

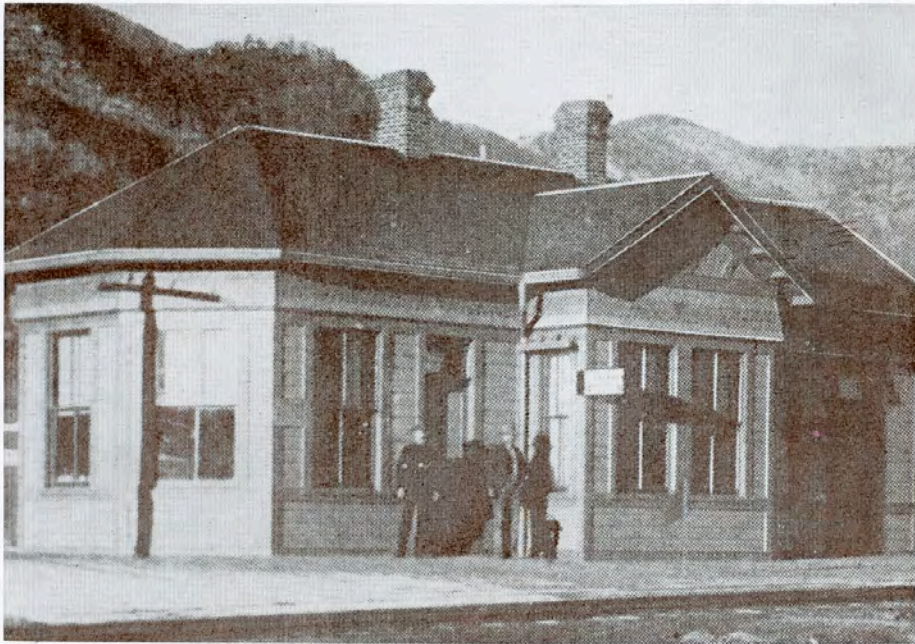
A History Of Ute Pass School Districts



MARY ANN DAVIS



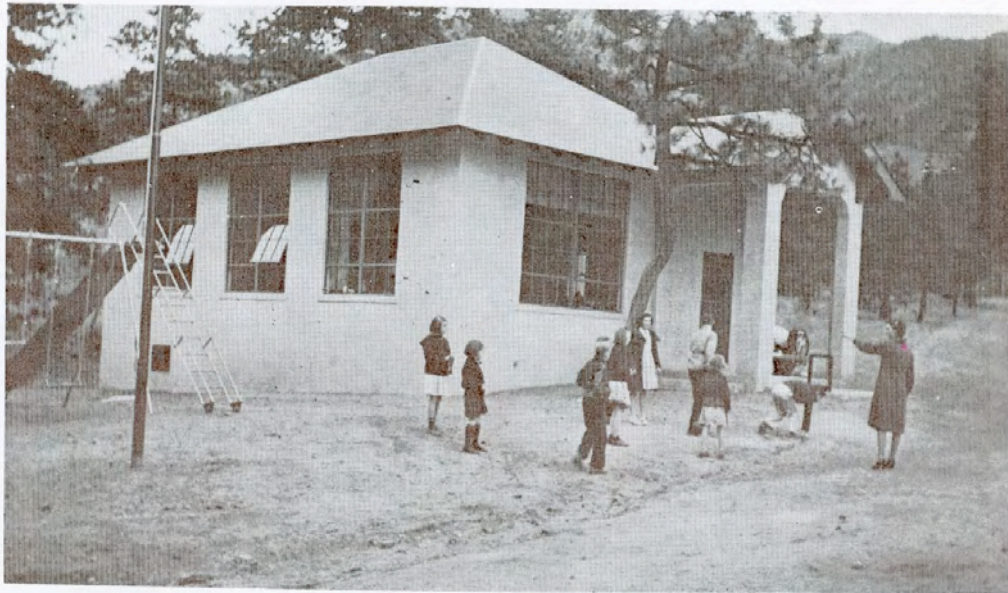
Green Mountain Falls School — Erected 1890
— PICTURE COURTESY D. H. CONN



