



# SHOULD THIS HOUSE BE SAVED?

by Pat Jurgens

Have you noticed an unassuming brown house that sits on the east side of Bergen Parkway just north of the Blue Quill Angler? A "For Sale" sign in front draws attention to 1522 Bergen Pkwy, commonly thought to be the second home of Thomas and Judith Bergen, first settlers of Bergen Park. The house is located on the S½ SE¼ NW¼ of Sec.20 T4S R71W, in the quarter section (160 acres) that Thomas C. Bergen claimed in 1860.<sup>1</sup>

The story of the Bergen family is well known locally. In 1859 Thomas came west with ten young men from Illinois. Arriving at the mountain meadows and wooded slopes of what was then called Elk Park he declared it, "the most beautiful spot my eye ever rested upon." With that he built a squatter's cabin; a stone monument now marks the location near the Bergen Park roundabout. He returned to Illinois to sell his farm and in April 1860 brought his family back by ox wagon.



*Thomas & Judith Bergen, first settlers of Bergen Park*

Historian Catherine Dittman studied the letters of Martha Bergen Greene, Bergen's daughter, describing the experience: "When we got to the place my father had found they put up two tents, one for us and one for the single men while they built the house...a long log cabin of adz squared logs put together with wooden pins they made in the evenings. They started with one big room with a fireplace at the end (for cooking boiled dinners) ...The house had a big loft upstairs... sometimes 30 would sleep with blanket rolls in the loft."<sup>2</sup>

According to Barbara and Gene Sternberg's research, Bergen's son William described the original 1859 cabin as 18' x 22', followed in 1860 by a 30' x 30' log house and other adjacent buildings. The Bergens took in travelers en route to the gold fields, provided food and overnight lodging, and exchanged their footsore animals. It was a demanding business. Judith Bergen was a work horse, cooking for 20-50 men a day, arising at 3 a.m. to milk cows, bake biscuits, fry meat and potatoes,

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<sup>1</sup>Jefferson County Archives Record Book A, p. 53

# REFLECTIONS: President's Pen

by Diane Fuchs

Are you ready to winter to come to a close? I hear the birds chirping in the yard and a few inches of snow are now melting.

## Membership Gala

We had a wonderful Winter Membership Gala. Attendance was excellent and David Nelson's review of his book "The Elk Creek Chronicles" was wonderful. Little did I know that there was so much history surrounding Elk Creek. His book is available for purchase at the museum with a portion going to the society. Anita and Jerry Johnson, who are members, prepared the wonderful desserts.

John Steinle gave a fine presentation entitled "Ghost Towns of Jefferson County". Again, it was well attended and those who were present at the lecture learned a great deal.

## SCFD Grant Submission

We are getting ready for the submission of a SCFD grant with a phenomenal amount of work by Andy Spencer. We hope it is accepted and that we can begin an augmentation of our education programs into two pilot elementary schools.

## Board of Directors Changes

We said goodbye to a wonderful board member, Mike Bornhouser. Mike has accepted the position as President of Evergreen Christian Outreach, which demands a great deal of his time. I am delighted that Mike was able to serve on the society's board during the time when we needed considerable legal advice and support regarding the transfer of the grove. He will indeed be missed.

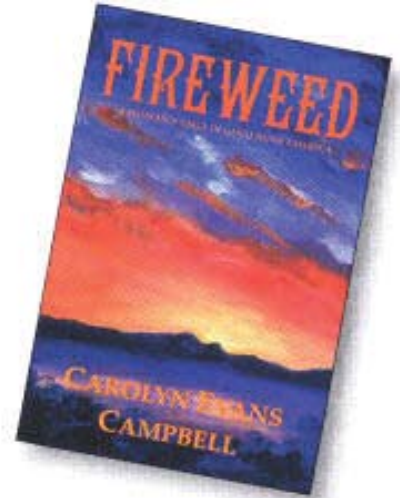
However, good fortune has smiled on us with Ken Stenman accepting the board position, which replaces Mike and the rest of the board members willing to stay on the board.

Ken is an ordained Lutheran pastor raised in Colorado. In the past, he has served as a pastor in Walnut Creek, California after being ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran School of America. His second parish was in Stockholm, Sweden and before retiring to Evergreen, his final church was in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Over the past four years, Ken and Cil have lived in Paris, France where he served in the American Church in Paris as Pastoral Assistant.

Ken and his wife have three grown children and eight grandchildren, all living within an hour of Evergreen. Both Ken and Priscilla have volunteered at the Hiwan Homestead for many years and Priscilla has served on the JCHS board. We are so delighted to welcome Ken to our JCHS board.

