

C O L O R A D O

Heritage

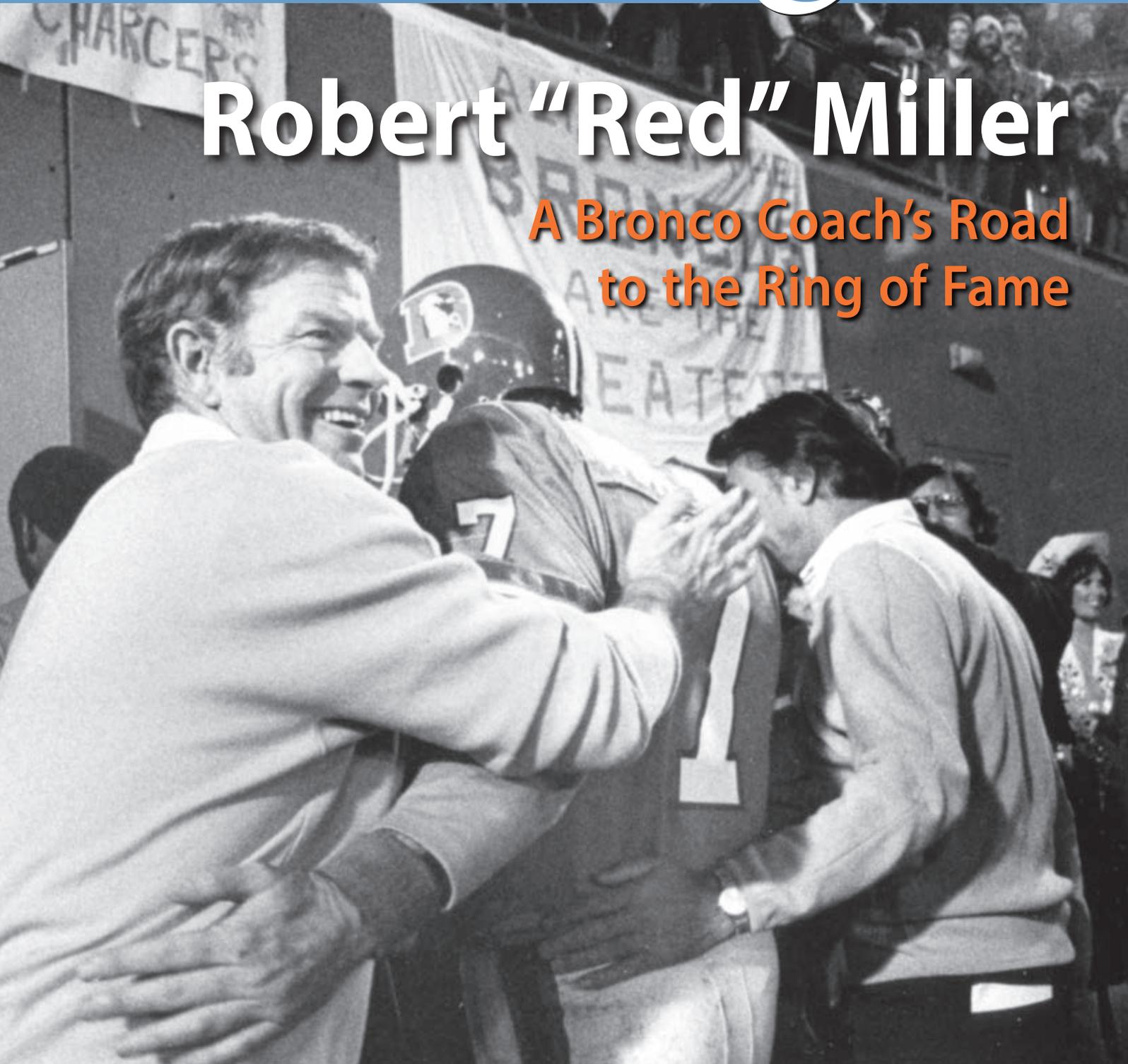


The Magazine of History Colorado

Spring 2018

Robert "Red" Miller

**A Bronco Coach's Road
to the Ring of Fame**



A Field of Our Dreams:
Coors Field Opens for Business

The Dust Bowl Softball League:
A Depression-Era Diversion

National Archives Shares the Original
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

COLORADO
 Heritage
The Magazine of History Colorado Spring 2018

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ON THE COVER

Denver Broncos Head Coach Red Miller pats quarterback Craig Morton on the back after a win over the San Diego Chargers in 1977—the year the Broncos made their first Super Bowl appearance. “Although we didn’t win the Super Bowl,” Morton says, “that game was something that never will be duplicated, ever.” As author Keith Valdez writes, Red Miller fueled the momentum that drove the team to legitimacy, and it’s a momentum that’s with them still. Rocky Mountain News photo by David Cornwell courtesy Denver Public Library Western History Collection (WH2129, Box 190).

All images are from the collections of History Colorado unless otherwise noted.

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Colorado Heritage (ISSN 0272-9377), published by History Colorado, contains articles of broad general and educational interest that link the present to the past. *Heritage* is distributed quarterly to History Colorado members, to libraries, and to institutions of higher learning. Manuscripts must be documented when submitted, and originals are retained in the Publications office. An Author’s Guide is available; contact the Publications office. History Colorado disclaims responsibility for statements of fact or of opinion made by contributors. History Colorado also publishes *Explore*, a bimonthly publication of programs, events, and exhibition listings.

Postage paid at Denver, Colorado

All History Colorado members receive *Colorado Heritage* as a benefit of membership. Individual subscriptions are available through the Membership office for \$40 per year (four issues).

To receive copies of this or other History Colorado or Colorado Historical Society publications, contact the Publications office at 303/866-4532 or publications@state.co.us.

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THE COLORADO BOOK REVIEW

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THE COLORADO ENCYCLOPEDIA

Did you know? More than 100 *Colorado Heritage* articles have been adapted for the *Colorado Encyclopedia*—a new online resource where you can find a wealth of information about Colorado history. What’s in this twenty-first-century reference work on the Centennial State? Find out at ColoradoEncyclopedia.org.



Denver native Clark Blickensderfer taught himself photography and developed a flair for western landscapes, Denver cityscapes, and ornithological photos. He gained recognition for his salon images, which were exhibited internationally, and later colorful autochromes and lantern slides. A charter member of the Colorado Mountain Club, he was inspired by his surroundings and drawn to the pictorialism school of photography, shooting many of his images with a “soft focus” style that allowed him to capture the changing light and many moods of both the mountains and the city. Blickensderfer took this photograph, titled *A Wet Day*, in about 1925 on a sidewalk in downtown Denver.

History Colorado holds a collection of more than 800 photographs by Blickensderfer made between 1910 and 1930.



87.558.370

To order a scan or print of this image, or to see more Clark Blickensderfer photos from our collection, visit the History Colorado Online Collection at h-co.org/collections.



It's Time to Play Ball!

It's hard to imagine the Colorado Rockies have been playing for twenty-five years. But sure enough, this year marks

their twenty-fifth anniversary, so we're opening our newest History Colorado Center exhibition, *Play Ball! A Celebration of America's Game* in tandem with the Rockies' season. And in that same spirit of celebration, we're keeping *Play Ball!* open for as long as the Rockies are playing this season (and, of course, postseason).

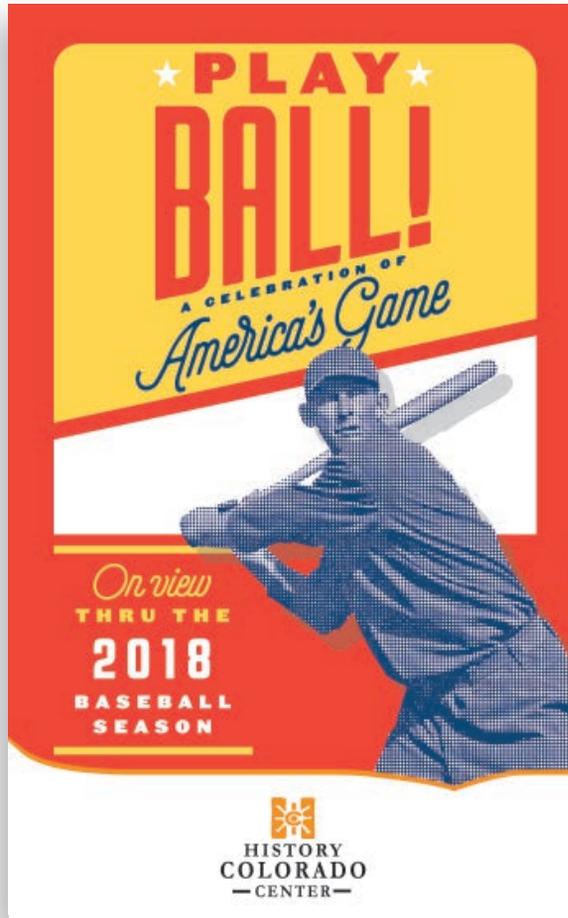
The exhibition showcases the holdings of Marshall Fogel, a local collector of historic baseball memorabilia. Inspired by a lifetime spent loving the game, Marshall has amassed one of the greatest collections outside the Hall of Fame—artifacts that show just how closely baseball mirrors the currents of

American life. He's generously opened his collection up to us, and the result is an experience that will wow not just diehard lovers of the game, but anyone who's ever heard of Jackie

Robinson, Babe Ruth, and Joe DiMaggio or found themselves just a little misty-eyed while watching a classic baseball movie.

Our summer issue will recount a few lesser-known tales of baseball's past. In the meantime, enjoy some Denver Broncos history, a look at Coors Field's beginnings, and even some firsthand memories of Dust Bowl softball. Then, come on in to the History Colorado Center to be amazed at genuine reminders of baseball greatness from around the country and right here on Denver's own storied Blake Street.

Steve W. Turner,
Executive Director



MISSION

History Colorado inspires generations to find wonder and meaning in our past and to engage in creating a better Colorado.

OUR SITES

History Colorado Center

1200 Broadway, Denver
303/HISTORY, HistoryColoradoCenter.org

Byers-Evans House Museum

1310 Bannock Street, Denver
303/620-4933, ByersEvansHouseMuseum.org

El Pueblo History Museum

301 North Union, Pueblo
719/583-0453, ElPuebloHistoryMuseum.org

Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center

East of Alamosa off U.S. 160
719/379-3512, FortGarlandMuseum.org

Fort Vasquez

13412 U.S. 85, Platteville
970/785-2832, FortVasquezMuseum.org

Georgetown Loop Historic Mining & Railroad Park®

Georgetown/Silver Plume I-70 exits
1-888/456-6777, GeorgetownLoopRR.com

Grant-Humphreys Mansion

770 Pennsylvania Street, Denver
303/894-2505, GrantHumphreysMansion.org

Healy House Museum and Dexter Cabin

912 Harrison Avenue, Leadville
719/486-0487, HealyHouseMuseum.org

Pike's Stockade

Six miles east of La Jara, near Sanford, just off Highway 136
Open: Memorial Day to October 1, or by appointment.

Trinidad History Museum

312 East Main Street, Trinidad
719/846-7217, TrinidadHistoryMuseum.org

Ute Indian Museum

17253 Chipeta Road, Montrose
Expanded museum now open!
970/249-3098, UteIndianMuseum.org

*From the Hart . . .***The Hart Index: Baseball and Beyond**

*Compiled by the staff of the Hart Research Library at History Colorado,
with apologies to Harper's Index*

First year the *Rocky Mountain News* published calls for the formation of a baseball club in Denver: **1862**

Date the City of Denver agreed to sell the Denver Bears' land to build a baseball stadium: **October 16, 1947**

Date ground was broken for the construction of Coors Field: **October 16, 1992**

Number of batters Satchel Paige struck out in the 1934 Denver Post Tournament in Denver: **44**

Career bases stolen by Tim Lincecum, who got his start with the Denver Bears: **808**

Average high temperature in Denver on April 6 (1993–2017): **55° F**

Average humidity in Denver on April 6 (1993–2017): **52%**

Fixed temperature and humidity of Coors Field's humidors: **70° F, 50% humidity**

Capacity of Coors Field when it opened in 1995: **50,200**

Current capacity of Coors Field: **50,398**

Record attendance at a Rockies home game at Coors Field: **51,267**

Number of athletes training yearly at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs: **10,000-plus**

Number of athletes on Team USA at the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang: **242**

Number of athletes from Colorado on Team USA at PyeongChang: **31**

Estimated amount of material from Mile High Stadium demolition that was recycled: **85%**

Date Red Miller named head coach of the Denver Broncos: **January 31, 1977**

Miller's record as Broncos head coach, 1977–1980: **42–25**

Average points per game by opponents of the 1977 Broncos' "Orange Crush" defense: **10.6**

Average points per game by opponents of the 2015 Broncos Super Bowl–winning defense: **18.5**

Cost of genetic testing to determine a child's predisposition for sports: **\$169**

Year Walter Hakanson of the Downtown Denver YMCA named the sport of softball: **1932**

1945 batting average of Lucille Colacito, All American Girls Professional Baseball League catcher and Denver Softball Hall of Famer: **.141**

Temperature at the coldest major league baseball game (Rockies vs. Braves, Coors Field, April 23, 2013) since MLB began tracking temps in 1991: **23° F**

Number of times Hashim Kahn, Colorado Sports Hall of Famer, won the British Open Squash Championship: **7**

Number of ultramarathons in Colorado in 2018: **55**

Time limit to complete the 100-mile Leadville Trail 100 Run: **30 hours**



Colorado Mountain Club members enjoy a game of baseball in Clear Creek County in 1915. 10044571

House Joint Resolution that declared Colorado's State Sport to be Pack Burro Racing: **12-1021**

Favorite sports of the Hart Research Library staff:
Tennis, hockey, snowboarding, bocce, pro wrestling, monster trucks

SOFTBALL MAGIC IN THE DUST BOWL

BY GENE M. CULVER

*M*other Nature extended and even intensified the miserable times created by the Stock Market Crash of 1929 with nearly a decade of drought and dust storms on the Plains. The little town of Chivington* in southeastern Colorado where my family lived could only accept the gloom and despair, just as hundreds of other communities in the region. Chivington's only public places were a two-story brick school house, a small store, and a smaller post office with perhaps thirty mostly hungry residents.

*Ironically, the town that started something praiseworthy was named after Col. John M. Chivington, who, in 1864, led an unprovoked attack on a defenseless Native American village just seven miles to the north. It was named the Sand Creek Massacre.

