

The View From Hamilton Creek

Fall 2006

KNOW THE FOLKS WHO SERVE US

In an effort to acquaint you with the folks who serve us, I am doing bios on our HO Assn. Board. Let's start with our President, Rob Hess and his wife, Linda. And following that, I will tell you a bit about Niel and Jan Christensen. Niel is President of our Architectural Review Committee. While, understandably, both couples were reluctant to be featured in our newsletter, I turned on my persuasive powers and, frankly, just insisted. Following are their stories in brief:

ROB and LINDA HESS joined our community back in the spring of 1999 when they built



their lovely home at 0470 Lakeview Circle.....right up at the top! They finally worked their way up there after a lifetime of working toward that destination (while they may not have always been aware of exactly where they would end up).

The early part of their lives was spent growing up in lower California.....the San Fernando Valley. They both received undergraduate degrees from University of California at Northridge and Rob earned his Masters Degree in Business Management from Stanford. Rob says that Linda is so much smarter than he that she managed to graduate with a degree in Business &

Accounting in only 3 ½ years and passed her CPA exam on the first try.....relatively difficult. I'm thinking that it must have been very difficult since the two were married during their last year in college! Linda worked for a small CPA firm while Rob played baseball for the college in his final semester. The team went on to win the NCAA Championship in 1970. Linda continued to work for a couple of years before quitting to start a family. And Rob went to work as a Controller in the real estate group for The Newhall Land & Farm Co. after serving on the audit staff of an international CPA firm for four years. Newhall Land & Farm Co. was the largest landholder in California and provided Rob with some invaluable experience in homebuilding and new town development. But as happens with many of us after a time, Rob developed wanderlust and started looking around.

In 1981, Rob accepted a job in Colorado and asked Linda if she would mind moving to Colorado Springs with their two little girls, Carrie & Chanda. He went to work for Gates Land Company, owners of the Cheyenne Mountain Ranch. Linda, always the supportive wife and good sport, stayed to wrap up things in California and followed Rob to Colorado Springs in 1982. Once again, Rob found himself gaining valuable experience in land development, home building, and real estate.

And falling in love with Colorado, the family spent their weekends skiing or hiking, eventually buying a condo on Buffalo Mountain.



When the real estate depression hit in 1987, Rob was primed to branch out and start his own business. He incorporated Robert Hess & Associates, an executive search firm specializing in the placement of real estate executives on a national basis.....changing careers completely but using his knowledge to recruit highly qualified persons for his former industry. Now that he was his own boss and could conduct his business from anywhere, it seemed smart to trade in that Buffalo Mountain condo for a more permanent mountain home and just move up here.

The girls were now both in college at C.U., and there was really no reason to drive back and forth every weekend between Colorado Springs & Summit County. Each time they spent a weekend here, it became harder and harder to leave and go back to the city. They soon figured out that “Hey! We could just live up here!” So they bought a home in Keystone Ranch near one of the best restaurants in Summit County.

It seemed like a great location for a time and they settled in. Linda started playing tennis and met Kathryn Tenfjord. That led to both Linda & Rob playing couple’s bridge in a group with Tenfjord’s.

And it was inevitable at they would eventually wind their way up our mountain and start to compare it with their neighborhood at Keystone. While it was a nice place to live, Keystone had two inherent problems: It was not a really great view, and nobody lived there. Everyone in their neighborhood was a part timer with very few full time residents.

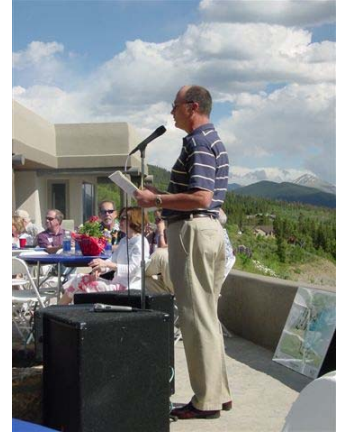
Time to move on again.

A real estate agent started showing them Hamilton Creek at their request; and as they progressed up the hill, they started liking it better and better until they finally settled on the lot where they are now.....up at the top.

