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Equal Housing
Opportunity



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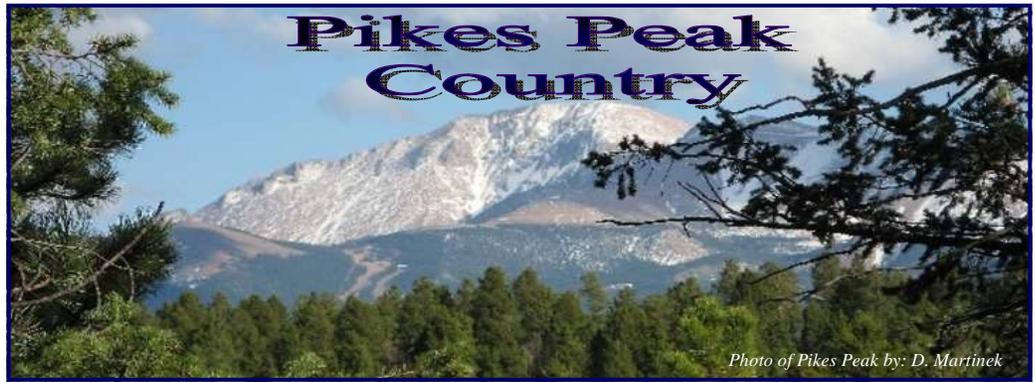


Photo of Pikes Peak by: D. Martinek

Allegory and the Society Girl

(If you've traveled through the western plains of Kansas or the eastern plains of Colorado along I-70, or driven north on U.S. 71 towards Scotts Bluff, Nebraska, you will understand this allegorical tale.)

Dance to Glory

By Dave Martinek

Whenever the prairie winds blow, they are there. Stacked to the highest wire, a wall of brown and gray stretching along the fence row - like soldiers in formation, massed for a charge.

Out in front in the ditch before the clearing, a few more huddle restlessly, as if advanced scouts, nervously looking left and right in anticipation of their impending flight - at test of courage.

A few have ridden the winds before and survived. They have the scars to prove it. But for most, this is their first time; they can only wonder.

The veterans say, "wait, wait, you will know when the time is right."

Suddenly, the wind blows stronger! A few brave ones dart across the clearing, followed immediately by five more, then ten, twenty - and then all restraint disappears as wave after wave come racing in mass to cover the ground! They *roll* and *spin*, *bounce* and *tumble*, riding the wild wind with reckless freedom! Surging across the clearing in a fury, they come, as if hell itself had opened up and the devil was right behind them!

Some collide with moving objects in the clearing and are lost. Others dodge and weave between them, searching for an opening. Still others careen off them and continue across, limbs broken but still alive, with fresh wounds to impress their grandchildren.

The wind dies down. The migration stops.

And,...lined up along the next fence they wait for the ritual to begin again. It is their purpose; their cycle of life; their destiny. Stacked to the highest wire, a wall of brown and gray stretches as far as the eye can see, waiting for the next fury.

They are soldiers in formation, massed for a charge - ready for their dance to glory.

(They are tumbleweeds, folks.)

The Society Girl

This story first appeared in the Leadville Herald-Democrat 102 years ago and was reprinted in the February 15, 1985 issue as part of a railroad remembrance project. The tale is about a young socialite who with "reckless intrepidity rode clinging to the pilot of a Colorado Midland locomotive through Ute Pass from Colorado Springs to Divide." It was in December, 1907.... 'The Society Girl.'

Panting, as if fretting under restraint and with an eagerness to get away, No. 22, a powerful ten-wheeled locomotive bound eventually for California, stood waiting impatiently at the Colorado City depot. It was midnight. Down the platform came the conductor with orders to start. With a majestic air he waved his hand and called "all aboard." The girl climbed on the pilot.

"I'll make this trip right here or die in the attempt," she shouted defiantly. Slowly, as the train began its long struggle up the Pass, she kept up her courage while many of the passengers retired for the night.

Inside, a gang of Italians bound for Fresno to work in the fields occupied a corner of the smoking car. One played the accordion. The chair cars bulged with transcontinental tourists, including a dramatic repertoire company expecting to win their fortune on the coast. Their comedian looked like an undertaker. Three Pullman cars were filled with eastern passengers going to California for the winter.

Outside, it was bitter cold and the girl snuggled close to the boiler for warmth. Through the tunnels black as night the roar and rumble of the train shattered the silence with awful reverberation; out again it emerged into the fury of a windy midnight storm. Then creeping along the brink of dizzy precipices where a loosened hold meant a fall to the death on the rocks and creek below, it finally a dash into the radiance and glory of a moonlight night on the crest of the divide, while the world around them slept and the night winds whistled softly overhead.

In the early dawn, she laughingly alighted from the train at her journey's end to greet her friends at Divide with a note of triumph and a merry ring to her voice. Foolish and proud, she had met the test of courage, taken up the gauntlet, accepted the challenge, and won.

