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The Marshall-Martinek Team



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Equal Housing
Opportunity



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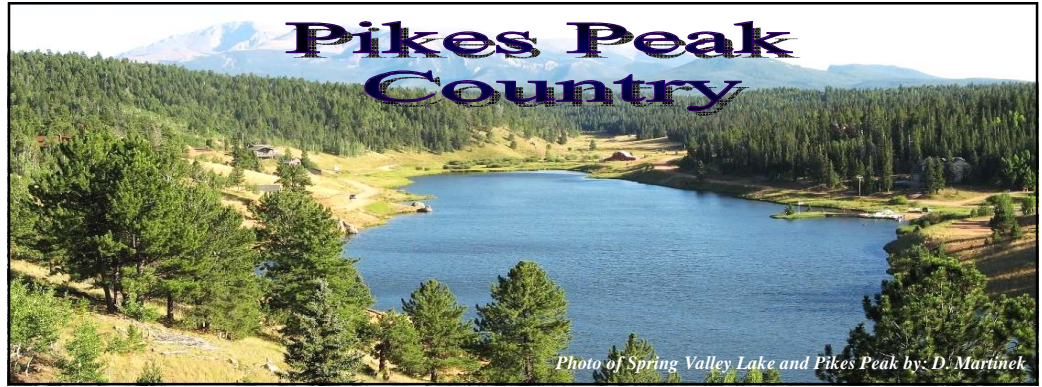


Photo of Spring Valley Lake and Pikes Peak by: D. Martinek

For the love of dogs - the story of Trilby
by Dave Martinek

Introduction: Will Rogers once said, "If there are no dogs in heaven, I don't want to go there." I remember as a kid reading the books of Albert Payson Terhune and the stories about his beloved collies at Sunnyside Kennels. It was in those stories that I began to wonder about the unbreakable bond that has existed between man and dog for generations, ever since the wolf was domesticated back in the cave, I guess. I strayed away from dogs as I grew up. In fact, I moved to the opposite end of the spectrum entirely – to cats! But later in life the pull on the heartstrings that erupts into a shower of joy every time one looks into the forlorn face and brown eyes of a loving dog returned at last. For all those dog lovers out there, and I include myself, here's the story of Trilby.

Cripple Creek, Colorado in 1895 was a rippin' and roarin' town. Gold had been rediscovered in Poverty Gulch only three years before and by summer the first railroad would reach the camp. The town folks celebrated two 4th of July's that year – one on July 1st when the Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad arrived to a flurry of band music and celebration, and the other on the real fourth. And in December the Midland Terminal Railroad also arrived in Cripple Creek. With the two trains came a more efficient way to haul ore down to the smelters in Florence and Colorado City, as well as provide a conduit for transporting all kinds of new people into the district.

According to the *Cripple Creek Morning Times*, in 1895 the fire and police departments were a common agency, or at least they were housed in the same building. Policemen walked their beats and firemen waited for the call to rush to burning buildings. It wouldn't be long before two great fires would almost totally destroy the mostly wooden homes and buildings and result in a new community of brick. (But that happened the next year. This is a story about a dog).



(file photo) typical Scottish Terrier

To a policeman having to sit office duty in a booming wild-west mining town, nothing could be more boring. But as (*I'll call him*) Officer Jack looked down from his chair on the front stoop of the jail at the limping little black Scottish Terrier in front of him, his morning got brighter. The way the little dog was walking, holding its right front paw out in front, it looked like she was asking Jack for some help. And so he obliged her. "Bet a wagon ran over your foot here, little girl!" said Jack. Jack saw that the paw was badly crushed. The dog waited patiently, almost expectedly, as Jack bandaged it as best he could, then laid the dog in a box near a wall with a bowl of water to rest for the night. The next morning the black ball of fur was still there, ...and hungry. The boys in the firehouse fed her, the wound soon healed and she refused to leave. Since no one objected, the dog became a fixture for the police and fire boys. They named her Trilby and she became their mascot, and a special pet of Officer Jack.

After that, Trilby slept in the firehouse, walked the beats with the policemen and the city timekeeper and was always on deck ready to ride whenever there was a fire. Her presence added a touch of grace to the otherwise hard duties of the men. There was always a lap for Trilby, a gentle pat on the head or a morsel of food. Everyone was kind to her. In a town growing daily with all kinds of people, some of them unsavory, where life was filled with hardships, rough work, temptations and violence, the little black dog won the hearts of every man in the police and fire department.

But on December 31, 1895, the *Cripple Creek Morning Times* ran a story that brought tears to the roughest miner's eyes on Myers Avenue. "Yesterday afternoon," reported the *Times*, "as she was skipping along with the city timekeeper, a team of horses came dashing down the street. Trilby saw them coming and in making an effort to get out of their way, fell and the heavy wheels passed over her." The sobbing timekeeper carried the injured dog tenderly back to the station and laid her in her bed, but there was nothing they could do for her. Her back was broken. The only task left was to put her out of her misery. One of the boys got a big revolver, but Officer Jack stopped him. "Let me do it," he said quietly. With big policeman tears welling up in his eyes, Jack aimed the gun at his little friend, closed his eyes...and pulled the trigger. With a loud report, the bullet found its target. She quivered once and was still. They laid her down in a small grave in a vacant lot behind the jail with all the reverence of a regular funeral and erected a stone marker with the simple inscription, Trilby. Officer Jack wept.