Railroad Station — Green Mountain Falls
— PICTURE COURTESY D. H. CONN



From Picture which hangs in the "New" Cascade School



"New" Cascade School — Built 1937

A HISTORY OF UTE PASS
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

by
Mary Ann Davis

Presented to the patrons of school District #14
in honor of the dedication of the Ute Pass Elementary School
November 14, 1969

School Board, District #14

Mr. Donald D. Baker-----President	Mr. Verne A. Witham-----Secretary
Mr. James F. Miller-----Vice President	Mr. Malcolm Conn-----Treasurer
Mr. Nick Sanborn Jr.-----Assistant Secretary	

Superintendent, District #14:

W.W. Bundy

Principal, Ute Pass Elementary School:

Anne S. Foster

Children first attended school in Cascade in the 1880's -- the town was formed in 1886 -- in a large log cabin built in 1881 by Mrs. Eliza Hewlitt. This cabin was the first house ever built in Cascade Canon.

The next school room was in the Gardiner cottage, which stood on the corner property, now vacant, at the corner of Canon Road and the old highway.

One of Cascade's first teachers, prior to the building of the school house, was Mrs. Anna Marie Rudy, who went on to become a noted teacher and principal in Colorado Springs.

In 1887, she taught 25 children in ten grades for one year. In a talk before the Historical Society of the Pikes Peak Region April 24, 1954, Mrs. Rudy recalled this experience...

"...I had not thought of teaching, but as we expected to spend the winter in Cascade, I saw in it an interesting adventure, especially as their school situation was so primitive.

"They had no schoolhouse, but the seats and desks were placed in one of three empty storerooms. The heating system consisted of an old rusty baseburner, of which the teacher was the stoker. She was her own janitor all around as well. Nothing daunted by this, I accepted the offer.

"There were no two arithmetics alike, but thanks to the authors who didn't know any better the answers to all of the problems were given. That you know is considered, now, very bad psychology. But with these good old arithmetics I had but to teach the principle, turn the child loose in his own book and check the answers afterward.

"The reading was my problem. I believed in oral class reading, but with no two readers alike it couldn't be done. Happily this was several years before the revival of Dickens and I knew of friends who had old copies of Dickens, now, very likely stored in their attics. I found no difficulty in securing enough copies to go around,"¹

In 1891 - 92 children went to school in the Midland Railroad Eating House, which was built across from the depot as a dining room and hotel for railroad passengers.

¹"Mrs. A. M. Rudy, Noted Teacher, Dies at Age 103", Gazette Telegraph (Tuesday, December 21, 1965).

Although the accompanying photo states that the first Cascade school building was built in 1888, an article from the Gazette Telegraph places the building sometime between 1893 and 1896, when land was deeded to the School District.

School District #43 was formed January 19, 1889. This District incorporated a parcel of land originally designated as being a part of District #42 formed earlier that same year. The #42 boundaries were changed to accommodate the Cascade district.

The Cascade Town Company, under D. N. Heizer, deeded three lots for the building of a school and a one-room frame schoolhouse was erected.

In the fall of 1937 this one-room structure was torn down to make way for a new, two-room, \$8,000 stucco building. This building had the two classrooms, a basement, corridor and two lavatories. While the new building was under construction, students attended school in the home of their teacher, Mrs. Rova Hamil.

By 1951, the two rooms were no longer adequate and Gene White, a local contractor, built an addition on the school, adding the large room which in recent years accommodated the first and second grades.

During these years, the Cascade School, like many small, country schools, was a center of community activity. Films were shown on Friday nights for the children. Square dances and community dinners were held at the school.

Through the efforts of the Cascade Women's Club, the first Ute Pass Library was organized at the school.

Because money was a problem to the District, the townspeople did much for the maintenance work voluntarily to save the cash reserves for essentials, such as salaries and supplies. Painting and varnishing and spring cleaning were done by the parents. One Boy Scout project, chosen with a hint of irony, was sanding the tops of the school desks.

August 25, 1959, School District #43, having passed it's 60th anniversary was dissolved by election and annexed to #14. After annexation, the Cascade school building was used for the primary grade students in the Pass area. With the opening of the Ute Pass Elementary, the area kindergarten students fell heir to the building for half-day use.

