

Lower Chautauqua Newsletter

SHARING THE HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE AND EVENTS THAT HAVE SHAPED THIS GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!

Boulder had a ski area in its own backyard by Silvia Pettem

If Boulder gets a good snowfall this winter, the locals will take their sleds to the open space south of the intersection of Baseline Road and Sixth Street. More than a half century ago, other winter sports enthusiasts also frequented the same area. But they went there to ski in a ski area in their own backyards.

The Chautauqua Mesa Ski Area had its grand opening in January, 1949. Local residents' interest in skiing, however, started as early as 1925 with ski jumping tournaments in Rogers Park, between Boulder and Nederland in Boulder Canyon. Then, in 1947, after a few snowy winters, post-war skiers eyed the Chautauqua location for both a ski jump and a downhill slope for children and beginners.

First the slope needed to be groomed. In October, 1948, the National Guard sent in bulldozers while members of the Jaycees and the University of Colorado ski club spent four weekends removing rocks, then raking and seeding the slopes.

In 1949, the City of Boulder issued a permit for a 200-foot rope tow, powered by a Dodge gasoline engine from a World War II army truck. By the next season, Boulder skiers were too skilled for the short ski run. The motor shack at the top of the rope tow was moved 850 feet uphill, and field telephones were installed to connect the upper and lower lift operators. Beginning skiers could get off at the gentler slope while the more experienced skiers continued to the top of the run.

The lift served its purpose, but it was slow. Cross-country skiers were said to have reached the top faster than the skiers on the tow. Lights were installed for night skiing. Daily lift fees were one dollar for adults and fifty cents for children. Ski lessons were free. See *Ski* on opposite page...

The Chautauqua Mesa Ski area was popular with Boulder residents in the late 1940s and early 1950s.



photo Courtesy of Silvia Pettem

Interview with Priscilla Bosin Ellwood, 88 & Henry Vincent Ellwood Jr., 88 a.k.a. Pris & Vinny - 1306 Mariposa Avenue



JH: *What year did you come to Boulder?* HVE: In 1920 my family moved here from Missouri. I was one. We lived at 935 Lincoln Place here. My grandfather bought 1209 Pennsylvania. He was a farmer and made his money that way. JH: *How did you choose to live here?* HVE: I graduated from CU engineering in 1942. I was married to Priscilla and went to Gary, Indiana to work at a steel mill.

