

An Inventory of the Records of
The Colorado Mountain Club
1913 - 1969

Collection Number 144

A holding of the
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HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Introduction

Since 1912, the Colorado Mountain Club has been generating excitement about one of this state's most important resources, the Rocky Mountains. They want to share, as well as protect, Colorado's bountiful and beautiful wilderness. Their organizational statement, written in 1912, expresses this commitment:

We are organized to unite the energy, interest and knowledge of the students, explorers, and lovers of the mountains of Colorado; to collect and disseminate information regarding the Rocky Mountains in behalf of science, literature, art, and recreation; to stimulate the public interest in our mountain areas; to encourage the preservation of our forests, flowers, fauna and natural scenery; and to render readily accessible the alpine attractions of this region. (Kingery, 11)

The Colorado Mountain Club has made these goals a reality and continues to do so. They have been integral in promoting Colorado's alpine scenic wonders, as well as actively educating the public about conservation and environmental issues. The club has hundreds of members today in many Colorado cities, a tremendous increase from the original seven who met April 3, 1912. Even with this growth, the club has never lost sight of its original goals.

Club Organization

The original seven, who had already climbed sixteen mountain peaks between them, were led by Mary Sabin and James Grafton Rogers. These two individuals shared credit for the idea of the club. They quickly expanded to the twenty five original charter members. The membership has fluctuated throughout the years and has expanded into regional groups throughout the state. Each group has its own area of specialization of responsibility. For example, the Denver group is the headquarters for the club. This group also has the most members, usually around two-thirds of the total club membership. For these reasons, they have an extensive library, and a full-time office staff. The Boulder and Fort Collins groups take the lead in conservation issues while the Denver Wilderness Kids group is especially for families with young children. Regional groups naturally focus on trips and issues in their home region. (Kingery 29-45)

Colorado Mountain Club Foundation

In 1973, the Colorado Mountain Club Foundation was formed. Its goal was to “further the general aims and philosophy of the CMC for the benefit of the general public.” (Kingery, p. 48) The Foundation is funded mostly by Colorado Mountain Club member donations. These donations are used for public projects such as the Colorado Trail, conservation projects, and publishing works on Colorado’s mountains. (Kingery 48-49)

Club Publications and Public Interest Projects

Trail and Timberline, the Club’s main publication, began in 1918. This remarkable publication has been, and continues to be the voice of the Colorado Mountain Club. It has carried out the mission of the Club to “to collect and disseminate information on the Rocky Mountains in behalf of science, literature, art and recreation,” (Kingery 11), as well as serving as a unifying force. *Trail and Timberline* has kept the members of this “highly individual” club informed of its various, diverse activities and causes. The magazine is a veritable history of the Colorado Mountain Club and was the basis for a great deal of The Colorado Mountain Club: The First Seventy-Five Years of a Highly Individual Corporation, 1912-1987 by Hugh Kingery. This is the text used to compile most of the background information for this finding aid. Other publications of the Club include:

Mountain Wildlife of Northern Colorado 1920s Boulder Chapter
A Guide to the Geology of the Boulder Region 1932 by Dean P.G. Worcester
Wildflowers of Northern Colorado 1933 Ft. Collins Chapter
Guide to the Colorado Mountains ed. Bob Ormes 1952 (1st ed.)

Fourteen Thousand Feet 1925, 1931

"Front Range Panorama" by Trudy Pierce, Edith Ward, Elwyn and Louisa Ward Arps, and Orlando Ward

"Longmont's Mountain Skyline" by Aurel Morgan and Russ Palmer

High Country Names by Louisa Arps and Elinor Kingery

The Colorado Mountain Club also created a series of early guides to flora and fauna of the mountains. They created various regional hiking and skiing maps to aid in the enjoyment of these activities.

In addition to numerous publications, throughout the years the Colorado Mountain Club has sponsored a series of lectures, slide and photography exhibits on various mountain subjects in order to stimulate public interest. The club has always had a serious love of photography. The famous Western photographer, William Henry Jackson, was an honorary member of the club in 1938 and went on several of the club's outings. (Kingery 65) The club also constructed informational guides such as the "mountain name indicator in Denver's Cheesman Park." (Kingery 67) The Boulder and Denver Chapters have fairly extensive libraries containing books of especial interest for mountain lovers.

