



Our Purpose: To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail
 We are a Charitable nonprofit organization Our website is www.zebulonpike.org
 "Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and died for his country." -Thomas Jefferson

Pike National Historic Trail Association

Newsletter *Mar-Apr* 2015 Vol. 9 No. 2



The Association's Annual meeting-

We have some exciting items on our agenda for the Annual meeting of the Association which will be held on **Saturday, April 25, 2015, at 9:30 am in Cañon City** at the Royal Gorge conference room in the new administrative center (next to the visitor's center.) Our activity program that we have talked about for so long is about to get off the ground. Our budget for this year is in excess of \$15,000. We already ordered new Pike vinyl decals which you will learn about later. We have several businesses who are considering donating/ sponsoring to our projects. One is a ready brought money to the table.

Our program includes:

- Interpretive roadside panels
- Interpretive educational material (one sheet handout)
- Other educational materials- pamphlets about specific sites
- Mobile phone information project
- Association paraphernalia (stickers, coins, patches, etc.)
- Pike route booklets (Bicycle, hike, auto)
- Pike memorabilia preservation
- Pike exact route project
- Reinvigorated legislative effort

Many of these projects will cost money but they're aimed to educate the public about Zebulon Montgomery Pike. Others are designed to gain the funds for these and other projects.

The association budget will be available, upon request, after the annual meeting.

We want to move ahead with our work. Our legislation will also be on our mind and we need your input on our future direction with this item.

Let us know if you will be attending by calling 303/816-7424.

Pikes Peak Ocean-to-Ocean Highway-1915



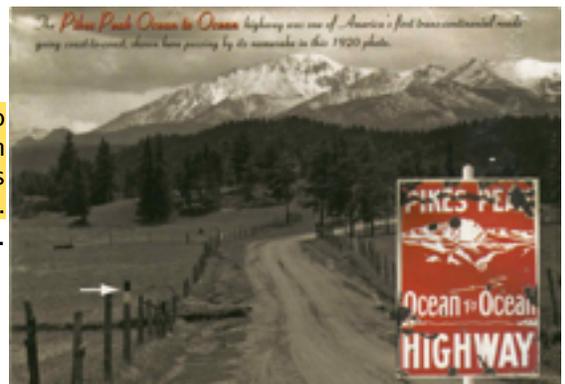
While talking with the former Colorado State geologist, Vince Matthews, an article that he had in his files came to his mind when we mentioned we were from the Pike National Historic Trail Association.

Thought you might enjoy this-

This porcelain sign is one of 1500 originally signed to mark the highway, although the more common method was "pole marking" with red and white bands and the PPOO (see arrow).

Notice it was a dirt road.

Many establish trails in Colorado were used almost exclusively by indigenous people prior to the 1830s. The first Europeans into Colorado took advantage of many of these established trails between the 1830s and 1850s. Following the discovery of gold in 1858, some of the trails were upgraded to wagon roads such as the Pikes Peak Express. In 1914 the Pikes Peak Ocean to Ocean Highway Association was formed. (Continues on Page 2)



Pikes Peak Ocean-to-Ocean Highway-1915 (continues)

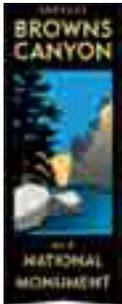


This "Street from Hell's Gate to the Golden Gate" was 3564 miles long and was considered the superlative scenic route across America. It also connected the eastern workshops of the industrial centers

with a treasure chest of the mountains.

Today one can travel with ease around Colorado on a network of modern highways to view some of the most diverse, spectacular, scenic and well displayed geological phenomena in the world.

Louis McClure- Denver Public Library, Western History Department collection



Browns Canyon becomes Colorado's 8th national monument.

Brown's Canyon (Brown's Creek on the Arkansas) is on the Upper Arkansas River near Naphrop, Colorado where Pike, Mountjoy and Miller camped beside the mouth of Browns Creek on 23 Dec 1806 after they had explored the headwaters of the Arkansas near Leadville. They were the first Americans to do so and if we listen to Pike probably one of the first persons because the aborigines- he said- don't use this route because of the rocky conditions of the Arkansas.

Actually some of his men probably camped here a couple days before that because he mentions finding a campsite at this location.

Keith Baker, Executive Director of the Friends of Browns Canyon, announced that President Obama on Thursday, February 19 designated Brown's Canyon as a National Monument using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

Sen. Mark Udall had been pushing for the designation for a couple years.

"It's tremendous! It's finally here! It's finally a national monument," Baker said.

Senator Cory Gardner called Browns Canyon a "national treasure with a long history of bipartisan support in Colorado."

It's a thrilling development for us in the Pike association because Pike was the first American in Brown's Canyon.

National monuments in Colorado:

- Browns Canyon National Monument
- Colorado National Monument
- Canyons of the Ancients National Monument
- Chimney Rock National Monument
- Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
- Dinosaur National Monument
- Hovenweep National Monument
- Yucca House National Monument

Announcing the new 3 x 3 Pike Vinyl Decal

The Pike NHTA has combined the Pike association logo with the Pike trail logo in a 3 x 3 vinyl decal format. Please consider purchasing some of these* and using it to make your friends aware of Pike and his men and what they did for our country in 1806. Some of her grandchildren have placed it on their bicycles in their school notebooks. Needless to say they're asked about what that means.

* The cost is \$2.50 each with price breaks at 5, 10, or 25 decals, plus shipping.



South Park National Heritage Area (central Colorado)



Many of us are aware the Pike and his men were in South Park, Colorado during December of 1806.

We are also aware he was in the San Louis Valley in December 1806 and January/February 1807 where he was "captured" (many of us say rescued) by the Spanish.

Joining the San Louis Valley National Heritage Area (south central Colorado) is the South Park National Heritage Area in central Colorado. After many years of work to achieve the designation, in March 2009 Congress approved and President Barack Obama signed a bill designating the South Park National Heritage Area - one of less than 50 such congressionally designated areas in the United States that represent the history of the country.

The management plan is currently under review by the National Park Service. Once the ten-year plan has been accepted by the National Park Service, there will be federal funding available to help Park County implement the management plan through projects in partnership with willing property owners, non-profits, local, state and national agencies, and other entities.

Learn more at the following link: <http://www.southparkheritage.org/heritage-history>.

If it isn't already there on this link, the Pike Expedition will be on it as a short paragraph and there will be a separate page devoted to the 1806-1807 Southwest Expedition.

Hey Monty- what did you walk into?

by Allan Vainley

I plan on investigating some of the things that Monty saw in 1806, specifically the upper Arkansas River Valley. Here's a taste of up-and-coming articles — — —

Hey Monty- what did you walk into?

One can only be impressed when you enter the Upper Arkansas River Valley with the grandeur and beauty of this area of God's creation.

Majestic beauty of the Sawatch Range of which the Collegiate Range is its part, forms a formidable barrier to those entering the valley from Trout Creek Pass and South Park after crossing over the Mosquito Range.

Pike and his men in December 1806, had to be impressed with what they ran into. They were the first Americans to witness what makes Colorado attractive to so many people. But they would've had no idea (probably) that they were looking at the Continental Divide and a remarkable geological past.

These 14,000 foot, snow-covered mountains and those of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range they were to witness in the following first two months of 1807 hold many stories of their secret past which they would've known anything about.

Perhaps they would've noticed the boulders strewn across the Upper Arkansas River Valley floor. Would they have asked such questions as 'how do they get there?' and 'where they come from?'. It is doubtful they would've asked 'how did the valley form, how were the mountains were formed and why are they so high?'

Today's visitors and I asked those questions I have actually gotten some answers.

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