The Chivington team came out victorious in the softball league's "opener" over a team fielded by the nearby town of Eads, shown here. 20006828



Despite the meager facilities this tiny spot on a map initiated a brief but worthy legacy during this very bleak period. With little work to occupy their time, several men, including my father, suggested starting a softball team. The notion of “playing” while so many were hurting received very little enthusiasm from wives and skeptics. Even some of those expecting to play had doubts in such a dismal period. With almost no equipment, an obvious shortage of funds and more will than talent, prospects were about as good as those of a stock market recovery. These conditions perhaps spurred the determination to overcome the obstacles.

Not everyone opposed the idea, however, and a couple of volunteers decided to “pass the hat” for small donations that eventually matched the amount needed for bats, a few balls, and protective gear for the catcher. The team’s possessions were just enough to fill a “gunny sack.” Most players were able to find old fielder’s gloves, and another need was met when the school offered the softball diamond for the summer.

Practice sessions were quickly set, and almost by accident it was discovered that the two best horseshoe pitchers, Frank and Dick, were equally proficient at pitching a softball. A tall cowboy, Slim, with legs slightly bowed at the knees, surprisingly was chosen as catcher. No one else had the nerve to try out for the position. The Royce brothers, Bill and Bob, were naturals for the outfield and the other positions included Jim at first and Rich at second. The lineup was completed and a good thing, because softball teams then had ten players (now only nine) and we were almost out of athletes.

Practice was exciting, and a few people even came to watch, but with no competition it soon got boring. Fortunately, news of our softball team attracted attention in Eads, a much larger town a few miles west. Some boasting and bragging between the

two and our first game was scheduled. With a little work on the field and some patches in the weathered screen behind home plate, the “opener” soon got under way. “Word of mouth” announcement of the game drew a crowd. Some walked, some drove their cars. The “upstart” Chivington bunch beat the Eads bunch with runs to spare.

Before long, other teams from nearby towns formed and the informal “Dust Bowl Softball League” was born. It didn’t take long before we could have a game every Sunday. And that was how often the team from Chivington won the first season. Playing again next year was never in doubt. Winning on the field was rewarding, but the greater success was the mood of those who attended the games. The dust storms did not end, and the rains did not start, but the spirits were buoyed by the diversion from the gloom and pain of a great deal of misery.

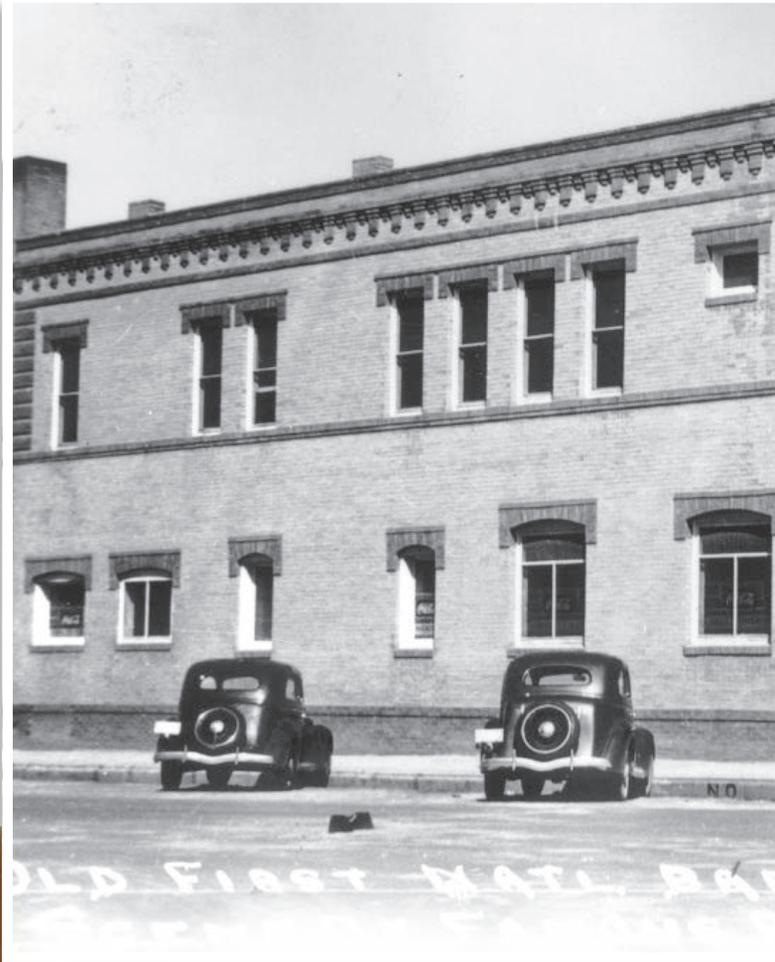
Players were serious about their game and the competition was real, but errors and misplays could be exciting too. Take the time when there was a rundown between third and home. The third baseman threw high to Slim (remember, his legs were slightly bowed) and when he reached down to tag the runner, he had squirted between Slim’s legs to score.



Our devoted catcher could only look embarrassed but the play give the spectators a good laugh and reason to admire the determination of this most unlikely ballplayer.

The following year was better than the first, with more teams and tougher competition. The “take” at each game increased, but uniform upgrades were much too expensive so the team continued playing in work clothes, Levis, blue denim shirts, and shoes that had little resemblance to athletic footwear. On more than one occasion, a player chased down a fly ball wearing cowboy boots! Even more remarkable, this ill-clad team beat the highly touted one from Lamar, a town of 4,000 people! News about softball went all over the area; nearly every town had a team that wanted to play the league’s finest: Chivington.

We did have a couple of losses in the second season, but we maintained our “team to beat” ranking. None of this changed the weather, but anyone discussing it soon found the conversation switching to heroics on the ball diamond. The underlying grief and suffering persisted, but that improbable handful of ballplayers from Chivington brought a few smiles and pride to everyone.



This circa-1935 catcher's mitt resides in the collection of History Colorado. 91-217-98

As most people know, the dust storms of the '30s moved enough dirt and sand to make another planet. Late in the decade those who stayed finally got some relief with more rainfall and an improving economy. Sadly, the miracle of softball in southeastern Colorado had to compete with a much more ominous contest: World War II. The younger players were getting recruited to participate in a conflict no one wanted.

The team, of course, could not continue; the games were over. Players had been heartily cheered for their efforts on the field, but the far greater good, though perhaps unintended, was to divert attention



Lamar, a town of several thousand residents, was home to another team in the Dust Bowl Softball League. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection. X-11970

from one of the nation's worst tragedies and make it a little easier to cope. And one of the smallest towns, Chivington, had provided the spark that spread a little light where suffering was epidemic.

GENE M. CULVER grew up in Chivington and Eads, going on to work for Dun & Bradstreet all over Colorado and the West. He later started his own insurance business in Missouri, raised three tremendous kids, and returned often to Colorado to swish down the slopes. His historical writings range from this piece about Chivington's softball team to a catalog of industrialists, thinkers, and politicians who defined the twentieth century.



AUTHOR'S NOTE: *At age 87, I should confess to an imperfect memory of the story about Chivington softball. However, I cannot concede to any inaccuracy of its theme. These were real people playing roles they had never intended (and with a total lack of any luxury), who inspired victims of incredible hardship and helped them outlast a peril that seemed endless. I'm certain that the participants have all passed on, but though virtually unpublicized, I'm also certain their spirits linger in the skies once occupied by mountainous clouds of dust.*

Unfortunately, there were few means of recording the events I describe here. Cameras were a luxury and there were no sportswriters nearby to amplify the "heroics" of the teams. Like a lot of nostalgia, we start too late to make the events more permanent.

A FIELD OF OUR DREAMS

This view of the new high-tech scoreboard taken from the edge of the visiting-team dugout includes a Yankees player flashing a smile at the camera. Fraker made quite an effort to walk around the new stadium to capture many views of the park.



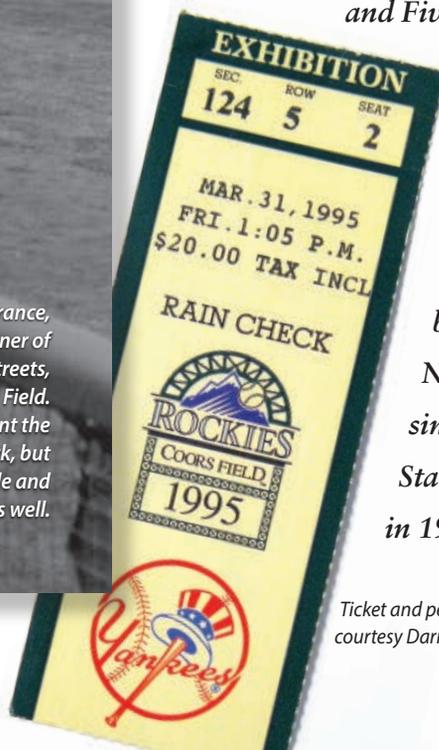
Facing: The first-base entrance, shown here at the corner of Blake and Twenty-First Streets, is one of five gates into Coors Field. Not only did Fraker document the interior of the new ballpark, but he captured the exterior façade and surrounding neighborhood as well.

In the 1990s Major League Baseball finally came to Denver after decades of loyal fan support for minor league teams. The Colorado Rockies debuted in 1993 as part of a two-team MLB expansion after multiple scares left Colorado fans unsure whether they'd get a major league team after all—from uncertainty about the expansion itself, to finding owners who could commit to the team, to deciding on a location for a new stadium and how to fund its construction.

After playing their first two seasons at Mile High Stadium, which they shared with the Denver Broncos football team, the Rockies moved into their brand-new home for the 1995 season. Straddling Denver's Lower Downtown

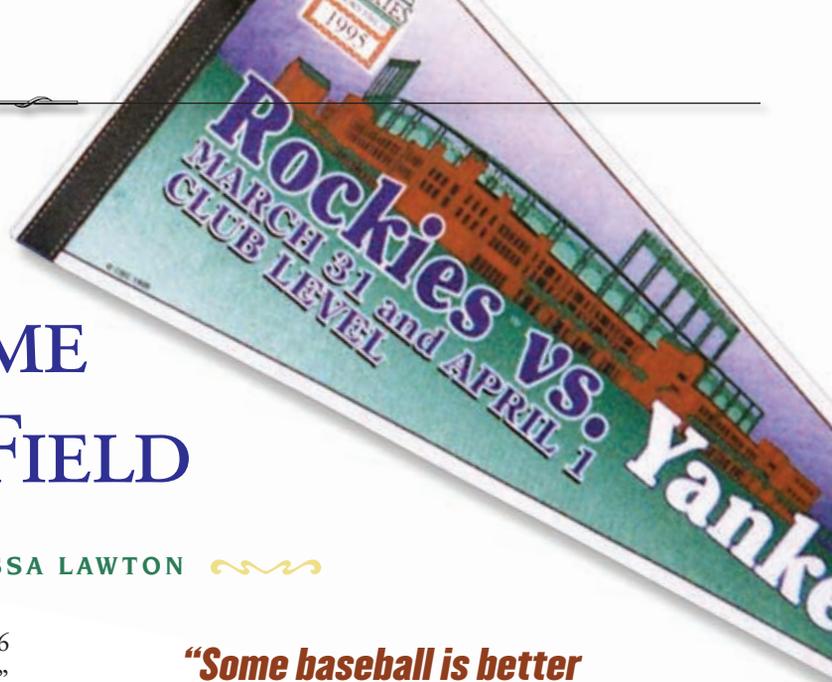
and Five Points neighbor-

hoods, at the time Coors Field was the first baseball-only stadium built in the National League since Dodgers Stadium opened in 1962.



Ticket and pennant courtesy Darren Eurich

THE COLORADO ROCKIES WELCOME FANS TO COORS FIELD



BY MELISSA LAWTON

Leading up to the official opening game on April 26 against the New York Mets were many “opening” games. There were games played by replacement players because of a players’ strike, day and night games, rescheduled exhibition games—even snow games. The last games to be played at Coors Field with replacement players were against the New York Yankees, who visited Denver to try out the new stadium in a preseason exhibition series on March 31 and April 1. Both teams fielded replacement players due to the strike—a stoppage that lasted for 232 days, the longest in MLB history. The strike officially ended the next day, on April 2, and sent the Rockies’ replacement players back to the minors, despite having defeated the Yankees over the previous two days.

Native Denverite and avid sports fan Patrick Fraker packed his camera for one of these exhibition games at Coors Field. It’s unclear which day he attended, but he arrived to watch the Rockies in their new stadium and documented his experience in black and white. We also don’t know why he chose to load his camera with black and white film that day. His career at History Colorado (known then as the Colorado Historical Society) may have informed his decision. The images featured here are a selection from a larger collection of photographs he took at the game.

**“Some baseball is better
than none at all.”**

—Rockies Coach Don Zimmer,
quoted in *The Denver Post* on April 1, 1995,
addressing the use of replacement players during the strike



*View all of Fraker’s photographs in the
History Colorado Online Collection by visiting
h-co.org/collection and entering “Fraker” in the
search box. Or to view all Colorado Rockies
collection items, simply search “Rockies baseball.”*

Game Stats

First regular-season game at Coors Field—April 26, 1995;
Colorado Rockies 11, New York Mets 9 (14 innings)

First Pitch: 5:38 p.m., Bill Swift to Brett Butler

First Plate Appearance, At Bat, Swing, and Hit: Brett Butler, infield single, 1st inning

First Run: Walt Weiss (Rockies), 1st inning

First Strikeout: Bill Swift, struck out (called) David Segui, 2nd inning

First Home Run: Rico Brogna (Mets), 4th inning off Swift

First Grand Slam: Todd Hundley (Mets), 6th inning off Swift

First Flyout (Sacrifice Fly): Dante Bichette (Rockies), caught by David Segui, scoring Joe Girardi, 1st inning

First Foul Pop Fly: Andrés Galarraga (Rockies), fielded by Jeff Kent

First Base on Balls: Bobby Jones (Mets) walked Bill Swift, 5th inning

First Batter Hit by Pitch: Roberto Mejía (Rockies) by Jerry Dipoto, 6th inning

First Wild Pitch: Mike Munoz (Rockies), facing Rico Brogna, 7th inning

First Error: Tim Bogar (Mets), 14th inning

First Walk-off Home Run and First Rockies Home Run:
Dante Bichette (Rockies), 3-run homer, 14th inning

Coors Field Stadium Stats

Original Seating Capacity: 50,200

Max Seating Capacity (2011): 50,490

Record Attendance: 51,267

Elevation: 5,200 feet above sea level (highest in MLB);
2nd highest is Chase Field in Phoenix at 1,100 feet

Construction Cost: \$300 million (about \$485 million in 2018 dollars)

Groundbreaking: October 16, 1992

Field Surface: Kentucky bluegrass/perennial ryegrass

Distance from Home Plate to Center Field Wall: 415 feet

First ballpark with heated infield and grass.

