



1943 - 1978

Abnaki Courier

November, 2013

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If the last line on your address label is not (2013) or greater you may owe some dues. Send dues to:

Ruiz, Marce ---- 2555 142nd ST ---- Urbandale, IA 50323



Notice!!!

The 26th annual Abnaki Reunion will be in
Colorado Springs, Colorado
Wednesday August 13 - Sunday 17, 2014

Your Host
(About 1951)@

The Academy Hotel

8110 N. Academy Blvd.
Colorado Springs, Colorado
80920

\$89.00/Day + Tax

Toll Free: 800-766-8524

Fax: 719-598-5965

Remember!

It is your responsibility to
make your own reservations



Don Fries



Pete Pilgrim

Widows

Once again all the activities listed in the registration form are free for you. Our widows are very special to us and contribute a lot to the reunions. This year we had three join us in Charlotte and are hoping for more in Colorado Springs. Please come and bring along family or friends!!!

For more information e-mail Pete at: petepilg@aol.com or call 319-393-9104

Or

Don Fries at: donwfries@gmail.com or call 678-525-7925

This is our hotel



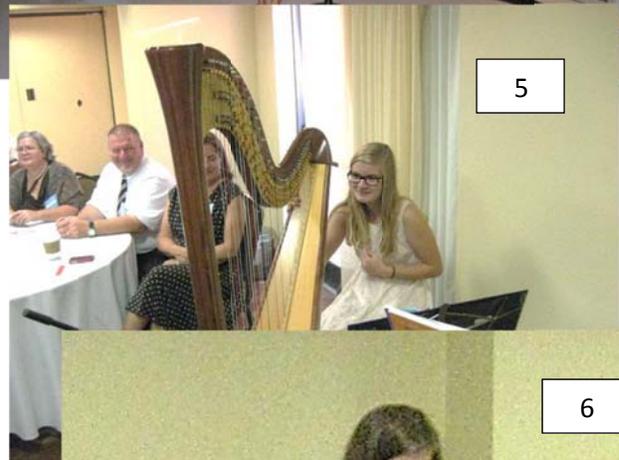
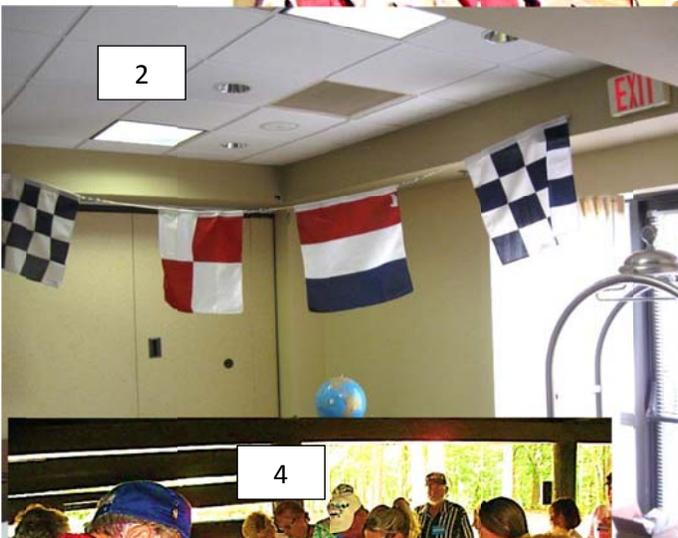
Room Rate Includes:
FREE Hot Daily Breakfast
With made to order omelet
And waffle bar

FREE: HBO Movies,
Wireless high speed internet, Business Center, Fitness Center, Local calls and RV Parking

Free shuttle to and from the Airport

Thank you Asa & Joan

For a great reunion!!



Pictures top to bottom

1. Joan and Asa
2. Abnaki call letters
3. The plane that crashed in the Hudson River
4. Chow Down at King's Mountain
5. [Delaney Quin](#) Playing the Harp at the banquet
6. [Peighton Quin](#) Playing the Keyboard (These are Asa and Joan's grandchildren.)

Beautiful young girls and play like angles

And a great time was had by all!!!

Reunion Progress Report

Between doctor's appointments and all the other stuff going on Don and I have been pretty busy. We have not quite firmed up the reunion activities, however we have been busy gathering information from the internet and local people and will share some of the things we have learned about the Colorado Springs area. We should have all the loose ends tied up in a few days and will share them with you in the next Courier.

Below are some of the things we are evaluating. Obviously there are many more things to see and do in Colorado Springs than is shown here but this will give you an idea of what we have in mind.

