

FIRST DRAFT

Hanging Lake longtime attraction for tourists

Author's note: Hanging Lake Trail has been closed as a result of fire and mudslides, but the White River National Forest hopes to have a primitive trail re-opened in 2022. A more permanent trail is being planned.

In the first years of the 20th century, the Taylor State Road connected Denver and Grand Junction, carving its way through Glenwood Canyon. Almost immediately after the single-lane dirt road was established on the north side of the river, people discovered a scenic wonder called Hanging Lake.



BOB SILBERNAGEL

In 1902, an article in a Fort Collins newspaper described the lake as "one of the most beautiful lakes the mind can conceive of."

A 1903 article in the Glenwood Avalanche called Hanging Lake and the falls above it the "Yosemite of Garfield." It recounted a first-hand account of a hike up the 1.5-mile trail.

"It may be shorter, but because of the steady climb, it would be better to put it at two miles. It took this party two hours, including three short rests, to get to the lake."

By 1908, one could purchase postcards with a colorized photo of Hanging Lake. And, during the teens, auto trips, hikes and picnics at Hanging Lake occurred regularly.

It was the 1920s, however, when Hanging Lake tourism really exploded. Throughout that decade, The Daily Sentinel frequently carried brief notices such as this one from August 1923:

"H.G. DeWalt, wife and sister ... just returned from a week's trip to Glenwood Springs, made several trips, one was to Hanging Lake, which was of much interest to all."

Youth groups and professional organizations also made regular trips to what one 1927 Sentinel article incorrectly declared was "the only hanging lake in the world."

There are actually a few similar lakes around the world. But "Hanging Lake is unique in the (Southern Rockies) as a lake formed by travertine deposition," according to a 2010 evaluation of the lake for designation as a National Natural Landmark.

Travertine lakes are created by calcium carbonate deposits. In contrast, most natural lakes in the southern Rocky Mountains were formed by glaciers.

Natives had been to the shores of Hanging Lake long before Europeans arrived. The first white man reported to have visited the lake didn't arrive until late in the 19th century, when he was prospecting for gold along the Colorado River.

The unidentified prospector supposedly found the carcass of a dead horse at the mouth of a creek that flowed into the river, and thus named it Dead Horse Creek. He prospected up the creek and found Hanging Lake, but little gold.

About the turn of the century, Thomas Bailey and Clarence Wayne homesteaded the land from the mouth of Dead



PHOTOS FROM EAGLE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE EAGLE VALLEY LIBRARY DISTRICT.

This colorized postcard of Hanging Lake was mailed in July 1908 from Colorado Springs to a woman in Denver.

Horse Creek to Hanging Lake. However, they apparently never obtained title to the land.

In 1912, for \$953, the city of Glenwood Springs purchased 760 acres of federal land that included the Hanging Lake Trail and the lake itself.

By the 1930s, Hanging Lake Park, as it was called, was developing a reputation beyond western Colorado, being cited in newspapers around the state.

Advertisements in the Sentinel asked: "Why Not Hanging Lake Park for Sunday Dinner"? A restaurant there offered beef and pork dinners for 45 cents each. Fried chicken dinners were 75 cents.

Also in the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps, created to help provide jobs during the Great Depression, began improvements to the Hanging Lake Trail.

"The trail to the lake is being widened and new bridges are being constructed," the Sentinel reported in July of 1936. Three years later, the paper noted that CCC crews were going to construct a wooden shelter halfway up the trail.

In addition to the restaurant mentioned in the newspaper advertisement, in 1938 another notice in the Sentinel mentioned a service station at Hanging Lake area operated by Roy Pratt.

In 1943, the Sentinel reported that Pratt and his wife had sold their Hanging Lake property to W.S. Speer of Palisade. The sale "included the Hanging Lake Service station, cottages, café and equipment," the paper said.

By 1945, the couple associated with the resort for the greatest length of time — G.O. "Dub" Danforth and his wife — had acquired the resort.

Two years later, they apparently decided to lease the property. In October of that year, the Sentinel announced that John D. Dawson and his wife, formerly of Grand Junction, "are now operating Hanging Lake Inn, 10 miles from Glenwood Springs."

But the Dawsons weren't associated with the resort for long, because by the early 1950s, the Danforths were back in charge.