A short time after arriving here, daughter Carrie (who was now married) was expecting twins!! Quite an exciting time for the Hess’s. Darby and Riken, two beautiful little girls arrived 4 years ago and daughter, Chandra and husband Jeff had a little girl 18 months ago. So Rob and Linda are the very proud grandparents of three girls.

As for the volunteer bit, Rob’s background made him a natural to serve on the Homeowners Association Board. When Toni Graves was going off the Board in 2004, she recruited Rob to serve. Rob had done little volunteer work prior to moving to Hamilton Creek, but he saw an opportunity to do what all of us up here want done: Keep our community a very desirable place to be.

Rob says that he wants to follow in Niel’s footsteps to make sure that the high standards of Hamilton Creek are maintained. He also wants to pat us all on the back for our huge number of volunteers. He truly believes that there is absolutely no other community in the mountains that has the number of active participants helping out in their neighborhood the way we do. I guess that makes us special!



PRESIDENTS CORNER

I am happy to report that our clean up day and annual meeting were well attended again this year. Thanks to John and Sara Almond for

hosting the clean up day and to Larry and Sharon Blackmun for allowing us to use their home for the annual meeting. A special thanks to Julie and Eric Wright for all their work in helping to make our annual meeting a special occasion.

Lots of things have been going on in your community during the summer months. Many street curves have been center-lined striped and it seems like the number of cars drifting from one side of the road to the other have been reduced, relative to previous years.

New address signs have been installed and all of the existing address signs and/or posts have been refurbished with a longer lasting stain, throughout Hamilton Creek.

A new sign has been installed just inside the entrance to Hamilton Creek to reduce the number of solicitations. The Board of Directors will consider modifying this sign to include language that will indicate no hunting or public trail access, also.

I am sorry to report that our forest management contractor, A Cut Above, removed pine beetle infested lodge pole pines, but we continue to have a problem with dying trees, just like the rest of Summit County. You may want to investigate fire mitigation measures with respect to your personal residence.

Please visit <http://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire.htm> or http://csfs.colostate.edu/library/pdfs/fire/fire_fact_sheets/06302.pdf for more information.

The first installment of noxious weed abatement was applied in June, with positive results. Another application will be sprayed this fall, along roadsides.

Secure mailboxes are currently being installed across from the elementary school. There are a limited number of boxes available to Hamilton Creek homeowners. Please contact Bob Polich (970-668-5500 ext.12), if you have an interest in using one.

After six months there remain a few owners who have not paid their homeowners dues for the year. Accordingly, the Board of Directors has elected to increase the penalty for late dues. Effective with the next homeowner dues billing (January 1, 2007), any dues not paid within 90 days of the billing date will be assessed a penalty of \$10 per month for every month in arrears after the 90 day grace period.

Lastly, I would like to thank the many homeowners who have responded to being notified about CC&R concerns. With few exceptions, the observations were positively received and corrections were made in keeping with standards that make Hamilton Creek a premier community to live in. However, there remain a handful of homeowners who have elected not to remedy their infractions in spite of being notified on several occasions. Hopefully these few residents will respect the wishes of their neighbors and make corrections in compliance with the CC&R's (as was agreed to when they purchased their real estate), before legal measures become necessary.

Wishing you the best during these Fall and Winter months,
Rob Hess

Hamilton Creek Trail Update

The first section of the Hamilton Creek trail system was constructed by about 20 volunteer homeowners in 2001. The purpose was to provide an alternative to walking on the roads and also utilize our extensive common areas. A lot of hard work quickly produced a trail that began on the east side of Hamilton Creek Road just above Stormwatch Circle. It winds its way up through common areas and necessarily crosses Hamilton Creek Road several times before it reaches the top of Lakeview Circle.

Over the years improvements have been made and the trail has been slightly rerouted in



spots to eliminate steeper sections and avoid new home construction. The trail is also now marked by orange diamonds.

This year a small group of hardworking volunteers extended the trail across the Hamilton Creek ravine. This involved lots of chainsaw work and brush clearing. The crew also installed rough steps on the steep slopes leading into and out of the ravine. This new section of trail completes a loop that leads back to Hamilton Creek Road across from Ansel's View. It also provides access to the north side of Hamilton Creek where there is lots of wonderful hiking on National Forest Service lands.

