

## **Lincoln Hills and Civil Rights in Colorado**

Why was a mountain resort for African Americans necessary in Colorado during the 1920s?  
What did the resort represent to its property owners and visitors?  
How did the successes of civil rights advocates in Colorado impact Lincoln Hills?

**By Dani Newsum<sup>1</sup>**  
**Standards and Teaching Strategies by:**  
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## Standards Addressed

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### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### History:

- *Standard 1.1:* Organize and sequence events to understand the concepts of chronology and cause and effect in the history of Colorado
- *Standard 1.2:* The historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas and themes in Colorado history and their relationships to key events in the United States

#### Geography:

- *Standard 2.1:* Use several types of geographic tools to answer questions about the geography of Colorado
- *Standard 2.2:* Connections within and across human and physical systems are developed

#### Civics:

- *Standard 1.1:* Analyze and debate multiple perspectives on an issue
  - *Standard 1.2:* The origins, structure, and functions of the Colorado government
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### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### History:

- *Standard 1.1:* Formulate appropriate hypotheses about United States history based on variety of historical sources and perspectives

#### Geography:

- *Standard 2.1:* Use geographic tools to analyze patterns in human and physical systems

#### Economics:

- *Standard 3.1:* Understand the allocation of scarce resources in societies through analysis of individual choice, market interaction, and public policy

#### Civics:

- *Standard 4.1:* Analyze and practice rights, roles, and responsibilities of citizens
  - *Standard 4.2:* Analyze the origins, structure, and functions of governments and their impacts on societies and citizens.
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### High School

#### History:

- *Standard 1.1:* Use the historical method of inquiry to ask questions, evaluate primary and secondary sources, critically analyze and interpret data, and develop interpretations defended by evidence
- *Standard 1.2:* The key concepts of continuity and change, cause and effect, complexity, unity and diversity over time

## Overview Essay

In July 1932, the Cosmopolitan Club of Denver held its monthly meeting at the Lincoln Hills resort in the mountains of Gilpin County, just under forty miles west of Denver. The Denver club, an interracial, interethnic, and interfaith organization of educated, middle-class progressives, was a local chapter of the national Cosmopolitan Club movement, whose members were dedicated to interracial and interfaith justice and community. Members of the Denver organization had been invited for “an outing” to Lincoln Hills by Dr. Clarence Holmes and his wife, Fairfax. Dr. Holmes, an African American and Denver native, was a dentist and a founder of the local Cosmopolitan Club. Fairfax had previously worked for the all-black Phyllis Wheatley branch of the Denver YWCA. The Holmeses were a picture-perfect example of Denver’s black middle-class, and were members of the black social and economic strata targeted by the marketers of the Lincoln Hills resort.

The resort offered an ideal physical and spiritual location for Cosmopolitan Club members. Nestled along South Boulder Creek between the small mountain towns of Nederland and Rollinsville, Lincoln Hills was the only mountain retreat for African Americans west of the Mississippi River, and one of only a handful black resorts in the United States. It was first established during the 1920s, a decade in which the white supremacist Ku Klux Klan exerted extraordinary political and cultural influence in Colorado. At the time, African Americans were often not welcome in Colorado’s growing mountain resort communities except as personal servants in the company of white employers.<sup>2</sup> Lincoln Hills was an 1100-acre retreat that served as a testament to the color-based hierarchy of privileges and burdens that was common in early twentieth-century Colorado.

Some historians have called the long era that followed the end of Reconstruction in 1877 the “nadir for black civil rights” due to the crushing racism that pervaded American law, politics, and popular culture.<sup>3</sup> Indeed, during this period, which extended well into World War II, the U.S. Supreme Court officially sanctioned race-based discrimination and segregation in its now infamous 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision. In *Plessy*, the Court considered a Louisiana law that required African Americans to ride in rail passenger cars that were separate from those cars designated for white passengers. The Court created the “separate but equal” legal fiction, and held that Louisiana’s government-required segregation of “Negroes” and white persons – and like laws throughout the U.S. – did not violate the U.S. Constitution if the segregated facilities were equal. In reality, the facilities designated for black Americans were rarely equal to those used by white Americans.

Although Denver did not share the pervasive racist violence, terror and de jure (state-required) racial segregation and discrimination that roiled the post-Civil-War South and other regions well into the 1960s, during the 1920s, the Colorado Ku Klux Klan enjoyed a popularity that placed it amongst the largest Klan organizations in the United States. Targeting immigrants and Catholics, as well as African Americans, the white supremacist Colorado Klan could boast that its ranks included a U.S. senator, governor, numerous state legislators, and a Denver mayor and chief of police. Despite an 1895 state law that guaranteed all Coloradans access to the state’s public places regardless of race or color, in actuality Denver was a city in which racial segregation and discrimination was more frequently the rule rather

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<sup>2</sup> Moya Hansen, “Entitled to Full and Equal Enjoyment: Leisure and Entertainment in the Denver Black Community, 1900 to 1930,” *University of Colorado at Denver Historical Studies Journal* 10:1 (Spring 1993): 69.

<sup>3</sup> Kermit L. Hall, Paul Finkelman, and James W. Ely, Jr., *American Legal History: Cases and Materials* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 267.

than the exception.<sup>4</sup> Long after the decline of the Klan in Colorado during the later 1920s, a racist web of exclusion and discrimination remained, and ensnared thousands of black, Asian, Jewish, Latino, and Native American people.

By 1920, more than 11,000 black people called Colorado home, and 6075 of them lived in Denver. Although the city's black population was small when compared to cities like New York, Los Angeles, or Chicago, African Americans in Denver were better educated on average and enjoyed a higher standard of living than their contemporaries in the East, West, or Midwest. By 1938, nearly 40 percent of them were homeowners. During the early decades of the twentieth century, Denver's middle-class black population—which had been increasingly confined to a small area of northeast Denver known as Five Points—welcomed the opportunity to recreate, socialize, and buy property in the wide-open spaces of Lincoln Hills.

However, interest in Lincoln Hills extended far beyond Denver's African American community. The resort attracted black people from other Colorado cities as well as from across the country. Although Lincoln Hills was clearly a unique response to racist exclusion, the African Americans who came to Lincoln Hills, either as property owners, week-long lodgers, day visitors, or summer campers, were also part of a developing national tourism industry that lured thousands of middle-class Americans to bucolic western vistas, including many in the Rocky Mountain West.

Lincoln Hills, established during a particularly grim era for American blacks, expressed a determined and defiant African American claim to middle-class respectability in the face of a racist white supremacy that regularly denied blacks access to the employment, housing, education, and amusements – and in some cases even the marital partners – of their own choice. Indeed, it was a white supremacy, written and unwritten, spoken and unspoken, that attempted to deny African Americans not only the rights and privileges of U.S. citizenship, but also their humanity.

And so in 1932 it was indeed fitting that Dr. Clarence and Fairfax Holmes invited his fellow Cosmopolitan Club members to Lincoln Hills to partake of the resort's breathtaking views while discussing the works of Langston Hughes, one of the most celebrated writers and playwrights of the Harlem Renaissance. For Lincoln Hills, at once a site for outdoor recreation and socializing, was also a place in which African Americans were able to affirm their humanity and ingenuity, and to stake a claim to the equality and respectability so routinely denied them.

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<sup>4</sup> A note on the term "race." The body of scientific evidence today denies the existence of biologically distinct "races." Therefore, I do not use the word "race" to denote biological difference, but as shorthand to express the very real privileges and burdens experienced by groups of people based on the meaning and value attributed to their skin color or racial categorization by legal, political, social, and other institutions.

**DAILY NEWS**  
 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15  
**THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

The discontented ones who have suffered defeat at the last election are, we understand, making preparations to oppose the admission of Colorado by the next Congress. Among our eastern exchanges, nearly all are in favor of our admission; some, however, are disposed to object. These are confined to the most radical, who were displeas'd with the vote given against negro suffrage at the election when the Constitution was adopted. This question of negro suffrage has been very little agitated, and the popular feeling upon the measure could be completely revolutionized by a little systematic effort and discussion. At the recent speech made in this city by the Detourner orator, the large and attentive audience all voted in favor of according the right of suffrage to the speaker. In this audience alone there were nearly as many voters as there were ballots cast in favor of negro suffrage at the Constitutional election.

All that is necessary to secure the prompt admission of Colorado by Congress, will be the ratification of the Constitutional Amendment abolishing slavery. As there will be a majority for the Union party in both branches of our Legislature, this will be an easy matter, and one that should first engage its attention. Let this be done at the earliest opportunity, and our admission is certain. To show how much is depending upon our action in this matter, we append the following from the Philadelphia North American:

"In the last Congress an amendment to the national Constitution was proposed and adopted, so far as Congress has any power to do so. By the Constitution itself, the consent of three-fourths of the States is required to any such alteration. As the object of this amendment was nothing less than the prohibition of slavery forever within the boundaries of the Republic, the friends of the Administration made its ratification the leading feature of the ensuing canvass. Their national convention boldly presented it to the country as the most conspicuous feature of their platform, the Democratic convention dodging the question entirely. As the people endorsed the principle at the election, the Republican majorities in the several States proceeded to ratify the amendment.

"Twenty-seven States must do so before the amendment can be incorporated in the Constitution. Twenty-four States have already done so. Kentucky, New Jersey and Delaware being in Democratic hands, refused to follow suit. Delaware we cannot change at present, and therefore she must not be looked to. Kentucky was carried at the election recently against the ratification of the amendment, but the adverse majority is small, and the Administration still has hopes of the State Legislature ratifying the amendment. In New Jersey a very active canvass has been waged this fall, in which the ratification of the amendment is the leading issue, and if the Republicans should succeed, as it is now believed they will the consent of the State will be promptly obtained. Colorado has organized a State government, and will be submitted at the ensuing session of Congress, when of course her Legislature will ratify the amendment.

Should Colorado, New Jersey and Kentucky ratify, then the required twenty-seven states will have given their consent. But President Johnson has given the Southern reconstructionists to understand that he should expect their States to ratify the constitutional amendment, and this they have professed to do. Thus far, however, none of them have done so, and the country is beginning to look forward anxiously to the meeting of their various legislatures. That of Mississippi is now in session, and ought soon to be heard from on this question. The southern delegations were all clearly informed that unless they ratified this amendment there would be but little use in presenting their claims for recognition or admission, and they are very well aware of the fact, though the Northern Democrats have done, and are still doing their best to deceive them as to the tone and temper of the majority of the next Congress, and especially to manufacture strong objections to the wording of the latter portion of the proposed amendment. We cannot disguise from ourselves that there is danger of these pernicious teachings being powerful for evil, but still we are hopeful.

## 1 / Before Lincoln Hills: Race and Racism in Early Colorado Black Male Suffrage Prohibited

### Citation

“The Constitutional Amendment,” *Rocky Mountain Daily News*, November 18, 1865. Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library.

### Excerpt

The discontented ones who have suffered defeat at the last election are, we understand, making preparations to oppose the admission of Colorado by the next Congress. Among our eastern exchanges, nearly all are in favor of our admission; some, however, are disposed to object. These are confined to the most radical, who were displeased with the vote given against negro suffrage at the election when the Constitution was adopted. This question of negro suffrage has been very little agitated, and the popular feeling upon the measure could be completely revolutionized by a little systematic effort and discussion. At the recent speech made in this city by the Octoroon orator, the large and attentive audience all voted in favor of according the right of suffrage to the speaker. In this audience alone there were nearly as many voters as there were ballots in favor of negro suffrage at the Constitutional election.

### Annotation

Understanding the ways in which both law and social practices made “race” in Colorado from its earliest days as a federal territory is key to understanding the context in which the Lincoln Hills resort was conceived, advertised, and built during the 1920s. In February, 1861, just two months before the outbreak of the Civil War, a United States Congress dominated by northern lawmakers established the Colorado Territory. By that February, the new Republican party – scarcely six years old but determined to stop the spread of slavery into new western territories like Colorado – enjoyed a congressional majority and had also captured the White House after a heated presidential election catapulted Abraham Lincoln to the presidency despite the fact that he had not won a single electoral vote from a southern slave state. By the time of Lincoln’s inauguration in March, 1861, just one month after Congress approved Colorado’s territorial petition, seven southern states had seceded from the United States and formed the Confederate States of America. Four more would follow in the next several months.

The Colorado Territory was born amidst the explosive national issues of black slavery and black freedom. Although pro-Union sentiment dominated the new territory, Colorado’s territorial legislators were not champions of racial equality. In 1864, lawmakers approved a statute that denied “Negro and mulatto” men the right to vote (they also prohibited intermarriage between whites and “Negroes and mulattos”). The same year, delegates to a territorial constitutional convention drafted a proposed Colorado state constitution. The statehood process was a long and highly politicized process that left the ultimate question of statehood to the U.S. Congress, requiring Congress to approve a territory’s proposed constitution as well as its statehood petition. In the Colorado Territory, the battle over black voting

rights had become thoroughly enmeshed in the efforts of a determined group of boosters to achieve statehood.

Before the matter reached Congress, however, Colorado's statehood boosters suffered a setback in 1864 when the territory's white male voters rejected the proposed constitution, for reasons that did not involve the black suffrage issue. Meanwhile, a determined group of African American men in Denver, including William J. Hardin, Edward Sanderlin, and Henry O. Wagoner, lobbied state and national politicians as well as influential newspaper editors to condemn the territory's black suffrage ban.

In November, 1865, Colorado's lawmakers submitted both a new proposed constitution and the issue of black male voting rights in the territory to a public vote. Voters approved the new constitution and prohibited black suffrage. Two weeks after the election, the *Rocky Mountain Daily News* warned its readers that opponents of Colorado statehood planned to use the territory's anti-black suffrage law to secure Congress' rejection of statehood for the territory. The paper characterized statehood opponents as being among "the most radical who were displeased with the vote given against negro suffrage at the election when the Constitution was adopted." The *News* also advised that an organized and strategic campaign might resolve the suffrage issue in Colorado, and observed with favor a recent speech by a supporter of black male suffrage. The newspaper also used the now archaic term, "octoroon" to note the speaker's race. The term octoroon referred to a person who whites considered black due to having at least one black great-grandparent in the family lineage.

In a twist, Congress enfranchised the territory's black males almost ten years before it approved statehood for Colorado. In 1867, two years after the Civil War ended with the Union's victory over Gen. Robert E. Lee's Confederate forces, reform-minded Republicans were firmly in control of both the U.S. Congress and post-Civil War Reconstruction policies that were designed to ensure a measure of legal and political equality to African Americans. That year Congress, well aware of the Colorado Territory prohibition against black suffrage thanks to the lobbying efforts of black Coloradans, approved the Territorial Suffrage Act. The statute made color-based voting prohibitions illegal in all U.S. territories, including Colorado. Nine years later, Congress approved statehood for Colorado, making it the 36<sup>th</sup> state in the Union on August 1, 1876.





Ch. 61.]

CIVIL RIGHTS.

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at the end of each day, to pay to the city treasurer Clerk pay moneys to treasurer. all moneys received by him, for fines and penalties, and the said city treasurer shall execute triplicate receipts for the sums thus paid, one copy of which receipts, accompanied by a detailed statement, showing the amount of fines imposed and collected in each case, verified by the clerk and attested by the police magistrate, shall, within five days, be filed with the city auditor, and a like receipt and statement shall be filed with the city treasurer.

Sec. 9. Whereas, in the opinion of the General Assembly, an emergency exists; therefore, this act shall be in force and take effect from and after its passage.

Approved April 13, 1895.

CHAPTER 61.

CIVIL RIGHTS.

AN ACT

(R. B. 175, by Mr. Stuart.)

TO PROTECT ALL CITIZENS IN THEIR CIVIL AND LEGAL RIGHTS, FIXING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THE SAME, AND TO REPEAL AN ACT ENTITLED, "AN ACT TO PROTECT ALL CITIZENS IN THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS," APPROVED APRIL 4, 1888.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

Section 1. That all persons within the jurisdiction of said State shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of inns, restaurants, eating houses, barbershops, public conveyances on land or water, theaters, and all other places of public accommodation and amusement, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all citizens.

Sec. 2. That any person who shall violate any of the provisions of the foregoing section by denying

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to any citizen, except for reasons applicable alike to all citizens of every race and color, and regardless of color or race, the full enjoyment of any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges in said section enumerated, or by aiding or inciting such denial, shall for every such offence forfeit and pay a sum of not less than fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500) to the person aggrieved thereby; to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction in the county where said offence was committed; and shall also for every such offence be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor; and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined in any sum not less than ten dollars (\$10), or more than three hundred dollars (\$300), or shall be imprisoned not more than one year, or both; and, Provided further, That a judgment in favor of the party aggrieved, or punishment upon an indictment or information shall be a bar to either prosecution, respectively.

