

On Boulder Creek Canyon Ranch by Colter Hoyt

#### **PART 1:**

## "PEOPLE JUST SHOWED UP"



Before the 1980s, and to an extent up until the late-1990s, there was no organized fire department in Boulder; community members relied on each other to come together whenever flames were seen. In this miniseries, we will explore the development of the Boulder Volunteer Fire Department from its inception to today.

By Tessa Barkan

Many stories exist about early fires in Boulder, the school house fire in 1935, for example. Though news about the early morning flames traveled quickly via the town's party line, when people arrived to help there was nothing to do but watch the structure burn. Without a fire department, residents at that time had to rely on themselves and each other when fires broke out. Almost fifty years after the school house fire, plans to organize a Boulder Volunteer Fire Department were just beginning to take shape.

"Before we really had a department, people just showed up to help," said Judi Davis, who became Town Clerk in 1971 and was instrumental to the department's development over the next decades through her funding inquiries and record keeping

#### Inside This Issue

Benevolence Fund2
Boulder Fire Dept. continued2
Boulder Town Park Thrives3
Hats Off!
Boulder 4th of July Celebration 5
The Free Box
Congratulations to Elizabeth Julian! $6$
Ready for Summer!6
Rockets & Stars!
From the Ground Up: Agricultural Community & Collaboration
Letter from the President8
Community Calendar

#### ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS

Sage Page continues to accept original poetry, photographs, and feature submissions. Email ED@bouldercommunityalliance.org with ideas.

efforts. By the beginning of the 1980s, the Town was equipped with fire hydrants, but had no hoses and no budget to buy them, and furthermore, even if they did have them, did not have anyone trained to operate them. Under Municipal Law 11-7-1, however, town governments were required to "provide adequate fire protection within their own territorial limits."

Donna Jean Wilson, who was mayor during the 1980s, sought to make this happen. "We needed ten volunteers to take a training to get a department started and get the building set up," she said. "The volunteers were hard to come by, so I ended up taking the training myself with a few others." In 1985, the Town secured a grant for \$50,000 from the Department of Community and Economic

...continued on page 2





The Sage Page is published semiannually by the Boulder Community Alliance (BCA), serving the greater Boulder area.

Boulder Community Foundation (dba Boulder Community Alliance) is a non-profit corporation registered in the State of Utah and duly authorized by the IRS as a qualified 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

#### Editor:

Caitlin Gorman, BCA Board Member

Design: PFD

Thank you to this issue's contributors!

Please email comments, questions, or article contributions and high resolution photos to: ed@bouldercommunityalliance.org

#### OUR MISSION:

To actively champion the unique and vibrant community of Boulder and its spectacular, fragile landscape.

## BCA NEWS

Announcing the Boulder
Benevolence Fund Program, an opportunity for the community to help each other in times of financial strain.

To find out more about the process, and to contribute to this fund, please visit

bouldercommunityalliance.org/benevolencefund

Boulder Town Fire Department's first fire truck, purchased in 1987.

#### "PEOPLE JUST SHOWED UP"

...continued from cover

Development to construct a firehouse. Then, in 1987, the Town was able to purchase a used 1971 fire truck for \$9,700, with help from county funds. Wilson herself traveled up to Salt Lake City to get the truck. "I drove through town with the sirens on as soon as I got back," she said.

Being able to run and maintain the truck was a job that begot much credibility. Jack Pollock became involved with the fire department in about 1989. After seeing smoke on the lot east of the State Park Museum, he went to the department, where he found a number of people attempting to start the truck. Pollock was able to get it started and drove it to the scene. After the fire was under control he was, on the spot, chosen as unofficial Chief. He remembers, "They said, 'Ok, you're the Chief because you can get the truck started."

Problems with operating the truck persisted for many years. Stories abound, for example, about a barn fire in Salt Gulch that occured one night in the late 90s. "You could see the glow all the way from town," Pollock said. He went to the station to pick up the truck, which had just had repairs done in Salt Lake. "I thought to myself, 'They really did some great work." It felt powerful and light on the way to scene. But when the volunteers went to turn on the hose, they found out why: the water tank had been drained when the truck had been serviced, and it had not been refilled.

