

Pleasant View Estates almost never existed

By Lisa Hatfield

Dr. Bob McCollom developed Pleasant View Estates east of the Air Force Academy in the 1960s. Every bank in Colorado Springs said it was impossible to develop Pleasant View since no one would buy so far out there, and home contractors charged a premium to drive from Colorado Springs too.

McCollom sold his X-ray machine to buy a road grader to build the roads in Pleasant View and a connection through Sun Hills Estates to the interstate.

Stella Drive is named after the wife of George Hardesty, who sold him his 435-acre ranch. Deby, Tari, and Becky Drives are named after McCollom's daughters.

McCollom wished he could build an airport so that colonels from the Academy could fly their planes to work and home again. One colonel who lived on Raton Road was the original "Blue Angel." But the cost of burying the power line along Baptist Road was prohibitive. "I guess I was just dreaming," said McCollom, who is now 97.

In about June 1964, The Baptist Assembly Camp almost burned down, but McCollom was able to contain the fire by circling it with his road grader.

Longtime Pleasant View resident Howard Crites told of another fire, started by careless people on July 4, 1996, between Pleasant View and Gleneagle.

To learn more about the history of Pleasant View Estates, Dr. Bob can be reached via editor@ocn.me.

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Above left: This 1964 photo from Pleasant View Estates looking southwest toward the Air Force Academy shows not one house in Sun Hills Estates or Gleneagle. Northgate Road is in the center. Falcon Stadium was not yet built. Photo by Rita



Von Saken. Above right: 2020 photo from Pleasant View Estates. Photo courtesy of Marge and Howard Crites.

July Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

Overall, it was a pretty uneventful July around the region. Of course, that can be a good thing as we didn't have to dodge too many large hailstorms or other severe weather. Temperatures were slightly warmer than normal for the month, mainly because of several mild mornings. Precipitation was below normal for most of us as well, but we did have frequent afternoon and evening thunderstorms that produced much needed rainfall.

The month started out dry, continuing the trend from the end of June. Temperatures were a little below normal on the first day of the month as well. This was especially noticeable during the morning, as the dry air mass allowed low temperatures to fall to the mid-40s. Higher levels of moisture began to work back into the region as a more typical monsoonal pattern began to affect the southwestern U.S.

This allowed thunderstorms to develop each day from the 3rd through 5th. Brief, heavy rain developed with a couple of the storms, with the heaviest rain on the 3rd and 4th occurring just south of the Palmer Divide before shifting over us on the 5th.

Unfortunately, this intrusion of moisture was short-lived as drier air moved back in over the next week. This allowed temperatures to warm significantly. Highs reached well into the 80s from the 6th through the 11th, topping out at daily record high territory on the 10th when we reached the 90s. This was the first time we hit 90s this summer across the entire region, including the highest elevations of the Palmer Divide.

This heat wave was broken by a return of the monsoonal pattern starting on the 12th. The moisture and strong July sunshine resulted in daily rounds of thunderstorms. Each day followed the normal pattern of clouds, and initial thunderstorms developed by late morning over the mountains. These storms were then moved in a generally westerly direction by the prevailing winds in the atmosphere. Then, as the storms were able to interact with a more favorable environment, more moisture and instability, the storms grew and continued to develop over us and eventually moved to the east of the plains.

This pattern continued through most of the remainder of the month but was interrupted by a couple of more "active" weather days. On the 15th, moisture and instability levels remained high through the day in contrast to the normal pattern of low-level moisture being pushed to the east once storms develop. This allowed a severe thunderstorm to develop over the Front Range mountains of Jefferson and Douglas counties.

As the storm moved east/southeast, it tapped into the moisture and instability that had been pooling over us that morning and early afternoon. The storm strengthened and progressed across the Palmer Divide and moved to the east/southeast. As it crossed the region, areas of hail and brief, heavy rain developed, along with strong winds. Fortunately, the storm was a fairly quick mover, so the severe conditions didn't last long at any one location.

The last week of the month continued the pattern with afternoon and early evening thunderstorms af-

ter a quiet start to each day. Temperatures remained right about normal as well with mid-70s to low 80s each afternoon.

A look ahead

August is the last true "summer" month for the region. We are often greeted with sunny, pleasant mornings that turn into afternoon and early evening thunderstorms. Highs during the month range from the mid-80s at the beginning of the month to mid-70s at the end. Temperatures at night get more comfortable as well, often dipping into the 40s.

July 2020 Weather Statistics

Average High	82.5° (+0.0°)
100-year return frequency value max	87.6° min 75.3°
Average Low	52.6° (+1.6°)
100-year return frequency value max	56.2° min 46.9°
Highest Temperature	91°F on the 10th
Lowest Temperature	44°F on the 1st
Monthly Precipitation	2.05"
	(-1.22" 40% below normal)
100-year return frequency value max	6.03" min 0.98"
Monthly Snowfall	0.0"
Season to Date Snow	0.0"
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip	2.05"
	(-1.22" 40% below normal)
Heating Degree Days	17 (-15)
Cooling Degree Days	99 (+19)

Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at billkappel@ocn.me.

Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters are on page 31.

Disclaimer: The information and opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community are the responsibility of the letter writers and should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.

Monument Academy set to open new East campus

Monument Academy is thrilled to announce that the new East campus, serving sixth through ninth grades, will open for the 2020-21 school year.

Monument Academy proudly educates many District 38 students and is excited to expand our reach this year when we welcome our first freshman class. This year, with the addition of the new campus, MA can offer additional seats across all grade levels and provide adequate space for students to learn as they return to school.

The MA team has been taking a creative approach to planning for the challenges that will surely come with the new school year. As a school that prides itself on choice, MA plans to offer our families several learning options, including a full-time in-person education, distance learning led by Monument Academy teachers, and parent-directed at-home learning, with curriculum and support provided by our faculty. As always, class sizes will remain small at MA.

I want to thank D38 Superintendent Dr. K.C. Somers, Board Liaison Tiffiney Upchurch, and the rest of the D38 Board of Directors for the support they have shown during our build. We would also like to thank JHL Constructors for their fantastic perseverance in the face of a challenging winter and a global pandemic. What they have done by completing the building on time and budget is nothing short of impressive.

We know this year will look different than any other school year in our nation's history. Our administration, faculty, and staff stand ready to make sure the children in our care have the best school experience and education possible. We are proud to be part of this community, and we will get through this together!

Melanie Strop, president
Monument Academy Board of Directors

Little Free Library

I put up a Little Free Library in front of my house at 205 Sedona Dr. It's a program of book sharing. Take a book, leave a book. I painted it and installed it during the COVID-19 shelter-in-place since the public libraries were closed. I hope it brings joy to the community.

Kristine Tran