Sec. 3. Justices of the peace in the County where the offence is committed shall have jurisdiction in all civil actions brought under this act to recover damages, to the extent of the jurisdiction of justices of the peace to recover a money demand in other actions, as fixed by law, and either party shall have the right to have the cause tried by jury and to appeal from the judgment of the justice, in the same manner as in other civil suits.

Sec. 4. When such action shall be brought originally before a justice of the peace and an appeal taken from the judgment of the justice to the county court, such court to which the appeal is taken shall, upon the trial de novo of such appeal have jurisdiction to render a judgment for a sum exceeding the jurisdiction of the justice, in the same manner as though such suit had originally been begun in such county court: Provided, That the plaintiff shall, within thirty (30) days after the Transcript is filed in the county court to which the appeal is taken, file his complaint in such case in the same manner as in

Forfeit to person aggrieved.

Misdemeanor.

Fine and imprisonment. PROVISION.

Jurisdiction of justice of peace.

Trial by jury.

Appeal.

Jurisdiction of county court.

The complainant

## **2 / Before Lincoln Hills: Race and Racism in Early Colorado Equal Access to All - Colorado Civil Rights Law**

### **Citation**

The Colorado Civil Rights Law - Colorado Session Laws, Tenth Session, 1895, Ch. 61. Civil Rights, pp. 139-141

### **Excerpt**

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

Section 1. That all persons within the jurisdiction of said State shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of inns, restaurants, eating houses, barbershops, public conveyances on land or water, theaters, and all other places of public accommodation and amusement, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all citizens.

Section 2. That any person who shall violate any of the provisions of the foregoing section by denying to any citizen, except for reasons applicable alike to all citizens of every race and color, and regardless of color or race, the full enjoyment of any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges in said section [innumeration], or by aiding or inciting such denial, shall for every such offense forfeit and pay a sum of not less than fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500) to the person aggrieved thereby, to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction in the county where said offence was committed; and shall also for every such offence be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor; and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined in any sum not less than ten dollars (\$10), or more than three hundred dollars (\$300), or shall be imprisoned not more than one year, or both; and, Provided further, that a judgment in favor of the party aggrieved, or punishment upon an indictment or information shall be a bar to either prosecution, respectively.

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### **Annotation**

National and regional politics during the 1890s combined to present black Coloradans with an opportunity to re-write a chapter in state race relations with the passage of a major piece of civil rights legislation. In 1895, Joseph Stuart, an African American lawyer and Republican who represented Arapahoe County in the Colorado state legislature, successfully sponsored a bill that guaranteed Coloradans “of every race and color” equal access to establishments open to the general public, including “inns, restaurants, barbershops, public conveyances, theaters...and all other places of public accommodation and amusement.” At the time, the legislature did not create a state agency to enforce the law’s provisions, but left it to the individual complaining of discrimination to bring a lawsuit before a local justice of the peace.

It should be noted that two years prior to the state legislature's passage of the "Civil Rights Law" – as its supporters continued to call it well into the twentieth century – Colorado's male voters approved a women's suffrage ballot measure. Both the 1895 public accommodations law and the 1893 women's suffrage bill were beneficiaries of a surging western populist movement. During the 1890s, a bad economy made worse by the collapse of the national silver market in silver-rich Colorado contributed to the growth of a strong and organized populist movement in western states, including Colorado. As western populists challenged the growing economic and political might of the railroad, banking and other industries, many reached out to form alliances with other marginalized groups, including African Americans and women suffragists.

However, the 1895 civil rights law was difficult to enforce, and segregation – whether by law ("Jim Crow") or by custom – became the rule across much of the United States after the end of post-Civil War Reconstruction. In Colorado, white politicians and business owners routinely ignored the equal access statute, as did the owners of the recreational resorts that were beginning to spring up in the mountains just west of Denver. Still, many black Coloradans were keenly aware of the oft-ignored law, and as the twentieth century approached, were determined to win its enforcement.



# BLOOD WILL BE DRAWN IN COURT TO PROVE THAT WOMAN IS NEGRESS

Mrs. Nora Frazier, Believed by Everybdoy to Be White, Arrested for Marrying Negro, Insists She Is Octoroon and Offers Blood as Test.

Blood-letting will take place in the municipal court tomorrow morning, if Judge Benjamin F. Stapleton will permit it. Blood will be drawn and analyzed in open court as evidence, if the wishes of a woman defendant are granted.

Mrs. Nora Harrington Frazier, who says she is an octoroon, demands that her blood be analyzed to prove that she is a negress. If the blood test proves her contention, she will go free; if not, she will pay a fine or serve a sentence. She offers her blood as the test.

Ten days ago Mrs. Frazier appeared at the marriage license office with Frank Frazier, a coal black negro, and the two asked for a marriage license. The license was denied on the ground that Mrs. Frazier was a white woman and her companion a negro. The law of Colorado prohibits the intermarriage of the two races. Mrs. Frazier offered to make oath that she was a negress, claiming to be an octoroon. Still she was refused.

The services of James A. Harris, an attorney, formerly of Tennessee, were then

invoked and Mr. Harris convinced the marriage license department that his client was a negress. He had her bare her neck and he showed dark blotches at the root of her hair on the back of her neck. Then he had Frazier press her fingers at the root of the nails. They turned black. He offered to have the marriage license clerk rub the spinal column of Mrs. Frazier, which, he asserted, would turn black, but the marriage license officers were satisfied, the license was issued and the marriage performed. Then she was arrested on a charge of miscegenation.

Judge Stapleton has indicated that he would require substantial proof to satisfy him that Mrs. Frazier is a negress before he discharged her.

Attorney Harris tomorrow will have a surgeon present and the police surgeon will also be present on behalf of the city, and if Judge Stapleton will permit it blood will be drawn in open court and the analysis made in the judge's presence.

Modern surgeons say they can tell upon the examination of the blood whether or not there is any negro blood in one's veins.



### 3 / Before Lincoln Hills: Race and Racism in Early Colorado

## The Trial of Mrs. Nora Frazier

#### Citation

“Blood will be drawn in court to prove that woman is Negress,” *Denver Post*, August 18, 1913. Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library.

#### Excerpt

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#### Annotation

In addition to racial discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations, during the first half of the twentieth century, black Coloradans also faced discrimination in their most intimate relationships. Colorado’s lone Jim Crow law criminalized marriages between white persons and “Negroes or mulattos.” The Colorado territorial legislature first approved the legal prohibition in 1864, the same year in which the legislature denied black men voting rights. In recognition of the addition of land to Colorado’s land base that resulted from the U.S. victory in the Mexican-American War in 1848, the legislature made the marriage ban applicable to Denver, the Front Range and east to the Kansas border, but exempted that part of the state that had been acquired from Mexico in the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

In 1913, Nora Harrington Frazier, found herself on trial in Denver, accused of marrying a black man, Frank Frazier. Mrs. Frazier's attorney rested his defense on his light-skinned client's claim to be an "octoroon" – a person with one-eighth black ancestry. The Denver magistrate who heard the case was Benjamin Stapleton, Denver's future mayor and namesake of the now defunct Stapleton International Airport, which has been redeveloped as a residential neighborhood and is still referred to as Stapleton. There do not appear to be any published reports on the outcome of the Frazier trial.<sup>5</sup> However, almost 30 years after the *Denver Post* reported on Mrs. Frazier's trial, the Colorado Supreme Court upheld the legality of the state's interracial marriage ban in the case of *Jackson et al v. City and County of Denver* (1942).

The Frazier trial, which was also noted in at least one black New York newspaper with a national readership, highlighted the intersection of race, racist belief, and law. Although every western state legislature banned interracial marriage at some point, Colorado's was unique in that its prohibitions were limited to white-black marriages. The marriage bans in other western states included prohibitions on marriages between whites and a host of Asian nationalities, and less frequently, between whites and Native Americans. No matter the scope of the marital ban, at the heart of these statutes lay a commitment to preserving the "purity" of a state's white population by proscribing marriages between white persons and "other" races, and by inference, preventing state-sanctioned procreation. In this context, it is crucial to note that state marital bans never banned marriages between peoples of color, only between whites and peoples of color. In reality of course, in Colorado, as elsewhere across the United States, these laws did not prevent sex between the races, nor did they prevent the conception and birth of mixed-race babies.

Although the *Post* did not follow up this story to tell readers whether Mrs. Frazier was subjected to a blood test, any conclusion as to Mrs. Frazier's "race" based on such a test would be rejected out of hand today. Even modern DNA testing, clearly not available in 1913, cannot determine "race;" such testing can reveal genetic markers that are unique to various geographic regions.

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<sup>5</sup> In Colorado, rulings issued by the state Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal are published; however opinions issued by trial judges, or as in the Nora Frazier case, trial magistrates, are not published.





# The Denver Star

The papers formerly known as The Statesman and The Independent, have been merged into The Denver Star

TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR. Number 3

DENVER, COLORADO, SATURDAY, SEPT. 26, 1923

FIVE CENTS A COPY

## A. C. Cash, Chief Organizer Of The American Woodmen.

Has Wonderful Chance to put Denver on Woodmen Map. Strong Insurance Company Backs Him Up.

A. C. Cash, who came to our city some ten years ago, has made himself felt as an organizer. When the True Reformers were in their halcyon days, when Denver could boast of ten fountains, when all the leading business, professional and tradesmen were connected with that organization, the fraternal spirit and enthusiasm was at its highest point in Denver. The American Woodmen, having carefully scrutinized Mr. Cash's church record at Zion Baptist church and after making such



A. C. CASH.

other necessary investigations as they deemed proper and sufficient, hired him to do for them what he did for a foreign fraternal society. The Star feels proud of the American Woodmen, because its headquarters are in Denver, because it is of Negro brain and business acumen and has met the conditions of every Southern State Insurance Department and, further, because only recently it bought \$50,000 worth of Denver bonds. We are proud of Mr. Cash because he has a genius for organization and has made good along his line. We, therefore, take great pleasure in introducing the new fraternal organization formally to our readers and patrons. May you know them better and in turn may they know you better.

Why should men be valued according to accident of generation? This condition is certainly a lapse to barbarism deeper than any imagine. Men should not be condemned racially but individually.

The world shall learn that it is not the race but the spirit; not the constitution of blood or color of skin, but conduct that differentiates between men.—Rabbi Hirsch.

The toad beneath the harrow knows precisely where each sharp tooth goes.—Old Proverb.

## In Memoriam.



Mrs. Ida D. Bailey died at Washington D. C., Feb. 5, 1908. Noble and brave hearted, race-loyal, true to principle, race-loyal, devoted race woman. None have yet come to fully fill her place in the struggle of colored Americans for freedom in the land of their birth—needed more now than ever as color line reaches Congress. The farewell message of Mrs. Bailey to Colored Americans:

"I leave this message for those who love me:  
Live for God.  
Give your heart to Him and your life, if need be, for the emancipation of the Negro race in this land of his birth.  
Fight race discrimination.  
Lead a hand to Monroe Trotter; hold up his hands, for if you don't agree with all his methods, you know he is honest in this question. Hold up his hands.  
God hates a coward; be brave men; be brave women.  
I shall not rest in heaven, but look down from above, if I can, and continue my interest.  
God bless my poor race, and lead them on through this wilderness.



C. A. BURTON  
Prominent Odd Fellow.

The original as District Grand Master of the Odd Fellows continues the Patriarchal degree as delivered Master John F. Dyer of Silver Lake, Idaho, Montana. The service was very impressive.

## Denver Needs A Vigilance Committee.

### A Call To Arms.

There is scarcely a community in the U. S. where a group of colored reside that ought to have its vigilance committee; some have them. Sometimes this committee is organized and has a name indicating its function. Sometimes it is organized for other purposes and becomes a vigilance committee on occasion. In other cases the committee has no regular organization or membership; it springs into being on occasion, but consists of approximately the same group of persons from year to year. The work of these vigilance committees is to protect the colored people in their several communities from aggression. The aggression takes form of hostile laws, ordinances, curtailment of civil rights, new racial discrimination, overt or over severe enforcement of the law, curtailment of opportunities, etc. Sometimes this aggression is but the careless act of thoughtless folk and needs but a word in season to correct it. More often it is a part of that persistent underground campaign centering largely among white Americans of Southern birth, which is determined to so trench the color caste in the U. S. as to make it impossible for any person of Negro blood to be more than a mesial. Against both sorts of racial aggression organized effort is necessary. Many thoughtful colored people have sought to avoid this: to act independently and to refuse to meet organization by organization. This in most cases has been found impossible. The blows of racial and color prejudice fall alike on all, rich and poor, educated and ignorant and all must stand together and fight. The methods of these vigilance committees are various. The simplest action is the appointment of a committee of one or more to call on some official or person of influence; issue this action extends to letters and the press, pamphlets, legislative hearings, mass meetings, petitions, etc. In a few cases threats and violence have been attempted, but these are at present exceptional. From this procedure on the part of tens of thousands of largely isolated groups much actual good has been done and much experience accumulated. The time is now evidently at hand to find and pool this nationwide experience and to synthesize it into a scattered local effort into steady, persistent and unceasing progress. As it is, unorganized local effort loses much time and energy re-organizing for every new subject; organized local efforts lack experience and knowledge of similar action elsewhere. Henceforth we must act together and we must fight continuously.

The object of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to induct local committees among colored people in every community in the U. S.; to co-ordinate their activities, to exchange experiences and to concentrate the application of funds where the need is the greatest.—May Cass. In Denver such an important organization is greatly needed. Tents along our public streets, these signs are printed and irregularly displayed with the greatest ineptitude. "We cater to white people only," is the colored theater. "Colored made not wanted," is the Park theater, a block apart on Curtis street, around the corner on 15th street below Champa street, "White People's Restaurant," in the next block above on Champa, "Nigger head bullets," with a picture of a black face painted on a lump of coal. All this discrimination within a radius of two blocks along the thoroughfare of our city. What are we doing about it? What are we going to do about it? The answer is to form the above committee and do as directed by Dr. Dalton and meet organization with organization. They organize a local branch of this Crisis society here. We, in Colorado are in the greatest light of our lives; we must fight to retain our civil rights, citizenship and political rights. Every day, new aggressions are made against us and we must either fight together or fight apart. The Star says organize systematically with good, substantial, cool-headed men of honor and integrity at the head. Enlarge the political, the teacher, the gather and the voluntary-seeker. Organize for business and then do it. The People's Sunday Alliance has a meeting at 2335 W. 15th street, Sept. 21. Let this meeting be a nucleus for the Vigilance Committee.

## Interesting News Concerning the Race.

### SOLDIERS MISTREATED IN THE PHILIPPINES

Members of 24th Infantry, Compelled to Labor Daily, Including Sunday—Work with Picks and Shovels in Mud and Water—White Soldiers Exempt from Hardships.

Special to The New York Age.

It is asserted by soldiers of the 24th Regiment, U. S. Infantry, stationed at this point, that they are the victims of racial discrimination and injustice, in that they are relieved from soldier's regular duty and compelled to labor every day, including Sundays, with picks and shovels in the mud and water. It is also said that their tents are pitched in swamps where the water flows under the cots, and that the soldiers have to tie their shoes to the cot legs to keep them from washing away.

This regiment has been stationed here for three months and during that time have had to work night and day during some periods. The white soldiers are not required to do this work and some of them sit around and jeer and ridicule the Negro soldiers at work in the mud. There are 1,200 native prisoners at this station, and when the rain starts they are taken in. The native prisoners it is said, frequently ask the Negro soldiers if they are prisoners, and want to know why they have to work in the rain.

Conditions for the Negro soldier at this station are getting worse every day. The food is plentiful, but is half cooked, and hardly more than slops. The soldiers are faithful and willing and are trying to do their duty under these adverse circumstances, but they feel very keenly the humiliating discrimination from which they are suffering.

### Negro Girl's Big Tax.

A Negro girl ten years old will pay the largest income tax in Oklahoma. Sarah Rector, who lives just west of Muskogee, has an income of more than \$112,000 a year.

It is the old story of the lucky allottee and the oil well. Sarah is the descendant of a freedman. She had nothing to do with the selection of her allotment and probably has never seen it, and does not know where it is. But it is 200 acres of land and upon it has been drilled the biggest producing well in the mid-continent field. This is what is known as the Jones Gusher, near the town of Cushing. The well is producing more than \$1,500 a day, and Sarah gets one-eighth as her share.

### Army, Navy and Post Office Service May Not Have Any More Negroes.

At a caucus of Democratic congressman, Friday night, to decide on the patronage policy, it was voted to dismiss all the Negro employes at the Capitol, and give their places to white men. This is to include the barbers and waiters, who are employed at the Capitol building and in the Senate and House Office building, as well as the messengers and laborers. From time immemorial the Negro barber and waiter have had undisputed monopoly of the barbering in the Senate and House barber shops, and of the waiting in the Senate and House cafes. These are, however, to be dismissed and white men put in their positions.

