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The Marshall-Martinek Team



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**Your
Colorado
Realtor**

Equal Housing
Opportunity



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Photo by David Martinek

Pinnacle Park, it's time to save it!

Beyond West Beaver Creek northeast of Victor the road goes west and than northwest up Grassy Gulch to the site of Cameron, passing through a country of granite and volcanic rock outcroppings not far north of where the Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek District (CS&CCD) railroad line used to run. Approaching Cameron a moderately high ridge is seen to the west forming the divide between the waters flowing into Beaver Creek and those flowing west into Oil Creek. The ridge rises to meet several summits – Tenderfoot, Globe, Bull, Big Bull and Brind* – beyond which lies the area known as the World's Greatest Gold Camp. (* Note: the paragraph above is nearly a verbatim description of Grassy Gulch taken from the G. H. Stone Manuscript Collection at the Tutt Library).

In 1900, eight years after Bob Womack's discovery of gold, the Cripple Creek and Victor gold mining district was approaching its zenith. Cripple Creek alone had a population of over 11,000, with more arriving everyday with each new train. In a few years that population would swell to 30,000 or more.

Imagine the rough and ready environment that existed in the district in 1900 - hearty men working in the mines, three railroads competing for ore transport, sampler plants, debris tailings; and in the towns - wooden houses and new brick commercial buildings along Bennett Avenue in Cripple Creek and Victor (after the fires of 1896 and 1899), stores and shops, saloons and



Pinnacle Park at Cameron (1900). For ten cents a day guests could enjoy the zoo, restaurants, the dance pavilion and band stand, picnic areas and athletic fields
(Denver Public Library)

dance halls, "sporting women" in their parlors and cribs, fights and the brawls – a mining district.

But there were families there, too. In fact, Goldfield, as well as Gillett to a certain extent, became known as more family-oriented towns where parents could raise their children outside the bawdier life in Victor and Cripple Creek.



A rustic bridged once spanned the tracks in the middle of Pinnacle Park (in this picture the CS&CCD tracks have been taken up). *Denver Public Library)*

Also in 1900, the Woods Brothers Investment Company, who owned the Gold Coin Mine in Victor (the brothers are also credited with founding Victor), developed a family recreational area and amusement park in Cameron, a small village in the valley of western Grassy Gulch just north of Bull Hill (see map on page 2). Cameron was owned by the Cameron Mines, Land and T Company. The town was served by two railroads, the Midland Terminal and CS&CCD (Short Line), and by trolley. The Woods Brothers called the park, Pinnacle Park, the only amusement park and zoo in Teller County. For just ten cents a day guests could enjoy the zoo, restaurants, the dance pavilion and band stand, picnic areas and athletic fields (photo above). The park covered thirty acres and was located on either side of the parallel tracks of the Midland Terminal and the CS&CCD (Short Line) railroads. A rustic bridge spanned the tracks and offered visitors easy access to both sections of the park (left photo).

In the zoo were pits built to house native wild animals, most likely local Colorado wildlife such as bears, bobcats and mountain lions. There were two sets of animal dens, large and small, usually with brick interiors and arched fronts, and holes in the top that may have been used as cage doors or feeding holes. The dens had concrete slab floors and were most likely fenced.

See "Pinnacle Park" continued on page 2

See past issues of Pikes Peak Country at <http://www.davidmartinekcb.com>

“Pinnacle Park” - from page 1

The “bear caves” as the dens were called, were not built to reflect any particular architectural style but instead used the natural materials available. The dens, or caves, are all that is left of Pinnacle Park today. In fact, Grassy Gulch, where the town of Cameron used to exist, has pretty much returned to its natural state – no buildings, no railroad tracks, only a dirt road remains. The dens sit among trees and weeds that have grown up over the past century, their brick walls banked into a low rolling hillside south of the town site (see map below). Two den complexes have been known to exist for some time, but recently more caves have been found which has generated some excitement.

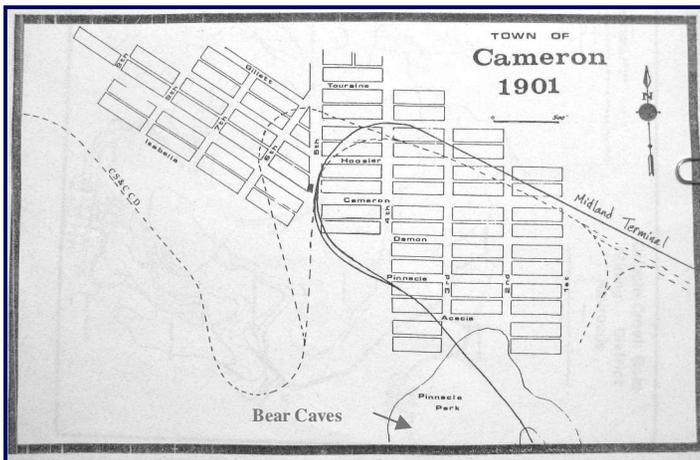
The fate of the Pinnacle Park site, and particularly the “bear caves” is currently endangered due to the expansion of the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company who conducts strip mining operations in the area. The caves and the Cameron site are located on mine property.