Future plans for the trail include clearing a section which would extend the trail along the bottom of the ravine next to the creek and more work needs to be done on our steps.

Like any trail system the more it is used, the better it becomes defined. So give it a try if you haven't yet. You will be pleasantly surprised by another reason Hamilton Creek is the best place to live in Summit County.

CLEAN UP DAY

Hamilton Creek's annual Clean Up Day was a huge success judging by the number of hardworking volunteers in attendance! June 17 saw the cutting, dragging, pulling, rolling and shoving of many, many downed trees infected by that nasty little beetle. And eventually the piles on the sides of the roads were cleared.

The rewards of the day came at noon when John & Sara Almond graciously served a yummy lunch prepared by our neighbors, David & Patti Welch of Food Hedz fame. Thanks to the Almonds, Welchs, and all you rugged, hill-climbing, back-bending, dedicated residents who work so hard to make our neighborhood better and love every minute of it!



MEN'S HIKING GROUP

This summer the Hamilton Creek Men's Hiking Group was formed. The motley crew has seen participation by John Almond, Dennis Archer, Niel Christensen, Lowell Graves, Stu Gunckel, Tom Hand, Chuck Harris, Rob Hess, Roger Paluska, Dick Rozehnal, Kolbjorn Tenfjord, and Eric Wright.

The hikes this summer have been varied and quite exciting to say the least. We have been attacked by swarms of man-eating mosquitoes; lost in the wilderness; nearly zapped by a lightning storm at 14,000 feet; and physically battered and bruised after climbing and then tumbling down 2,000 feet of rock strewn mountain slopes. Fortunately, the majestic and awesome scen-



ery, the purely medicinal libations, and the fellowship within the group more than made up for our aches and pains.

The group hikes every Monday and we generally take moderate to challenging trails. Please contact Rob Hess (rob_hess@comcast.net or 262-2254) if you have an interest in participating.

RUB THIS!!!

That's the name of a very famous group.....our very own Hamilton Creek Barbecue All Women's Team--entrants in

the Dillon Barbecue Festival. Well, they are not really our very own. They are Carolyn Patterson and her sisters from Kansas City. But we take pride in claiming them as our own since Carolyn and her husband, Bill, have been part time residents of Hamilton Creek for a number of years.

This is the "Rub This" Team's third annual competition in Dillon and they do quite well every year. Carolyn and sisters, Barbara Loots and Peggi Moon, along with daughter-in-law Alison Patterson and friend, Laura Beachy can cook up some mighty tasty barbecue!!

They start off by shipping 150 lbs of pork ribs and pork butts from Kansas City. They add some beef brisket and chicken to that. Then they stir up three kinds of sauce: Barb's Black Magic, Jayhawk, and Smooth Moves. Those very flavorful sauces placed 7th, 8th, & 15th in competition in their three years participating. These placings are significant considering they are competing with 75 other teams from all over the country, many of whom compete dozens of times each year!

This summer, they won the First Place for Carolyn's secret recipe side dish, Cheesy Potatoes. It seems that Carolyn's 5 year old granddaughter, Lucy, asked her Mom what a competition was. When Carolyn's daughter-in-law explained it was like a game where people see who can make the best BBQ, Lucy replied that her Grammy Carolyn should make

cheesy potatoes as they are the best in the whole world and would surely win first prize. Well, Lucy's a pretty smart little girl because "Grammy" won First Place!! They also walked away with a 6th Place Ribbon in Miscellaneous for Paco's Shrimp....an outstanding appetizer according to my taste buds!

And for the second year in a row, the team placed 4th for their dessert: Blueberry Cornmeal Cakes with Sweet Corn Ice Cream. And if all that good eatin' is not enough, the Rub This Team provides space in front of their booth for Heather O'Brien, daughter of Eddie & Susan



O'Brien, to give the most wonderful chair massages! Visitors to the Rub This booth surely go away **very** happy!!
With a little coaxing, I was able to convince Carolyn to share her unique recipe for Smokey Smackers.