"We were sitting there watching [the barn] burn... [The owners] carried all the saddles and things they wanted out the back, but we couldn't do anything about the fire," said Sam Stout about the incident. The volunteers quickly drove over to a nearby irrigation system and filled it. By the time they returned, the fire had spread toward a propane tank, which had heated up enough to trigger the pressure release system. "We got back just in time to start squirting water on the tank," said Pollock. "We kept that cool, and things started to calm down. At about 2 am we felt it was safe to go back to town." But the night was not over for Pollock. As he drove the truck back alone, it ran out of gas near Dry Hollow, and he had to walk the rest of the way back to his home on Lower Boulder. "Fortunately it wasn't that cold,



so it so wasn't too horrible. It took a few hours, but it was a nice starry night," he said, recalling the incident.

This night was not the only occasion when the truck was driven to a fire, only for volunteers to find that the tank had no water. Once, even after filling the tank with irrigation water and returning to the fire, the hose still wouldn't spray and it was realized that the pump wasn't connected. Breakdowns were also not unusual: once, the truck had to be towed to a fire by tractor.

"The fire truck and the ambulance just weren't used as much back then," said Pollock. "Maybe once or twice a year we'd have to make a run, so it wasn't really a pressing issue." Someone would stop by the department every few weeks to make sure the truck would start, but other maintenance issues were sometimes put off. Perhaps this nonchalance was, to some extent, a holdover from earlier times. Pollock continued, "The old timers who were born and raised here would say that, especially when winter came along, you were just here; if something happened you might be able to get to Escalante, but for the most part you either got sick and died or got sick and got better. This attitude was still around at that time, and maybe affected the department."

"We didn't have much throughout the nineties," said Brad Timothy, who began volunteering in about 1993. "We were just a handful of firefighters, maybe four or five of us, trying to work with really nothing." Fires were fought with minimal training, minimal gear, yet a whole lot of gumption and good intention. By the late nineties, however, use of the truck was increasing, as was interest in volunteering.

In the next issue of *The Sage Page* we will explore how, with the guidance of new Chiefs and existing as well as new volunteers, the Department would strengthen by garnering better gear and providing comprehensive trainings.



As summer arrives in town, the Boulder Town Park committee invites you to come experience all that the park has to offer! There is always something happening at the park, from the summer concert series to the July 4th celebrations.

There's also always a new project underway, big or small, in the Boulder Town Park. A diverse group of dedicated individuals make it all happen, with the input and support of the Boulder Town Council and many generous volunteers. Not too long ago, when the town was still leasing the tract of land from the BLM, dreams of a green space where residents and visitors alike could gather together for events, stroll on meandering paths, birdwatch, and have picnics were mostly ideas drafted into plans designed by Tim Clarke. As the town made an earnest effort to prove up on their intentions to transform these historically pastured fields, the original designs were updated and work began to create the beautiful park that Boulder has today. In May of 1998 the BLM approved the plans for developing the park. The plans were revised in 2010; construction of parking lot and paths started in 2013 with the pavilion and bathrooms installed in 2016.

The park bench pictured to the right was donated by LeFair Hall's sons, Randy and Robert Hall. It was designed and constructed out of found objects (including some of LeFair's tools) by Kade Cox.

The new pavilion, painted by air brush artist Sean Treves sits at the north end of the park. It's surrounded by tidy green lawns tended to by Bob Phillips, our groundskeeper. The wooden footbridge connecting the park to the Town Hall was designed and constructed by Dave Hensel in 2013. Old and newly planted trees are spread throughout the landscape, reflecting the community's love of nurturing green spaces and raising food in our own backyard. Many of these trees (including the Boulder Food Forest) have been planted and maintained by the hardworking Boulder Tree Board, along with many volunteers. The meticulously made river rock entrance to the parking area as well as the basalt planting beds were designed and built under the guidance and hard work of Todd Campbell and his dedicated assistant, Judith Rasoletti.





Stephanie Love trims a shade tree during a Tree City work party.

Boulder's "Central Park" would not be possible without all of you and many more volunteers. Many thanks to:

- Steve Cox, for keeping the place running and beautifully maintained year-round (including the public bathrooms)!
- Tina Karlsson (Park Committee Secretary),
   Peter Benson, and Julie Robinson for keeping up with the Park Committee and filling in whenever loose ends need tying up.
- Conrad Jepsen for being Park Committee's liaison with the Town Council.
- Sam Stout and Randy Catmull for repairing the shed roof and overseeing fencing, path-building, and construction projects.