## Upcoming Events

A memoir writing presentation will be given by Carolyn Campbell on April 30, 2012. Please be looking for your invitation to this very special presentation. Carolyn is the author of several award winning books and is known not only for her fine writing skills but her talents as an artist and playwright. There will be a \$10 fee to attend this presentation and the number will have to be limited.



(Continued on Page 3)

### Jefferson County Historical Society 2011-2012 Officers

President	Diane Fuchs	303-674-9639
Recording Secretary	Juanita Weare	303-679-8889
Treasurer	Hank Fuchs	303-674-9639

### 2011-2012 Board of Directors

Director	Hank Alderfer	303-838-0443
Director	Ken Stenman	303-679-3266
Director	Dale Devine	303-670-2682
Director	Pat Jurgens	303-679-8191
Director (Grove Events)	Max Lankston	303-697-8932
Director (Membership)	Heidi Markley	303-987-1307
Director	Jan Murphy	303-674-0825
Director	Dave Noyes	303-674-4227
Director	Bud Weare	303-679-8889

**(Continued from Page 2)**

Sign up soon or give me a call and I will put you on the class list. Diane Fuchs 303-674-9639.

**Volunteer Luncheon**

The Volunteer luncheon will be held on May 14th at 11:30 at the Hiwan Homestead. Invitations will be e-mailed to you as well as a postcard invitation.

**Membership Luncheon**

In late June I have scheduled our membership event at the Peck House in Empire, [www.thepeckhouse.com](http://www.thepeckhouse.com). This will be a special luncheon with the owners Sally and David St.Claire welcoming us to their hotel, which is the oldest continuously operating hotel in Colorado. This event will be held on June 24th at 11:30 am. The cost will be \$18 person. Again, I will send out invitations requesting an RSVP.

**Peach Sale**

The society will be selling Western Slope peaches in August again as one of our two fundraising events. Be looking for the order forms in the mail by the end of June. We are so hoping to double our orders this year. We certainly are in need of funds to digitize the 7000 photos in our collection.

**Photo Digitization**

We anticipate that this will require another \$10,000 to complete. We have

currently spent \$7,000 on the cataloguing and indexing of all photos. John Steinle, Pat Jurgens and myself are meeting to develop a campaign plan for donations. It is my goal to have the \$10,000 raised by the end of 2012. If you would like to contribute to this effort please send donations to Jefferson County Historical Society, P.O. Box 703, Evergreen, Colorado 80437. All donations are tax deductible and you will receive a donation card to verify your donation. Also donations can be made online at our website, [www.JCHSColorado.org](http://www.JCHSColorado.org) using your credit card. WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL HELP TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT and any amount will help so much.

**Membership Renewal**

Please find your JCHS membership renewal form and envelope included in this newsletter. We so appreciate your support of "The Society". All membership renewals made between January 1, 2012 and November 1, 2012 will be applicable to 2013 membership. Your membership provides funding for "The Record" and some of our programs at the Hiwan Homestead Museum and Medlen School. Please remember your membership as well as donations may be made online at [www.JCHSColorado.org](http://www.JCHSColorado.org). All of our books are also available online as well.

**Discovery/Medlen Days**

You will find in this edition of "The Record" all the information about Discovery Days and Medlen School. If you have family members interested in signing up for these programs, please do so early. Medlen School filled up by the middle of May and Discovery Days is always near capacity.

**Feature Article Author**

Pat Jurgens is our feature article author. She has been featured in "Historically

Jeffco" and is a new board member. She also did all the cataloguing and indexing of our 7000 historical photos. Refer to the Fall/Winter "The Record" for more information about Pat.

Again, I would like to encourage any member or writer to share their talents and submit an article of historical interest to "The Record". Please contact Diane Fuchs 303-674-9639.

**In Memory**

William Nikl the husband of Nancy Nikl passed away January 4, 2012. Nancy and Bill were long time supporters of the Hiwan Homestead and of "The Society" and were lifetime members.



*Diane Fuchs*

President  
Jefferson County Historical  
Society  
303-674-9639

# SHOULD THIS HOUSE BE SAVED?

(continued from Page 1)

by Pat Jurgens

and have breakfast ready at 6 a.m. A meal was 50 cents and an overnight was 50 cents. Bergen's "hotel" became a well known stop on the wagon road after the long pull up Mt. Vernon Canyon from Denver. It was also called Bergen's Rancho and Bergen's Post Office.

