

# THE RED ROCK RAG

Volume 1, Number 4 **News and Views on Red Rock Canyon**  
Published Monthly by THE RED ROCK CANYON COMMITTEE  
P. O. Box 2352, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352

August, 2000

## CALENDAR

### Meetings of Possible Interest:

- August 1 **Manitou Springs City Council**  
7:00 PM Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue
- August 3 **Red Rock Canyon Committee**  
7:00 PM Village at Skyline,  
Primrose Room, Building No. 1  
2305 Patriot Heights,  
off Lower Gold Camp Road
- August 8 **Manitou Springs City Council**  
work session  
7:00 PM Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue
- August 9 **TOPS Working Committee**  
4:00 PM Colorado Springs  
Parks and Recreation Building  
1401 Recreation Way  
(just east of I-25, 2 blocks north  
of Uintah)
- August 15 **Manitou Springs City Council**  
7:00 PM Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue
- August 22 **Manitou Springs City Council**  
work session  
7:00 PM Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue
- August 23 **TOPS Working Committee**  
7:30 AM Colorado Springs  
Parks and Recreation Building  
1401 Recreation Way  
(just east of I-25, 2 blocks north  
of Uintah)
- September 5 **Manitou Springs City Council**  
7:00 PM Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue
- September 7 **Red Rock Canyon Committee**  
7:00 PM Village at Skyline,  
Primrose Room, Building No. 1  
2305 Patriot Heights,  
off Lower Gold Camp Road

NOTE: Scheduled meetings can be subject to change or cancellation. Agendas for the Manitou Springs City Council meetings are posted at Manitou Springs City Hall the Friday preceding the meeting.

### *Our Thanks*

The Red Rock Canyon Committee wishes to express its appreciation to the following people who have made contributions for operating expenses during the past month:

Bill & Tobe Easton  
Chuck & Rebecca Theobald  
Bill Steinhour  
Theresa Klein

## Voters to Approve Manitou Springs Annexations

At their July 6 meeting, the Manitou Springs City Council adopted an Ordinance requiring voter approval for most annexations larger than 3 acres.

Under the Ordinance, a proposed annexation would be referred to the voters for approval only after "all reviews and hearings set forth in the applicable Colorado statutes and in the City Charter, Ordinances and Regulations" have been completed and the annexation has been approved by City Council.

## Zydeco Still Planning on Manitou Annexation

An article in the July 14 Pikes Peak Journal reported that Kyle Blakely of the Muir Agency, a spokesman for Zydeco, had indicated that Manitou Springs new annexation ordinance "would not effect Zydeco's plan to develop Red Rock Canyon."

The article stated that Zydeco plans "to wage a political campaign to convince Manitou voters to approve the annexation and only then begin the normal, stringent and costly series of public processes required to obtain major development approval from the city."

## FYI

## The Hike Participant Survey

Many of the people who participated in one of the Red Rock Canyon hiking tours last Summer, received a survey form from the Red Rock Canyon Committee this past January asking them to rate the property as potential public open space and to indicate how they might like to use Red Rock Canyon open space. The results of the survey were tabulated and presented in a report which was published in March.

Since many readers of THE RED ROCK RAG may not have seen this report, we are including a short summary of the report in this issue of THE RED ROCK RAG.

During the summer of 1999, the Red Rock Canyon Committee offered public hiking tours of the Red Rock Canyon property which lies between Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs and adjoins Section 16 open space. Approximately 1,000 people participated in these hikes.

The Red Rock Canyon Committee has conducted a survey of those hike participants whose names and addresses were available from hike sign up sheets. In the survey, the hike participants were asked to rate the Red Rock Canyon property in comparison to major Colorado Springs parks, to rate their interest in possible recreational uses of a Red Rock Canyon open space park, and to compare the open space value of different portions of the Red Rock Canyon property.