The 1950s was a busy decade for Hanging Lake and the resort. Tourists could rent horses that would take them three-quarters of the way to the lake. But they would have to tie the



A picnic group at Hanging Lake in 1917. Among those present were Leo Carey, Minnie Lundgren and Alda Borah.



Minnie Lundgren registers a group on its way to Hanging Lake. The caption on the photo says the group was at the entrance to Dead Horse Creek. Date unknown.

animals up and hike the steepest part of the trail on their own.

Western artist Jack Roberts took up residence in a cabin at Hanging Lake. Newspaper articles about him and his paintings of cowboys, Native Americans and Western landscapes brought more attention to the lake and resort.

Then there were the boat races. For a half-dozen years, a Grand Junction-based group called Colorado River Skippers sponsored motor boat races on the reservoir backed up by Shoshone Dam.

The races were part of Glenwood Springs' Strawberry Days celebration, and some years, water skiing demonstrations were held between races.

Danforth was involved, helping to move a boat dock to the lake for the races.

It's not clear from newspaper articles why the races ended. But parking along what was then a two-lane highway was always a problem. When a toddler was injured by a car while trying to cross the highway during the boat races, it may have been the death knell for the races.

The 1950s also offered a foreshadowing of more recent events in Glenwood Canyon. On July 17, 1954, a large mudslide carried rocks and boulders down Dead Horse Creek, closing U.S. Highway 6&24 for more than 24 hours.

Big changes occurred in the 1960s. In March

of 1968, the resort was closed and all of its equipment, furniture, tools and other items were sold at auction.

By then, it was clear the city of Glenwood Springs was going to abandon its ownership of Hanging Lake.

In May of 1969, after 45 years of city ownership, the Glenwood Springs City Council finalized its decision to turn the property over to the White River National Forest.

That certainly didn't change the popularity of Hanging Lake. At the end of 1972, the Forest Service reported that 16,000 hikers had trekked up the Hanging Lake Trail that year.

But more changes were coming in the 1970s. Planning was underway for the construction of four-lane Interstate 70 through the canyon. With even more visitors anticipated, the 1.5-mile trail to the lake was slated for its first major improvements since the Civilian Conservation Corps years.

Sources: *Historic newspapers at www.newspapers.com and www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org; Hanging Lake information compiled by Bill Johnson and by the White River National Forest; "Evaluation of Hanging Lake for its Merit in Meeting National Significance Criteria as a National Natural Landmark," by Karin Decker.*

Bob Silbernagel's email is bobsilbernagel@gmail.com.

Dole honored in Kansas as tough but compassionate

By JOHN HANNA
The Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — Former Kansans on Saturday celebrated Bob Dole as a tough but compassionate patriot shaped by small-town values, a strong partisan leader who could nevertheless work with political opponents, and a war hero who ultimately became "the greatest of the Greatest Generation."

Dole made his last journey to his prairie state for memorial services in his western Kansas hometown of Russell and at the Statehouse in Topeka. He was honored for the military service during World War II that left him severely wounded and the distinguished political career that followed his recovery.

Elected officials and former elected officials from both parties said Dole embodied the state's motto, "To the stars through difficulties," and never stopped trying to help others.

"He did not hide in a time of crisis. He looked for solutions," former U.S. Rep. Jim Slattery, a Kansas Democrat, said during the Statehouse event. "I often told Bob he was the toughest man I ever knew, both physically and mentally, but he had a tender heart."

Dole died Dec. 5 at the age of 98 after a lifetime of service that included nearly 36 years in Congress.

The Daily Sentinel (ISSN 1445-8962)
Printed editions published Wednesday thru Sunday, electronic editions published every morning at 734 S. Seventh Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Periodical Postage paid at Grand Junction, CO.
Carrier home delivery prices: 13 weeks - \$65.00, 26 weeks - \$130.00, 52 weeks - \$260.00.
Weekend delivery packages: Wednesday thru Sunday - \$244.40, Friday thru Sunday - \$197.60, Saturday & Sunday - \$163.80, Sunday only - \$163.80.
Weekend "print only" delivery includes the following date in 2021: 11/25/2021. If you are an e-edition subscriber for 11/25/2021, you will not receive a printed paper.
Single Copy: \$1.00 daily and \$2.00 Sunday.
Mail (USPS): \$30.00 per week, \$1,560 per year. *POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Daily Sentinel, 734 S. Seventh Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501.