The Green Mountain Falls District, #42, was organized a scant three weeks -- on January 2, 1889 -- before the district at Cascade Canon. The first school board members elected were: M. H. Dusenbury, president; J. G. Garland, secretary; and Mrs. Amy Sprague, treasurer.

School was first held in the present town hall, which was rented from the Town Co. for \$10 per month. Miss Leving Foster, who received \$50 per month, was the town's first teacher. Later, the Station House at the foot of the Lake was used for the school.

Following are excerpts from the book, It Has Been -- A History of Green Mountain Falls, by Dorothy Hart Conn and Betty Morrow:

In 1889, the Green Mountain Falls Town and Improvement Co. deeded "lots 4, 6, 7 and all of lot 8 except a strip eight feet wide on the south side thereof, all in block 47, providing that said school district will erect a school building on said lots at a cost of not less than \$5,000, said building to be practically completed on or before November 1, 1890.

"The lots donated by the company were approached only after an excessively steep climb of three blocks. Nobody seemed to consider how difficult this trip would be for little legs. After the school was reached, however, the view was worth the effort of getting there. Broad vistas both up and down the Pass stretched before you. The building itself was a wonderful place for children, too. The original plan was for two large rooms downstairs with hallways and cloak room, and the same upstairs. However, just one room downstairs was all that was ever completed, since the number of students never required more space than that. The unfinished downstairs room was a perfect place in which to play when stormy weather wouldn't permit outdoor games. Of course, the larger, more adventuresome boys could climb to the uncompleted second floor and even up to the belfry, which, incidentally, never contained a bell. In the spring and fall when the weather was pleasant lunches were eaten picnic fashion under gorgeous pines back of the building. There wasn't much playground equipment, but there were swings, a seesaw and bat and ball. Of course, plumbing was primitive. One huge pot-bellied stove furnished the heat. It was decorated with a nickel ring around the top, and we understand there were certain occasions when some of the larger boys, deciding they needed a holiday, arrived early and placed a goodly supply of rubber bands underneath this ring. The resulting smell and smoke would naturally necessitate the closing of school for that day.

"The school contributed much to the social life of the town. Entertainments, or "School doin's", as they were generally called, brought the people together. There was always one at Christmas time, with the inevitable wisemen costumed in blanket bathrobes. Each child had a piece to speak, and somehow he touched the heart-strings even though he couldn't always be understood and sometimes had a lapse of memory. There was magic in the evening, magic composed partly of the fragrance of the spruce trees, partly of the knowledge that Santa would soon arrive, and oh, magic just because it was Christmas.

"In 1919 it was decided that the location of the school building was too inaccessible. Perhaps the fact that an extremely large and fat teacher had been hired had a bearing on the fact. She refused to climb the hill, and teachers were hard to find at that time. So the furniture, books and fixtures were packed and moved down in the valley again, to the same building in which school had first been held. It had, meanwhile, in 1914, been purchased by the Town Board for use as a town hall. This was a very fortunate arrangement for the pupils, because whenever there was an election or some other town activity necessitating the use of the hall, school was recessed for the day.

"That same year it was voted to sell the school building, and in 1940 private parties purchased it for a girls' summer school."

Mae Brown, who still lives in Green Mountain Falls, taught two years in the school, from 1916 through the spring of 1918. Miss Brown also taught in the school on Bald Mountain, which District #42 maintained.

The building is now a private summer home, although it doesn't stand out in panorama pictures of the town as it once did because the bell tower has been removed.

In the fall of 1924 E.S. Armentrout ran a school bus to Colorado Springs schools for area children. The vehicle was a Dodge Commercial, which was styled like a panel truck, the exception being that the panels, rather than being solid, were wire mesh which had cloth curtains which could be let down, but which offered precious little protection to the children on cold winter mornings. "Yes, it was open -- we nearly froze!", was the comment of one of the students who endured those winter bus trips. The children attended Buena Vista, and Longfellow elementary schools and West Junior High School.

Some families, however, found it more economical to move to Colorado Springs for the school term or board the children in town with friends rather than pay the tuition at Colorado Springs schools.