Efforts are underway, as late as the summer of 2010, by various local historical groups, the City of Cripple Creek and the mining company to preserve the dens by moving them to a safer location, perhaps to Cripple Creek. But as of this writing, no approval of definite plans or dedicated monies are known.

As with any endeavor to preserve historical sites and artifacts, there must be enough interest and resources to make it happen. It is often difficult to understand why some don't see the need in preserving our heritage. After all, it is our history that not only tells us what happened in the past, but also helps us to be grounded in the present and give us a sense of belonging. And our knowledge of history helps us to know how to deal with the future, too.

Time is running out. One hopes that more folks will realize the importance of preserving at least what remains of Pinnacle Park. **DM**

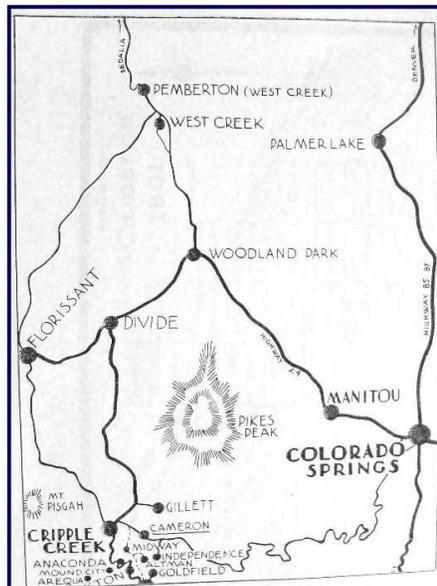
Story Sources: Ute Pass Historical Society; City of Cripple Creek Historic Preservation Commission Report, dated 8/12/10; Denver Public Library; and the G. H. Stone Manuscript Collection at the Tutt Library.



Cameron in 1901 showing service by the CS&CCD (Short Line) and Midland Terminal railroads. Pinnacle Park is located in the bottom right-center. (City of Cripple Creek Historic Preservation Commission Report, dated 8/12/10)

HISTORY - “History tells us what happened in the past and keeps us grounded in the present. It gives us a sense of belonging. History also counsels us to face the future. History makes a common place come alive with stories and landmarks from a time not so long ago. Knowing the history of a place gives it meaning, and gives us a purpose where we live. It's all about history.”

Dave Martinek



The map shows part of Teller and El Paso counties around 1900, Pikes Peak and Mt. Pisgah, and the locations of the main settlements at that time, including Gillett and Cameron in the lower left (to the right of Cripple Creek). The squiggly line from Colorado Springs to Cameron is the route of the Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek District (CS&CCD) railroad. (City of Cripple Creek Historic Preservation Commission Report, dated 8/12/10)

Home Sales on the Rise

Washington, D.C. - Existing-home sales rose in December for the fifth time in the past six months, according to Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of REALTORS®.

“December was a good finish to 2010, when sales fluctuate more than normal. The pattern over the past six months is clearly showing a recovery,” he said. “The December pace is near the volume we’re expecting for 2011, so the market is getting much closer to an adequate, sustainable level. The recovery will likely continue as job growth gains momentum and rising rents encourage more renters into ownership while exceptional affordability conditions remain.”

The national median existing-home price for all housing types was \$168,800 in December, 1.0 percent below December 2009. Distressed homes (foreclosures) rose to a 36 percent market share in December, up from 33 percent from November and 32 percent in December 2009.

“The modest rise in distressed sales, which typically are priced 10 to 15 percent below traditional homes, dampened the median price in December, but the flat price trend continues,” Yun explained. Total housing inventory at year’s end fell 4.2 percent to 3.56 million existing homes for sale, representing an 8.1-month supply at the current sales pace - down from a 9.5-month supply in November.

While investors accounted for 20 percent of transactions in December, the balance of sales were to repeat buyers. Single-family home sales overall jumped 11.8 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.64 million in December, up from 4.15 million in November, but 2.5 percent below December 2009.

Good news in the West though; existing-home sales surged 16.7 percent to an annual level of 1.33 million in December but remain 1.5 percent below December 2009. The median price in the West was \$204,000, down 5.6 percent from a year ago.