During the caucus one Southern Democratic congressman referring to places held Negroes which, in his opinion should be filled by whites, proclaimed that the Negroes are all Republicans, and I never in my life saw a nigger Democrat. This statement is regarded here as a slam at the democracy of Bishop Walters and his coterie of alleged Negro Democrats who supported the election of President Wilson.

In consequence of the Democratic caucus decision to make a clean sweep of Negroes employed by Congress there is consternation among the several hundred of these employed, many of whom have gray in the service. That it will work a hardship is known, but the Southern Democrat is in the saddle here, and he is rapidly recovering all he ought to preserve, and all the Northerners fought in the Civil War to take from him. It is but a question of a short time, it is believed, when this same Democratic anti-race policy will extend Negro Civil Service employes. Already one young colored woman has been dismissed from the Bureau of Printing and Engraving for refusing to accept an aside by the segregation rules, and three Negro male clerks in the Treasury Department were threatened with dismissal if they again used other than the jim-crow toilet rooms.

### Clarence E. Langston Leaves The Star.

Mr. Clarence E. Langston, who on March 15th of this year became our manager, tendered his resignation this week to become effective Saturday 20. Mr. Langston has been an industrious, energetic and self-sacrificing young man working for the interest of the company and materially helping the company during his connection, all of which the company sincerely appreciates. In consequence of his action, we are now notifying the public and patrons of the severance.

The Denver Star



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## A Call To Arms.

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The object of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to federate local committees among colored people in every community in the U. S.; to co-ordinate their activities, to exchange experiences and to concentrate the application of funds where the need is the greatest.— May Crisis. In Denver such an important organization is greatly needed. Today along our public streets these signs are printed and impudently displayed with the greatest impunity. "We cater to white people only," at the Colonial theatre; "Colored trade not wanted," at the Paris theatre, a block apart on Curtis street; around the corner on 18th street below Champa street, "White Peoples' Restaurant;" in the next block above on Champa, "Nigger head bullets," with a picture of a black face painted on a lump of coal. All this discrimination within a radius of two blocks along the thoroughfares of our city. What are we doing about it? What are we going to do about it? The answer is to form the above committee and do as directed as by Dr. DuBois and meet organization with organization. Then organize a local branch of that Crisis society here. We, in Colorado are in the greatest fight of our lives; we must fight to retain our civil rights, citizenship and political rights. Every day new aggressions are made against us and we must either fight together or fight apart. The Star says organize systematically with good substantial, cool-headed men of honor and integrity at the head: Eschew this politician, the truckler, the grafter and the notoriety-seeker. Organize for business and then do it. The Peoples' Sunday Alliance has a meeting at 2630 Welton street, Sept. 21. Let this meeting be a nucleus for the Vigilance Committee.

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## 4 / Before Lincoln Hills: Race and Racism in Early Colorado A Demand for Justice

### Citation

“Denver Needs a Vigilance Committee: A Call to Arms,” *Denver Star*, September 20, 1913, Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library.

### Excerpt

“There is scarcely a community in the U.S. where a group of colored reside that ought [not] to have its vigilance committee...The work of these vigilance committee is to protect the colored people in their several communities from aggression. The aggression takes for of hostile laws, ordinances, curtailment of civil rights, new racial discrimination, overtax or over severe enforcement of the law, curtailment of opportunities, etc. Sometimes this aggression is but the careless act of thoughtless folk and needs but a word in season to correct it. More often it is a part of the persistent underground campaign centering largely among white Americans of southern birth, which is determine[d] to so entrench the color caste in the U.S. as to make it impossible for any person of Negro blood to be more than a menial. Against both sorts of racial aggression organized effort is necessary. Many thoughtful colored people have sought to avoid this: to act independently and to refuse to meet organization by organization. This in most cases has been found impossible. The blows of racial and color prejudice fall alike on all, rich and poor, education and ignorant and all must stand together and fight...

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## Annotation

In 1913, the *Denver Star*, one of two leading black Denver newspapers, charged that so many of the city's stores, restaurants, and places of amusement were denying entry to African Americans in violation of the 1895 state civil rights law that it called for the creation of a local branch of the "crisis committee," also known as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). An interracial group of civil rights activists had founded the NAACP in New York in 1910, after outbreaks of white mob violence in northern cities. The national organization, with satellites in Washington D.C. Baltimore, Detroit, Kansas City, and St. Louis, planned to use litigation to challenge racial segregation. During the next several decades, the NAACP became the United States' leading and most successful civil rights organization. Noted intellectual, historian, sociologist, and civil rights advocate, W.E.B. Du Bois, became the editor of the NAACP journal, *The Crisis*. The journal published some of the most acclaimed social critiques, poetry, and fiction in twentieth century American literature.

The *Denver Star's* demand for the establishment of a "crisis committee" was a call to establish a local Denver branch of the NAACP. The *Star* argued that the attentions of such a committee were needed to combat "hostile laws...curtailment of civil rights, new racial discrimination" and "curtailment of opportunities..." In support of its demand, the paper cited signs posted by businesses that advertised "We cater to white people only," and "Colored trade not wanted."

In 1915, two years after the *Denver Star's* entreaty for its creation, the Denver branch of the NAACP was founded – among its primary tasks: to gain enforcement of the 1895 "Civil Rights Law." One of its founders, Denver native Clarence Holmes – at the time a young dental student at Howard University in Washington D.C. – would later become a cabin owner in the Lincoln Hills resort.



NEWS MARKET REPORTS BEST financial and market news obtained every morning in The News more completely than any other newspaper in the Mountain territory.

# THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

COLORADO'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

FOR YOUR SUNDAY DINNER! Choice of everything for the table will be found in the announcements of leading stores on The News market basket page Saturday.

VOL. LXII: NO. 188.

DENVER, COLO., FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1921.—14 PAGES.

# NEGRO HOME BOMBED BY AUTOISTS

## IRISH LEADERS WAIVE DEMAND FOR REPUBLIC

Peace Terms Will Call for Dominion Home Rule and Central Parliament at Dublin.

## PROBLEM IS BELIEVED MUCH NEARER SOLUTION

Vast Difficulties Remain to Be Removed at Coming Conference.

By Associated Press  
LONDON, July 7.—The Irish leaders, who met in London today, have agreed to waive their demand for a republic and to accept the terms of the Anglo-Irish treaty. The agreement was reached after a long and difficult conference. The Irish leaders, including Mr. De Valera, Mr. Collins, and Mr. MacDonagh, have agreed to accept the terms of the treaty, which provides for a dominion home rule and a central parliament at Dublin. The agreement is a significant step towards the solution of the Irish problem, but it is believed that many difficulties remain to be removed at the coming conference.

## Leading Features IN THE SUNDAY NEWS

**JOHN THORNTON**—The news of the day is the Anglo-Irish treaty, which provides for a dominion home rule and a central parliament at Dublin. The agreement is a significant step towards the solution of the Irish problem, but it is believed that many difficulties remain to be removed at the coming conference.

## WOMAN SEIZED ON TRAIN FOR KIDNAPING HERE

Mrs. Madge Edge Arrested at McCook With Daughter Sprung Away From Home in Auto.

## COURT HAD GIVEN CHILD INTO CUSTODY OF FATHER

Three-Year-Old Girl Seized as Captors Drag Her Into Machine in Denver.

Denver, July 7.—A woman was seized on a train here today for kidnaping a three-year-old girl. The woman, Mrs. Madge Edge, was arrested at McCook, Mo., with her daughter. The girl was seized as captors dragged her into a machine in Denver. The court had given the child into the custody of her father.

## GETTING ALL MUSSUED UP



## 'Healer' to Light Vast Bonfire of 'Devil's Devices'

Collection of Crutches, Braces, Tobacco and Cards Will Be Publicly Burned.

By Helen Black  
A large bonfire of sticks will be a prominent feature of the anti-vice campaign, starting today, in the city of Denver. The collection of crutches, braces, tobacco and cards will be publicly burned. The bonfire is being organized by the anti-vice league.

## GILPIN STREET BLAST FOLLOWS WHITE'S THREAT

Explosion Shatters Windows and Tears Hole in Lanes; Residents in Panic.

## HOUSE RECENTLY BOUGHT BY COLORED MAN AND WIFE

Victims Were Warned That Place Would Be Blown Up if They Reneged.

Residents near 1221 Olive street were startled and alarmed yesterday night by a blast which shattered windows and tore a hole in the lane. The explosion followed a threat by a man and his wife that they would blow up the house if they were not allowed to live there. The man and his wife are colored people.

## HARDING SEEKS DELAY ON SOLDIERS' BONUS

Congress Expected to Oppose War Department's Plan to Postpone Payment.

Washington, July 7.—President Harding today sought to delay the payment of the bonus to World War veterans. The president's plan is to postpone the payment until after the next session of Congress. The War Department has proposed to pay the bonus immediately. The president's plan is expected to meet with opposition in Congress.

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## Water Supply Low, Sprinkling Banned

Lawns and Gardens Must Be Dry for Day or So, Says Manager of W. P. S. Mills.

Denver, July 7.—The city manager today announced that the water supply is so low that sprinkling is banned. The manager said that the water supply is so low that the water must be conserved. The manager said that the water supply is so low that the water must be conserved.

## MIX WILL RIDE TONY INTO CAPITOL TODAY

The News Will Introduce Him to Congress; Many Seats Are Planned.

Washington, July 7.—The news today will introduce Tony into the Capitol. The news will introduce Tony into the Capitol. The news will introduce Tony into the Capitol.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Harding seeks delay on soldiers' bonus. Page 1  
Water supply low, sprinkling banned. Page 1  
Mix will ride Tony into Capitol today. Page 1  
Another ship missing, pirate theory scouted. Page 1  
Hundreds join to halt Payne pipe in California. Page 1  
Japan kills mother and son. Page 1

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## Another Ship Missing, Pirate Theory Scouted

By Associated Press  
SAN FRANCISCO, July 7.—A search party today was sent to look for a missing ship. The search party was sent to look for a missing ship. The search party was sent to look for a missing ship.

## Hundreds Join to Halt Payne Pipe in California

San Francisco, July 7.—Hundreds of people today joined to halt the Payne pipe in California. The people joined to halt the Payne pipe in California. The people joined to halt the Payne pipe in California.

## Japan Kills Mother and Son

Tokyo, July 7.—Japan today killed a mother and her son. The mother and her son were killed in Japan. The mother and her son were killed in Japan.

## The Way "Out" for Discouraged Men

Most generally lies in the treaty "Roadless Wanted" classified ad.  
Most generally because it encourages direct effort and money and means no longer, class approach with the man least directly...



# GILPIN STREET BLAST FOLLOWS WHITE'S THREAT

Explosion Shatters Windows  
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HOUSE RECENTLY BOUGHT  
BY COLORED MAN AND WIFE

Victims Were Warned That  
Place Would Be Blown Up  
If They Remained.

Residents near 2112 Gilpin street were terrorized and several narrowly missed death or injury when a bomb, believed by the police to have been thrown to intimidate a negro family which recently moved into this residence district, exploded at 10:30 o'clock last night, on the front lawn at that address.

Walter R. Chapman, a government mail carrier here for fifteen years, and his wife, the two colored newcomers in the neighborhood, were sitting in the front room of their new home at 2112 Gilpin street when the bomb went off, shattering the front windows of the house and side windows of that of Adolph Christendom, fifteen feet away, at 2108 Gilpin street. No one was injured.

The bomb, which evidently exploded the moment it struck the ground, tore a hole in the front lawn six feet from the house.

**Bomb Thrown From Auto.**  
Patrolmen Jack Dea, Carl Willmot and C. W. Powers, who were sent to the spot by Police Captain George Merritt, expressed the opinion that the bomb was thrown from an automobile, which probably got well down the street before the explosion occurred. So far as the police could learn, however, no witness saw any machine which might have carried a bomb.

Chapman said that after he bought his new property recently, thru F. R. Ross as agent, from Patrolman Richard Porter, also colored, who was not occupying the house, he was threatened by a white man, who said, "Stay out, of this neighborhood. If you move in here, your house is going to be blown up."

Since then Chapman had not seen this man again and had not been able to learn his name, he said.

Chapman told the police he had reported this alleged intimidation to Manager of Safety Downer, his secretary, Clint Smith, and Chief of Police Williams shortly after this strange man had addressed him.

**Residents Alarmed.**  
Residents for blocks around heard the explosion last night, and for an hour or more telephone lines to the police department and The News were kept busy by inquirers who wanted to know what had happened.

The police were unable to find any pieces of an infernal machine, or home-made bomb, about the damaged Chapman home.

They felt confident, however, that the explosion resulted from a premeditated plan against the property and was caused by either a charge of dynamite or a home-made charge constructed of material which was shattered to atoms with the discharge.

## 5 / Before Lincoln Hills: Race and Racism in Early Colorado House Bombing

### Citation

“Negro Home Bombed by Autoists,” *Rocky Mountain News*, July 8, 1921.<sup>6</sup> Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library.

### Excerpt

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### Annotation

Black people in Denver, the majority of whom were employed as domestic servants and physical laborers during the early decades of the twentieth century, enjoyed a higher standard of living than African Americans in other parts of the country. In 1890, the *Denver Republican* announced that there were more “colored” homeowners in Denver than in “any other Northern city.” In fact, Denver’s small black population nearly doubled between 1900 and 1929, as African Americans moved west not only for the pleasing climate but for greater opportunities.

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<sup>6</sup> While the word “autoist” is unfamiliar to most Americans today, at the time this story was published in the *Rocky Mountain News*, the word was a synonym for “motorist.”



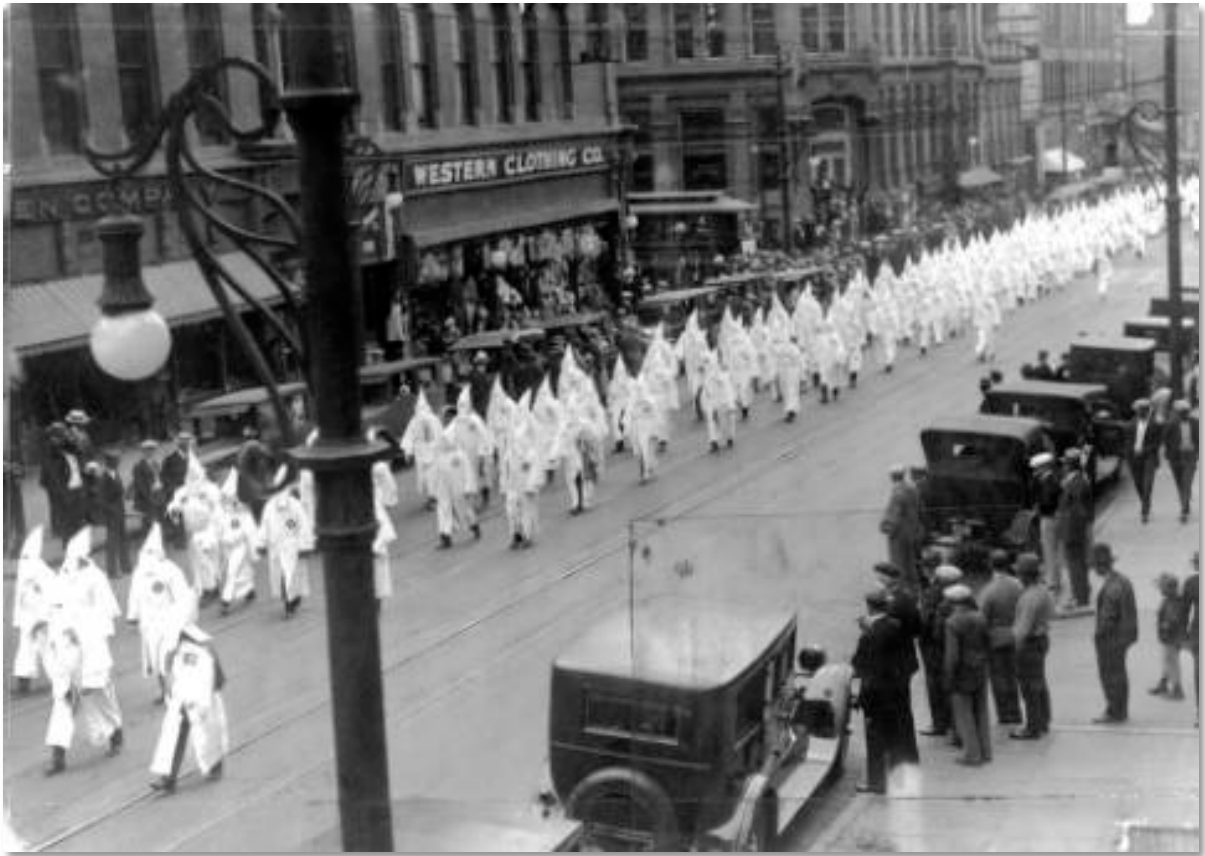
Despite the opportunities Denver presented for African American residents, the city's black homeowners were not free to buy and live wherever they might choose: Denver was a segregated city. During the 1920s, most African Americans in Denver lived in the city's "Negro district" in an area then known as East Denver. Blacks who attempted to buy homes outside of the prescribed Negro district were often targeted with threats of violence, and on occasion, actual violence. On the evening of July 7, 1921, as mail carrier Walter R. Chapman and his wife sat in their front room, the *Rocky Mountain News* reported that a bomb hurled from a moving car left a six foot crater in the Chapman's front yard. Mr. Chapman told the police that after he bought the home on Gilpin Street, east of the city's "color line," a white man approached him and threatened to blow the house up if the couple remained in the neighborhood.