303 home runs hit at Coors Field in 1999, the highest number for any park in a season.

Facing: Here Fraker captures a view toward home plate from the outfield, giving a sense of just how large this ballpark was designed to be. It was speculated during the design stage that the higher elevation and thinner air would mean more home runs. To counteract the elevation, the outfield at Coors Field is the largest in the MLB. Despite this design it was the most home-run friendly park until the installation of the room-sized humidifier, which keeps the balls stored at a higher humidity and brought the number of home runs down within the same range as other parks.



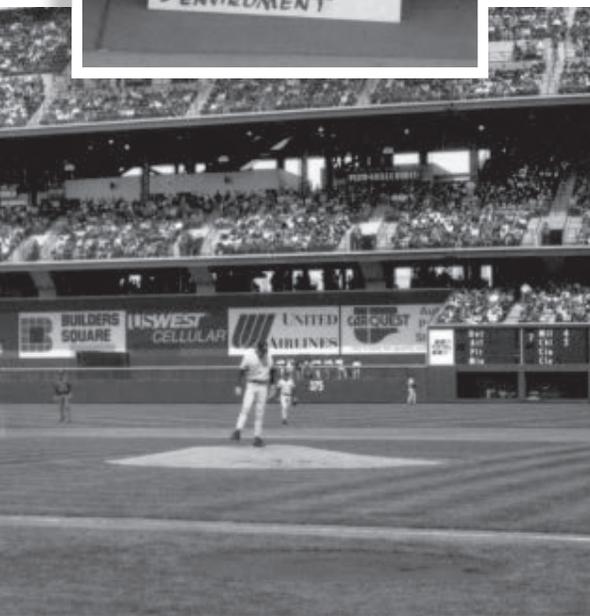
In this photo Fraker captures all three seating tiers, including the private VIP boxes at the top of the second tier. Coors Field was designed with 64 luxury boxes that could comfortably hold 730 fans, and The Denver Post reported that the annual rents for the luxury boxes ranged from \$60,000 to \$90,000. This modern convenience and its cost was controversial, as (unlike at other taxpayer-funded ballparks) those revenues went directly to the Rockies organization, not toward paying off the public debt.



The “Rockpile,” seen here on the left, pays homage to the previous Rockies seasons at Mile High Stadium. They’re the seats farthest from home plate and the cheapest in the house—originally costing only a dollar apiece. Mile High had a similar set of seats in the outfield, and the same feature was incorporated into the new Coors Field design. On the right are the upper-deck seats in right field, added to the design at the last minute after the Rockies drew record-breaking crowds during their first two seasons. The decision was made to increase the seating capacity at Coors Field based on higher than anticipated attendance. The seats were removed before the start of the 2014 season.



Inset: The building of Coors Field was not without its critics and controversies. Before construction even started there came to light claims of conflict of interest with possible owners and financiers, and disputes with landowners over the city's methods of obtaining the land necessary and monetary compensation. A key part of the winning construction bid was a commitment to affirmative-action hiring, promising that 20 percent of subcontracts would be granted to African American, Hispanic, and female-owned companies. The Rocky Mountain News reported that 45 percent of contracts had been awarded to minority companies in May 1993, but that number was disputed as misrepresenting the reality of who actually did the work of building the stadium. Fraker snapped a photo of this sign on the way into the ballpark, documenting the bitterness many people still felt about the new venue and its impact on many of Denver's communities.

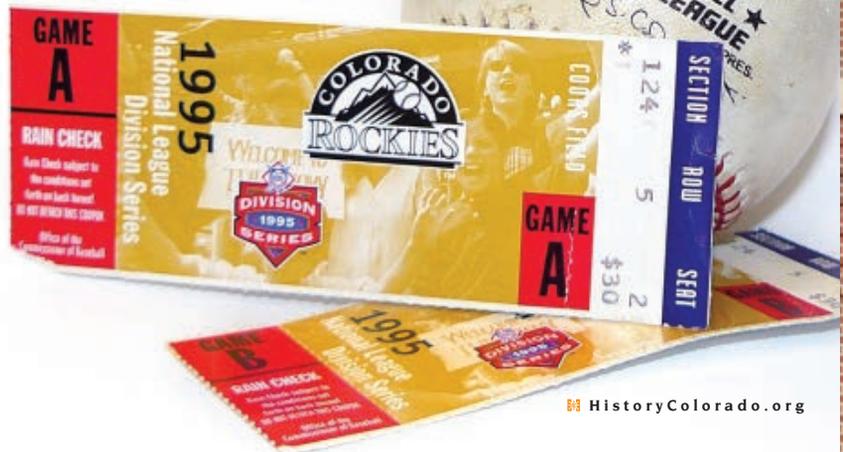


MELISSA LAWTON is the photo research and permissions librarian at the Hart Research Library at History Colorado. Although not the biggest fan of sports, she's constantly finding new images to get excited about in History Colorado's photography collections—especially those documenting rapid change to urban landscapes in the latter half of the twentieth century. She joined History Colorado in 2013 and received her MS in library and information science with a concentration in archival studies from Drexel University.



Tickets and ball courtesy Darren Eurich

In 1995—their third season as a team and their first at Coors Field—the Rockies won a wild card berth in the postseason, losing to the Atlanta Braves in four games.



Spotlight On . . .

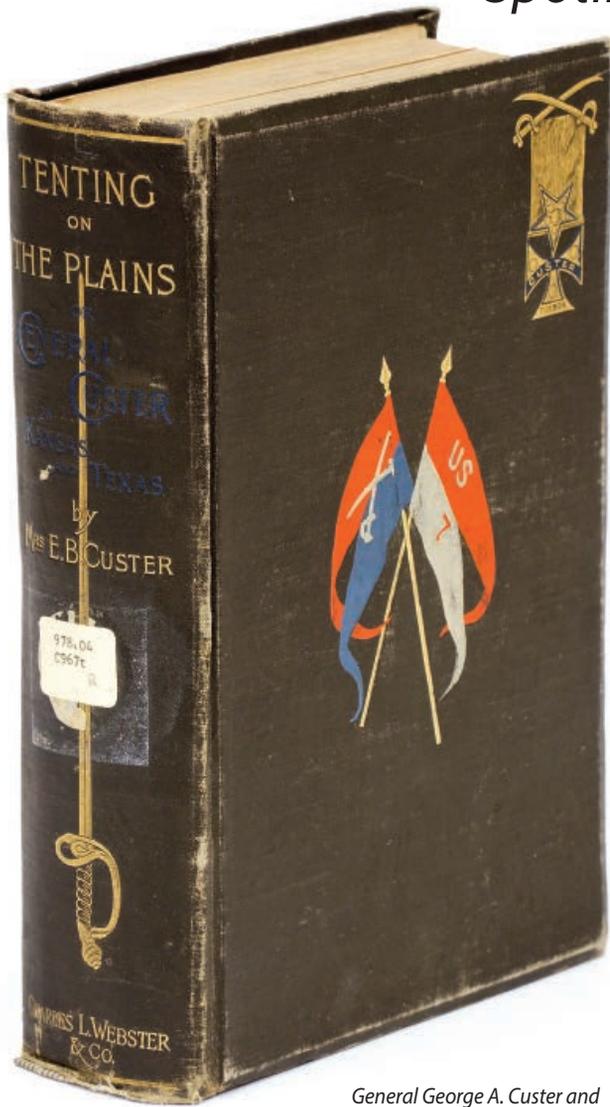
More About John Cisco: An Adventure in Identity

BY JAMES S. PETERSON, HISTORY COLORADO
ASSISTANT CURATOR FOR ARTIFACTS

Currently on display in the History Colorado Center exhibition *Zoom In: The Centennial State in 100 Objects* is a sawed-off shotgun that belonged to John Cisco. In our fall 2017 issue of *Colorado Heritage*, some of the gun's history was offered to readers.

To recap: John Cisco was a United States Express Company stagecoach express messenger reportedly killed by Cheyenne Dog Soldiers near Colorado's Lake Station stage stop on the Smoky Hill Route in 1869. At the funeral, Father John H. Kehler eulogized Cisco as a survivor of Andersonville, the Confederate prison camp where nearly 13,000 Union soldiers perished from exposure, starvation, and disease during the Civil War. Prison records held by the National Park Service indicate the validity of Father Kehler's story; the documents note that John Cisco enlisted at age forty in the 39th New York Infantry in January 1864. Six months later, he was captured in Petersburg, Virginia, and transported to the Andersonville prison—which he survived. It seemed the history of the shotgun as owned by John Cisco had come to an end. That is, until Jeff Broome contacted us after we published the story. A fifth-generation Coloradan keenly interested in history, Broome contended that the owner of the shotgun couldn't have been the forty-five-year-old John Cisco described in the *Heritage* article.

According to Broome, the owner of the shotgun would have been much younger. His belief was that the gun had been owned by a runaway boy who'd been taken in by General George Armstrong Custer in the summer of 1863. Broome cited Libbie Custer's 1887 book, *Tenting on the Plains: Or, General Custer in Kansas and Texas*, as evidence.



General George A. Custer and Mrs. Elizabeth Custer dine at a table in front of the camp headquarters tent near Fort Hays, Kansas, in 1869. Photo by W. J. Phillips. Courtesy National Park Service, Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. LIBI_00019_00496



Libbie, Custer's wife, portrays "Johnnie Cisco" as a devoted personal servant of General Custer. Described in the book as a "poor little picked sparrow of a chile," the boy appeared out of nowhere at Custer's Rappahannock County, Virginia, encampment shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg. Custer reported that it was useless to attempt to return him to his eastern home "for he was a determined little fellow, and would have merely fled again." Over time, her husband took a growing interest in the youth, and near the end of the war arranged for him to enlist as a soldier, securing for the lad a generous bounty that could be used for school after the war.

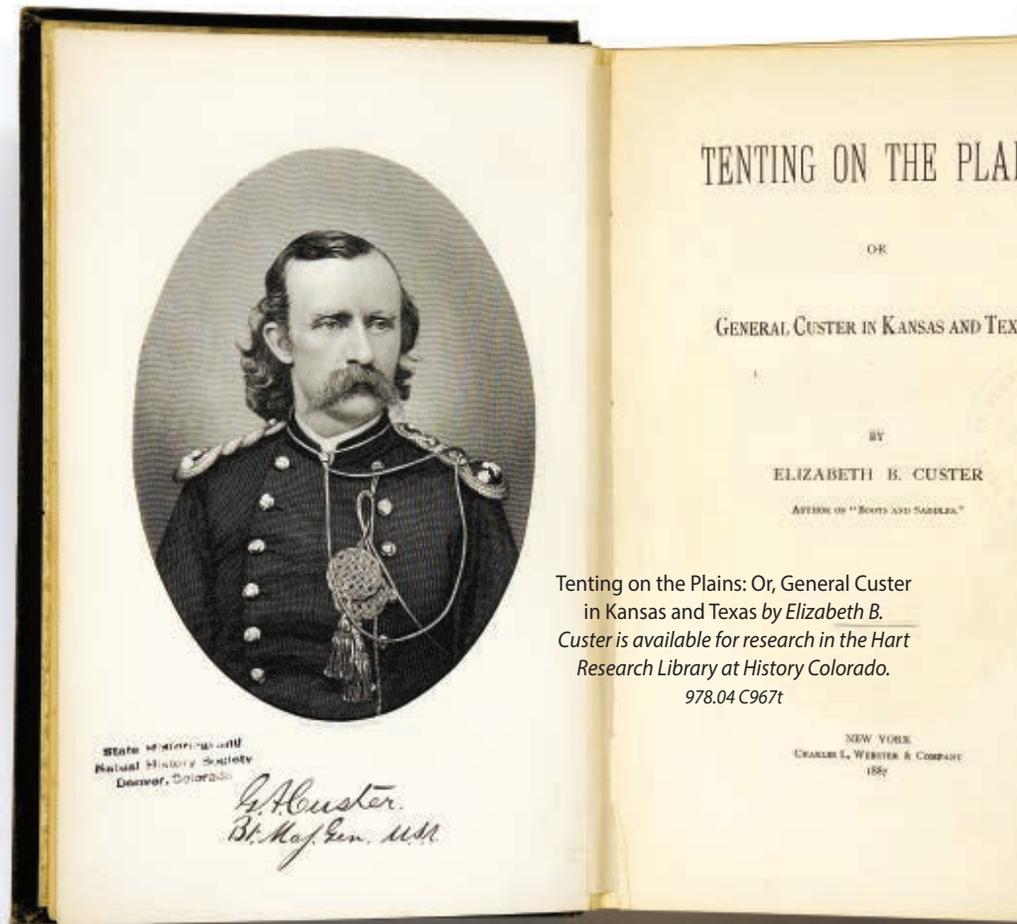
It's entirely possible that Cisco's service resulted in his capture and imprisonment at Andersonville. If so, however, Libbie Custer writes nothing of it. She notes that a year and a half after Cisco departed for school, he returned homesick to their quarters in Fort Riley, Kansas. She states that General Custer then secured a job for the young man with the Wells Fargo Express Company, where he would eventually be attacked and killed defending the passengers on his stagecoach. Although the John Cisco researched by History Colorado staff was not riding shotgun on the day he was ambushed, he was killed just a half mile off the Smoky Hill Route. And although Libbie's story doesn't resolve the age discrepancy between the Cisco eulogized by Father Kehler and the younger Cisco she knew, her account certainly adds credence to Broome's claim.

As we dug deeper, we made another breakthrough. Broome located three sworn affidavits filed in 1867 on behalf of Wells, Fargo and Company and its subsidiary, the United States Express Company. Each was a claim for property loss suffered during frontier American Indian raids along the Smoky Hill Route. All were signed by Express Company employee John L. Cisco. Armed with this new clue—the middle initial *L*—History Colorado staff and Broome returned to Civil War military records in hopes of finding John L. Cisco. We found two.