Schools

The Colorado Mountain Club has held various educational programs throughout their history. One of the first such "schools", held in 1939, included "six days of rock and ice climbing instruction, plus climbs on which the 'students' put the new schooling to work." (Kingery 59) The Boulder and Denver chapters "organized formal schools in 1947." (Kingery 59) These schools have evolved into extensive training grounds for all types of mountaineering skills. Courses in first aid, CPR, and other backcountry safety measures have become an important part of the Club's educational programs.

Environmental Conservation and Preservation Activities

The state of Colorado has the Colorado Mountain Club to thank for one of its crown jewels--Rocky Mountain National Park. The Club was highly active in designating this spectacular scenic wonder a national park. In 1921, they played an important role in defeating proposed legislation that threatened the national parks. (Kingery, 71) In the early years, the Club also placed signs in scenic areas warning campers to be tidy and protect the birds and flowers. In fact, they were instrumental in protecting the columbine, Colorado's state flower, which was in danger of being overpicked by visitors.

One area of controversy for the Club occurred in 1954 over the proposed dam in Echo Park of Dinosaur National Monument (which the Club helped to establish).

T & T carried articles for and against the dam, and the Board of Directors polled the membership by post card as to whether or not CMC should take a stand against the dam. Of the 761 cards mailed out, 334 were returned. The vote opposed the dam 224 to 89 (21 votes on neither side). (Kingery 76)

The Board of Directors decided they should not take a stand either way on dam construction. The directors also feared that a public stand might jeopardize the tax-exempt status of the Club.

Other environmental activities of the Colorado Mountain Club include opposition to dams on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, opposition for Two Forks Dam and water projects such as Homestake II, support for the 1964 Wilderness Act and for the Colorado Open Space Council. (Kingery 80-82)

The importance of environmental issues continues to grow in late 20th century America and the Colorado Mountain Club continues to reflect concern with these issues.

Outings

One of the primary purposes of the Colorado Mountain Club is to promote enjoyment of the Rocky Mountains. Stories of club outings range from exciting to humorous. One particularly humorous incident happened during a 1914 outing to the Never Summer Range in Rocky Mountain National Park. The cook concocted a cobbler using wild huckleberries the group had gathered. However, the hungry campers were to be disappointed. The cook had greased the baking pans with kerosene, rendering the luscious-looking cobbler inedible. (Kingery 89) The Club has expanded its trips to out-of-state as well as international destinations. "Glenn Porzak (former Boulder Conservation chair and CMC president) has in the past decade carried the CMC climbing banner to major summits all over the world." (Kingery 96)

The Club has also been instrumental in promoting both cross-country and downhill skiing. Trail building and maintenance have also been important. The Club has done wonderful work to help those who might have difficulties enjoying Colorado's wilderness. "In 1970, the Denver Group stated a sharing tradition: white cane hikes. They took blind hikers into the mountains and gave them the opportunity to experience the out-of-doors." (Kingery 114)

Conclusion

The Colorado Mountain Club has contributed immensely to the knowledge and enjoyment of the Rocky Mountains, one of Colorado's most important assets. They

have not only provided recreational opportunities, but educational experiences as well. Environmental conservation supported by the Club has preserved our wilderness heritage for future generations and its important environmental work continues. Gary Grange, CMC president in 1988, says, "Our volunteer heritage will carry us through the next seventy-five years, inspired by the irresistible lure of the Colorado mountains and led by dedicated outdoorsmen and environmentalists who commit their time and energies to supporting this wonderful organization." (Kingery 121)

CHRONOLOGY

- 1912 First meeting of the Colorado Mountain Club-April 3, 1912. Seven people attended. Club founders were Mary Sabin and George Grafton Rogers.
- Second meeting of the Colorado Mountain Club-April 26, 1912. Twenty-five people become the charter members, including Harriett Vaille.
- First trip was on the Beaver Book route, December 1, 1912.
- 1914 Trip to Rocky Mountain National Park with three Arapahoe Indians brought to Colorado by Harriet Vaille Bouck and Edna Hendrie in order to learn and record about original Arapahoe names for places within the park. Resulted in publication of Arapahoe Names and Trails by Oliver Toll.
- 1916 The Club sponsors its first winter outing to Fern Lake Lodge in Rocky Mountain National Park.
- 1918 Colorado Mountain Club begins publication of *Trail and Timberline*.
- 1919 Pikes Peak Group is formed in the Colorado Springs area.
- 1920 The Front Range Club becomes the Boulder Group of the Colorado Mountain Club.
- 1922-25 The Enos Mills Group is formed in Estes Park. Was disbanded and later revived in 1976 as the Estes Group.
- 1929 The Club's first rock-climbing expedition is led by Steve Hart, Bill Ervin, and Carl Blaurock up Lone Eagle.
- 1930 The Denver Juniors are formed for members between 14 and 21 years old.
- 1932 Twentieth anniversary of the Colorado Mountain Club.
- 1935 The Huerfano Group is formed. Disbanded in 1963 and absorbed by the El Pueblo Group.