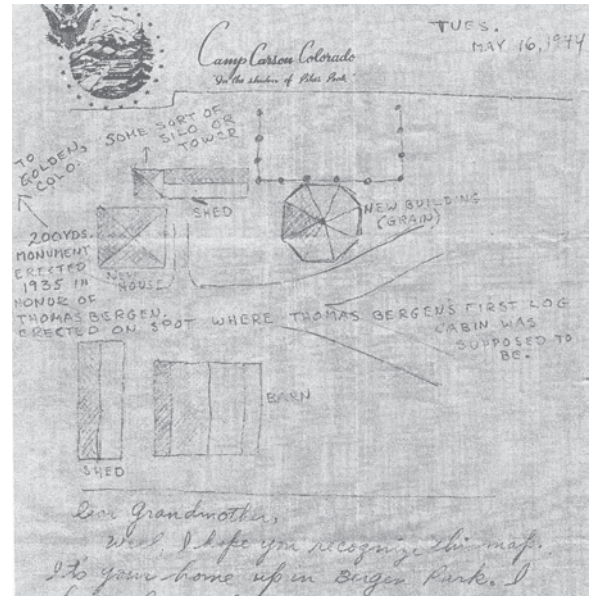


Old house on Bergen Parkway thought to be Bergen's 1865 home

Summoned to Missouri by the illness of Bergen's mother, the intrepid Judith piled the four children (one under a year old) into a horse and wagon and made the thousand mile trip by herself. According to Martha she returned the next spring after some misadventures to find, "Father was tired of running the boarding house, so he gave it up and built us another house down by the spring." It was 1865 when he built the new house two hundred yards south of the other buildings. This is the location of 1522 Bergen Parkway. The spring behind the house is still flowing.

Then Thomas got into mining and other ventures, and moved to Morrison around 1874.<sup>3</sup> The land patent on S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  was not filed in Thomas C. Bergen's name until 1875.<sup>4</sup> Bergen borrowed \$1,000 against this parcel in the same year; the lender sold it to Joshua Leshner in 1881, a year after Bergen sold Leshner 160 acres adjacent. The lengthy succession of ownership that followed was researched with

the expertise of Jeffco Archivist Ronda Frasier.<sup>5</sup> (see Chain of Ownership – frame insert.) She found Lena Johnson on [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) and traced ownership back through Lena's husband John Johnson. It should be pointed out that ownership transfer records were land, not building records. Hank Alderfer's extensive maps of family holdings in different eras also tell the land story. But disappointingly, there are no archival county records of a building at 1522 Bergen Parkway and the Assessors records of a building only date from 1986.



Drawing of Bergen property by Martha Bergen Greene's grandson 1944

Several studies were done in the past to determine the historic validity of this house thought to be the Bergen home. In 1981 the Colorado Dept. of Highways conducted a survey of historic structures prior to rerouting Hgwy 74 around Bergen Park. The study of this house concluded, "It has undergone major alterations at least twice. Because it is substantially changed from its original appearance, it has no integrity and is not considered eligible for the National Register."<sup>6</sup> A 1986 interview with Don Schroeder who did odd jobs for the Buchanans revealed that the house was

<sup>2</sup>Dittman, Catherine. Profile of Pioneer Women and Mothers: Focus on Bergen family of Bergen Park, Colo. Rocky Mtn News My 4, 1982, p.46

<sup>3</sup>Field and Farm #1684 My 18, 1918, p.8

<sup>4</sup>[www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov)

<sup>5</sup>Grantees & Grantors General Indexes Jefferson County, Jefferson County Tax Lists 1870's & 1880's, Jefferson County Real Estate Recording Books, & Jefferson County Assessors Index Book of Land Ownership.

<sup>6</sup>Cultural Resource Report for Historical Resources Project 5JF289, Title S0098(6), Colorado Dept of Highways, Aug. 1981.

remodeled by Everitt Ault who lived there for awhile. Dick Phelps applied for historic designation in 1986 and was turned down by the Colorado State Historical Society, also because additions and remodeling of the building had significantly altered the structure. Phelps remodeled it further, as an office for his landscaping business. He reports stripping the siding to reveal a frame (not log) exterior that revealed two door and four window openings on the street side. He found 4x4 rough sawn studs with square nails in the partition walls, but no evidence that the structure was of 120 year vintage.