See for yourself what makes this space so beautiful and special. If you would like to help with upcoming projects, please contact Tina Karlsson or Mayor Steve Cox. There's always a new project on the horizon!



Peter and Tina holding their daughters, Molly and Hannah.

"Hats Off" is a feature of *The Sage Page* recognizing people in Boulder who go above and beyond in service for our community.

If you would like to nominate someone for recognition, please email ED@bouldercommunityalliance.org.

## HATS OFF TO TINA!

By Tessa Barkan

"There are so many ways to volunteer in Boulder," says Tina Karlsson at the end of the Boulder Arbor Day celebration. She is standing in front of a pile of tree limbs just gathered from pruning a local heritage orchard. She and other Tree City volunteers have left these branches behind the Volunteer Fire Department building, until they will be used by the Boulder Community Alliance volunteers for the annual Fourth of July pig roast. "The volunteers in this community are many. And the reason we volunteer is that it is easy and rewarding."

Tina and her husband Pete moved to Boulder in 1990, and raised their two daughters, Molly and Hannah here. Since this time, she has held a myriad of volunteer roles: from various town government positions to dance instructor, Tree City, Park Committee, and Boulder Arts Council member, and kindergarten teacher. She has helped organize countless creative and community-building opportunities in town, including bringing in the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, as well as samba and site-specific dancing, and assisting with Fourth of July celebrations and the Heritage Festival. "Creative outlets are a way to know ourselves and relate to our world more fully," she said. She has also been a force in encouraging voter registration and has been one of the most consistent volunteers at the Boulder Elementary School library.

Tina was a member of the first official Planning Commission. "That opportunity allowed me to be more aware and certainly more a part of the community in Boulder," she said. "The task was to develop a General Plan...find the common ground." This General Plan was completed in 1997. Its

stated purpose was to "be a dynamic and adaptable document to serve the community needs today and for the foreseeable future," wording that still exists in the most recent General Plan.

Tina additionally served on the Town Council for close to six years. One project she worked on was protecting Boulder's dark skies. "[Tina] got on the Town Council after I did, but when I was on it she suggested that I start pushing the Dark Sky Initiative," said Jack Pollock. "I agreed with her and when she joined the Town Council she really took over." Due to their efforts, a section was included in the Zoning Ordinance with this purpose in mind.

"The volunteers in this community are many. And the reason we volunteer is that it is easy and rewarding."

After rejoining the Planning Commission, Tina worked with the Boulder Business Alliance and others to put up the Boulder kiosk signs, which highlight the beauty of the area and encourage people to check out local businesses. In 2002, Tina received the Boulder Mayor's Award from the Utah Humanities Council, given to those who contribute highly to the community.

Tina takes on these roles with determination and kindness. "She has always been so friendly, so willing and enthusiastic about whatever she is doing... she's cheerful and so willing to help," said Laura DeMay,

whose children grew up with Molly and Hannah. "She needs no recognition, but will put everything she has into a project," said Elizabeth Julian who has worked with Tina in a number of capacities including the BAC and the school.

For others who want to get involved, Tina encourages participating in the town government. "Living within a small population so isolated by open space allows for more chances to be connected in all sorts of aspects of the community, which you would not be qualified for in larger communities. And what better way to get to know people." Tina is a true role model for how volunteering can benefit and shape a community. Hats Off!



Volunteers at the Boulder Elementary School. Back row, left to right: Mark Austin, Phillip Nelson, unknown, Kelsey Nelson, Marcus Nelson with son Kyler, Corry Johnson, Mitch Adams, and Keith Fullmer.

Front row, left to right: Tina Karlsson, The Cochran Family (Sioux, Bob, Daws, and Cru), Hannah Karlsson, and Spencer Adams.

You and your family are cordially invited to attend the

## 2019 BOULDER TOWN 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Thursday, July 4, 2019 Schedule of Events:

#### 2 pm Parade

★ All floats/participants, please line up at 1:30 pm at the corner of Hwy 12 & the Burr Trail.