During the 1920s and 1930s, Denver's so-called Negro district extended east of Five Points to High Street; the Platte River marked the western border; and East 21<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Streets marked the district's southern and northern borders respectively. Although Colorado had no law that required racial segregation in housing, in northeast Denver, the Chapmans and other African Americans continually contested the very real residential color line that local realtors, banks, builders, and hostile white homeowners imposed on them, in what became a slow, decades-long eastward advance towards Colorado Boulevard.

Five Points was the heart of the Negro district, a neighborhood that was home to an estimated 80 percent of Denver's black population. The Five Points name reflected the five-way intersection of four streets: Welton Street, Washington Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Although discriminatory mortgage lending policies, restrictive covenants, threats of violence, and acts of violence – as in the case of the Chapmans – had combined to force most African Americans into the neighborhood, "the Points" became a thriving residential, commercial, and cultural hub of immense social diversity, home to wealthy, middle and working-class black people.

The neighborhood was at once a community and a culture that wove together the lives of all its residents, from the most prominent to the most obscure. Five Points residents established and supported their own churches, stores, funeral homes, newspapers, restaurants, and amusements in what many called the "Harlem of the West." Five Points was also a jazz hub, with nationally known venues such as the Rossonian Hotel, Rice's Tap Room and Oven, and Benny Hooper's Casino hosting the top jazz acts of the time, including Duke Ellington, Billy Holiday, and Charlie Parker.

However, as new residential developments mushroomed in response to Denver's post-World War II population boom, African Americans were forced to remain in northeast Denver: the neighborhood's fabulous entertainment venues eventually disappeared, and the homes that had once comfortably housed single black families during the early decades of the century became blighted structures forced to accommodate multiple families.



## 6 / Before Lincoln Hills: Race and Racism in Early Colorado Racism on Parade

### Citation

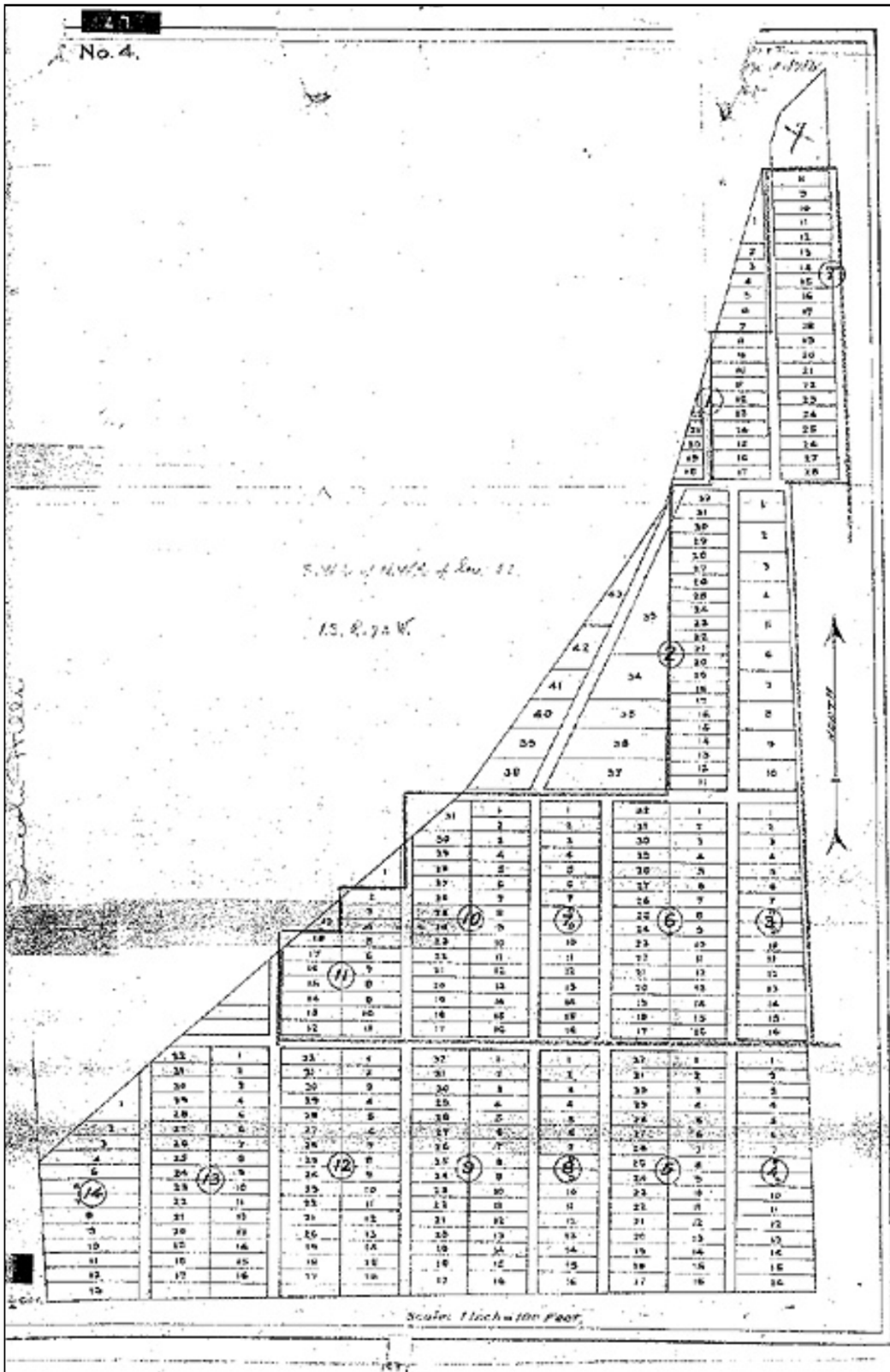
Klansmen parade down Larimer Street, downtown Denver, May 31, 1926. Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library,  
<http://cdm16079.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15330coll22/id/21857>

### Annotation

As the Lincoln Hills Company urged African Americans in Colorado and across the United States to buy lots in its Gilpin County resort, their entreaties were made against a backdrop of an increasingly racist political climate in the state. The Ku Klux Klan dominated Colorado politics during the first half of the 1920s. Cross-burnings and public parades like the one in downtown Denver captured in this photograph were common in 1920s Colorado. From the Western Slope to Denver and the eastern plains, the Klan, waving the banner of “100% Americanism,” targeted African Americans, immigrants, Catholics, and Jews. The Colorado Klan did not employ the terroristic violence of southern Klansmen, but utilized its political influence and popularity to tarnish and isolate its targets with claims of “un-Americanism.”

In 1923, Klan support and money propelled Denver magistrate Benjamin Stapleton to victory in the city’s mayoral election. The following year, the Klan reached the zenith of its power and influence in the Centennial State, as it gained control of the Colorado Republican party and achieved an unprecedented number of victories in the November elections. In 1924, Klan member and Denver judge Clarence Morley won the gubernatorial contest, voters sent Rice Means, another Denver Klan member, to Washington D.C. as the state’s new U.S. senator, and Klan candidates won judicial and legislative seats throughout Colorado. They were particularly successful in the City and County of Denver, where, in addition to the mayor, the Klan claimed the chief of police and a majority of the city council. National Klan officials were so impressed with Colorado Grand Dragon Galen Locke’s successful electoral strategy that just one week after the 1924 fall election, an entourage of top Klan officers descended on Denver, with a phalanx of newspaper and radio reporters in tow.

Although internal power struggles, graft, corruption, and tax evasion charges leveled at Colorado Grand Dragon Galen Locke ended the Klan’s grip on political power by the end of the decade, in the fall of 1924, Colorado’s KKK seemed invincible. That year the *Denver Post* claimed that the Colorado Klan was the “largest, most cohesive, and most efficiently organized political force in the state of Colorado today.”



## 7 / The Lincoln Hills Country Club and Resort Laying out Lincoln Hills

### Citation:

Lincoln Hills Development Company Plat of Lincoln Hills, 1922. Available from Gilpin County Clerk and Recorder's Office, in Kathleen Corbett et al, *Documentation of Historic Properties in the Gilpin Tunnel District, Gilpin County, Colorado* (2009), online at:  
[http://www.co.gilpin.co.us/Auxiliary%20Advisory%20Boards/Historical%20Society/Gilpin%20Tunnel%20Rail%20Corridor\\_Final%20Report\\_SWCA.pdf](http://www.co.gilpin.co.us/Auxiliary%20Advisory%20Boards/Historical%20Society/Gilpin%20Tunnel%20Rail%20Corridor_Final%20Report_SWCA.pdf)

### Annotation

The Lincoln Hills resort nestled along South Boulder Creek between the small towns of Nederland to the north and Rollinsville to the south. The two men behind the development had long been assumed to have been African American, yet, recent research leaves the question of the racial origins of E.C. Regnier and Robert E. Ewalt open to debate.<sup>7</sup> What is certain, however, is that Regnier and Ewalt intended to market Lincoln Hills as a vacation resort to educated, middle-class blacks living in Denver, throughout Colorado, and around the United States.

Ultimately, 470 lots were purchased, some for as little as \$25. Many plot owners hailed from out of state, from New York to California and points in-between. However, most of Lincoln Hills' property owners lived in Colorado, and the majority of those listed Denver as home. A relatively small number of cabins were actually built on the 470 purchased lots. Lincoln Hills was perhaps more popular as a week-end or week-long vacation destination for families, church and other civic groups, as well as the young campers of the Phyllis Wheatley branch of the Denver Young Women's Christian Association. Barred from Estes Park and other campgrounds, the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA campers spent their summers at Camp Nizhoni, on land leased by the Lincoln Hills Company. During the 1930s, the "Y" bought the land for the incredibly affordable sum of \$10.00.

Winks Lodge, a six-room inn, also known as Winks Panorama Lodge, became the vibrant heart of the Lincoln Hills resort. Built by Obrey "Winks" Hamlet and his first wife, Naomi, the three-story lodge served as a restaurant, dining room, social center, and entertainment venue for the resort's visitors. Winks Hamlet, an accomplished Five Points businessman, built another twenty-two cabins in Lincoln Hills, and rented them, along with the six room in Winks Lodge.

Visitors travelled to Lincoln Hills by car and by train. There was no Lincoln Hills train depot. The train stopped along the railroad tracks that ran by the resort, and after departing the train, visitors could hike the short hill to their cabins. Winks Hamlet frequently met visitors at the train tracks and loaded them into his flat-bed truck for the short, bumpy ride to his lodge or to nearby cabins.

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<sup>7</sup> Melanie Shellenbarger, *High Country Summers: The Early Second Homes of Colorado, 1880-1940* (University Press of Arizona, 2012), 130.

Lincoln Hills hosted average and famous black people alike. During the 1920s and 1930s, some of the brightest lights of the Harlem Renaissance – musicians, poets, novelists, essayists – visited the mountain retreat. After performing in some of Denver’s renowned but segregated jazz clubs, some of the most celebrated African American musicians of the time, including Count Basie, Lena Horne, and Duke Ellington, headed to Lincoln Hills. Denver’s tony hotels were off-limits to even the most famous black celebrities, but in Lincoln Hills, they found welcome, food, shelter, spectacular scenery, and even other performance venues – Winks Hamlet’s lodge and tavern.



# MOUNTAIN RESORT SUMMER HOME COLONY

A BEAUTIFUL, SCENIC, RESTFUL MOUNTAIN HOME. A WONDER SPOT  
IN NATURE'S VAST EXPANSE OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

IN MANY WAYS EQUALING AND  
EXCELLING ESTES PARK OR ANY  
OTHER SUMMER PLAY GROUND  
IN COLORADO AND FAR SUR-  
PASSING ALL IN ACCESSIBILITY.

A restful retreat among the pines.  
Four automobile highways to the  
park. Excellent train service during  
the summer months on the world's  
greatest scenic railroad—"The Mof-  
fat Road."

39 MILES FROM DENVER BY RAILROAD—34 MILES BY AUTO ROAD

## HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

Get away from the routine of business life for a day, a week or a month. Take a vacation on your own property amid the stately pines, the cool glens and dales, rugged rocks and canons and gentle slopes beside one of the most beautiful streams in Colorado. You owe this to yourself, your wife and your children. Here is one of the finest trout streams in Colorado and almost two miles can be reserved for you. Beautiful spaces will be reserved for picnic grounds for yourself and friends, for tennis courts, baseball grounds and an amphitheater. No building restrictions, just what you desire to build, from a tent house to a bungalow.

## PEACE AND PROSPERITY

It is said that God made the mountains and man made the city, but remember the "Hills were God's first Temples." . . . . . Ten years ago our mountains were a wilderness but every available place has been purchased and colonized for recreation purposes. This resort will be a NATIONAL gathering place for the colored race during the summer months and you may expect to see property values increase most rapidly. Lots that could have been purchased in Estes Park for \$50.00 a few years ago now bring from \$1,000 to \$3,000. This is the only colony in Colorado that has such natural advantages. *Come play with us.*

## PRICED FROM \$25 to \$100 PER LOT

WEEKLY OR MONTHLY PAYMENTS—5% DISCOUNT FOR CASH

Send in your reservation for one lot or as many as you want. Plans and map and circular will be sent you immediately.

**CAUTION**—Don't delay, other cities are wanting reservations.

**OWN YOUR SUMMER HOME** and get a deed when fully paid.

### SPECIAL OFFER—IMPORTANT

A LOT FREE to the first fifty people selecting and buying one lot, either for cash or on time payments. Only one free lot to any purchaser, individual or organization.

LINCOLN HILLS,  
P. O. Box 116  
Denver, Colo.

### USE THIS COUPON

LINCOLN HILLS,  
P. O. Box 116,  
Denver, Colo.

Absolutely no obligation  
to buy until you have made  
a cash payment.

Reserve for me.....lots. Send plan, circular  
and maps to me at once.

Name .....

Address .....

City .....

State .....



## 8 / The Lincoln Hills Country Club and Resort “A Beautiful, Scenic, Restful Mountain Home”

### Citation

Lincoln Hills ad, “Mountain Resort Summer Home Colony,” published in the *Colorado Statesman*, May 9, 1925. Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library.

### Excerpt

#### **MOUNTAIN RESORT SUMMER HOME COLONY**

A BEAUTIFUL, SCENIC, RESTFUL MOUNTAIN HOME. A WONDER SPOT IN NATURE’S VAST EXPANSE OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

IN MANY WAYS EQUALING AND EXCELLING ESTES PARK OR ANY OTHER SUMMER PLAY GROUND IN COLORADO AND FAR SURPASSING ALL IN ACCESSIBILITY. A restful retreat among the pines. Four automobile highways to the park. Excellent train service during the summer months on the world’s greatest scenic railroad – “The Moffat Road.”

#### HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

Get away from the routine of business life for a day, a week or a month. Take a vacation on your own property amid the stately pines, the cool glens and dales, rugged rocks and canyons and gentle slopes beside one of the most beautiful streams in Colorado. You owe this to yourself, your wife and your children. . .

#### PEACE AND PROSPERITY

It is said that God made the mountains and man made the city, but remember the “Hills were God’s first Temples...” Ten years ago our mountains were a wilderness but every available place has been purchased and colonized for recreation purposes. This resort will be a NATIONAL gathering place for the colored race during the summer months and you may expect to see property values increase most rapidly. . .

### Annotation

Black newspapers served a vital function in African American communities. They delivered news and opinion of interest to their black readers. Yet, even more significantly, in their pages the papers conveyed a collective sense of shared experience – of community – whether the neighborhood was a five-block square, a city, the nation, or the world. Most importantly, during a period of history so laden with disregard for the basic humanity of African Americans, black newspapers shared a mission to uplift their readers – to uplift the race. Calls to action, as exemplified by the *Denver Star’s* demand for the creation of a local NAACP in 1913 (see resource number 4, “A Demand for Justice”), were also calls to uplift, to improve both one’s personal lot in life as well as that of the larger black community. Similarly, stories of determination and achievement also signified racial uplift – be it a high school graduation, a

civic honor, or a military exploit. All were news items that helped to create a shared sense of time and space - and functioned as expressions of a collective black aspiration for a better future.

