled with joy and warmth!

Best regards,

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Charlie Chambers

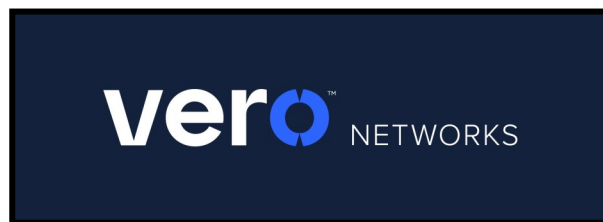
Happy Holidays!

With your support, we will continue to preserve, share, and celebrate our local history!



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Funding for these grants has been provided by Colorado Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the NEH Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) initiative.



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UPHS is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization

THANK YOU!

*The Ute Pass Historical Society's Board of Directors is grateful to our loyal patrons and enthusiastic volunteers. Without your generous financial contributions and dedicated volunteer service, we would not exist. Thanks to all of you for supporting our mission to preserve and share the history of the families and communities of the Ute Pass area of Colorado.
It is an honor to serve you!*