#### 2:30 pm Party in the Park

- ★ Begins immediately following the parade. Fly your kite, bring a frisbee, or play volleyball!
- ★ Fresh watermelon, 100' Slip-n-slide, Tug o'war, & cold drinks! Kids: bring a squirt gun, bathing suit, or clothing that can get wet.

#### 3 pm Variety Show! \*NEW!\*

- ★ Sign up now to present your talent! From magic tricks to tap dancing, we welcome you to show your stuff. This year the Boulder Mountain Lodge and Hell's Backbone are taking a break from hosting the annual talent show and ice cream social. They asked if the BCA could work it into the lineup for the 4th and we are thrilled to oblige. Thank you to the Boulder Mountain Lodge and Hell's Backbone for creating a tradition that we all hold near and dear to our hearts!
- ★ Please contact Patrick Briggs at pbriggsmusic@gmail.com with your talent act details (type of talent, time needed, and who is participating).

#### 5 pm Independence Day Program

- ★ Flag presentation by the Boulder Cubscouts & Boyscouts
- ★ National Anthem
- ★ *Letters from the Front*: A program brought to you by Darkhorse Productions





2018 4th of July Celebration. Photo by Eva Cantillo

#### 6 pm Picnic Dinner, Music, & Dancing

★ Bring your best moves and find a partner to dance the night away. Bring a blanket or camp chairs and reusable serving ware for the picnic dinner. Dancing shoes optional!

#### Picinc Dinner Menu:

(Suggested Donation \$10/Adult, \$5/Children)

- ★ Pork BBQ, a vegetarian option, and hot dogs for the kids.
- ★ Side Dishes: Beans, Coleslaw, Corn-on-the-Cob, Garden Salad, & Potato Salad.



#### Dessert Potluck:

The Ladies Aid Society will be hosting the potluck again this year. Thank you for your continued support! Please join them in bringing a favorite sweet treat to share!

#### **Volunteers Needed!**

Every year we are humbled by the volunteer effort to create this event. Please get in touch if you would like to volunteer! We will be setting up at 10 am on Wednesday, July 3. If you would like to help serve the picnic dinner, please sign up on the bulletin board at the post office. We need 20 volunteers to carve the BBQ and serve the dishes. We will tidy up the park on Friday, July 5 at 10 am.

Thank you to Boulder Town, the supporters of the BCA, and the Garfield County Travel Council for your support!



## THE FREE BOX By Scott Brodie

The Boulder free box was started almost 20 years ago by Scott and Brynn Brodie. They had been living in Telluride, Colorado, which has a free box tradition going back to the 1970s. After noticing that folks were leaving usable items at the dumpsters, they approached the town council with the idea, which was met initially with some skepticism. Scott offered to build it so it could be taken down if it became an eyesore or didn't work out. 20 years later, it is still going strong.

The original box was constructed on the north side of the post office. It soon became apparent that it wasn't big enough so a few years later, Tim Moocher built the present larger one that

is connected to the firehouse. The original can be seen at the Red House Farm.

The idea is simple…leave items that are still useful and you no longer need for others to have for free. The Freebox represents what is best about sharing...a gift with no expectation of something in return. It's cool to see someone wearing something that you dropped off or to come across something in the box just as you were needing it.

Of course, there are downsides as sometimes people leave junk or large items. There has been a loose knit group of 'free box friends' who have been cleaning and hauling items off, but the space does occasionally get messy.

One of the main contributors to the mess is unattended children pulling things off the shelves (note to parents: please clean up after your kids or better yet, teach your kids to clean up after themselves). This mess is a small downside considering how much the free box contributes to the citizens of Boulder. For this reason, the town council recently authorized the town groundskeeper to spend a little time to keep it orderly. If you use the free box, please still continue to carry off items that obviously are not appropriate or usable. It would be cool to expand on the free box concept by maybe creating a free box fashion show fundraiser, free box art show, or free box picnic.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ELIZABETH JULIAN!

Utah Education Association (UEA) 2019 Excellence in Teaching Award Winner



Mrs. Julian introduces the newest schoolwide project to a group of BES students.





The Excellence in Teaching Awards are presented each year to Utah public school teachers whose efforts in the classroom have significantly impacted the life of an individual child or group of children.