Here it is—simple and good:

Three apples chopped in small pieces

Three onions chopped in small pieces

Two packages of Smokey Links

1 Cup of Brown Sugar

Dump all in Dutch Oven and Cook Long & Slow!

Thanks Carolyn and Company for expending all that energy and talent to make Dillon's Barbecue Festival the best! We will all be looking forward to tasting your treats again next year!

NIEL and JAN CHRISTENSEN

As chairman of our Architectural Review Committee and a member of our Metro District Board, Niel Christensen is in his eighth year serving the residents of Hamilton Creek. Prior to his present positions, Niel served first as Treasurer and then as President of our Homeowners Association for five years. He didn't waste any time volunteering to serve soon after building their lovely home in 1996. As with many of our residents, the Christensens had spent vacations skiing here for years, and made a choice to retire here after considering returning to Washington State. But I'm a little ahead of myself.....

Niel & Jan both grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin. If you ever want to meet a die-hard Packer fan, just wander down to Crescent Moon Trail on Broncos vs. Packers Day and see the little green and yellow mascot hanging high! In fact, Niel & Jan made their first friends in Hamilton Creek when the Graves noticed the mascot and had to join their fellow Cheeseheads on game day.

High School sweethearts, the Christensens both went to the University of Wisconsin in Madison and married one year after graduation. Jan got her degree in Education and Niel in Mechanical Engineering.



**Niel, Son Jeff, Grandson Jake, and
Jan Christensen – The Patriotic Family**

Niel started his career right here in Colorado at Martin Marietta in 1964 and worked for one year on propulsion design and multiple re-entry vehicles. Then he decided to return to UW for a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering. A change of pace beckoned after that, and the Christensens moved to Camas, Washington on the Columbia River where Neil joined Crown-Zellerbach in the pulp and paper industry.

From Washington State, they went to San Francisco for two years and then back north to Oregon as manager of Zellerbach Paper Company, They only moved ten

times_during their working career! Pretty good trick considering that they produced three chil-

dren (two boys and one girl) in those years with all the inherent complications of moving kids from school to school. “It was not an easy task” says Jan.

Their last move saw them go all the way from the West Coast to Philadelphia and a new job with Alco-Standard Corporation. In Niel’s three years with Alco, Jan took advantage of the many cultural and historical opportunities that presented themselves in the East. One of her favorite accomplishments was completing three years of gardening classes and her gardening skills are very apparent when you look around their lovely home, both inside and out.

Jan has developed another skill with her machine embroidery. Her sense of color and her dedication to the designs of Laurel Burch look very impressive on her pillows, vests, and towels. She takes orders, and I’m the next in line!!

The Christensens have an enviable goal of visiting all of our country’s National Parks. At this time, they have visited 50 of the 58. Niel says the only remaining Parks they need to see are in the Alaskan wilderness, Hawaii and American Samoa. I asked if there was any National Park that they did not particularly enjoy and they both resounded, “No, every single one was fantastic!”

As residents, we owe a huge amount of gratitude for the long hours Niel spends patiently dealing with all of the little problems of our Architectural Review Committee and our Metro District Board. We could not have anyone better qualified for the positions he fills. Niel’s integrity and charitable dealing with the issues that keep Hamilton Creek standards high are perfect for the job.

Niel and Jan both express their appreciation for everyone who serves on our various committees and boards. They state that absolutely everyone is dedicated, professional and attentive in all the many meetings. (And Eddie O’Brien added that he has never seen Niel fall asleep during a meeting even once). For that, we all are grateful!

Hamilton Creek is looking for a volunteer to set up and maintain a website for our community. Like the existing website at www.hamiltoncreek.org, it will include information about our association (Board of Director members, committee members, legal documents like CC&R’s) as well as community information like our newsletter, annual meeting, clean up day and other social events and notices. If you are familiar with website software (Front Page or other easy to use website software) and are interested in a very low paying (\$0) part time position with absolutely no health care, retirement, or any other fringe benefits, please contact Rob Hess at rob_hess@comcast.net; 970-262-2254, for more information.