Local legend tells us that the building was used as a ranch house or bunkhouse on the Johnson ranch in the early 1900's. A drawing of the property by Martha Bergen Greene's grandson in 1944 confirms the present location of the house, the octagonal barn just south, and large barn across the street (its foundation stones are still in evidence.) Hank Alderfer says that Hiwan Ranch foreman Al Parker lived in the house from 1947– 1960. Jim Cannon, owner of Blue Quill Angler, confirmed there had been a long shed behind his building and the house. He also heard that the huge Scratch Willow trees behind the house were planted by Bergen himself.



*House today at 1522 Bergen Parkway*

History contains the word "story." All manner of stories have grown up around this little house reputed to be Bergen's home. So - was the house at 1522 Bergen Parkway built in 1865? Is any part of the structure still the original? Was another erected in its place? Those who remember the house in the old days, its people, and its stories, are invited to contact the author. The mystery remains unsolved.

*Author Pat Jurgens is a writer, librarian, and Board member of the Jefferson County Historical Society. She can be contacted at: 4louises@comcast.net*

## Chain of Ownership of S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

- Thomas C. Bergen, 1875
- Robert G. Edmonds, 1875
- Joshua S. Leshner, 1881
- John Edwards & William C. Matthews, 1885
- John Johnson, 1888
- Lena Johnson (nd), but prior to 1913
- Oscar N. & George C. Johnson, 1939
- Darst & Ruth Buchanan, 1944
- Hiwan Ranch, 1955
- Casey, Goodale, & Kirchner Development companies, 1962 & 1964
- Jefferson Land Associates, 1966
- The Ridge at Hiwan, 1980 & 1985
- Richard & Marcia Phelps, present owners, 1986

### Other Sources:

- Dittman, Catherine. "The Story of a Pioneer Family, The Thomas Bergens of Bergen Park, including recollections by Martha Ann Greene a Bergen daughter." Evergreen Magazine. Fall/Winter 1977 & Spring/Summer 1978; also in Local History file "Bergen" at Hiwan Homestead Museum, Evergreen, CO.
- Hamilton, C.M. Our Memories of Bergen Park. (nd) p.11-13.
- Sternberg, Barbara and Gene. Evergreen, Our Mountain Community. 3rd Edition. Evergreen, CO, Evergreen Kiwanis Foundation, 2004. p.86-87.

# HIWAN HAPPENINGS

Hiwan Happenings contributed by John Steinle, Meghan McGinnes and Andrew Spencer



## Cadillac Canyon Exhibit

Hiwan Homestead Museum announces a new exhibit opening May 8, 2012. "Cadillac Canyon: Evergreen's Upper Bear Creek 1920s-1960s" delves into high society along Upper Bear Creek in Evergreen. Did you ever wonder how high society folks lived and played in Evergreen? Come see "Cadillac Canyon" to find out. See which movie stars visited resorts such as Troutdale-in-the-Pines and Greystone! Learn about dude ranches such as T-S! See the majestic mountain homes that were built in Evergreen's glory years!

Don't miss your chance to see how the other half lived—find out why Upper Bear Creek earned the nickname Cadillac Canyon! Please join us for an open house preview of "Cadillac Canyon" on Monday, May 7 from 6:30-8:30 PM. No reservations are required.

The **Summer Children's Party** will be held at the Hiwan Museum, Monday, July 16, 12 - 1:30 PM. Join us for a kids-only party. Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with a light lunch, games, crafts, and favors. Boys and girls ages 6 and up will have a blast! Theme to be announced at a later date. Reservations are required and a fee charged.

## Movies in the Grove

July 21, 2012, Saturday, 8:30 PM  
*The Mark of Zorro*

Frequent Evergreen visitor Douglas Fairbanks plays the famous freedom fighter Zoro in this silent swashbuckler from 1920. Free movie!

August 4, 2012, Saturday, 8:30 PM  
"Three Stooges History Festival"  
Enjoy the zany antics of Larry, Curly and Moe through history from the Middle Ages to the Civil War! Free movie!

"Cadillac Canyon" will be on display through November 18, 2012. Hiwan Homestead Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5 PM, summer hours from June 1 to August 31 are 11:00 AM to 5 PM. A preview open house is scheduled on Monday, May 7 from 6:30-8:30 PM. Please call 720-497-7650 for more information.

## A Visit with Mrs. Charles Russell

September 19, 2012 Thursday, 7 PM, Hiwan Homestead Museum  
Mary Jane Bradbury portrays Nancy Russell, wife of famed Western artist Charlie Russell, and explains how she motivated and supported her famous artist husband. Reservations required and a fee charged.

