



# BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

## Important Links:

- [Blackhawk Website](#)
- [Blackhawk Facebook](#)
- [Covenants](#)
- [Driveway and Building Compliance Forms](#)
- [Contact Information](#)

## Board of Directors Update

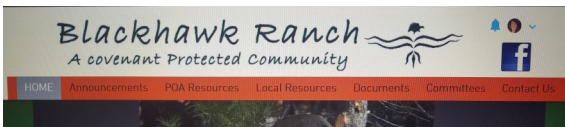
The Blackhawk Board of Directors held a meeting on November 16, 2019. Two new board members, Jim Nance and Nancy Pasternak, were voted upon and approved unanimously to fill the two vacated director seats. New officers also were elected and approved unanimously: Brad Brooks, president; Susanne Bloomfield, vice president; and Nancy Pasternak, secretary. Art Jackson will continue as Treasurer. Nancy was appointed Compliance Chair and Terry Bloomfield was appointed as Road Chair.

The Board discussed and approved the 2020 budget. Income for 2020 was calculated as \$84,300. Of that amount, \$55,400 will be allocated to Roads and \$13,800 to Emergency Preparedness.

The grant for fire mitigation as been submitted to the Colorado State Forest Service, and the Firewise membership application has been accepted and renewed.

The next meeting will be held on January 18, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at the Aguilar Community Center. Property owners are invited to attend. The full minutes of the November meeting and the financials can be accessed on the website.

## Revised Blackhawk Website



Since the Blackhawk website was confusing, repetitive, lacking in important information, and not being used to its potential, the Communication Committee has been working on revising it. The seven tabs, three of which were rarely used, were changed, making the content areas more specific and user-friendly. The web address is [www.blackhawkrancho.org](http://www.blackhawkrancho.org).

In the "Announcements" tab, property owners can sign up to be notified when new announcements are posted concerning community activities, meetings, road and snow reports, and other Blackhawk news and events. The committee is hoping that those who are not active on Facebook will be able to keep abreast of BHR news on the website.

The "POA Resources" will still be restricted to BHR owners and will include the directory, board minutes, financials, and maps. The password for the members only site is the same as in the past. "Local Resources," still under construction, will give information about Huerfano county resources.

"Documents" has links to the POA governance documents. Under the "Committee" tab, a drop down menu lists the four major committees (Emergency Management, Roads & Weeds, Communication, and Compliance) with committee members, minutes, links, information, and documents.

Throughout the next few months, more information will be added to the website and edits made as the committee works on the revision. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, please contact one of the Communication Committee members: Susanne Bloomfield, Pat Henry, Judy Nance, and Nancy Pasternak.

## Things You Need To Know

**Blackhawk Property Owners will be receiving their Blackhawk Ranch Dues Invoices from PMI Pikes Peak by the end of December. Remember, the POA dues for 2020 will be increased to \$450 for the year for each property.**

**Payments should be remitted by January 31, 2020, unless other arrangements have been made.**

## Communication Committee Reorganization

by Susanne Bloomfield, Communication Chair

The first meeting of the newly reorganized Communication Committee was held November 13, 2019. Members include Susanne Bloomfield, chair, Pat Henry, Judy Nance, and Nancy Pasternak. The group wrote a mission statement, deciding that their responsibilities should include the official Blackhawk website, the Blackhawk Newsletter, Facebook, and New Owner Packets.

The committee decided to revise the website, and they also agreed to continue the newly revived newsletter. The first page will include information from the Board of Directors as well as the committee chairs. The second and third pages will contain more feature articles about the area as well as introducing Blackhawk property owners. Six editions will be published, one every other month, alternating with the board meeting months. Susanne volunteered to continue as editor with the others contributing articles each month and co-editing.

Facebook has also become a useful communication tool and is the quickest and easiest way to disseminate information to property owners, especially those living on the ranch. The challenge will be to encourage more to sign up.

