

# Weaving Mountain Memories

Recollections of the Allenspark Area



**Lorna Knowlton**

second edition edited by

**Edie DeWeese**

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## Lifestyle

*We done some crazy things in them thar mountains, but we had fun. Always had a good time and worked hard.*

Vera Rubendall

Early life in the Allenspark mountains held few luxuries, or even simple necessities of the time. Electricity, modern plumbing, or heating systems were unknown. Cabins were very small; water was carried by hand from nearby springs or streams; wood was cut in the forest, hauled to the home-site, split, stacked, and burned for the only heat. Primitive roads made for an isolated existence. But all reminiscing of those early days rings with good times, neighborliness, love of the high mountains, and deep satisfaction in self-reliance.

Alice Graham, a librarian from Ottawa, Kansas, wrote of the cottage she and her sister, Agnes, a Clay Center, Kansas, school teacher, rented from Frank Gay in 1919:

*The cottages are built of rough lumber covered with tar paper and finished with fitted slabs, which give a pleasing rustic appearance. The roofs are of Rubberoid. The interiors are unfinished. However, ours is completely furnished and all we needed was blankets. Our abode is 15 x 28 feet. The screened porch is 8 feet and the living room 10 1/2 x 16 and the remaining space is divided into bedroom and kitchen. The living room has three double windows, one on each of the three sides. The three foot space under the eaves, extending entirely around the bedroom and kitchen, is covered with netting and then with awning. The porch will have awning and form a sleeping apartment so that we can accommodate 5 or 6 people at once. Agnes will go up to furnish it in June. A cottage of this kind will rent for \$60 per month or \$100 for two months. Board at*

**M**any people have built campfires here before us.

*Charles Eagle Plume*

The story of Allenspark is one of get-rich-quick schemes, fly-by-night schemers, and generations of quirky mountain folk who found their niche and couldn't leave. Nestled in Rocky Mountain National Park's back yard, Allenspark is a place of unsurpassed beauty and its stories are as entrancing and appealing as its locale.

The first edition of *Weaving Mountain Memories*, Lorna Knowlton's collection of Allenspark history, was so popular it went into a second printing only a year after its introduction in 1989. This new volume of "Mountain Memories" answers the demand for the book with further research expanding the information Lorna collected.

Within this second edition you will find a treasure trove of material that has recently come to light. There are new photos, more complete family and property information, and details that simply could not have been found in the pre-internet era when the first edition of *Weaving Mountain Memories* was written.

Open these pages and find out why *Weaving Mountain Memories* is required reading for anyone who is interested in Allenspark's colorful past and the Rocky Mountain National Park area.

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