The first record represented a Confederate soldier from Louisiana—no age given—who deserted while on furlough in Mississippi in September 1863, about the same time Libbie's Johnnie Cisco first showed up at Custer's camp. Until further research can be done, we've discounted this soldier as our Cisco based on General Custer's claim that Johnnie Cisco was

from back East. However, Custer kept the details of Cisco's past confidential. One has to wonder what in Johnnie's past could be so controversial that Custer thought it necessary to keep from his wife.

The other record we found describes John L. Cisco as a seventeen-year-old who enlisted in New York's Eighth Cavalry Regiment on February 23, 1865. Although we lean towards this being our man based on his age, connection to the East, enlistment date, and choice of regiment (cavalry), we can't discount the possibility that Custer's beloved young servant might have been a Confederate deserter. Could this have been Custer's secret?



Tenting on the Plains: Or, General Custer in Kansas and Texas by Elizabeth B. Custer is available for research in the Hart Research Library at History Colorado. 978.04 C967t

Despite the unanswered questions about John L. Cisco and the history of his shotgun, this story is a great example of the type of work done by curators at History Colorado, as well as an illustration of the fact that history isn't stagnant or stuck in the past. The more we work with items from the permanent collection, the more we engage the public and uncover and learn.

Have a John L. Cisco in your family tree, an interest, or additional information? Please contact us and join the adventure.

Felipe and Dolores Baca

Weaving a Deep History through Southern Colorado

BY KIRBY STOKES, DIRECTOR, TRINIDAD HISTORY MUSEUM

In December 2017, the Colorado Latino Hall of Fame awarded Felipe and Dolores Baca the 2017 Legacy Honor.

In beautiful southern Colorado, under the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the Huajatolla Peaks and just 14.9 miles north of the New Mexico border, stands a small town with a big personality: Trinidad. The Purgatoire River Valley has been the meeting grounds of peoples for thousands of years, beginning with the travel of the Clovis people, continuing with the Jicarilla Apache and the Ute, and followed by continued immigration from all over the world today. The buildings are old, the streets are charming, the history is deep, the culture is rich, the views are gorgeous, and the homes are affordable.



Dolores Baca shared her husband's philosophy of community service and devotion to family. She lived in the Baca House until her death in 1915. Photo by O. E. Aultman. 10032809

The State of Colorado has the honor and pride of being the steward of the Trinidad History Museum. The museum covers a full city block and holds four historically registered buildings. The buildings range from a three-story Victorian in the Second French Empire style to Greek Revival in adobe. The five lawns and twenty-seven flower and vegetable gardens create a green oasis in El Corazon de Trinidad National Historic District. On the northwest corner of the property is the Baca House, a two-story adobe with a widow's walk, built by John Hough in 1870. In 1873 the Bacas bought the property for 20,000 pounds of wool—or \$7,000, making the structure a million-dollar home by today's standards.

The couple began their married life farming in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico. While in New Mexico their family would grow to include six children, and they became one of the richest families in the region. In 1859 a thirty-year-old Felipe Baca traveled to Denver on business. But along the way, it was the Purgatoire River that caught his attention. Felipe recognized the potential of the land immediately and returned the next spring with teams of men to prepare irrigation and crops so their families could follow. The Bacas loaded up and headed north, joined by a caravan of twelve other families and some friends. The group arrived in 1861 and began to build plazas along the river. The Bacas built a large plaza and a small church, where all the families could gather for Catholic worship on Sundays.

In 1866 the Bacas donated seventy-five acres of land to encourage the growth of downtown Trinidad. The Santa Fe Trail ran right through the land they donated, bringing travelers and providing great economic opportunity for other families in the area. The donation created St. Andrews School,

the first public school in the Colorado Territory. (Trinidad School District is still District No. 1 to this day in its honor.) The school split between public and church, with the church taking over the religious curriculum; the school stayed in operation until 2007.



Seasonal and native gardens surround the Baca House in Trinidad.

The Latino Hall of Fame’s recognition of the Bacas pays tribute to the many legacies they’ve left us. Not only did the Bacas do much to encourage growth in Trinidad, but their influence can be felt throughout the state—whether in the prosperity and great success of their children or due to Felipe’s work as a Territorial Representative. Concerned that the people of southern Colorado would garner lesser representation than those in the north, Felipe became one of the loudest voices in the legislature. He insisted, for example, that any state constitution must be published in both Spanish and English so that all citizens could have equal knowledge of their rights. Dolores was an unarguable influence of her own, holding the title of town matriarch until her death, when four separate newspapers published loving obituaries on her passing.

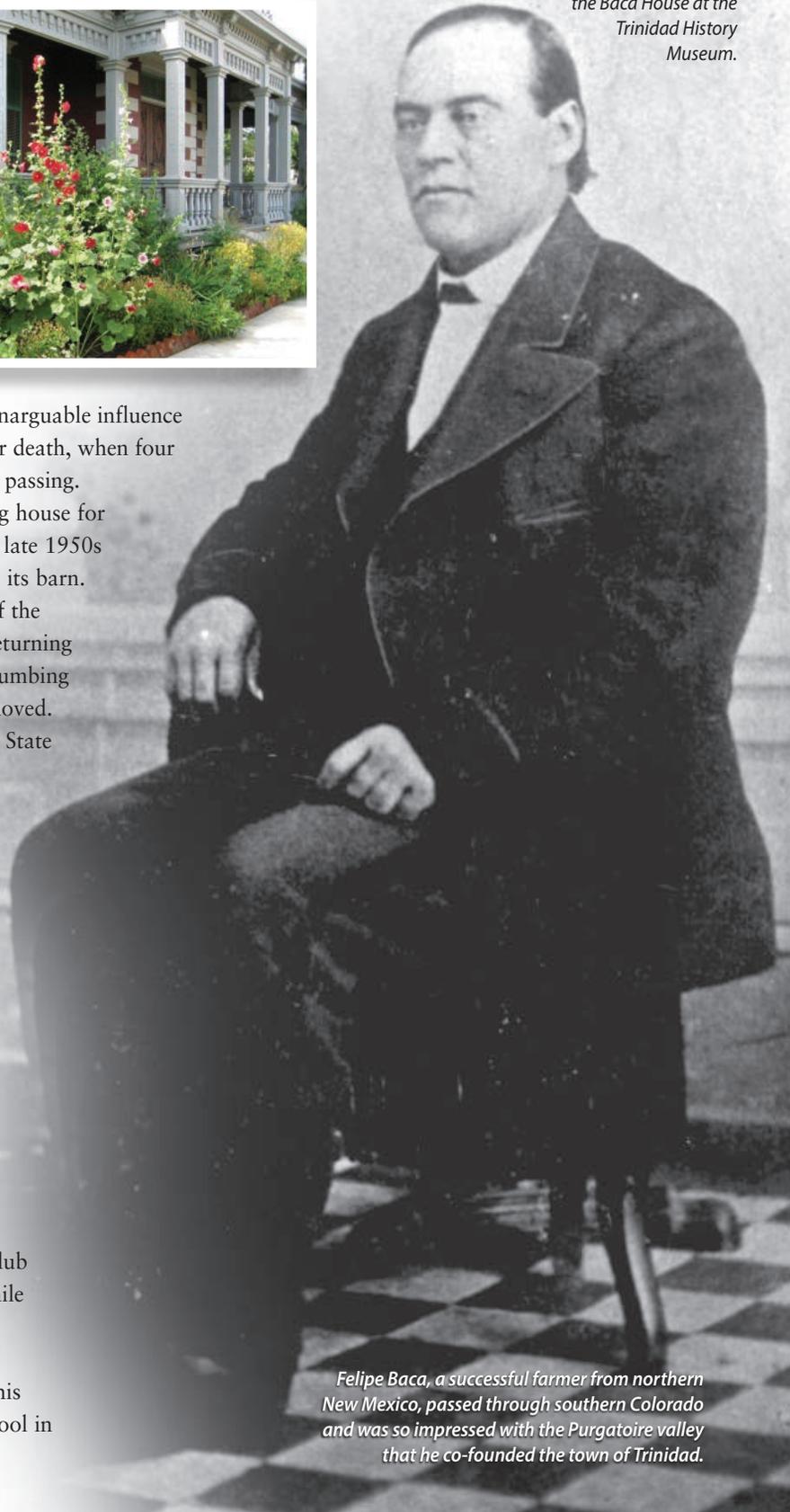
After Dolores’s death, the home acted as a rooming house for many years. At the end of its tenure in that role, in the late 1950s three wealthy businessmen bought the Baca House and its barn. Local legend A. R. Mitchell acted as the first curator of the museum and spent close to a year in the Baca House returning it to its original state. Over the years, electricity and plumbing had been added to parts of the home. That was all removed. The 1970s brought the purchase of the museum by the State of Colorado—its loyal steward ever since.

The way people interact with museums is changing at the same pace as the way people interact with each other. We’ve learned that shared experiences are some of the most impactful ways to convey the stories of our sites. With this in mind, the Trinidad History Museum is reworking the family parlor room of the Baca House to be an interactive wool studio. The studio includes a large Navajo *Yei* style rug and related artifacts. The exhibit tells the story of wool in our region—the raising and shearing of sheep, the cleaning and looming, and modern fiber arts. The space will be a dedicated hands-on area, where you’ll be able to use various looms and spindles, watch videos of shearing, and touch the raw product. The studio has become a club space for local loomers and weavers—in hopes that while they’re working guests will engage with them to learn about the process as it’s done today.

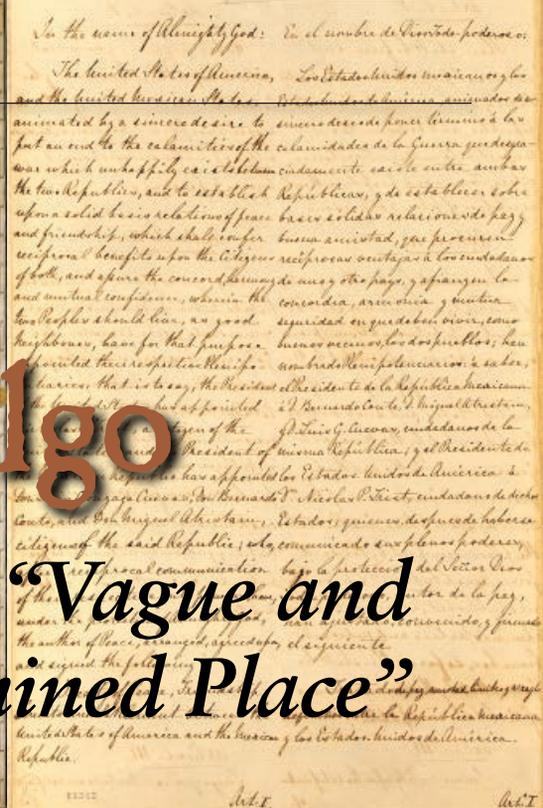
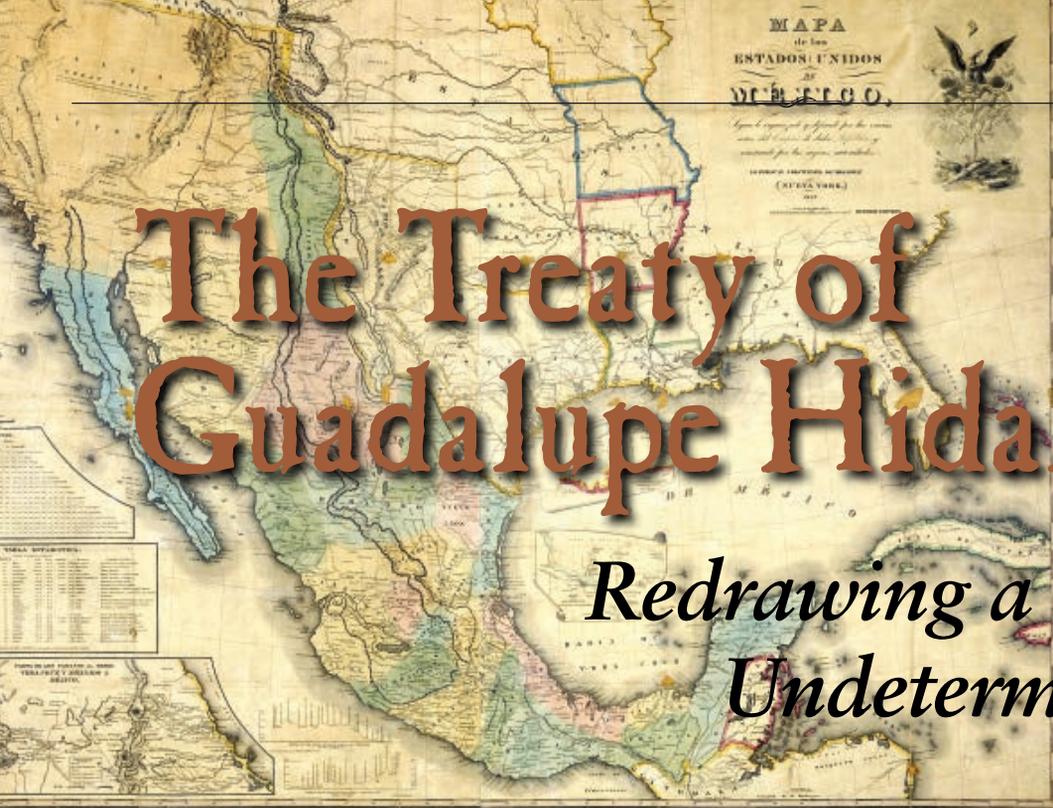
So be sure to visit the Trinidad History Museum this summer, where you can get your hands on all things wool in the home of hall-of-famers Dolores and Felipe Baca.



Inset: The Bloom Mansion and its heritage gardens adjoin the Baca House at the Trinidad History Museum.



Felipe Baca, a successful farmer from northern New Mexico, passed through southern Colorado and was so impressed with the Purgatoire valley that he co-founded the town of Trinidad.



The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

Redrawing a “Vague and Undetermined Place”

BY CHARLES N. SAENZ

Following ten months of negotiations, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo brought an official end to the Mexican-American War (1846–1848). Signed on February 2, 1848, the treaty turned 170 years old earlier this year. To mark that anniversary, the Community Museums of History Colorado have arranged for the treaty to go on view at El Pueblo History Museum on loan from the National Archives. The occasion will mark the first time that the treaty has appeared on display anywhere in Colorado.