PBE: We married in 1942 at Presbyterian Church in Boulder by Reverend Sanders (The Rev. John Henry Sanders who came to the church in 1935). HVE: We took the train to Chicago and took the Shoshone Railway to Gary. We got off the train and said "Uh Oh!" It was pretty bad and we thought we'd made a huge mistake. We were there for 9 months then I joined the Navy in Florida then California. I was a gunnery officer. We moved back to Boulder where I worked in my dad's business Dugout Cleaners at 1215 13th street (established in the early 1920's). It's where Half Fast Subs is now. The business was in the basement of the building there on the Hill and that's why it was called Dugout. It used to be the CU women's gym. At one time it was converted into the wee tea room. Well, I eventually took over running the business. JH: *What year did you buy your home here on Mariposa?* HVE: About 30 years ago. We moved from a home we built over at 800 12th street. JH: *Why did you choose this area of town?* HVE: We didn't really like the 12th street house. We liked this area and always loved this great rock in the front yard here. We had a realtor-friend who lived up at the corner of 13th and Mariposa and he knew this house would be available. He came and told us about it and showed it to us and we bought it right then almost on the spot. That realtor was Elmer Frazier who incidentally developed Frazier Meadows neighborhood (at Inca Parkway and Baseline Road). JH: *What price did you pay for your home?* HVE: \$35,000, about 30 years ago. JH: *What were interest rates then for a home mortgage?* HVE: Oh, 5 or 6 percent. JH: *What historical events you can remember in your time here that impacted the neighborhood?* HVE: The rope tow at Chautauqua was interesting though it didn't last long. The climate was different then. Snow would stay a while and the lines were pretty long, at anytime there would be 20 to 50 people there skiing. There was a motor at the bottom with a pulley at the top. It was about 100 yards long or so. I remember people always falling on the bumps. They were different skis in those days, leather straps and no heel lock, just a spring. Skis were seven feet long with 3 grooves down the center. And friends Ross Chivers and Steve Bradley were involved with making a ski jump up there. They asked me if I had any 50 gallon drums from the cleaning plant to build the hump for the ski jump. I let them have a bunch of drums and they covered them with dirt for the jump. Oh they're probably still up there covered in dirt. Life was simple back then. I think about that as I drive around and wonder if it all really happened. I remember the first day of school -1st grade with Ms. Nelson at Uni Hill Elementary- I wore a cotton sailor suit and I wet my pants. I guess I was just nervous. Never forgot that. I remember as kids we used to run through the neighborhoods and we'd cut through people's yards. There didn't used to be fences around yards. We could cut right through. JH: *What are your highlights from living in this neighborhood?* PBE: We've always had great neighbors and they've been sweet, sweet friends. Today our neighbors take real good care of us. Before, there weren't all these trees and we used to be able to watch the 4th of July fireworks from right here. There also used to be a number of vacant lots around us. HVE: We went to State Prep School (State Preparatory School, Boulder's first high school, began in 1889). PBE: Our class was the last to graduate from that high school (in 1935). JH: *What other activities to you enjoy?* HVE: Skiing, Rock Climbing, I shoot trap (a.k.a. trap shooting: shotgun shooting at clay targets) with Lorelei (their German short hair dog of 11 years). I've spent 90 days (not consecutive) rafting in the Grand Canyon. After work I remember we would race up to places like monkey traverse (on Flagstaff) and climb. A bunch of us were up there every afternoon. PBE: Oh I just love to go out for dinner. My favorite places are Tom's, Brasserie Ten Ten, and happy hour at the Kitchen, the Olive Garden. I just recently received an honorary Doctorate from CU in anthropology. I have Master's Degree in ceramics. I studied pre-historic ceramics thru the CU Museum. (CU presented special honors to Priscilla this year at commencement where she was honored for her contributions to the field of archeology. She is recognized as an authority on prehistoric ceramics in Colorado, the Southwest and the Great Plains. She has worked, mostly as a volunteer, at the University of Colorado Museum since 1978 -excerpt from CU-Boulder website). JH: *Any final thoughts for readers?* PBE: Be kind to one another, give more than 50% and don't go to bed angry.

Neighborhood Real Estate Market Watch - July 1st thru Sept 30th...

SOLD		SALE PENDING		AVAILABLE	
517 22nd St.....	\$460,000	2015 Mariposa Ave.....	\$777,000	13 Chautauqua Park Rd.....	\$450,000
2131 Bluebell Ave.....	467,000			1727 Bluebell Ave.....	599,000
14 Chautauqua Park.....	535,000			2110 Columbine Ave.....	625,000
2032 Mariposa Ave.....	549,000			2255 Mariposa Ave.....	629,000
240 Brook Pl.....	714,000			240 Camden Pl.....	795,000
437 18th St.....	715,000			205 Devon Pl.....	819,000
1225 Mariposa Ave.....	1,059,238			1711 BLUEBELL.....	837,500
546 14th St.....	2,301,200			1405 Bellevue Dr.....	1,387,000
				2132 Bluebell Ave.....	1,387,000
				1600 Mariposa Ave.....	1,600,000
				1901 BLUEBELL Ave.....	1,625,000
				520 14th St.....	2,050,000
				690 11th St.....	2,550,000
				1498 King Ave.....	2,950,000
				1529 Columbine Ave.....	3,350,000
				1480 Bellevue Dr.....	3,550,000
				35 Bellevue Dr.....	4,400,000

Comparison	3rd Qtr-2007 vs 3rd Qtr-2006
# of Homes Sold	8 homes 11 homes
Average Price/sqft	\$396/sqft (+25%) \$316/sqft
Average Price	\$850,054 (-4.9%) \$894,271
Median Price	\$549,000 (-18.6%) \$675,000
Avg. Days on Mkt.	115days 134days
Purchase Price to List Price	95% avg 96%avg
Lowest Price	\$460,000 \$459,500
Highest Price	\$2,301,200 \$1,883,000

Information from IRES Multiple Listing Service deemed reliable but not guaranteed!



jon hatch, broker associate, GRI, ABR
2450 broadway
boulder, colorado 80304



desk 303.449.3434x117
cell 303-513-2834
www.goodacreproperties.com
www.jonhatch.org
hatch@goodacreproperties.com