The group voiced a special need for continuing and updating the New Owner packets, keeping current with the names and addresses of all new owners, and, when possible, serving as a face-to-face welcoming committee.

If anyone is interested in joining the Communication Committee, or submitting articles or ideas for articles, all are welcome!

## *A Moment in Time*

By Nancy Pasternak

When you drive through the front entrance of Blackhawk Ranch do you ever wonder about the concrete foundations on both sides of Four Mile Canyon Road? These foundation remains are all that is left of the once bustling little community of "New Rouse," Colorado.



"Old Rouse" was a coal mining town from 1889 to 1899 about six to seven miles south of Walsenburg, and men from all over the world moved to Huerfano County to work. Unfortunately, it was a constant battle to keep the mine shafts dry until the day arrived when the pumps could no longer stay ahead of the water. In 1899 the mine operations were moved to the new location of New Rouse near the old Santa Clara mines as well as every house and building that could be moved or dismantled. The New Rouse mine operated from 1899 to 1920.



Miners earned sixty cents a ton or from \$3.00 to \$6.00 per day. The mine was operated by Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, and by 1889 was the leading producer in Huerfano County, averaging 70 rail cars a day. Fatalities and injuries were common in the mines, usually caused by a "fall of rock." By 1895 it is estimated that Rouse had 1,500 residents. Rouse had the

first kindergarten class in Huerfano County. The town had its own electrical plant, schools, churches, a boardinghouse, and a post office. Masquerade balls, oyster suppers, and baseball games were the favored social events.

The Rouse post office was moved to Pryor and operated until November 30, 1929. It was located in the adobe stucco house near our current Blackhawk Ranch mailboxes next to the county road, and a general store was also housed in the same structure. A former dance hall also remains on the southeast corner of Rouse Road and CR316. We can only try to imagine what life was like for the residents of "Old Rouse" and "New Rouse" more than one hundred years ago in that bygone era when miners struggled to provide and care for their families. But if you listen oh-so-carefully, you may still hear the laughter of children at play and music serenading dancers well into the night. (For more historic photos of Rouse, visit <http://rouse1906.com/photo-gallery>)

## *Pueblo Steelworks Museum*

By Susanne Bloomfield



For those who are interested in learning more about the history of Rouse as well as Colorado Fuel & Iron, its miners, its mines, and the Pueblo Steel Mill, a visit to the Steelworks Museum would be well worth your time. The museum is housed in the 1901 Medical Dispensary of CF&I and located in south Pueblo just west of I-25. CF&I, founded in 1872 by General William Jackson Palmer to manufacture steel rails for his Denver and Rio Grande Railway, was later owned by John D. Rockefeller. CF&I was once the largest private landowner and largest employer in Colorado, and the company owned mines and mining towns from Massachusetts to California.

Rouse was one of Rockefeller's company towns. Immigrants from all over the world flooded into Colorado to work in mines like those on Blackhawk Ranch as well as in the Pueblo steel mill. At one time, 42 different languages were spoken by these workers.

The museum provides "A Story of Steel" and an historical timeline of what life was like in a company town for the workers and their families through interactive displays. It describes the rich cultural heritage of our area.

One of the rooms is a restored medical dispensary that shows what early industrial medicine was like and includes over 200 original artifacts. Outside the museum, you can also visit the restored 1882 CF&I Mine Rescue Car #1, the oldest such car in the United States. Tour guides are available, or you can browse on your own.

The Steelworks Archives include over 100,000 photographs, 30,000 maps and drawings, more than 150 films, hundreds of ledgers, and internal camp publications about mines and mining life. It is the largest publicly available corporate archives in America. The original steel mill, once over 500 acres, is across the railroad tracks to the west of the museum.

## Day Tripping

By Judy Nance



Bishop Castle is an "elaborate and intricate, one-man project" named after its constructor, Jim Bishop, that has become a roadside attraction in central Colorado. The "castle" is located on State Highway 165 southwest of Pueblo, Colorado. There is even a song about the castle called "Fire Breathing Dragon" in the 2016 album, **The Castle Builder**, by English musician Kid Carpet.