Epilogue: I think losing a pet can be one of the saddest experiences of life. At least, that's what I thought one cold January day when I buried our 13-year old Yorkie, Nyx, in the frozen ground in back of our Divide cabin. It's hard to dig a hole with tears in your eyes. Perhaps the sadness is so intense because the love they gave us while alive was just as intense – unconditional, joyful, without judgment or prejudice. I don't know; that's just what I think. But I do believe that dogs go to heaven, ...as dog lovers say, to the Rainbow Bridge. I believe it because the love and devotion they show us is the closest thing to the way it ought to be. **DM**

Sources: December 31, 1895 issue of the *Cripple Creek Morning Times*; US GenWeb Archives.

Dave's Buyers' Guide

Cabin and second-home specials offered by Coldwell Banker 1st Choice Realty

Prices and status effective as of August 31, 2009



\$139,900

60 E. Aspen Drive, Divide Rancher. Remodeled rancher, inside and out. 3BR/2BA, 1309 S.F. on .44 acres, including an adjoining lot. New carpet, plumbing, wood stove and roof. Fenced w/ outbuildings. Quiet cul-de-sac in Sherwood Forest. Ideal for a permanent residence or vacation get-away. Unique! #474569



\$139,900

192 Silbani, Divide Like New! A well-maintained manufactured home with 3 BR/2 BA on 0.7 acres. 1736 SF. Features a new deck and improved excavation in front. Erected in 2004, this corner lot in the nicely treed Arabian Acres subdivision is minutes from Woodland Park. Great as a vacation home or a permanent residence. #559973

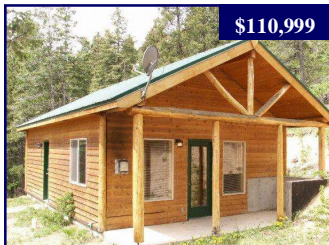
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To inquire, please email or call 719.687.1516

(Marshall-Martinek Team listings are boxed)



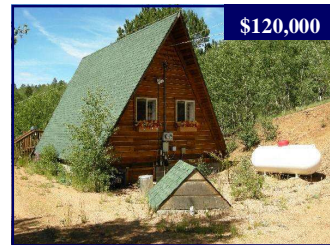
\$110,999

526 Wakenda Trl, Woodland Park Ranch Estates. A perfect mountain cabin for that get-away weekend. New propane stove and frig, kitchen tile, environmentally friendly. Just minutes from Woodland Park. 1BR/1BA. 672 S.F. #481672



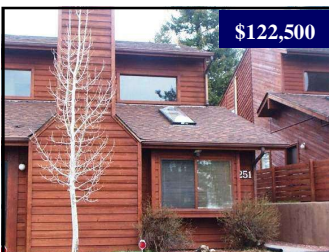
\$119,000

9988 Hwy 67, Cripple Creek 3.23 Acres. Quiet, private cabin surrounded by pines and aspen w/ Pikes Peak in your backyard. 400 S.F. deck. 2BR/1BA, 840 S.F. Gas fireplace, cistern. Come to the country! #595063



\$120,000

1326 Golden Cycle Cr., Cripple Creek. A perfect week-ender or rental investment. Quaint and cozy A-frame on 1 acre, pines and aspen. 1BR/1BA, 468 S.F. New wood stove, galley kitchen, spiral stairway to loft BR. #469074



\$122,500

251 E. Lake Dr., Woodland Park Townhome. 2BR/1BA, 882 S.F. Vaulted ceilings, skylight; very convenient to shopping and downtown. Peak views from the MBR. Main level living room, kitchen and laundry. Walk to school. Paved driveway. #598896



\$126,900

173 Deerview Dr., Florissant Saddle Mountain. Great cabin in the woods on 1.5 acres. New roof (2004) and electric heat. Updated in 2005 & new deck in 2006. Hardwood floors are from 1890s home-stead. Very private and peaceful. This is an ideal get-away. #471619



\$149,900

255 Crescent Dr., Florissant 2 Acres in Eaglecrest. Enchanting chalet updated/remodeled less than 4 years ago. 3BR/1BA, 1164 S.F. Wood stove for cold winters. Large decks; greenhouse. Spacious pines give the feel of serenity and peace. See it! #587775



\$168,900

321 N. Hwy 67, Woodland Park Well-manicured. Family-friendly home w/ updated appliances, new paint and a lovely setting. 2BR/1 BA/1GAR, 889 S.F. Wood-burning stove, stainless frig, outdoor patio; comes with washer/dryer. Easy access to shopping, schools, national forest. #692862



\$169,900

194 Appian Way, Florissant Colorado Mountain Est. South facing and tucked under the trees, this house says 'warmth.' 3BR/2BA /2GAR, 1732 S.F. Two FPs, Jack 'n Jill baths and decks in every direction. Padded music studio in garage. 7 GPM well. 2 acres of remote and peaceful living. #435367



\$24,900

86 High Chateau, Florissant Beautiful Land. Just a couple of acres overlooking some trees and a great view of Pikes Peak. Easy access from High Chateau Road; utilities at the property line. 2.15 acres of level building sites. If you want to build a cabin, here's the place. #433314



FEATURED PROPERTY

\$283,900

105 Pennsylvania, Woodland Park. Sitting on 2.17 acres, this spacious rancher has a Peak view from the front deck and plenty of room to stretch out inside. New hardwood floors in a cozy little kitchen, carpet throughout, four bedrooms, three baths and a huge living room with fireplace add up to 3264 square feet of living space. Just minutes from Woodland Park and the Springs. Add an attached 2-car garage and finished basement, and you might want to give this home a second look! #547690