- 1937 Formal organization of the Denver Group. Prior to this time they were not distinguished as a separate group.
- 1938 William Henry Jackson is made an honorary member of the Colorado Mountain Club.
- 1939 The first Colorado Mountain Club "school."
- 1946 Annual tree planting weekend begins.
- 1947 Denver and Boulder organized formal climbing schools.
- 1950 The Western Slope Group is formed in Rifle on May 26, 1950.
- 1953 The Aspen Group is formed.
- 1954 Controversy in Club over the proposed dam in Dinosaur National Monument. Club eventually decided to adopt a neutral stance.
- 1961 The Conservation Committee is rejuvenated by Roger Fuehrer and Dick Guadagno to promote conservation and preservation work.
- 1962 Fiftieth anniversary of the Colorado Mountain Club. Climbs of all the fourteen thousand foot peaks in Colorado planned. Forty-seven out of fifty-three climbed, due to inclement weather.
- The El Pueblo Group is formed, serving Southern Colorado.
- 1963 The Longs Peak Group formed in May, 1963.
- 1964 The Wilderness Act is enacted by the Federal Government. Colorado Mountain Club worked for passage of this Act.
- 1965 The San Juan Group is formed.
- 1970 The Denver Group begins "white cane hikes" for blind hikers.
- 1973 The Colorado Mountain Club Foundation begins to "further the general aims and philosophy of the CMC for the benefit of the general public."
- 1973 The Denver Wilderness Kids Group is formed for families with small children.

- 1974 Colorado Mountain Club begins its trail maintenance outings.
- 1981 The Club hires a part-time conservation staff director, Anne Vickery of Boulder, to represent the Club in environmental issues.
- 1983 The Glenwood Group is formed.
- 1985 Membership poll reveals that 85% of the respondents favored current or more involvement in environmental issues.
- 1986 Colorado Mountain Club creates the Access Committee to handle trail access problems.
- 1988 Colorado Mountain Club celebrates its seventy-fifth year.
- 1991 Kilimanjaro Children's Hospital, which helps the endangered Massai tribe, asks the Colorado Mountain Club for volunteers to lead climbing expeditions of Mount Kilimanjaro for a fund raiser called "Climb for Children."
- Colorado Mountain Club pushes for passage of the Colorado Wilderness Bill.
- 1992 April 11-Decision is made to share a new building with the American Alpine Club in Golden.
- May-Colorado Mountain Club honored at Colorado Trail Days.
- May-call for volunteers to form Citizens Management Alternative to help protect Arapahoe/Roosevelt National Forests.
- 1993 January-permission granted a purchase the former Golden Junior High School for a new headquarters. Will share building with American Alpine Club.
- September-Colorado Mountain Club locates state headquarters to Golden.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Colorado Mountain Club was, and continues to be, dedicated to preserving Colorado's mountain beauty, as well as fostering enjoyment of this unique, spectacular resource. They promote outdoor recreation and wise use of the mountains on which Colorado tourism is so dependent.

The Colorado Mountain Club was born during a period in American history when there was an increase in leisure time, especially for the middle class. It was also a time of intense interest in conservation of natural resources and preservation of the nation's natural wonders. In the early part of the century, President Theodore Roosevelt, with Gifford Pinchot as chief of the Forest Service, created a policy of wise use of natural resources. Many of these resources were (and still are) located in the West. Additionally, John Muir and others were interested in preserving the beautiful, wild places in America for future generations. Many national parks and monuments were created at this time. The railroads capitalized on these scenic wonders with heavy advertising of western destinations with the plea, "See America First!" Growth in automobile usage was also a boon for the western tourist industry. Colorado was in the middle of these national trends and the activities of the Colorado Mountain Club reflect this.