There were bon-bons and new gloves as her prize.

(Note: When safety rules began to be more strictly enforced, riding on the pilot of an engine was ever after forbidden.)

Dave's Buyers' Guide

A sampling of properties offered by Coldwell Banker 1st Choice Realty.

Prices and status effective as of April 30, 2009

Pikes Peak - the first view

The view attracts us. Pikes Peak stands alone along the Front Range as the most prominent mountain in the region, and the most visited in the United States.

Silently it calls to all who wish for a place where life slows down, to all who long for mornings when the first rays of sunlight bounce off the mountaintop and scatter across the forests of fir, spruce, pine and aspen to the meadows below. It's the first view we see at daybreak and the horizon's last moon shadow at night.

But,...it is only just a rock of pink granite, after all, rising above the 'fruited plains.'

What is it about the mountain that contributes to our well-being? Does it affect our lives?

"YES" we say! It is our homing point. It completes our need of belonging and reminds us why we live here. It fulfills an indefinable, unspoken desire to chart our lives in relation to the ever constant Peak. And, it makes us think that perhaps it is the place where God might sit to watch over us.

Down through history, Pikes Peak has been the symbol of westward movement, of discovery and a chance for a new start. It is the same today. Come for visit - stay for a lifetime.

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To inquire, please email or call toll-free at 1-800-905-3811, Ext. 1516.



\$149,900

192 Silbani, Divide
Like New! A well-maintained home with 3 BR/2BA on 0.7 acres. 1736 SF. Erected in 2004, this Arabian Acres homes in minutes from Woodland Park. It's a perfect vacation home or permanent residence. #559973



\$169,850

63 Glenwood Ln, Woodland Park Rancher. Nice rancher on a quiet cul-de-sac with privacy. Main level MBR and laundry. Family room w/ wood stove lower. Deck among mature trees w/ built-in benches. Minutes from Woodland Park and close to new hospital. #438677



\$196,500

3432 Osprey Ridge, Col. Spgs. Well-kept. Attractive 5-year old, 1-owner home near the airport and Fort Carson. 5 BR/3BA/2-car GAR. 2600 S.F. Pride of ownership shows in this house. Meticulously landscaped back yard w/ storage shed and privacy fence. #573934



\$199,900

363 Arrowhead Dr., Florissant 360 Views! 3BR/2BA, 1480 S.F. South-facing mountain home on 4 acres w/ 7GPM well. The ultimate in quaintness with RV parking & septic hookup, hot tub, and great room with fireplace. Acreage is horse property. #447634



\$239,450

2619 Sunnywood, Woodland Park Wooded Lot. Custom mountain home on private lot. Upgraded carpet, 6-panel doors and wood stove. Remodeled in 2004. 3BR/2 GA/2-car GAR on .62 acres. 2015 S.F. Former Parade of Homes. Easy commute. #582833



\$274,850

780 Pinon Ridge, Woodland Park Cul-de-sac. 4BR/3BA/2-car GAR Meadow Wood Park home. 2835 S. F. on .24 acres. Great floor plan w/ main level MBR & spacious kitchen. Vaulted ceilings w/ fireplace and awesome deck, partially enclosed. #489686



\$296,000

5849 Highway 24, Divide Privacy. A charming home just west of Divide. Updated paint, carpet, tile, wood trim, etc. 4BR/3BA/2-car carport; 2128 S.F. 2nd 30x14 office/guest house; 2 decks and patio. Commanding view of Pikes Peak. Worth a look. #550255



\$334,900

426 Black Bear Dr., Divide Seclusion. A solid log home w/ Pine Bark Beetle kill wood interior. Lost master, walkout lower level (unfinished). Quality kitchen with granite counters, copper sink, hickory cabinets, stainless apps. 2BR/2BA, 3020 S.F. 2 Acres. #540076



\$555,000

991 CR 791, Woodland Park Exceptional Hideaway! For the cowboy in all of us. 10 acres next to Nat'l Forest. 2 corrals; stream. 4BR/3BA, 4066 S.F. Spacious kitchen, cozy family room, wood beam ceilings. Rough-hewn log home. Paradise. #510007



\$728,500

57 acres of sunsets!

FEATURED PROPERTY

#563797

Amazing views! Sit on the treks-floored decks and watch the sun rise and set with a full view of Pikes Peak, Mt. Pisgah, the Cripple Creek Valley and the Sangres. Built in 2008, this new home has beautiful wide-plank soft pine wood floors (stained walnut), radiant heat, 4 fireplaces, 5 ceiling fans and a delightful gourmet kitchen. Custom alder wood cabinets surround a large pantry, ample counter space and a range-top center island with down-draft vent. A huge master bath compliments the walkout master bedroom - 4 bedrooms in all. 57.4 very private, wonderful acres!