Even the ads published in black newspapers helped weave bonds of community. The Lincoln Hills ad placed in the *Colorado Statesman* in the spring of 1925 fit the paper's implicit mission of black uplift and achievement, even as it helped to pay the paper's bills. Declaring the beauty of the mountain resort equal to if not greater than that of Estes Park and other mountain enclaves where African Americans were generally not welcome, the ad worked to remind a black middle class shaped by aspiration as much as by income that by buying a plot of land in Lincoln Hills they could not only escape the drudgery of the work week but could be a part of a "National gathering place for the colored race."

Surely, the ad promised its readers, Lincoln Hills would deliver "health and happiness... peace and prosperity," to the black Americans who invested their money and their hope in "a beautiful, scenic, restful mountain home" in a "wonder spot" just for them, high in Colorado's Rocky Mountains.



Lincoln Hills, Inc.  
307 Quincy Bldg.  
Denver, Colorado.

Denver, Colorado.  
March 17, 1926.

Gentlemen:-

Lincoln Hills, near Denver, where I have purchased 4 lots and where I have visited on different occasions, offers many unique advantages to our group:

1. A beautiful spot for camp, or cabin or fine Summer home.
2. A cool, invigorating Summer climate which is the finest known tonic for people who have had a hard year of work.
3. A large tract of land containing 2 miles of Trout stream, beside 4 creeks and a fine lake stocked with trout.
4. A railroad and 4 auto roads from Denver to the resort.
5. A Summer colony where lots are being sold at such a very low price that buyers will make money on the lots even if they never use them themselves.
6. A place where our race can show to the Nation a constructive piece of work, in the upbuilding of a great National gathering place for health, recreation, education and uplift.

This demonstration of our creative ability seems to me to be the greatest thing about this splendid project. We like the beauty, the climate, the fishing and recreation of all sorts, and we like the money profit, but to point with pride to beautiful LINCOLN Hills as the product of our own creative genius is still more inspiring.

Lincoln Hills is not an old resort abandoned by others, but a new project, started and supported by the leaders of our Group in Denver and other cities, and destined to become a monument to the vision and constructive ability of the Colored Race.

Lincoln Hills deserves the active cooperation of our people all over the United States and has had my hearty support since I first visited there and saw its many wonderful advantages.

Estes Park is 75 miles from Denver by auto, Red Feather Lakes Resort is 115 miles from Denver, but our own Lincoln Hills is only 34 miles from this great Queen City of the Plains.

Congratulating you on the splendid progress already made, and wishing you continued success in all the cities and towns of the Country, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*G. L. Prince*

Pastor of Zion Baptist Church,

## **9 / The Lincoln Hills Country Club and Resort “Many Unique Advantages to Our Group”**

### **Citation**

Letter from Pastor G. L. Prince to Lincoln Hills Inc., endorsing the Lincoln Hills development, March 17, 1926. Box 1, FF 5, Lincoln Hills Collection, Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library, Denver, Colorado.

### **Excerpt**

Gentlemen:

Lincoln Hills, near Denver, where I have purchased 4 lots and where I have visited on different occasions, offers many unique advantages to our group:

1. A beautiful spot for camp, or cabin or fine summer home.
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6. A place where our race can show to the Nation a constructive piece of work, in the upbuilding of a great National gathering place for health, recreations, education and uplift.

This demonstration of our creative ability seems to me to be the greatest thing about this splendid project. We like the beauty, the climate, the fishing and recreation of all sorts, and we like the money profit, but to point with pride to beautiful LINCOLN HILLS as the product of our own creative genius is still more inspiring.

Lincoln Hills is not an old resort abandoned by others, but a new project, started and supported by the leaders of our Group in Denver and other cities, and destined to become a monument to the vision and constructive ability of the Colored Race.

### **Annotation**

Ministers were among the most respected members of African American communities. In the years that followed the Civil War and the emancipation of more than four million enslaved African Americans, freed blacks joined in the community-building that for decades had engaged their northern counterparts. Long the center of northern African American communities in the north, black churches also became the cornerstone of the communities built by black freedmen and women in the south.

In Denver, the pastor of Zion Baptist Church, the oldest black church in Colorado, enjoyed a level of prestige and respect accorded to few. Founded in 1877, when the city of Denver was less than 20 years old, Zion became the center of Denver's black community.

During the 1920s, many Coloradans, black and white, wrote letters endorsing Lincoln Hills and urging African Americans to buy lots in the resort. In his letter, Zion's pastor, G. L. Prince, captured the language of racial uplift so popular among the black middle-class, as well as among those with middle-class aspirations. His was a message at once intended for African Americans who were living lives of respectability; those who were deemed to be in need of social and moral correction; and for those whites who believed that African Americans were a lowly people, incapable of achievement or refinement. Pastor Prince's endorsement of Lincoln Hills promised black respectability. Among the advantages Lincoln Hills offered to "our group", wrote Prince, was "a place where our race can show to the Nation a constructive piece of work, in the upbuilding of a great National gathering place for health, recreation, education, and uplift."

Pastor Prince made clear that from its inception, Lincoln Hills was much more than a summer resort where one might fish, swim, and hike in the clean mountain air. The resort was also about African American dignity, hope, and achievement. Lincoln Hills, promised Pastor Prince, was "destined to become a monument to the vision and constructive ability of the colored race."







## 10 / The Lincoln Hills Country Club and Resort The Heart of Lincoln Hills

### Citation:

Winks Panorama (Winks Lodge), (circa 1950s). Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library, <http://cdm16079.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15330coll26/id/0>

### Annotation

Winks Lodge was the heart of the Lincoln Hills resort community. Built by Obrey “Winks” Hamlet and his first wife Naomi in 1928, the lodge offered six rooms where guests could spend a weekend or an entire week or two. In the lodge’s parlor, guests could sit, read, or talk in chairs while a fire blazed in a fireplace framed with large river rock. Hamlet built an intimate dining room with a ceiling composed of restored ornate white tin tiles recovered from an abandoned office building, and the summer kitchen offered dining tables set behind a wall of large windows that allowed diners to take in the mountain scenery as they ate. During the summer months, the lodge kitchen was the busiest room in the lodge. Naomi Hamlet, and after her death, Winks’s second wife Melba, provided guests with down home meals so exquisite that some travelled to the resort for the culinary experience alone.



## 11 / The Lincoln Hills Country Club and Resort A Place for Young Black Girls

### Citation

Photograph (detail) of girls from the Phyliss Wheatley chapter of the Colorado Young Women's Christian Association at play in South Boulder Creek, Camp Nizhoni, Lincoln Hills, Colorado. Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library

<http://cdm16079.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15330coll22/id/67889>

### Annotation

African American children also suffered the sting of racial segregation and discrimination. During the 1920s and 1930s, as their parents were barred from most mountain retreats, black children were also forbidden entry to summer camps and excluded from many recreational and service organizations, like the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). Camp Nizhoni was a mountain retreat that African American girls could call their very own. Nizhoni – a Navajo word for beautiful – was established in 1925 by the Denver Phyliss Wheatley Colored YWCA on land provided by the Lincoln Hills Company. Most of the campers came from Denver, but others hailed from more distant Colorado cities including Colorado Springs and Pueblo, and more than a few arrived from out of state. The camp offered the girls mountain outings filled with hiking, swimming, fishing, cook-outs, and singing around the campfire.

The Phyliss Wheatley Colored YWCA was located in the heart of Denver's Five Points community. Opened in 1916, the "Y" chapter was the namesake of the eighteenth-century poet and author who as a young girl had been captured in West Africa and enslaved in Boston, Massachusetts. The Colored YWCA sponsored many service and recreation programs for African American girls and women, but Camp Nizhoni was its jewel in the Rockies.

# THE DENVER STAR

(Entered as second class matter at the Postoffice in the City of Denver, Colorado)

**GEORGE G. ROSS** ..... Editor  
 Telephone Tabor 4331

**BUSINESS OFFICE** ..... 516 Twentieth Street

All news and communications must be in not later than Wednesday afternoon before 5 p.m. to insure publication that week.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

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| One Year     | \$2.00 |
| Six Months   | 1.00   |
| Three Months | .50    |

It occasionally happens that papers sent to subscribers are lost or stolen. In case you do not receive any number when due, inform us by phone or postal card and we will cheerfully forward a duplicate of the missing number. City subscribers should get their papers on Saturday. If you don't, please complain. Write us your complaints and we will forward them to the Postmaster.

**JIM CROW MUST GO!**

You can't have prejudice with, at the same time, having hate and fear and selfishness.

We only rise above and out of prejudice when we rise above and out of the thoughts and suggestions which cause prejudice. We then clear our minds of the belief in prejudice, hate and fear. Moral: Destroy the cause of prejudice and you destroy the effect of that cause. Jim Crow must go—sometime, somehow—why not today? Let's you and I make America just a little better by daily preaching and practicing it. Prejudice is built on fear and selfishness.

"Be It Resolved, For this year, and for all other years, that I will face unpopularity for the sake of truth; I will declare boldly my convictions though they make me despised; I will cleanse my heart from all selfishness to the end that the will of mankind's common Father may be more fully expressed through my life." Let this be a lesson to you.

"The EAGLE, and NOT the JIM CROW, is our NATIONAL BIRD."  
 Support the one and destroy the other.

**THE DENVER STAR'S VISION**

Looking Forward—I don't look to the past.  
 Looking Up—I cannot be downcast.  
 Looking Within—I don't fear things without.

**EDITORIALS**

## THE EAGLE IS OUR NATIONAL BIRD NOT THE "JIM CROW"

..... incident throws a lurid light

**WE HAVE FAR TO GO TO ACHIEVE A REAL DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA**

by Emmett J. Scott

Washington, D. C.—Since real democracy can flourish only in an atmosphere of hope and confidence, we have many leagues to go in this country of ours before we can assure the great masses of our countrymen that they are to have opportunity to enjoy its benefits within the limited period of their lifetime.

The great and noble experiment has now been underway for more than 150 years. Within that period some advances have been made; as a matter of fact, some of these advances have been especially noteworthy and startling.

**Laggard and Stumbling Advances**

Basically, however, from the standpoint of the masses, we have advanced only by laggard and stumbling steps.

Even as we brag of the great wealth of the nation, and of its tremendously rich natural resources, poverty and squalor exist on a scale, in many regions, almost begging adequate description and characterization.

Physical suffering is rampant, and as has been well said, democracy, as an institution, cannot endure if its price is poverty.

Within this group of the underfed, the ill-clothed, and the badly sheltered—the one-third of the nation—unfortunately and unhappily, the one-tenth Negro minority group is too largely represented.

**Repressive Barriers**

Repressive social and economic barriers and conditions retard their progress, and, too often, effectually throttle and discourage their laudable ambition to get on in the world.

Thrift at best is a hard and exacting task-master. Normal progress at best is almost an achievement. When our social system adds to her handicaps, then indeed becomes unbearable the burden of effort, with ensuing self-pity and discouragement.

These observations are called forth by reason of the present-day economic spurt which defense-spending is providing, and because of the calculated, premeditated effort being made definitely to prevent the Negro group from sharing in the wages and savings provided by defense-effort.

Having, too largely, shared the discomforts and sufferings of the depression years, they naturally desire a chance now to loyally prepare the country for its proper defense.

## 12 / Roots of Change: World War II and the Cold War

### “The Eagle is Our National Bird, Not the Jim Crow”

#### Citation

“The Eagle Is Our National Bird, Not the Jim Crow,” *Denver Star*, June 7, 1941, p. 2. Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library.

#### Annotation

During the early years of World War II, the *Denver Star* posted this banner atop its editorial column: “The Eagle Is Our National Bird, not the ‘Jim Crow.’” The argument was clear: America could not fulfill its credo of liberty and equality while condoning segregation, discrimination and racist terrorism. During the war, the *Denver Star* and other black newspapers drew damning parallels between the monster Hitler and American lynchings, segregation, and discrimination. Although in its most technical context, the phrase “Jim Crow” referred to federal, state, and local laws that required racial segregation, the *Denver Star* used the term more expansively, as did most African Americans generally, to include discrimination, segregation, and violence condoned by custom as well as by government-mandate.

The United States’ battle against Nazi Germany and its ideology of Aryan supremacy presented long time civil rights advocates (like the NAACP and the Cosmopolitan Club) and black newspapers a crucial opportunity to highlight the chasm that separated American ideals of individual liberty and equality from the nation’s reality of systemic racial segregation, discrimination, and violence. The embarrassing international spotlight on American white supremacy forced by the Allies’ war against the Nazi’s white supremacist ideology as well as Hitler’s territorial aggression, provided critical support for the civil rights arguments that had been long pressed by blacks and other peoples of color but ignored by most whites. Paradoxically, the growing acknowledgment of the moral force of demands for equal rights under the law in the two decades that followed the end of the war would, over time, also upend organizations, clubs, resorts, and neighborhoods established by peoples of color. In Colorado, it was not a coincidence that Melba Hamlet sold Winks Lodge – the heart of Lincoln Hills – in 1965, the year her husband Winks Hamlet died, and perhaps just as significant, one year after Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Among the landmark law’s provisions: a ban on racial discrimination in public accommodations anywhere in the United States.

During the war, many officials in the federal government objected to the constant focus black newspapers trained on the nation’s segregated military and federal workforce and the discriminatory employment policies of the government’s private defense contractors. Many government officials accused black newspapers like the *Denver Star* and the *Colorado Statesman* of being disloyal. The accusations prompted one notable black newspaper, the *Pittsburgh Courier*, to launch its legendary “Double V Campaign,” in which the *Courier* declared its support for victory over the enemies of freedom – in Germany as well as in the United States.<sup>8</sup> However, as race riots convulsed American cities during World War II and highlighted a discomfiting synergy between Germany’s white supremacy and the racism practiced on American soil, a growing number of influential white liberals began to embrace the

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<sup>8</sup> In February, 1942, the *Pittsburgh Courier*, a prominent African American newspaper published in Pennsylvania, launched its Double V Campaign with this explanation: “Thus in our fight for freedom we wage a two-pronged attack against our enslavers at home, and those abroad who would enslave us. WE HAVE A STAKE IN THIS FIGHT...WE ARE AMERICANS TOO!”

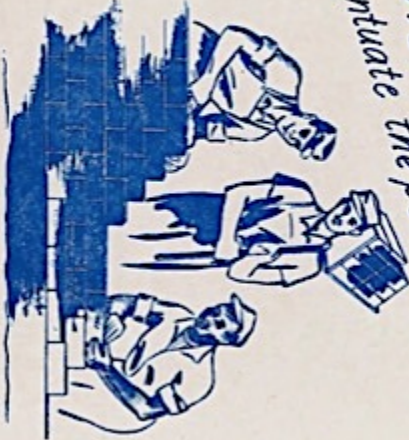
arguments advanced by civil rights activists. How could the U.S. lay claim to moral superiority in the battle against the German-led Axis powers with a racially segregated fighting force? How could American democracy be superior to Nazi totalitarianism when the nation's laws and customs condoned lynching, race riots fueled by white mobs, and systemic discrimination and segregation in employment, housing, public accommodations and other aspects of everyday life?

In 1943, a year in which dozens of race riots erupted in cities from Detroit to Los Angeles, an interracial, interethnic, and interfaith coalition of civil rights supporters and organizations in Denver formed the Denver Unity Council (DUC). The DUC expressed the same philosophy as that extolled by the Denver Cosmopolitan Club and local NAACP decades earlier. Americanism, the DUC argued, "is a matter of the mind and heart, and not a matter of race, ancestry, or religion."





**LET'S**  
Accentuate the positive



Eliminate the negative



CHERRY 1873

**DENVER UNITY COUNCIL**  
205 Empire Building  
Denver 2, Colorado

**HOW DO YOU RATE AS AN AMERICAN?**

1. Do you believe that all people should have an equal opportunity for employment regardless of race, color or national origin?  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
2. Do you believe that citizens should be granted Denver hotel and restaurant services regardless of their color or religion?  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
3. Do you believe that all people in Denver should have the right to live where they wish, and not be forced into substandard areas by racial restrictive covenants?  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
4. Do you believe that people can be encouraged by educational programs to better understanding of each other?  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
5. Do you make it a point to take positive action to secure these rights not only for yourself but for others?  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If your answer is "Yes," you will want to join with others who are working toward these ends. If your answer is "No," now is the time to begin to "accentuate the positive". In either case, you should join...