A Little Background

Colorado Springs is a Home Rule Municipality that is the county seat and most populous city of El Paso County. Colorado Springs is located approximately in the center of the state. It is situated on Fountain Creek 65 miles south of the Colorado State Capitol in Denver. At 6,035 feet the city stands over one mile above sea level. Colorado Springs is situated near the base of one of the most famous American mountains, Pikes Peak, rising over 8,000 feet above the city on the eastern edge of the Southern Rocky Mountains. The city is often referred to as "The Springs."



With a population of 416,427 as of the 2010 Census, it is the second most populous city in the state of Colorado, behind Denver, and the 41st most populous city in the United States, while the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area had an estimated population of 645,613 in 2010. The city covers 194.7 square miles, making it Colorado's largest city in area. Colorado Springs was selected as the No. 1 Best Big City in "Best Places to Live" by *Money* magazine in 2006, and placed number one in *Outside's* 2009 list of America's Best Cities.¹

There are many things to do and see in Colorado Springs. There are more than 55 exciting attractions! Colorado Springs boasts **over 300 days** of blue skies a year, sits at an elevation of 6,035 feet and is home to Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods and the U.S. Air Force Academy along with many other attractions.

Pikes Peak

Pikes Peak (originally **Pike's Peak**) is a mountain in the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains within Pike National Forest, 10 miles west of Colorado Springs. Originally called "El Capitán" by Spanish settlers, the mountain was renamed Pike's Peak after Zebulon Pike, Jr. an explorer who led an expedition to the southern Colorado area in 1806. The Arapaho name is **heey-otoyoo'** ("long mountain").

At 14,115 feet it is one of Colorado's '54 fourteeners' or... mountains that rise more than 14,000 feet above sea level, (*That is 2.67 miles*) and rises 8,400 feet above the city of Colorado Springs. Pikes Peak is a designated National Historic Landmark.



Pikes Peak

Warning! The average high temperature at the peak in August is 48.1 degrees. The partial pressure of oxygen is only about 60% of that at sea level, so... a faster rate of respiration is required by those not regularly at high altitudes. Those familiar with altitude training know that prolonged exposure to the reduced pressures of high altitudes will produce more red blood cells to offset the lower oxygen availability. For the un-acclimated, altitude sickness may develop in those who are sensitive or who over-exert themselves.

Conditions at the top are typical of a high alpine environment. Snow is a possibility any time year-round, and thunderstorms are common in the summer.

For more information go to: <http://www.cograilway.com/> Trip time just a little over 3 hours



Train at about 12,000 ft.

The Royal Gorge

The Royal Gorge (also known as the Grand Canyon of the Arkansas) is a canyon on the Arkansas River near Cañon City, Colorado. With a width of 50 feet at its base and a few hundred feet at its top, and a depth of 1,250 feet in places, the 10-mile-long canyon is a narrow, steep gorge through the granite of Fremont Peak. It is one of the deepest canyons in Colorado.

The path of the Arkansas River was already set when the granite uplift that would eventually form the Rocky Mountains began. About 3 million years ago as the mountains began to rise from the surrounding plains, the Arkansas River, then only a small rivulet, began to wear away at the stone it flowed across. Scientists estimate that the mountains surrounding the canyon rose at a rate of approximately one foot every 2,500 years. Over the millennia, this small stream grew, cutting a deep channel for itself through the surrounding granite. The gorge's peculiar shape, contrasted to broad canyons such as the Grand Canyon, can be attributed to this long, direct erosion through hard rock.

By Train

Traveling south from Colorado Springs past Fort Carson and NORAD and then turning west, we pass through scenic Red Rock Canyon, and on to Canon City. This is where we board the Royal Gorge Route Railroad, which follows the most famous portion of the Old Denver & Rio Grande Western train line. This train follows the rails on a 24 mile roundtrip through the spectacular Royal Gorge. You will see the famous Hanging Bridge, which clings precariously to the steep granite walls of the Royal Gorge, towering over 1,000 feet above the Arkansas River. The Canyon was eroded over the millennia to a depth of 1,055 feet by the turbulent waters of the Arkansas River. The Royal Gorge is spanned by the highest suspension bridge in the world for many years after it was built in 1929. This two hour train ride combines breathtaking scenery, wildlife, history and world class service and will create memories to last a lifetime.