The National Association of REALTORS®, “The Voice for Real Estate,” is America’s largest trade association, representing 1.1 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

(Adapted from a January 20, 2011 NAR report)

Dave's Buyers' Guide

Cabins, second-homes and land specials from Coldwell Banker 1st Choice Realty →

Prices and status effective as of January 31, 2011



\$649,00

2397 Rampart Range, Woodland Pk Breathtaking! Privacy, location, quality construction; and "oh" the views. 3BR/5BA/2GAR, 3038 S.F. on 10.06 acres backs up to the National Forest. See the movie room, and office above the garage. Energy zone appliances, radiant heat. City water and natural gas. So much to describe; it's beautiful! See to appreciate. #695651



\$539,900

211 Eagle Pines Dr., Woodland Park Lots of Room! At 4562 S.F., this house equals luxury and quality from top to bottom. Main level MBR and huge lower family room walks out to a private patio. Granite countertops; a movie theater! Nicely landscaped on 0.51 acres. 3BR/4BA/3GAR. Rock retaining walls and huge back deck for entertaining. A must see! #635568



\$399,900

REDUCED!

1000 S. Fourth, Cripple Creek Investment! Rambling ranch on 4.79 acres carved up into 6 rental units that overlooks historic Cripple Creek. The 3505 S.F. bldg. has 9BR/6BA/2GAR and a 10-space storage shed. Rental income for the last three years available. Could be converted back to a home. #627984

To inquire, email or call 719.687.1516

(Marshall-Martinek Team listings are BOXED)



\$359,900

409 Pike View Dr., Divide Log Home! Great room concept with main level MBR and laundry. 3BR/3BA/3GAR, 2716 S.F. on 1.03 acres. Large decks; Pikes Peak and northern view. #680285



\$359,850

531 Springvalley Dr., Divide Beautiful Rancher! Private lakes & mountain surroundings. Great room w/ hardwood floors and T&G ceilings. Chef's delight kitchen. 1.02 acres. 4BR/3BA/2GAR, 3402 S.F. This one is special. # 545164



\$349,900

REDUCED!

211 Rutgers, Woodland Park Colorado Living! 3BR/3BA/2GAR, 3030 S.F. on 4.04 acres. Very clean & well-maintained. Lots of windows; Pikes Peak view. Spacious bedrooms; loft office. Lower level family room, wine cellar and large safe. #660705



\$289,900

120 Broken Arrow, Lake George Overlooks 11-Mile Reservoir! Has views everywhere. 2272 S.F. on 0.70 acres. 3BR/3BA/2GAR. Quality construction, long list of amenities. Attention to detail in this bright and sunny home. Privacy and seclusion close to water's edge. #657826



\$269,850

75 Cayuse Ln, Woodland Park Magical Views! Wonderful home in Ranch Est. on 1.31 acres. Quality craftsmanship, cherry cabinets, tile, stone FP, stainless appliances. MBR has French doors and claw-foot tub. 3BR/2BA/0GAR, 2165 S.F. Family room is knotty pine. #642598



\$235,000

360 Calle Del Sol, Florissant Better than new! Fall in love with this completely remodeled (top to bottom) home. Everything is brand new down to the plumbing and sheet rock. 3BR/2BA/2GAR on 4.79 acres. 1792 S.F. Great views. Horse property. #6561240



\$326,900

48 Bison Cir., Florissant Immaculate! 2600 S.F. log-sided home on 4.5 beautiful acres in Indian Creek. 3BR/2.5 BA/2GAR. Quality construction, long list of amenities. Attention to detail in this bright and sunny home. Privacy and seclusion. Pending MLS



\$129,000

971 CR 61, Cripple Creek ACT NOW! 1BR/1BA 936 S.F. on 8.1 private acres w/ aspen, meadows and views. Cute galley kitchen and loft BR. Very secluded. Built in 2002. A wonderful get-away or investment. Short-sale. #686211



\$98,900

380 Paradise Cir, Woodland Pk Condo! Perfect for weekends in the mountains. Condo C-3 has 1BR/1BA and an upgraded kitchen and bath. 600 S.F. New LR window. Care-free living. Easy commute to Woodland Park and Colorado Springs. #663316



\$16,000

1001 S. Mtn Est. Rd, Florissant Meadow! Two acres of meadow and trees and some nice building sites in beautiful Colorado Mountain Estates, south of Florissant. Easy access to nearby Fossil Beds and Cripple Creek. #530773



\$16,000

2856 Blue Mesa Dr., Divide Fronts Water! This heavily treed lot in Highland Lakes (1.67 acres) slopes down to Beaver Lake No. 2. Strategic tree cuts will make room for a driveway and a building site. See this beautiful lot. #457747

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