Above: John Distrunell’s 1847 Mapa de los Estados Unidos de Méjico, or Map of the United States of Mexico, was the map used during the treaty negotiations. Courtesy National Archives.

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Courtesy Library of Congress.

Facing: William Henry Jackson shot this view of the “Old Town” area of Pueblo (also called Goat Hill, Smelter Hill, or Old Mexico) in 1900. 20103310

The treaty serves as a unique reminder of Colorado’s place at the crossroads of several nations, empires, and states that have claimed possession of the region, its resources, and the people who lived there. Long before the arrival of Europeans, indigenous tribal communities made the region their home. Beginning in 1598 with the initiation of Spanish colonizing efforts along the Upper Rio Grande, the Crown of Spain claimed much of modern Colorado as part of the Kingdom of New Mexico. In fact, the region saw the inroads of French trappers and, famously, US Army Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike in 1806–1807, as Spanish control of the region was never absolute. After a decade of insurgency farther to the south, Spanish territorial claims over the region transferred to Mexico in 1821. The Mexican government authorized settlement of southern Colorado in the 1830s and ’40s. Creation of the Republic of Texas in 1836 witnessed new claims on the land. Unable to exert regional influence like other claimants, Texas nevertheless claimed a western boundary extending to the Rio Grande. Although not recognized by Mexico, Texan maps included a swath of land between the Arkansas River and Rio Grande extending northwards into today’s Wyoming. The treaty ceded Mexican claims to this zone of dispute, and the US government eventually reorganized the boundaries of the state of Texas.

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo significantly increased the size of the United States—seizing nearly half of what had

once been Mexico. Under the terms of the treaty, the United States paid \$15 million in reparations and agreed to assume another \$3 million in claims made by US citizens against the Mexican government. This territorial shift formally incorporated much of the future Territory of Colorado into the United States and realigned the region's likely prospects for development and exploitation from south to east.

Within the span of two generations, the region's inhabitants witnessed the West's transfer from Spain to Mexico and from Mexico to the United States. Under Article VIII of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, roughly 50,000 Mexican nationals living north of the new borderline were granted US citizenship and assurances that the new legal regime would protect their property. Article VIII stipulated that "property of every kind . . . shall be inviolably respected. The present owners, the heirs of these, and all Mexicans who may hereafter acquire said property by contract shall enjoy with respect to it, guarantees equally ample as if the same belonged to citizens of the United States."

Still, many of these people were eventually dispossessed of their lands and other wealth. The US Court of Private Land Claims invalidated the legitimacy of land grants, and greedy surveyors and attorneys consumed the costs of repeated legal fights.

The treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo featured prominently in the political discourse of the Chicano Movement of the late 1960s and 1970s. Popularization of the mythical Aztec homeland of Aztlán created an important linkage between the US Southwest and Mexico—a bond severed by the treaty. In his classic poem, *Yo Soy Joaquín* (I Am Joaquin), Colorado-based Chicano leader Rodolfo "Corky"

Gonzales took aim at the hollow promises of the treaty, writing: "The Treaty of Hidalgo has been broken / And is but another treacherous promise. My land is lost / And stolen, / My culture has been raped." The common refrain "we didn't cross the border, the border crossed us" referenced the suddenness whereby Mexicans became US citizens, the accompanying grief that transition entailed, and a powerful rebuttal to claims that Chicanos were late-comers to the United States by means of immigration alone. In this way, the treaty became a powerful symbol of a lost inheritance and Anglo betrayal.

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo has thus assumed an important place in the study of borderlands and offers a useful point of entry to *Borderlands of Southern Colorado*. At once a prosaic example of how borders come into being and a symbol of the deep cultural meaning of borders, the treaty serves as a means to explore the significance of borders as unique historical phenomena. *Borderlands of Southern Colorado* exhibits will feature something more than the treaty that brought a close to the US war with Mexico. As the late Gloria E. Anzaldúa put it, "A borderland is a vague and undetermined place created by the emotional residue of an unnatural boundary. It is in a constant state of transition. The prohibited and forbidden are its inhabitants." *Borderlands of Southern Colorado* will consider the transitory and unfixed history of Colorado, examining the prohibited and forbidden features of its past.

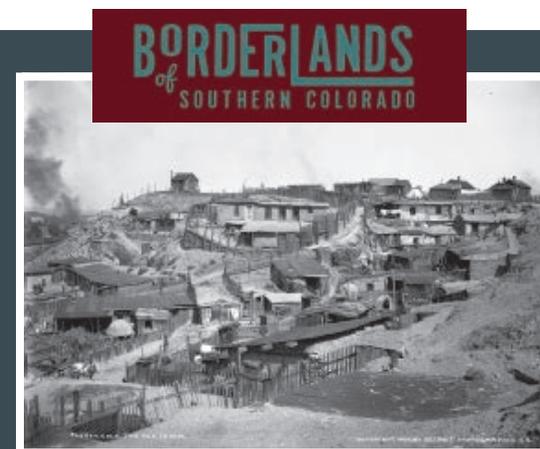
CHARLES N. SAENZ is assistant professor of history at Adams State University and a consultant for the *Borderlands of Southern Colorado* exhibition.

An exhibit that will extend across three History Colorado museums, *Borderlands of Southern Colorado* promises to redefine the way we think about this vibrant region.

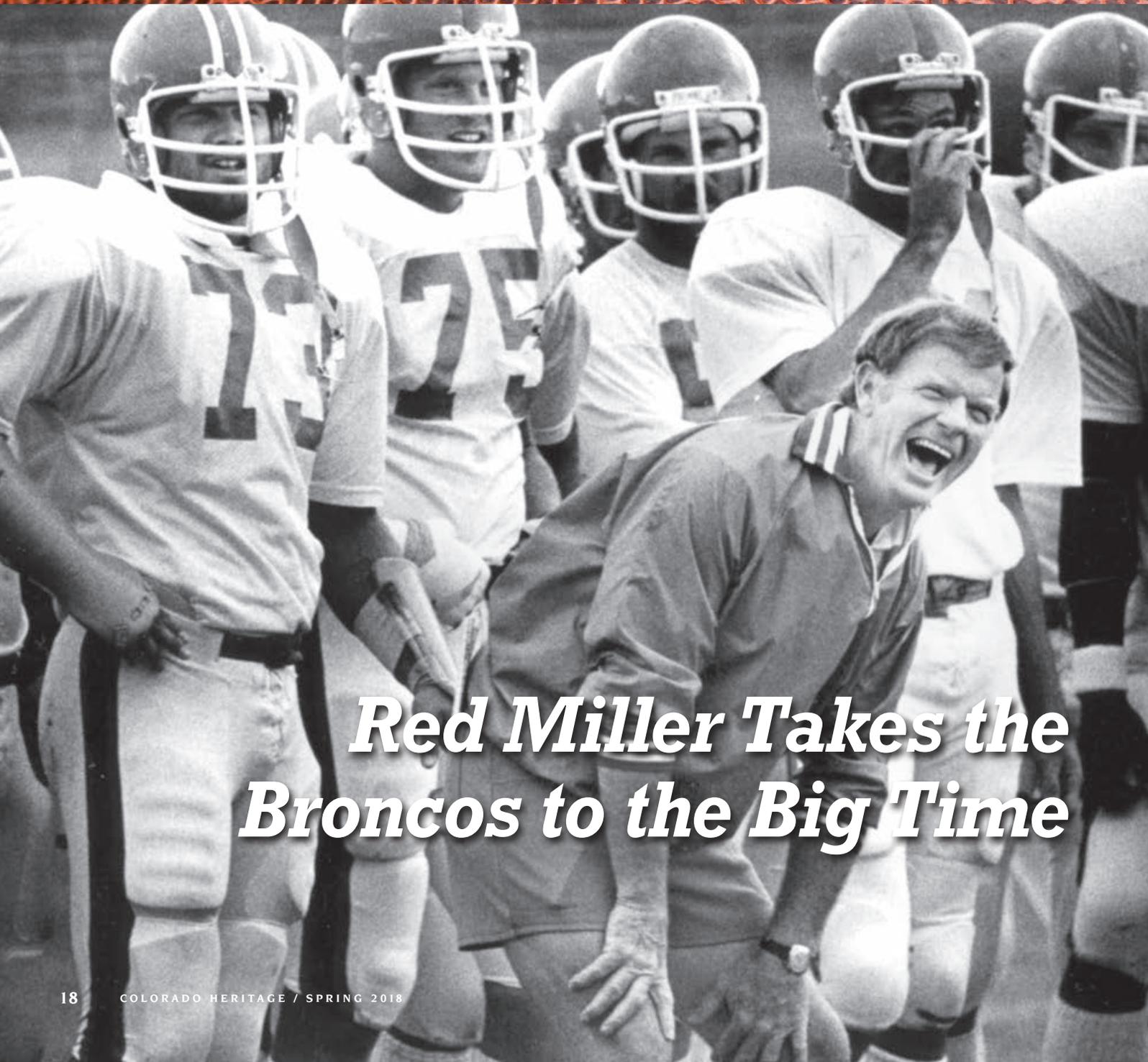
Never before has History Colorado presented an exhibit in multiple locations simultaneously. Starting at El Pueblo History Museum in May 2018, and continuing a year later at the Trinidad History Museum and Fort Garland Museum, *Borderlands of Southern Colorado* will emphasize the area's historic diversity and complexity.

Celebrating the cultures, landscapes, and legacies that have both divided and united southern Colorado, this innovative exhibit will reinvent historical interpretation and appreciation in the Centennial State.

—Derek R. Everett, instructor, Metropolitan State University of Denver and Colorado State University, and *Borderlands* exhibition consultant



MILLER WILL ALWAYS BE THE



*Red Miller Takes the
Broncos to the Big Time*

This page and facing: Two sides of Red Miller.
Rocky Mountain News photos by David Cornwell
courtesy Denver Public Library Western
History Collection (WH2129, Box 190).

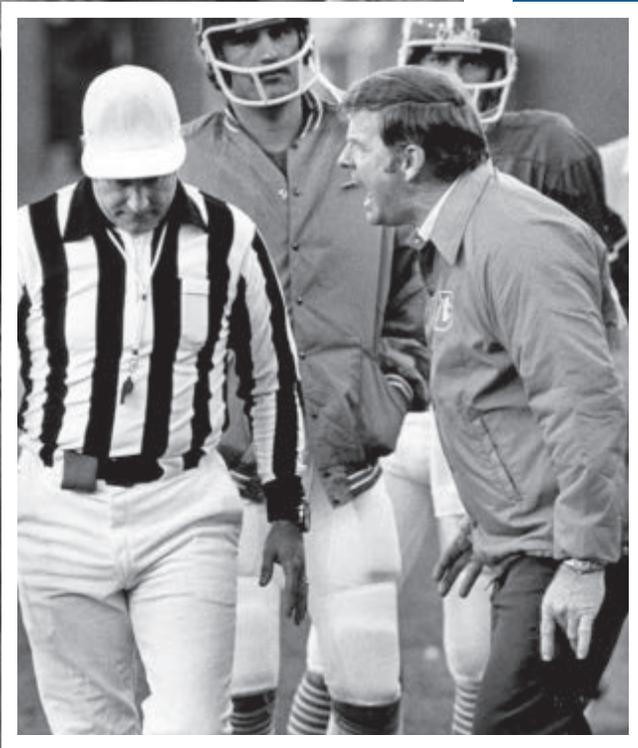
FIRST



On December 10, 2017, at Sports Authority Field at Mile High, there was a sigh of relief: the Denver Broncos had soundly defeated the New York Jets 23–0. The win wasn't about clinching a playoff berth or one that put them ahead in the AFC West division but, rather, one that simply ended an eight-game losing streak. The 2017 season was one of the worst, second only to the 1967 season when the Broncos lost nine games in a row under first-year head coach Lou Saban. The 2017 season ended with the Broncos finishing 5–11 and left fans wondering what went wrong. Many of those fans have become accustomed to the high standards and winning culture the Broncos have established since their first Super Bowl appearance forty years earlier. The vaunted '77 season was a pivotal one, as it catapulted the Broncos to becoming consistent contenders and a respected team among the National Football League (NFL), all possible because of Head Coach Robert "Red" Miller and his passion for football.

The Denver Broncos have had many successful coaches: Red Miller, Dan Reeves, Mike Shanahan, John Fox, and Gary

Kubiak. All of them led the Broncos to Super Bowl appearances—with Shanahan and Kubiak being the only two to win the Super Bowl—but none had a greater impact on the Broncos organization than Robert "Red" Miller. Red became head coach in 1977 after John Ralston and "quickly laid a new foundation for a franchise that previously had never been a contender," writes Nicki Jhabvala of The Denver Post. The fans in 1977 didn't have the luxury of seeing the Broncos winning on a consistent basis and they had no idea what it felt like to cheer for their team during the playoffs, let alone the Super Bowl. But Miller brought a new mindset and feeling to the organization that still fuels the players' and fans' enthusiasm to this day.



BY KEITH VALDEZ



On the sidelines during the 1978 season. Rocky Mountain News photo courtesy Denver Public Library Western History Collection (WH2129, Box 190).

In a 2017 interview, Billy Thompson, a former Broncos cornerback and safety in the “Orange Crush” defense, said, “When Red came in it was the beginning of something that was special from that point on, and it’s the same way now. We needed his passion to push us to our first Super Bowl. It was one of the most remarkable things. . . .” Miller’s mentality, hard work, and love of football created the initial momentum that has driven the Broncos, to date, to eight Super Bowl appearances and three Super Bowl wins, and to becoming one of the winningest franchises in all of American professional sports. Miller’s legacy is less about winning championships, and more about bringing relevance and legitimacy to a team that has become hugely popular in Colorado and around the nation.

Red Miller’s path to the NFL is one paved with hard work and respect. Born in 1927 to John Samuel Miller and Jennie Miller, the red-haired boy was the second youngest of eight siblings. From Macomb, Illinois, John Miller taught his kids to have a solid work ethic. Red remembered his dad telling him, “‘When you go to work, and you’re being paid by another guy, you work your rear end off, you be there on time, you give them a day’s work—or you don’t take their pay.’ Hard work was his God.” The Millers lived during the Great Depression, so the sons were expected to work and help support the family. Red held several jobs by the age of seven: he had a paper route, shined shoes, dug ditches, worked in restaurants, and, once he was old enough, worked in the coal mines with his father for a summer.