This collection contains nine series. The first series is Correspondence and Receipts. This series contains correspondence of Club members from 1913 to 1967. The bulk of this material is correspondence to Harriett Vaille, later Mrs. Frances J. Bouck. There are various postcards from trips taken, letters making plans to visit, announcing activities, requesting assistance or information about club activities, and numerous miscellaneous letters. There are some short letters about the 1914 Arapaho expedition, written en route to the Indian reservation to collect the Arapaho who were to assist with the nomenclature project. There are also numerous letters after this requesting information about the trip. The receipts are not very numerous or clear. They offer some information on prices in the early 1900s.

The second series is Notes. For the most part, these are not dated. The notes are on various subjects of interest to the Club such as nomenclature, Indian culture and history, and Colorado history.

The third series is Diaries. This consists of undated diaries belonging to David Robert Hawkins, one of the men who accompanied the Arapaho Indians on the Rocky Mountain National Park trip in 1914. The diary is an account of this trip. The other diary is entitled "Notes (some verbatim) on Journal of Wood, father of Mr. Henry S. Wood, 1868." This does not appear to be the original journal of 1868 but some sort of transcription. Neither the transcriber, nor the date of the transcription are noted. It possibly could be written in Harriet Vaille's handwriting.

The fourth series is Notebooks. One of these notebooks is dated 1917 and entitled "Coloradoana" which contains notes on Colorado history of the Pueblo region. Other notebooks appear to be notes from various classes or lectures conducted by the Club. They pertain to topics such as Colorado History, Rocky Mountain National Park Data, Arapahoes, Colorado Nomenclature and other miscellaneous notes. One notebook is an address book containing the members and addresses of the Colorado Geographic Board, whose task was to record and clarify place names and histories.

The fifth series is Stories, Poetry and Music. This series contains stories about the national parks and, specifically, about Rocky Mountain National Park. "The Legend of Grand Lake" is a poem by Joseph Westcott. The songs appear to be Arapaho, and perhaps other Indian songs in the native languages.

A sixth series is Indians. This series contains an account of the Arapaho Indian trip of 1914. This trip was organized by the donor of most of the collection, Harriet Vaille. However, the account was written by Oliver Toll. Also included is a school newspaper, called "Indian Progress" from the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming where the Arapaho lived. There are five issues from 2/5/1909 to 2/15/1909.

A seventh series is Publications and Brochures. The publications consist of items such as a membership list, outing announcements, schedules of walks, and two tenth anniversary issues of *Trail and Timberline*. There are brochures from the Wind River Indian reservation in Wyoming, brochures from St. Michael's mission at Wind River reservation, one from Camp Chipeta for girls in Estes Park, brochures for several hotels/resorts in the Estes Park area, and a brochure of Indian names.

An eighth series is Articles of Interest. This includes two subseries-Magazine Articles and Newspaper Clippings. The magazine articles come from a variety of magazines covering subjects such as the Arapaho Indian trip, Colorado history, and Western history. The newspaper clippings appear to be from the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post*. Again, the articles mainly deal with Indians, especially the Arapaho trip. Many of the articles are not dated but appear to be quite old.

The last series contains Maps with dates ranging from 1903 to 1926, as well as some that are undated. Subject matter includes roads, reclamation projects, and the Estes Park area.

There is also miscellaneous material not contained within the record center box. There is a collection of photographs and negatives that have been transferred to the Society's Department of Photography. Many appear to be from the Arapaho trip, as well as many mountain scenes. They are not labeled or well-dated. There is also some microfilm of 151 slides that are not dated. These have also been transferred to the photography department.

The sound recordings for the 1914 Arapahoe Indian trip are housed in the Society's oral history collections as OH--1-3.

The Society's serial's collections contain a complete file of Trail and Timberline, 1918 - date.

The provenance of the entire collection is not clear. However, the bulk of the material appears to have been donated by Harriet Vaille Bouck, one of the original charter members, who was responsible for the organization of the famous Arapaho Indian trip of 1914.

The Colorado Mountain Club has an extensive archives, including many photographs. They are currently located at 2530 West Alameda Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80219. The Club is in the process of moving to a new office in Golden where they can expand their archives and library.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

<u>Series</u>	<u>File Folder Numbers</u>
Correspondence and Receipts (1913-1962, n.d.)	1-8
Notes (1915-1962, n.d.)	9-14
Diaries (1868, n.d.)	15
Notebooks (1917, n.d.)	16-22
Stories, Poetry and Music (n.d.)	23
Indians (1914, 1909)	24-25
Publications and Brochures	26-29
Articles of Interest (1910-1962, n.d.)	30-33
Maps	34

- 7 Correspondence n.d.