**THE DENVER UNITY COUNCIL**

**WHAT AND WHY...**

Four years ago several Denver citizens, conscious that bigotry and discrimination were not trademarks of Hitler's world alone, formed the Denver Unity Council. The aim: to fight, on the local front, all persons and organizations who should attempt to defy the Constitution by claiming that some races are better than others, by denying employment because of color or creed, by preaching the hatred which, in the end, can lead only to bloodshed and repression.

**WHO...**

In four years the Council has grown to include 93 organizations and over 800 individual members. Their work and their money have built an increasingly effective Unity Council.

**HOW...**

It is not ENOUGH to tell a man he should love his brother, that his work and security finally depend on the ability of all men to pull together; as one. To talk unity is fine, but it is NOT enough. The Council seeks out the causes behind local "anti-Americanism" and works out solutions:

**CIVIL RIGHTS...**

The Action Committee, through direct negotiation, and in cooperation with the District Attorney, handles cases of discrimination.

**LEGISLATION...**

The Legislative Committee drafted F.E.P.C. and RESTRICTIVE COVENANT bills introduced in the State Legislature, and sponsored the BILL OF HUMAN RIGHTS in the Charter Convention. The Committee also questions CANDIDATES for office on issues in the field of human rights.

**EDUCATION...**

The Education Division promotes RADIO PROGRAMS, FILMS, SPEAKERS, CONFERENCES, AND PUBLICITY.

**COMMUNITY PROBLEMS...**

Studies of Denver's SLIMS, RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS, and EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES have been made. The Police Committee presented evidence of brutality against minorities to the Grand Jury and brought former Milwaukee Police Chief Kluncky to Denver to make recommendations for police training in race relations.

In each of these areas, the Unity Council is active and has accomplished much. Perhaps more could have been done if YOUR contribution, your heart and your action, had been a part of the Council. YOU, the American Citizens of Conscience... are needed, for the dollars to meet the Council's budget, and hours to achieve our mutual goal. We will succeed with your help. Enclosed is an envelope for your contribution.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| DEAN PAUL ROBERTS.....       | 1st Vice President   |
| CHARLES A. GRAYHAM.....      | 2nd Vice President   |
| HILDEGARDE M. ARNDT.....     | 3rd Vice President   |
| FRANK W. WITTELSHOFFER.....  | 4th Vice President   |
| REV. RUDOLPH GILBERT.....    | Executive, Treasurer |
| DR. CLARENCE J. HOLMETS..... | Executive, Secretary |
| ROBERT M. COOK.....          | Executive, Treasurer |
| EDWIN DOLAN.....             | Executive, Secretary |
| REV. ALFONSO ESQUIBEL.....   | Executive, Secretary |
| MR. JOHN R. MULHONY.....     | Executive, Secretary |
| HELEN L. PITKINSON.....      | Executive, Secretary |
| LOUIS E. SIDMAN.....         | Executive, Secretary |
| MRS. HENRY SCHWARTZ.....     | Executive, Secretary |
| ROY TANKERS.....             | Executive, Secretary |

**ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE POLICY BOARD**

- Adult Executive Council
- Alpha Kappa Alpha
- Alpha Kappa Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha
- Alpha Omega Chapter, Phi Lambda
- Alpha Phi Chapter, Phi Lambda
- Associated Cloning Workers of America
- American Association of University Women
- American Association of Women Business and Professional Women
- American Legion, Gateway Post No. 143
- American Legion, Lafayette-Castle-Walshworth Post No. 1
- American Veterans Committee
- Anti-Opiate League of Denver
- Anti-Opiate League of Denver Branch
- Anti-Opiate Council of Central Women



### 13/Primary source/Roots of Change: World War II and the Cold War – “How Do You Rate As An American?”

#### Citation

Denver Unity Council Pamphlet, pages 1-3, MSS 1654, S4.B9, FF 9, Denver Unity Council collection, Stephen H. Hart Library and Research Center, History Colorado Center.

#### Excerpt

HOW DO YOU RATE AS AN AMERICAN?

1. Do you believe that all people should have an equal opportunity for employment regardless of race, color or national origin?
2. Do you believe that citizens should be granted Denver hotel and restaurant services regardless of their color or religion?
3. Do you believe that all people in Denver should have the right to live where they wish, and not be forced into substandard areas by racial restrictive covenants?
4. Do you believe that people can be encourage by educational programs to better understanding of each other?

If you answered “Yes” to every question, you are a “positive” American, according to the Bill of rights of our Constitution.

Now we want to ask you another question:

5. Do you make it a point to take positive action to secure these rights not only for yourself but for others?

If your answer is “Yes” you will want to join with others who are working toward these ends. If your answer is “No” now is that time to begin to “accentuate the positive.” In either case, you should join...

THE DENVER UNITY COUNCIL

#### WHAT AND WHY...

Four years ago several Denver citizens, conscious that bigotry and discrimination were not trademarks of Hitler’s world alone, formed the Denver Unity Council. The air: to fight, on the local front, all persons and organizations who should attempt to defy the Constitution by claiming that some races are better than others, by denying employment because of color or creed, by preaching the hatred which, in the end can lead only to bloodshed and repression.”

#### WHO...

In four years the Council has grown to include 93 organizations and over 800 individual members. Their work and their money have built an increasingly effective Unity Council.

#### HOW...

It is not ENOUGH to tell a man he should love his brother, that his work and security final depend on the ability of all men to pull together as one. To talk unity is fine, but it is NOT enough. The Council seeks out the causes behind local “anti-Americanism” and works out solutions.

## Annotation

A Denver Unity Council (DUC) pamphlet published in 1947 advocated fair treatment of all Denver residents regardless of race, color, creed, or religion. Even more significantly, the pamphlet linked racial intolerance and prejudice in the United States to the horrors of Nazi Germany. Equality of treatment and opportunity were true American ideals, argued the DUC, while bigotry and discrimination were not “trademarks of Hitler’s world alone.” Another DUC pamphlet that had been published during the war reminded its readers that soldiers of all races were risking their lives in the name of American democracy and that the bullets fired by German soldiers did not discriminate in their targets. The Unity Council’s motto – “Americanism is a matter of the mind and the heart, and not a matter of race, ancestry, or religion” – symbolized the organization’s mission to win a popular rejection of the racist and xenophobic “100 percent Americanism” that had become so popular during the post-World War I era.

The Unity Council sponsored several fair employment bills in the Colorado legislature – the first in 1945. Although the legislature rejected the DUC’s proposal, in 1944 the same legislature succeeded in defeating a virulently racist proposal that would have denied any person of Japanese ancestry who was not an American citizen the right to own property in Colorado. Opposition to the 1944 anti-Japanese land ownership bill was led by war veterans who embraced the arguments of the *Denver Star* and the Denver Unity Council. State Representative Earl Mann, an African American veteran of World War I and columnist for the *Colorado Statesman*, expressed solidarity with the Japanese residents targeted by the bill. “If this measure passes,” Mann queried, “what are Negroes fighting for?” Another veteran, Wayne Hill, who was white and had been recently discharged from the Army, defended his vote against the anti-Japanese bill as a vote for freedom. “I am cautioned that I will be sorry [for my vote]... I am just as willing to die a political death as I am to die in battle to preserve American freedom.”

The imprisonment of more than 7000 Japanese Americans and Japanese non-citizens at the Amache internment camp in southeast Colorado during the war made the state legislature’s defeat of the anti-Japanese land ownership bill all the more remarkable. (Please see the set of resources on Amache for more information.) If the legislature could reject an attempt to discriminate against an unpopular minority, civil rights advocates had reason to hope that the state’s lawmakers might one day accept their arguments for broad-based anti-discrimination legislation.

In Colorado, and across the country, the seeds of racial change had been planted. World War II helped to accomplish what decades of protest and advocacy by blacks, other peoples of color, and their allies had not. Hitler’s white supremacist horrors, the critical role played by the United States in the defeat of Nazi Germany, and the war service of thousands of Americans of color helped transform the unquestioned white supremacist assumptions held by many white Americans into beliefs that many would come to consider un-democratic harbingers of strife and war.

Those seeds of racial change sprouted locally and nationally during the following two decades, and ushered in a civil rights revolution not seen since the days of Reconstruction. But in 1945, no one knew that as a consequence, the days of institutions like Lincoln Hills that had been built in part to provide sanctuary from the slings and arrows of exclusion, were numbered.





Syd Joseph

THE NEED FOR ACTION WAS CITED BY THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RELATIONS. FROM LEFT: MILDRED R. HALL, MRS. HUGH PARRY, W. MILLER BARBOUR, DEAN PAUL ROBERTS, MAYOR NEWTON, TOM W. EWING, GUY FOX, L. E. SIDMAN AND DR. E. T. HALL, JR.

## THE HIGH COST OF PREJUDICE\*

Photos by Syd Joseph, Bill Weed and J. R. Stephae

BY LOUIS E. SIDMAN

**DENVER'S COMPLACENCY** about its treatment of "minority groups" recently was shattered by the release of a shocking report by Mayor Quigg Newton's Survey Committee on Human Relations.

The survey was conducted over a four-month period to analyze the extent of prejudice and discrimination against some 65,000 Negroes, Spanish-Americans, Jewish and Japanese citizens in Denver, and to chart a course for future action for city government to remedy these conditions. Thus, Denver became the first city in the United States to critically take inventory of its human relations problems following the creation of the President's Commission on Civil Rights. The glaring fact that the findings of both surveys reveal similar patterns spotlights the urgent need for action on both the national and local fronts. The challenge of obtaining first-class citizenship for all peoples in a democracy is one which has been accepted by Denver's new and forward looking city administration.

Mayor Newton, shortly after taking office, appointed the survey committee headed by Dean Paul Roberts of St. John's Episcopal church, with W. Miller Barbour, director of the Denver Urban league; Don Cahalan, director of the National Opinion Research center; Tom W. Ewing, of Denver Boys, Inc.; Guy Fox, of the Denver public schools; Dr. E. T. Hall, Jr., of Denver university; Bishop Herbert Newell, former superintendent of Parochial schools; and Louis E. Sidman, director of the Anti-Defamation league.

Several startling conclusions can be drawn from this report. Denver cannot hope to progress while it denies equal rights to a large segment of its population. Progress is impeded when talent, energy, and the will to succeed are destroyed. Restrictive covenants in housing deeds along with "gentleman's agreements" are continuing to shape geo-

graphical ghettos which breed frustration and hatred. Economic sanctions deprive thousands of a right to earn a decent salary with the inevitable result of declining standards of living. A history of police brutality has developed a fear and a lack of respect for law enforcement to the point of becoming a serious factor in the increase in crime and juvenile delinquency. Discrimination at hotels, resorts, restaurants, and at recreational facilities have shaped social patterns contrary to the American way of life. The denial of equal public and private health facilities seriously impairs the lives of too many citizens. A lack of opportunity for apprentice training as well as educational discrimination condemns many young people to a life of scarcity and poverty.

There are many hopeful signs. An aroused citizenry has displayed the desire to eradicate the roots of these problems. Mayor Newton's appointment of a permanent commission on human relations to deal with long-range positive programs of action reflect the hope of the future. The steps taken by the Denver public schools to implement the principals of intercultural education will do much to mold future citizens of understanding and goodwill. In recent weeks, hospitals, law enforcement agencies as well as many public and private institutions have made serious attempts to eliminate bad practices.

One word of caution. The habits and morals of a basically conservative community cannot change quickly. Reshaping of human values and associations requires the patient and devoted efforts of all people in the community. The future of Denver in a large measure depends on intelligent handling of the problems of discrimination, bigotry, and prejudice. The solution of these problems lies in the hearts and minds of its citizens.

\*"The High Cost of Prejudice" was previously used as the title of a book written by Bucklin Moon, and published by Julian Messner, Inc., in 1947. This brochure reprinted from the February issue of Rocky MOUNTAIN LIFE.

## 14 / Roots of Change: World War II and the Cold War

### “The High Cost of Prejudice”

#### Citation

“The High Cost of Prejudice,” *Rocky Mountain Life*, February, 1948. Stephen H. Hart Library and Research Center, History Colorado Center.

#### Excerpt

Denver’s complacency about its treatment of “minority groups” recently was shattered by the release of a shocking report by Mayor Quigg Newton’s Survey Committee on Human Relations.

The survey was conducted over a four-month period to analyze the extent of prejudice and discrimination against some 65,000 Negroes, Spanish-Americans, Jewish and Japanese citizens in Denver, and to chart a course for future action for city government to remedy these conditions. Thus, Denver became the first city in the United States to critically take inventory of its human relations problems following the creation of the President’s Commission on Civil Rights....

Several startling conclusions can be drawn from this report. Denver cannot hope to progress while it denies equal rights to a large segment of its population. Progress is impeded when talent, energy, and the will to succeed are destroyed. Restrictive covenants in housing deeds along with “gentlemen’s agreement” are continuing to shape geographical ghettos which breed frustration and hatred. Economic sanctions deprive thousands of a right to earn a decent salary with the inevitable result of a declining standard of living. A history of police brutality has developed a fear and a lack of respect for law enforcement to the point of becoming a serious factor in the increase in crime and juvenile delinquency. Discrimination at hotels, resorts, restaurants, and at recreational facilities have shaped social patterns contrary to the American way of life. The denial of equal public and private health facilities seriously impairs the lives of too many citizens. A lack of opportunity for apprentice training as well as education discrimination condemns many young people to a life of scarcity and poverty.

#### Annotation

In the aftermath of World War II, the impetus behind the creation of the Denver Unity Council and similar organizations in other northern cities coalesced into a national movement. The new movement to improve “human relations” was dedicated to combating racial and religious discrimination.

Movement activists favored the use of organized public education campaigns, and some – including the Denver Unity Council (DUC) – championed passage of anti-discrimination laws. The DUC, a broad coalition of individual activists and human relations, civic, religious, educational, labor, and business organizations, led the human relations movement in Colorado during the 1940s. In 1947, the DUC secured a key campaign promise from Denver mayoral candidate Quigg Newton to appoint a committee to document discrimination in the city. Newton, a young Navy veteran, won the election and made good on his campaign pledge by appointing several members of the DUC to a new Mayor’s Survey Committee

on Human Relations. The creation of the survey committee was crucial: it represented a more expansive understanding of a government's responsibility to and for its citizens. Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of Denver's residents would now also include combating bigotry and discrimination.

In an article entitled "The High Cost of Prejudice," published in *Rocky Mountain Life* in February 1948, Louis Sidman, chairman of Mayor Newton's Survey Committee and director of the Tri-States Anti-Defamation League, noted a grim report issued by U.S. President Harry Truman's Committee on Civil Rights. In the wake of the Truman committee's report, Mr. Sidman claimed that Denver had been the first American city to appoint a human relations committee to investigate "the extent of prejudice and discrimination against some 65,000 Negroes, Spanish-Americans, Jewish, and Japanese citizens."

The published findings and conclusions of Denver's human relations committee were as sensational locally as President Truman's committee's had been nationally. The local committee documented systemic discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, the city's health care facilities, and a history of brutality against racial minorities by members of the Denver police force. In response to the report, Mayor Newton appointed a permanent Denver Human Relations Committee to develop programs to combat discrimination and prejudice in the city. "The challenge of obtaining first-class citizenship for all peoples in a democracy is one which has been accepted by Denver's new and forward looking city administration," Louis Sidman wrote with approval in *Rocky Mountain Life*.

Change was afoot in Denver, as in many other cities in the United States. The seeds of change planted during the war were ever so slowly bearing fruit.



# IT HAPPENS IN DENVER Jim Crow Strong Ally Of Communists in Appeal to Minorities

(Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles dealing with Jim Crow in Denver. It's a story obtained by a young man fully qualified in background and experience. He is a reporter for The Denver Post. He also is a Negro.)

By GEORGE BROWN,  
Denver Post Staff Writer.

Jim Crow and the people in Denver who let him go on living are leaving the door wide open for Communist propaganda.

The minorities in Denver—and their contacts around the world—are turning more and more to the Communist lies for relief from their daily oppression. I know because I have seen it happen—right here in Denver. The hard fact that the minorities are no longer satisfied with a program of limited concessions, piecemeal adjustments and tardy appeasement was brought into sharp focus recently after the shooting of a 15-year-old Negro boy by a Denver patrolman. From the beginning, Democracy was on the losing side of that particular tussle with Communism. The Communists seized quickly on the dissatisfaction of Denver Negroes to stage emotion-raising propaganda. The Communists got a lot of backing.

Within hours after the shooting, I saw Communists on a door-to-door campaign, spreading their vicious lies, telling mothers it wasn't "safe" for their children to be on the streets. I attended some of the Communist-hosted meetings held during the days before the patrolman's trial. The meetings were designed to stir up emotions and not intellect.