**COMING IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: A HISTORY OF HAMILTON CREEK!
WATCH FOR IT!!**



WEBSITE MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Hamilton Creek is looking for a volunteer to set up and maintain a website for our community. Like the existing website at www.hamiltoncreek.org, it will include information about our association (Board of Director members, committee members, legal documents like CC&R's) as well as community information like our newsletter, annual meeting, clean up day and other social events and notices. If you are familiar with website software (Front Page or other easy to use website software) and are interested in a very low paying (\$0) part time position with absolutely no health care, retirement, or any other fringe benefits, please contact Rob Hess at rob_hess@comcast.net; 970-262-2254, for more information.

The Hamilton Creek internet weather station is in operation. **Check it out!!**

<http://www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=KCOSILVE2>

Editor and Chief : Carole Howard

Photos: Carole Howard, Bob Polich, Eddie O'Brien, Toni Graves

Publisher: Eddie O'Brien

Pocket Park for the North Pond Park

Please enjoy the pictures of Silverthorne's newest addition, North Pond Park! It is also Hamilton Creek's and South 40's entry way.

The Town has been studying the idea of allowing pocket parks to be added to the Town.

In a nutshell, a pocket park would be a piece of appropriate art, benches or seating area and landscaping located on Town property and financed through private donations.

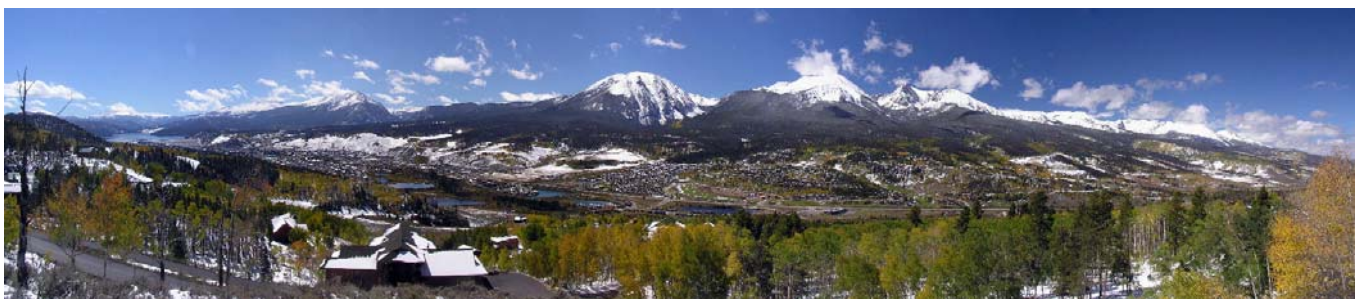
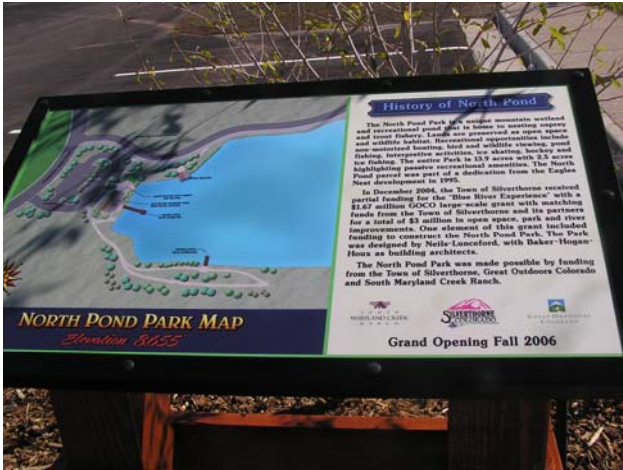
I would propose that a group of Hamilton Creek and South Forty owners form a pocket park committee. Get permission from the Town to design a park. Raise money for the art, landscaping and seating area; proceed with building a Pocket Park in the new North Pond Park.

Both South Forty and Hamilton Creek have lot's of talented artists and people who love the arts; enough to successfully complete a pocket park and maintain a beautiful garden along with it.

Eddie O'Brien

Friend of the Arts

edwardfe@cs.com or call the office: 970-468-1210





Fall in Hamilton Creek and the New North Pond Park