

**Hot second edition!**

By Jon Hatch

Welcome to the second edition of "On the Corner," a community newsletter designed to share some history of the people and events that shaped this neighborhood.

In addition to some of the history, I want to share stories and profiles of those who live here today and through this build better connections as neighbors.

I also want to inform you of upcoming events and happenings that you might not be aware of. Please feel free to contact me if there are events you want neighbors to know about. And if you have a special story to tell about the neighborhood or a neighbor please contact me and I will share it with readers in the next "On the Corner". Thanks to those of you who called or wrote with wonderful comments about the first edition.

I intend to distribute these on a quarterly basis. If you would not like to receive the newsletter please let me know and I will respect your wishes and remove you from the mailing list.

Have a great day! *Jon Hatch*

**The Anderson Ditch**

Derived from *Boulder Valley Ditches*  
 Authored by Michael Holleran and  
 information from Carol Ellinghouse, the  
 Anderson Ditch Company president;

Built in 1860, the Anderson Ditch is visible along 19th street north of Baseline, and then at 20th street from Columbine to Bluebell. However, it originates at the mouth of Boulder Canyon and makes its way through University Hill, Lower Chautauqua, NOAA campus, up to Martin Acres Park at Table Mesa Drive. An extension of the Anderson Ditch is owned by Base Line Reservoir Company and carries water from Bear Canyon Creek and the Anderson Ditch along South Boulder Road until it supplies Baseline Lake (a water supply for the city of Lafayette). Along the way, the ditch water irrigates the CU campus and NIST for their automated sprinkler systems. The city of Boulder also has a number of shares used to irrigate Martin Park. The ditch also delivers water to a small number of individual irrigators in Boulder who are the successors of ditch builders Jonas Anderson and Marinus Smith. The ditch intercepts drainage from several creek watershed basins along its route such as Gregory Canyon Creek, Bluebell Creek, Skunk Creek and Bear Canyon Creek.

Please see **Ditch** next page...

**Bluebell Avenue resident had unusual past**

By Silvia Pettem

In last month's "On the Corner," I wrote that early real estate developer David Dobbins built four almost-identical brick bungalows, one on each of the southeast corners of Bluebell Avenue and 15th, 16th, 17th, and 19th streets. The house at 1604 Bluebell was owned by Miriam Rieder who lived there from the late 1930s to her death in 1957. Rieder was an assistant professor of Romance Languages at the University of Colorado. She also was considered an eccentric, and she had an unusual past. At the time, acres of undeveloped property surrounded Rieder's home. She bought the land and preferred it wild and unkempt with native plants and flowers providing a sanctuary for ground-nesting birds. After one neighbor complained of her "weeds," she wrote a scathing letter to the editor of the "Daily Camera."

"What is the matter with people who are so blind that they see beauty, and utility, only in their own little clipped lawn?" Rieder asked. "How can people go to church and sit in pews and worship God, and then devote their weekdays to trying to destroy what He has generously given us to enjoy?" Rieder regularly patrolled her property and carried a pistol to scare off intruders. Parents of neighborhood children complained that she chased and shot at them. In 1950, the then-61-year old woman pleaded guilty in court to "threatening the lives of young people," but she claimed she only did it to frighten them off of her land.

*please see **Bluebell** next page...*



Miriam Rieder's former home at 1604 Bluebell Avenue was one of four almost identical brick bungalows built by real estate developer David Dobbins. photo by Jon Hatch