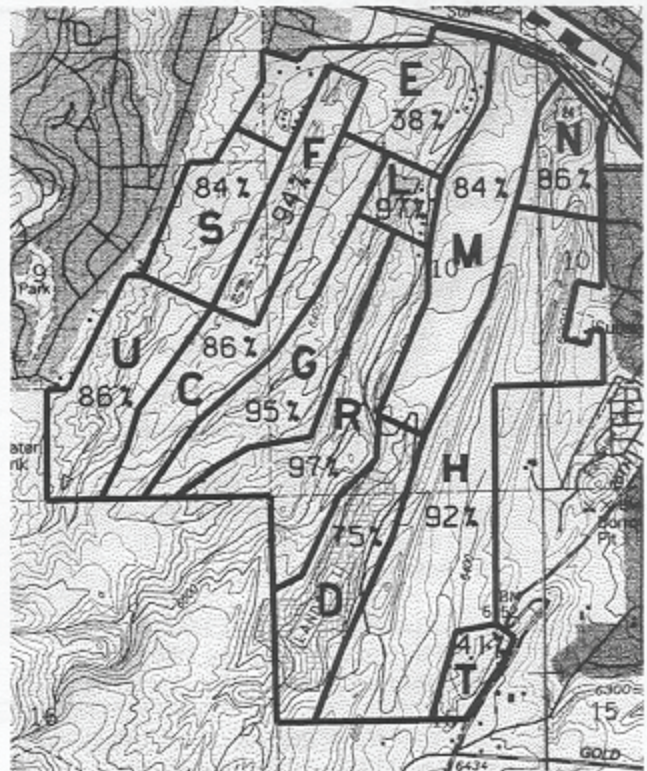
16.6 percent of the 626 people who received survey forms responded. The Zip Code areas with high response rates were also the areas with larger numbers of hike participants, suggesting that these are the areas of the region with the greatest interest in Red Rock Canyon open space. The high response Zip Code areas were: 80829, 80903, 80904, 80906, 80907, 80909, 80917, 80918, 80919, and the Ute Pass communities.

The survey respondents gave Red Rock Canyon average ratings of 96 for *Scenic Quality* and 95 for *Special Interest Features* relative to the Garden of the Gods. More than half of the respondents rated Red Rock Canyon higher than or equal to the Garden of the Gods for each of these qualities. In an *Overall Rating* and ratings for *Recreational Opportunities* and *Accessible Location*, the respondents rated Red Rock Canyon slightly higher than the Garden of the Gods. They also rated Red Rock Canyon somewhat higher than North Cheyenne Canyon and substantially higher than Palmer Park for all of the qualities rated.

Just as one might expect, the ratings for *Accessible Location* varied with Zip Code. People in Zip Code areas closer to Red Rock Canyon gave higher *Accessible Location* ratings than those in more distant Zip Code areas. It was interesting to find that other ratings also varied with Zip Code area in a way which shows that people tend to like the park or open space near their homes especially well.

Among potential recreational uses, the survey respondents were most interested in hiking, and had a strong interest in wild area exploration and nature study. Between 55 and 65 percent of respondents are interested in mountain biking, in rock climbing, and in lake area activities. There was also a substantial interest in picnic areas; and several respondents noted a need for rest room facilities. Other activities and facilities elicited lower levels of interest. Motorized use had very little interest; and several people expressed opposition to motorized use. Several people also expressed the opinion that the area should be kept mainly in a natural state.

Respondents evaluated the partially developed area along Highway 24 and the small mobile home park near 26th Street as having relatively low open space value. All other areas of the property were seen as having significant open space value. Of these other areas, the lake area and Red Rock Canyon were rated especially highly, while the landfill and gravel pit mesa areas tended to be regarded as less desirable than other areas.



PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS ASSIGNING OPEN SPACE VALUE TO EACH AREA OF THE PROPERTY.