The subscribers were successful in making Communism and not the shooting the main issue at the ensuing trial. They thus used the outcome to craftily increase racial tensions in Denver. Why are we minorities susceptible to such propaganda when the lies are so obvious? I've asked myself this many times.

I have talked with many members of my race and other minority groups. They are almost without exception 100 per cent loyal to this country when it comes to fighting a war, and they have nothing but praise for their American heritage.

But they are confused and—above all—they are displeased with many things. They blame the majority for not having national



George Brown.

Continued on page 13, col. 1.

# JIM CROW RED ALLY Minorities in Denver Heeding Communist Lies

(Continued from page 1.)

civil rights and fair employment practices laws passed by congress. They blame the majority for many things.

Negro veterans can't understand why they cannot exercise all the civil liberties they fought for in World war II—the same rights for which men of the minorities now are dying in Korea.

Denverites can be proud but shouldn't be satisfied, with the following fact: Almost all minority members I have talked with are quick to state that race relations are "hotter in Denver than in most places, but . . ."

The "but's" show that dissatisfaction is here. These "but's" concern housing problems, job discriminations, poor citizen-police relations and unequal opportunities. One mother told me that all she wanted was "for my children to have an equal chance in the struggle for life and the right not to be held down because their skin is dark."

One man said that he is "tired of being held down" because of the wrongdoers in his race.

The stereotyping of minorities with the wrongdoers in their race

is a Jim Crowism that the Communist than most places" shows that a Communists have successfully exploited constructive and democratic start for some time. Another man with tears in his eyes told me, "I love America, but is not enough. The Communist thrive the way I'm treated sometimes on half measures here, as established in the back."

The fact that Denver is "better Next: A Negro Hunts a Job in Denver.

## 15 / Roots of Change: World War II and the Cold War

### Making the Argument: Jim Crow and Communism

#### Citation

George Brown, "It Happens in Denver: Jim Crow Strong Ally of Communists in Appeal to Minorities," *Denver Post*, September 25, 1951. Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library.

#### Excerpt

##### **JIM CROW STRONG ALLY OF COMMUNISTS IN APPEAL TO MINORITIES**

(Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles dealing with Jim Crow in Denver. It's a story obtained by a young man fully qualified in background and experience. He is a reporter for the Denver Post, He also is a Negro.)

Jim Crow and the people in Denver who let him go on living are leaving the door wide open for Communist propaganda.

The minorities in Denver—and their cousins around the world—are tuning more and more to the Communist lies for relief from daily oppression. I know because I have seen it happen – right here in Denver. The hard fact that the minority races no longer are satisfied with a program of limited concessions, piecemeal adjustments and tardy appeasement was brought into sharp focus recently after the shooting of a 15 year-old Negro boy by a Denver patrolman. From the beginning, Democracy was on the losing side of that particular tussle with Communism. The Communists seized quickly on the dissatisfaction of Denver Negroes to stage emotion-raising propaganda. The Communists got a lot of backing....

Why are we minorities susceptible to such propaganda when the lies are so obvious? I've asked myself this many times.

I have talked with many members of my race and other minority groups. They are almost without exception 100 per cent loyal to this country when it comes to fighting a war, and they have nothing but praise for their American heritage.

But they are confused and—above all—they are displeased with many things. They blame the majority for not having national civil rights and fair employment practice laws passed by congress....

Negro veterans can't understand why they cannot exercise all the civil liberties they fought for in World War II – the same rights for which men of the minorities now are dying in Korea...

The fact that Denver "is better than most places" shows that a constructive and democratic start for better human relations has been made here. But a good start is not enough. The Commies thrive on half measures here, as elsewhere."



## Annotation

George Brown was first African American journalist hired by the *Denver Post*. Brown's hiring in 1950 was remarkable enough. Even more remarkable: the *Post* commissioned the reporter to write a series of articles on "Jim Crow in Denver." In his columns, Brown illustrated the reality of racial discrimination in the criminal justice system, employment, housing, and public accommodations in Denver for the paper's readers. Taken together, Brown's hiring and the Jim Crow series (along with the *Post*'s hiring of Bill Hosokawa, a Japanese American reporter who had been imprisoned at Wyoming's Heart Mountain internment camp during the war) were groundbreaking for their time. No longer would coverage of discrimination – both reportage and editorial criticism – be limited to the city's black and ethnic papers. The *Denver Post*, one of the state's largest daily newspapers, had begun to pay attention.

In his column, "Jim Crow Strong Ally of Communists" Brown warned the *Post*'s large readership that racial discrimination and police brutality hurt not only peoples of color, but also left Denver and, by extension, the United States, vulnerable to Communist opportunism. Brown's argument was not new. During the war, the *Denver Star*, Colorado the Denver Unity Council and human relations activists throughout the U.S. had analogized American discrimination and racist violence to Hitlerism, and now, in the post-war era, activists contended that American white supremacy damaged the credibility of the U.S. internationally.

The argument was important and would have a critical impact on civil rights in Colorado and nationally as well. After World War II, former allies United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) entered a "Cold War" contest for political and economic supremacy. They waged their ideological contest in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. As African Americans and other peoples of color were fighting to end the reign of racist discrimination and violence in the U.S., the dark-skinned peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America were fighting to liberate themselves from the yoke of European colonial rule. During the Cold War, the U.S.S.R. used incidents of racist terror and institutional discrimination in the U.S. to argue that whites were the only beneficiaries of American democracy and capitalism. How could the emerging nations of Africa, Asian, and Latin America trust the United States to deal fairly, when America did not deal fairly with its own citizens?

*Denver Post* reporter George Brown reiterated this argument in his Jim Crow column. Citing a recent shooting of a young black teen-age boy by Denver police, Brown warned the newspaper's readers that these incidents were prime fodder for Communist anti-American propaganda – at home and abroad.



MOUNTAIN STATES REGIONAL OFFICE  
330 IMPERIE BUILDING • DENVER 3, COLORADO •

# PERSONAL LETTER

SUMMER, 1957

Dear Friends:

Traditional summer lull in organizational activity provided no rest to Mountain States ADLers this year with important projects, meetings, and developments heralding on all fronts. The details will follow, but first . . . a "get acquainted" note is in order. As many of you already know, Haskell Lerner, who served as Director of this office for the past year, transferred to ADL's National Department of Education in New York, where his fifteen years experience with the agency will be invaluable in expanding ADL's nation-wide educational program. The Stenhausers — wife, Fran and fifteen month old daughter, Karen Sue — come to Denver by way of Columbus, Ohio, where I spent over six years with ADL's Ohio-Kentucky Regional Office.

It is not going to be easy to fill the shoes of previous directors of this office, whose brilliant records of accomplishment are known throughout the country, and I can only pledge to strive to carry forward the work in the best traditions of the Mountain States Office.

## GENTLEMEN AGREE ON "AGREEMENTS"

One of the last bastions of discrimination in the sale of real estate, Denver's exclusive Crestmore area, crumbled this summer, thanks in large measure to ADL's National Commissioner, Mr. Edward Miller, who had, for the past 7 years, pursued assiduously the elimination of "Gentlemen's Agreements" practiced by Garrettsford & Co. The final action was taken when Mr. Miller met with Mr. David Bronfeld and Mayor Will F. Nichols. The real estate executive agreed to let the real estate "gentlemen's agreement" stand no longer be "honored" by his firm.

## Protective Covenants Sign Changed

Mr. Miller suggested, further, at the time of the meeting that the "Time Tested Protective Covenants" sign — posted throughout the Crestmore area — be changed. It now reads: "Crestmore Homes Are Littered Homes."

## Allied Supports ADL!

For a number of years, the Mountain States Regional Office had received many compliments from members of the Jewish



Madeline Stenhausers

## New Regional Director

community that policies of religious discrimination on the part of certain realtors had frustrated their efforts to purchase homes in particular areas of the city. Here, allegations do not establish the existence of discrimination, the ADL decided to conduct a survey to determine the extent, if any, of religious discrimination in private housing in Denver.

After a sample of realtors and areas had been selected, the ADL enlisted the cooperation of two volunteer groups of citizens, one Jewish and the other Christian. The survey showed, in no uncertain terms, that one of the major offenders was Garrettsford & Co. Their findings became part of the final findings of the 1955 Denver Community Relations — A group of twenty of Human Relations of 42 organizations and 200 leaders participating in an evaluation of the discrimination picture in Denver. The survey was conducted under the auspices of the City Commission on Human Relations — a commission now headed by Mr. Edward Miller.

## Support Allied!

ADL made public its survey on "gentlemen's agreements" only after a 3-year effort with G.B. & Co. failed to move its officers to end its discriminatory policy against Jews in Denver. In answer to the independent statement of G.B. & Co. in 1955, "Let them (ADL) say what they want and then forget it," Mr. Miller wrote: "ADL will not forget it . . . ADL is committed irrevocably to struggle to end religious discrimination . . . we will not accept for the community in whose interests we labor, the stigma of second-class citizenship which the commission of gentlemen's agreements" would stamp upon all of us."

## Support Allied!

Then started another 2-year period of meetings and negotiations — with the Denver Board of Realtors, through the Housing Section of the City Commission on Human Relations and its Coordinating Council, and with the officers of the homeowners' associations. Mr. Bronfeld

agreed to the last meeting with the Mayor after a publication of the Housing Section of the Coordinating Council called attention to his firm's practice in a pamphlet passed out on a bus tour of the city's underdeveloped areas — a project sponsored by this committee.

Eddie Miller richly deserves the tribute paid him by the Denver ADL Executive Committee last month, when he was commended for his fine work and perseverance in bringing an end to one more discriminatory practice affecting the Jewish community.

## New Civil Rights Legislation

Last session of the Colorado Legislature was the most productive in history in the passage of Civil Rights Legislation. The Legislature passed seven bills which had a direct bearing upon civil rights. They led off by passing a comprehensive Fair Employment Practices Act, covering private employers, and set a new precedent . . . not a dissenting vote was cast in either house . . . and then increased the amount of money for the Anti-Discrimination Commission so it could expand its staff for better enforcement.

In other actions, the Legislature placed the enforcement and administration of the Public Accommodations Law under the Commission. They passed a bill requiring Motels to post their rates so that one person would not be charged more than another because of skin color or religion. They repealed the civil color or religion law. They broadened the civil rights law and they passed a law making anonymous political campaign literature illegal.

## It's A Record!

The Colorado Legislature set an outstanding record of that can be done to strengthen civil rights legislation. It's a record which, to our knowledge, has never been equaled in one session by any other state. Congress can well take a lesson from the Colorado lawmakers!

## Wyoming Passes P.A. Bill

In Wyoming, the legislature passed a moderate public accommodations bill, thanks to the untiring efforts of Joe Fogel and Bill Vea. New Mexico despite Marcel Pick's hard work, refused to act on any civil rights legislation.

## A Legacy Gift . . . to You

ADL's Legacy Program under the leadership of our own Colonel Melvin H. Schlesinger, honorary vice-chairman of

## TEACHING THE TEACHERS — "Why" and "How" of Good Human Relations . . .

Throughout the Mountain States area, teachers and community leaders went back to school to learn about good human relations (teaching and learning) for classroom and community — with the assistance of your Regional Office. Over 100 summer workshops program reached an all time high this year. Two workshops on "Human Relations Education" were held at the University of Colorado. Dr. Gertrude Neor, Director of ADL's Education Department, led an advanced workshop and Mildred Hilditch, Principal of Denver's Newton School, directed the regular workshop which followed.

The advanced workshop was an experiment intended to provide more specific help for the people who have attended previous summer courses. Wrote Dr. Harold Douglas, Director of CU's College of Education, "I think we have had very effective cooperation in these workshops and would like to continue it."



Gertrude Neor  
Director, National Education  
Department, ADL

## Meetings and Conferences

In addition to her other duties at CU Gertrude Neor found time to serve as visiting consultant to a workshop at the University of Denver. Earlier in the year, Gertrude spent several days in Denver meeting with top staff of the Public Schools, with junior and senior high school coordinators, administrative staffs and principals.

The busiest people somehow manage to find time for worthwhile activities. Dr. Neor and Mountain States ADLers also participated in the second annual institute on civil liberties, "Your Rights and Mine" at the University of Colorado, sponsored in cooperation with the American Civil Liberties Union, American Friends Service Committee, Colorado Anti-Discrimination Commission, Denver Urban League, Colorado Council of Churches, Japanese-American Citizens League, NAACP and the National Council of Jewish Women. Workshops in education, employment, housing and migrant labor were held with Dr. Neor serving as a consultant in the education sessions.

## 16 / Roots of Change: World War II and the Cold War “It’s A Record!”

### Citation

“**New Civil Rights Legislation,**” and “It’s a Record!” *Personal ADL Letter*, summer, 1957. James A. Atkins Collection, MSS 21, Box 46, FF 2020, Stephen H. Hart Library and Research Center, History Colorado Center.

### Excerpt

#### *New Civil Rights Legislation*

The last session of the Colorado legislature was the most productive in history in the passage of Civil Rights Legislation. The Legislature passed seven bills which have a direct bearing upon civil rights. They led off by passing a comprehensive Fair Employment Practices Act, covering private employers, and set a new precedent...not a dissenting vote was cast in either house...and then increased the amount of money for the Anti-Discrimination Commission so it could expand its staff for better enforcement.

In other actions, the Legislature placed the enforcement and administration of the Public Accommodations Law under the Commission. They passed a bill requiring motels to post their rates so that one person would not be charged more than another because of skin color or religion. They repealed the miscegenation law...

#### *It’s A Record!*

The Colorado Legislature set an outstanding example of what can be done to strengthen civil rights legislation. It’s a record which, to my knowledge, has never been equaled in one session by any other state. Congress can well take a lesson from the Colorado lawmakers!

### Annotation

The *Personal ADL Letter*, the quarterly newsletter of the Mountain States Anti-Defamation League, was exultant. While the U.S. Congress had yet to pass a major civil rights bill in the twentieth century, in 1957 the Colorado legislature passed seven. “It’s a record which, to my knowledge, has never been equaled in one session by another state. Congress can well take a lesson from the Colorado lawmakers,” enthused ADL regional director Sheldon Steinhauser.

The coalition that championed racial equality and civil rights legislation in Colorado, first led by the Denver Unity Council, had reorganized in 1950 under the leadership of the ADL. Under the auspices of the ADL, they achieved a stunning number of legislative victories, starting with the legislature’s passage of the state’s first fair employment law in 1951. These legislative achievements reflected a change in popular opinion as well. Although racist beliefs and practices were still alive and festering, an undeniable sea change in popular opinion had taken place regarding what beliefs were and were not consistent with

American democracy and freedom. It was a change in popular opinion that undermined the very rationale for the creation of the Lincoln Hills mountain resort: during the 1950s, a growing number of Coloradans had come to view openly racist discrimination and exclusion as harmful and unfair.

Among the measures passed by the state legislature in 1957: an extension of the reach of Colorado's fair employment to include private employers (the original law covered only governmental employers), the repeal of the state ban on interracial marriage. The legislature also placed jurisdiction over the state's old 1895 public accommodations law in the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Commission – a state agency specifically created to enforce the state's anti-discrimination laws.

Throughout the decade, human relations activists had effectively used the racial politics of World War II and the Cold War to their advantage. The impact of their strategy was made crystal clear by Colorado Governor Dan Thornton in 1951: as he signed the state's first fair employment law in front of reporters, Thornton – sounding more like a U.S. statesman than a Colorado governor – declared that the law “was proof to the Communists that this country is interested in the welfare of minorities.”

Yet, perhaps even more telling than these legislative victories, during the 1950s changing public opinion and private business practices led to an increasing number of African Americans and other peoples of color gaining access to stores, theaters, swimming pools, and parks – including mountain parks – that had previously denied them. So much work lay ahead, both to ensure enforcement of anti-discrimination laws and to expand the number of Coloradans protected by them. However, it was clear that over the course of the decade, the seeds of civil rights change had indeed matured in Colorado.







## 17 / A Changed World Lincoln Hills Today

### Citation

Winks Lodge, 2015. Dani Newsum, photograph.

### Annotation

Melba Hamlet, the widow of Obrey “Winks” Hamlet, sold her husband’s historic lodge after his death in 1965. The passing of Hamlet, whose lodge formed the social and cultural heart of the Lincoln Hills Country resort community, followed closely upon Congress’ passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Both events were rich in symbolism, as they marked the end of an era. Congressional approval of the landmark civil rights law announced a seismic change in federal policy: discrimination in employment, public education, and public accommodations was now illegal as a matter of federal law. The organizing principle for Lincoln Hills had disappeared as President Lyndon Baines Johnson’s signed the 1964 Civil Rights Act. And, as if on cue, Mr. Hamlet’s passing one year earlier marked the end of Winks Lodge, and in effect, Lincoln Hills.