TOUR LENGTH: 6 HOURS



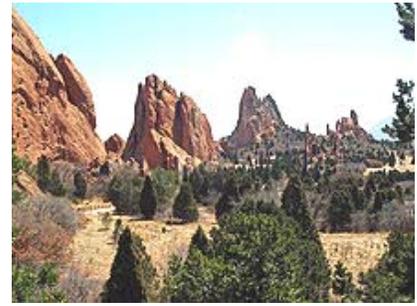
By Bus

This is essentially the same as the train except we would continue by bus from Canon City on to the Royal Gorge Park. As you can imagine, the beauty of the area is breathtaking.

The Garden of the Gods

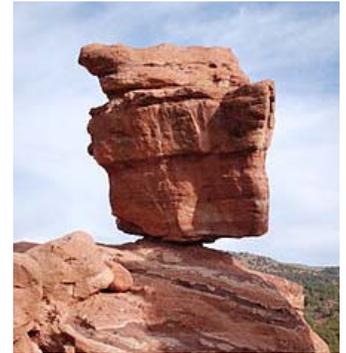
The red rock formations were created during a geological upheaval along a natural fault line millions of years ago. Archaeological evidence shows that prehistoric people visited Garden of the Gods about 1330 BC. About 250 BC Native American people camped in the park. They are believed to have been attracted to wildlife and plant life in the area and used overhangs created by the rocks for shelter. There are many native people who have reported a connection to Garden of the Gods, including Ute, Comanche, Apache, Kiowa, Shoshone, Cheyenne, Pawnee and Lakota people. The Utes oral traditions tell of their creation at the Garden of the Gods. Petroglyphs have been found in the park that is typical of early Utes. They found red rocks to have a spiritual connection and camped near Manitou Springs and the creek near Rock Ledge Ranch bordering Garden of the Gods. Other tribes traveled through the area.

The Old Ute Trail went past Garden of the Gods to Ute Pass and led later explorers through Manitou Springs. Starting in the 16th century, Spanish explorers and later European American explorers and trappers traveled through the area, including Lt. John C. Fremont and Lt. George Frederick Ruxton who recorded their visits in their journals.



The area was first called Red Rock Corral. Then, in August 1859, two surveyors who helped to set up Colorado City explored the site. One of the surveyors, M. S. Beach, suggested that it would be a "capital place for a beer garden." His companion, the young Rufus Cable, awestruck by the impressive rock formations, exclaimed, "*Beer Garden! Why it is a fit place for the gods to assemble. We will call it the Garden of the Gods.*"

In 1879, Charles Elliott Perkins, a friend of William Jackson Palmer, purchased 480 acres of land that included a portion of the present Garden of the Gods. Upon Perkin's death, his family gave the land to the City of Colorado Springs in 1909, with the provision that it would be a free public park. Palmer had owned the Rock Ledge Ranch and upon his death it was donated to the city.

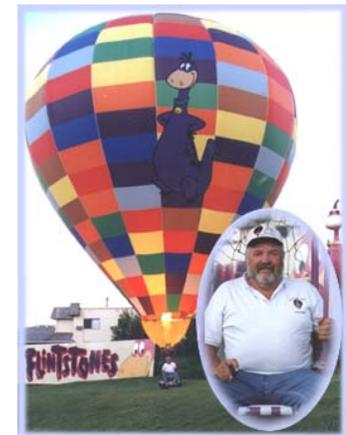


Helen Hunt Jackson wrote of the park, "*You wind among rocks of every conceivable and inconceivable shape and size... all bright red, all motionless and silent, with a strange look of having been just stopped and held back in the very climax of some supernatural catastrophe.*"

The Best View of All!!

How about a fantastic Sunrise Hot Air Balloon Ride? Gary "Burner" Born SF3 a former (*Tribesman*) Crewman, *USS Abnaki 1963-66*) owns and operates a Hot Air Balloon service in Colorado Springs and has offered a good deal to us fellow tribesman☺ Following is a brief description of "Burner" and ballooning.