ENTER TO WIN

A STOCKING FULL OF \$50 GIFT CARDS* FROM

COLORADO BABY
LA-Z-BOY
ZACH OF DIAMONDS
OUTWEST BOOKS
TRIPLE PLAY RECORDS
THOMAS HUNN JEWELERS
*AVALON THEATRE
(2 tickets to National Lampoon Christmas Vacation Dec. 21st)

TOTAL VALUE:
MORE THAN \$300

Stocking Stuffer Giveaway

ENTER ON THE CONTEST PAGE AT GJSENTINEL.COM
CONTEST RUNS THROUGH DECEMBER 19TH
WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED DECEMBER 20TH
WINNER AD PRINTED ON DECEMBER 22ND

THE DAILY SENTINEL
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO
116515-1

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS

The Daily Sentinel's advertising deadlines will be moving up to accommodate the Christmas & New Year's Holidays!
This early deadline schedule is designed to help you plan your advertising around the holidays.

| Display Advertising | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Publication Date | Deadline |
| 12/24 Friday | 12/20 Monday, 2 PM |
| 12/24 Out & About | 12/17 Friday, 2 PM |
| 12/25 Saturday | 12/21 Tuesday, NOON |
| 12/26 Sunday | 12/21 Tuesday, NOON |
| 12/26 Real Estate Weekly | 12/20 Monday, 2PM |
| 12/27 Monday (E-Edition) | 12/22 Wednesday, NOON |
| 12/29 Sentinel Weekly | 12/21 Tuesday, NOON |
| 12/31 Friday | 12/27 Monday, 2 PM |
| 12/31 Out & About | 12/23 Thursday, 2 PM |
| 1/1 Saturday | 12/28 Tuesday, NOON |
| 1/2 Sunday | 12/28 Tuesday, NOON |
| 1/2 Real Estate Weekly | 12/27 Monday, 2PM |
| 1/3 Monday (E-Edition) | 12/29 Wednesday, NOON |

| Classified Liner Ads (Private Party & Commercial) | |
|---|----------------------|
| Publication Date | Deadline |
| 12/24 Friday | 12/23 Thursday, NOON |
| 12/25 Saturday | 12/23 Thursday, NOON |
| 12/26 Sunday | 12/23 Thursday, NOON |
| 12/27 Monday (E-Edition) | 12/23 Thursday, NOON |
| 12/31 Friday | 12/30 Thursday, NOON |
| 1/1 Saturday | 12/30 Thursday, NOON |
| 1/2 Sunday | 12/30 Thursday, NOON |
| 1/3 Monday (E-Edition) | 12/30 Thursday, NOON |

| Legals | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Publication Date | Deadline |
| 12/24 Friday | 12/20 Monday, NOON |
| 12/25 Saturday | 12/20 Monday, NOON |
| 12/26 Sunday | 12/20 Monday, NOON |
| 12/27 Monday (E-Edition) | 12/20 Monday, NOON |
| 12/31 Friday | 12/27 Monday, NOON |
| 1/1 Saturday | 12/27 Monday, NOON |
| 1/2 Sunday | 12/27 Monday, NOON |
| 1/3 Monday (E-Edition) | 12/27 Monday, NOON |

The Daily Sentinel will be Closed:
At 3:00 PM - Thursday, 12/23
All Day: Christmas Eve - 12/24
At 3:00 PM - Thursday, 12/30
All Day: New Year's Eve - 12/31

THE DAILY SENTINEL
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO
734 South 7th Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501 • Advertising 256-4289

All contents copyright © 2021 The Daily Sentinel. All republication rights are reserved. Material in this publication may not be published, broadcast, rewritten for broadcast or publication or redistributed directly or indirectly in any medium.

Pick 3 Midday Sunday: 5, 3, 7 Evening Sunday: 9, 7, 4

Cash 5 Sunday: 1, 10, 18, 19 and 30
For information, go to www.coloradolottery.com.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| CIRCULATION | ADVERTISING | NEWSROOM | Features and entertainment..... 256-4224 |
| Subscription and delivery questions: 242-1919 or (800) 332-5833 | Retail advertising..... 256-4289 Classified advertising..... 242-1313 | Managing editor256-4252 City desk.....256-4226 | Sports.....256-4203 Commentary 256-4236 |