



UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & Pikes Peak Museum

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Woodland Park, CO 80866

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Camp Amache, Colorado (1942-1945)

Part 1

Prelude to Internment

Internment – Imprisonment, captivity, or custody

By Karla Schweitzer

On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a devastating surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Immediately after the attack, both Japanese immigrants or *Issei* (pronounced “ee-say”) and Japanese Americans or *Nisei* (pronounced “nee-say”) faced racial intolerance, particularly on the West Coast.

Public opinion against *Issei* and *Nisei* accelerated with anti-Japanese organizations such as the **American Legion** and the **Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West**, who pressured legislators for the removal of the “Asian problem” to interior states. Speculative and untrue statements stoked the flames of distrust and calls for swift



political action under the guise of “patriotism” were published in the press.

Everywhere that the Japanese have attacked, the Japanese population has risen to aid the attackers. What is there to make the government believe that the same wouldn't be true in California? I am for the immediate removal of every Japanese on the West Coast to a point deep in the interior. Herd 'em up, pack 'em off. Let 'em be pinched, hurt, hungry. Personally, I hate Japanese. And that goes for all of them. Let's quit worrying about hurting the enemy's feelings and start doing it.

Henry McLemor, Life Magazine columnist. How to Tell the Japs from the Chinese, article excerpt. Life Magazine, December 22, 1941.

On February 19, 1942, **President Roosevelt** signed Executive Order 9066, forcing the evacuation of more than 100,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast to “**settlement camps**” inland. The following month, he established the War Relocation Authority (WRA), a federal agency that would enforce the evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans to ten relocation centers across the country.



(Continued from Page 1)

The moral leadership of Governor Carr



Milton Eisenhower.
Wikipedia image

Upon its initial inception, the War Relocation Authority was directed by **Milton Eisenhower**, the youngest brother of **General Eisenhower**. Under Eisenhower's guidance, the WRA would provide financial aid and housing for the **voluntary** relocation of California evacuees to interior states.

At a ten state conference in April 1942, Director Eisenhower met with governors to seek their support for accepting evacuees into their states. Nine of ten expressed their disapproval. **Governor Smith of Wyoming** explicitly indicated that he would not stand for being *California's dumping ground*. What Smith and others feared the most was perhaps the possibility that the Japanese people would permanently settle in their states, buying property and generating competition for jobs.

Governor Ralph Carr of Colorado was the only western governor to welcome evacuees in his state. He declared that Japanese Americans had every right to live in his state and Colorado would welcome them. Carr's stand on behalf of the Japanese Americans can be understood when looking at his early years growing up in the mining camps near Cripple Creek. As the son of a hard-rock miner, he was compassionate towards those who came from modest circumstances.

After earning a law degree in Boulder, Carr returned to southern Colorado, serving the Hispanic town of Antonito and the Japanese American community nearby in the multi-cultural village of La Jara. He considered himself a patriotic American with firm beliefs about democracy. ***From every nation of the globe, people***

have come to the United States who sought to live as free men here under our plan of government. We cannot test the degree of a man's affections for his fellows or his devotion to his country by the birthplace of his grandfathers.



Governor Ralph Carr
Findagrave.com online image

Director Eisenhower's hand was forced upon the issuance of Proclamation No. 4 on April 22nd. It authorized the physical movement of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast as a *military necessity* – thus making the evacuation **mandatory**.

Construction of camps began immediately in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. The smallest of these was the Granada War Relocation Center in southeastern Colorado, unofficially named **Camp Amache**.

Life in the Camp

The first carload of evacuees left Merced, California on August 24, 1942. Fathers, mothers, teenagers and young children traveled by train through the desert, over the Rocky Mountains, and into Colorado. Armed military guards stood watch between each rail car.

After three days, 212 evacuees arrived at the small farming community of Granada, about 130 miles east of Pueblo. The internment camp of 10,000 acres (about 15 square miles) was west of town and still under construction. The new arrivals were tasked with preparing the rough-hewn camp's barracks, mess halls, and hospital for future arrivals. Colorado's "**newest city**" resembled an Army base with watch towers and barbed wire along its perimeter.

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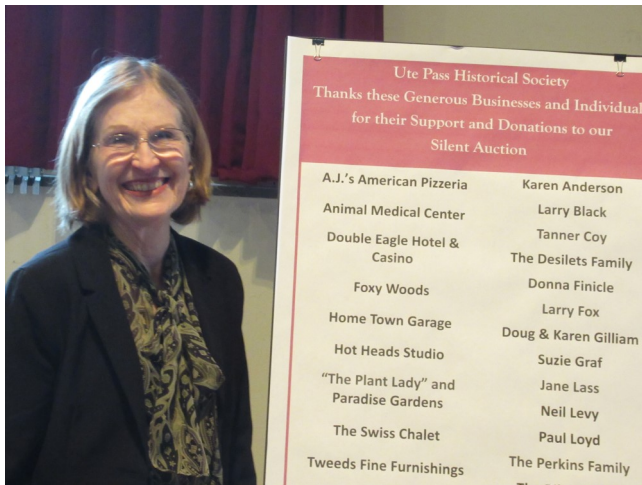
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After almost 20 Years, Dedicated UPHS President, Donna Finicle, Says Goodbye...

by Karla Schweitzer



After receiving her LCSW degree in 1972, Donna was employed at the VA Medical Center in Denver for 25 years. Early assignments included work in psychiatric inpatient units. She accompanied a traveling cohort of counselors to provide treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to residents of the San Luis Valley. She developed an expertise in this area and launched a VA outpatient mental health clinic in Colorado Springs. Later, she started the first VA mental health clinic in Alamosa, a small southwestern town populated by many combat veterans.