We have visited here three times with family members. On one occasion, we were able to sit and chat with Jim, as he was on site that day. He is a very interesting fellow, although a bit eccentric. If you meet him, be prepared to discuss politics.

In 1959, at age 15, Jim, who had dropped out of school when his teacher told him he would never amount to anything, paid \$450 for a 2 1/2 acre parcel of land enclosed on three sides by the majestic San Isabel National Forest. He had found it on a bicycle trip with friends and convinced his parents to buy it for him with money he had saved from mowing lawns, throwing newspapers, and working with his father in the family ornamental iron works.

The family now had a heavily forested two and a half acres at 9,000 feet. Jim and his dad spent the next ten summers camping out on the land and doing the groundwork for a family cabin on the site.

Visitors often tell Jim that he must not be afraid of heights. The way he figures it, he began at the base and has been gradually building up, so gradually that as the height grew, he became as comfortable with the height as with being on the ground. Jim's experience with the castle has been intimate, for he estimates that he has held every single stone an average of six times.

In 1994, Jim finished the square Andreatta Tower, named after the family that donated the old school bells that hang in it, and he felt satisfied that his castle was high enough. However, in 1995 he built a 30 foot tall steel steeple on top of the masonry, taking the total height to roughly 160 feet, about the size of a 16 story building.

After spending an hour or so climbing around the castle, visitors may want to head back to Colorado City for lunch at 3 Sisters Tavern and Grill located right across from the rest stop next to I-25. If you are there on Sundays, their fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy are great. If you are visiting another day, we can recommend their sweet potato fries and burgers.

## Know Your Neighbors

By Pat Henry

Charles and Ruth Anne Goza expressed pleasure at being chosen as the first to be interviewed for this "Know your Neighbors" column in the Blackhawk Ranch newsletter. This couple let me know that they were likely the one of the oldest residents on the ranch. Ruth Anne is an attractive, white-haired 78 years young. Her husband is an active, working 81-year-old. The two found Blackhawk Ranch through a realtor in Trinidad and finished their house in 2005. Their grandchildren really enjoy hiking, rappelling, zip—lining, and knife throwing on their property. One inquisitive grandchild inquired why they didn't buy property near Breckenridge where the couple likes to pan for gold. The Gozas showed them the price of land there, and the child acknowledged their wisdom.



The couple met at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. Ruth Anne noticed Charles' attention to her while she was working as a "chapel checker," tracking attendance of students at religious services. The couple dated for two years before beginning their rich marriage of 58 years. Both shared an interest in science and their Christian faith.

The couple has moved numerous times, even living in Malaysia for five years where they served as Christian missionaries. Ruth Anne supported Charles as he served the military for several years. They moved from their first home in Fort Bliss to Seattle. Charles was doing graduate work in Chemistry while she worked as a medical lab technician. They later moved to Fort Worth while Charles attended seminary, and Ruth worked at the Alcon lab. They began their family of 2 girls, and Charles consequently spent 22 years as a music and youth minister.

Another change occurred when the couple moved to Kansas. While there, Charles earned his Doctorate in Marriage and Family Therapy. Ruth Anne also did post graduate work that allowed her to work in Oncology as a Medical Technologist.

Charles described how he has always enjoyed being busy, and he is presently working five different jobs: counseling and encouraging pastors in northeast Colorado, working as a music therapist for Hospice, maintaining a small therapy practice, working on fire mitigation, and creating beautiful hunting knives that are sold in several regional galleries.

Ruth Anne is known for her delicious Christmas toffee and the Palisade peaches she freezes. When she was younger, she sewed and made all the clothes for herself and her daughters. Now she is happy volunteering for hospice, teaching Summer Bible School, reading, and visiting family and friends. Their 5 grandchildren also keep them active and busy.