In 1930 arrangements were made to send the students from District #42 to Manitou Springs to school. Although the students did go to Manitou, the school district was maintained by holding summer school once every three years. In 1955 the residents voted to annex to Manitou and District #42 was dissolved.

A longtime resident, Malcolm Conn, who is now treasurer of the District #14 School Board was first elected to serve on the board of #42 in 1937. He has served continuously on the boards of the two districts -- first in Green Mountain Falls and, after annexation, in Manitou -- since that time, with the exception of a brief leave of absence during World War II when he served as civilian construction worker helping to rebuild Oahu, Hawaii. During those 32 years, Conn has worked in various capacities on the boards. At the time of consolidation he was president of the Green Mountain Falls board.

Ed Armentrout, whose father drove the first school bus from Green Mountain Falls in 1924, is now head of the Ute Pass school transportation. Ed, a native of the area, first drove, helping his father, in 1925. He first contracted for the job, himself, in 1929 and is now working on his 34th year transporting Ute Pass students to school. He now has five buses in operation and delivers students to all three of the District #14 schools.

In December of 1965 the land for the Ute Pass Elementary school was purchased from the Chipita Park Co. A bond election was held in the spring of 1968 when district residents voted to assume the expense for the new school. On September 2, 1969, the Ute Pass Elementary School opened to 200 students in grades one through six.

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ADDENDUM

Close ties remain between the old country school and the new Ute Pass Elementary. Three of the teachers in the new school, Mrs. Elva Warner, Mrs. Mille Van Kirk, and Mrs. Ruby Lee Thomson taught in the Cascade school. Mrs. Thomson was the head teacher for 9 years with Mrs. Warner and Mrs. Van Kirk who taught 11 years and 13 years respectively in Cascade. These teachers still use the old hand bell to call students in from recess.

W.W. Bundy, superintendent of schools, will be the chief administrator of the new school, as he was of the old one since its incorporation in District #14. Mrs. Cleone Martin Beedy, principal of the Cascade school (as well as of Manitou Springs Elementary School) aided in the planning and opening of the Ute Pass Elementary School.

The design of the Ute Pass School is a product of the architect, Walter Burgess who worked closely with the school board, Mr. Bundy, and teachers to design a building that would be functional and complement the natural beauty of the mountainous site. Poured concrete and native Colorado green stone are the exterior building materials. The interior is planned for maximum teaching flexibility. Movable room partitions allow for varied groupings to aid teachers in structuring individual learning tasks. The Resource Center is fully equipped with books, study carrels, and audio visual aids. A modern lunchroom serves meals daily. The gym, complete with a hard wood floor, facilitates the physical education program.

Doors opened in the fall with a full complement of certified teachers. Their cumulative experience totals 114 years. Miss Sharon Gralapp maintains the Cascade school with a kindergarten class as well as supervising the Resource Center. The primary teachers are Mrs. Elva Warner, 1st; Mrs. Mille Van Kirk, 2nd; and Mrs. Ruby Lee Thomson, 3rd. Intermediate grades are taught by Miss Jane Johnson, 4th; Mrs. Mary Heltemes, 5th; and Mr. David Vaeth, 6th. Mrs. Thelma Longenecker and Mrs. Rosemary Quinn are aides. Mrs. Anne Foster is principal, and Mrs. Phyllis Porter is secretary. Ute Pass Elementary School is happy to join the schools in Manitou Springs and will strive to maintain the same fine records set by them.

The following is a statement of philosophy from the Board of Education Policies and subscribed to by Ute Pass Elementary School:

The Board of Education believes in the principle of free public education and will make every effort to provide the best instruction and facilities in keeping with the financial resources of the community. Furthermore, the Board of Education recognizes

the responsibility of the school in providing the opportunity for all students to acquire the basic skills of learning; to make it possible for students to be prepared for the work-a-day world; to provide for training in proper health habits; to train for worthy home membership and good citizenship; to provide opportunities for students to actively participate in democratic practices through student council and other activities; to assist students in proper character training and development and to help young people to become worthy members of society.

Most important at Ute Pass Elementary is your child! The staff will work to insure that his school years will be happy, healthy, and productive.