Donna relocated to Woodland Park after retiring from the Veterans Administration in 2005. Seeing a need for mental health support in the region, she created the non-profit *Welcome Home Warrior* organization in March 2007, providing family retreats to active-duty members, veterans and their families in the Pikes Peak region and surrounding areas. Volunteer and paid personnel assisted with therapeutic and recreational activities at no cost, with the goal of helping families reconnect and learn coping strategies to deal with combat-related stress problems that surface from military experiences in war zones.

Donna was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and is very proud of her Cherokee heritage. Combining her passion for native history and veteran service, she created a Mountain Warrior organization to work with American Indian combat veterans in the Pikes Peak region. Using modern and traditional Native medical tools and with the help of elders and medicine men, she facilitated outdoor *talking circles*, or *meetings*, with the goal to reconnect these combat veterans with their roots.

Recognizing the need to support caregivers, Donna established the *Teller County Coalition's* Respite program in 2014, which provides counseling to reduce stress and cope with various problems arising from the care of seriously ill persons with medical and mental health issues such as dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

In addition to her continuing counseling work, Donna has served as the president of the *Ute Pass Historical Society* for a number of years. Since 2008, she has been a fierce protector of its mission to preserve and protect the region's historical heritage and has been involved in the publication of numerous books, films, and presentations sponsored by UPHS for the enhancement of historical preservation and education. Donna's strong support of *Woodland Park's Main Street* as a board member from 2016-2018 has promoted the engagement of the mountain community in historic preservation and downtown revitalization.

Donna Finicle's passionate love, support, and dedication to her community and its people have not gone unnoticed. She was awarded the Social Worker of the Year for the Pikes Peak Region in 2010 by the Colorado Association of Social Workers. In 2017, she was honored by the United Veterans Committee of Colorado. Yet, she remains a selfless and thoughtful individual who chooses relationships over personal achievement and seeks to shine light on the success of others.

Happy Trails is the Theme of Donna's Going Away Party

Happy Trails can be considered a farewell song. It is often used as a way to bid farewell to loved ones or as a closing theme to signify the end of an adventure. However, it is also a celebration of the memories created and the hope for new adventures to come.

(<https://beatcrave.com>)



President Finicle in front of UPHS' Resource Library at the Museum Center



Donna Finicle and Ken Valles march in the 2019 Woodland Park St. Patrick's Day parade



Donna portrays Anna Lacey in one of the many Cemetery Crawls she coordinated

UPCOMING EVENTS

Beginning Saturday and Sunday, August 17th -18th, 24th and 25th-31st-9/1. New UPHS documentary-*The Mighty Midland and the Towns it Built*-11 a.m. each day. Tickets are \$10, and available online at: <https://goldhilltheatres.com>—and at the door-719.687.3555

Sunday, August 18: Volunteer Appreciation Get Together and Happy Trails to President Donna Finicle, 1 to 2:30, Woodland Park Library, downstairs, large meeting room, RSVP by 8/11, 719.686.7512

Friday, October 11: Potato Soup Supper, Pikes Peak Community Club, Divide, 5:30 to 8

Saturday/Sunday, July 19th and 20th, 2025: *Marigreen Pines Tours*
Check Facebook, website or call for ticket information next year



COLORADO APPLE CAKE

1 cup brown sugar	1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup sugar	1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
2 eggs	1/2 teaspoon allspice
1 1/4 cup wesson oil	3 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt	3 large apples
1 teaspoon soda	1 cup pecans
1 teaspoon vanilla	1 cup chopped dates

Combine all these ingredients and bake 1 hour and 45 minutes, at 325 degrees in an ungreased tube pan.

Model A Ford Club Visits History Park

The *Pikes Peak Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America* came to Woodland Park on June 15, 2024 on their annual mystery tour. Event coordinator Bob Walker contacted the Ute Pass Historical Society in March and planned the whole event. The rest of the Club had no idea where they were going or what they would be doing.

They started their trip with a private showing of UPHS' 2023 documentary *Dude Ranches in the Shadows of Pikes Peak* at the Cultural Center. While they were there, their Fords attracted quite a crowd of people taking pictures and just checking the cars out.

The Club then came over and took a guided tour of the five historic buildings of History Park and visited the Gift Shop. Sounded like everyone had a great time, and really enjoyed the Historical Society.



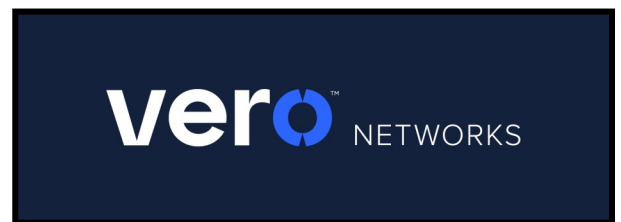
14 Model As showed up for the adventure,
with almost 30 participants



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Funding for these grants has been provided by Colorado Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the NEH Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) initiative.



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UPHS is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization

THANK YOU!

The Ute Pass Historical Society's Board of Directors is grateful to our loyal patrons and enthusiastic volunteers. Without your generous financial contributions and dedicated volunteer service, we would not exist. Thanks to all of you for supporting our mission to preserve and share the history of the families and communities of the Ute Pass area of Colorado.

It is an honor to serve you!