Outside of work, Red’s passion was sports, especially tackle football. He loved it so much that he was coaching his team by the age of nine for Macomb’s Fourth Ward School, and they played exhibition games against the other wards. They had no referee or uniforms. Red was the coach and organizer, and, when there was an injury, he was the athletic

trainer. He also played as a lineman and linebacker because most of the boys wanted to carry the ball. “Somebody had to do this,” he later said. “We gotta have a team!”

In high school he excelled in sports, earning twelve letters—four for football, four for basketball, and two each in baseball and track—all while juggling various jobs. When he graduated high school in 1946, he got scholarship offers from Purdue, Kansas State, and Western Illinois State Teachers College in Macomb. He didn’t want to leave his parents, so he attended Western Illinois with an offer of \$17.50 per quarter for tuition. When Red’s father heard that he was awarded a scholarship for college to play football, he told him, “What’s the matter with you, boy? You need to get a job.” It was the encouragement from his oldest brother and his mother that pushed him towards college.

Red started as a freshman for the Leathernecks football team and played as a guard and linebacker. He went on to be the Leathernecks’ Most Valuable Player from his sophomore through his senior year, was the Illinois Intercollegiate Athletic Conference MVP as a sophomore, served as team captain, and was the homecoming king his senior year. Miller was also a boxer and became the regional Golden Gloves heavyweight champion while in college. He majored in physical education and minored in journalism and biology, but he always wanted to be an NFL coach. After gradua-

tion he continued to work at the Elks Club where he’d been working during his college tenure. Seeking opportunities to coach, he contacted the athletic director of Western Illinois, Ray “Rock” Hanson, who gave him an assistant coaching position for the Leathernecks’ new junior varsity team in 1950. The following year, Hanson arranged two interviews for Red, leading him to become the head coach at a tiny high school in Astoria, Illinois. Miller also taught three biology courses and four physical education courses every day.

After he married his high school sweetheart, Nancy, the couple moved to Canton, Illinois, where Red coached at Canton High School in 1953. It was there that the couple would have their first child, Steve. By 1954, Red was recruited as line coach and track coach for Carthage College by Art Keller, a man he would later consider his mentor. It was a small program with only two coaches, and the pair found themselves acting as the team’s chauffeurs since the program offered no other way to get students to games. During his time at Carthage, Red and Nancy welcomed their daughter, Lana.

In 1957, Miller took the next step to becoming a head coach. He got a call from Dr. Frank Beu, the president of Western Illinois, about an open head coaching position. However, he wouldn’t be offered the job because he wasn’t thirty and Beu felt that he wasn’t quite ready. Instead, Beu hired Lou Saban as the head coach and Miller as Saban’s



Miller celebrates with safety Billy Thompson during the '77 season. Rocky Mountain News photo courtesy Denver Public Library Western History Collection (WH2129, Box 190).



Miller coaches wide receiver Charlie Taylor in 1979. Rocky Mountain News photo by John Gordon courtesy Denver Public Library Western History Collection (WH2129, Box 190).

offensive and defensive line coach. He hired another young coach, by the name of Joe Collier, as an assistant.

During the men's three-year tenure coaching the Leathernecks the team went 5–4, 6–1, and 9–0. Their success at Western Illinois garnered interest in Lou Saban by the ownership of the newly formed American Football League (AFL) team the Boston Patriots. Saban signed on as head coach for the inaugural season in 1960 and Collier and Miller followed him to Boston as assistants, despite Miller's being offered the head coaching position at Western Illinois. The idea of coaching in the NFL was too great an opportunity for Miller to pass up, even if he wasn't a head coach.

Miller served as offensive line coach for two seasons with the Patriots, who went 5–9 and 9–4–1. Despite the winning record for that second season, Saban was fired during the 1962 season after a poor 2–3 start. He signed on with the Buffalo Bills that same year, and both Collier and Miller followed suit. Miller was hesitant, having been offered the offensive coordinator position with the Boston Patriots under new head coach Mike Holovak, but he decided to go to Buffalo because he enjoyed working for Saban. While at Buffalo, Miller played an integral part in recruiting Cookie Gilchrist from the Canadian Football League. Gilchrist would become one of the AFL's stars, rushing for 1,096 yards in his first season in the league.

Always looking to move up in the coaching ranks, Miller wanted Saban to give him the title of offensive coordinator. Although it might seem like a show of vanity, Miller knew it was necessary for his resume and his ultimate goal of becoming a head coach, and he was already doing the job. Buffalo finished 7–6–1 for the 1962 season. Even though Saban promised during a postseason rally to give Miller the offensive coordinator title, he introduced Red as the offensive line coach, a lesser position. From then on, Red Miller knew he wouldn't be able to further his career in Buffalo, and he decided to go elsewhere.

Not many know that Red Miller had *two* stints with the Denver Broncos. And . . . the first didn't go as well as planned. After he quit the Buffalo Bills, Miller got a call from Jack Faulkner, the Denver Broncos head coach, offering him a two-year contract as one of the team's assistant coaches. Unfortunately the Broncos only won eight games in the three years that Red was with the team. The practice facilities next to Mile High Stadium were in disarray, and the team was wearing the infamous brown and yellow uniforms with the vertically striped socks. The Broncos were slowly moving towards credibility in the AFL, but they were nowhere near where Red Miller would take them one day. So, it's no surprise that Miller jumped at the chance to go to the more prestigious National Football League by joining the St. Louis

Cardinals for the 1966 season. (The NFL and AFL wouldn't formally merge until 1970.) Miller had finally arrived at his goal of working in the NFL.

As St. Louis' offensive line coach from 1966 to 1970, Miller oversaw five offensive linemen who were selected to the Pro Bowl: Bob DeMarco, Irv Goode, Ken Gray, Ernie McMillan, and Bob Reynolds. After the 1970 season, the Baltimore Colts hired Miller as their offensive line coach. It was a short stint because Carroll Rosenbloom traded the franchise for the Los Angeles Rams, and Robert Irsay, father of current Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay, bought the Baltimore Colts; with a new owner came new changes and the entire staff was released after the 1972 season. Miller made his way back to the New England Patriots, this time under Chuck Fairbanks.

Officially, Miller was the offensive line coach, but in fact he ran the offense. Fairbanks told him, "You coach the offense, you write the playbook, you use your terminology, you call every play, and I will never second guess you." The Patriots would go 26–30 while Red was there. The team's most successful season was Red's last, in 1976, when they finished with a record of 11–3 and lost a controversial divisional round playoff game against the Oakland Raiders. (The Raiders benefited from a questionable roughing-the-passer

penalty on the Patriots' Ray "Sugar Bear" Hamilton that kept them in the game.)

After the 1976 season, Miller knew he'd done all he could as an assistant for the Patriots, and he resumed his pursuit of becoming a head coach. On January 20, 1977, Fred Gehrke, general manager of the Denver Broncos, called Miller to offer him the offensive coordinator position for the team. Miller shrewdly turned it down because it would've been a lateral move in his career. Just ten days later he got another call, this time from Gerald Phipps, the owner of the Broncos, offering him the head coaching position. Finally, Red Miller had achieved his lifelong dream, as he became the head coach of the Denver Broncos.

From 1951 to 1977, Red Miller had seen a lot of success in a career as an assistant coach and offensive line coach. The Denver Broncos, on the other hand, had not enjoyed the same success. From their inaugural season in 1960 to the 1976 season, they posted an 82–147–9 record; their best season was a 9–5 finish in 1976. The team had seven different head coaches and only three winning seasons, missed the playoffs for seventeen consecutive seasons, and had the franchise threaten to move out of Denver on two separate occasions. But when Miller came

A dejected Broncos squad heads for the locker room after a 1977 game. Rocky Mountain News photo by David Cornwell courtesy Denver Public Library Western History Collection (WH2129, Box 473).



to Denver in '77, the up-and-coming team didn't need a builder to tear them down and reconstruct them, they needed a coach who could push them to the next level. The Broncos players knew that, which is why a group of twelve players known as the "Dirty Dozen" had staged a mutiny against Head Coach John Ralston after the 1976 season, announcing that he'd lost the respect of his players and was incapable of leading them to a championship. In January 1977, Ralston resigned as head coach.

Red Miller quickly established himself with the players. As defensive tackle Rubin Carter recalled, "He came in with energy and enthusiasm that were unbelievable. There's an old saying that the speed of the leader is the speed of the pack. Well, you better keep up with Red Miller because when he got to the field, he hit it running." Miller saw his team's potential and set out to make sure that they saw it as well. "Red was the best motivator I ever saw," says former Broncos guard Tom Glassic. "Our practices were precise, and everyone focused and concentrated. Ralston's practices were guys smoking in the locker room and hanging out, and nobody's paying attention. [Miller] treated us like we were all in it together, we all were professionals, and he'd treat us that way. And we took to that." Miller's leadership and the connection he forged with the players created a strong foundation for what was already a fairly stable team. His motivation and the mutual respect he established were something Denver fans had never seen before.

"Miller's approach to coaching was decidedly more hands-on" than his predecessor's, wrote Daniel E. Slotnik for the *New York Times* in 2017. "He was bloodied during practice while demonstrating a blocking technique to Claudie Minor, a 280-pound offensive tackle, without wearing a helmet. He joined the rookies Steve Schindler and Rob Lytle in a training-camp rookie 'talent show,' in which he banged out ragtime on a piano."

The Broncos' opening game in Week 1 was against the St. Louis Cardinals and that team's explosive offense. With one of the best offensive lines in football, the Cardinals' offense was potent and hadn't been held to single digits since 1974. Played in Denver, it was a hard-fought game that saw the Broncos offense turning the ball over four times. The Broncos averaged just 4.2 yards per play and punted seven times. Although it was a sluggish offensive opening, the team's lone touchdown was enough to beat St. Louis because the vaunted Orange Crush defense shut down the high-flying Cardinals' offense. The Broncos started 1-0 and showed the NFL that they were legitimate contenders.

The defense proved to be an immovable force in Week 2, preventing the Buffalo Bills from scoring; the Bills' only points came on a fumble return for a touchdown. Buffalo's running back was asked about Denver's linebackers, and he remarked, "Oooh, bad dudes." In Week 3 Denver traveled to Seattle and came away with a 25-13 win, a dominating romp. Still, Red Miller told the press after the game, "Enough is whatever it takes to win the game, and that's all we are interested in." Week 4 brought the divisional opponent Kansas City Chiefs to Denver, and it was one of the games that tested the Denver Broncos since a team must win its own division in order to reach the playoffs. The Broncos handily defeated the Chiefs 23-7 with another brilliant defensive showing. Miller's impact was clear, early in the season. The division rival Chiefs had beaten the Broncos efficiently in years past, but with Red Miller at the helm the script had flipped.

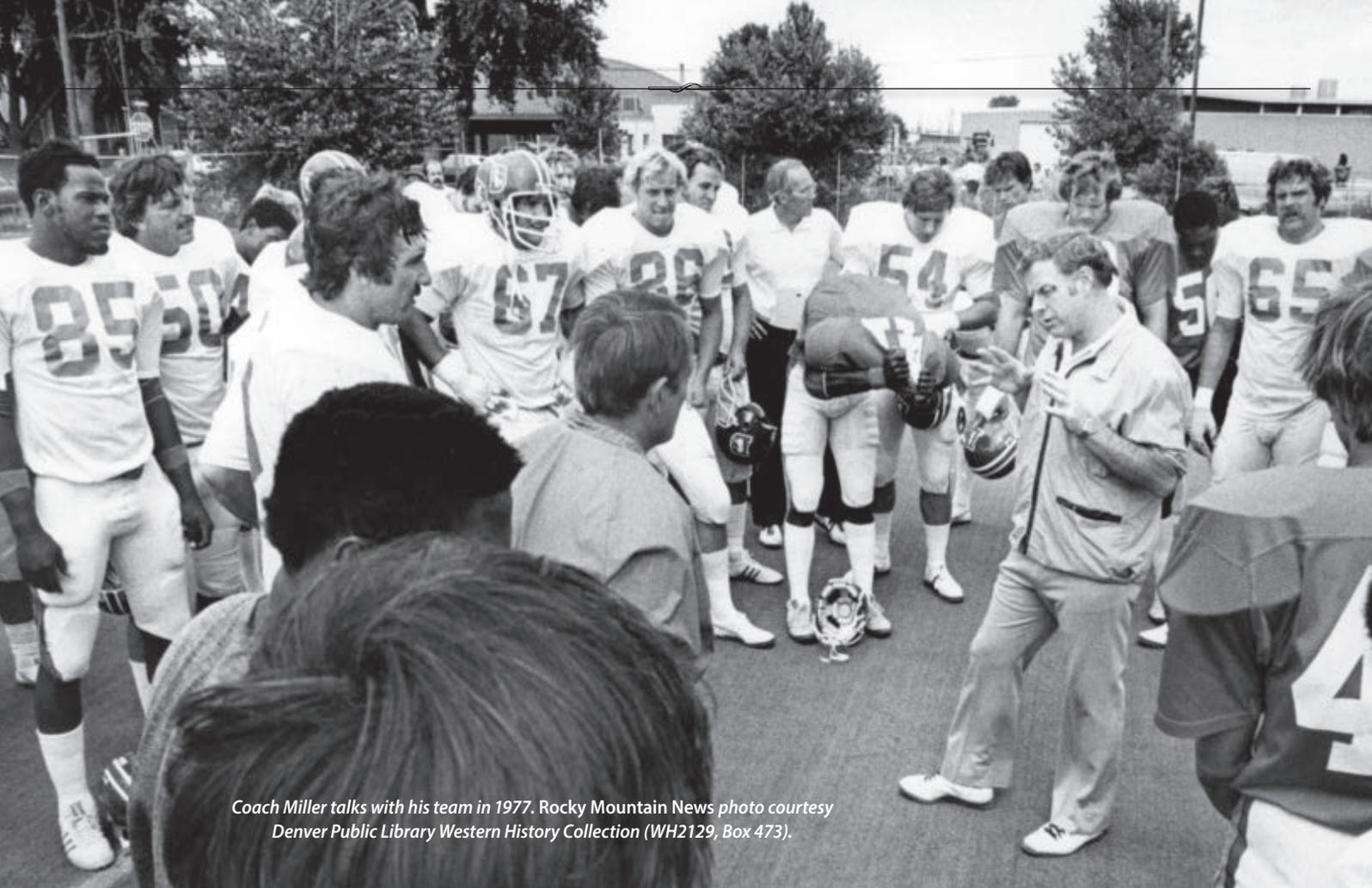
Still, the season was just beginning. The very next week the undefeated Denver Broncos had to face the undefeated Oakland Raiders, in Oakland.