**Book Club** is for adults at Hiwan and continues to be a source of learning and fun. The club meets the 4th Wednesday (usually) of each month, at 12:30 PM, to discuss the current volume. We focus primarily on titles pertaining to women and children and the West, mixing fiction and non-fiction. No reservations needed. All are welcome.

## Book Club Books

- May 23 - Jan Murphy will be our guest author. Read any of her books. Many are available at the Hiwan Homestead Museum
- No meetings in June and July
- August 22 - Any of the James Doss books. He writes mysteries set on the Ute reservation.
- September 26 - *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lack* by Rebecca Skloot

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## Outdoor Quilt Festival

September 29, 2012 Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM, Hiwan Homestead Museum

Colorful handmade quilts from around the area will be on display outdoors around the museum and in Heritage Grove next door. Event is free.

## Hiwan Halloween Celebration

October 26, 2012 Friday 4-7 PM, Hiwan Homestead Museum

Visit the Museum on the Friday before Halloween for silly and spooky fun! Come see the spooky decorations, enjoy fun crafts, and munch on yummy goddies. Costumes are encouraged and fun is required! No reservations and the event is free.



## MEDLEN SCHOOL DAYS

Have you ever wondered what life was like for mountain children in 1920's Colorado? Children who have completed at least grade 1 and up through grade 5 will have that opportunity in June at the Jefferson County Historical Society's Medlen School, a one-room schoolhouse located on South Turkey Creek road.

Students will read from McGuffey readers, write with pen and ink, take part in a spelling bee, perform a part in a play, make hand-churned ice cream, make lemonade with real lemons and participate in other authentic activities of early Colorado rural children.

There are three three-day sessions: June 5-7, 12-14, and 19-21 from 9 to 12 am, and the cost is \$30. Registration forms are available at the Hiwan Homestead Museum or on the JCHS web site ([www.jchscolorado.com](http://www.jchscolorado.com)). They will also be distributed through the mountain elementary schools. For more information you may call Jo Ann Dunn, program coordinator at 303-674-1695.

## DISCOVERY DAYS 2012

Discovery Days at Hiwan Homestead Museum is about learning through play. This summer the Discovery Days three-day summer camp will engage and excite kids about history by exploring the living legacies of Native Americans through their culture, stories, arts and crafts. Children who have completed Kindergarten through 3rd grade will make Pueblo-style pottery, learn traditional survival

and hunting skills and explore Native American culture in a full-size tipi!

Ages: for children who have completed grades K—3

Sessions (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday):

Session 1: June 5 - 7

Session 2: June 12 - 14

Session 3: June 19 - 21

Time: 9:00 – 11:30 AM

Fee: \$35 per session

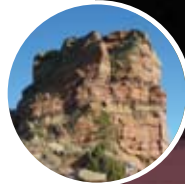
Location: Hiwan Homestead Museum,  
4208 South Timbervale Drive  
Evergreen, Colorado

TO REGISTER / INFORMATION:  
Andy Spencer , Education Coordinator  
720-497-7650  
Email: [HiwanEd@jeffco.us](mailto:HiwanEd@jeffco.us)

Discovery Days at Hiwan Homestead Museum is a summer day camp program created to immerse youngsters in history. These popular programs for children who have completed Kindergarten through 3rd Grade can fill up quickly, so be sure to register today.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 30 - Carolyn Campbell Memoir Writing Presentation
- May 4 - "Cadillac Canyon" Exhibit Preview (6:30-8:30 PM)
- May 8 - "Cadillac Canyon" Exhibit Opening (runs until 11/19)
- May 14 - Volunteer Luncheon 11:30 AM, Hiwan Museum
- June 5-21 - Medlen School Days at Medlen Schoolhouse
- June 5-21 - Discovery Days "Native Americans"
- June 24 - JCHS Membership Luncheon, Peck House, 11:30
- July 16 - Hiwan Summer Children's Party
- July 21 - Movie in the Grove *The Mark of Zorro*
- August 4 - Movie in the Grove "Three Stooges History Festival"
- August 31 - JCHS Membership Renewal Deadline
- Sept 19 - "A Visit with Mrs. Charles Russell" presentation
- Sept 29 - Outdoor Quilt Festival at Hiwan Homestead Museum
- October 26 - Hiwan Halloween Celebration



The Record is published two times per year by the Jefferson County Historical Society. The deadline for the Fall/Winter 2012 issue is October 1. E-mail your submissions to [saramiller1@comcast.net](mailto:saramiller1@comcast.net).