However, in Colorado change had already settled in years before the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The state’s civil rights revolution had begun more than a decade earlier, and by the end of the 1950s, many black people in Colorado were enjoying mountain parks that just five or ten years earlier had been off limits to them. During the 1960s, as African Americans enjoyed access to an increasing variety of mountain recreational parks, hotels, and motels, the lure of Lincoln Hills continued to fade.

In recognition of its singular legacy as the site of African American refuge, recreation, entertainment, and cultural enlightenment in the West during the reign of racial segregation and discrimination, Winks Lodge was placed on the National Park Service Register of Historic Places in 1980. Today, visitors can drive to Lincoln Hills and view the lodge from the outside, or arrange a guided tour of the lodge’s interior through the Lincoln Hills Flyfisher Group, the current owner of the former resort property. Outside of Winks Lodge, however, time has left its mark on Lincoln Hills. A small number of families have maintained their cabins and their connections to a historic time and place, but most of the historic resort’s cabins and other structures have fallen into various stages of disrepair.

Currently the Lincoln Hills Flyfisher Group operates a private fly fishing lodge on the old resort property. The group’s charitable Lincoln Hills Cares operation, in association with various community partners, sponsors mountain trips, recreation, and entertainment programs designed for families and for young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy Colorado’s Rocky Mountains.

## Additional Resources

### Websites

Historic Lincoln Hills and Lincoln Hills Cares  
[www.lincolnhills.com/historic-lincoln-hills/history/](http://www.lincolnhills.com/historic-lincoln-hills/history/)

Lincoln Hills – M. Gerwing – Architects Notebook  
<https://mgerwing.wordpress.com/2010/08/31/winks-lodge/>

Lincoln Hills - History Colorado  
[http://exhibits.historycolorado.org/lincolnhills/lincoln\\_home.html](http://exhibits.historycolorado.org/lincolnhills/lincoln_home.html)

Lincoln Hills Country Club  
[www.blackpast.org/.../lincoln-hills-country-club-1922-1966](http://www.blackpast.org/.../lincoln-hills-country-club-1922-1966)

### Books and Articles

K. A. Anadoitis, *Justina Ford: Baby Doctor*, Great Lives in Colorado Series (Palmer Lake, CO: Filter Press, 2013).

Mark S. Foster, "In the Face of 'Jim Crow': Prosperous Blacks and Vacations, Travel and Outdoor Leisure, 1890-1945," *Journal of Negro History* (Spring 1999).

Moya Hansen, "Entitled to Full and Equal Enjoyment: Leisure and Entertainment in the Denver Black Community, 1900 to 1930," *University of Colorado Denver Studies Journal* 10 (No.1, spring 1993): 47-71.

Andrea Juarez, "Lincoln Hills: An African-American Monument in Colorado's Mountains," *Urban Spectrum*, May 2007.

Craig Leavitt, "A Shelter from Harsh Times: The African American Resort of Lincoln Hills," *Colorado Heritage Magazine*, March-April, 2012, 14-21.

Claire Martin, "A Resort to Remember," *DenverPost.Com*, February 15, 2009

Melanie Shellenberger, *High Country Summers: The Early Second Homes of Colorado, 1890-1940* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2012).

### Video Programs

"Lincoln Hills," Colorado Experience – Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting  
[Servicevideo.rmpbs.org/video/2339004018](http://Servicevideo.rmpbs.org/video/2339004018)





## Teaching Strategies

General Instructional Strategies for using primary sources in classrooms followed by grade-level-targeted suggestions for essential questions, inquiry questions (including writing prompts and discussion starters), activities, and assessments aligned to specific state academic standards for 4th grade, 8th grade, and high school.

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### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### Essential Questions:

- How are events in U.S. and world history connected to events in Colorado?
  - How have different people left an impact on the state of Colorado?
  - In what ways do we see Colorado's history reflected in the state today?
  - How does connecting people, events and ideas help interpret history?
  - How do individuals influence and work with government?
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- **Inquiry Questions (writing prompts or discussion starters):**
  - How did diverse people impact Colorado's history and culture?
  - What are examples of cause and effect relationships associated with the actions of diverse citizens?
  - Why was Lincoln Hills created? What effect did it have on Colorado's African Americans?
  - How did civil rights activists work with the government to achieve more equal rights?

#### Activities:

##### *Warm up/quick activities*

- Choose a random primary source from the set to analyze using the Crop It Method. <http://teachinghistory.org/teaching-materials/teaching-guides/25697>
- Students can do a quick analysis using the [6 C's of Primary Source Analysis](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B3w0Qd99SapzNWY1OGZhMDYtY2lwYS00MDM4LTkwYjUtZjQ1YjgxOWFhMTA4/edit?hl=en_US&authkey=CN6XITw) ([https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B3w0Qd99SapzNWY1OGZhMDYtY2lwYS00MDM4LTkwYjUtZjQ1YjgxOWFhMTA4/edit?hl=en\\_US&authkey=CN6XITw](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B3w0Qd99SapzNWY1OGZhMDYtY2lwYS00MDM4LTkwYjUtZjQ1YjgxOWFhMTA4/edit?hl=en_US&authkey=CN6XITw)) using any of the primary source documents. Teachers may choose to use one source from each sub-section of the set.

##### *Lesson activities*

- Read the following books to students prior to accessing primary sources to provide background knowledge and personal connections to the Civil Rights Movement:
  - [Unstoppable Octobia May](#) by Sharon Flake
  - [Freedom Summer](#) by Deborah Wiles
- Take a [walking field trip](http://www.historycolorado.org/educators/explore-denver-walking-tours) (<http://www.historycolorado.org/educators/explore-denver-walking-tours>) with the History Colorado Center through Five Points to explore the people, places and ideas that shaped African American culture and history in Denver.
- If you are unable to visit the History Colorado Center, visit their online [Lincoln Hills exhibit](http://exhibits.historycolorado.org/lincolnhills/lincoln_home.html) ([http://exhibits.historycolorado.org/lincolnhills/lincoln\\_home.html](http://exhibits.historycolorado.org/lincolnhills/lincoln_home.html)) with students. You can also view a [Colorado Experience](http://video.rmpbs.org/video/2339004018/) (<http://video.rmpbs.org/video/2339004018/>) video.

- Utilize the Library of Congress' recommendations for analyzing primary sources ([http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/resources/Analyzing\\_Primary\\_Sources.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/resources/Analyzing_Primary_Sources.pdf)). To do this, students should either each receive a copy of a primary source that they will be analyzing, or a copy can be projected to the entire class. Each student should have three post-it notes where they can write an observation(s), a reflection(s), and a question(s). After they have done this, they can post their notes on three designated places (i.e.: a bulletin board, white board, charts paper, etc.) The teacher can go through each step of analyzing with students and discuss commonalities. Following the observation stage, the teacher may want to provide students with more background knowledge about the source. A follow up activity may involve having students research their questions in more depth.
- Students can use a comic strip to help explain their understanding of cause and effect relationships. Students should begin by analyzing primary sources #1-6 to explore how racism emerged in our state. This should also explain the need for creating a separate African American mountain resort. Discuss with students the different perspectives of each group of Colorado citizens to help them understand the time period. Relate events in Colorado to events in the United States (i.e.: the Civil War, western expansion, etc.). After students have an understanding of why Lincoln Hills was created, have them analyze primary sources #7-11 to explore the effects of the resort. Then have students use the tool [Comic Life](http://comiclfe.com) (<http://comiclfe.com>) to create a cause and effect comic strip to explain this timeline of events.
- Have students create a vacation poster advertising Lincoln Hills. Remind them to consider their audience and use primary sources #7-11 to highlight specific details that they might use to persuade people to visit. They should also visit the Lincoln Hills [website](http://lincolnhillscare.org) (<http://lincolnhillscare.org>) to explore history, famous visitors, and any other helpful information that they might include to advertise for the resort. Have students present their posters to the class and explain how their posters might've influenced the diverse population in Colorado in the 1920s.
- Have students discuss the contrasting points of view that were prevalent during World War II and the Cold War. Discuss how civil rights activists attempted to draw parallels between world affairs and affairs on the home front in order to give others a better perspective of how African Americans were being treated in the United States. Use primary sources #12-16 and the table below, or something similar, to facilitate this conversation. Make sure that students are also connecting discrimination during WWII to both the European and Pacific fronts to connect learning to Camp Amache.

|  | World War II Point of View | Civil Rights Point of View | Cold War Point of View |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| What does segregation & discrimination mean during this era?             |                            |                            |                        |
| What does racial inequality look like in this period?                    |                            |                            |                        |
| How was propaganda used to relate this era to the Civil Rights Movement? |                            |                            |                        |

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Essential Questions:

- Did the Civil War solve what it intended to solve?
- What social, political, and economic factors encouraged African Americans to leave the South after the Civil War?
- How did culture, geography, politics and economics dictate where people moved during the Great Migration?
- How was Lincoln Hills a symbol of the hope African Americans possessed after the Civil War?
- Discuss the role of politics in Colorado in the 1920s, specifically the role of the KKK, and how those issues impacted African Americans then and in the years to come.
- Was Colorado a leader or a follower in expanding rights of minorities after the Civil War and beyond?
- The 1920s have often been portrayed as a time of wealth and excess in the United States. Discuss the validity of this portrayal as it relates to Denver/Colorado during the 1920s.
- How has race been dealt with in the American West and how has Colorado and Lincoln Hills been a symbol of the issues faced by minorities in the American West?

### Inquiry Questions (writing prompts or discussion starters):

- What push/pull factors encouraged African Americans to move out of the South?
- To what extent did the Civil War effectively solve civil rights issues?
- Lincoln Hills was created as a resort or refuge for African Americans to get away from societal inequities. Where or in what ways are people in today's society seeking "refuge?"
- Document 17 depicts present day Lincoln Hills and the fly fishing group who now owns the resort. The present day owners still allow visitors to Lincoln Hills on historic tours, in addition, the owners still try to use Lincoln Hills as it was once used, as a refuge. As such, the "Lincoln Hills Cares" initiative seeks to take groups of young people and families who otherwise might not enjoy the mountains. What groups of people do you suppose this group assists? Why? What larger conclusions can you make from this?

### Activities

- Read excerpts from [Isabel Wilkerson's \*The Warmth of Other Suns\*](http://isabelwilkerson.com) (<http://isabelwilkerson.com>). As a class, discuss the excerpts, video clips, etc. What was one thing that stuck out to you about the Great Migration? What made you go "whoa"? Did anything resonate with you in another way? Conduct a quick research assignment relating to the Great Migration, specifically, migration from the South to the West.
- Prior understanding of the following events will be required for these activities: Reconstruction, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution, Plessy vs. Ferguson, Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act. Identify, in 3-5 sentences, the significance of one of the previous event and how each paint the picture of civil rights in Colorado and demonstrate the context in which Lincoln Hills was born. Use this article as an additional resource and [one perspective](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tavis-smiley/tavis-smiley-my-conversat_b_7029466.html) ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tavis-smiley/tavis-smiley-my-conversat\\_b\\_7029466.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tavis-smiley/tavis-smiley-my-conversat_b_7029466.html)) on Reconstruction. Watch the interview to hear about the successes and failures of the era.
- Put together a field trip to Lincoln Hills, a Denver Jazz club, or another significant destination that would expose students to the culture of the African American experience in Denver and Colorado.

- Role play/script writing narrative (similar to a TED talk) discussing the role of race relations in the American West. Students could use events such as the Chinese Exclusion Act, Japanese Internment camps, and Lincoln Hills as vehicles to discuss the role of minorities in Colorado and the American West. Student products can be recorded using [Vocaroo](#) or [Voicethread](#), or performed live.
- Use the website [Thinglink](https://www.thinglink.com) (<https://www.thinglink.com>) to produce a response/product use a primary source photo from the Lincoln Hills collection and dissect its meaning and significance to the Civil Rights movement.
- Guest Speaker: Invite a guest speaker to come in and talk about the KKK in Colorado. Phil Goodstein, author of the book *In the Shadow of the Klan: When the KKK ruled Denver 1920-1926* might be a good choice. Other possibilities could include having a round table discussion from a variety of speakers talking about their experiences with race in Colorado, both from a historical perspective and from a present day perspective. Another option for guest speakers might come from the [Denver Jazz Club](http://denverjazzclub.com) (<http://denverjazzclub.com>).
- Have students watch segments from Ken Burns' documentary [Jazz](#) explore the foundations of jazz music and the spread of jazz throughout the United States as an indicator or measure of migration and cultural transition and movement.

**Assessments (aligned to specific state academic standards for your grade level):**

- Use the website [narrable](http://narrable.com) ([narrable.com](http://narrable.com)) to answer the following question: Did the Civil War accomplish what it set out to accomplish? In answering this question, use primary sources from 1865-present day to support your argument. Student responses should include the historical background of slavery and expansion that ultimately led to the Civil War. Furthermore, students should then trace the struggle of minorities after the Civil War through the Civil Rights era to the present.
- Create your own DBQ. Using the links provided from the [Library of Congress](#) and other sources such as this [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSoeGw3vZms) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSoeGw3vZms>) video familiarize yourself with writing a Document Based Question. Students will be required to use the documents provided from the Lincoln Hills collection and a document of their choice from the [Library of Congress](#) to write their own DBQ. Students will then work in pairs to analyze the quality of their document and their questions. In addition, students will create a grading rubric for the questions they write. As a final assessment, students will answer another students question and the students will use peer to peer review and assessment.
- Using the documents provided and facts learned, create an authentic advertisement to be printed in a newspaper advertising Lincoln Hills. Include in your advertisement reasons people should consider buying land or vacationing at Lincoln Hills. Remember, this is an advertisement

## High School

### Essential Questions:

- What was the impact of *Plessy v. Ferguson* and the “separate but equal” decision?
- How has diversity in the West changed over time?
- What does the phrase “all men are created equal” mean?
- How did the geography of the West impact segregation and civil rights?
- How did the treatment of African Americans differ in the US over time and in different regions?
- How does isolationism impact our own society?

### Inquiry Questions (writing prompts or discussion starters):

- Compare and contrast the treatment of different minority groups in the South and West of the United States in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Lincoln Hills was built as a resort for African Americans in an area where they did not receive equal treatment. How did this impact the civil rights movement in the region?
- The western portion of the United States was heavily influenced by both fronts of WWII: Nazi Germany and the war in the Pacific. To what extent did the war impact the civil rights movement?
- How did Colorado’s treatment of African Americans change over time? How does this compare to movements in other areas of the country?

### Activities:

- Take a field trip to Denver’s Four Corners and other areas of the city that have been and are historically African American. Analyze the change over time of treatment of African Americans in Colorado. Lead a discussion (or write an essay) that discusses how things have changed, or stayed the same from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- In the summer of 2015, a group in Denver has sought to change the name of the Stapleton community, which is located in the northeast part of Denver and was the former site of Denver’s first airport. The airport, and subsequent neighborhood, was named after Former Mayor Benjamin Stapleton who was thought to be a Klansmen in Denver in the 1920s. ([Watch a short clip from the local news.](#) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKdJtIt7MUo>) Do you think that Stapleton (or other names in the Denver area with similar histories) should be changed? Explain why or why not.
- Using resources from the [Boulder County Latino History Project](#) ([http://bocolatinohistory.colorado.edu/category-search?f%5b0%5d=field\\_topics%3A306](http://bocolatinohistory.colorado.edu/category-search?f%5b0%5d=field_topics%3A306)), compare the treatment of minority groups in the Boulder area to the Denver area.
- Many of the sources in this project pre-date Brown vs. the Board of Education in which “separate but equal” was ruled unconstitutional. Imagine you are the petitioner who has brought the issue of unconstitutionality of Plessy to the Supreme Court. Write your oral argument to present to the court. You can listen to modern-day oral arguments at [www.oyez.org](http://www.oyez.org).

### Assessments (aligned with specific state academic standards for your grade level):

- Create your own DBQ. Using the links provided from the [Library of Congress](#) and other sources such as this [YouTube](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSoeGw3vZms>) video familiarize yourself with writing a Document Based Question. Students will be required to use the documents provided from the Lincoln Hills collection and a document of their choice from the [Library of Congress](#) to



write their own DBQ. Students will then work in pairs to analyze the quality of their document and their questions. In addition, students will create a grading rubric for the questions they write. As a final assessment, students will answer another student's question and the students will use peer to peer review and assessment.

- Looking at the different groups that have been disenfranchised over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the US, write a narrative that examines and evaluates the issues of unity and diversity in the United States. Through this evaluation, students will determine if 20<sup>th</sup> century US history saw more unity or more diversity.