## TIDBITS

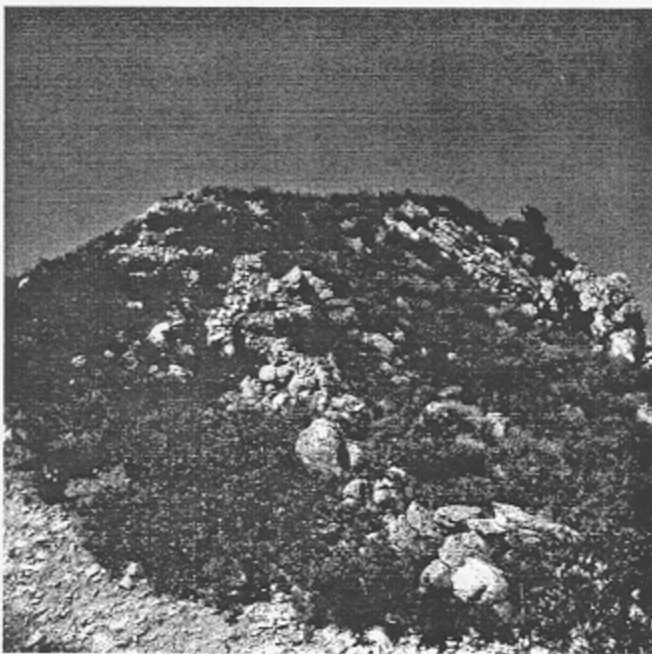
## Archeological Resources

In the book *People of the Shining Mountains* Charles Marsh mentions three locations in Colorado where the Utes built fortifications during the 1700's and early 1800's to guard their treasured mineral and hot springs. These fortifications are near Granby, on the Williams Fork, and near Manitou Springs. Manitou Springs fortifications were built along the crest of the Dakota hogback, mainly on what is now the Red Rock Canyon property.

In his 1914 book *The Indians of the Pikes Peak Region*, Irving Howbert gave the following description of the fortifications:

"In the early days, any one climbing to the top of the high sandstone ridge back of the United States Reduction Works at Colorado City might have seen numerous circular places of defense built of loose stone, to a height of four or five feet, and large enough to hold three or four men comfortably. These miniature fortifications were placed at intervals along the ridge all the way from the Fountain to Bear Creek and doubtless were built and used by the Utes."

The fortifications included stone walls along the crest of the hogback on each side of the small pass through which the landfill road now passes. As shown in the photo below, the Ute wall is still clearly evident north of the landfill road. On the ridge south of the landfill road the wall incorporated enclosures such as those described by Howbert. This part of the wall has



STONE WALL FORTIFICATION ALONG THE RIDGE CREST NORTH OF THE LANDFILL ROAD.

been largely destroyed by grading associated with the landfill operation. However, evidence of one enclosure which made use of a large naturally placed boulder as its north wall is still visible there.

In the middle part of the Dakota hogback just east of the crest is a metate site which was probably used for grinding acorn meal.

Metates for grinding meal were first used in the Colorado foothills during the Archaic period between 2,000 and 8,000 years ago by descendants of the mammoth hunters who moved from the plains to the foothills and mountains in search of food as the ice age mammoth became extinct.

There is no clear evidence to indicate the age of the hogback metates. However, they were most likely used by the Utes who may have ground meal while standing watch along the ridge crest. The metate site commands a good view of the plains while being partially shielded by a rock butress which would have afforded protection from attack from the east.



METATES ON THE DAKOTA HOGBACK.

The shape of the metates suggests that meal may have been ground using logs to pound and grind the acorns, rather than stone manos which are generally used with metates in the Southwest. This method of grinding would have allowed the people grinding meal to stand upright and keep watch while grinding. As the photo clearly shows, meal from the metates would have flowed down grooves in the rock, probably to be collected in a basket.

At one time there was a simple scratched petroglyph associated with the metates. However, it could not be found in 1999.

Native campsites are known to have existed along the hogbacks and in Red Rock Canyon. However, evidence of campsites in Red Rock Canyon have been obliterated by subsequent activity. One stone circle and fire pit site ("teepee circle") was found in the early 1950's south of the Red Rock Canyon property. And, several stone artifacts were found at that site along with bison teeth.

Don Ellis

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**YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT RED ROCK CANYON OPEN SPACE!**

- Enclosed is my contribution to the Red Rock Canyon Committee for operating expenses  
(Check payable to "Red Rock Canyon Committee", not tax deductible.)  
    \_\_\_ Do    \_\_\_ Don't acknowledge my contribution in **THE RED ROCK RAG**.
- I want to be involved.  
    My efforts could best be used for: \_\_\_\_\_
- Keep me informed with **THE RED ROCK RAG**.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
          \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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Opinions expressed in **THE RED ROCK RAG** are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Red Rock Canyon Committee.

**WE WANT YOUR INPUT!**

Letters, articles, comments (and glossy photos) may be sent to:

Rag Editor  
Red Rock Canyon Committee  
P. O. Box 2352  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352

Electronic submissions may be sent to donellis@icx.net.  
Electronic text MUST be plain ASCII (.txt) format. **Word processor formats such as Microsoft Word (.doc) cannot be accepted!!!!** Digital images may be attached. 360 dpi bit map images at the size they will appear in the Rag will provide the best quality when reproduced.

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For more information, contact **Scott Flora** at the *Trails and Open Space Coalition* 633-6884

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