Up until 1977, the Broncos-Raiders rivalry wasn't much of a rivalry at all, since only one of the teams had been winning. "The only way a rivalry ever heats up is when both teams are good," said Raiders Head Coach John Madden. "When Denver was down it wasn't a good rivalry." Since Miller had lost against Oakland in a divisional round of the playoffs the previous year, his animosity towards the Raiders was already high. In a team meeting, Miller addressed his players by saying, "I want to tell you what I like about the Oakland Raiders. I don't like a *\$#@ thing about them! I don't *\$#@ like their colors. I don't *\$#@ like their stadium. I don't *\$#@ like their fans. I don't like a *\$#@ thing about them."

Red's passion was obvious to everyone. Linebacker Bob Swenson saw Miller tearing into the referees before the game, telling them they'd better call a fair contest. "Red knew there was something at stake, big time," Swenson says, "and he wanted a fair, even field. That was classic Red right there. He knew something was up; something was special." The Broncos would rout the Raiders 30-7. It was during this game that linebacker Tom Jackson famously told Raiders Head Coach John Madden, "It's all over, fat man!"

The Broncos went 6-0 to start the season before losing





Coach Miller talks with his team in 1977. Rocky Mountain News photo courtesy Denver Public Library Western History Collection (WH2129, Box 473).

their first game to the Raiders in Denver. The Broncos, however, bounced back and went on another six-game winning streak until losing to the Dallas Cowboys on December 18. But the loss didn't matter because the Denver Broncos had won the AFC West division, earning the number-one seed in the playoffs and, with it, home-field advantage. It was the first time for each of those accomplishments in team history. Red Miller had brought legitimacy to the Denver Broncos and the fuel that drove "Broncomania" to its peak.

The Broncos defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers 34–21 in the divisional round of the playoffs—a win that answered the question of whether or not the Broncos were for real. The only thing standing between the Denver Broncos and their first Super Bowl appearance was another contest against the Oakland Raiders. Oakland was favored, but going into the game as underdogs didn't faze Miller or his players. "We've been underdogs before," Miller said. "I think we've proved that we don't buckle under to that kind of thing."

The Broncos upset the Raiders 20–17.

"All season long they said we were too young and that we didn't belong here," Miller told his players after the game. "I wonder if they believe we're for real now? I *guarantee* you we're for real."

In Super Bowl XII the Broncos faced the Dallas Cowboys in New Orleans. But it was no Cinderella story for the Broncos. The Cowboys beat Denver 27–10. And yet, when the team came back to Denver, it was a changed city. Throngs of fans gathered to welcome the players with cheers and to show that they had only been reinvigorated, not disheartened. Miller hated to lose, but his effect on the team wasn't lost on the fans; they could see what the Broncos had become. "What was great for me was I had coached games in Denver when there were 9,000 people there," said Miller. ". . . I thought the people so much yearned for this, that somebody had to be the first, and that was a thrill for me."

During Miller's next three seasons with Denver, the Broncos would go 10–6, 10–6, and 8–8; they lost in the first round of the playoffs in 1978 and '79. In 1980, Denver just missed the playoffs because of a three-game losing streak at the end of the season to the Raiders and the Chiefs.

Even though Miller didn't win the Super Bowl for the Denver Broncos, he brought the city something that mattered. "He knew it was important for us to be successful," said linebacker Tom Jackson. "That's all. He understood that he had to be successful, so to go to that



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Above right: Fans greet Miller after the 1978 Super Bowl. Rocky Mountain News photo by David Cornwell courtesy Denver Public Library Western History Collection (WH2129, Box 190).

Facing page: The Broncos fly to Super Bowl XII. RMN photo courtesy DPL Western History Collection (WH2129, Box 473).

Below: Miller and Governor Richard Lamm speak at a 1978 clean-air conference. RMN photo courtesy DPL Western History Collection (WH2129, Box 190).



Super Bowl, it gave him legitimacy, it gave us legitimacy. The organization became something different after that.” Jackson’s words ring true because, since 1977, the Denver Broncos have been AFC West champions fifteen times, gone to the playoffs twenty-two times, made eight Super Bowl appearances, and had three Super Bowl wins. Red Miller’s passion, work ethic, sense of respect, and love of football deserve much of the credit for the team’s trajectory.

Miller’s impact on the Denver Broncos would not be forgotten, but it would be overshadowed by the dominance of players like quarterback John Elway. Twenty years after Miller’s historic run, Elway and star players Terrell Davis, Shannon Sharpe, Rod Smith, Steve Atwater, and others would go on to win the franchise’s first and second Super Bowl championships in the 1997 and ’98 seasons. In Miller’s years with the Broncos, he turned an underdog team into a formidable and respected organization within the National Football League. “Other coaches have [guided] and will guide the Broncos to the Super Bowl,” writes Andrew Mason, “but Miller will always be the first.”

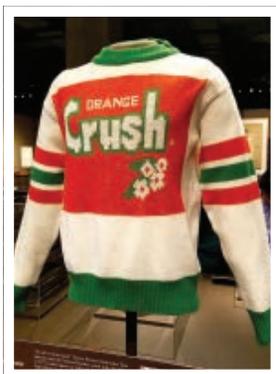
Those who are old enough to have witnessed the 1977 season, and those who’ve heard and read about it, understand its importance in Denver Broncos history. At the same time, many don’t, because at this point it was many years ago. So it was appropriate that in 2017, the fortieth anniversary of that historic season, the Denver Broncos announced that Red Miller would be inducted into the Denver Broncos Ring of Fame. His induction on November 19 of that year reminded fans of his importance and educated younger fans about the Broncos’ first Super Bowl and what it meant for the team and the city of Denver. Broncos owner Pat Bowlen established the Ring of Fame in 1984 to honor former players and staff who’ve played significant roles in franchise history. There are thirty-two members in the Ring of Fame, with Miller and Dan Reeves being the only two coaches.



Sadly, Red Miller died on September 27, 2017, but not before being notified by Broncos president and CEO Joe Ellis that he was to be inducted into the Ring of Fame. Ellis told Miller that “the honor was long overdue” and that he’d “helped ignite the franchise’s winning ways.”

Red Miller’s induction came during halftime of a Cincinnati Bengals game, and it was a day of remembrance of Miller’s legacy. Many players from the ’77 season attended the ceremonies and recalled how Miller influenced the Denver Broncos organization. “Red Miller was the embodiment of what we stood for when we made the playoffs and Super Bowl for the first time,” Tom Jackson said. “It was not an accident. He set the foundation for the successes that have come after, and for the great organization that you see today. I couldn’t be prouder as a Ring of Fame member to speak for Broncos country as we welcome Red Miller into the Ring of Fame.” Former wide receiver Rick Upchurch said, “He brought accountability, he brought toughness, and he was the type of guy who was a player’s coach. A guy that you could sit down with and get true answers from. That’s what I loved about him. Not only that, after the game was over he remained your friend.”

Another person was honored before the Cincinnati Bengals game, and that was newly inducted Pro Football Hall of Fame running back Terrell Davis. It was Red’s day, but it was appropriate to connect two eras of Denver Broncos football to show Miller’s lasting effects on the team. And although the Broncos may have had a down season in 2017, because of the winning culture and determination established by Red Miller, fans know that the team will bounce back and continue his legacy.



Above: Orange Crush sweater, 1977. Gift, Anna Natassia Scheitler in memory of Joe and Frances Iacino, Bill and Dutchess Scheitler. 2017.39.1

For Further Reading

In *’77: Denver, the Broncos, and a Coming of Age* (Lanham, MD: Taylor Trade Pub., 2009), Terry Frei offers an intimate telling of the Denver Broncos’ 1977 season and its impact on the team and the city of Denver. *100 Things Broncos Fans Should Know and Do Before They Die* (Chicago: Triumph Books, 2012) is Brian Howell’s compendium of greatest moments, players, and all things Broncos. In *Tales from the Denver Broncos Sideline: A Collection of the Greatest Broncos Stories Ever Told* (New York, NY: Sports Publishing, 2014), Andrew Mason gives a comprehensive history of the team, highlighting all of the memorable milestones including the Orange Crush defense, “The Drive,” and the arrival of Peyton Manning.

KEITH VALDEZ completed his master’s degree in global affairs with an emphasis in world history and culture at the University of Denver. Since 2016, he has been working in the Guest Services department at the History Colorado Center and has assisted the El Movimiento Advisory Committee with the creation and support of the exhibition *El Movimiento: The Chicano Movement in Colorado*.



This vintage “Orange Crush” sweater from the Red Miller era is one of the artifacts on view in the History Colorado Center exhibition *Zoom In: The Centennial State in 100 Objects*. Denver beverage distributor Joe Iacino partnered with the Denver Broncos at the height of Orange Crush fever to produce themed memorabilia. Coloradans rallied around their team, kicking off the Broncomania that still unites fans today.

In *Zoom In*, 100 artifacts show how Colorado became Colorado. Culled from the vast collections of History Colorado, every object on view had a role in shaping our state—from the age of the Paleoindians to Jack Swigert’s Apollo 13 flight suit and beyond.

Zoom In is presented by Colorado State University.



Tim Stroh Takes the Helm of the State Historical Fund

BY JONATHAN RAAB, PRESERVATION COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Preservation in Colorado matters—and History Colorado is proud to be a partner in keeping our heritage alive. Through its Preservation Programs, History Colorado offers local communities a number of tools to preserve the past. One of those tools is the State Historical Fund, a unique grant program that’s awarded \$298,557,905 across 4,525 grants since its inception.

That’s a strong legacy, and the program continues to help Colorado’s communities by investing in their historic buildings, structures, sites, and more. Tim Stroh, AIA, the new director of the State Historical Fund, recognizes the responsibility he’s been given as he takes on this new role.

“Having worked with the State Historical Fund before taking this job, I know firsthand the difference this grant program makes,” Tim said. “When you see the dollar amount of grants awarded—almost \$300 million—it’s pretty staggering. But behind that number are literally thousands of stories of local governments, historical societies, and individuals making a real difference in keeping the history that is important to them alive.”

Tim has a wealth of experience in historic preservation and in community development. His career involvement with the American Institute of Architects helped shape his views on the built environment. From 1999 through 2013, Tim was the principal architect and president of his company, Source Architechnology Systems PC. In 2013, he transitioned to the public sector, joining the Colorado Department of Local Affairs as the Main Street Architect. While there, he also took on responsibilities as interim project

manager for the Space to Create Initiative, then as the interim state coordinator for the Colorado Main Street Program. As the Main Street Architect, Tim worked to assist communities with design services, education, and training.

No matter the project, Tim helped communities find historic preservation solutions to economic and development challenges. While Colorado is experiencing a development boom, Tim was a voice for adaptive re-use and rehabilitation, rather than demolition and new construction. Communities all over the state are facing this choice: get rid of the old, or help make the old new again.

Before taking on the role of State Historical Fund director, Tim was involved with History Colorado Preservation Programs in several capacities, having served on the Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board, the State Register Review Board, and, appropriately enough, the State Historical Fund Advisory Committee, where he helped make recommendations on project funding.

While there’s always room to improve, Tim recognizes the incredible success the State Historical Fund has had in the past.

“The State Historical Fund is really one of a kind. It embodies Colorado’s commitment to historic preservation.

The staff here—from the historic preservation specialists to the outreach team to the contracts folks—are all dedicated experts. It’s an honor to lead that team. We’re going to continue to build on the great work we’ve done alongside Colorado’s communities, and help preserve more of our beautiful state’s history.”



Projects supported by the State Historical Fund proudly display this banner.

New Listings

In the National Register of Historic Places and Colorado State Register of Historic Properties

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation’s historic places worthy of preservation.

National Register of Historic Places

Downtown Florence Historic District

Florence

Downtown Longmont Historic District

Longmont

First Unitarian Society of Denver

Denver

Johnson Stage Station

Powderhorn vicinity

Santa Fe Trail Mountain Route Trail Segments—Iron Springs Vicinity

Otero County

Truscott Junior High School

Loveland

Longhurst Lodge

Boulder County

The Forest Service built this 1922 summer cabin as part of its “Recreation Residence movement,” at its peak in the early twentieth century. The program resulted in more than 19,000 cabins in 116 National Forests, most of them in the West. The program ended in the 1960s, and the number of cabins has declined as leases expire and the Forest Service removes the cabins and reclaims land. In 2012 the Longhurst Lodge was one of only three such cabins left in Boulder County that were built in the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in the 1920s. The cabin is an excellent example

Wray Lions Amphitheater



Longhurst Lodge



of Rustic architecture. It stayed in the same family for nearly 100 years and is now owned by HistoriCorps, a nonprofit that provides volunteers for historic preservation projects.

State Register of Historic Properties

District No. 33 School—Penrose School

Las Animas vicinity

Wray Lions Amphitheater

Wray

Built in 1976, this is the only open-air natural amphitheater known to exist in northeastern Colorado. Nestled within the canyon walls of the caliche bluffs on the southeastern edge of Wray, the amphitheater is a geographic focal point for its region. The community uses it as a venue for entertainment, recreation, and gatherings. In addition to local graduations and other community events, it’s hosted live theater performances that have drawn more than 1,500 people over four days of performances from northeastern Colorado, western Kansas, and eastern Nebraska.

Removals

From the State Register

Dotsero Bridge (No. F-08-F)

Dotsero

Eagle River Bridge (No. F-09-H)

Eagle

Portland Bridge (No. K-16-K)

Portland

Rio Grande Railroad Viaduct (K-16-S)

Florence

Do you know this structure?

1. Where is it?
 - a) Antonito
 - b) Blanca
 - c) Hooper
 - d) La Veta
2. When was it built?
 - a) 1881
 - b) 1897
 - c) 1910
 - d) 1921
3. Which railroad originally used it?
 - a) Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad
 - b) Colorado and Southern Railway
 - c) Denver & Rio Grande Railroad
 - d) San Luis Southern Railway



Answers on page 30

Do you know this structure?