# READY FOR **SUMMER!**

By Logan Navar, age 8

Boulder Elementary School students are very excited that it is now—finally—summer vacation. Back in May (and further), kids were daydreaming about summer vacation in class, where they have three months off of school, and here it is. Finally, here it is. They can decide what they should do with their summer vacation. "I get to see friends and meet them, and I get to learn swimming. It's going to be so fun," says Kaela Navar, age 4 (preschool). Kids are excited for the Fourth of July, swimming (obviously), and many other things. Finally, a break from all the testing and work. But then, a few kids might miss the school, because it has very good supplies and activities, and that's all because of our incredible teachers, Elizabeth, Molly, Michala, Lexi, and Tessa.

## **ROCKETS & STARS!**

By Caitlin Gorman

The BCA is excited to host The Dark Rangers on Friday, August 23, 2019.

Join us for an afternoon of rocket building and a night of stargazing, taking full advantage of Boulder's expansive dark sky!

The day will begin at the Boulder Community Center from 2 to 5 pm to build your own rocket at the Model Rocket Workshop, using Quest Aerospace rockets, which are manufactured in Cedar City. The workshop will be limited to 30 participants. Details to follow regarding how to purchase tickets. Parents are required to accompany rocket builders between the ages of 5 and 13. (Minimum age to build a rocket is 5). Participants should allow 90 minutes to build and launch their rocket.

That evening, from 6 to 11 pm, we will gather at Boulder Mountain Guest Ranch to observe the night sky with Kevin "The Dark Ranger" Poe. The BCA will host a silent auction to kick off the evening and to raise funds to support the Boulder Dark Sky Initiative. The Dark Ranger will present a talk at 7:30 pm entitled "Dark Wars," followed by a laser constellation tour. The team will then share years of astronomy expertise and offer access to a variety of powerful telescopes. The Dark Ranger promises that there will be lots of planets in the August sky for us to see: Jupiter, Saturn, Pluto, Neptune, and Uranus.

If you would like to learn more about the event and the Dark Ranger team, please visit their website at: darkrangertelescopetours.com.

Left to right: Kevin Poe, Rorschach (Great Dane), Jan Stock, Seth Poe, Richard Blake, Ray Poe.





A garden view from the Boulder Skills Foundation's Garden Tours in 2018.

#### THIS COMMUNITY PLANTS when the snow in the notch on the mountain is gone and relies on the summer monsoons for recharging the aquifers. Many who have worked these lands use tools from parents and great-great-grandparents. Fences are built and torn down, pastures tunneled with irrigation ditches and reseeded year after year. Cattle graze on signature green fields surrounded by domes of slickrock and sand. Most of us have a kitchen garden; some of us are lucky enough to grow our first tomato by June or be able to continue growing greens through the heat of summer. Our shoulder of Boulder mountain and the thousand feet of elevation difference to the south is remarkable. Sharing knowledge from how to raise the best beef to growing sustenance from fine sand in a drought, we have all struggled with the forces of nature and the bounds of this landscape. Out-of-towners speak to the strength of the community when they visit Boulder. This town is made of rugged individuals who think, communicate, and engage each other to steward this landscape, relationships, and therefore our entire community.

# FROM THE GROUND UP: AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY & COLLABORATION

By Pam Furches

In order to further cultivate our resilience, the BCA sponsors several initiatives both locally and afar. This past January, the BCA supported 8 individuals to attend the Utah Farm Conference hosted by Sara and Symbria Patterson of Red Acre Center in Cedar City. This annual event is just one of the land-based functions that BCA aims to encourage Boulder residents to attend. In addition, for the past 6 years, the BCA has sponsored a group of Boulder folks to attend the Quivira Conference in New Mexico. Locally, we have held agriculturally based talks and supported the much anticipated Boulder Skills Foundation's Annual Harvest Festival. The missions of these events to educate, innovate, restore, advocate, and effect positive change dovetail with the BCA's goal to champion the Boulder landscape and community.

This year's Boulder Harvest Festival will take place on Saturday, October 13. The Quivira conference will be held from November 19 to 22 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the Utah Farm Conference will February 6-8, 2020 in Cedar City. Find out how you can take part at **bouldercommunityalliance. org/landscape**.