Miscellaneous postcards and Christmas cards. A forty page letter from a J. C. Blickensderfer re: fathers and activities as founder of Colorado Mountain Club and skier.

- 8 Receipts 7/13/1914 - 10/20/1914, n.d.

Miscellaneous, some appear to be from the Arapahoe trip.

Notes

- 9 Notes 4/5/1915, 12/1/1960, 7/22/1962, 7/24/1962

Nomenclature notes, n.d. Notes on "Arapahoe Data" - 1960. Notes on various Club projects - 1962. Notes on "Geographic Board" - perhaps review of minutes - 1962.

- 10 Notes n.d.

Notes on Indians, lists of names.

- 11 Notes n.d.

Colorado history notes. Typewritten notes about John D. Hunter's memoirs of captivity by Indians - these appear to have come from a book about this man.

- 12 Notes n.d.

Notes on Spanish names. Four typewritten pages about the Arapahoe in Estes Park area.

- 13 Notes n.d. [Some notes on Indian language]

More Indian culture notes, some history notes.

- 14 Notes n.d.

More lecture notes, mainly Indian names and language.

- 15 Diaries 1869 (possibly a copy), n.d.

The undated diary belongs to David Robert Hawkins and appears to be an account of the Arapahoe Indian trip of 1914 which he went on. The other Indian trip of 1914 which he went on. The other is dated 1868 but says "notes (some verbatim) on the journal of Wood, father of Mr. Henry S. Wood.

Notebooks

- 16 Notebook "Coloradoana 1917"

Contains notes about Colorado History of the Pueblo region.

- 17 Notebooks "Rocky Mountain National Park Data" VIII volumes, n.d.

Contains multiple descriptions about all aspects of Rocky Mountain National Park.

- 18 Notebook "Colorado History Class Notes" n.d.

Contains notes from a Colorado history class.

- 19 Notebook "Geographic Board Addresses" n.d.

Address book for members of the Geographic Board which was the executive branch of the Colorado Geographic Society. Their task was to clarify and research place names. Also includes a piece of blank letterhead of the Board.

- 20 Notebook "Colorado Nomenclature" n.d.

Contains notes on origins and meanings of place names in Colorado.

- 21 Notebook "Arapahoes by Harriet Vaille" n.d.

Contains notes on history of the Arapahoe Indians.

- 22 Notebooks Various notes n.d.

Contains miscellaneous notes on history and Indians.

Stories, Poetry and Music

- 23 Stories, Poetry, and Music n.d.

Stories about the National Parks and Rocky Mountain National Park. Appears to be Harriet Vaille's writing. Also "The Legend of Grand Lake" - a poem by Joseph Westcott. The songs are Indian songs and possibly in the Arapahoe language.

Indians

- 24 Account of Arapahoe trip July 1914 [a copy]

Written account by Oliver Toll of the Arapahoe expedition to Rocky Mountain National Park.

- 25 "Indian Progress" School Newspaper 2/15/1909 - 12/15/1909.

This is the Wind River Indian Reservation paper published by the pupils of Industrial School. There are five issues.

Publications and Brochures

- 26 Publications of the Colorado Mountain Club 1913-1925.

Contains membership lists, a 10th anniversary 1922 issue of *Trail and Timberline*, and two copies of 1925 issue of *Trail and Timberline*.

- 27 Publication of Schedule of Walks for Colorado Mountain Club 1917-1928, n.d.

Schedules of walks for the Club.

- 28 Publications of the Colorado Mountain Club 1916-1969.

More schedules and announcements of activities.

- 29 Brochures 1913, n.d.

Brochures from the Wind River Reservation and St. Michael's

mission in Wyoming. Several brochures for hotels/resorts in the Ester Park area, and a brochure for Camp Chipeta for Girls in Ester Park.

Articles of Interest

- 30 Magazine Articles 10/1910 - 11/10/1961, n.d.
Articles from various magazines mainly dealing with Western history, Colorado history, or Indians.
- 31 Newspaper Clippings 7/13/1914 - 1/20/1929
Articles in *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post* about Indians, the Arapahoe trip, and some photos of Rocky Mountain National Park.
- 32 Newspaper Clippings 4/14/29 - 3/1962
More articles on Indians from the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post*..
- 33 Newspaper Clippings, n.d.
Similar to file folder #32 but without dates.
- 34 Maps
Includes the Estes Park area, roads, and reclamation projects in Colorado. Contains some photocopies.