Continued from page 29

BY HEATHER PETERSON,
NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTER HISTORIAN

Answers: b) Blanca, c) 1910, d) San Luis Southern Railway

The San Luis Southern Railway (SLS) built this trestle in 1910 to span Rattlesnake Gulch through Trinchera Creek Canyon, about four miles south of the town of Blanca. Officially dubbed the San Luis Southern Railway Trestle but better known as “Rattlesnake Trestle,” it measures 190 feet long, 14½ feet wide, and 46 feet high. It’s constructed as a twelve-span, two-story, timber-frame trestle. The gulch, or gorge, cuts through a prairie landscape and descends about 125 feet.

The Costilla Estates Development Company organized in 1902 and bought Costilla Estates—a part of the original Sangre de Cristo land grant. The purchase included about 500,000 acres within Costilla County, Colorado, and Taos County, New Mexico. The land

borders the Sangre de Cristo and Culebra mountain ranges on the east and the Rio Grande river on the west. The company’s aim was to develop 70,000 acres of land with various planned communities throughout the region. It established the SLS Railway to connect those communities and transport crops and residents.

The rail line completed its inaugural trip from Blanca to San Acacio, a 15.8-mile stretch, in April 1910. By November it had laid an additional 14 miles of track to Jaroso, Colorado. But despite the development company’s good intentions and financial strength in its early years, it lacked accurate information about the area’s weather fluctuations. As a result, none of the planned communities reached the dreams the company had envisioned. Today, only a few of the towns exist.

Charles Boettcher rescued the financially broke railroad in 1928. It continued hauling locally grown vegetables in refrigerated cars from warehouses at San Acacio and Jaroso to the Denver & Rio Grande at Blanca. As water shortages

diminished agricultural production in the area, the railroad started transporting locally mined minerals—such as volcanic rock mined west of Mesita in 1952.

The new San Luis Valley Southern Railroad formed in 1953 in hopes of reviving the rail line’s debt-ridden operations. But the debts kept exceeding the revenue, and in 1957 the railroad and trestle were abandoned. The National Register of Historic Places included the trestle in its list in 2004.



Good to Know

National or State Register listed properties may be eligible for investment tax credits for approved rehabilitation projects. Listed properties may also be eligible to compete for History Colorado State Historical Fund grants. These grants may be used for acquisition and development, education, and survey and planning projects. The next nomination submission deadline is June 1. For information, call 303/866-3392.

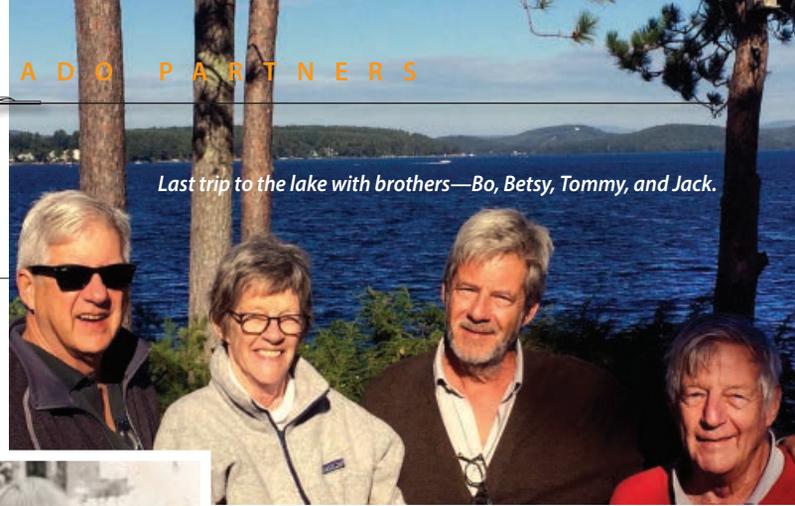
For more about these and all National and State Register properties in Colorado, visit historycolorado.org/oahp/national-state-registers.

A Life of Integrity and a Legacy for the Future

To leave a legacy is to impact others beyond our time. Many of us think about our legacy—and, maybe most of all, what we’d like that legacy to be once we’re gone. It can be our possessions, lessons learned, passions, dreams for the future, or serving a cause we cared about. Every year History Colorado receives gifts from family and friends wishing to honor a loved one’s memory. Elizabeth “Betsy” Stettner passed away last September, but her legacy will impact History Colorado for years to come.

Betsy was a History Colorado member who had a lifelong passion for history and telling stories of those who came before her. Her husband, Ken, her sons Richard, Robert, and Andrew, her ten grandchildren, her three brothers, and her many friends were what mattered to her most—and she was fiercely loyal to all of them. “She taught us to be kind, honest, and live life with integrity,” Andrew remembers. “She had an unbelievable strength and determination that only grew stronger as her body weakened as ALS [Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis] wore on.”

Betsy drew inspiration from the history of her own family, and she had countless heirlooms from past generations; she took immense pride in passing along her family artifacts and the stories that gave them meaning. “Betsy appreciated History Colorado for the immense collection and the efforts to keep history alive,” Andrew



Last trip to the lake with brothers—Bo, Betsy, Tommy, and Jack.



Young Betsy

recalls. “She looked forward to visiting the museum and listening in on the lectures presented at the History Colorado Center.”

When Betsy was diagnosed with ALS, she wanted to accomplish certain goals in the time she had left and to experience a great life in spite of that diagnosis. She went to a Broncos game and she bought a beat-up 1974 Winnebago RV, making it out to her beloved lake house twice and sharing countless laughs with the ones who

mattered to her the most. She also considered her legacy and the opportunity to support one of her passions. History Colorado represents so much of what she loved in life, and that’s why she asked that donations in her memory be directed to the organization.

History Colorado is incredibly honored and grateful to Betsy and her family for leaving a legacy of giving and support of the museum that will benefit generations to come. Betsy’s passion for history—for the sharing of stories and the importance of learning from the past—will carry on.

Society 1879 Members

- Anonymous (5)
- Hart and Marguerite* Axley
- Richard and Mary Lyn Ballantine
- Barbara Benedict
- Marilyn Brown and Doug Morton*
- George Cole
- Joseph Elinoff
- Barbara Garlinghouse
- Edwin Grant
- Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Kugeler
- Katharine and James Kurtz*

. SOCIETY .
1879
HONORING THOSE WHOSE ESTATE PLANS
INCLUDE HISTORY COLORADO

- Linda Love and Phil Karsh*
- Patricia and Ed Martin
- Nancy and Jim Peterson
- Linda and John Roberts
- Martin Sorensen, Jr.
- Phil Sterritt
- Judith Sullivan
- Lydia Toll
- The Vinnik Family
- Grant Wilkins

*deceased



Do you have a question for History Colorado? Ask us! In every issue of Colorado Heritage, we'll field your questions about our collections, your own collections, Colorado history, archaeology, or historic preservation.

Q: *Who's eligible for a State Historical Fund grant, and how do I apply?*

A: First, a little background: We distribute funds through a competitive process, and all projects must demonstrate strong public benefit and community support. Grants vary in size—from a few hundred dollars to more than \$200,000. The History Colorado State Historical Fund assists in a wide variety of preservation projects including restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings, architectural assessments, archaeological excavations, designation and interpretation of historic places, preservation planning studies, and education and training programs.

Who's eligible to apply? In short, public entities and nonprofit organizations may apply for a State Historical Fund grant. A public entity, as defined by Colorado law, includes "the state, county, city and county, incorporated city or town, school district, special improvement district, agency, instrumentality, or political subdivision of the state organized pursuant to law." Nonprofits include any organization certified by the Internal Revenue Service as tax exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c), (d), (e), (f), (k), or Section 521 (a). A nonprofit must be a registered business entity with the Colorado Secretary of State.

So, **private individuals and for-profit organizations** aren't eligible to apply directly for State Historical Fund grants, but: they **may partner with an eligible applicant**—an appropriate public entity or nonprofit organization willing to apply for and administer a grant on their behalf. The public or nonprofit applicant or applicants who apply on the project's behalf are then legally and financially responsible for ensuring that the project is carried out in accordance with State Historical Fund policies, procedures, and contract requirements. The applicant's relationship with a property owner takes the form of a legally binding contract.

The State Historical Fund has two competitive grant rounds every year for historic preservation projects involving Acquisition and Development, Survey and Planning, Education, and Archaeology preservation projects. **The deadlines for competitive grant applications are April 1 and October 1 of every year, except when those dates fall on weekends, in which case they occur on the first Monday after.**

Non-competitive grants such as Emergency Grants and Historic Structure Assessment grants are available year round.

You can take a look at our Grants Application Guide at HistoryColorado.org/shf-competitive-application.

The State Historical Fund was created by the 1990 constitutional amendment allowing limited gaming in the towns of Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek. The amendment directs that a portion of the gaming tax revenues be used for historic preservation throughout the state. History Colorado has been authorized to distribute the grants through the State Historical Fund.

If you have any other questions about State Historical Fund grants, go to HistoryColorado.org/state-historical-fund or call 303/866-2825.



Do you have a question for History Colorado? Send it to publications@state.co.us, and please put "Ask History Colorado" in the subject line.

Above: Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center, 2017; Bottom: The Ohio City Hall in Ohio City, Colorado

VOLUNTEER WITH US

You can make a difference! Volunteers play a vital role in telling Colorado's story. By giving your time, you can help us continue to engage people in our past in order to create a better Colorado. Share your passion by finding the volunteer or internship opportunity that's just right for you. Visit HistoryColorado.org/volunteers or call 303/866-3961.



JOIN US

Love History Colorado? Join us! You'll get free admission to our museums, a number of Georgetown Loop Railroad® passes based on your membership level, our publications, and much more. Already a member? Members at higher levels get reciprocal Smithsonian benefits. Consider upgrading to get the VIP treatment. Join us or give the gift of membership by going to HistoryColorado.org/membership.



LEAVE A LEGACY

In 1879, just three years after Colorado achieved statehood, Governor Pitkin established the State Historical Society (today's History Colorado) to collect and preserve items related to the state's identity. Today, History Colorado's Society 1879 honors those whose estate gifts will help preserve Colorado's past for generations to come. Estate gifts come in all shapes and sizes. Options exist. Contact Cheyenne Johnson at 303/866-4845 or Cheyenne.Johnson@state.co.us.



MAKE HISTORY WITH YOUR NEXT EVENT

Create an unforgettable event with an authentic Colorado experience. The History Colorado Center offers a convenient downtown location with full event-planning services and a team of culinary experts. Treat your guests to a taste of history with our interactive exhibits set in a clean, modern museum setting. Whether it's a dream wedding, 1,500-person cocktail reception, or a meeting for ten, we look forward to creating a custom event in our beautiful museum. Find us—and all our other sites—at HistoryColorado.org.



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HISTORY *Colorado*

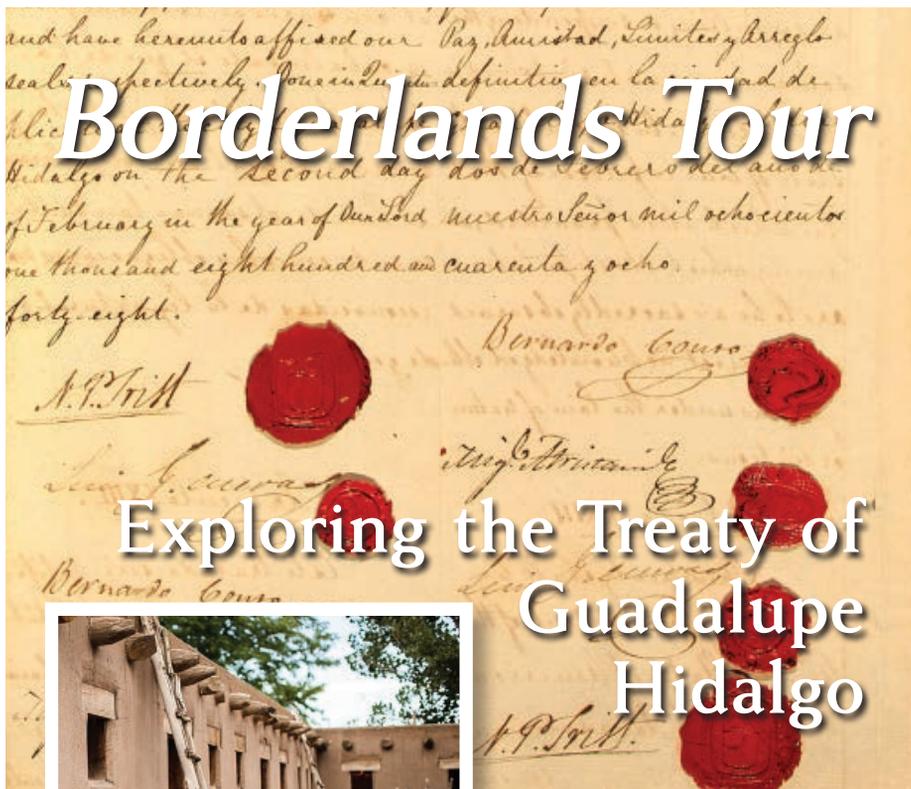


HISTORY *Colorado*

HISTORY COLORADO CENTER
1200 BROADWAY
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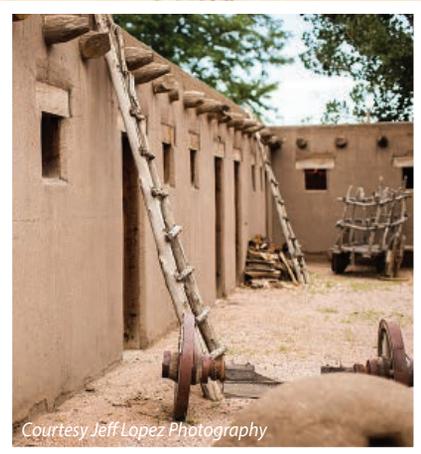


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Extra Tour Opportunity!
12 JUNE Tue / 9 am–5 pm
RSVP by June 1

Trek with us to History Colorado’s El Pueblo History Museum for an up-close viewing of the actual Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo—the treaty that created much of the modern southwestern US boundary. On loan from the National Archives, it’s never been on view in Colorado. Hear about the treaty’s importance to the Southwest and its ramifications when it was ratified 170 years ago. We’ll even walk to the original boundary between Mexico and the United States. Don’t miss this rare opportunity!



Courtesy Jeff Lopez Photography

Includes bus transportation, guides, interpretation, museum entry and a festive lunch. 303/866-2394
\$90 / Members \$75