I started ballooning in 1981. I was working at a large manufacturing company in Minnesota, called Minnetonka, Inc., who had just come out with a new product called SOFTSOAP. I had never seen a hot air balloon, but when the company said they were going to purchase one to use as a floating billboard and that they were going to train a couple of managers from the company as pilots, my hand shot up to volunteer. This caused quite a bit of laughter because of my well-known fear of height. My first flight was my first lesson and my first experience with hot air ballooning. It was January 8th, 1981, and it was eight degrees below zero. We lifted off from a snow-covered field in a small town called Chaska. ***We flew for over two hours and by the time we landed I was hooked.*** While flying, in the balloon, there was no fear. It was like looking at a picture, just a euphoric feeling that's hard to explain. By the spring of 1981 I had acquired my pilot's license and the next day when I burned a 6' by 12' hole in the company's beautiful balloon, I was given the nickname "Burner." ☺



I purchased my first balloon in 1983 and by 1989 I had moved to Colorado and began my career as a full time balloon pilot. I now have six balloons, which I fly in Colorado and Arizona, with over 3000 hours of balloon flight time in many states in the U.S. as well as in Austria, Prague, and the Czech Republic. Ballooning is still as exciting today as it was that first day in Minnesota. I love to share in the excitement of my passengers as they experience the marvel of ballooning.

To see more Burner stuff go to <http://www.highbutdryballoons.com/>
Must never be a dull moment around his place ☺

You have now entered Burner's Work Shop☺

If you know me and even if you don't, I want to tell you about Burner's Shop. It's been a dream of mine to open up my own little place where I can do what I want and make what I feel. What you see below was equipment I harvested from my late father's farm and from an old Harley that I parted out (Dad would have loved it!).

It was one of the most photographed vehicles at the 2003 Sturgis Festival.



Bowling Ball Cannon



**This is just two of the many
"Burner" creations**

**I plan on creating many more
wonderful and unusual
machines in the future.**

We have shown just a few of the places and things to do in Colorado Springs. As mentioned before we will choose a couple of tours to go on, However, we plan to leave plenty of time for you to do your own thing. For example: Because of possible health issues we probably will not schedule Pikes Peak as part of the program. The train ride is very reasonable and don't take up much time. The Balloon ride can only take eight people at a time, so if you want to go on these, or anything else, you can schedule it at your convenience, or... maybe Saturday when we will not have anything special scheduled.



I am very proud and honored to nominate Eleanor "Ellie" Colombara as the Abnaki Woman of The Year. In spite of fighting cancer for a couple of years and now on dialysis four days a week for 3.5 hours each time Ellie continues to attend the reunions. She is always there with a smile on her face and clicking away with her camera. *Wonder how many pictures she has in her collection?* God bless you Ellie and we hope to see you at the reunions for many years to come☺



Ellie & Joe a few years back

Uniform Supplies

The following items may be ordered from the Abnaki (Joe Colombara, Supply Officer) supply department.

Allow 60 days for the delivery of orders. Orders will be delivered to the reunion at the below prices.

If you wish to have your order shipped please see shipping and handling charges below.

Please indicate size---Small---Medium---Large---Extra Large---XX Large (All Super Quality)

Polo - Shirts

Color	Logo Colors	Quantity	Size	Cost	Total
Navy Blue	Gold Name, Number, Ship			\$27.00	
Navy Blue	Gold Name, Number, Silver Ship			\$27.00	
White	Navy Blue Name, Number, Ship			\$27.00	

Note: Add \$2.00 Ea. For XX Large Sizes.

Sub-Total _____

Caps

Color	Logo Colors	Quantity	Cost
Navy Blue	Gold Name, Number, Ship		X \$14.00
Navy Blue	Gold Name, Number, Silver Ship		X \$14.00
White	Navy Blue Name, Number, Ship		X \$14.00

If your order exceeds the schedule shown below contact Joe Colombara

Sub-Total _____

S & H-Charges. One shirt, or one shirt and one cap \$7.50. Two Caps \$5.00. One cap \$5.00-Grand Total _____

(Please enclose check with order)

Please mail or call orders to: Joe Colombara, 720 E. Country Ln, Collinsville, IL. 62234

Phone 618-344-8869 . E-mail..... joec96@att.net

Note: Make check payable to Joe Colombara. All profits go directly to the Abnaki Sailors Association.

Special

Jackets - light quilted with full embroidery on the back. \$75.00

\$80.00 with your name on right breast (Includes Shipping)

Special Notice

Joe's supplier has notified him that he will need a minimum order of four jackets so... please give him a call before ordering jackets.

"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Anyone Who Threatens It"



Important

USS Abnaki (ATF 96)

If the last line on your address label is not (2014) or greater you may owe some dues.
Send dues (\$15.00) to: Ruiz, Marce ---- 2555 142nd ST ---- Urbandale, IA 50323

B. "Pete" Pilgrim 46-49
U.S.S. Abnaki (A.T.F. 96)
4746 "E" Ave. N.E.
Cedar Rapids IA. 52402