The BCA encourages land-based economic solutions for the population of Boulder in order to preserve our agricultural lands and to inspire new generations of gardeners, farmers, and ranchers. Please join us in supporting local individuals and organizations to continue this thread of education and enrichment.

"For a small regional conference, it included as presenters a number of mammoths in the national (and international) agricultural scene, and their fields of study and practice were well balanced (Joel Salatin, Bob Quinn, Sally Fallon, Singing Frog Farms)."

Jane Philips,
 Boulder Resident and 2019
 UT Farm Conference Panelist

"The Utah Farm Conference provided the Boulder Community Panel a space and an audience to express the unique and inspiring ways we foster resiliency. Together we spoke about the fibers that link all of us togetherallowing for connection, artistic expression, and individual passions to create a more vibrant and wholehearted community."

— Nicole Tomlin,2019 UT Farm Conference Panelist



"I recommend that the BCA continue to support attendance at the farm conference and think we should work with Symbria each year to have people from Boulder offer presentations. In 2020, Eric Feiler will be giving a presentation on the Soil Food Web, and I will be facilitating a daylong workshop on Holistic Health for Self and Earth."

— Constance Lynn, Boulder Resident and 2019 UT Farm Conference Panelist

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ESCALANTE, UT
84726
PERMIT NO. 3

#### Dear readers,

After reading this issue you'd think we all had nothing better to do in this town than volunteer, and we didn't even touch on all the groups doing work to benefit Boulder. The volunteer ethos in Boulder can feel overwhelming at times for many of us in the thick of it—which is most of us, so we often don't have the time to offer encouragement to each other. We intuitively know that it's such a critical component of what makes Boulder an awesome, vibrant community that we always seem compelled to do more. If you have the ability to provide resources, please consider donating to the groups working hard to make this a place you love to be. The BCA can accept restricted donations on behalf of any volunteer effort in town—if you don't know who to talk to, we do.

— Josh Ellis, BCA Board President

PLEASE SUPPORT THE SAGE PAGE: Donate online at bouldercommunityalliance.org. Visit us on Facebook!

#### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

1st Thursday (OF EACH MONTH)
Boulder Town Council Meetings | 7 pm
Boulder Community Center

2ND Thursday (OF EACH MONTH)
Planning Commission Meetings | 7 pm
Boulder Community Center

2ND Sunday (OF EACH MONTH)
LDS Church Potlucks

2ND & 4TH Thursday (OF EACH MONTH) Senior Citizen Dinners/Lunches Boulder Community Center

3RD Wednesday (OF EACH MONTH)
Tree City Committee Meetings

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Genealogy Research Resources Open to Public | LDS Church Tues. 8:30 pm & Wed. 9 am

Tuesdays | Volleyball 6 pm | Anasazi State Park & Museum

Wednesdays | Yoga 6-7 pm | Escalante Showhouse June 15 | BArtsC Music in the Park 6 pm | Fiery Furnace

June 22

Richfield Veterinarian Visit
12 pm | Boulder Community Center

July 4

Boulder Independence Day Celebration

August (DATE TBD)
Wildfire Council Chipper Day!

August 3 | BArtsC Music in the Park 6 pm | Gigi Love & Patrick Briggs Band

August 20

First day of school for Boulder Elementary & Escalante High School

August 23 (SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS) Model Rocket Workshop & Dark Ranger Telescope Tour

September 7 | BArtsC Music in the Park 6 pm | Blix 10

September 20–29 Escalante Canyons Art Festival

### The Sage Page

Vol. 13 | Num. 2 | Summer 2019 Official Newsletter of the Boulder Community Alliance. A nonprofit serving Boulder, Utah.

Contact *The Sage Page* at: Boulder Community Alliance P.O. Box 1331, Boulder, UT 84716 ED@bouldercommunityalliance.org

**Boulder Community Alliance** 

Josh Ellis, *President*Pamela Furches, *Secretary*Scott Bigler, *Board Member*Caitlin Gorman, *Board Member*Ron Johnson, *Board Member* 

Haylee Apperson, Bookkeeper/Project Manager

#### Our Mission:

To actively champion the unique and vibrant community of Boulder and its spectacular, fragile landscape.

